



Interaction
international development
toolkit

Potential funding sources

European Commission

The EC announces its funding schemes through a call for proposals, which will include information about whether local authorities are eligible. Look out for the Non State Actors and Local Government Programme, which is country specific. Local authorities in the UK have also benefitted from geographically specific initiatives promoting exchange of experience eg Asia Urbs.

Most funding programmes supported by the European Commission will require a co-funding contribution. More details available on the website.
http://ec.europa.eu/development/procurements-grants/grants_en.cfm

DFID

The main source of funding targeted at local authority partnerships currently is the Good Practice Scheme, managed by CLGF, however this is coming to an end in March 2011. CLGF and LGA are working to identify further funding from DFID for partnership project work.

DFID has decentralised the decision making on funding and uses a country strategy approach. The strategy, agreed between DFID and the partner government sets out shared objectives and details how DFID's funds will be spent. Country strategies are available on-line. In the spirit of greater donor coordination DFID coordinates its work with other donors in-country, and it may be that another donor is leading on local government. DFID provides direct budgetary support to central governments in partner countries, works directly with partners and organisations in-country to deliver its programme, and also contracts out the delivery of large programmes through competitive tenders.

In the past DFID has had targeted funds such as the Conflict Prevention Fund and the Governance and Transparency Fund which local government would be eligible to apply for. It is currently consulting on a new Poverty Impact Fund. More details of this will be available shortly.
<https://www.dfid.gov.uk>

United Nations

A number of UN agencies have an interest in local government, the primary agency is UNDP. UNDP focuses on achievement of the MDGs. Decision making is decentralised to country offices and there is a commitment to supporting local authority partnerships. Negotiations have to be done locally.

<http://www.undp.org/>



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British Council

The British Council manages funds on behalf of DFID focusing on educational exchanges and provides resources to local authorities for school partnerships.

They will also sometimes support one-off visits/small activities. If there is a country office covering the country you are working in it is good to liaise directly. Offices are all listed on the website.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-ie-school-partnerships>

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/>

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships programme

Some local authorities have accessed resources through this programme to enable mid-level professionals to spend up to three month working and learning within the council. Calls are made annually.

http://www.cscuk.org.uk/apply/professional_fellowships.asp

High Commissions

It is good to stay in touch with the High Commission if you are working in a country. Sometimes the High Commission will have funds to support smaller one-off activities.

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/>

Using existing project funding more creatively

You may be able to explore adding an international dimension to an existing project that you have within the council.

Private Sector

There may be private sector companies that will contribute to your work either through sponsorship for an activity, working in partnership with you in a country where they are based as part of their Corporate Social responsibility, or because they are interested in engaging in a particular place. It is important to be very clear about what you are trying to achieve.