

MDF and the MDF NewsLetter

Our world is about people is an expression of our view that organisational development is driven and carried by people, motivated to deliver quality services.

A few reactions to our last NewsLetter:

- *I do appreciate you continuing to keep me updated about all training events of MDF.*
- *Thanks a great deal for this stimulating email. I find the newsletter comprehensive, informative, responsive, of great value for connecting with external links*
- *Thank you very much for the information. I would like to follow the Advanced Management for Quality Performance (AMQ), could you tell more about this course?*

Reply: You can register on our website for any course throughout the year. Alternatively you could contact our client desk, e-mail address: registration@mdf.nl.

- *If it is possible, I would like to make a request to be considered for a grant fellowship to take one of your short-term courses (one to two weeks) so that I get chance to have a first hand experience and decide on how much to work on encouraging/sending our staff for your courses every year.*

Reply: We regret to inform you that MDF is not in a position to grant scholarships. There are two courses, the PPMA and IAC, for which you can apply for a scholarship from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme of NUFFIC. Please consult our website: www.mdf.nl for more information.

Over the past few months we were happy to notice a significantly higher interest in our courses in Ede, the Netherlands. Since August we have welcomed 65 course participants to our premises and moreover about 50 participants have registered for the last batch of 2005 courses. We are still busy identifying the precise reasons for this upswing but we are quite confident that our revised marketing strategy is one of the reasons. Nowadays direct e-mailing, electronic newsletters and website advertisements are important marketing instruments and consequently MDF will further intensify their use of these in the future. On the other hand we realise that the effectiveness of these tools is of a short duration. As soon as these messages are read and deleted from your mailbox their effectiveness evaporates.

That is why MDF also recently published its completely revised Training Programme 2006 in a hard copy version. For many organisations in the South this remains the far most important and durable access to information.

In this brochure, you will find our well-known, as well as our updated courses, while we also have developed entirely new courses and products. The new set-up of our brochure will guide you easily through the different fields of training courses offered by our organisation. These fields clearly reflect our policy, whereby we try to meet each person's or organisation's own specific needs and demands. In case you have not received a copy or you wish to receive more copies, please do not hesitate to contact [Ms Ilse Haagen, our client desk officer](#).

[Hans Rijnveld, Director MDF](#)

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News

MDF is proud to announce the first graduate of the IAT

On 13 September 2005 Sebastian Haury graduated on the International Advisory Trail. Sebastian was one of the four IAT candidates who participated in the pilot intake week of June 2004. On the bases of his intake, he followed a learning trail for about one year together with his MDF coach. In the mean time he transferred his working location to Burkina Faso, in charge of a Misereor development programme. His trail combined coaching on the job and working together on short assignments with a senior MDF adviser.

Working in this way on his competencies brought Sebastian both pleasure and skills to work with complex organisational issues. During the trail he developed his portfolio on strategic management advice, change implementation and client centredness. One of his talents is to help people enjoy their work. Combining this talent with more analytical competencies and a genuine respect for his clients, has made him into a real international adviser.

[Hanneke Spaans](#) can supply more information on participation in the International Advisory Trail.

Participants' training courses experiences

Programme, Project Management and Administration course, September 2005

The Project, Programme Management and Administration (PPMA) course was a unique opportunity to gain comprehensive and systematised knowledge on Objective Oriented Project Planning (OOPP), Institutional Development and Organisational Straightening (ID/OS), as well as on leadership & management in general.

The course brought together participants from 11 countries with their own extensive experience in the relief and development sphere, which in its turn provide a strong ground for sharing experience and knowledge transfer. It was exciting to compare the experience of Yemen and Armenia, Ethiopia and Macedonia, Afghanistan and Tanzania, to realise that Log Frame as a tool can be applied in various settings and in different cultural contexts. The opportunity to visit organisations such as EC, Cordaid and CSR helped us to have an inside view on how big projects are implemented and managed. It provided us with a chance to see in practice, the tools that we've been learning, with all their pros and cons. We were delighted by the way training was delivered – very interactive, relaxed, culture sensitive and in a positive atmosphere. We were pleased by the competence and proficiency of trainers, and the cooperativeness of the complete MDF staff. This course became a basis for further networking of development oriented managers from all over the world.

Good luck and success in your work to contribute towards sustainable development and partnership, because the WORLD IS ABOUT PEOPLE!

Participants: [Rebecca Yohannes, Ethiopia](#) and [Magda Stepanyan, Armenia](#)



Assignments in the past months

In this part of the NewsLetter you can read about some MDF consultants' experiences in the field. The consultant's name is given after each article and should you wish to receive more information on the consultancy, please send a message to the consultant concerned.

European Development Fund Training Programme (EDF 9)

From 1998 until late 2004 MDF trainers delivered approximately 210 EDF seminars in Brussels and in 45 ACP countries under the EDF 7 & 8 procedures. Since the start of the new EDF 9 Training Programme, a total of almost 40 ACP countries/regions have benefited from the three types of seminars dealing with the financial and contractual procedures of the 9th European Development Fund. So far a total of 168 seminars in the ACP/EC world (countries and in EC Brussels) have been conducted..

The programme aims at the correct and timely application of the procedures of the EDF. Increased knowledge and understanding of EDF procedures (what, why), ability to use the legal basis and other documents that 'govern' the EDF funds (where to find what) and better understanding of roles and responsibilities (who is doing what) are important outputs of the seminars.

Participants in ACP countries are all involved in EDF programmes and projects and come from the National Authorising Offices (NAO), technical ministries or work directly on projects 'in the field'. Participants in Brussels are Delegation staff or EU staff working in the ACP development area.

The NAO (or RAO) makes inscriptions on a country or region basis in collaboration with the EC Delegation. The programme will continue to run until late 2007. In 2006 and 2007 an average of 20 countries/regions per year can still benefit from the programme. The training programme is co-ordinated by MDF Brussels. For more information, please contact [Melinda Wezenaar](#) at the EDF co-ordination unit.

Migrants training

From all over the globe, to all ends of the earth, people migrate in search for a new home. Like wise people come and settle in the Netherlands. Some of them still have a very close relationship and a warm spot in their heart for their native countries. They are motivated to support projects that are implemented back home. NOVIB/LINKIS in their turn support these initiatives.

In September, 2005 MDF trained 18 migrant men and women who are running NGOs in the Netherlands that support initiatives of partners in their native countries. The course on Project Cycle Management strengthened the capacity of the Dutch NGOs to give better support to their partners in the South.

To give some examples of initiatives of the southern partners:

- promotion of girls rights to education and eradication of FGM in Somalia
- encouraging handicapped persons to integrate in society in Ethiopia
- peace activities in Sudan
- promoting arts and culture in Ghana
- education for HIV infected children in Rwanda

The NGOs should also try to create support for their initiatives among the Dutch public. Building bridges between migrant and native Dutch people creates new relations and more understanding between these two groups.

Consultants: [Anne Marie Ligtenberg](#) en [Dick van Blitterswijk](#)



Coming training courses

A full version of the course calendar can be found on our website:

<http://www.mdf.nl/en/calendar.php?dm=nl&sub=6>

Highlights of special and new courses:

The New Aid Architecture, Beyond the Washington Consensus

Since last July MDF has participated in a consortium for the implementation of the EC assignment 'Aid Delivery Methods'. It concerns the design and delivery of training seminars, the facilitation of country specific workshops and the provision of methodological support to Aidco staff for the various aid delivery methods; projects, sector programmes and budget support. The other consortium partners are ITAD from the UK, GFA from Germany, Earth from Belgium and SEOR, a foundation from Erasmus University Rotterdam for applied economic research. Based on these experiences MDF intends to organise a four days seminar on this New Architecture of Aid from 9-12 May 2006. The seminar is meant for experienced development practitioners, policy makers and researchers. The idea is to put development aid mechanisms under the microscope in order to identify the role aid plays in catalysing or stifling development. The Netherlands Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) expressed its interest to join forces and therefore the precise programme still needs finalisation. However, since the number of participants is restricted to 36 it is important to register as soon as possible.

Should you be interested to participate please contact Ms Ilse Haagen, [our client desk officer at registration@mdf.nl](mailto:our_client_desk_officer_at_registration@mdf.nl). For more information consult our [website www.mdf.nl](http://www.mdf.nl).

Project Management - PM

The course aims to improve the individual effectiveness of development project/programme managers and advisers, and to provide them with techniques and concepts to enhance their managerial efficiency.

Date: 9 – 20 January 2006

Financial Management for non-financial Managers - FM

Participants can apply techniques for sound financial management and use tools for analysis of the financial position and performance of project, programme and organisation.

Date: 16 – 20 January 2006

Managing International Partnerships – MIP

Date: 18 – 20 January 2006

Value Chain Concept - VCC

Date: 16 – 20 January 2006

International Advisory Trail - IAT

Competency based learning trajectory for advisers and consultants who want to become certified International Advisers.

Date intake week: 26 –30 June 2006. Registration possible throughout the year

[Calendar](#)



[ADM](#)

[PM](#)

[FM](#)

[MIP](#)

[VCC](#)

[IAT](#)

MDF NewsLetter

MDF Training & Consultancy brings you the MDF NewsLetter.

MDF is a world-wide training and consultancy firm, active in the field of international co-operation since 1984. MDF provides courses, workshops and consulting services for individuals and organisations. These are designed to strengthen the managerial and organisational capacity required to perform effectively and to achieve set objectives. Programmes are designed specifically for staff of organisations involved in development activities.

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To unsubscribe to this NewsLetter, email our [webmaster](mailto:webmaster@ MDF.nl). Please mention your name and e-mail address in the body of the text.

Contribution

To contribute to MDF NewsLetter write to [newsreel](mailto:newsreel@ MDF.nl)

More information

For further information and news about MDF and its services and for our courses and registration, please visit our website: www.mdf.nl, or contact our [client desk officer](mailto:clientdesk@ MDF.nl), Mrs Ilse Haagen.

For any other questions, please contact our [MDF webmaster](mailto:MDFwebmaster@ MDF.nl)

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With this NewsLetter MDF Training & Consultancy is essentially trying to offer information on our activities; however we continue to respect your wish for privacy. That is why we treat your personal information as confidential information:

- Your personal data will only be used to enable us to establish how to provide you a better service. We are committed not to use your data for any another purpose,
- Your personal data are intended for MDF Training & Consultancy use only and will not be transmitted to third parties other than MDF Training & Consultancy entity

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