

REVISTA CIDOB D'AFERS
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**Instituciones para una cooperación
internacional al desarrollo de calidad**

Abstracts

ABSTRACTS

Aid Efficacy: An Institutional Approach

José Antonio Alonso Rodríguez

This work aims to explore some of the weaknesses that the international aid system presents for efficaciously operating in promoting development. For this, it adopts an institutional approach, attempting to investigate the problems of asymmetry in information that occur both in relationships between donor and receiver and within aid organisations. The analysis of these aspects leads the author to underscore the importance that learning processes have in enriching interventions in development; he also underscores the importance of the attitudes and aptitudes of the agents in fostering these processes of improvement in aid quality.

The Quality of Relationships in International Development: Institutional and Personal Implications

Leslie Groves and Rachel Hinton

In this article, the authors explore some of the personal and organisational implications entailed in satisfying the new demands for greater transparency and accountability in development aid. This calls for changes in the relationships among the different actors in the international development system. The first part of the article focuses on how the groups of people conceive each other and behave, that is, the “personal” dimension of the construction of the relationship. In this sense, one can observe the role that can be played by the individual development agent to support the change in relationships called for by the new development agenda. In the second part, it examines how the people are connected through their organisations, as well as the institutional mechanisms that can hinder the development of quality relationships, and also how they can be transformed in order to better satisfy the needs of the new poverty reduction agenda.

Learning to Respond: The European Development Organisations in a Changing Global Political Context

Paul G. H. Engel

In a globalised world and in the face of shared global challenges (the U.N. Millennium Goals, international peacekeeping, WTO trade negotiations, etc.), development policy has ceased to be an autonomous international policy area and has come to be understood as part of a concerted international action. For development organisations and institutions, and, concretely, European ones, these new challenges leave them no other option but to become better learners and to rapidly and permanently improve their capabilities for institutional innovation. In this sense, the author analyses two paths, which for him are fundamental, aimed at these development organisations and institutions: on the one hand, what he calls adaptable management, and, on the other hand, organisational learning. The application of both alternatives is essential if one wants to successfully battle the complex challenges awaiting us.

The Future of the Institutional System of Spanish Cooperation

Enrique del Olmo García

In the face of the need for a profound change in Spanish cooperation, which is essential for adapting to the current International Development Agenda, the author analyses one of its critical points, concretely its institutional system. In this sense, this article focuses mainly on the connection node of Spanish cooperation, that is, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), its indispensable reform, and its need to professionalise in order to optimise its resources and become more efficacious. The change in Government that occurred in March 2004 has signified a unique opportunity for this process, and proof of this is the new regulatory Law of State Agencies, which currently is going through parliamentary proceedings. This law could be an opportunity to achieve a modern, effective cooperation agency, but, until this occurs, there is going to be a transition period that will not be short nor easy.

Institutions for Quality Cooperation for Development: Clarifications and Initial Proposals

Rafael Grasa Hernández

In his analysis of institutions for quality cooperation for development, focusing basically on the Spanish case, the author first clarifies and defines the concepts of “institution”, governance, and the so-called three sectors, that is, the State and administrations, the market and civil society. Good government depends on the capabilities and synergies among these three sectors as well as on their relationships with the different institutions and their social context, and this ensures governance, that is, development or, in this case, cooperation for development. The second part of the article poses the question: How are we doing in all of this in the case of Spanish cooperation for development and, therefore, in its ability to affect the generation or strengthening of development policies in the different sectors of the countries of the South? To answer this question, the author considers three aspects: a) the chronic lack of institutions; b) the excess of legislation and formality, rooted in Latin political and organisational culture, and c) the need for new instruments and procedures, reflected, but only partially, in the new Directing Plan and in the proposals of Catalan cooperation, translated into institutional terms. Finally, the article makes reference to “decentralised” cooperation, its challenges and prospects, and a “decalogue” of good government which “only aims to serve to open debate on the need for new institutions for quality cooperation for development congruent with the development policies of the actors of the South.”

Education for Development: A Means for the Legitimacy of a Fragmented Sector

M^a Luz Ortega Carpio

When there are increasingly more voices questioning the legitimacy on which DNGOs are supported, this work aims to indicate the elements that have generated fragmentation in the sector and different views of the role of DNGOs. The analysis concludes that an integrated Education for Development approach could be a key in strengthening the cohesion and legitimacy of this set of organisations. The necessary faithfulness to the principles on which the NGOs should base their action leads to asserting that Education for Development need not be only one more area of action of the DNGOs, but rather it should be present transversally in all cooperation actions. What would be necessary is a collective, shared strategy in the sector, a good dose of enthusiasm, dynamism, innovation and cooperation among the DNGOs that would facilitate the introduction of these instruments, both in the large organisations and in the smallest ones, which lack their own individual means but which could participate in a joint effort.

Presence in International Organisms: A Policy for a Collective Challenge

Manuel Montobbio

What does the presence of Spaniards in international organisations signify and entail? Why, for what, and how should this be promoted? In order to answer such questions, the author analyses the meaning and implications of this presence in a globalised world in which a commitment to effective multilateralism entails a commitment to the international organisms as forums for and actors in global governance, and their presence in our societies and lives. This means both the promoting of Spanish presence in the administrations in which the proposals are formed which embody the general interest of the international organisms, like the multilateralisation of Spanish society. For this reason, in the framework of its multilateral policy, Spain is currently developing a policy of promoting the presence of Spaniards in international organisations in the areas of information, training, promotion and incentives, the outlines and results of which are described in this article.

The New Professional Profile of Cooperation Workers and their Training Needs

Joaquim Tres Viladomat

Intensive cooperation in human resources has, as a great added value, its contribution to the understanding of the “other”, both in origin and in destination, but, in order to be an effective instrument in development policies, some prior conditions are required. This article briefly reviews the International Development Agenda, which determines what people with what training, abilities and experience are needed in order to influence it through their daily work. Next, it analyses the type of cooperation that is carried out from Spain and its implications for human resource policy. Then it presents a categorisation of the elements which are considered to be essential in a professional in the field of cooperation for development. To conclude, it outlines some recommendations for organisations that carry out intensive cooperation in the use of people through concrete initiatives for a human resource policy, with special emphasis on the AECl. Finally, it suggests other general recommendations so that investment is made, also from the area of financial cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, in the training of human resources in order to improve cooperation.

Globalisation, Health and Security. Coordinates of a “New Item” on the International Agenda

José Luis León Manrique

This article explores the links between globalisation, the health agenda and international and inter-American security. Even though traditionally health had not formed part of discussions in the area of security, in the past few years a series of processes have favoured the inclusion of this topic in discussions, with an importance that seems to be increasing markedly. On the one hand, the spread of pandemics, like HIV/AIDS, has jeopardised the survival of large population centres in certain countries; and, on the other hand, discussion around the topic of international and inter-American security has become complex and has had to incorporate topics that, years ago, were considered alien to the military and strategic issues that dominated the agenda. The case of health seems to be one of them, and it has arrived to stay in debates on international security.

The Concept of Security in International Relations Theory

Gabriel Orozco

The end of the Cold War and the emergence of globalisation have transformed the reality of International Relations, which has meant a change in the theories which this reality had assumed. The concept of security reveals itself as an organisational idea on the different phenomena of globalisation, carrying out a programme of research that goes beyond the realistic presumptions of military power or of the idealistic principles of research for peace. This article explores the new meanings of security for International Relations theory and discusses the theoretical models that influence policy design and that aim to confront the problems and challenges of security in globalisation.