Dear Reader,

Welcome to the new issue of the DeLoG newsletter with the latest activities and news of the network, upcoming events as well as courses and recent publications. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Your DeLoG Team

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DeLoG Activities

Exploring New Partnerships for Sustainable Local Economic Development: DeLoG at the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development

The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development took place from 17th to 20th October in Praia, Cape Verde. Over 2800 participants from around 85 countries contributed to the forum and discussed opportunities and challenges of local economic development (LED) as a vehicle towards more sustainable, inclusive and equal societies. DeLoG, together with UNCDF and FMDV, successfully organised an interactive panel to discuss innovative financing mechanisms and the need for new partnerships for transformative LED.
Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace

The DeLoG Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace will take place from 22-25 January 2018 in Brussels. It will provide insights on the nexus between local governance and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Registrations are open until the 20th of November 2017. Please click here, if you wish to apply.

News from our Members

Urban GLASS - supporting local governments on transparency, accountability and fighting corruption

Urban GLASS is an initiative of UN-Habitat and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP). It supports local government in preventing and fighting corruption in urban management by promoting transparent, accountable and open cities. This autumn, the project will be specially active by supporting the first ever UCLG Delegation to the UN Anti-corruption Convention that will take place in Vienna on November 9th, where a side event will be dedicated to 'Fighting corruption in cities: identifying risks and reacting on time, the role of local governments' co-organized with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Association of Austrian Municipalities and Towns.

First regional Atlas of the IIRS region of the Local Cross-Border Initiatives

Building on local and national government data, field work and interviews with local stakeholders, the UNCDF Local Cross-Border Initiative (LoBI) has just published its first regional cartography of the Sahel regional integration initiative (IIRSahel) region with the financial support of UNDP Niger. The information contained in the Atlas makes it an ideal tool to support informed decision-making at the local level whilst
facilitating a shared understanding of the resource potential that exist in the cross-border area between the countries selected.

New World Bank - UNHCR joint data center to improve global statistics on forced displacement

The World Bank Group (WBG) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are joining forces to establish a joint data center on forced displacement to greatly improve statistics on refugees, other displaced people and host communities. The new center enables a better informed and more sustainable response to forced displacement, underpinning a coordinated humanitarian-development approach.

Video: Crops and Cows – Peace Building and Cattle Migration Management in South Sudan by VNG International

Since 2014, VNG International has been supporting local government and communities in a locally-initiated process to regulate cattle migration, an important source of conflict between communities in South Sudan. In 2017, VNG produced a documentary showcasing the process and the main results so far. These results include increased trust and understanding between farmer and cattle keeper communities as well as between communities and local government, leading to reduced (violent) conflict between communities.

High Level Meeting on New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat

Mechanisms for implementing the New Urban Agenda were the focus of discussion on 5-6 September 2017 at a High Level Meeting at the United Nations in New York. On 1 August 2017, the High Level Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat has already published a report, which served as a recommendation for a formal role for local government after the New Urban Agenda has been adopted. The New Urban Agenda, which was agreed upon at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, provides a set of principles for integrated sustainable urban and territorial development. It is now undergoing a two-year process to decide on further mechanisms for its follow-up and review.
The local voice in the SDGs review process

Two reports have been recently released, which both are focusing on the importance of further involving local authorities in national and international efforts on the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs. The Global Taskforce’s report on ‘National and sub-national governments on the way towards localization of the SDGs’ (here) is facilitated by UCLG and analyses 63 VNRs from the perspective of sub-national government. In a second publication on ‘SDGs at the Subnational Level: Regional Governments in the Voluntary National Reviews’ (here) nrg4SD and ORU Fogar highlight as well the importance of involving local authorities in the implementation of the SDGs.

How to build urban climate resilience: A simple methodology for local governments

ICLEI South Asia and ICLEI Oceania, with support of Rockefeller Foundation under the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) program, developed the ICLEI ACCCRN Process (IAP) toolkit, which assists local governments in developing a City Resilience Strategy. It builds on information and learning acquired from models, approaches and best practices of building climate resilience used in the first phase of ACCCRN program in 10 pilot cities from India, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. It was tested in three Indian cities, and modified to its final form of a streamlined and replicable process that cities can implement with the minimum possible external support. For more information, you can visit City Talk - a blog by ICLEI.

Stronger Cities Initiative

Urban crises challenge the traditional ways of working for humanitarian organisations. The International Rescue Committee (IRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and World Vision worked together to develop a suite of tools and practical guidance notes called the Urban Crises Learning Fund, aimed at building the capacity of local and international humanitarian actors to implement effective urban humanitarian responses.

Policy transfer platform: case studies from cities around the world

The Policy Transfer Platform is a tool created by the City of Berlin and supported by Metropolis and other partners to showcase innovative projects taking place in cities across
the world. It aims to build a global resource for urban practitioners and researchers who can learn from examples in other cities to improve their own city.

Localizing the SDGs in Colombia, Indonesia and Kenya

What have Colombia, Indonesia and Kenya accomplished in the past two years at the local level? The World Bank’s Blog on Sustainable Cities provides some answers. In their article, Mahmoud Mohieldin and Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez refer to these three country examples and explain, why strong commitment from national governments toward localizing the implementation of their development plans is needed.

What is Decentralized Development Cooperation?

According to a study of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the volume of decentralized development cooperation grew by 12 percent in real terms between 2005 and 2015. As there is no common definition to this process, the OECD is trying to come up with a cluster of cities or region that have a common vision of what decentralized cooperation is. An interview between Aziza Akhmouch, head of unit at the OECD’s Sustainable Development Goals, water, local public services, and regional development policy division and devex gives a good insight into the discussion.

International Conferences

The 9th World Urban Forum

When: 7-13 February 2018
Where: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The theme of the 9th World Urban Forum will be ‘Cities 2030, Cities for All: Implementing the New Urban Agenda’. The Forum will also contribute to global mobilization towards advocating for the common vision on sustainable urban development in advancing on the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders at COP23

**When:** 12 November 2017  
**Where:** Bonn, Germany

It’s not long to the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders at COP 23. Taking place on 12 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany, the Summit will be the focal point for local and regional governments at COP 23. Also, throughout the two weeks of the COP 23, you can visit the Cities & Regions Pavilion offering a space for exchanges and partnership building.

›› For more information, please click here

Commonwealth Local Government Conference

**When:** 21-25 November 2017  
**Where:** Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, Malta

The Commonwealth Local Government Conference is CLGF’s flagship event, held every two years in different regions of the Commonwealth. The theme of the 2017 conference is ‘Fit for the future: capacity and resources for effective local government’. The conference brings together some 500-600 top local government policy makers, practitioners and other key stakeholders.

›› For more information, please click here

The 9th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

**When:** 26 - 28 April 2018  
**Where:** Bonn, Germany

The call for contributions for the 2018 congress is now open and welcomes proposals for various formats, including presentations, panels, workshops, and debates. Submissions are due by November 17, 2017. Congress themes also include current and pressing issues such as ecosystem-based adaptation, managing climate-related health risks, data and ICT resilience, and evidence-based adaptation planning.

›› For more information, please click here
Global Conference on Cities and Migration

When: 16-17 November 2017
Where: Mechelen, Belgium

The Belgian government and the city of Mechelen will host a Global Conference on Cities and Migrants, together with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN Habitat and the Global Network of Cities, Local and Regional Governments (UCLG) as institutional partners. The conference aims at facilitating key decision makers’ views on actionable recommendations on cooperation for migration governance and local and national levels in follow-up to Habitat III and as input to the stocktaking meeting for the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration, hosted by the Government of Mexico in December 2017.

For more information, please click here

From cities in crisis to crises in cities: towards a collaborative urban humanitarian response

When: 15-16 November 2017
Where: Central London, England

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are organising a major international conference on how best to respond to crises in urban areas. The event ‘From cities in crisis to crises in cities: towards a collaborative urban humanitarian response’ will report on the findings of a three-year project designed to improve knowledge and practice in responding to crises in urban settings, funded by the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID).

For more information, please click here

Courses

Learn4Dev

Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace (info)
Where: Brussels, Premises of the European Commission  
When: 22-25 January 2018  
Apply by: 20 November 2017

**The Hague Academy**

**Fiscal Decentralisation and Local Finance** ([info](#))  
Where: The Hague  
When: 12 -23 February 2018  
Apply by: 1 January 2018

**Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance** ([info](#))  
Where: The Hague  
When: 5-16 March 2018  
Apply by: 22 January 2018

Please remember to mention in your application that you apply through our newsletter for a 10% discount on the course fee.

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### Other Studies and Publications

#### Decentralisation and Local Governance

**Making Decentralisation Work in Chile: Towards Stronger Municipalities**

OECD, 2017  
This report examines the multi-level governance framework in Chile. It provides a diagnosis of the strengths and challenges of the Chilean multi-level governance system and includes comparative data and a set of benchmarks to promote the exchange of good practices and foster learning. It offers recommendations on how to further improve the system, with a particular focus on strengthening and modernising municipalities in the context of Chile’s decentralisation reforms.

» Read more

#### Political economy analysis

**Socio-Political and Administrative Determinants of Municipal Revenue Performance: Insights from Mozambique**
Mobilisation of municipal revenue is a relevant topic for development from a fiscal point of view but also from a broader governance perspective. This paper summarises the insights gained in a study on how administrative and socio-political variables at the local level affect the revenue performance of Mozambican municipalities. Thereby, the paper contribute to an evolving literature highlighting the relevance of local factors in explaining local revenue mobilisation.

Urban and Territorial Governance

Trends in Urban Resilience 2017

UN-Habitat, 2017

The publication’s purpose is to account for the unprecedented global momentum for resilience in the post-MDGs framework, building from an urban standpoint: inquiring the trends that drive the theory, investigating how these were gradually incorporated in development agendas, mapping the diverse landscape of actors involved, and analysing how this perspective shift can be translated into forward-looking urban policies and practices.

Urban Networks – Rethinking the city

Complexity Labs, 2017

This paper deals with the analysis of this current situation as it unfolds and asks the question what approach or set of solutions would be appropriate for meeting the growing challenges and demands of a world that is rapidly urbanizing. How can we expand our understanding of the rise of urban networks to rethink the city?

Complexity Labs is an e-Learning site dedicated to the area of systems thinking and complexity theory.

Implementing the new Urban Agenda by strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages

UN-Habitat, 2017

This publication on Urban-Rural Linkages argues that the discourse on urbanization must depart from the traditional and outdated dichotomy of urban and rural; in order for urban and rural areas to be sustainable they must develop in tandem, inequalities must be reduced and the development gap bridged. Urban and rural spaces are inextricably linked economically,
socially and environmentally and cannot be adequately dealt with in isolation from one another.

Local Finance

Explainer: How to finance urban infrastructure

C40 Cities Finance Facility, 2017

This explainer gives recommendations to city governments around the world to understand the range of options they have to raise resources to finance their infrastructure projects and to fund their operation and maintenance.

Citizen Engagement

Open Data and Citizen Engagement, Philippines - Voice or Chatter?

IT for Change, 2017

This case study is the outcome of a collaboration between IT for Change and the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), Philippines under a research project titled 'Voice or Chatter?’. It explores the introduction and implementation of open data by the Government of the Philippines and focuses on the key policy, technology, data, and public engagement components of the Open Data Plane (ODP) implementation.

Climate Change

Smallholder farming systems in coastal Kenya: Key trends and innovations for resilience

IIED, 2017

Smallholder farmers in coastal Kenya are already significantly affected by climate change, particularly in semi-arid and dryland areas. They have developed a number of innovations to enhance resilience and productivity, eg. crop diversification using resilient local varieties, new planting techniques and wild tree domestication. This report explores key trends in climate, livelihoods, food security, crop diversity and social capital in five Mijikenda communities, as well as traditional knowledge-based innovations to address climatic and
socioeconomic challenges. It presents findings from the Smallholder Innovation for Resilience project (SIFOR).

Resilient Cities Report 2017 – Tracking local progress on the resilience targets of SDG 11

ICLEI, 2017

The report ‘Tracking local progress on resilience targets of SDG 11’ reflects the outcomes of the Resilient Cities 2017 congress that took place in Bonn, Germany in July 2017. It captures broader developments in the field of urban resilience and climate adaptation. The report features case studies from around the world, highlights newly available tools and solutions, and provides an overview of the state of urban resilience globally by exploring new directions and innovations in the field.