



MOVING AWAY FROM FRAGILITY

ERD NEWS

Welcome to the first issue of *ERD News*, the electronic newsletter which will keep you up to speed with the latest news, views and interviews related to the first-ever European Report on Development (ERD), which is due out in October 2009.

For those of you who are not yet familiar with the initiative, the ERD is an innovative process which aims to enhance the EU perspective on development, on the basis of knowledge excellence and enhanced linkages between academics and policy-makers from Europe and developing countries. It is currently supported by the European Commission and five Member States (Finland, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) ([learn more here](#)).

This year's edition will focus on the complex issue of state fragility in Africa. For a wide range of different reasons - such as conflict, weak institutions and poor governance - many sub-Saharan African countries are in situations which can be described as 'fragile' which, in turn, can [harm their development prospects](#). This topic is currently high on the EU political agenda ([learn more about the EU approach to fragility](#)).

The 2009 edition of the ERD will be based on literature reviews and original research. In addition, a series of seven workshops and conferences enable researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders to provide their valuable input for the process. So far, five of these preparatory events have taken place in Europe and Africa ([click here](#) to read the highlights of these events).

The ERD 2009 is coordinated by a [core research team](#) based at the [European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies](#).

Next steps

- ▶ 'Moving towards the European Report on Development 2009' - 21-23 June 2009, Florence, Italy. This workshop will discuss the draft chapters of the ERD.
- ▶ 'Presentation of the draft consolidated version of the ERD 2009' - 4 September 2009, Brussels, Belgium. This Commission-hosted conference enables stakeholders to discuss and comment on the consolidated version of the ERD and refine the policy recommendations.

ARTICLES

Turning fragility into strength

States which fail to serve their citizens present a major development policy challenge. What can be done to put fragile countries on a sustainable development path? Experts and practitioners from across Europe gathered in Barcelona to look for answers. [Read more \(pdf\)](#)

New faces: a platform for African voices on development

The 'New Faces for African Development' initiative gave young African researchers a prominent platform to air their findings and views on development. [Read more \(pdf\)](#)

MULTIMEDIA

Podcast: Weathering the economic storm in Africa

Contrary to earlier expectations, the global economic downturn has hit sub-Saharan countries particularly hard. This podcast takes stock of the situation and its implications for development policy. In addition, the 'New Faces' of African research tell us about the situation on the ground in fragile African states. [Listen to podcast](#)

Podcast: From fragility to strength

How solid is the state? No, this is not a physics question but one of international relations, and it is of vital importance to world development. This podcast explores the question of state fragility, which is the main theme of this year's European Report on Development (ERD). Leading experts consider the challenges associated with fragility and what policies can be pursued to put fragile states on a sustainable development path. [Listen to podcast](#)

PRACTICALITIES

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