

LEUVEN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES (GGS) NEWSFLASH
December 2011



The Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies (GGS) is an interdisciplinary research centre of the Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Leuven (K.U.Leuven, Belgium). It carries out and supports interdisciplinary research on topics related to globalization, governance processes and multilateralism. GGS is a K.U.Leuven Centre of Excellence.

The staff and members of the Centre would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your continued interest in and support of our work. We wish you a merry Christmas and a successful new year.

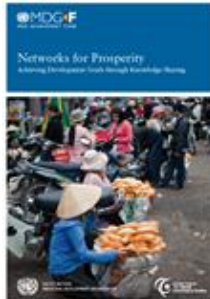
Highlights

From 2012 onwards the Centre will become the official **Policy Research Centre** of the Flemish Government on Foreign Affairs, International Business and Development Co-operation. The Centre, jointly with Vlerick Management School, University of Antwerp, University of Brussels, HIVA and the faculty of economics of the University of Leuven, was selected by the Flemish Government following a competitive call for proposals. The Centre, jointly with UNIDO, also successfully launched the **global study on 'Networks for Prosperity'** in Vienna, Brussels, Busan and New York. The report was included in the reference material of the 4th High Level OECD Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the theme of the report on knowledge networks was included in the outcome document of the Forum. In January 2012 the Centre will also kick off a four year project on the responsibility of member States for the acts of international organizations. Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, director of the Centre, has been re-appointed as President of the Flemish Foreign Affairs Council of the Flemish Government. The Centre currently has **several vacancies** for junior researchers. [More info](#)

Upcoming Events

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| 08/02 | Roundtable on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement. Leuven |
| 24/02 | Meeting of the Non-State Actors Research Community. Invitation only. Leuven. |
| 28/02 | International Conference on Evaluating the Diplomatic System of the European Union. Brussels |
| 08/03 | Public Lecture Ramachandra Guha on 'The Past and Future of Indian Democracy'. Leuven |
| 27/03 | Guest Lecture by Professor Bin Li on Chinese Property Law. Leuven |
| 16-17/04 | International COST Workshop on 'Contemporary Challenges for human rights: National Human Rights Institutions in international and European human rights bodies/ R2P and the Arab revolutions'. Leuven |

Projects



The Centre, jointly with UNIDO, launched the report on '**Networks for Prosperity**' in Vienna, Brussels, Busan and New York. The report was funded by the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) as part of a project that aims to establish a global knowledge system for private sector development. The report lays the basis for policy recommendations that will help developing countries acquire and adapt private sector development know-how.

Networks for Prosperity demonstrates that the 'connectedness' of a country has a strong positive relationship with various measures for its economic performance, justifying the growing interest of policy-makers in knowledge networks. Specific issues related to the governance of international, inter-organizational and intra-organizational networks are discussed in separate chapters. These are illustrated with detailed examples from twelve countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Turkey and Viet Nam, all of which are currently implementing MDG-F private sector development programmes. UNIDO Director-General, Kandeh K. Yumkella endorsed the report by stating that "This report shows that new networks are emerging as a distinct form of governance to meet ever-changing policy challenges in international development. It establishes for the first time a Connectedness Index covering a wide range of countries and correlating strongly with indicators on government effectiveness, regularity quality, industrial development and economic development. The report provides solid recommendations on the next steps to be taken in deepening this index, and in leveraging the role of networks for private sector development."

After the launch in Vienna the report was also presented in Brussels for the European Commission and in New York for the permanent representatives to the UN. In Brussels the launch was opened by H.E. Luis Planas Puchades, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Union and the report presented by Dr. Axel Marx, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, and Mr. Kazuki Kitoaka, UNIDO. Statements were delivered by Christophe Yvetot, UNIDO Representative to the European Union and Prof. Jan Wouters, Director of the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies. In the following debate, Françoise Moreau, Head of the EU Development Policy Formulation Unit (DEVCO) and Hélène-Diane Dage, Deputy Head of the Support for Industrial Innovation Unit (DG-Industry) were among the key commentators. In New York the report was launched by H.E. Mr. Juan Pablo de Laiglesia y González de Peredo, Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN and presented by Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, Director Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Dr. Axel Marx, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies and Alex MacGillivray and Kazuki Kitoaka of UNIDO. Endorsement statements were given by Sophie de Caen, Director, MDG Achievement Fund, H.E. Mr. Mr. Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica to the UN, H.E. Mr. Pedro Nuñez Mosquera, Permanent Representatives of Cuba to the UN, H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representatives of Ethiopia to the UN, H.E. Mr. Feodor Starčević Permanent Representatives of Serbia to the UN, H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Apakan

Permanent Representatives of Turkey to the UN. The debate was moderated by Mr. George Assaf, Director, UNIDO Representative in New York.

The report is available on-line. [Click here](#)

For more information on the report you can [contact Dr. Axel Marx](#)

From 2012 onwards the Centre will become the **official Policy Research Centre of the Flemish Government** on Foreign Affairs, International Business and Development Co-operation. The Centre, jointly with Vlerick Management School, University of Antwerp, University of Brussels and HIVA and the faculty of economics of the University of Leuven, was selected by the Flemish Government following a competitive call for proposals. Flanders, a Region in the north of Belgium, is not only located in the heart of Europe with Brussels as its administrative headquarters, it also displays very distinctive constitutional features.

Belgium is a federal State which has devolved a great number of important policy-making powers to its constituent parts, including the power to conduct external policies and conclude treaties with other countries and international organisations. The Policy Research Centre takes this unique position of Flanders in the Belgian federal context and in international relations as its point of departure. Flanders is a region of opportunities. It's very open economy, continuous efforts to respect and promote human rights and the rule of law, solidarity towards developing countries, and its embrace of diversity and openness towards other cultures and regions of the world make it an attractive place to invest and to develop business and other relations. Nevertheless, as a non-State actor in international relations, Flanders faces a number of challenges in fully deploying its external policies and becoming fully engaged in international policy- and rule-making. Still, Flemish external policy has the capacity to become a comprehensive foreign policy integrating political, economic and development dimensions.

The Policy Research Centre endorses such an integrated approach by formulating a number of objectives geared towards the advancement of Flanders' domestic and broader global interests. The current architecture of global governance provides an inadequate foundation for addressing the spread of transnational challenges, the rise of new powers, and the mounting influence of non-State actors. Actively engaging in improving existing and building new legal frameworks at the international and European level therefore forms a concrete challenge to Flanders, as well as the enhancement of its interests and visibility via multilateral fora. Furthermore, in today's networked international society, Flanders has to be keenly aware of the importance of interaction through strategic partnerships in order to define common interests with States, international organisations, regions and private actors in international and European multi-level policy-making. Given the international competitiveness of modern economies and the fact that Flanders is dependent on exports for its growth, continuous multifaceted expertise is needed to support cross-border trade as well as to foster Flemish global presence through foreign direct investment. Simultaneously, since this engages both the responsibility of public and private actors, Flemish entrepreneurs have to be encouraged to make full use of their potential to promote sustainable development through international investment and trade. Thereto, we envision the continued evolution of the Flemish Region towards a small yet co-operative and locally very present partner for sustainability and development. In order to guarantee effective assistance to this process as a Policy Research Centre, an integrated approach towards development co-operation, combining aspects such as the rule of law, respect for human rights and domestic accountability is indispensable.

A final objective is to strive to improve the consistency of the classic development aims with the new global agenda, characterised by the rapid rise of new themes that go far beyond assistance for poverty reduction, including migration, climate change, energy and natural resources, global governance and security. The initiators of the Policy Research Centre consider it vitally important to support Flanders in acting as a political and economic partner abroad, making optimal use of its competences, resources and strengths. Having a compelling vision on foreign policy, international entrepreneurship and development co-operation that is in line with Flemish values, needs and assets will provide guidance in translating ideas into achievement.

The Policy Research Centre brings together a group of leading academic experts including GGS senior members Vice-rector Prof. Dr. Filip Abraham, HIVA director Prof. Dr. Hans Bruyninckx, Prof. Dr. Jan Van Hove, Prof. Dr. Geert De Baere, Prof. Dr. Geert van Calster, Prof. Dr. Bart Kerremans and Prof. Dr. Cedric Ryngaert and colleagues from the Vlerick Management School, Prof. Dr. Leo Sleuwaegen and Prof. Dr. Rene Belderbos, and the University of Antwerp, Prof. Dr. Peter Burssens, Prof. Dr. Dirk Debièvre and Prof. Dr. Jan Beyers.

The Policy Research Centre is led by Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, director of the Centre, and managed by Dr. Axel Marx. For more information you can [contact Dr. Axel Marx](#)

In January 2012 the Centre will also kick off a four year project on **the responsibility of member States for the acts of international organizations** funded by the FWO. States increasingly transfer competences to international organizations, believing that the latter may more effectively tackle transboundary and global problems. A transfer of competences to an international organization – a separate legal person – may logically be accompanied by a transfer of responsibility to the organization when something goes wrong in the exercise of the transferred competences (e.g., violations of economic and social rights flowing from policies of international financial institutions). Unfortunately, many international organizations have failed to set up adequate accountability mechanisms, let alone that they have provided for binding dispute-settlement systems. In the absence of such mechanisms, international organizations can often only be held responsible 'in the abstract' – a situation that does not particularly encourage compliance on the part of international organizations. Because of the accountability deficit which many international organizations suffer, and the importance of aggrieved parties' right to a remedy, the argument can be, and has been, made that member States should incur responsibility for the wrongful acts of international organizations. Accountability mechanisms with jurisdiction over States are indeed much more developed, both at the national and international level. It is the aim of this project to identify the precise circumstances, if any, under which States can and should be held liable for the acts of international organizations of which they are members. This project will be run by [Prof. Dr. Cedric Ryngaert](#)

Vacancies

The Centre **currently has three vacant positions**

A junior legal researcher for the research project, funded by the FWO, on 'Responsibility of member States for the acts of international organizations' under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Cedric Ryngaert. [More info](#)

A junior legal researcher for a research project funded by the Policy Research Centre on 'The liberalization of trade in services and its impact on domestic regulatory autonomy' under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters. [More info](#)

A junior researcher, different disciplinary backgrounds may apply, on Global Governance and Democratic Government. [More info](#)

For Spring 2012, the Centre is seeking to hire one or more highly motivated (unpaid) research interns. We are offering a [research internship](#) for a period of 3 months.

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