

European Commission: 2008 main Survey findings

It should be noted that this was the first MOPAN Survey of the EC and therefore no comparison with previous years can be undertaken.

The EC is perceived generally as an active and strong player in policy dialogue with the government. Allowing for limited data due to a lack of information, EC support to civil society is perceived generally to be moderate, with a stronger emphasis on NGOs than the private sector.

The views among MOPAN country teams on EC support to capacity development of public institutions vary considerably. In comparison, the EC seems to place more emphasis on support to central than to local level public institutions. In general, no clear picture was conveyed on EC support to capacity building of NGOs and the private sector. Furthermore, the Survey shows that EC commitments to government ownership as well as the quality of the EC TA also vary among Survey countries. However, perceptions on the use of national and appropriateness of international TA tend to be favourable.

MOPAN country teams have diverse views on the strength and visibility of the EC in advocacy. However, favourable outweigh critical perceptions.

Overall, the MOPAN country teams appreciate the EC's strong support to national development strategies. Almost all country teams agree that the EC aligns its programmes with national strategies and priorities. In addition, most have the impression that the EC strives to use national systems and procedures and to the extent possible avoids using parallel implementation structures. Furthermore, MOPAN country teams find that there is quite limited room for strategic and financing decision-making at the country level.

Overall, MOPAN members appreciate the level of information sharing of the EC with other development partners.

MOPAN country teams generally perceive the EC to be strongly committed to and involved in local donor coordination. Overall, the EC is also seen as coordinating well with other international development partners at the operational level. A majority of the MOPAN country teams consider that EC senior management actively participates in coordination efforts and plays an important role in this respect.

MOPAN country teams perceive the EC to be committed to and to pursue the harmonization agenda in an active manner.

Perceived strengths and weaknesses

According to the main 2008 Survey findings, MOPAN country teams in the 9 Survey countries perceive the EC to be strong in the areas of bilateral policy dialogue with the host governments, support and alignment of its own work with partner government national development strategies, and inter-agency coordination.

On the other hand, the EC appears to face some limitations when it comes to capacity development of public and private institutions and effective delegation of decision-making authority to the country level.