

# WELCOME TO THE Introduction to Niche

11 August 2009

nuffic

Netherlands organization  
for international cooperation  
in higher education

# **Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education** **(Post secondary education, including TVET)**

## Objective:

Sustainable strengthening of ***post-secondary education and training*** in participating countries.

## Countries:

Present 14 NPT countries and 8 new countries: Afghanistan, Surinam, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Kenya, Nicaragua, Egypt, Kosovo.

## Target organizations:

Institutions for post-secondary education, TVET institutions, Ministries, National Commissions, councils, (branch) organizations, NGOs, Private sector organizations.

# Policy principles 1

- Technical assistance programme
- Local problems solved locally = local ownership
- Demand driven process approach
- Alignment with national policies and bilateral policies & programmes
- Harmonization with other donor programmes
- Coherence and co-operation among NICHE projects (per sector)

## Policy principles 2

- Attention for gender and labour market needs
- Modern forms of capacity building
- Organizational learning approach
- Steering towards outputs and outcomes
- Use of regional and local expertise

# Identification: Alignment of objectives

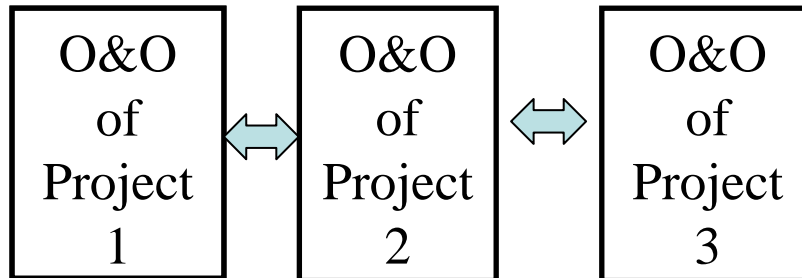
Objectives and outcomes of government sectoral policies



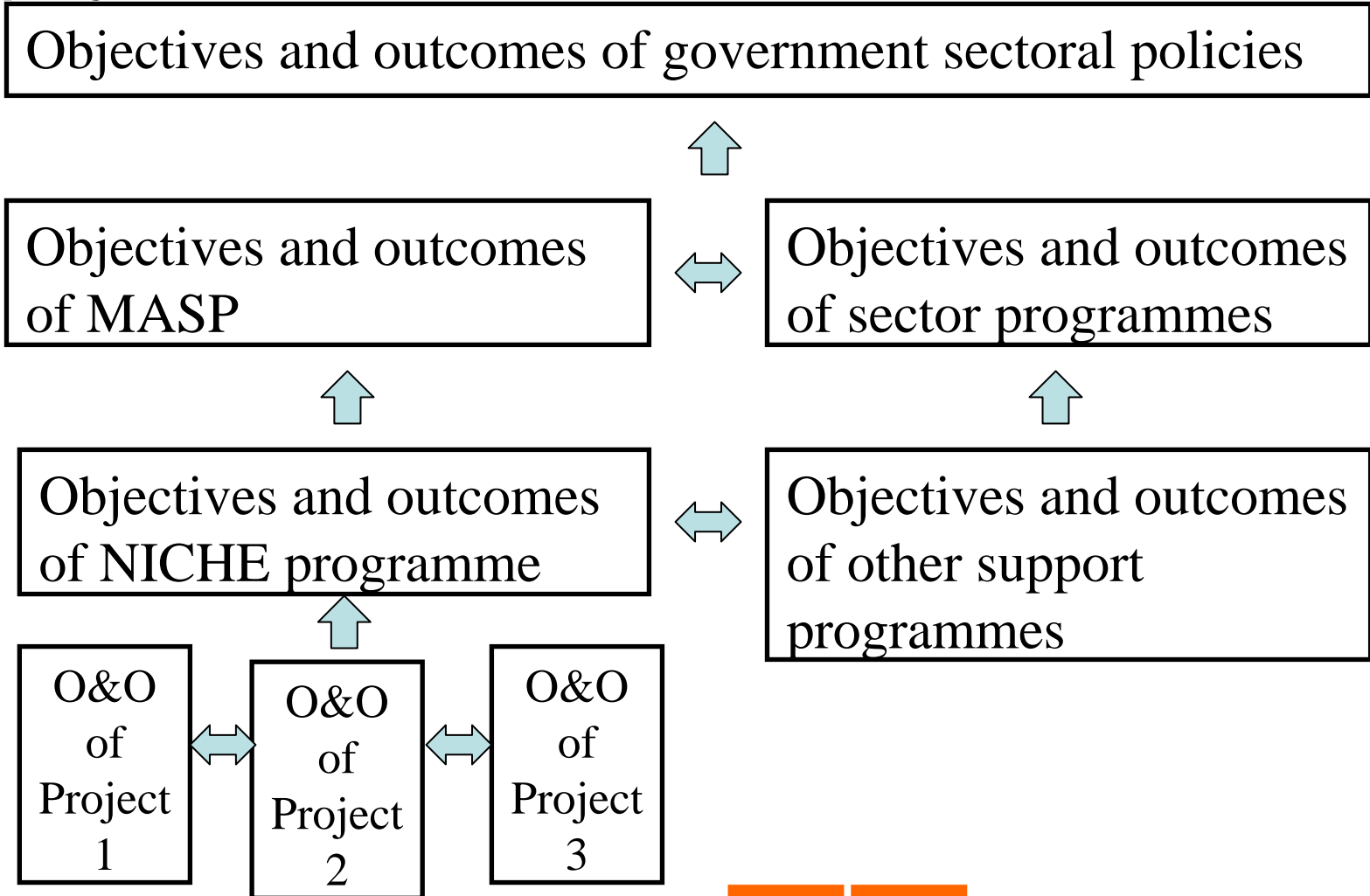
Objectives and outcomes of  
MASP



Objectives and outcomes  
of NICHE programme



# Identification: Coherence of programmes and projects



# NICHE process



# Key questions!

What are the critical capacity gaps NICHE can fill in to help achieving the Governmental / MASP objectives and strategic results in a country?

What are the expected contributions (outcomes) from NICHE interventions in the medium to long term in achieving the Governmental / MASP strategic plans?

# Step 1. Needs identification

- Collecting and analyzing relevant documents and existing policies
- Country visits
- Working agreement EKN – Nuffic
- Identification of sectors, areas, themes, local authorities and other stakeholders and donors
- Programme Outline with objectives, outcomes, baseline, gender, labour market indicators

## Outputs of Step 1: Needs identification

1. Signed **working agreement** between Embassy and Nuffic
2. Signed **Programme Outline** between Embassy and National Authority, published on website
3. Sectoral **Plans of Implementation** signed between EKN and National Authority
4. Possible **Southern partner** organizations identified

## Step 2: Demand articulation

1. Assessment of capacity needs selected organizations.
2. Determination of objectives, results (outputs) and long term effects (outcomes)
3. Formulation of project outlines

### ***Project types:***

- Project budget < **€ 50.000**: out of hand / waiver
- Projects budget **€ 50.000 - 200.000**: Lol
- Projects budget > **€ 200.000**: Tender procedure

## **Outputs of Step 2: Demand articulation**

1. Project concepts
2. Need for assistance of regional consultants
3. Capacity of organizations / COCA
4. Project outlines
5. Decision on project type

## Step 3: Matching demand and supply

1. Project outline is published
2. NL organizations, in consortium with local / regional providers, submit project proposals
3. Tender Evaluation Committee assesses proposals
4. Grant is awarded, if needed conditionally
5. Partners observe an inception period for adapting the project proposal. Result will be approved as the final project document.

## Step 4: Project implementation

1. Implementing partners are **both** responsible for the project implementation
2. Develop annual workplans **together**
3. Report **jointly** about the achievements (indicators for realization of objectives, outputs and outcomes) in the annual report
4. Regular communication with Nuffic

## Step 5: Monitoring and evaluation

1. N & S organizations monitor own progress & quality
2. Nuffic visits the projects to check progress
3. Nuffic monitors at project & programme level
4. DCO monitors at programme level and organizes a programme evaluation
5. EKN monitors at programme outline level
6. Country and project evaluations are organized by Nuffic.

## Responsibilities EKN

- Provide advise for NICHE related to bilateral aid, gender, labour market
- Provide Nuffic with information on national policies & developments, (post secondary) education sector, alignment, harmonization and donor co-ordination
- Advising on local / regional consultants
- Facilitating visits to officials
- Monitoring on adherence to policies

# Responsibilities Nuffic - 1

- Consultation with EKN, local authorities & stakeholders on implementation of NICHE
- Organize the demand articulation
- Consultation of stakeholders / organization of stakeholders meetings
- Arranging for a final PO & Pol per country
- Organizing the call for tenders in the NL
- Awarding grants

## Responsibilities Nuffic - 2

- External monitoring of projects progress
- Contracting consultants for external evaluations)
- Reporting on programme progress to DCO & EKN
- Organization of (thematic) seminars in the countries & the Netherlands
- Communication on NICHE
- Supervise the learning organization approach

# NICHE Planning 1:

- *Beginning of 2009:*  
1<sup>st</sup> identification missions to: South Africa, Ethiopia, Colombia, Zambia, Tanzania, Guatemala, Mozambique, Ghana, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Uganda and Vietnam.
- *June 2009:*  
1<sup>st</sup> programme outlines and sectoral programme implementation plans signed:  
South Africa & Tanzania.

## NICHE Planning 2:

- *Summer of 2009:*  
1<sup>st</sup> publications of project outlines.
- *End 2009:*  
1<sup>st</sup> grants for NICHE projects.
- *Fall 2009:*  
2<sup>nd</sup> round of identification missions

# Specific issues 1

- No role for NL institutions during identification and articulation phases
- Fees are going up
- Financial bid counts for 25%
- One bidder one bid
- Arrange for exclusivity in consortia
- NICHE rules & regulations guidelines adapted
- PWC could advise Southern partners
- SIU / Nuffic set up donor platform

## Specific issues 2

- Southern expertise not prescribed
- During bidding period contact with Southern partner is allowed
- Prescribed formats for financial and progress reports focused on expenditure and outputs
- In August NICHE website on air  
[www.nuffic.nl/niche/](http://www.nuffic.nl/niche/)
- This ppp will be placed on website shortly

Thank you very much for your attention