



UCLG COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING

Supporting networks and associations as decentralized partners for cooperation in regards to urban planning and management

CIRCULAR 17

Dear colleagues, members and partners,

Hoping your festivities went well and that the New Year 2013 will be an exciting opportunity to fortify your objectives and strengthen your efforts towards them!

We are pleased to inform you that we are advancing in our agenda of city exchange activities, after a productive *Africities* meeting in Dakar last December 2012 during which our statutory meetings took place. A [special session](#) was dedicated to peer learning presenting the diverse perspectives and outcomes of Brazilian, South African and Mozambican cities as well as the city of Bilbao sharing their experience on housing, management and cooperation.

This was also an important occasion to disseminate the initiatives of Metropolis and particularly UCLGA towards their peer review program in collaboration with LGA-UK. Reflections revealed that peer learning and peer reviews, when combined with analytical reviews of other contemporary South-South learning engagements, could be a valuable point of departure to develop a practical guide to share with other learning partners working in the same space.

In the committee meeting, we further clarified the steps toward Rabat:

For 2013, we have a dynamic set of activities that have already begun with momentum and may be interesting opportunities for you to take in: in February, we will launch a EU funded project to enhance the capacity of local government associations ([ANAMM](#) and [FNP](#)) and local governments as facilitators for decentralized cooperation between cities of Brazil and Mozambique in collaboration with two associated cooperation networks: Intermediary cities and Architects without borders ([CIMES](#) and [ASF](#))

We are also bringing together a working group with relevant actors based on the topic of **Intermediary Cities** that is built on expertise of passionate networkers and members. A [seminar on the theme is to be held in the city of Kwadukuza in South Africa from the 18th to the 20th of march](#), where relevant leaders and experts are to

discuss challenges and initiatives for Intermediate Cities in order to continue working on the subject during the rest of the year and come up with some inputs to be presented in Rabat.

Upon the request of Durban, it was suggested that more cities be encouraged to take leading roles, particularly Brazilian cities in view of the EU project, and European or Asian for the Intermediary cities agenda.

We encourage you and your networks to participate in these initiatives and keep up to date with these interesting experiences by staying tuned to our communication channels.

Please keep in mind that our [World Congress](#) is to take place in the city of Rabat in October 2013, looking forward to further exchanges and working together towards this promising occasion.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat of the Committee/Working Group at: For the World Secretariat: s.hoeflich@uclg.org, For the Co-presidency and Committee agenda: kerrc@durban.gov.za

Kind regards,

The UCLG World Secretariat,

on behalf of the Committee of Urban Strategic Planning

Click on these links to find relevant information about:

- [Africities outcomes – reflections by Kubeshnee Govender Jones](#)
- [Study presented at Africities by Bilbao on Smart Cities](#)
- [New year greetings from UCLG and Invitation to Rabat Congress](#)
- [eThekwini/MILE – reflections on Africities participation](#)