

“This is an extraordinary account of how the policies that shaped two decades of development policies came into being. It provides a solid analytic basis on which to build new policies for the decades to come while the opportunity component of the global financial crisis is still open.”

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“This book is an excellent basis for reflection for those who have spent their working life in development co-operation. The red line in the reasoning is clearly visible, rock-solid and undeniable. This is a ‘must read’ for those who try to understand what development co-operation is all about. Understanding today’s policies, priorities and methods of work in development co-operation is not possible without situating it in history and context. If this is true in general, it is even more relevant at the European level.”

– Koos Richelle, Director General, EuropeAid, European Commission

“This book importantly points out that aid should be an instrument for empowering those seeking positive developments in their political and economic systems.”

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**WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**  
EU Development Cooperation  
after the End of the Cold War

Mirjam van Reisen



DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

## EU Development Cooperation after the End of the Cold War

Mirjam van Reisen

On 9 November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell, taking world leaders by surprise and bringing an end to the Cold War. A ‘policy window’ was opened leading to the redefinition of development co-operation in Europe and internationally. A self-confident and assertive European Union, searching for its ambition, seized the opportunity to emerge from these events as a global player.

This book looks at the history and evolution of EU development co-operation policy, the factors that triggered the change and the forces that influenced the direction of that change. It examines current issues in EU development co-operation policy to answer the important question of where the EU is headed in the future and when this policy window will close for a new chapter in EU external relations history to open.

Mirjam van Reisen, PhD, is the founder and Director of Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA) based in Brussels. EEPA is a centre of expertise on the European Union and its international policies, especially in relation to developing countries. She is the author of numerous publications and commentaries on the EU’s policies and their impact on poverty eradication, including *EU ‘Global Player’*. *The North – South policy of the European Union*, and has contributed to publications such as *Reality of Aid*, *Social Watch* (subsequent editions) and *Development Policy in a Changing World. Challenges for the 21st Century*.



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