

**European Union (EU)**  
**Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Asia**

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## **European Union (EU) Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Asia**

### **I. Background of EU and its Relations to Asia**

The idea of a united Europe was put forth five years after the destruction of World War II when six democratic European countries, forestalling the recurrence of killing and destruction, conglomerated to set up a common institution which at the beginning agreed for mutual cooperation in trade and economy. Interest and membership over the years enlarged to 25 member states covering 450 million European citizens to what is now known as the European Union (EU). Characterized with shared values of democracy, freedom and social justice, EU fosters cooperation among the peoples of Europe, promoting unity while preserving diversity.

While Europe is a continent with diversified traditions and languages, member states delegate sovereignty to the EU to decide on specific matters of joint European interests dealing with a wide range of issues of direct importance, not only to Europe, but also to the world. Member States are committed not only for international cooperation but to work together to achieve common peace and prosperity.

EU governance revolves primarily in the three structural entities: the Parliament, the Council of European Union and the European Commission. The dynamics among the three entities provide a simple check and balance system of the EU. The Council is the sole responsible in determining the actions of the EU in the field of common foreign and security policies and actions on issues of justice and freedom. Both the Parliament and the Council are jointly responsible in passing laws and taking policy decisions for the EU and approving the annual EU budget of EUR 100 billion. The European Commission, on the other hand, is tasked with the mundane business of policy implementation and funds disbursements.

Recent developments on the Council stated the particular emphasis on trade and development issues and agreed to place EUR 2 billion annual budget to support the capacity of developing countries earmarking EUR 22.7 billion for the European Development Fund for period 2008-2013.

Asia matters to Europe today as it did in the days of the spice trade and the silk road. It matters for the obvious economic reasons.

The EU's economic and commercial relations with Asia are of great importance for its own prosperity. Asia accounts for half the world's population and a quarter of its production. The wider Asian and Asia-Pacific region (including South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and Australasia) accounts for 56% of the world's population, 25% of world GNP, and 22% of the world's international trade. Asia as a whole accounts for 21% of the EU's external exports, and is its third-largest regional trading partner, after Europe outside the EU (31%) and NAFTA (28%). The EU has committed itself to keep markets open and help recovery. This can be seen in the massive growth in Asia's trade surplus with the EU, from 13 billion in 1996 to over 120 billion in 2000. Asia also accounts for a significant share of EU foreign investment flows, while certain Asian countries are important investors in the EU. Within the WTO, Asian countries play a very important role, and China's entry into the WTO will help strengthen that body further.

The region has been the cradle of several of the world's major religions, and has an unparalleled cultural richness. The European Union, with its worldwide economic interests, cannot afford to neglect Asia and still maintain a leading role in the world economy.

Asia also matters politically. The growing economic weight of Asia is reinforcing its weight on the international political scene. It is in the EU's interest to help Asia play a more prominent role on the world stage. The EU's dialogue with Asian partners on global and regional security issues is important for its own security. The region is the locus of some of the world's major sources of tension or conflict (e.g. Mindanao). Several Asian states have a nuclear capability, and certain countries continue to cause concern in relation to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Asian countries, of course, have always played a major part in the working of the UN and its various bodies.

To be sure, Asia's importance for the EU is incontestable, and it is imperative for the EU to follow a forward-looking policy of engagement with Asia, both in the region and globally.

But the reverse is also true: Europe matters to Asia. Many Asians want a stronger European presence in Asia, at both the economic and political levels. Asia is home to two-thirds of the world's poor, with 800 million people living on less than \$1 per day. Questions of food-security, health and access to basic services are still pressing issues in the lower-income countries of the region, and serious disparities of income and opportunity still challenge many middle-income countries in the region. The EU plays a major part in helping its Asian partners address these

issues, and the EU as a whole (European Commission plus Member States) accounts for 30% of total aid flows to developing Asia.

## **II. Rationale of EU in providing Official Development Assistance in Asia**

Asia to EU is a large region of diverse political, cultural, economic and social orientations. EU views Asia into 3 geographic region: 8 countries of economies of East Asia composed of China, Japan, North and South Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao; the 10 countries of Southeast Asia composed of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar; and the 8 countries of South Asia composed of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and the Afghanistan. Exclusive to Asia, EU created the Europe-Asia Summit aiming to forge closer economic and political ties between the two continents.

EU recognizes the economic and commercial relations with Asia are vital to its own security. In that while there is a continuing debate on the complexity and inter-connectedness of the issues on development aid, EU's basic objective of its policies towards Asia is to increase Asian interest in and knowledge of the Union. Policies and aid is geared towards demonstrating to the Asian countries Europe's ability and commitment to make a positive contribution to the peaceful development and stability of the region. The EU continues to develop political dialogue with the countries in the region to make a significant contribution to the maintenance of the region's peace and stability.

Funds for development assistance is a traditionally important tool of the EU's political and economic policy contributing to the reinforcement of mutual understanding and economic links. Because Europe's success depends on taking advantage of the business opportunities in Asia, EU has taken upon itself the role to pursue market opening for both goods and services and to overcome obstacles to European trade and investment by encouraging a favorable regulatory environment for business in Asia. EU adopts pro-active strategies with fuller emphasis on increased targeted use of economic cooperation to promote European trade and investment largely achieved with the use of its financial resources to conduct coordinated programs of public relations in order to raise its profile in Asia. The EU also needs to strengthen its economic presence in Asia to maintain its leading role in the world economy.

In 2000, Asia accounted for 21.2 % of EU exports, making the region the third-largest regional trading partner - after Europe outside the EU (30.9%), and NAFTA (28.4%), but ahead of the Mediterranean, South and Central American, Gulf and ACP countries combined (17.1%). Asia is also the fourth-largest regional destination for outward investment from the EU, accounting for 6.8% of total EU outward FDI in 1999 – coming after NAFTA (67.5%), Central and South America (15.1%) and Europe outside the EU (7.5%).

### **III. Objectives of the EU Development Assistance**

The EU is a serious donor on development and political actor. The Union wields a major influence on global efforts on development. It is the world's largest donor of official development assistance. European Commission alone estimates that it has now exceeded World Bank's ODA. It projected to provide two-thirds of all aid by 2010. And it wants to go further to maintain its reputation as world leader in this field that the Council last year committed to increase development aid to 0.56 of GDP by 2010, and to reach the recommended aid target of 0.7% by 2015.

Even as there is a lively debate in the development community about the purpose of EU assistance and its relationship with poverty alleviation and meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and even if some EU assistance is designed for the enlargement of countries, it is committed to move towards achieving the MDGs or to poverty alleviation, which is the primary objective of the European Consensus on Development. Over half of the EUs commitment to increase aid will go to Africa and to continue to prioritize support to the least developed and other low-income countries such as in Asia. Member states have decided to assist countries for their political, economic and social development, and for the EU's long-term interests.

EU maintains the development, security, and human rights are inextricable interlinked that achieving progress on one means achieving progress in all. Cooperation programs with the developing countries of Asia have grown moderately until 2000, averaging some EUR 410 million per year in the period 1996-2000, as against EUR 360 million per year in 1991-95. Some 80% of these aid flows went to the lowest-income countries in Asia (32% for the least-developed countries, 48% for other low-income countries). In addition, new programs in mutually beneficial economic cooperation have been introduced since 1992, with a view to strengthening economic

relations between Europe and Asia. Overall, the EU and its Member States account for some 30% of global ODA flows going to Asia - after Japan (50%) but well ahead of the USA (9%).

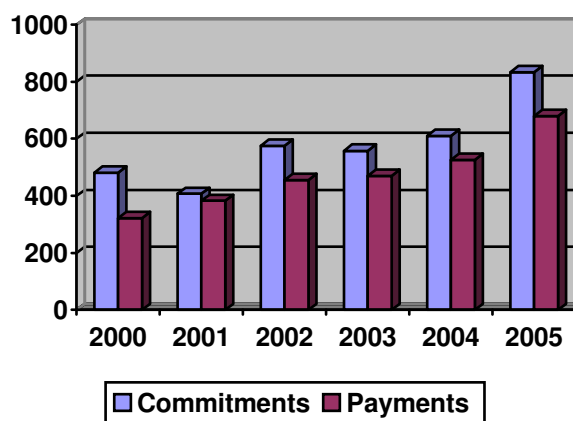
Over the three years from 1998 to 2000, an average of EUR 77 million per year was provided in humanitarian assistance following on natural or man-made disasters in Asia. This accounted for 12.8% of EU humanitarian aid efforts worldwide. In the year 2000 alone, substantial efforts were made in relation to Afghanistan, Timor, North Korea and Indonesia. And at the beginning of 2001 a major effort was made for the victims of the earthquake in Gujarat. Work on disaster prevention has also been important program of EU, with a second phase of the DipEcho programme funded in 2000.

Records would show that European Union disbursed aid worth more than EUR 32 billion to Asia between 1976 and 1991 making the Union the second largest donor to Asia, after Japan but with three times more than the USA. Of the total amount disbursed by the Union, about 11% came from the budget line for Asia and Latin American countries administered by the Commission. Only a small portion of this was allocated to economic cooperation, the remainder going mainly to rural development projects and food aid. However effective this assistance may have been in the past, EU felt the need to re-assess its effectiveness with a view to adapting the approach to the changed conditions in much of Asia.

#### Overview of Commitments/Payments 2000-2005 (€ million)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Commitments</b>	481	407	575	558	611	834
<b>Payments</b>	322	383	455	470	526	680

*These figures exclude Humanitarian Aid (average €165 million/year)*



#### **IV. Development Policies, Programs, Thrusts and Trend**

All EC development and economic cooperation programmes are funded on a grant basis. In addition, however, the European Investment Bank has since the late 1980s provided substantial loan funding in support of essential infrastructure investment in Asia.

In 1991, the EC Council and its Member States adopted a resolution on human rights, democracy and development. On this basis, the EU gives high priority to specific agreed actions aimed at consolidating democracy and promoting human rights in some Asian countries. This kind of activity is increasingly diversified covering fields such as the support of elections, NGOs, free media, vulnerable groups, information on, and sensitivity to, human rights.

Policies for mutual relations in Asia began in the Developing Countries of Asia and Latin America Regulation of 1992. These policies constitute the Asia and Latin America (ALA) Regulation. The Regulation foresees two main lines of cooperation: (i) development aid for the poorest countries and population groups and (ii) economic cooperation with countries or regions with high growth potential. Environmental issues are also taken into account in both forms of cooperation. Economic cooperation was the innovation in the regulation which is aimed at improving the business and regulatory environment in partner countries in order to stimulate two way trade and investments with the direct participation of the private sector to the benefit both of the Union and the partner country.

The EC also provides substantial humanitarian assistance in Asia. Over the three years from 1998 to 2000, an average of €77.4m per year was provided following on natural or man-made disasters in Asia – this accounted for some 13% of the EC's world-wide humanitarian assistance efforts. In the year 2000 alone, particular efforts were made in relation to Afghanistan, Timor, North Korea, and Indonesia, and at the beginning of 2001 a substantial contribution was made for the victims of the earthquake in Gujarat. Efforts have also been made to support disaster-prevention work, in particular through the DipEcho programme.

In 1993, despite the fact that for many years Asia has had many high growth developing countries, only 12% of the EU aid for Asia was committed to economic cooperation. The remainder was used for activities broadly intended to alleviate poverty (the main commitments

went to South Asia). In both China and India the EU's largest activity undertaken in the 1980s was a dairy development project financed mainly out of the food aid budget.

Various forms of technical assistance and cooperation are financed from special budget lines such as energy, the environment, tropical forests, science and technology, AIDS prevention and narcotics control.

Some thrust of the policy also includes widespread support for Non-Governmental Organizations including certain country-specific NGO funds such as Cambodia and Vietnam.

The EU recognizes that humanitarian aid, refugee and emergency assistance are important contributions to the alleviation of suffering in Asia.

The Union is also well aware of the importance to developing countries of access to its market. To this end, preferential market access has been unilaterally offered to Asian developing countries for many years under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences scheme. The Asian countries are the main beneficiaries of the scheme.

In December 2005, the EU reaffirms its policy on development through the EU Consensus on Development. The consensus was a joint statement of the EU's Council, Parliament and Commission signed in Brussels which primarily states that not only that combating poverty is a moral obligation, but it will also help a more stable, prosperous and equitable world, reflecting the interdependency of its richer and poorer countries. It further states that, while developing countries have the responsibility for their own development, developed countries has also the same responsibility.

Trade has proved to be one the effective tools to foster development. Increased trade with developing countries will enhance their export earnings, promote their industrialisation and encourage the diversification of their economies. The classical instrument for achieving these objectives is tariff preferences, that is, to say that the goods imported from developing countries are not submitted to the normal customs duties. Tariff preferences provide thus an incentive to traders to import from developing countries and thus help them to compete on international markets.

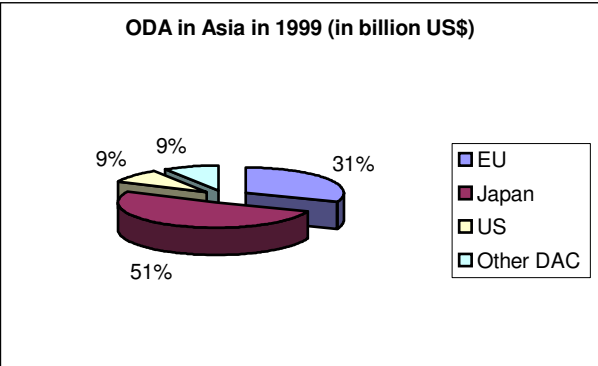
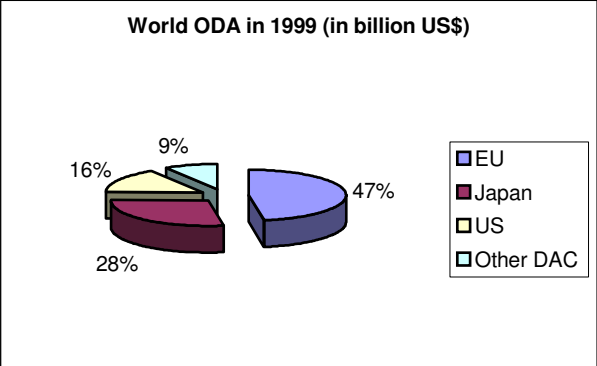
In 1968, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recommended the creation of a Generalised System of Tariff Preferences under which industrialised countries would grant trade preferences to all developing countries. The European community was first to implement a GSP scheme in 1971.

On the 23rd June 2005, the EU Member States approved EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). While the new GSP system as a whole will apply from 1 January 2006, application of the GSP Plus incentive system, which grants additional preferences to vulnerable developing countries that pursue good governance and sustainable development policies, is fast tracked to apply from 1 July 2005. The new GSP will follow the existing rules of origin for sometime. The Commission considered some simplification and flexibility in the rules.

**IV.1. Asia-wide Programs**

The EU as a whole is the largest source of Official Development assistance in the world, providing a total of \$26.8 billion in ODA out of \$56.3 billion in 1999, and accounting for 47% of total ODA world-wide (as against 28% from Japan, 16% from the USA, and 9% from other DAC countries). Within this, the EC itself was responsible for 18% of the total EU aid effort.

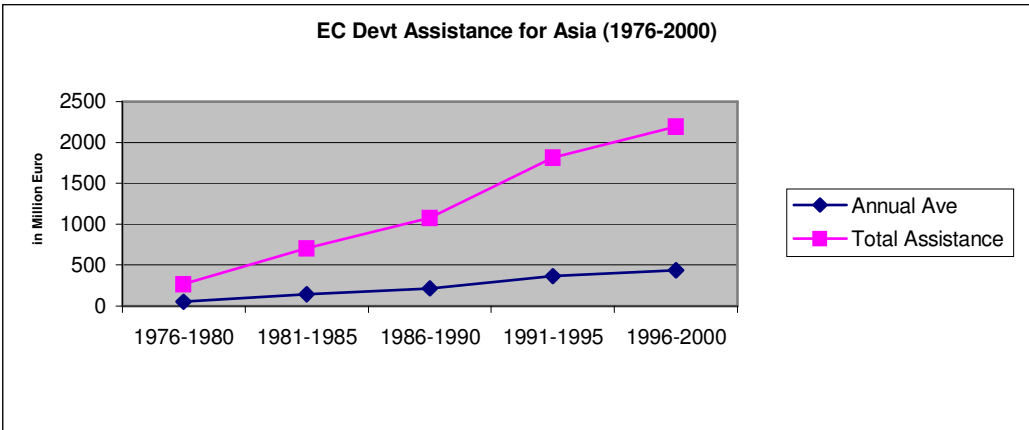
In Asia, the EU as a whole is the second-largest donor, accounting for 30% of all ODA to Asian countries (as against 51% for Japan, 9% from the US, and 9% from other DAC countries). In 1999 total EU development aid for Asian countries amounted to \$4.8 billion, or some 18% of total EU ODA worldwide.



EC aid for Asia commenced in 1976 (at the same time when aid programmes for Latin America and for the Mediterranean countries started), and from these modest beginnings has grown substantially in the following years.

**EC development assistance for Asia, 1976-2000**  
(development and economic cooperation, and refugees and rehabilitation assistance)

Year	Total assistance €m.	Annual Average €m.
1976 - 1980	264.4	52.9
1981 - 1985	703.4	140.7
1986 - 1990	1079.7	216.0
1991 - 1995	1816.9	363.4
1996 - 2000	2192.1	438.4
TOTAL	6056.5	242.26



Five programs were introduced in the mid-1990s anchoring on core development activities on an Asia-wide scale. These programs covered EU Member States and all developing countries in Asia governed by the ALA Regulation (South Asia, South East Asia, China). Primarily, the establishment and further strengthening of linkages between Asia and Europe remain a key objective. The EU directly engages with institutions in partner-countries to inhibit the organization from intervening on national governmental affairs. The following summarizes the core programs in Asia:

- a) *Asia Invest*, which aims to support economic co-operation between the EU and Asia through business to business match-making opportunities, partnership-building and capacity strengthening activities;
- b) *Asia Urbs*, which aims to promote local government partnerships to undertake urban development projects;

- c) *Asia Pro Eco*, which aims to improve environmental performance through EU-Asia technology partnerships that promote more sustainable products, processes and services;
- d) *Asia IT & C*, which aims to improve the quality of Europe-Asia partnerships and to link the two regions in the search for innovative and compatible solutions and standards in IT&C;
- e) *Asia-Link*, which aims to promote sustainable partnerships between higher education institutions in Europe and Asia.

These Asia-wide programmes have the following common characteristics:

- Geographical scope: EU Member States and all developing countries in Asia covered by the ALA Regulation in South Asia, South East Asia and China.
- Overall objective: Promoting closer linkages between civil societies in Asia and Europe and supporting mutually beneficial sustainable partnerships and networks between institutions.
- Focus: Targeting directly relevant organisations in the beneficiary countries without direct involvement of national governments which means no Financing Agreements;
- Typology: Demand-driven co-financing instruments, which are mainly implemented by open and centrally managed international calls for proposals.
- Partnerships: Promoting multilateral partnerships, which typically involve institutions from at least two different EU Member States and in many cases, two or more institutions from different Asian countries are involved.

The concept of multilateral partnerships and networking, both within Europe and Asia, is a distinctive feature of the Asia-wide programmes. The Asia-wide programmes have high visibility in Asia and Europe and participation from key operators in the civil society of both regions is increasing. Further efforts are under way to raise awareness of the co-operation possibilities offered by the programmes.

In 2004, a realignment of programs congruent with national policy agenda in Asian countries resulted in the consolidation of three main themes. Priorities shifted to trade and investment, higher education and environmental management. A multi-country approach in program implementation is the desired tool as bilateral agreements support national objectives.

The approach in the trade and investment program is in a manner which the EU will assist in making partner-countries in Asia remain competitive as regards globalization and liberalization. Import and export activities will be governed by WTO requirements while providing better

access to small and medium enterprises in the market. A strategic business model will utilize information and communication technology towards enhanced transactions. The transfer of technology to partner countries remains an overarching goal in which program incentives are proposed.

In the program on higher education, the establishment of linkages between EU and Asian learning institutions is the key. The program is focused on scientific and research groups while enhancing human resource capabilities.

In conservation efforts, the environmental management program aims to instill heightened awareness on climate change, sustainable consumption and production patterns. Environmental issues must similarly be incorporated in policymaking initiatives. Transfer of environmental technology to curb the effects of urbanization in key Asian cities remains an important concern.

Budget allocation for the implementation of the core programs is estimated at 85 to 100 million euros, with the program on higher education receiving 25-35 million euros. Trade and investment programs will be financed with 25 million euros, while environmental management programs are allotted 15 million euros. In the past five years, 80 percent of assistance has been directed towards low-income countries in the region. Least developed countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, the Maldives and Nepal received 32 percent of EU aid. Countries identified in the low-income range such as India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam received 48 percent.

Total EC aid funding available for Asia in 2001 amounts to some €430.0 million, including €262 million for development cooperation, €88 million for economic cooperation, and €80 million in aid for refugees and rehabilitation (including in East Timor).

EC development cooperation programmes with Asia have since the beginning been focused on the poorest countries in the region, and on the poorest groups in the population of these countries. Over the last five years, on average, 80% of the assistance has gone to the low-income countries in the region – with 32% going to the least-developed countries (notably Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, the Maldives and Nepal), and a further 48% going to other low-income countries (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam).

The assistance given in recent years are intended for the following:

- the strengthening of basic education services in India
- NGO poverty-reduction efforts in Bangladesh
- primary education and agricultural rehabilitation in Cambodia
- agrarian reform in the Philippines
- forestry conservation in Indonesia
- natural resource management in China

This focus on poverty-reduction has been accentuated further with the adoption of the Commission's Development Policy Communication in April 2000. This strengthens the focus on key poverty issues, giving a particular emphasis to using EU aid on a sectoral rather than project basis, in support of policy reform in key poverty sectors, and a greater conditionality in utilizing assistance to support pro-development policy. A particular attention is also given to strengthening beneficiary coordination and "ownership", to strengthening policy coherence and donor coordination, and to strengthening partnerships with civil society.

In addition, a far-reaching reform of the management of EC external assistance, commenced in 2000, will considerably strengthen the ability to use the available resources to their full effect. This includes in particular a strengthening of EU's strategy and programming work, the creation of a single body for implementing the aid programmes, and a much stronger role for delegations in the field in the preparation and supervision of assistance provided.

## **IV.2. Sub-regional Programmes in ASEAN/SAARC**

### ***IV.2.a. ASEAN Programmes***

Co-operation with ASEAN focuses on a number of areas identified in the 1999 EC-ASEAN Work Programme. The Work Programme aimed at responding to the financial crisis and revitalising relations between EU and ASEAN and identified a number of sectors for potential co-operation: trade, investment, energy, environment, development co-operation, regional integration, education and training and mutual understanding/culture. A new approach has been introduced recently for EC-ASEAN co-operation which will entail a clear focus on policy dialogue in areas of mutual interest where the EC can support ASEAN regional integration and other key sectors.

The ASEAN-specific programmes include the following:

- ASEAN Programme for Regional Integration Support APRIS.
- ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation.
- EC-ASEAN Energy Facility
- EC-ASEAN Cogeneration Programme Phase III.
- EC-ASEAN Regional Economic Co-operation Programme on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment.
- ASEAN-EU University Network Programme.
- EC-ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Programme.

Most of the ASEAN programmes are implemented in co-operation with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, or with bodies acting on its behalf. The total commitment for ASEAN programmes amounts to approximately € 80 million over seven years.

#### ***IV.2.b. SAARC Programmes***

SAARC and the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1999 that provided for co-operation in four areas:

- Cumulation of origin for SAARC products;
- Trade facilitation;
- Technical assistance for the South Asian Free Trade Agreement;
- Technical assistance for the harmonisation of SAARC standards.

Limited activities have taken place in these areas.

#### ***IV.3. Multi-country programmes***

##### ***IV.3.a. ASEM Programmes***

At present, there are three **ASEM projects**:

- The second phase of the ASEM Trust Fund, which was set up following the Asian financial crisis (EC contribution: € 20 million);
- The second phase of EC support to the Asia-Europe Foundation based in Singapore, for which a grant contract was signed in late 2002 (EC contribution: € 3.5 million);
- The **Trans-Eurasia Information Network - TEIN**, - EC contribution: € 10 million.

#### ***IV.3.b. Other multi-country Programmes***

The Commission is also financing a number of other multi-country programmes, which have been set up in response to challenges jointly identified with the EC's partners in Asia. These programmes include:

- The EU/UNFA Reproductive Health Initiative which is an Asia-wide programme implemented with the United Nations Population Fund - EC contribution: € 18.5 million;
- The Integrated Pest Management Programme for Cotton in Asia covering China and a number of countries in South and South East Asia. The programme is implemented by the FAO - EC contribution: € 12 million;
- The Civil Aviation Programme for South and South East Asia implemented by AECMA - European Association of Aerospace Industries - EC contribution: € 15 million.

#### **IV.4. Sectoral Cooperation**

##### **IV.4.a. Economic Cooperation (Trade and Development)**

In recent years, the international community has attached ever-increasing importance to the linkage between trade and development as a tool to help developing countries reap the benefits of trade as well as foster growth and poverty reduction towards sustainable development. The European Commission has recognised this by identifying trade as one of the six priority areas for development policy in the Commission Communication on "The European Community's Development Policy".

To this end, one of the primary tools identified by the European Commission for the delivery of development assistance is the provision of trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) as evidenced in its Communication on Trade and Development and through its discussions in international fora such as the World Trade Organization and its Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

In Asia, the European Commission has as one of its core objectives to further strengthen mutual trade and investment flows as described in its Strategy for Relations with Asia. Activities aim at assisting developing countries to build a climate conducive to trade and investment through, inter alia, the provision of technical assistance to Asian countries.

The succeeding portion provides examples of trade-related initiatives in Asia in fields such as intellectual property rights, standardisation and WTO negotiation and accession.

At Regional level, the ECAP II Programme aims to enhance EU-ASEAN investment and trade by contributing to the upgrade of the Intellectual Property Rights system, in line with the highest international standards and practices. The EC-ASEAN Standards and Quality Co-operation Programme aims to support the development of an ASEAN regional dimension and strategy for developing technical regulations, setting standards, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment principles. This initiative, which is implemented through the Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN), makes use of regional expertise and promotes co-operation at regional level with a special focus on the least developed countries.

At National level, a number of initiatives aim to support Asian developing countries in their integration in the multilateral trading system. Programmes are being implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. A project for assistance to the Philippines is under preparation. The type of expert trade-related assistance provided under those programmes includes support to:

- Participate in the multilateral trade negotiations;
- Pursue a trade and economic reform;
- Remove technical barriers to trade;
- Upgrade the Intellectual Property Rights system;
- Strengthen the private sector;
- Strengthen policy dialogue and raising public awareness on trade co-operation;
- Foster regional economic integration ;
- Increase the quality, branding, compliance, diversification and competitiveness of export oriented products;
- Manage and implement trade liberalisation and WTO commitments;
- Improve trade facilitation.

Organisations that have been involved in the implementation of some of these projects include the European Patents' Office, the Office for the Harmonisation of the Internal Market, the World Intellectual Property Organisation – WIPO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNIDO and CEN.

Country/ Region	Project Title/Year	Partner	Duration	Amount (in €)
Asia	EC-ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Programme (ECAP II) 1996	This programme is implemented in partnership with the National Intellectual Property Rights Offices in the ASEAN countries together with the European Patent's Office in Munich (EPO) and the Office for the Harmonisation of the Internal Market in Alicante (OHIM).	2000-2005	7,500,000
Asia	EC-ASEAN Co-operation programme on Standards, Quality and Conformity Assessment 1996	This initiative is based on a close partnership between the national agencies responsible for standardisation and quality in ASEAN and the Centre Européen de Normalisation (CEN).	2003-2005	9,000,000
Asia	Lot 6 - Multiple Framework Contract 2004	This facility offers short term technical assistance	2004-2006	950,000
Bangladesh	Trade Co-operation and Economic Policy Reform S/ASIA (TRACE) 1996	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies with assistance from European Technical Assistance Team	2000 - 2003	947,000
Bangladesh	Trade Related Technical Assistance: Pre Cancun Package 2003	Ministry of Commerce. Contract with UNCTAD	2003-2005	950,000
Bangladesh	South Asian Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) 2002	World Bank Trust Fund. EC Contribution Agreement with World Bank. Other donors include the Netherlands, DFID, IFC. Negotiations ongoing with Canada, Norway and ADB.	2002-2008	10,000,000
Bhutan	MUTRAP (Multilateral Trade Assistance Programme) 1999	Ministry of Trade and Industry. Implemented by a European Technical Assistance Team through the Framework contract	2003 - 2004	195,083
Cambodia	Multilateral Trade Assistance 2003	MoC Cambodia (Ministry of Commerce)	2004-2007	2,080,000
China	EU-China IPR 1995	This programme is implemented in partnership with the Intellectual Property Rights Agencies in China together with the European Patent's Office in Munich (EPO) and the Office for the Harmonisation of the Internal Market in Alicante (OHIM).	1998-2004	5,600,000

China	WTO Accession 1998	The EC partner for this programme is the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC) in China.	1998-2003	3,600,000
China	WTO Programme II 2002	The EC partner for this programme is the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC) in China.	2004-2009	15,000,000
India	Trade and Investment Development Programme 2003	Ministry of Commerce and Industry. UNCTAD for SIA. European Technical Assistance for other components.	2003-2007	13,400,000
India	European Business Information Centre 1996	Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India.	1996-2001	2,100,000
Pakistan	Trade-related Technical Assistance 2003	Ministry of Commerce. Contribution Agreements with ITC and UNIDO. ITC are to sub-contract some activities to WIPO.	2003-2006	5,000,000
Sri Lanka	European Business Information Centre 1996	European Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka	1996 - 2003	315,000
Sri Lanka	Trade Development 2003	Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Managed by ITC through a contribution Agreement.	2003-2007	1,400,000
Thailand	Small Project Facility Trade Development 2003	Managed by the EC Delegation in Thailand and implemented through calls for proposals.	2004-2009	5,000,000
Vietnam	European Business Information Centre 1999	Managed by a European Technical Assistance Team in Vietnam	1999-2003	993,080
Vietnam	Vietnam MUTRAP I 1997	Ministry of Trade	1998-2004	3,100,000
Asia	Asia Invest Programme I 1997	The eligible applicants under the programme are the intermediary non-profit making organisations as representatives of business in EU Member States, South & South East Asia and China. Managed by Commission HQ.	1997-2002	24,791,543
Asia	Asia Invest Programme II 2003	The eligible applicants under the programme are the intermediary non-profit making organisations as representatives of business in EU Member States, South & South East Asia and China. Managed by Commission HQ + Delegations.	2003-2007	35,000,000
ASEM	ASEM Trust Fund I 1998	Governments of ASEM countries. Managed by the World Bank	1998-2001	\$44.000.000 (of which EC provides €15.000.000)

ASEM	ASEM Trust Fund II 2002	Governments of ASEM countries. Managed by the World Bank	2002-2006	\$35.000.000 (of which EC provides €20.000.000)
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#### **IV.4.b. Private Sector Development**

Private sector is one of the main engines for growth and sustainable development. The European Commission (EC) has fully recognised the importance of private sector development and has recently issued a Communication on: “The Commission’s approach to future support for the development of the Business sector” - which encourages private investment for local sustainable development.

This support can take the form of:

- Promotion of business to business co-operation;
- Establishment of public/private partnerships in key strategic sectors (e.g. information and communications technologies and services; transport; energy and environment);
- Policies which facilitate the development of the private sector.

##### ***IV.4.b.1. Business to business***

In Asia, the EC has made investments to promote business co-operation through partnerships between Asia and the European Union. A specifically designed instrument the Asia Invest Program provides a range of grants, support instruments for networking and matchmaking and access to an extensive network and partners search data base, including chambers of commerce, sector and industry organisations, professional associations, industrial federations and business development agencies, with particular emphasis on Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Complementing the Asia Invest programme, the EC has adopted a number of bilateral projects to support enterprise reforms and SMEs development in a number of countries: Vietnam Private Sector Support Programme; Vietnam SME Development Fund; Bangladesh - South Asia Enterprise Development Facility and China Enterprise Reform Programme. These projects should improve the policy and regulatory environment through assistance to Government

departments, Chambers of Commerce and business associations, as well as improve export potential of beneficiary countries through assistance in product quality management, marketing assistance and improved access to export finance facilities, technical assistance and training.

Co-operation on information technologies and communications is implemented via the Asia IT & C Programme. This programme seeks to increase co-operation in information technology and communications between Europe and participating Asian countries. The programme provides grants for collaborative projects that improve the transfer of IT&C know-how, links Asia with Europe in the search for compatible solutions and standards, and strengthen the mutual understanding of IT&C regulatory and/or legislative structures between the regions. In addition, they help promote Europe as a world-wide centre of excellence for study and training.

#### *IV.4.b.2. Transport*

Air transport and maritime transport are the main components of EC assistance in the transport sector for Asian countries. These areas play an important role, as efficient transport systems are essential in the economic development of Asian countries. The implementation of cooperation projects in these areas demonstrates the benefits of best European practices in the region.

In the area of Air Transport, the EC currently assists the region with a number of programmes such as EU-China Civil Aviation, EU-South and Southeast Asia Civil Aviation that have as objective to enhance air safety and to increase EU-Asian co-operation in the aerospace sector. The activities included demonstrate EU industry practices, including airworthiness and safety regulations and standards; assisting the development of the future air traffic management environment as well as the development of airport infrastructure.

In the area of Maritime Transport, the EC implements the EU-India Maritime Project that aims at improving the efficiency of two ports in India, and also supporting the Government of India to introduce electronic data interchange in the sector.

#### *IV.4.b.3. Energy*

Energy efficiency is important for sustainable economic growth. There is a significant need for technology transfer to generate clean technologies and information on alternative power sources as governments enact new legislation creating incentives and a favourable environment for private sector investment using new technological solutions. The EC-ASEAN Energy Facility programme aims at enhancing the co-operation in this field, in particular by stimulating regional

energy projects and initiatives proposed by the energy industry, either public or private. In addition, the EC-ASEAN Cogen programme focuses on the identification and demonstration of appropriate cogeneration technologies available in Europe which use natural renewable resources.

#### ***IV.4.b.4. Environment***

The EU-ASIA Pro-Eco Program is an initiative designed to strengthen environmental dialogue and exchange of best practice between Europe and Asia. The programme co-finances partnerships in the field of the environment between Europe and Asia to share technologies and know-how in addressing environmental issues.

The Asia Urbs Programme is an initiative that aims to strengthen the capacity of Asian local governments in urban management and to promote durable links and transfer of technologies and know-how between European and Asian local communities. This is achieved by supporting local government partnerships - including at least two cities in the EU and one in Asia - to jointly undertake feasibility studies and/or two tie fields pilot projects focusing on specific urban issues.

These Asia wide programmes are completed by other bilateral initiatives such as the Vietnam's Environmental Urbs programme and China's Energy and Environmental programme that supports the introduction of better environmental planning and the introduction of clean technologies and management practices across a number of pilot projects in each of the respective countries.

#### ***IV.4.b.5. Management and vocational training***

As part of its private sector development strategy in Asia, the EC has financed bilateral projects such as the EU - China Industrial Vocational Training Programme and the Vietnam Labour Reform Programme that are designed to increase the skills of the workforce in their respective countries. The China-Europe International Business School Project (CEIBS) is also contributing to provide high-level management expertise to managers in China. This project is actively contributing to integrate China into the world economy, and is enhancing the commercial and industrial links with the EU.

#### **IV.4.b.6.      *Economic Reforms and Capacity Building***

The main objectives of the EC's Development policy are to foster sustainable development and poverty alleviation. In order to achieve these goals, Community development aid is focused on six priority activities, which include:

- support to macroeconomic policies with an explicit link to poverty reduction strategies and, in particular, sector programmes;
- institutional capacity building, good governance and the rule of law.

These two areas benefit from the EC's comparative advantage as the largest multilateral donor providing grants, since capacity building and institutional strengthening are activities that often do not generate short term economic returns. Moreover, the European Union's experience in economic and public sector reforms can be usefully shared with developing partner countries.

These areas of intervention are of particular relevance to economic co-operation with Asia, which accounts for 56% of the world's population and 66% of the world's poor while generating 25% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Furthermore, the Asian financial crisis of 1997 highlighted the urgent need for economic and financial reforms to correct macroeconomic imbalances and structural deficiencies, and to make the policies more inclusive in order to mitigate the social impact of the crisis and reduce poverty.

#### **IV.4.b.7.      *Economic and financial reforms***

Based on its own experience in the context of enlargement and on lessons learned in other geographical areas as well as from the Asian crisis, the EC actively supports the economic and financial reforms currently undertaken by several Governments in Asia. This focuses on the challenges of sustainable development and inclusive development that Asian partner countries are facing. The objective of economic co-operation is threefold:

- supporting policies for basic social services delivery and therefore having a direct impact on the improvement of people's living conditions;
- strengthening the management of public finance and thus improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending;
- improving the economic environment to make it more conducive to private sector development and attractive to Foreign Direct Investment and thus creating employment.

Following the Asian crisis, the European Commission and EU Member States set up the ASEM Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank to support the seven Asian countries most affected by

the crisis. During the first phase, 77 projects were financed, providing technical assistance and advice to social sector reforms (51%) as well as support in the form of financial and corporate sector programmes (49%). Examples of policy oriented actions supported are:

- the design of a tightly targeted safety net in the Philippines;
- an analysis of public expenditure, public subsidies and local payments for social services in Vietnam;
- technical assistance for state owned enterprises debt restructuring in China;
- technical assistance programme to assist with the reform of the financial system in Thailand.

With the Financial Services Sector Reform Programme, the EC is supporting the reforms in the financial sector in Pakistan. This programme will:

- support a better enabling environment and efficient regulatory framework for micro-finance and SME development;
- reinforce the institutional capacities of the stakeholders and authorities involved;
- contribute to the general improvement and rural outreach of financial services for SMEs and the poor.

The objective of the programme is to contribute to income generation and employment creation for the most vulnerable, who are currently excluded from the formal banking system. In parallel, the programme supports Pakistan's macro-economic reforms agreed with the Bretton Woods Institutions and the improvement of public finance management, mainly through technical assistance. The EU-China Financial Services Co-operation Project supports the ongoing reforms in the financial sector through technical assistance and high level short-term expertise from European financial sector practitioners and experts.

#### **IV.4.b.8. *Institutional strengthening and capacity building***

In addition to the initiatives the EC is working on in the economic and financial sectors in Asia, a range of activities is being supported which target other areas of public administration reform. The APRIS Programm shares EU experience in the field of regional integration, and in particular regional economic integration, which is of direct relevance to the development of ASEAN. The APRIS Programme contributes to the ASEAN Secretariat's work on a "Roadmap for the Integration of ASEAN" and its six-year-plan.

With the "Institutional Support to the Attorney General's Office in Indonesia" project, the EC is supporting the preparation of a long-term strategy for developing skills and achieving formal qualifications in the investigation and prosecution of financial crime in Indonesia.

Another example in this business area is the Labour Market Project in Vietnam which is intended to improve the quality and availability of vocational training and labour market information in line with the Government of Vietnam's market-oriented industrial policy. This will be achieved by enhancing the Government's capacity to provide efficient labour market services through the creation of a number of labour market "observatories" across the country.

The strengthening of the role of Civil Society is one of the key pillars of the Commission's Development policy. By supporting civil society in Asian countries the Commission aims to foster the population's ownership of the reforms and policies influencing their lives as well as the accountability of their Governments. In order to pursue this objective, the EC has designed the Small Project Facilities (SPF). This flexible instrument implemented locally promotes the involvement of civil society, private sector organisations and sub-national public structures in public sector and economic reforms and fosters links with EU civil society and other institutions to exchange know-how and technology.

#### **IV.4.c. Education**

EC considers access to quality education a key factor in reducing poverty and in the development. Education is therefore a strategic sector for the EC support in Asia, currently reaching over € 600 million.

EC's prime commitment is towards making basic education accessible, adequate and affordable to all children in Asia, girls as well as boys by 2015 as agreed at the global level in the context of the "Education for All" (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Whilst basic education is the priority, the EC also supports the development of higher education in Asia. A key aim is to enhance participation of Asian countries in the European and global knowledge society.

#### **IV.4.c.1. *EC supports both governmental and non-governmental school systems***

To assist developing countries in Asia in achieving MDG/EFA goals, EC provides support to both governmental and non-governmental school systems and sub-sectors. Over € 400 million is currently available for strengthening primary education services. During 2003/2004, another € 200 million will be made available.

In all Asian countries, the majority of children rely on governmental school systems for basic education and EC resources are therefore primarily targeted to strengthening governmental school systems, which receive roughly 80% of EC funding to the sector.

#### **IV.4.c.2. *Sector approach increasingly favoured over individual projects***

Until recently, approximately one third of EC support to basic education was still provided through individual projects. EC now favours supporting sector programmes. A sector approach enables EC, along with other donors, to engage in a real policy dialogue on education with government and civil society. It also makes it possible to channel EC support, preferably alongside that of other donors, directly into education policy and capacity building, thereby strengthening in-country ownership and good governance in respect of basic education provision. Commitment to a sector approach has therefore become a key condition for future EC support to basic education development in Asia, particularly in the governmental sub-sector.

However, EC is equally keen to pursue a (sub)-sector approach with respect to the non-governmental school system. In countries like Bangladesh, India and Pakistan where, due to poverty and other forms of social exclusion, not all children are able to access their governmental school system, basic education services are often provided through civil society organisations and initiatives (e.g. community and non-governmental schools). In such countries, EC has been an important supporter of civil society operated school systems, which have received roughly one quarter of EC resources for basic education in the past. EC support to this sub-sector will remain available albeit on a more selective basis and conditioned by a policy dialogue with both government and civil society to guarantee impact and sustainability.

#### **IV.4.c.3. *Higher education: promoting 'brain circulation' and inter-university collaboration***

In the area of higher education, the EC support focuses on stimulating interaction and networking between higher education institutions in Asia and Europe and, in this context, promotes mobility of higher level university students and academic personnel at both regional

and national levels. The bulk of the resources € 49.8 million is allocated to regional schemes, while € 22.2 million is allocated to national programmes.

Country/ Region	Project Title	Partner	Duration	Amount (in €)
Bangladesh	Non Formal Primary Education	NGO BRAC	5 years	59.000.000
Bangladesh	PROMOTE Femal Teachers in Rural Secondary Schools	Ministry of Education	9 years + 4 years handover to Government	36.000.000
Bangladesh	Non-formal/inclusive education		under preparation	30.000.000
Cambodia	Support to the Education Sector in Cambodia	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports		20.000.000
China	Basic Education Project in Gansu Province	Provincial Education Commission	4 years	15.000.000
India	Development Issues and People's Action in Jammu & Kashmir	Save the Children (NGO)	under preparation	684.612
India	Support Programme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" (A people's movement for universal Primary Education)	Ministry of Human Resources Development		200.000.000
India	Programme for enrichment of School Level Education (PESLE)	Aga Khan Foundation		11,000,000
Indonesia	Good gov/Basic Education sector progr.		under preparation	20.000.000
Laos	Support to Basic Education Sector	Ministry of Education		6.000.000
Nepal	Basic and Primary Education Programme (BPEP) Phase II	Ministry of Education		20.500.000
Pakistan	Education sector programme - Sindh	Sindh Ministry of Education	under preparation	39.000.000
Pakistan	Institute for Educational Development Phase II	Aga Khan Foundation		10.000.000
Pakistan	Northern Pakistan Education Programme (NPEP II)	Aga Khan Foundation		20.000.000
Vietnam	Support to Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)	Ministry of Education and Training		7.600.000
Vietnam	Education sector support	Ministry of Education and Training	under preparation	12.000.000

#### **IV.4.d. Health**

Health is a key determinant of economic growth and sustainable development.

EC regards access to essential healthcare as a fundamental right. It also considers the equitable provision of good quality promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative care as one of the most efficient way to tackle poverty.

EC is committed to making basic health services accessible and affordable to all, particularly women, children and the poor. This would contribute to the implementation of health-related MDG such as reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

##### ***IV.4.d.1. Sector approach increasingly favoured over individual projects***

EC support to the health sector is increasingly taking the form of a Sector Wide Approach. Based on sustained partnerships with the national authorities and better co-ordination with other donors, the sector approach aims to improve the performance of the health system through clearer Government leadership, wider policy dialogue and common financing and management arrangements.

EC's first priority is to enhance the universal and equitable access to a basic package of essential health services. In doing so, in some exceptional cases such as Afghanistan, it may be financing the provision of a basic package of care through NGOs. But more often, EC supports design and implementation of reforms and provides capacity building to health systems in order to render them more efficient and more responsive to the evolving health environment. For example, developing social health insurance systems, promoting family medicine and improving hospital management are all areas in which the European experience can be of value.

The EC also focuses on reducing the impact of communicable diseases, with specific attention to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and on improving maternal health through raising the quality of reproductive health services. In these particularly sensitive areas, civil society and the NGOs can play a crucial role.

#### **IV.4.e. Rural Development**

Most of the world's poor live in (or originate from) rural areas. Rural development is key to poverty alleviation and therefore, an important sector of EC cooperation in Asia.

##### ***IV.4.e.1. Scope of rural development cooperation in Asia***

In 2003, some 40 projects and programmes are being implemented and another 14 are under preparation with a total EC funding of roughly € 759 million. Rural development includes agriculture, but also areas such as vocational training and infrastructure rehabilitation in rural areas. The actions are elaborated in cooperation with the respective national governments and closely coordinated with other donors. The EC also co-funds actions carried out by other donors. For example, from 1999 to 2003, the EC has contributed € 55.3 million to the

#### **IV.4.f. Environment**

The EC Environmental Programme aims at supporting developing countries in their efforts to integrate an environmental dimension into their development process. The objective of the EC Forest Programme is to support the conservation and the sustainable management of tropical forests, and other forests in these countries.

The EC is committed to sustainable development and therefore, supports a wide range of environment projects and programmes in Asia. EC actions focus on environmental capacity building and policy advice aiming at improving the environmental legal and policy framework and at facilitating the implementation of environmental standards. Furthermore, projects assist the financing of clean technologies and promote sustainable resource management practices in demonstration projects on the spot. Many of the EC environment actions in Asia have a local and a global dimension such as air pollution; climate change; forestry and timber trade, and biodiversity.

#### ***IV.4.f.1. Scope of environment cooperation in Asia***

In 2003, the EC's Asia environment portfolio comprises some 19 ongoing projects and 4 projects and programmes under preparation with an approximate total EC funding of € 377 million. Environment projects address, for example, environmental management in industrial areas and renewable energy in China as well as biodiversity and forestry. More than 50% of the environment funds support the management and conservation of tropical forests, with Indonesia as a priority country.

#### **IV.4.g. Good Governance**

Governance is one of the priority areas in the EC's development policy in Asia as it is widely recognised by now that good governance is a precondition for development and poverty reduction. For this reason, governance related activities are receiving more and more attention in the EC's development programs for Asia. Some twenty- three projects and programmes are ongoing, or in preparation, in eight different Asian countries for a total EU contribution of € 128 million.

Governance covers such areas as civil society and community development, reform of public administration and judiciary, elections both at national and local level, the fight against corruption, institution capacity building.

When applied to development partnerships, good governance is to be analysed and promoted on a country-specific basis. It cannot be addressed on the basis of a one-size-fits-all model, but rather on the basis of prevailing situations.

This explains why projects in this field range from civil society and basic community development in Afghanistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh; election support in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia; judicial reform in Nepal, China, Afghanistan and Indonesia; the fight against corruption in the Philippines; to the improvement of access to justice in Nepal and the Philippines.

Most of the EC's € 51 million support to good governance is directed to institution building programs, € 28 million is earmarked for judicial reform and access to justice projects and € 28 million is devoted to the support of civil society and basic community development. The EC's election support in four countries amounts to € 18 million, and one project to combat corruption amounts to € 3 million.

Country/ Region	Project Title	Duration	Project Description	Implementing Partner
Bangladesh	Chittagong Hill Tracts	4 years	5 years	
Bangladesh	Elections support	3 years	Reinforcement of Bangladesh Electoral Commission. Establishment of voters' registers	Bangladesh Electoral Commission
Cambodia	Institutional support	3 years	Capacity building of line ministries	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Cambodia	Support to decentralisation process		Support to decentralisation process	
China	Legal & judicial programme	6 years	Reform of judiciary	Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation
China	Village governance	5 years	Capacity building of local authorities	Ministry of Civil Affairs
China	Civil society development	3 years	Strengthening of civil society	Ministry of Civil Affairs
Indonesia	Partnership for governance	4 years	Support to reforms in judiciary and public administration	UNDP
Indonesia	Judicial reform	3 years	Judicial reform	Supreme Court of Indonesia
Indonesia	Election support	15 mos.	Support to UNDP election programme	UNDP
Nepal	Conflict mitigation 1	3 years	Community development & awareness campaign for rural population	Local NGO
Nepal	Conflict mitigation 2	4 years	Judicial reform and human rights	
Philippines	Access to justice for the poor	3 years	Awareness raising of rural population	Supreme Court
Philippines	Fight against corruption	4 years	Awareness raising of rural population	Ombudsman Office

#### **IV.4.h. Aid to Uprooted People in Asia**

The European Community has supported uprooted people in Asia and Latin America since 1984 and a dedicated budget for them was created in 1997. The Aid to Uprooted People Programme makes a bridge between short-term emergency aid and long-term development assistance by providing funds to help improve living conditions of the displaced people (including demobilised soldiers and their families) and to facilitate their re-integration in their home country or elsewhere. The beneficiaries can also include host communities in the resettlement areas.

Funded projects may seek to rebuild homes, schools and infrastructure, ensure access to drinking water and irrigation, restore economic activity and promote peace and reconciliation. Several European and regional NGOs, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are important partners of the EC in meeting the objectives of the AUP.

The programme responds to crises in Afghanistan, Nepal, Burma/Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

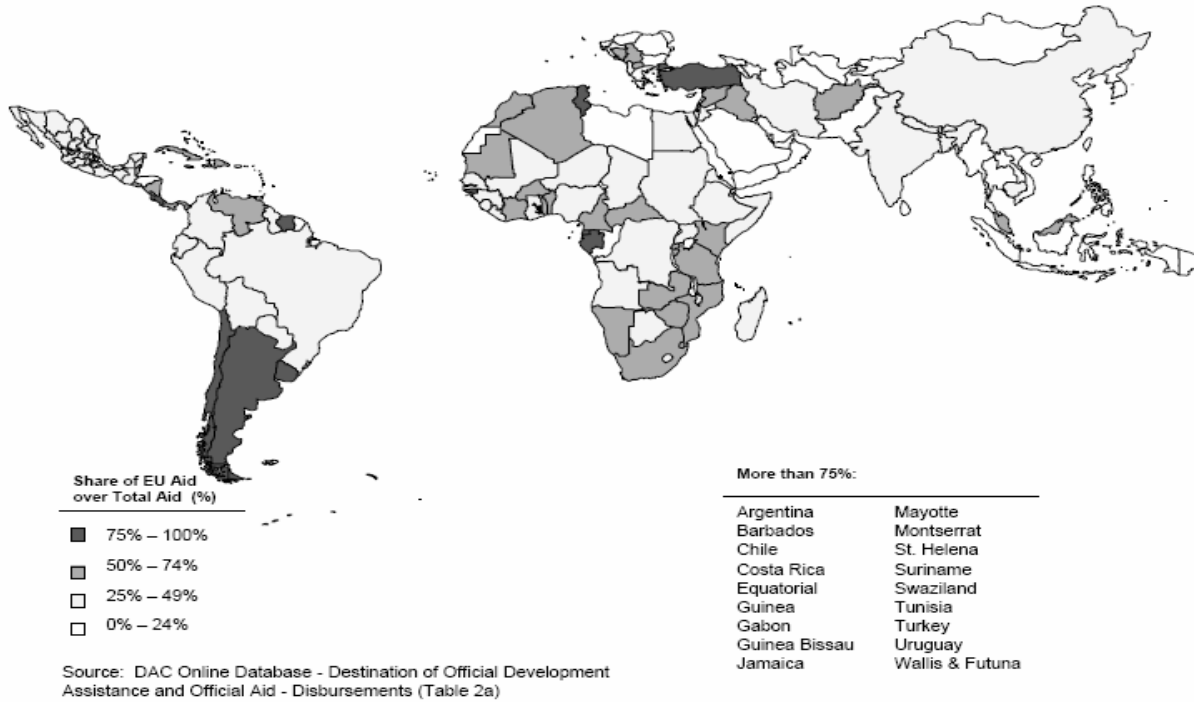
Projects are selected either through Call for Proposals or under very specific conditions through a direct agreement with an organisation. On the basis of multi-annual strategic guidelines, an Annual Work Programme is published every year which provides specific details on the implementation of the programme.

- Annual Work Programme - 2005 (allocation of € 25 million)
- Annual Work Programme - 2006 (allocation of € 28 million)

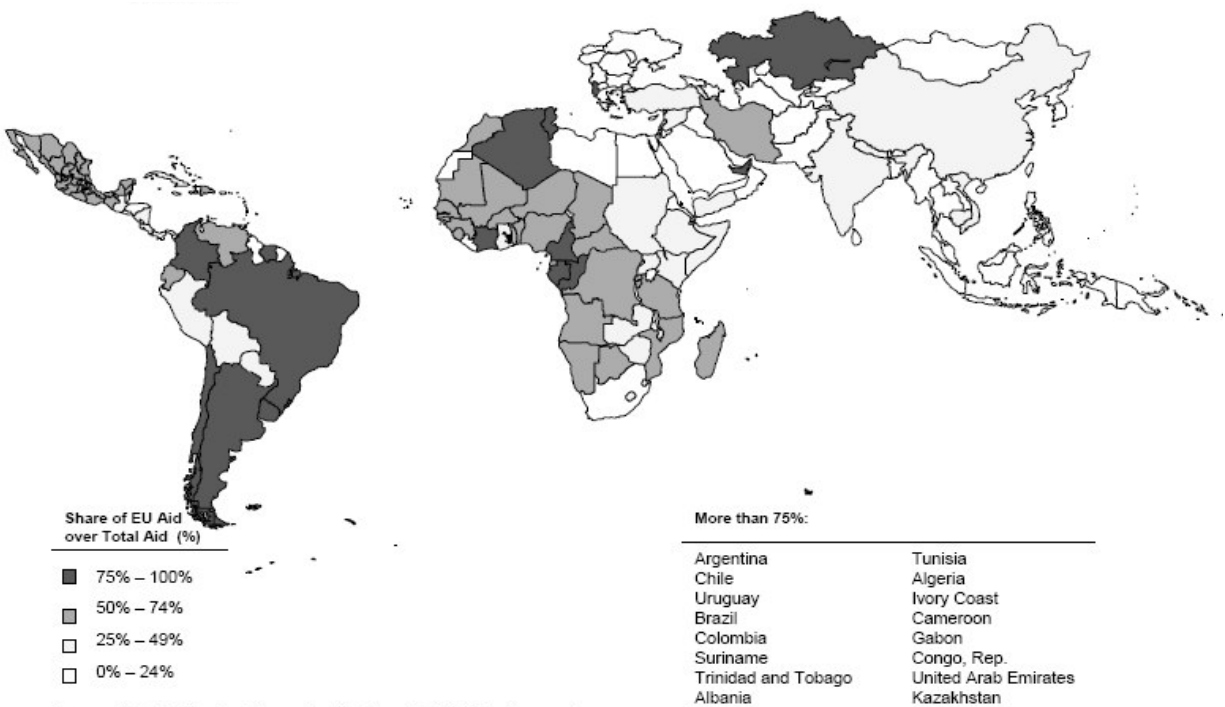
The 2006 Calls for Proposals was launched in the first half of 2006.

## IV.5. General Trend

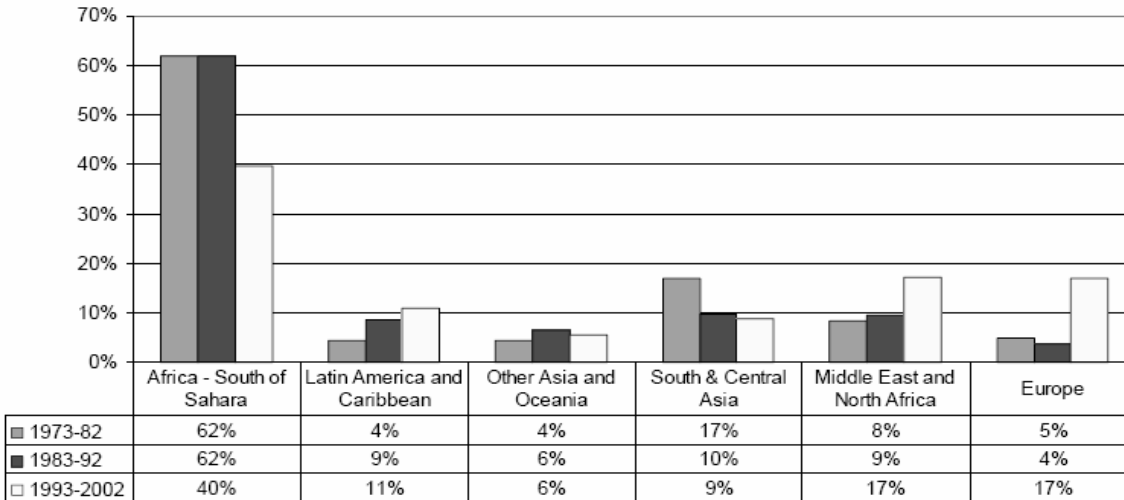
Countries where the EU (Member States and the Commission) is a large donor today



Countries where the EU (Member States and the Commission) was a large donor a decade ago



### 30 Year Regional Allocation of Aid: European Community



### EU Aid by Sector: 30 years

