What funding for EU external action after 2013?

Please take time to read the background paper enclosed before answering the questionnaire. Answers to the questionnaire should normally be completed online. The questionnaire must be completed in one session, as it is not possible to save comments and responses entered, and return to them later. Please note that you will have 16 questions to answer and that for each question you will be automatically disconnected after 90 minutes of inactivity. Therefore if you would like to take time completing the questionnaire, it is recommended that you prepare your answers using a separate working document. The questionnaire will be available in English, and additionally in French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese around three weeks after the launching date.

Identification of respondents

Are you replying...? (compulsory) (at most 1 answer)

O As an individual

O On behalf of an organisation

Please specify your country of residence In the EU: (optional) (at most 1 answer)

- O Austria
- O Belgium
- O Bulgaria
- O Cyprus
- O Czech Republic
- O Denmark
- O Estonia
- O Finland
- O France
- Germany

- O Greece
- O Hungary
- \bigcirc Ireland
- O Italy
- O Latvia
- O Lithuania
- O Luxembourg
- O Malta
- O Netherlands
- O Poland
- O Portugal
- O Romania
- O Slovakia
- O Slovenia
- O Spain
- O Sweden
- O United Kingdom

Outside the EU (please specify the country): (optional)

Is your organisation registered in the EU Register of Interest Representatives? (compulsory) (at most 1 answer)

O Yes

O No

If yes, please provide your Register ID number. (compulsory)

Please name your organisation (compulsory)

Please provide an email or, alternatively, a postal address for your organisation (compulsory)

What type of organisation is it? (compulsory) (at most 1 answer)

O Business organisation or private company

- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- O National public administration
- O Regional public body/organisation or local authority
- O Research institute or think tank

O Education sector at large

O International organisation

O Other category

If 'Other category', please specify. (optional)

Please specify your organisation's country of establishment. In the EU: (optional) (at most 1 answer)

O Austria

O Belgium

O Bulgaria

O Cyprus

O Czech Republic

O Denmark

O Estonia

O Finland

O France

O Germany

- O Greece
- O Hungary
- O Ireland
- O Italy
- O Latvia
- O Lithuania
- O Luxembourg
- O Malta
- O Netherlands
- O Poland
- O Portugal
- O Romania
- O Slovakia
- O Slovenia
- O Spain
- \bigcirc Sweden
- O United Kingdom

Outside the EU (please specify the country): (optional)

Does your organisation co-finance or benefit (or has it benefited in the past) from any financial contributions from EU funding under the external action instruments mentioned in this consultation? (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

O Yes

O No

1. Added value of financial intervention at EU level

The Treaty defines a number of overall objectives for EU external action. Within this framework, the EU may choose to pursue a set of more specific, cross-cutting areas to be supported through its financial instruments.

Added value of financial intervention at EU level

Do you think that EU action through financial intervention provides substantial added value in the following areas:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening national and international security compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
reducing poverty and promoting social cohesion abroad compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
investing in long-term stability and inclusive growth in EU enlargement and neighbourhood countries compulsory	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
tackling global challenges such as climate change, energy security or financial stability compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
supporting vulnerable populations outside the EU following natural and man-made disasters compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
supporting growth abroad to enhance the EU competitiveness agenda and	0	0	0	0	0

creating opportunities for trade and investment compulsory					
promoting EU and internationally agreed political, economic, social and environmental norms, standards and values compulsory	0	0	0	0	Ο

2. Link with other priorities

In addition to the external action priorities listed in the Treaty, the EU has identified other priorities, in the Europe 2020 strategy in particular, which have an important international dimension. These include issues such as financial stability, promotion of trade and investment, boosting research and innovation, employment and social issues (inclusive growth and decent work), energy, resource efficiency and climate change, counter-terrorism, managing migration, disaster prevention and preparedness, promoting good governance in tax matters and support domestic revenue mobilisation, etc... The prioritisation of these goals can have an implication for the prioritisation of EU funding.

Do you consider that the EU interests are sufficiently taken into account in its actions abroad? (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- O Strongly agree
- O Agree
- O Disagree
- O Strongly disagree
- O No opinion

Link with other priorities

In this regard, which of the following areas do you consider as the main priorities? Please rank the five main priorities among the areas below in descending order of importance.

	1	2	3	4	5
macro-economic and financial stability, economic growth optional	, O	Ο	Ο	0	0
promotion of trade and investment optional	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	0
addressing regulatory barriers optional	0	0	0	0	0
supporting EU SMEs optional	0	0	0	0	0
boosting research and innovation optional	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
employment and social issues (inclusive growth and decent work)	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο

			[[[]
optional					
education and culture optional	0	0	0	0	0
energy, resource efficiency and climate change optional	0	0	0	0	0
improved transport connections optional	0	0	0	0	0
environment protection optional	0	0	0	0	0
counter-terrorisr	n O	0	0	0	0
managing migration optional	0	0	0	0	0
disaster prevention and preparedness optional	0	0	0	0	0
food security optional	0	0	0	0	0
promoting good governance in tax matters and support domestic revenue mobilisation optional	0	0	0	0	0

3. International security

Preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security are objectives for EU external action defined by the Lisbon Treaty (Article 21(2) of the TEU).

International security

How, in your view, could the impact of EU funding be enhanced in this respect?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Through active diplomacy aimed at conflict prevention in vulnerable countries compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
Through strengthening links with key strategic partners with whom the EU can co-operate on security issues compulsory	Ο	0	0	0	0

Through investing in the EU's peace-building and crisis preparedness compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	0
Through a stronger focus on the EU's security and defence capabilities compulsory	0	0	0	Ο	0
Through investing in long-term stability, human rights, economic development compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

4. Humanitarian aid

Humanitarian needs continue to rise as a result of armed conflicts and of the increasing number and severity of natural and man-made disasters.

Humanitarian aid

In your view, how should the EU enhance its leading role in the provision of humanitarian assistance to ensure best value for the resources devoted to this goal?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
by strengthening coordination with EU Member States and other donors compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
by improving the transition from emergency relief to recovery and reconstruction and longer-term assistance compulsory	Ο	Ο	0	Ο	Ο
by balancing coverage to include major disasters as well as potentially forgotten crises compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	0
by exploring new strategies and cost effective ways to provide humanitarian assistance compulsory	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο

Other: If you wish to elaborate, please use the box below. (optional) (maximum 500 characters)

5. Geographic versus thematic instruments

The bulk of EU external financial support is delivered through geographically-based multi-annual programmes which ensure consistency of EU external assistance within each individual countries and regions. These multi-annual programmes address specific situations and are the result of political and policy dialogue with partners, as well as bilateral agreements concluded between the EU and the respective country or region. Geographically-based cooperation is considered to be the level at which policy coherence and coordination with other financial partners can be ensured most effectively. Alongside this, thematic programmes cover cross-cutting issues (such as environment, democracy and human rights, migrations...) without geographical limits. Unlike geographical programmes, they are not the result of a direct negotiation with the partner country but actions are often proposed and implemented by civil society organisations (including NGOs) and local authorities, or jointly managed with international organisations. These programmes are suited to address issues of a global nature (such as climate change, resource consumption, energy security and financial stability) and enable global, regional or transnational interventions as well as interventions in politically sensitive areas which cannot be carried out under geographical programmes.

Geographic versus thematic instruments

Do you agree with these statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
The EU should continue to organise its programmes mainly on a geographic basis to make sure that cross cutting issues are addressed according to the country's specific context. compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
The EU should maintain a balanced set of instruments combining both geographic and thematic programmes. compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
The EU should make more room for sectoral policies and funds open to all countries or players, irrespective of their geographic location (global thematic programmes). compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	0

6. Differentiating among partner countries

On the question of principles for EU cooperation with third countries, further thought could be given to the idea of a more differentiated approach between beneficiary countries based on a variety of possible criteria, such as the development level of the country concerned (using economic criteria such as GNI/ Gross National Income per capita, poverty or inequality criteria), political and strategic considerations, or the degree of vulnerability of the country. For more advanced countries, the promotion of EU and mutual interests (in terms of trade and investment, business environment, economic and tax cooperation, environmental protection, better energy and transport interconnections, security, respect for universal values and principles, etc) could become a driver for cooperation, whereas for more fragile and vulnerable countries, the EU could continue to deliver assistance primarily focused on poverty eradication. Conversely, it could be argued that the possibility of ODA-type assistance for more advanced economies (e.g. targeting poverty pockets, indigenous populations, etc.) should be maintained, and that the promotion of activities (e.g. security, trade and investment cooperation, environment, etc.) in EU interest or of mutual interest should also be considered even in the poorer and more vulnerable countries, if this proved to be necessary.

Do you think that external financial instruments should allow for a more differentiated approach tailored to the situation of the partner country as described above? (compulsory) (at most 1 answer)

O Strongly agree

O Agree

○ Disagree

O Strongly disagree

O No opinion

Differentiating among partner countries

If you consider that there should be such differentiation, do you think that it should be based on :

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
the country's level of development, taking socio-economic criteria into consideration (GNI, poverty level, income distribution, growth, level of development of specific sectors of the economy) compulsory	0	0	0	0	Ο
the level of economic and social progress (the UN's human and social development index) compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
political criteria such as the country's commitment to sound public policies addressing needs, good governance including in the tax area, fight against corruption and respect for human rights	0	Ο	Ο	Ο	0
the country's involvement in	0	0	0	0	0

a credible regional/contine political and/or economic integration process – where appropriate compulsory	ntal				
the country's stability and security situation (socio-economic strategic and geopolitical aspects) compulsory	O ;,	0	0	0	0
the country's impact on the environment including climate change compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
the degree of vulnerability of the country compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	Ο
the EU's own interests compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

7. Like-mindedness and conditionality

The EU is a major global player, with strategic objectives, interests and values. It could request more systematically than it has done in the past that its partners (countries, organisations and individuals) in the development area commit themselves to the same goals. This question does not apply to enlargement and – in some cases - neighbourhood areas where conditionality and alignment on EU objectives and systems are core principles.

Like-mindedness and conditionality

Do you agree that:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
The EU should explore the possibility of linking more closely its cooperation to respect for human rights, minorities, good governance, respect for the diversity of cultural expressions and non- discrimination by its partners.	0	0	0	0	0
EU external cooperation should give priority to partners countries based on the quality of their policies in the sector(s) concerned and on their ability and willingness to implement a sound policy	0	0	0	Ο	0

					
for improvements. compulsory					
The EU should make its external cooperation conditional on its own interest in being present in the beneficiary country, in developing its ties with that country or in enhancing stability and security in that country. compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
The principles of ownership* and of alignment* with beneficiaries' objectives and systems are contradictory to the idea that the EU should apply conditions to its external cooperation. compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	0
The EU should provide financial incentives for partner countries if a strong EU interest is associated with financial costs that are difficult to bear for the partners, e.g. in the area of migration management. compulsery	0	0	0	0	0

8. Simplification of instruments

The current EU resources for development for 2007-2013 are structured around a certain number of legislative and financial instruments. There are several ways which could be examined to possibly simplify and rationalise the structure of EU development instruments.

Simplification of instruments

Do you agree that:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
The integration of the European Development Fund (for ACP countries) into the EU budget would increase the coherence and the political visibility of EU external action, and would improve efficiency in implementing and financing procedures.	0	0	0	0	0
Existing thematic programmes (such as Investing in People, Non-State actors, Food security under the Development Cooperation Instrument, and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) should be reviewed and where necessary their number should be reduced. compulsory	0	Ο	Ο	0	Ο
The EU should make the geographic limits of its instruments more flexible	0	0	0	0	0

to facilitate cross-regional/ continental cooperation (e.g. using different instruments to support, in certain countries, implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy or concerning the Greater Caribbean cooperation). compulsory		
---	--	--

If you wish to elaborate, in particular on how the EU can deliver assistance more quickly, more flexibly and more effectively, please use the box below. (optional) (maximum 800 characters)

9. Role of Financial Institutions

At a time of budgetary pressure one option for increasing the impact of EU external financial instruments might be to reinforce cooperation with European financial institutions, namely the European Investment Bank (EIB), Member States' financial institutions (such as KfW or the members of the Association of European Development Finance Institutions – EDFI), and international financial institutions such as the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), or the Council of Europe Development Bank. This would allow the EU to mobilise additional resources in support of its policy objectives.

Role of Financial Institutions

Do you think that the EU should reinforce cooperation with European, Member States' and international financial institutions through \dots ?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
increased blending* of grants and loans compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
joint investment mechanisms (such as the existing regional investment facilities) compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
increasing structured cooperation and coordination with financial institutions compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

If you wish to elaborate, in particular on what new cooperation tools and delivery mechanisms could be envisaged, please use the box below. (optional) (maximum 800 characters)

10. A role for the business community

Engaging more extensively with business communities in the EU and in third countries could also be a way of increasing the financial leverage for EU external action, by attracting additional resources from the private sector and therefore directly supporting private investment worldwide. At the same time private aid foundations developed an important role in providing development finance to the poor or to emerging countries.

A role for the business community

Do you think that the EU should give more importance to private funding through :

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
engaging more extensively with the business community as a partner compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
promoting private-private partnerships (business-civil society) and public-private partnerships or alliances (business-benef country authorities or business-public donors) compulsory		Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
devoting a greater share of resources to leverage private finance compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
promoting corporate social responsibility compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

increasing cooperation and partnerships with private aid foundations	Ο	0	0	0	Ο
compulsory					

11. Coordination with Member States

The Lisbon Treaty contains provisions to strengthen the 'division of labour' among aid donors and promote the complementarity and efficiency of action between the EU and the Member States. Strengthening coordination with Member States on joint programming and co-financing would contribute to increasing the impact of EU external funding.

Coordination with Member States

Do you agree with the following:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Joint programming and co-financing with Member States can increase the impact and the coherence of EU external action. compulsory	0	0	0	0	Ο
Joint programming and co-financing with Member States can simplify the delivery of aid and reduce overall transaction costs. compulsory	0	0	0	0	Ο
Joint programming and co-financing with Member States can lead to a heavier and lengthier programming process. compulsory	0	0	0	0	Ο
EU institutions and Member States should commit to joint programming and division of labour through EU legislation (possibly through a new EU Regulation). compulsory	Ο	Ο	0	0	Ο

12. Co-financing with beneficiary countries and joint cooperation with emerging donors

Co-financing with beneficiary countries

Taking into account the risk of financial dependence and the principle of programme ownership by beneficiary countries, it can be argued that EU funding should not be self-standing but should complement financing provided by beneficiary/partner countries where appropriate (as it is within the EU, where cohesion or agricultural policies require national co-financing). In the area of external action, co-financing is essentially applied to candidate/potential candidate countries, in the framework of the Enlargement Policy, and to neighbouring countries, in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Do you agree with the following?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
In order to enhance ownership* and responsibility of partners, the EU should more systematically require co-financing of programmes by partners in beneficiary countries.	0	0	0	0	0

Joint cooperation with emerging donors

Triangular cooperation can be defined as partnerships between 'traditional' donors and Southern partners providers of South-South Co-operation, to implement co-operation programmes and projects in beneficiary countries. It can be argued that better results can be achieved when Southern partners and 'traditional' donors join forces through triangular co-operation. Do you agree with the following?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
The design of EU financial instruments should facilitate the possibilities of joint cooperation with emerging donors. compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

If you wish to elaborate, please use the box below. (optional) (maximum 500 characters)

13. Cooperation with international organisations and other bilateral assistance

At the moment, the EU works in partnership with international organisations - such as United Nations organisations, OSCE, and the Council of Europe, channelling significant amounts of assistance

through these organisations particularly in areas where these organisations have a comparative advantage and well established experience. The EU also coordinates extensively with other important non EU bilateral donors (for example the USA, Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland). It is worth considering whether increasing joint work with these donors could also contribute to increase the overall impact of EU external action, by being part of a larger pool of funding, by economies of scale or by reducing overheads.

Cooperation with international organisations and other bilateral assistance

Do you think that implementation of EU external assistance in partnership with international organisations or other bilateral donors ... ?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
can be useful, particularly in crisis and rehabilitation programmes compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
can lead to considerable economies of scale and improved effectiveness compulsory	0	Ο	Ο	0	0
can result in a loss of identity and visibility for EU external aid compulsory	0	Ο	Ο	0	0
offers adequate guarantees on accountability compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

If you wish to elaborate, please use the box below. (optional) (maximum 500 characters)

14. Performance evaluation

At a time of scarce resources, it is clearly important to ensure that EU external instruments deliver the expected impact. At present, evaluations and monitoring* are conducted throughout the project cycle (before, during and after its implementation) as a tool to measure the impact of the activities.

Performance evaluation

How do you think that evaluation and performance measuring could be improved?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
through a stronger focus on monitoring* activities during project and programme implementation compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
through a stronger focus on evaluating* activities after the implementation phase is over (ex post) compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

through giving more importance to transparency, accountability and traceability of EU funds, even if this would involve additional rules and procedures compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	Ο
through greater simplification of the rules governing external financing compulsory	0	0	0	0	0

15. Visibility of external action

The EU is often said to lack visibility on the world stage. The EU could better publicise its activities both to raise public awareness in the EU and to increase public support in third countries.

Visibility of external action

How could the visibility of EU external funding be enhanced?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
through devoting more resources to information and communication activities in the EU compulsory	0	0	0	0	0
through devoting more resources to information and communication activities in beneficiary countries (for instance on projects funded by the EU) compulsory	0	Ο	0	0	0
through reinforcing the EU's coordinating role among other donors (from within and outside the EU), in-country and in international fora compulsory	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
through ensuring that implementing partners (NGOs, International Organisations, governments) give more visibility to EU financial	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο

contributions			
compulsory			

16. Other suggestions

Do you wish to comment on what (parts of) external action instruments/programmes/mechanisms work well, should be continued and built on, or on what could be improved, as well as to suggest other innovative lines of reflection that should be pursued at the EU level related to funding for external action? (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

O Yes

O No

If so, please give details in the box below. (compulsory) (maximum 1000 characters)

Background documents

background paper: http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/EU_external_action_2013_background_paper.pdf