



BÊKOU

EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic

About Bêkou

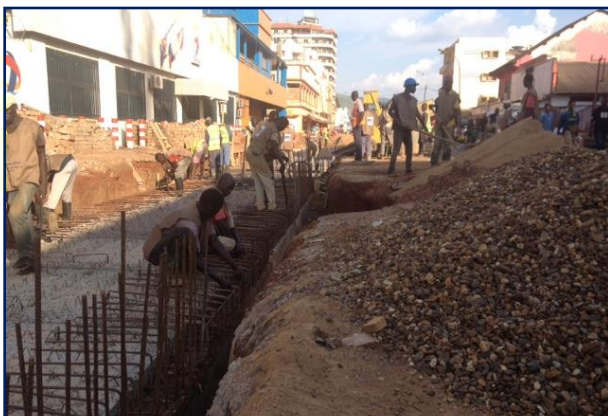
Innovate and act together

In the aftermath of the 2013 crisis in the Central African Republic, which has resulted in the massive displacement of populations, the degradation of infrastructures, the lack of basic services and the weakening of public administration, a swift, structured and adapted international aid was necessary to provide immediate assistance to the people while preparing the country for reconstruction.

It is with this aim that the first multi-donor EU Trust Fund was established on 15 July 2014 led by the European Union, as a partner of the Central African Republic, and three of its Member States: France, Germany and the Netherlands. This Fund was named *Bêkou*, which means "hope" in Sango. It is designed to expand the toolbox of the European aid system, in order to develop an innovative approach to crisis response, to mobilise different sources of EU funding and to gather contributions from Member States and donors in third countries.

LRRD: The link between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation

For a long time, the Central African Republic has been characterised by the fragility of its institutions and the recurrence of political and humanitarian crises. The latest crisis, in 2013, has worsened and deepened its structural weaknesses. The current situation in the Central African Republic is part of a "complex emergency" with a strong interlocking of political, economic and humanitarian issues, and thus the coexistence in the field of emergency and transitional situations. Consequently, this situation calls for a close coordination between security operations - conducted by international forces- humanitarian response and reconstruction/development programmes, following the LRRD approach: Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development.



Bangui, September 2014, European Commission

The Bêkou Trust Fund aims to direct the skills of development and humanitarian actors to establish programmes on the border between the two fields, which will provide immediate relief to the population, while strengthening the capacity of local authorities as well as creating conditions for long-term development.

For more information, please contact: EuropeAid-E1-TRUST-FUND-BEKOU@ec.europa.eu

Or visit: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/trust-fund-bekou/dashboard>

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/subsites/trust-fund-bekou_en

A new financial instrument for a collective action

In crises such as the one experienced by the Central African Republic in 2013, the weakening of national authorities and the sudden increase in donors represent an extra challenge for the coordination of international community's actions.

The Bêkou Trust Fund, with the agreement of Central Africa authorities, has been designed to allow a collective European action. It aims to pool our resources and our capacity to analyse, identify and implement appropriate actions.

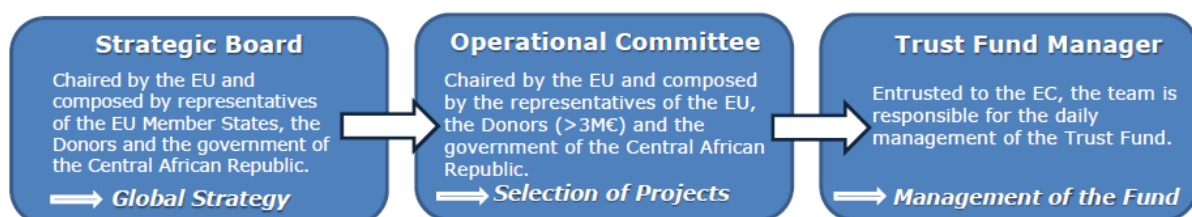
In addition, as the Central African Republic has often been considered an "aid orphan" since the early 2000s, the Trust Fund aims to rely on the expertise of the partners that have maintained a continuous presence in the field, such as the European Union and France. Their knowledge and competencies allow other donors that are not present on the ground to contribute to the reconstruction and the development of the country. Together, they are building a diversified portfolio of actions in the sectors identified by the Constitutive Agreement:

- Support the delivery of essential public and social services;
- Foster the economic revival of the country;
- Encourage reconciliation and national cohesion, in observance of Human Rights;
- Support the strengthening of national and local administrative structures;
- Respond to the regional consequences of the crisis (primarily humanitarian).

Governance and management of the Trust Fund

The Trust Fund's global strategy is set by the **Strategic Board** which is chaired by the European Union and is composed by the representatives of the European Union, the Member States and other donors who contributed to the Trust Fund.

In a second phase the **Operational Committee** selects appropriate projects. It is composed of the representatives of the European Union and all the other Donors (which contribute with a minimum amount of € 3 million). The Central African Republic is represented in both bodies. Finally, a small team within the European Commission coordinates and executes the tasks of the Trust Fund and is led by the **Trust Fund Manager**.



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