

We are pleased to present you the latest news on City Development Strategies (CDS):

1. *UCLG Istanbul World Council and Agenda 2009/2010 on Urban Strategic Planning*
2. *Questionnaire for the Policy Paper on Urban Strategic Planning (attached)*
3. *Cities Alliance's 2009 Public Policy Forum in Barcelona*
4. *EU Project on Cities' Knowledge management of Strategic planning*



1. UCLG Istanbul World Council and Agenda 2009/2010 on Urban Strategic Planning

The UCLG World Council in Istanbul, held on 28th of November 2008, saw more than 500 local and regional leaders gathering and was the occasion to express common concerns about the direct repercussions of the financial crisis on cities and regions. Meanwhile, the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, chaired by the mayor of Rosario and the CEO of Durban, met and discussed its joint objectives and core activities for the 2009/2010 agenda.

The following objectives were reaffirmed:

- Sharing strategic planning processes across cities and local governments and promoting long-term, short-term, land-use planning, and other plans as key tools for local governance
- Promoting technical, specialized and other forms of support across municipalities
- Actively seeking out municipalities which require planning assistance to define and articulate demand and support
- Providing a stage to showcase work carried out by existing networks and international agencies on CDS (knowledge platform)

2. Policy Paper on Urban Strategic Planning

Please find attached a questionnaire for the Policy Paper on Urban Strategic Planning.

Given the need to promote planning globally and to be enriched by local experiences, we commit ourselves to producing a comprehensive and useful document which will advocate for a wide recognition of the expertise of local government. This paper is truly the occasion to speed up the process of city leadership and to raise national governments' awareness of the importance of planning. Thus we strongly encourage you to give us more insight about your city and its strategy. All the information you can provide will be valuable inputs for the editing of the Policy Paper.

The Calendar for the development of the Policy Paper will be as follow:

1. Organize the experiences by filling fact sheets and requests, currently prepared by the city of Rosario – March/April 2009
2. Summarize regional assessments – April 2009
3. Workshop in Mozambique on Demand and needs of local planning– 1st/2nd April
4. First meeting of the drafting task force during the CIDEU Congress, held in Rosario – 26th /30th April, and coordination of a discussion table on strategies and employment
5. Presentation of intention to the UCLG Executive Bureau, Copenhagen – 1st/4th June 2009
6. Second meeting of the drafting task force to revise and complete the document – October 2009
7. Report back to UCLG World Council, Guangzhou, China – November 2009

3. Cities Alliance's 2009 Public Policy Forum in Barcelona

On 20th and 21st of January 2009, the City of Barcelona and UCLG hosted the Cities Alliance Annual Public Policy Forum, which this year focused on ways to improve the effectiveness of development aid. UCLG currently presides over the steering committee of Cities Alliance, which gathers major development partners that recognize urban development as a key priority to reduce poverty.

During the Forum, the participants insisted on the necessity for the international community to redouble its efforts in order to attain the UN Millennium Development Goals, which can only be achieved if local authorities are brought in as real partners.

Currently UCLG and Cities Alliance are discussing an extended partnership, which builds further on the lessons learnt of the City Future programme and the cooperation on local finance and looks to increase coherence between the different CA members.

Inspired by the leadership of the Committee during the UCLG meetings in Istanbul, the CA Secretariat announced in Barcelona, that it would welcome an increasing role of the USP Committee in the upcoming working group on City Development Strategies.

Please visit the website: www.citiesalliance.org

4. EU Project on Cities Knowledge management of Strategic planning



In February 2009, following a Call for Proposals issued by the European Commission in 2008, the USP Committee decided to explore new funding opportunities for its

activities and wrote a concept note for a "Project on cities' knowledge management of strategic planning and implementation in cities in development".

The USP Committee is in fact uniquely positioned to overcome the obstacles faced by local governments and associations in the promotion of strategic planning processes.

The concept note identified 2 specific objectives:

1. Valuing the experience of strategic planning of local governments as a municipal core competence and a key tool through strengthening network collaboration and interregional exchanges between practitioners
2. Raising awareness on the improvement of Urban Strategic Planning in Less Developed Countries (demand), through assistance between cities and local government associations' strengthening of South-South partnerships

The concept note was developed across four geographical regions: the city of Rosario and the city of Durban – which both commit funds and time to lead/implement the initiative; the South African Local Government Association SALGA and the League of Philippine Cities – to lead regional exchanges and assistance; the UCLG World Secretariat which holds the technical secretariat to coordinate activities between different regions.

All the partners showed outstanding commitment and were able to fulfil the very specific requirements the EU project imposed. Other members, such as the LGAs of Kenya, Namibia, Nepal and Malawi have also offered full support to implementation, in case the proposal is accepted.

We expect an answer from the EU by the beginning of April.

For more information download the concept note:

<http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/index.asp?L=EN&ID=361&pag=newTemplate.asp>

Urban Strategic Planning Committee New Members:

The Local Government Association of Kenya (ALGAK); the City of Batam (Indonesia); the European Section of Council of European Municipalities and Regions; the AERYC Association of Latin American and European Cities and Regions, the City of Burnaby Vancouver (Canada)

ZOOM: Lilongwe, Malawi

In February, the Committee accompanied Johannesburg in their mentoring session to prepare a CDS process in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Being one of the poorest countries in Africa, urban growth in the capital city is over 5% per year and service provision is urgent. The slow decentralization process has not allowed local governments to operate under local (elected) leadership. However, ownership in the local government and stakeholders is constantly increasing and the CDS workshops become learning and exchange events for all major cities in Malawi, and mobilize development partners to link to the CDS process, which is supported by Cities Alliance.

Johannesburg officials are providing technical assistance regarding the drafting of the strategy. They are helping Lilongwe with strategic analysis related to national frameworks, opportunities, environment, pre-evaluation and strengthening of the institutional capacity by relevant lessons learned by the mentor city.

Areas of interest are, among other, participatory processes, definition of an action plan, transport, land use, innovation and productivity.

Source: <http://www.joburg.org.za/>

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