



EUROPEAN UNION – NIGERIA PROJECT SHEET

Project Title	Non State Actor (NSA) participation to the regional integration process in West Africa
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Sector	Regional Integration	Budget (N)	
Location	West Africa	Budget (€equiv.)	€2.6 Million
Start Date (Est.)	28.06.2007	End date (Est.)	31.12.2011

Implementing Partner	The ECOWAS Commission in coordination with The UEMOA Commission
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Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To strengthen the capacity of NSA to enable them to play an effective and relevant role in the integration process, to react to issues at stake, to participate in the formulation of regional policies, strategies and plans and to popularise regional integration issues and rights among West African population.• To facilitate the creation of a NSA network within the region working on regional issues pertaining to the concerned populations. This entails NSA capacity building, facilitating the creation of network and platform of discussion, dissemination and access to information on regional issues at the Member States and at the regional level.
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Description

One of the main weaknesses of the regional integration process is the problem of ensuring that the national population adapt to the process and understand it. The lack of information, the lack of appropriate participation mechanisms and the fact that the benefits are not sufficiently visible are some of the causes of this weakness.

Generally, NSAs do not have the capacity to initiate or even follow such regional discussion, the ability to exert pressure on their governments and a strong network enabling them to engage constructively with the two Regional Organisations (RO), ECOWAS and UEMOA.

Therefore, the purpose of this project is:

- (1) to support NSA participation in the regional integration process in West Africa;
- (2) to reinforce cooperation between NSAs and regional organizations in the context of West Africa regional integration
- (3) to build the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission in the preparation, the launch and the evaluation of tenders in accordance with existing regulations;

As expected results, the beneficiary NSA will be able:

- (1) to gather information on the regional integration stakes and processes and the importance and impact of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) for West Africa and the EU;
- (2) to respond to and dialogue with the RO and Member State authorities, as well as to participate in the formulation of regional policies, strategies and programs;
- (3) to reinforce the regional networks and activities in the field of regional integration, particularly economic integration and trade, freedom of movement, peace and security, democracy and good governance;
- (4) to participate in major ECOWAS and UEMOA meetings.

Results Achieved

The Financing Agreement was signed on 07 March 2006 and the TA services contract on 28 June 2007.

Contact Details (incl. email and website)

Name: Mamadou Gueye
Position: Principal Programme Officer – Education, culture and drug control
Telephone: 234 9 3147647-9
ECOWAS Commission
101, Yakubu Gowon Crescent - Asokoro District,
P.M.B 401, Abuja, NIGERIA

Project Officer	E-mail: delegation-nigeria@ec.europa.eu	Last Updated	February 2008
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