



# European Year for Development 2015

## "Our world, our dignity, our future"

### Why a European Year for Development in 2015?

2015 is a special year as the Millennium Development Goals reach their deadline and the negotiations for the post-2015 framework will take place. As the first ever European Year dealing with the EU's 'external action', the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015) will provide an unparalleled opportunity to engage with citizens, to showcase the EU's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide. The motto of the EYD2015 is: **"Our world, our dignity, our future"**.

Join the group "European Year for Development 2015" on [capacity4dev.eu](http://capacity4dev.eu) to join the debate and get the latest news.

### Key messages

1. The EU is a global player which tackles today's challenges.
2. In an increasingly interdependent world, EU development cooperation benefits people both in the EU and in our partner countries.
3. Think global, act local. A single person can make a difference.

### Thematic months

1. Europe in the World
2. Education
3. Women and Girls
4. Health
5. Peace and Security
6. Sustainable Growth, Decent Jobs and Businesses
7. Children and Youth
8. Humanitarian Aid
9. Demography and Migration
10. Food Security
11. Sustainable Development
12. Human Rights

### Legal basis

Decision No 472/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014

### Objectives of the European Year for Development (EYD2015)

1. Inform **Union citizens** about the Union's and the Member States' development cooperation, **highlighting the results** that the Union, acting together with the Member States, has achieved as a global actor and will continue to achieve in line with the discussions on the post-2015 framework.
2. Foster **direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest** of Union citizens and stakeholders in development cooperation including in policy formulation and implementation.
3. Raise awareness of the **benefits of the Union's development cooperation** not only for beneficiaries of the Union's development assistance but also for Union citizens and to achieve a broader understanding of **policy coherence for development**, as well as to foster among **citizens in Europe and developing countries** a sense of **joint responsibility, solidarity and opportunity** in a changing and increasingly interdependent world.

### A top priority for citizens

A 2013 Eurobarometer shows two thirds of EU citizens think tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the EU's main priorities; 83% believe that it is important to help people in developing countries.

### The EU: a key global player

The EU (EC and Member States) is the world's most important donor providing over half of global Official Development Assistance. It also seeks to take into account development objectives in its non-development policies.

### Low levels of awareness

44% of Europeans have no knowledge about where their country's development aid goes and 53% say they know nothing about where EU aid goes. Only 6% have heard of the MDGs and know what they are.