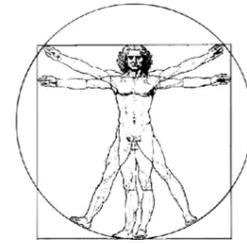


European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi)

an initiative for sustained capacity building in support of international (climate change) negotiations



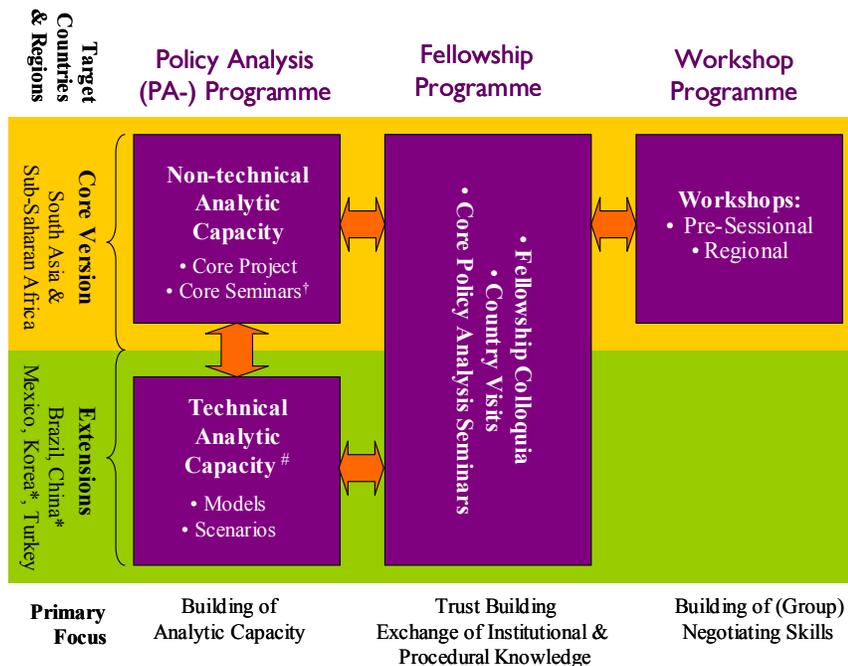
Concept Note

A key limitation of the UN climate change negotiations is the lack of a level playing field between delegations, both North-South, and South-South. Other major obstacles are mutual mis-understanding and lack of trust, particularly between industrialised and developing countries.

The European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) is to reduce these limitations and obstacles through a number of capacity and trust building activities, subsumed under three complementary integrated Programmes:

- a primarily trust-building **Fellowship Programme** with an informal (high-level) exchange of institutional and procedural knowledge;
- a **Workshop Programme** to enhance negotiating skills;
- a **Policy Analysis Programme** to build-up policy analysis capacity.

In its **Core Version**, the ECBI will focus on collaborations with European and developing countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia – including the regional leaders (South Africa and India*), with a special emphasis on members of the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The **Full Version** will, funding permitting, also include a participation from Brazil, China*, as well as OECD non-Annex B ‘Advanced Developing Countries’ (ADCs), i.e. Mexico, Korea*, and Turkey.



* = to be confirmed; # = focusing on Mexico, Korea, Turkey; † = for the Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship Programme

At the heart of the ECBI is a stipendiary Fellowships Programme for climate negotiators – and other stakeholders directly involved in the UNFCCC process– from the participating developing countries. Its primary purpose is to build trust and exchange procedural and institutional knowledge both among the Fellows (‘South-South trust building’), and between them and their European colleagues (‘North-South trust building’).

The North-South element of this trust-building effort is primarily carried out through *Country Visits* to the participating European Partner agencies. They bring together the developing country Fellows with their European counterparts in a structured framework that helps to establish working relationships outside the guarded context of the official negotiations. This country visit scheme enables the Fellows to observe how climate change issues are managed by European governments, and provides an opportunity to exchange views in an informal and non-confrontational setting. It also enables the European partners to discover and better understand the situation of their developing country colleagues – one of the reasons the ECBI is not just a capacity building initiative *by* Europeans, but also *for* Europeans. South-South relations and trust building – often of at least equal importance in supporting the international negotiations – will be addressed through a central (Oxford-based) *Fellowship Colloquium* enabling the Fellows to exchange views and experiences between themselves.

The trust-building Fellowship Programme is the primary locus of ECBI activity for the participating regional developing country leaders, given their considerable existing negotiating capacities. Apart from the scope of participating developing countries, the main difference between the core and the full version of the Fellowship Programme is that the latter will also incorporate an electronic ECBI Network (*ECBI-net*) – managed by the Fellowship Programme through its website – to assure the sustained long-term nature of the relations established both during these country-visits and between the Fellows themselves.

The Workshop Programme

Country coalitions can be as much in need of negotiating capacity building as individual countries, specifically with respect to functioning effectively as a group. This is true, in particular, for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which will only be able to make their voice heard by harnessing the considerable potential for synergies between them. For this purpose, and generally to enhance existing negotiating skills of developing countries to help improve the articulation and representation of their positions in the climate negotiating *fora*, the Workshop Programme will organise regional, and pre-COP capacity building workshops (such as the one recently held prior to COP9 in Milan and the second one planned for COP10 in Buenos Aires).

The main purpose of the pre-COP workshops is to support selected negotiators from LDCs to gain a better understanding of the issues discussed at the COPs, as well as to be able act more effectively as a group (e.g. by dividing tasks among the group rather than all of them to following the same negotiating track). The workshops also help to build negotiating skills through role-playing and practice sessions. While not meant to prepare negotiating positions – the prerogative of the countries themselves – the pre-COP workshops are intended to help build the skills and capacities to negotiate more effectively. Over time it is expected that negotiators will build up expertise in different issues being negotiated (over and beyond LDC specific issues).

The main activities under the Workshop Programme are:

- an annual pre-COP workshop (modelled along the lines of the pre-COP9 and pre-COP10 workshops) for LDCs only;
- two annual regional workshops, in South-Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, respectively, open to both LDCs and non-LDCs in each region. Participants are drawn from UNFCCC delegations and also from mainstream development ministries;
- post-workshop mentoring and networking of participants, as part of the *ECBI-net*.

The Policy Analysis Programme

The ECBI aims to support analytic capacity in many of the participating developing countries through a Policy Analysis (PA) Programme, mainly through training by, and collaboration with, experts from across Europe. The qualitative and quantitative analysis of burdens and benefits associated with climate change policies, of climate change impacts, and of adaptation strategies is not only prerequisite to informed decision making. It is also essential in articulating, explaining and advocating a country's position in the negotiations. And the same holds true for formulating common positions within groups of countries.

ECBI Policy Analysts. One of the main obstacles to building lasting analytic capacity is the financial plight of many research institutions in developing countries. They are often over-stretched even without addressing climate change, which in many instances is not perceived to be a top analytic priority. This bottleneck in building lasting in-country analytic capacity manifests itself both in the inability to hire analysts and in a lack of access to analytic tools.

The ECBI accordingly provides the funds and the framework for 'ECBI Policy Analysts' at the developing country member institutes and at other collaborating developing country research and policy analysis institutions. The Policy Analysts at member institutes carry out the function of (Country) Project Managers. As such they receive (part of) their salary from the ECBI. The other collaborating Policy Analysts will typically not receive salary contributions, but the ECBI will cover project related training, travel expenses and the cost of project specific software or data needs. While it is expected for the ECBI Analysts to spend some time working with their colleagues at the European ECBI institutions, most of the work is to be undertaken at their home institutions.

The Core Version. Under the ECBI core version, the Policy Analysis Programme will carry out two distinct capacity building activities: a Core Policy Analysis Project, and a Core Policy Analysis Seminar (or, for short, 'Core Project' and 'Core Seminar').

The **Core Project** is concerned with enhancing the analytic capacity in the ECBI core regions of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular emphasis on the Group of Least Developed Countries. The first module of the Core Project during the initial (one-year) pilot phase will focus on the topic of "Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development Planning" and will be carried out with ECBI member institutions in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Subsequent topics will be decided in a participatory manner with developing country partners. Additional (country-by-country) modules could be added as and when funding is secured.

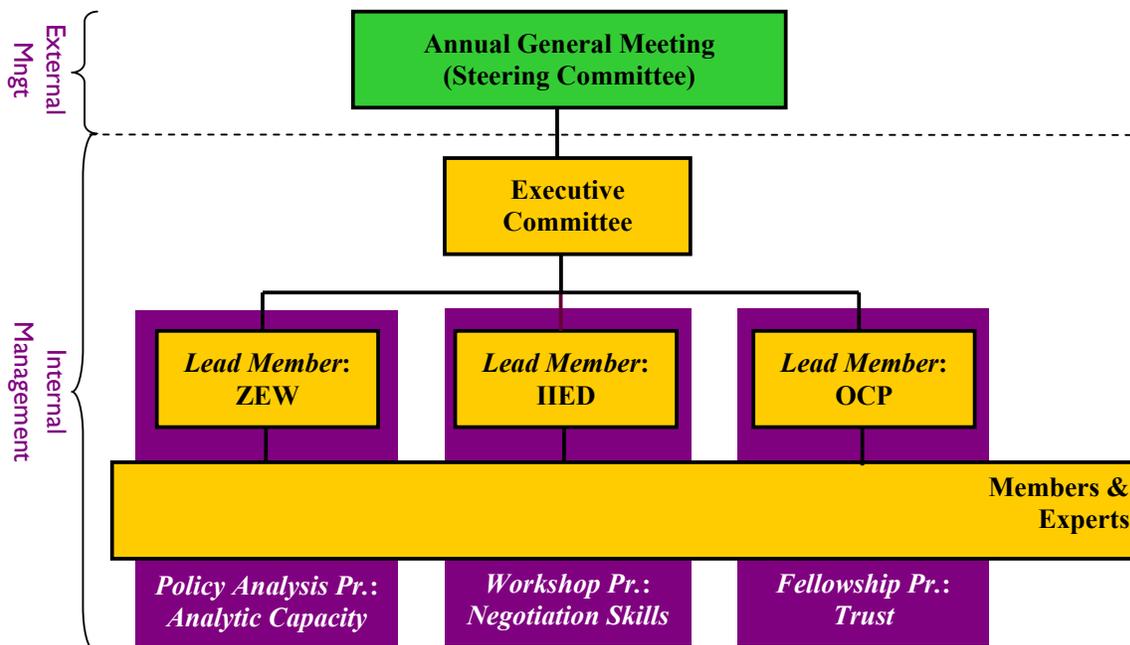
The **Core Seminar** is (primarily) targeted at the Fellows participating in the Fellowship Programme and focuses on a non-technical introduction of widely used quantitative models and techniques. At the seminars, the models will be presented in a policy-relevant manner, guided by questions such as: What are the relevant issues in the DC partners' countries? What issues are treated by the models? What are the strengths and where are the limitations of the models? Which assumptions are the main drivers of the results? What level of expertise would be needed to use the model? The Core Seminars are targeted at policy makers (negotiators) that are typically confronted with model results or questions typically answered with the help of quantitative models. The Core Seminars will also be used to establish a lasting **Model Inventory** which will remain accessible to the ECBI partners as a desktop web-based tool.

The Full Version The full version of the Policy Analysis Programme will, in addition, contain a **Technical Capacity Building Project** where quantitative economic questions – particularly those concerning Advanced Developing Countries – are addressed in technical collaboration with the relevant ECBI experts, developing country member institutions and Policy Analysts. Economic modelling capacity in the participating developing countries is built up through the joint development of country specific models and scenarios that will be owned by the involved DC institutions. The policy makers and negotiators of the involved developing countries – and, particularly, their past and present ECBI Fellows – are guiding this technical capacity building process by formulating the questions and issues that are relevant to the DC partners in the climate change negotiations and decision making.

Management and Timeframe

Internal Management. The day to day running of the Initiative will be managed internally through the three ECBI *Lead Member Institutions* – which collectively form an *Executive Committee* – each individually responsible for the running of one of the three ECBI Programmes, namely:

- *Workshop Programme:* the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London, UK.
- *Policy Analysis Programme:* Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) Mannheim, Germany.
- *Fellowship Programme:* Oxford Climate Policy (OCP), Oxford, UK.



External Management. Strategic guidance and quality control is provided from outside the ECBI Membership by the participating government Partners, primarily through their designated *Country Coordinators*. An *Annual General Meeting* – to be held in parallel to the UNFCCC sessions – is open to all the participating government Partners and is the main quality control instrument for the initiative. Strategic guidance for the content of the Initiative is given by a *Steering Committee* of Country Coordinators, co-chaired by two eminent people from one of the European and one of Developing Countries participating in the ECBI.

Timeframe and Budget. An initial one-year pilot phase (2005) is to allow for trials of a small number of competing pilot options, followed by a ‘proof-of-concept’ phase (2006-7). If successful, it is envisaged that the Initiative could be established as a *long-term* European instrument for the *sustained* building of developing country negotiation capacity.