



Study on the EU and its Member States mobilizing Public Sector Expertise for Development

Phase II – analysis paper

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Introduction: The study

- Focus on the strategic potential of PSE as an innovative cooperation modality with partner countries
- **Why this study?**
 - Provide research inputs for a more strategic use of PSE
 - Second phase, building on and complementing Phase I study
- Commissioned by FIIAPP - in the name of the PN - together with Expertise France, CPMA and Enabel; and with DG INTPA.



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This paper is the second phase of a study on the use of public sector expertise (PSE) in European development cooperation. Broadly speaking, PSE refers to the exchange of knowledge, expertise and advice between civil servants or other public sector experts in EU member states and third countries to solve shared policy and institutional problems. PSE can use different modalities and tools. Examples of PSE activities include long-term secondments of public officials from member state administrations in the offices of a third country to share policy advice about a certain reform, or short-term seminars to inform third countries about EU legislation and standards in a given area, for example for the purpose of accessing the single market.

The phase one study mapped some of the administrative, legal and operational arrangements for PSE in 20 EU member states and highlighted the challenges for giving it a more strategic role under the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe. This second analytical study looks at the added value of European PSE, the factors that motivate EU institutions and member states to use PSE, and the strategic potential of PSE for cooperation with partner countries under the NDICI.

The EU and its member states have developed a great deal of experience in PSE, originally in enlargement and neighbourhood countries and now on a global scale. This paper contributes to the ongoing policy debate on PSE to strengthen the way in which PSE is implemented as part of European development cooperation.

Key findings

The added value of PSE and some potential challenges

Added value of PSE (see also Phase I)

- Demand driven
- Adaptable to different contexts
- Fosters policy dialogue
- Helps to build mutual trust
- Cost-effective
- Can help shape mutually beneficial and more equal partnerships
- Support to all SDGs, especially SDG 16 and SDG 17



Some challenges

- Administrative and institutional challenges (from Phase I)
- Identifying and structuring demand
- Prioritising actions and managing collaboration
- Political backing in EU domestic administrations

Drivers for the use of PSE in member states



- ✓ **Added value of PSE:** builds sustained and politically relevant engagement for development outcomes
- ✓ **The SDGs** can be a strong driver for EU institutions and member-states
- ✓ Promotion of the EU and MS **standards, norms and values** abroad
- ✓ **Geo-strategic and economic interests are very relevant**

>> The EU is a catalyst for the use of PSE of its member-states

- Funding bilateral priorities and agreements
- Scale and reach difficult to achieve alone
- range of expertise and technical competencies
- different languages and cultures



PSE as a vehicle for EU agendas

- NDICI - Global Europe regulation mentions '**administrative and technical cooperation measures**' as methods of cooperation (Art. 26)
- Preference for **joint programming** under the NDICI-Global Europe
- **Team Europe** approach
- more policy space for **Working Better Together and inclusiveness**

Despite all the above **PSE remains an underutilised form of cooperation**

BUT

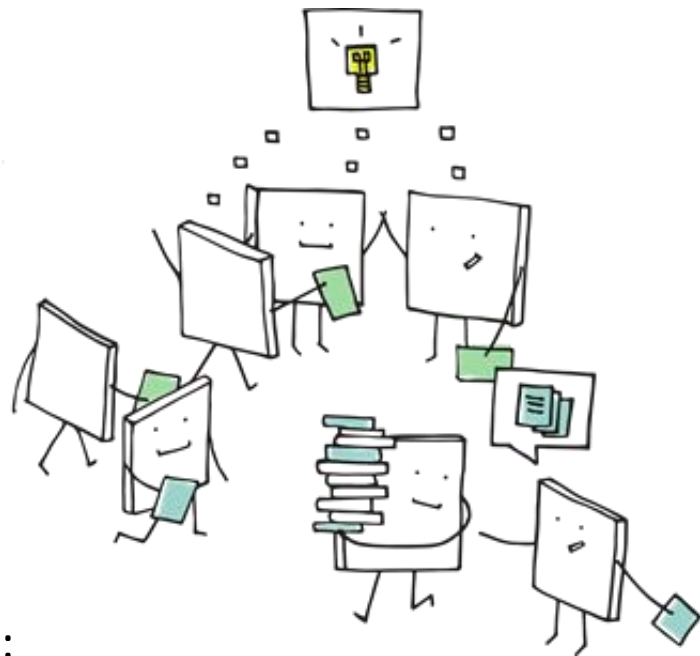
→ **Common interest in EU and MS in leveraging PSE more strategically, although different ambitions on scale**

Recommendations

Use PSE more strategically under the NDICI - Global Europe

PSE and programming towards implementation (EU Institutions)

- Present PSE early to partner countries
- Involve implementing agencies (i.e. MSOs) in the programming dialogue
- Mention PSE in Annual Action Programmes and action documents
- Use PSE more to complement other actions (eg: TEI, EFSD+ technical assistance, policy dialogue)
- Role of EU delegations to foster inclusiveness:
 - equal access to information
 - include all MS with interest and added value (inc. non-resident)



Increase Political support for PSE

→ Operational constraints and **variable political backing in some EU member states lead to limited mobilisation of PSE** (findings of the Phase I study).

How to leverage strong political support? (Member-states)

Very contextual and no set formula

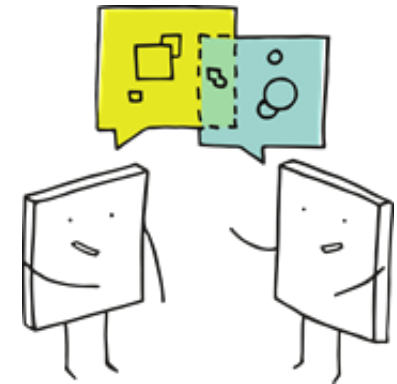
- Include decision-makers and administrators with a domestic mandate in policy discussions on PSE
- showcase examples of the successes of PSE to achieve EU member states' priorities and development objectives, notably the SDGs
- raise the visibility of PSE as a tool for MS collaboration and EU agendas
- Build evidence on PSE impact in developing countries

Foster a more structured dialogue on PSE

→ Interest of member-states to learn from each other and have a more structured dialogue

→ harmonisation of approaches not appealing

→ Already ongoing dialogue - well done, deepen it!



(EU institutions and member-states)

- A shared guidance on European PSE to be owned by member states
- Enshrined in some form of guidance document with enough standing
- Preserve diversity and ability to respond to demands from partner countries
- Advantage of facilitating identification and communication of practices

Which forum for debate? Must be inclusive and representative

Thank you!

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