Dear Reader,

The new issue of the DeLoG newsletter, with the latest activities of the network and news on upcoming events as well as course announcements and publications, is here!

This time, we feature in our 'In profile' interview our ex-colleague, Lea Flaspoehler, former advisor at the DeLoG Secretariat.

Additionally, this issue contains a glimpse into this year's DeLoG Annual Meeting, where lots of interesting organisations took part in, along with this year's Learn4Dev Annual Meeting. What's more? The latest news from our members and partners and lots of striking publications on Decentralisation and Local Governance.

We wish you a pleasant reading!

Your DeLoG Team

DeLoG Activities

In Profile - Interview with Lea Flaspoehler (former DeLoG advisor)
Lea Flaspoehler is former advisor at the DeLoG Secretariat. Following various internships in GIZ Programmes, she took up the position in 2015. As DeLoG advisor, her main tasks included the preparation of technical assessments and briefings for DeLoG on Localising the SDGs, DLG in Fragile Contexts and Fiscal Decentralisation and the organisation and provision of DeLoG learning events and courses. Lea left her position recently. She is now managing the GIZ project ‘Strengthening Local Governance and Resilience in South-Sudan’. In this interview, Lea
Flaspoehler provides an insight into her experiences, motivation and wishes for the DeLoG Network and tells us about her new professional adventure.

DeLoG Annual Meeting 2019

From May 20 to 22, 2019, the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) held its Annual Meeting in Bern, Switzerland. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) kindly hosted this year’s event. This year’s meeting focused on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’. Apart from the specific focus the meeting also dealt with the topics ‘Localising the SDGs’, ‘Local Finance & Fiscal Decentralisation’, ‘Local Economic Development’ and ‘DLG in Fragile Contexts’.

Recordings of DeLoG Webinars now Available
From April 29 to June 23, 2019 DeLoG organised another tutored e-learning course on Decentralisation and Local Governance. In the context of this course, two webinars were conducted: The first webinar on 'Localising the SDGs' discussed the key role that local governments play in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the key commitment to 'leave no one behind', as well as the question in how far decentralisation can support the localisation of the SDGs. The second webinar discussed the topic of 'Local Governance in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings'. It aimed to provide an enhanced understanding of the role that local governance could play in securing sustainable pathways to peace and development in fragile and conflict-affected settings, and of the different factors that shape the success of decentralisation and local governance approaches in such contexts.

›› For more information, please click here

News from our Members and Partners

New UCLG Learning Website

After a long process of listening to the members’ demands, UCLG Learning has launched its new website. This site will bring UCLG Learning to the next level, expanding its outreach to a broader public and providing online tools, new materials and work-in-progress information regarding its main axes: Localising the Global Agendas; Peer-Learning and the Learning Forum.

›› For more information, please click here

First Session of the UN-Habitat Assembly

On 31 May 2019, the first UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA 1) concluded its deliberations, adopting a Ministerial Declaration, five resolutions, and one decision to promote sustainable urbanisation. The decision highlights the arrangements for the transition towards the new
governance structure of UN-Habitat, and the Ministerial Declaration portrays the commitment for accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

›› For more information, please click here

**CIB Annual Meeting 2019**

When: 25-26 September 2019  
Where: Vienna, Austria

The UCLG Capacity & Institution Building (CIB) Working Group Annual Meeting 2019 will be taking place from 25-26 September in Vienna this year. The meeting will be hosted by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns and its KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research. The CIB Annual Meeting will foster exchange among CIB members.

›› For more information, please click here

**Venice City Solutions 2030 - Creating Citizenship: the SDGs as an Opportunity for All**

When: 24-25 October 2019  
Where: Venice, Italy

The Venice City Solutions Series is a yearly event to discuss one specific issue that can facilitate the role of local governments as key implementers of the Agenda 2030. In 2019, Venice City Solutions wants to concentrate on how the SDGs can be an instrument to create citizenship; to promote the values of the Agenda 2030 and to bring the SDGs closer to the people. Local governments have a key position to help creating citizenship and enhancing the sense of belonging to the community. Venice City Solutions this year wants to identify how cities and their local governments are using the SDGs as tools to create citizenship and reconnect with their citizens.

›› For more information, please click here

**Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Cities Matter!**
GIZ on behalf of BMZ published a new video on the ongoing urbanisation that is growing at a rapid speed – cities are increasingly crossing their political and administrative borders. Major challenges for municipalities in this are providing a growing urban population with access to basic infrastructure and services, sustaining economic development to all, while managing resources within planetary boundaries in a changing climate. Integrated urban development, as presented in this video, provides sustainable solutions for these challenges. Integrated approaches break down barriers between sectors and stakeholders, and between the institutions and levels of government involved in their conception and implementation. This video depicts the opportunities of an integrated approach for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in cities and city-regions. Because how global urbanisation is shaped and governed, is one of our major challenges. Sustainable cities are our future. It depends on cities now – Cities Matter!

For more information, please click here

New Urban Agenda Platform

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) Platform is a dynamic knowledge portal for reporting on the progress made in implementing the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 at the global, regional, country and local level. With the development of the platform, UN-Habitat wants to continue to deliver on its mandate of promoting sustainable urban development and human settlements. The platform offerings are designed to capture both quantitative and qualitative information from governments, the United Nations System as well as other key stakeholders. The rollout of the Platform is planned in two phases, with the official launch scheduled for WUF 10, followed by a 12 months pilot phase in 2020 to integrate mechanisms and tools to measure performance including testing, refining and enhancement regularly.

For more information, please click here

Additional News

Learn4Dev Annual Meeting 2019
From May 27 to 29 2019, the Learn4Dev network held its Annual Meeting in Bonn, Germany. This year, the thematic focus of the meeting was agility. The members of the international network discussed the possibilities of fostering an 'agile spirit' in member organisations through learning and training, how training and learning each can be improved by applying 'agile methods' and how staff can apply 'agility' to their personal development. 40 members from 23 institutions and 15 countries travelled to Bonn to participate in the event at the Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ) Campus and the UN Campus.

For more information, please click here


When: 05-06 September 2019
Where: The United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA)

The 14th Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS 2019) is being planned to be held on September 5th-6th, 2019 in the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA). As one of the most important global congresses on the urban agenda, sustainable cities and human settlements, as well as an observance of Urban October, GFHS 2019 will focus on the theme, 'Sustainable Development of Cities and Human Settlements in the Digital Era', and will be supporting campaigns on smart city and the use of digital technology for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

For more information, please click here
UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under UNGA Auspices

When: 24-25 September 2019
Where: UN Headquarters, New York

The UN General Assembly will hold a meeting of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at the level of Heads and State and Government, from 24-25 September 2019. The days before and after the HLPF under UNGA auspices convenes, two related events will take place, also at UN Headquarters in New York: the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the 2019 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (FfD).

›› For more information, please click here

HLPF 2019 - Infographic on Localising the SDGs

PLATFORMA and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) have published on the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum an infographic on how associations of towns and regions are drivers for change in localising the SDGs. This document is based on the main findings of a study to be published by mid September.

›› For more information, please click here

European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS)
For the 4th time, European cities and regions are called to participate at the EDLS, taking place from 15-30 November 2019. The main objective of this campaign run by PLATFORMA’s partners is to engage European local and regional elected representatives and public officials to communicate positively about the added value of decentralised cooperation and the role of cities and regions in global sustainable development. The European Days of Local Solidarity are an opportunity to do this under one same pan-European campaign, along with cities and regions from all over Europe.

For more information, please click here

European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns

Hosted by the City of Mannheim, and ICLEI Europe, the European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns will open its doors for the 9th time from 30 September - 2 October 2020 in Mannheim, Germany. The conference will demonstrate the urgent need for local governments to assume responsibility for urban transformation and lead the way in guiding Europe towards a secure and sustainable future. The world is facing major environmental, economic and social challenges that require a substantial transformation in all aspects of society. Without this transformation, global and European self-set goals like the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Europe long term strategy on GHG emission reduction will remain unreachable.

For more information, please click here

Courses
Swiss Peace

» Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course
Date: 16-18 October 2019
Apply by: 15 August 2019
Place: Basel, Switzerland

The Hague Academy

» Local Economic Development
Date: 23 September - 4 October 2019
Apply by: 16 August 2019
Place: The Hague, Netherlands

» Inclusive Local Economic Development
Date: 30 September - 10 November 2019
Apply by: 22 September 2019
Place: Online

» Conflict, Rule of Law & Local Security
Date: 28 October - 8 November 2019
Apply by: 13 September 2019
Place: The Hague, Netherlands

» Climate Adaptation & Local Resilience
Date: 11-22 November 2019
Apply by: 29 September 2019
Place: The Hague, Netherlands

» Gender Responsive Governance
Studies and Publications

Local Governance and Decentralisation


OECD, 2019

The 2019 OECD report 'Making Decentralisation Work: A Handbook for Policy-Makers' provides one of the most comprehensive overviews on the current trends in the decentralisation policies of OECD countries and beyond, and on the ways to make decentralisation work. It argues that the question should not be whether decentralisation is good or bad in itself, but that decentralisation outcomes - in terms of democracy, efficiency, accountability, regional and local development - depend greatly on the way decentralisation is designed and implemented.

›› For more information, please click here

The Governance Brief: The ‘How’ of Multistakeholder Engagement

ADB, 2019

This governance brief presents a framework 'Negotiating Strategic Change' for effective multistakeholder engagement in support of institutional development. This framework covers stakeholder analysis, political economy context, adaptive leadership, strategic communication, and negotiation.

›› For more information, please click here

The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories: The Role of Local and Sub-National Governments of Africa (Declarations Book)
In late November 2018, the 8th edition of the Africities summit took place. 8300 participants gathered in Marrakesh, Morocco, to discuss ‘The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories, The Role of Local and Sub-National Governments of Africa’. DeLoG conducted a side-event on the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle. Therefore, we are particularly happy to see LNOB included in the Declarations Book of Africities, which has been published in June 2019. It includes all declarations and recommendations adopted by the sessions. Have a closer look here, especially at the Declaration by Development Partners on page 23.

For more information, please click here

Fiscal Decentralisation ● Local Finance
2019 Report of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

The first International Conference of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment took place in Paris, France (OECD Headquarter) on 17 June 2019. At this event, the ‘2019 World Observatory Report’ has been presented together with the interactive web database of data on subnational government organisation and finance in over 120 countries. The report comes in two parts: one part presenting the key findings and a second part presenting country profiles for 120 countries. Since last year, the DeLoG-Network had the honor to contribute to this extremely important and valuable project and it intends to continue the support to the observatory.

For more information, please click here

Asia’s Fiscal Challenge: Financing the Social Protection Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals
ADB, 2018

This study of 16 Asian countries found that they have substantial but manageable fiscal challenges in reaching the social protection targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of these countries could close the social protection gap through tax-financed, well-targeted, social assistance schemes, universal income transfers, and universal health coverage.

A Concise Overview: How EU Member States' National and Regional Programmes Support Local Governments' Development Activities in Partner Countries

VNG & PLATFORMA, 2019

This publication dives into the question of how EU Member States stimulate local governments with dedicated funds for decentralised development cooperation. The publication provides an overview of these national and regional funding mechanisms. The study shows in which countries national financing programmes for decentralised development cooperation exist, in which countries local governments can sometimes apply to CSO funding mechanisms, and in which countries there are no programmes that fund decentralised development cooperation.

Public Financial Management and the Digitalisation of Payments
The ability of digital payments to deliver better outcomes for governments, businesses, and individuals - including driving financial inclusion - has been one of the success stories of the digital age. Payments are central to how governments transfer and receive financial resources; however, the way such payments are made - and how they could be made more effectively - is often not mainstreamed in public financial management (PFM) despite the fact that many of the direct benefits from effective digitalisation of payments are identical to those traditionally expected from strong PFM systems. The digitalisation of payments does not provide a silver bullet for solving PFM problems; therefore it needs to be approached in an integrated way, with strong leadership from central agencies, including the Ministry of Finance, to exploit the synergies between the many different types of payments facilitated by digital technology. The paper explores the linkages between the digitalisation of payments and PFM, including four case studies.

» For more information, please click here

Fragility ● Post-conflict settings ● Migration

Order from Chaos: Stabilising Libya the Local Way

European Council on Foreign Relations, 2018

A multiplicity of international actors operate in Libya, with a sometimes surprising level of cohesiveness. Nevertheless, now is the time for them to collectively agree a high-level strategy, ensuring they have a bird’s eye view of the efforts they are all making to bring stability back to Libya. The three main components of stabilisation are: ensuring the delivery of public services; stabilising the economy; and providing security. There has been some progress on the first component, but stabilisation actors must now focus on the economy. Innovation at municipal level and the weakness and corruption of central government mean that international players should look to local authorities as partners for re-establishing public services.
2030 Agenda ● Localising the SDGs
Local & Regional Governments' Report - Towards the Localisation of the SDGs

On the 15th of July 2019, the Global Taskforce organised the Local and Regional Governments’ Day. During this day, the third Local and Regional Governments report to the HLPF, 'Towards the Localisation of the SDGs' was launched. For the third year in a row, UCLG provided a complementary assessment of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). It shows that, once more, less than half of the voluntary countries (19 out of 47) have consulted local and regional governments in preparing the VNR. In the 143 countries assessed by the study, local and regional governments are fully participating or have an advisory role on national coordination in 34% of the countries.

Beyond 16: The SDGs and the Opportunity to Build a More Peaceful World

Climate Diplomacy, 2019

The foreign policy community faces a choice. It can continue to allow unacceptable levels of violence and conflict to undermine individual countries and the global order. Or it can build a new consensus that violence is a preventable epidemic. This would take seriously a growing body of evidence showing what is most likely to work to steer the world back toward global peace, resilient societies, and more sustainable prosperity.

Sustainable Development Through Local Action
This study aims to provide an in-depth insight into the involvement of Local Government Associations (LGAs) in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with focus on national reporting efforts to the UN ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum as set out through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by national governments. The study identifies problems LGAs experience when localising SDGs and engaging in the national VNR reporting process. It shows what LGAs can learn from each other, and identifies a number of policy recommendations, notably in respect of engaging with the forthcoming 2019 VNR and its follow-up.

The Relevance of Social Policies for Democracy: Preventing Autocratisation through Synergies between SDG10 and SDG16

This paper assesses the effects of social and economic inequalities on autocratisation, meaning a decline in the democratic qualities of a political regime. The key question it studies is whether different types, levels and changes in distributional inequalities (SDG 10) contribute to the erosion of democratic institutions, thereby making governance less inclusive (SDG 16). The paper focusses, in particular, on distributional inequalities and more or less inclusive forms of governance (autocracy vs. democracy).

How Donors Can Deliver on the 'Leave No One Behind Commitment'
This working paper sets out some proposals aimed at bilateral donors, with a focus on health and education policies. Next, the paper examines the thorny question of value for money. For some donors who take a human rights-based or ‘prioritarian’ approach, needing to justify value for money of interventions is less of an issue. Finally, the paper considers what might be the optimal institutional set-up to deliver on the LNOB agenda. Here there are no clear answers, but it presents some proposals informed by the findings in the rest of the paper.

Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2019 - Reshaping Governance for Sustainability: Transforming Institutions - Shifting Power - Strengthening Rights

Spotlight Report, 2019

'The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not just a matter of better policies. It requires more holistic and more sweeping shifts in how power is vested, including through institutional and governance reforms.' This is the main message of the Spotlight Report 2019, one of the most comprehensive independent assessments of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report was launched on the day before the opening of the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations in New York by a global coalition of civil society organisations and trade unions. The contributions cover most aspects of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (and beyond), and reflect the rich geographic and cultural diversity of their authors.

Urban & Territorial Governance

How to Formulate a National Urban Policy - A Practical Guide
UN-Habitat, 2019

One of the main goals of a National Urban Policy (NUP) is to achieve better wellbeing for all and to ensure nobody is left behind. This can be achieved through, for instance, poverty reduction, improved environmental conditions and climate resilience, economic development, social and spatial integration, better governance and institutional planning. This guide provides a framework for undertaking the formulation of a NUP. It provides practical steps and a coordinated process to formulate an urban policy that adheres to five key principles: participation, inclusion, affordability, sustainability and implementability.

For more information, please click here

Multi-Level Climate Governance Supporting Local Action

GIZ, 2018

Two thirds of the world’s population - 6.3 billion people - are projected to live in urban areas by 2050. Already now, cities significantly contribute to climate change and at the same time face particular consequences that result from it. As the cities that will house this booming urban population are yet to be built in the next few decades, there is an unprecedented opportunity to respond to climate change through urban transformation. Against this background, the present study explores the following question: How can different instruments for multi-level climate governance support the realisation of local climate mitigation and adaptation potentials?

For more information, please click here