

# Capacity Building Working Group

## Chat links theme meeting on decolonization

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### Funding calls / EU programmes

This is the [EU Funding & Tenders portal topic page for a CERV call focused on Citizens' Values](#). It typically outlines objectives, eligibility, scope, expected outcomes, budget envelopes, and deadlines. The page also links to guidance documents and submission portals, which are essential for preparing proposals. Use it to verify the latest timelines and any Q&A or corrigenda posted by the European Commission.

A European Commission [PDF that provides the indicative planning for the 2026 CERV calls](#). It helps organisations anticipate windows for publication, opening and deadlines, and align internal planning accordingly. While indicative, it gives a useful roadmap for consortium building and resource allocation. Always cross-check near the call date for any updates or formal work programme decisions.

### Research articles (journals and reports)

#### [Power and its discontents: The long road to systemic change in the aid sector](#)

Power inequalities between Northern and Southern NGOs have historically plagued development cooperation. A growing momentum towards localisation, locally-led development, and shift the power is indicative of widespread efforts to respond to these inequalities. Drawing upon new survey data, we explore the nature of specific actions taken by a sample of NNGOs and SNGOs to address these power inequalities and analyse the extent to which these equalize power. .

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09614524.2025.2543349>

[Northern NGO-centrism in localisation processes: reproducing power inequities in the aid field](#). This paper examines the process of discussing and designing actions to tackle power inequities by Northern and Southern NGOs. Drawing on 53 interviews with Northern and Southern NGOs, and NNGO networks, we argue that current localisation processes produce a form of cultural capital leveraged by competing Northern NGOs rooted in signalling solidarity with SNGOs and/or communities to donors through rhetorical and symbolic practices, reinforcing their access to and authority over social and economic capital as intermediaries.

#### [Resources or race? Explaining \(un\)equality in international development partnerships.](#)

Whereas diversity can be observed in the type of North–South partnerships, overall the call for equality in the partnerships between Northern-based development organizations to their Southern-based counterparts, has hardly been successful. To come to an encompassing understanding of both this diversity and stagnation, in this study we combine

two explanatory lines of reasoning: one focused on financial resources and one on racial perceptions. We study partnerships of Dutch-based development organizations working in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Kenya through this analytical lens.

A [ScienceDirect article examining private donor preferences and donor-centred cooperation](#). Findings here can inform supporter engagement strategies and communication framing in Europe. Look for methodological details (sample, design) to assess transferability. The article's limitations section is also useful for designing follow-up research or evaluations.

A [LaFede.cat PDF titled "Diagnosi antiracista,"](#) currently in Catalan. It presents an antiracist diagnosis with recommendations for organisations and networks. Even if you don't read Catalan, tables and visuals can provide quick insights for benchmarking. Machine translation can support skimming for actionable practices.

### **Practice notes, case studies & sector resources**

Partos "[Future Briefs](#)" is a three-part series on decolonising the development sector (available in Dutch, English, French, Spanish and Arabic). Part 1 traces the colonial roots of development cooperation; Part 2 examines contemporary remnants using the "iceberg model"; Part 3 proposes actionable pathways across communication, resource mobilisation, PMEL and DEI. These briefs are widely used to spark internal reflection and concrete practice change.

[Info-Cooperazione article \(Italian\) exploring localisation](#): awareness vs operational difficulties. It surfaces practical barriers and the kinds of capacities needed to embed localisation in programming. Useful for designing capacity-building workpackages or risk mitigation in proposals. Consider pairing with internal reflection on roles and incentives.

A curated list of materials and [online resources on decolonising aid \(Italian\)](#). It's handy as a starting bibliography for staff learning cycles or partner workshops. Skim headings to identify formats (guides, toolkits, essays) suitable for different audiences. Bookmark for ongoing reference as the debate evolves.

An [article reflecting on the journey from theory to practice in decolonising Italian cooperation](#). It can help frame internal progress reviews and identify systemic bottlenecks. Extract examples that resonate with your context to build practical checklists. Use it to stimulate discussion in peer learning groups.

[Histoires Crépues – a French-language YouTube channel popular for clear, well-researched explainers on colonial history and antiracism](#). The channel offers playlists and long-form analyses that can be used in learning sessions. It's useful to spark discussion on narratives, memory, and their implications for present-day cooperation. Consider it a media resource to complement written briefs and articles.

## Blogs & think pieces (English)

A [Fingo blog on “Dreamweavers”](#) transition design workshops aimed at re-imagining aid. It outlines facilitation approaches and reflections on shifting power in practice. The post can inform workshop design and participatory methods in projects. Pull out exercises or prompts that could be adapted to your context.

This [Fingo blog questions](#) who holds perspective and power in MEL systems. It argues for broader participation in defining success and evidence. The piece includes practical suggestions that teams can pilot in data collection and sense-making. Use it to frame MEL sections in proposals with a power-aware lens.

Another [Fingo blog advocating for shifting power](#) within MEL and rebalancing cooperation practices. It synthesises why conventional MEL often recentres external actors and how to counter that. Consider its recommendations for indicators, decision-rights, and learning rhythms. Useful language for theory-of-change narratives and consortium agreements.

## Programs & platforms

<https://www.wildeganzen.org/programs/change-the-game-academy>  
[Change the Game Academy \(Wilde Ganzen\)](#) provides training on local fundraising and advocacy. The programme supports CSOs to diversify income and strengthen agency, which aligns with localisation goals. Explore the course catalogue and partner network to identify modules for your teams and partners. It can also feature in capacity-building WPs in EU proposals.

[Linktree hub for Charlotte Joncour \(mÖbius\)](#) with access to her 2025 catalogue, training offers, and contact channels. Focus areas include intercultural dialogue, anti-discrimination, migration, and psychosocial wellbeing. Useful for commissioning bespoke trainings or sourcing facilitators for decolonisation and inclusion pathways. Keep for partner directories and internal L&D plans.

[Fix The News](#) is a weekly newsletter curating constructive, solutions-oriented news. It can balance team media diets and surface positive trends relevant to civic space and sustainability. Sharing selected items in internal channels can sustain morale and foster opportunity scanning. Consider it for a “good news” section in your team updates.