ODA LEARNING SERIES 2020
Inspiration and Action for Sustainable Development
Dear Partners,

We are pleased to invite you to the **Official Development Assistance (ODA) Learning Series 2020**, co-organized by UNDP and OECD. We have prepared series of webinars featuring distinguished guests, partners and colleagues addressing wide ranging topics that you expressed interest in, from development cooperation in a pandemic to strategic communications to advancing green finance for sustainable development. The webinars will be complemented by a virtual Community of Practice, a platform for you to continue the discussions, explore ideas and share experiences among your peers.

UNDP has been organizing the *Capacity Development Series for New and Emerging Donors in Europe and Central Asia* since 2014 and due to the current circumstances, the series are adapted to an online format.

We remain committed to strengthening partnerships for sustainable development and we hope these offers will bridge the gap, until we meet again in person.

Sincerely,

Ivan Zverzhanovski
Team Leader
Partnerships Team
Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS
United Nations Development Programme

Ana Fernandes
Head of Unit
Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform
Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
Schedule of ODA
2020 Series

The webinars will take place on every Thursday, at 11.00 am Istanbul time, on Zoom, from 27th of August to 26th of November.

**August**

27/08  Development Cooperation in/post COVID era

**September**

03/09  Development Cooperation in/post COVID era
10/09  Communication for Development
17/09  Communication for Development
23/09  Communication for Development

**October**

01/10  Green finance
08/10  Green finance
15/10  Green finance
22/10  Mainstreaming environment and climate change in ODA
29/10  Mainstreaming environment and climate change in ODA

**November**

05/11  Mainstreaming gender in ODA
12/11  Mainstreaming gender in ODA
19/11  Experts on Demand – Experience in deploying development expertise
26/11  Engaging private sector in development cooperation
About
the ODA Series

Since 2014, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub has organized series of events under the initiative **ODA Capacity Development Series for Emerging Donors** for its partners from the Czech Republic, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey as well as other interested countries, including Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, and Serbia.

All events were delivered at the request and based on the priorities of the partners, often hosted by them, on ODA relevant technical and thematic areas such as monitoring and evaluation, reporting, private sector engagement, green and alternative finance, skills development and more.

In 2020, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub is proudly co-organizing the ODA Learning Series with the Development Co-operation Directorate of the OECD. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 ODA Learning Series is adapted to an online format.
Development Cooperation in/post COVID era

The unprecedented health and socio-economic crises are expected to aggravate existing development challenges. Two webinars opening this year’s ODA 2020 Series will explore ideas on what the future of development cooperation could look like; how development practitioners help countries and stakeholders respond to COVID-19; and how we need to revamp our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

More about webinars:

Thursday, 27th of August, 11.00-12.00 Istanbul time

Speakers:
- Ana Fernandes, Head of Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
- Stephan Klingebiel, Director of UNDP’s Global Policy Centre in Seoul
- Sung-Il Son, the Director of the Program Strategy and Policy Planning Team, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

Agenda:
- Emerging trends on the future of development cooperation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- International development cooperation post COVID-19 – A new way of interaction?
- Development cooperation on COVID-19: Republic of Korea’s experience
- Q&A

Thursday, 3rd of September, 11.00-12.00 Istanbul time

Speakers:
- George Bouma, Team Leader, Sustainable Development Cluster, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
- Arda Batu, General Secretary of TURKCONFED
- Karen Smith, Programme Coordinator, Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

Agenda:
- COVID-19 and the commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- How to help SMEs recover from the impacts of COVID-19?
- How to engage private sector in responding to crisis?
- Q&A

Register here for the webinar

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COVID-19 has clearly illustrated the interconnectedness of the world we live in; making a strong case for why international development cooperation is so important. This is especially critical while communicating to the taxpayers, when all countries face their domestic challenges further aggravated with the COVID-19 crisis. We will dedicate three webinars exploring this topic; from perceptions of the domestic audience, experiences of development practitioners, to strategies and tools for effective communication.

More about webinars:

Thursday, 10th of September, 11.00-12.00 Istanbul time

Speakers:
- David Klimeš, Chief social economic commentator of Aktualne.cz, the Czech Republic
- Hannah Cole, Head of Communication Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)

Agenda:
- Public perception of ODA – Example of the Czech Republic
- Communicating for development
- Q&A

Register here for the webinar

Thursday, 17th of September, 11.00-12.00 Istanbul time

Speakers:
- Felix Zimmermann, Co-ordinator, OECD Development Communication Network (DevCom)

Agenda:
- Development Communications Strategies for the post-COVID Era
- Q&A

Register here for the webinar

Thursday, 24th of September, 11.00-12.00 Istanbul time

Speakers:
- Karen Cirillo and Mehmet Erdogan, Communications team, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and CIS

Agenda:
- Effective use of communication tools
- Q&A

Register here for the webinar
Partnership for Development – Join the Community of Practice

We invite you to join the community of development practitioners in Europe and Central Asia region! We believe strengthened partnerships and effective development cooperation can help accelerate action towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing current challenges, UNDP has launched a virtual community of practice on its SparkBlue platform, offering a platform for exchanging ideas, experiences and learning to our partner development assistance providers in the region.

The E-discussion ‘ODA Series 2020’ is live now. Please post your questions and discuss with your peers before and after the webinars, share your experience, and exchange ideas.

Join the Community at [https://www.sparkblue.org/partners4dev](https://www.sparkblue.org/partners4dev) (please sign up on the SparkBlue platform to join the Community).

For questions on the CoP, please contact UNDP Partnerships team in Europe and Central Asia at saran.selenge@undp.org.