fostering learning

We are pleased to present you with the latest news of the UCLG's Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, with an emphasis on learning.

Included in the update are the following:

1. **Outcomes of the World Council held in Florence**
2. **An overview of the UCLG international peer learning event meeting on Strategic Urban Planning (Sao Paulo)**
3. **A summary of the Metropolis forum held in Porto Alegre**
4. **Information on the collaboration with peer review program of UCLG Africa and LGA UK**
5. **Upcoming activities**

OUTCOMES: UCLG World Council Florence 2011
More info: **Report of the meeting held in Florence**

During the last UCLG World Council on December 9, 2011 held in Florence, the 3 committees: **Digital and Knowledge-based Cities (Chaired by the City of Bilbao), the Committee on Strategic Urban Planning (Chaired by the City of Rosario and Durban) and the Committee on Urban Mobility (Chaired by the City of Stuttgart)**, met for the first time jointly to confirm common interests and objectives regarding the UCLG agenda on sustainability and cooperation. Coherence and possible action were identified.

Part One of the meeting: Presentations by the participants and objectives of the meeting.

Each committee made a short presentation on their aims for 2011 and future objectives.

The Committee on Urban Mobility, represented by Mr. Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart and President of the Committee, presented the Agenda21 for Mobility adopted by 86 countries. Key issues such as all inclusive connectivity and intermobility were introduced through experiences such as the annual "Cities for Mobility Congress".

The **Committee on Strategic Urban Planning,** represented by Mirta Levin, Ciudad Rosario and Subethri Moonsammy, Durban/eThekwini Municipality, explained progress on the promotion of the policy papers on innovation in Southern cities. The importance of enhancing knowledge exchange was emphasized and support for promoting exchange opportunities as future activities of Committee will be encouraged in the upcoming months.

The **Committee of Digital and Knowledge-based Cities,** represented by Ms. Marta Ajuria, councilor for Bilbao explained the work carried out by the committee to create a cooperative platform for Local Authorities to profit from new information and communication technologies (ICT). Diverse events related to ICT, innovation and knowledge management (Bilbao Web Summit, XII Latin American Meeting of Digital Cities, and Digital Week, among others) and publications have been encouraged.

Part two: Various cities presented the initiatives that they are currently implementing and invited the meeting participants to join in the initiatives.

Some of the initiatives presented:
- **European Charter on Strategic Planning** by **Alberto Valmaggia** Mayor of Cuneo.
- "**City of proximity**" by Ms. **Lisbeth Iverson**, representing the city of Bergen.
- "**Smart Cities Study: First study on the situation of ICT, Innovation and Knowledge management in UCLG Members**" by the city of Bilbao

Part three: Construction of a joint agenda
An open debate was held to allow the committees and participants to propose actions and projects to be developed jointly by the committees.

Outcome initiatives of the debate:
- Proposal for the creation of a "**Cities mentoring programme**" by the **Committee of Digital and Knowledge-based cities.**
- Promotion of development **of "Smart City Study"**
- Invitation for more cities to join the ongoing mentoring activities in Africa by the **Committee on Strategic Urban Planning.**
- Reinforcement of the Committee of governance **by the cooperation between committees.**
- Joint action towards Rio+20 by the committees was confirmed,.
The summary of the discussion was presented to the **Executive Bureau** by Ms Lisbeth Iverson and Wolfgang Schuster.

Further, Ms Subethri Moonsammy presented the goals of Cityfuture and the mentoring programme to the Executive Bureau.

OVERVIEW: UCLG international peer learning event Sao Paulo November 2011

Gathering over 30 participants from over 8 countries, the event was hosted by the state and the city of Sao Paulo and organized by UCLG in coordination with Metropolis on the 21 and 22 November. The main question addressed throughout the event was**"What ways are there to legalize the status of inhabitants of poor areas and how can improved and sustainable living conditions for the residents be opened up?"**Experiences were shared in 3 different languages: English, Portuguese and Spanish.

The **first part** of the program included site visits to specific urban sites where public interventions have been channeled towards upgrading informal settlements. Enhancing local leadership, empowerment of local initiatives and support of social proposals through citizen participation have ensured satisfying results for projects such as **Jardim Pantanal**. Presentations and discussions were encouraged for enhancing exchange between the participating cities and institutions.

Public Green House School, Michael Abraham

The panel discussion held at EMPLASA at the end of the day, tackled important issues regarding urban planning which encouraged exchange of challenges between the participating cities such as:

- Management of risk areas especially in informal settlements
- Development and connection between metropolitan areas
- Targeting urban poverty through local initiatives
- Encouraging the interplay between national and regional governments with local authorities.
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Presenting these challenges and approaches promoted dialogue and comparison between the participants to identify similarities and differences in their local authorities regarding urban planning and thereby enriching the discussion.

The **second day of the event** began with site visits to the other side of the city of Sao Paulo, the wealthier parts of the city, focusing on projects of urban renewal such as public parks, patrimonial architecture and transportation systems. The subjects addressed mainly concerned incentivizing private investment in urban interventions and the development of public private partnerships for developing large infrastructure projects which the public administration is not able to fund on its own.

The final visit presented a view of high end development combining residential and commercial uses. The preferences of residence according to social standards were discussed during this visit.

The second day finished with a vivid final discussion, which concentrated on the different options for improving management in cities such as: establishing public private partnerships, gathering knowledge from peer experiences. Other issues discussed were: new regularizations and de regularizations for cities as well as strategies to promote inner city regeneration with the inclusion of various stakeholders based on environmental and social criteria.

New possibilities of peer partnerships were discussed and further initiatives in collaboration with associations such as Metropolis were raised.

Participants in the learning event, Eduardo Trani

For further details, please download the learning event report available on the following link:
Report Sao Paulo Learning event 2011

From the 23rd to the 26th November, the Metropolis World Forum was held in Porto Alegre.

First panel of the event, Metropolis.org

As an associate, UCLG organized a pre- congress meeting entitled: "**Sharing knowledge in the southern cities**". This event consisted of a series of presentations and roundtable discussions by several invited city representatives on methodologies for knowledge sharing in cities, particularly in the South.

The first session of the event focused on **Insights in applying experiences: enhance learning or blueprints for development?** and aimed at discussing the practices and motivation of mentoring partnerships. The key question addressed throughout the event was: **Why and what experiences can be shared?** The round table was presided over by: **Jose Fortunati and Tau Park**, Mayors of Porto Alegre and Johannesburg respectively with the participation of **Claudio Sule** from Ciudad Sur (with Rosario), **Sara Hoeflich** from UCLG**, Jan Erasmus** from Johannesburg, **Violeta Kubrusly** from SEHAB Sao Paulo, **Claudius Pereira** from Belo Horizonte and**, Mr.Rogerio N'komo,a** Councillor from Maputo. Reflection and rapporteuring was by **Sunil Dubey** from Metropolis Índia.

The experiences revealed high diversity and steep learning curves for the different partners. Although objectives are often overambitious due the cities' routine tasks, the uniqueness of coaching between cities is that a broad system of stakeholders on both sides can be involved.

The second roundtable was centered on **Partners that support learning - how to increase coherence?** The session was aimed at identifying opportunities for partners to support city to city cooperation and learning, especially for cities from emerging countries that are changing the role from Aid receiver to Aid provider. Main questions targeted:

How can we place decentralized cooperation and city learning in the national agenda? How can partners complement learning and cooperation procedures and enhance the dissemination of lessons? Chaired by **Josep Roig,** secretary of UCLG, with the participation of **Thomas Melin** from UN Habitat, **Nellie Lester** Department of Co-operative Governance, South Africa seconded to South African Cities Network (SACN), **Ines Magalhães** of Ministry of cities Brazil and **Ana Marie Argilagos** of the US Department of Housing and Urban development. Reflection and rapporteuring was by **Rodrigo Perpetuo** of Mercociudades.

The presentations from Brazil and South Africa revealed an increasing interest in developing an agenda for cooperation on urban development, based on the strengths and successes such as those of the Ministry of cities in Brazil and their policy instruments, as well as the territorial reforms and intergovernmental cooperation (?one government) in South Africa. Agencies like UN Habitat broaden their supply system by involving Southern network partners and universities, but recall the importance to acknowledge the demand for learning.

The third session of the meeting was a discussion on **Methodologies to support cooperation and peer learning: processes and city learning initiatives.** The panel offered a diverse array of methodologies to advance the transfer of learning between cities, such as mentorships, peer reviews, training and coaching. This roundtable was chaired by **Natalia Carnovale** from Rosario, Argentina and included the participation of speakers: **Soobs Moonsammy**, MILE Durban, South Africa; **Patrick Daude,** Stuttgart Cities for Mobility; **Juan Loaiza** Medellin, Colombia**; Prof Chary Vedala** from Hyderabat; and **Michael Abraham** from Metropolis Berlin, Germany. Reflection and rapporteuring was by **Jane Mc Rae** from Sustainable Cities International Network.

Each presenter provided specific examples of experiences. Critical success factors included:

- building relationships of trust
- a learning focus on the process undertaken and not just the action or result
- a clear identification of what the learning needs are
- documentation of learning
- recognition of successful leaders to inspire others

Evidence supports the notion that broad, diverse groups working collaboratively lead to creative solutions that shift us from our traditional approaches. Thus, the need for collaborative efforts between individuals, cities, and networks is greater than ever.

> **Conclusion:**
> **Change is possible in any city, regardless of the conditions. However, a one-size-fits-all approach cannot work and local context and applicability is key. Change is more likely to occur if cities start from where they are, define where they want to be, and work relentlessly to close the gap.**

The contribution of UCLG to the developmental agenda of cities relies on its members who hold knowledge, experience, networks and commitment to cooperate.

The new and powerful commitments of Southern Cities are especially interesting and it is essential to apply the lessons of former city cooperation and to accelerate the effort, involve partners, multiply the various approaches and make them accessible to a greater number of cities.

Agenda Peer to peer learning
CityFuture phase 3

The project proposal for City Future phase 3 has been presented by the UCLG world secretariat to the Cities Alliance and the Government of Norway.

This proposal aims to follow up the learning agenda that has achieved interesting results in countries such as Mozambique. The objectives are to enhance and increase peer learning opportunities in developing countries, with a specific emphasis in Southern Africa, and provide support to cities and their associations to address needs and demands of intermediary cities.

Event on urbanization in Mozambique ANAMM

Pan African Peer review: Training in the Local Government Association United Kingdom

In order to increase coherence and strengthen the UCLGA secretariat in the effort to become a "clearing house for learning", the committee and the CityFuture project team are cooperating with the Pan African peer review project of UCLGA, supported by Luxembourg and the LGA United Kingdom. Participants in the mentoring program, such as the program manager of ANAMM, the CEO of Mzuzu, the director of the NALAO association (Namibia) and the UCLG program manager, a long term associate in CityFuture, were involved in the training in London.

Strengthen partnerships in Mozambique -
A mission

A mission to Mozambique in March supported the cities of Xai Xai, Lichinga, Manhisa and Maputo to coordinate their strategies and involve partners through specifying and negotiating areas of support. UCLG supports ANAMM to coordinate its national peer agenda. Besides Porto Alegre, 2 networks CIMES (intermediary cities) and Architects without borders (ASF) joined the mission.

Porto Alegre and Xai Xai signed agreements for cooperation on specific tasks related to management taxes and fees.

Strategic maps and action plans for Lichinga and Manhisa were put forward and (are being supported by?are followed) by ASF.

An agenda for a peer learning of Maputo and the partner cities Belo Horizonte, Durban and Seoul was written (the date is to be to confirmed).

The results were presented in a national workshop in Chimoio that also concluded the Nampula development grant of Cities Alliance that was partnered by UN Habitat and UCLG- ANAMM.

Activities to follow:

- **May**: UCLG and Durban will participate in the annual symposium of sustainable cities (Plus network) in Vancouver. This is an opportunity to explore possibilities for cooperation on the peer agenda.

- **May**: a staff member from the MILE team will be joining the UCLG world secretariat for one month in order to provide support on tasks, events and operations of the committee.

- **June**: The first peer review of this program will be in Namibia and counts on the support of the ongoing mentoring initiative of the MILE (Durban) team that is expanding in Namibia with the support of Cities Alliance.

- **June**: the committee and project management will increase coherence between the **UCLG CIB initiative** and the peer learning, in the next CIB meeting in Bergen.

-**September:** UCLG will invite committees and networks on a **workshop on action learning.** A chance to follow up and enlarge our programme!

- Mentoring and contact sessions between cities will continue.