

Health interregionalism in combating communicable diseases

EU cooperation with ASEAN and the African Union

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Abstract: This last decade, regional organizations progressively became unavoidable actors of regional health governance and have been supported by some global health actors to strengthen such a role. Among these actors, the European Union (EU) is the only regional organization that implements health initiatives in cooperation with its regional counterparts. This article focuses on such "health interregionalism" toward Southeast Asia and Africa and in the field of communicable diseases, with the main objective of assessing its nature and identifying its main functions. It concludes that although appreciated and needed, the EU's health interregionalism should better reflect the EU's experience in regional health governance in order to represent a unique instrument of development aid and an added value for regional organizations.

Keywords: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Union (AU), European Union (EU), global health, interregionalism, zoonoses

This last decade a growing number of regional organizations became unavoidable actors of global/regional health governance. In this context, quite a few global health actors have decided to support these regional organizations to allow them to fully play their role in such sector. Among these actors, the European Union (EU) is the only regional organization that has launched and implemented health initiatives in cooperation with other regional organizations within the framework of its development aid policy. However, such "health interregionalism," which might be defined as covering the relations developed by regional entities (regional organizations or regional groups of States) in the domain of health, remains a new notion in the study of interregionalism. Indeed, because scholars in interregionalism studies mainly focused on the strategic, political and

