DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of 2016. This year's mayor international process is Habitat III, and therefore the DeLoG newsletter lays a thematic focus on urban development and what lies ahead. In profile, we feature the view of Chris (VNG) and Hanne (UNDP) on the DeLoG seminar on fragility in The Hague. As the International Women's Day just passed, also include a section on gender equality in local governments.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

Your DeLoG Team
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■ Content

DeLoG Activities

- DeLoG Working Paper 4: M&E systems
- In Profile: Interview with Hanne Kristoffersen (UNDP) and Chris van Hemert (VNG)
- Learn4Dev: Tutored e-learning on "Enhancing development effectiveness for decentralisation and local governance" starts at the beginning of April

News from our Member Organisations

- Debt dynamics, fiscal deficit, and stability in government borrowing in India
- German Habitat Forum, Berlin, Germany, 1-2 June, 2016
- Productive water for agriculture in Senegal
- Investing in urban climate resilience
- Capacity development in situations of conflict and fragility
- Growing resources for growing cities
- UNCDF launches regional consultations on municipal finance
- Competitive cities

Info, Links, Downloads

- Habitat III process
- Gender equality in local governments
- Localising SDGs
- Decentralisation process in Ukraine

Courses

- The Hague Academy for local governance
- Institute of Federalism
- Swisspeace
- Duke Center for International Development

Studies

- Decentralisation and local governance
- Fiscal decentralisation
- Gender
- Land tenure
- Development effectiveness

Contact, Newsletter &Website

■ DeLoG Activities

DeLoG Working Paper 4: Building country monitoring and evaluation systems to support decentralisation reforms: Current state and future directions

For more than 30 years, developing countries have embarked on decentralisation. Today, many development partners are supporting partner countries in their efforts to build their own monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems and the corresponding statistical and other capacities. Guidance on country M&E systems has also proliferated. However, the current state of developing countries' efforts to build systems for monitoring and evaluation of their decentralisation reforms is relatively little known.This working paper takes stock of the current state of countries' activities and development partners' support in the area of country systems for monitoring and evaluating decentralisation reform. It also discusses possible implications for further efforts.

›› Read the English version
›› Read the version française

In-Profile: Interview with Hanne Kristoffersen (UNDP) and Chris van Hemert (VNG)

In the last newsletter, we reported on the Joint Learning Event on "Fragility, Decentralisation and Local Governance" which took place in The Hague in November last year. In this issue we have asked two of the participants, Hanne Kristoffersen (UNDP) and Chris van Hemert (VNG), about their experiences. Considering VNG hosted and co-organised the event, Chris was able to reflect on his experience from the perspective of a participant as well as that of an organiser. Further, we enquired about the importance of fragility and DLG in their work and about the approaches the organisations they work for take towards those topics.

›› Read the full interview

Learn4Dev: Tutored e-learning on "Enhancing development effectiveness for decentralisation and local governance"

DeLoG is conducting an e-learning course on "Enhancing development effectiveness for decentralisation and local governance" from 4 April - 6 June, 2016. Participants will be introduced to political, administrative and fiscal decentralisation as well as political economy analysis. Further, the course covers the linkages between decentralisation and sector support, designing coherent support strategies as well as implementing support and monitoring change.

The course is designed for development professionals in the field and at HQ level who have been working on (and around) decentralisation and local governance for 2 - 5 years, sector specialists experienced in decentralised settings as well as practitioners from public and local administration and CSOs.

Selected applicants will be informed in the coming two weeks.

■ News from our Member Organisations

Debt dynamics, fiscal deficit, and stability in government borrowing in India: A dynamic panel analysis

States in India are endowed with expenditure autonomy but fiscal performance has been deteriorating and diverging across Indian states. This paper analyses whether the composition of expenditure of the subnational governments has an impact on the degree of indebtedness.

›› Link to the document

Wok Bung Wantaim: Using subnational government partnerships to improve infrastructure implementation in Papua New Guinea

This report examines how existing implementation structures established under ADB and National Government investment programmes could be used to channel subnational government resources more effectively toward priority infrastructure investments.

›› Link to the document

Urbanization and inequality in hypertension diagnosis and medication in Indonesia

Urbanisation has been progressing quickly in Indonesia and the consequences on health and health inequities are still not well understood. This paper examines the differences in health care services and health inequities in rural and urban areas of Indonesia.

›› Link to the document

German Habitat Forum, Berlin, Germany, 1-2 June, 2016

Co-hosted by the BMZ and the Land (State) of Berlin, the German Habitat Forum (GHF) is an international dialogue forum and a centrepiece of Germany's contribution to the Habitat III process as well as the New Urban Agenda (NUA). It offers an opportunity for national and international stakeholders to discuss expected outcomes of the of the Habitat process and to shape key messages for the NUA and its implementation. The GHF outcome document, the Berlin Recommendations, will inform the discussion towards the Habitat III conference. DeLoG will convene a workshop on "Governance, Civic Participation and Capacities".

›› For more information on the GHF please click here

For more information regarding the workshop to be convened by DeLoG, please contact the Secretariat (Nils Huhn: nils.huhn[at]giz.de).

Productive water for agriculture in Senegal – Sustainable hydro-agricultural infrastructure requires the involvement of local actors

In Senegal, agriculture is the main economic activity in rural areas and higher domestic agricultural production has become a prerequisite to ensure food security. To achieve this goal, Senegal and Belgium have jointly designed the Retention Basins and Well Development Project which aims to ensure that farmers and livestock breeders in five of Senegal's regions have sustainable access to productive water. It is argued that because of the fundamental changes triggered by such infrastructure, it is crucial to involve local actors in the design of these projects as well as in any further steps in order to ensure that the investments are sustainable.

›› Link to the document

Investing in urban climate resilience

The multi-donor Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund aims to build resilience to the effects of climate change and reduce the vulnerability of the urban poor in 25 medium-sized cities in Asia. In addition to infrastructure investments, the trust fund provides grants that enable cities to prioritise actual resilience needs in their planning processes and service delivery. The partnership was initially founded by DFID, the Rockefeller Foundation and the ADB and has since welcomed USAID and SECO.

›› Link to the document

Capacity development in situations of conflict and fragility: German approaches and lessons learned by GIZ

Countries characterised by fragility and conflict pose significant challenges to programmes engaging in capacity development. The Sector Network Good Governance Asia produced the publication "Capacity Development in Situations Conflict and Fragility – German Approaches and Lessons Learned by GIZ" which presents practically reflected discourse on frequently faced dilemmas. It calls for dialogue and honest reflection on lessons learned, including backlashes and pitfalls, to allow for more realistic and informed project planning and implementation.

›› Link to the document

Growing resources for growing cities: Density and the cost of municipal public services in Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico

This paper finds that per capita municipal spending on public services is strongly and non-linearly correlated to urban population density. This analysis provides strong policy support for densification, particularly for medium-sized cities in developing countries, which are currently absorbing most of the world's urban population growth.

›› Link to the document

UNCDF launches regional consultations on municipal finance

UNCDF, in collaboration with the Financing for Development Office of UNDESA and the Government of Tanzania, launched a global series of expert group consultations on municipal finance in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 29 February - 1 March, 2016. This first meeting in Dar es Salaam focused on local finance challenges in African LDCs.

›› For more information please click here

Implementing decentralization in rural Cambodia's healthcare functions

UNCDF has completed the "Promoting Local Development through Decentralized Health Service Delivery" project in Cambodia, with the funding and support of the Australian DFAT. The project was aimed at supporting the Cambodian Government to improve responsiveness, accountability and budget execution efficiency in planning, financing and delivery of local public health functions. Thus, the project's goal was to promote decentralisation and deconcentration reform and reduce poverty in Cambodia.

›› For more information please click here

Competitive cities: A local solution to a global lack of growth and jobs

Growth of private sector jobs accounted for around 75 percent of job creation in cities worldwide. This report argues that city leaders need to know how to attract, retain, and expand the private sector. It analyses what makes cities competitive and how more cities can grow their economies.

›› For more information please click here

›› Link to the document

▪ Info, Links, Downloads

Habitat III Process

Habitat III Policy Papers now online

The ten Policy Papers submitted by the Habitat III Policy Units on 29 February 2016 are now available online. These ten papers are considered official inputs to the Habitat III process and the NUA.
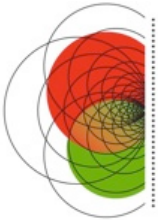
›› Link to the Policy Papers

The UN approves a wide local and regional participation in Habitat III

In December, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the rules of procedure and participation for Habitat III, the Third Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

to be held in Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October, 2016. One of the major developments was the Member States' resolution to increase the participation of local and regional authorities as well as civil society in the conference.

›› For more information please click here

Decentralisation key to the New Urban Agenda

In February, 2016, UCLG hosted the 2nd Expert Group Meeting of the Habitat III Policy Unit 4 on Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development in Barcelona. The practitioners from the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments as well as the experts from Policy Unit 4 agreed that the NUA will need to address the new situations resulting from rapid urbanisation as well as the increasing detachment of governance systems from citizens. Both groups also called for decentralisation and local democracy to be at the core of the Quito outcomes.

›› For more information please click here

Designing the New Urban Agenda: Lessons from international agreements

In the process of drafting the NUA, three questions regarding its form and function are crucial. The first considers the broader framing: will the NUA reflect a clear vision on urbanisation and sustainable urban development, and if so, how? Second, what are the specific goals and desired impact of the NUA? What responses and actions should it trigger, and from whom? And third, what should the structure and contents of the NUA be and how will it be linked to other international agreements? This adelphi report addresses these questions.

›› Download the paper here

For more information on the official events on the Habitat III roadmap, please click on the Links below:

›› Habitat III Regional Meeting: Europe & North America, Prague, Czech Republic, 16-18 March

›› Habitat III Thematic Meeting: Public Spaces, Barcelona, Spain, 4-5 April

›› Habitat III Thematic Meeting: Informal Settlements, Pretoria, South Africa, 7-8 April

›› PrepCom3, Surabaya, Indonesia, 25-27 July

Other upcoming events

›› VII World Regional Governments Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 14-15 April

›› 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns, Bilbao, Spain, 27-29 April

Gender equality in local governments

International Women's Day

On 8 March, the world celebrated the International Women's Day. This year's theme was "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for gender equality".

To celebrate this day, let us focus on gender equality in local governments.

Read more about:

›› Australia: Push for gender balance in councils

›› Bangladesh: Women farmers work with local government

›› Canada: FCM's programme to diversify women in leadership

›› India: Bill to increase reservation for women in local bodies to 50%

›› Pakistan: First women DC in Abbottabad

›› Sri Lanka: Bill to boost women's participation

Localising SDGs

Where are the local indicators for the SDGs?

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets agreed, now there is a need to work out how to measure and monitor progress. As discussions on the SDG indicators are under way in New York, David Satterthwaite asks where are the indicators that report on local needs and support local action in urban areas.

›› For more information please click here

Decentralisation in Ukraine

EU announces more than €100 million for Ukraine to support decentralisation reform and re-enforcement of local governance

On 7 December, 2015, the European Commission declared that it had adopted a complex set of activities in support of decentralisation and to strengthen local self-government in Ukraine. A €97 million programme, jointly funded by the EU (€90m), Germany (€6m) and Poland (€1m), is to strengthen governance and accountability at local, regional and central levels in order to better respond to the needs of the population. The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace will contribute an additional €10 million for the restoration of governance, peacebuilding and reconciliation in the eastern part of Ukraine which has been most affected by war and displacement.

›› For more information please click here

Law on the specifics of state registration of local self-government bodies has become effective

On 13 January, 2016, the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Specifics of State Registration of Local Self-Government Bodies as Legal Entities" has become

effective. Hennadii Zubko, Vice Prime Minister as well as Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing of Ukraine, argued that "[t]his law creates necessary conditions for the newly established consolidated territorial communities to operate effectively."

›› For more information please click here

▪ Courses

The Hague Academy for Local Governance

›› Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance

Date: 23rd May – 3rd June 2016
Apply by: 25th March 2016
Place: The Hague, Netherlands

This course discusses basic principles of good governance, accountability and civil participation. Participants will explore possibilities to engage citizens in the policy and decision making process with a special focus on marginalised groups. They will discuss the participation ladder, the accountability chain, do's and don'ts in participation processes and the role of the media.

This training is designed for professionals working for a municipal, provincial or national government, a donor organisation or NGO and who are involved in participation and accountability.

Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

›› 27th Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution

Date: 22nd August – 9th September 2016
Apply by: 31st March 2016
Place: Fribourg, Switzerland

During this three-week Summer University participants will learn about federalism, decentralisation and other forms of power sharing, in particular with regard to the chances it offers, the limits it faces, challenges in implementation and the preconditions for the resolution of conflicts.

The programme is aimed at advanced students (holding a bachelor's degree) in law, political science, economics, history, journalism or related social sciences as well as young professionals, academics and researchers.

Swisspeace

›› Conflict Sensitivity Training

Date: 27th – 29th April 2016
Apply by: 31st March 2016
Place: Basel, Switzerland

External interventions in volatile environments need to be sensitive to the context to have a positive impact. Working in potentially quickly changing contexts requires organisations and programmes to be adaptive and flexible. This training focuses on the concept and aim of conflict sensitivity as well as practical tools for applying conflict sensitivity in strategic and operational aspects of programme management.

The training is designed for peacebuilding, development and humanitarian practitioners and academics interested in bridging theory and concepts with practical knowledge, good practices and lessons learned from field-based application of conflict sensitivity.

›› Dealing with the Past: Theory & Practice

Date: 9th – 13th April 2016
Apply by: 31st March 2016
Place: Basel, Switzerland

Finding a way to deal with a country's violent past is often argued to be the basis for lasting peace, democracy and rule of law. International advocacy networks, norms and legal frameworks support national and local actors in the design of processes and mechanisms such as truth commissions, tribunals or commemorations. This course focuses on the potentials and challenges of designing and implementing a process to deal with the past, and the ways in which actors can work together to ensure effective policy decision-making.

It is designed for practitioners and academics interested in bringing together their own experiences with current conceptual insights and practical knowledge on dealing with the past.

Duke Center for International Development

›› Fiscal Decentralization & Local Government Financial Management

Date: 10th July- 29th July 2016
Apply by: 10th June 2016
Place: Durham N.C., USA

Decentralisation reform strategies are being implemented to improve service delivery, economic governance and citizen participation. This comprehensive three-week programme is designed to better enable professionals to develop and implement decentralisation policy reforms to improve local public financial management and stimulate efficient and accountable economic and social development.

This course is open to individuals working professionally in finance, economics, law, government administration or other related fields.

▪ Studies

Decentralisation and local governance

Decentralization in Ethiopia - Who benefits?

Chaurey, R. and Mukim, M. (2015)

This paper shows that greater autonomy to cities in Ethiopia, given through a process of city proclamations, led to better economic outcomes at the city level, lowering regional spatial inequalities. Further, it concludes that these newly empowered cities did not misuse their new powers by favouring particular companies over others. According to this paper, increasing administrative powers played an important part in making Ethiopian cities more competitive.

›› Download paper here

Assessing the institutional environment of local governments in Africa

UCLG Africa and Cities Alliance (2015)

This report on the enabling institutional environment for cities and local authorities follows up on the first edition, which was published in 2013. It updates the previous country ratings and analyses changes that took place in the institutional environment for cities and local authorities between 2012 and 2015, in particular in countries where major changes in the institutional environment for local government have occurred, notably Burkina Faso, DRC, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

›› Download the report here

›› Download the version française here

Fiscal decentralisation

Taxation, livelihoods, governance: Evidence from Nepal

Mallet, R., Acharya, G., Sturge, G. and Uprety, P.; SLRC and ODI (2016)

The authors of this report surveyed more than 1,000 households across two Nepalese districs, asking people about their livelihoods, experiences with taxation, and relationships with government. The results show that most households pay a marginal amount of tax, particularly in terms of formal taxes to the government. But while taxes may be low, qualitative research suggests that people continue to pay in other ways. The central argument of the report is that ultimately it is not the number of taxes or the amount paid that matters, but the terms of the bargain.

›› Download the paper here

Gender

Gender roles and opportunities for women in urban environments

Pozarny, P. F.; GSDRC (2016)

This literature review focuses on a variety of urban issues and their impacts on gender roles, particularly women's economic empowerment. Further, the paper compares these issues and findings to rural settings. It specifically examines issues such as care responsibilities, access to employment opportunities, power, decision-making, the use of earnings and gender-based violence. It also flags other relevant issues as appropriate.

›› Download the paper here

Women, leadership and development: From SDG 5 to Habitat III

UCLG (2016)

This publication was presented at the 3rd Latin-American Summit of Local Agendas for Gender Equality: "Women and the City", celebrated in Santiago, Chile, from 18-21 January,

2016. The report explores the role that gender equality at the local level will play into the achievement of the major international development and sustainability agendas. It also summarises the main conclusions of the session on "Women, Leadership and Development", held in Paris on 6 December, 2015, in the framework of the UCLG World Council and the COP 21.

›› Download the paper here

Land tenure

Formalising land rights in developing countries: moving from past controversies to future strategies

'Land Tenure and Development' Technical Committee (2015)

This paper draws on the research findings and work undertaken by members of the 'Land Tenure and Development' Technical Committee and its partners. It highlights the political issues involved in formalising land rights, identifies the conditions for successful, sustainable and inclusive formalisation policies, and proposes possible courses of action that policy actors and their partners can use to enhance their procedures and strategies. Further, the report emphasises the role of local governments in the processes of formalising land rights as well as the importance of decentralised land tenure management measures.

›› Download the paper here

Development Effectiveness

Stepping up? Best practice in joint programming and prospects for EU joint cooperation strategies

Helly, D., Galeazzi, G., Parshotam, A., Gregersen, C., Kokolo, W. and Sherriff, A.; ecdpm (2015)

This paper argues that Joint Programming (JP) and its outcomes, such as Joint Programming Strategies, have the potential to improve development effectiveness and give the EU and its Member States a more effective say in international cooperation. However, a more systematic adoption and application of JP is needed.

›› Download the paper here

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