DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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.

"In profile" we feature Jochen Mattern, the former DeLoG project coorindator. Jochen's successor as new project coordinator is Christoph Jansen who has joined the team of the DeLoG Secretariat last month.

Your DeLoG Team
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DeLoG Activities

DeLoG at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in Valetta, Malta

The CLGF Conference 2017 took place from 21-24 November 2017 in Valetta, Malta. The conference brought together around 400 local government policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders. Under the theme *'Fit for the future: resources and capacity for effective local government'*, participants discussed innovative ways to build resources and capacity. The DeLoG secretariat facilitated a working session on 'Enabling local government to meet agenda 2030: inter-governmental cooperation and fiscal decentralisation'.

In Profile – Jochen Mattern - Former project coordinator of the DeLoG secretariat

Jochen Mattern is the former project coordinator of the DeLoG secretariat. For more than 15 years, he has been working in the field of international development with a special focus on Decentralisation and Local Governance. Amongst others, he worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guatemala and Zimbabwe. In 2010, Jochen took over the position as coordinator of the DeLoG secretariat. Jochen left this position recently, but he will continue working with GIZ and is currently heading the sector project forced displacement.

In this interview, Jochen Mattern provides an insight into his experiences, motivation and wishes for the DeLoG network.

›› Read the interview here

News from our Members

Sweden's new global strategy on sustainable peace

Since August 2017 Sweden has a new **global strategy on sustainable peace** for 2017-2022, replacing the previous strategy for global action for human security for the years 2014 to 2017. It encompasses both support at the global level, national and local support during critical stages of the prevention of armed conflicts, and in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes.
This article of ecdpm gives insights about how Sweden's commitment to support peacebuilding has evolved.

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Localising the Implementation of the SDGs

The author Achim Steiner shows the perspective of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For UNDP, localising the SDGs means making the aspirations of the SDGs real to communities, households and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of falling behind. To reach this, five essential drivers of transformational change need to be considered: (i) sensitization and engagement of local actors, (ii) accountability mechanisms, (iii) participatory planning and service delivery, (iv) local economic development, and (v) partnerships.

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Publication of ADB: Central and Local Government Relations in Asia: Achieving Fiscal Sustainability

The book's expert contributors Naoyuki Yoshino and Peter J. Morgan assess the current state of the allocation of expenditures and revenues between central and local governments in emerging Asian economies and discuss their major strengths and weaknesses. They also present relevant case studies of experiences and reform measures related to strengthening and monitoring local government finance, including the implications of expanded fiscal capacity for infrastructure investment and other public spending.

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New tool for the implementation of the NUA in Cuba

A 'Tool for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda' (NUA) in Cuba was recently unveiled in Havana, Cuba. The tool indicates the next steps to be taken, focusing on the implementation of the proposed policies. It was developed within the framework of the project *'Support for sustainable urban development programs in Latin America and Central America: Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba'.*

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World Bank Group Report Focuses on Governance and Accountability

The report *'Governance and The World Bank Group: Year in Review 2017: Foundations and Frontiers'* provides an overview of the work carried out by the Bank in 2017 to help countries build public institutions that are capable, efficient, open, inclusive and accountable. This work on public institutions includes efforts to mobilize revenues to meet the SDGs, to involve citizens in budget planning, to reduce corruption, and to strengthen evaluation and accountability.

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Info, News, Links, Downloads

Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project

On 12 and 13 December 2017 the 7th peer to peer meeting of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM) project on *'Inter-institutional coordination in migration governance: Towards improved cooperation'* took place in Lyon, France. MC2CM brings together experts and cities to contribute to improved migration governance at city level, including migrants' access to basic services and human rights. The 7th peer to peer meeting

focused on governance. It dealt with opportunities and limitations of being part of a government, meaning local, inter-municipal, regional or national.

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UCLG World Council

From 6 to 9 December 2017, the City of Hangzhou, China, hosted the UCLG World Council. The meetings gathered more than 400 participants and were held back-to-back with the Forum on Smart City and Big Data. Besides sessions on *Right to the city*, *Multilevel Governance* and *Resilient Cities*, a session on localising the SDGs took place. It provided updates on the SDG localisation process and presented the four main pillars of UCLG action for localisation: advocacy, monitoring and reporting, learning, and the UCLG Local4Action Hub - an innovative initiative that aims to turn the 2030 Agenda into local actions.

›› For more information, please click here

The Fifth African Union - European Union Summit

The fifth African Union - European Union (AU-EU) summit took place on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The AU-EU summit brought together EU and African leaders to define the future direction for cooperation between the two continents. They adopted a joint declaration outlining common priorities for the EU-Africa partnership.

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The Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders to Deliver the Paris Agreement At All Levels

In order to signal their commitments, their actions and intention to work in partnership with all levels of government, hundreds of local and regional leaders adopted the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders at the *'Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders'* during the COP23 in Bonn.

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A real national to local conversation on climate governance

The 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn came to a close on 18 November 2017. A common message coming from the local level was that without effective collaboration, national governments run the risk of making decisions that are detached from local issues and the real difficulties of implementing climate projects. The Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique,

shared strong views on the need to scale up climate action and on the need for effective multi-level governance between all levels of governments.

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Launch of the Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment, a partnership between the OECD and UCLG

 On 17 November 2017, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) co-chaired together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the first **Steering Committee of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment**. The purpose of the Observatory is to collect data and provide analyses on finance and the institutional setting of subnational governments in the different regions of the world, in order to better understand their contribution to sustainable development policies.

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Cities for the right to housing

Local and regional leaders and housing policy experts met in Barcelona from 2-3 November 2017 to reaffirm their commitment to **housing as a human right** and share experiences on making it a reality. The meeting *'Cities for the Right to Housing'* was hosted by United Cities and Local Governemnts (UCLG) Co-President and Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau and the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CISDP). It was held in the framework of UCLG's *'wave of action'* on housing for 2017-2018.

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International Conferences

5th Open European Day at Bonn Resilient Cities 2018

Where: Bonn, Germany
When: 25 April 2018

The Open European Day (OED) will be held for the fifth edition back-to-back with the Bonn Resilient Cities conference on 25th April 2018. European cities and key adaptation voices from different institutions will converge at the 5th OED to exchange and debate the most pressing issues around climate adaptation and urban resilience.

›› For more information, please click here

ICLEI World Congress 2018

Where: Montréal, Canada
When:19-22 June 2018

Held every three years, the *ICLEI World Congress*
assembles hundreds of local and regional governments,
international agencies, national governments, donors and
other partners from around the world. Together they set
the course for **globalising urban sustainability**. During the congress, cities, towns and
regions connect with peers, foster partnerships and exchange information and experiences.

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Courses

The Hague Academy

Fiscal Decentralisation and Local Finance (info)
Where: The Hague, Netherlands
When: 12-23 February 2018
Apply by: 19 January 2018

Citizen Participation and Inclusive Governance (info)
Where: The Hague, Netherlands
When: 5-16 March 2018
Apply by: 22 January 2018

Integrity and Anti-corruption (info)
Where: The Hague, Netherlands
When: 9-20 April 2018
Apply by: 23 February 2018

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

Swisspeace

Preventing Violent Conflicts Course (info)
Where: Basel, Switzerland
When: 2-4 May 2018
Apply by: 28 February 2018

Conflict Sensitivity Training (info)
Where: Basel, Switzerland
When: 6-8 June 2018
Apply by: 31 March 2018

United Nations Systems Staff College

Decentralized Governance and Peacebuildung (info)
Where: Online
When: 26 February-16 March
Enrolment until: 26 February

Studies and Publications

Urban and Territorial Governance

Building Sustainable Cities of the Future

Bishop, Justin (Research Associate in Transport Analysis) (2017)

This book explores the challenge of building sustainable cities of the future by considering current cities and those of the near future. Individual chapters cover topics such as transport, energy supply, sustainable urbanism and promoting social equality in large infrastructure projects. Real-world examples are presented to illustrate how systems thinking is used to integrate different components of a city so as to ensure that the whole is more sustainable than its parts.

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Migration

Migration and Its Impact on Cities

World Economic Forum (2017)

This report attempts to highlight the different types and causes of migration in the world today. It captures migration stories from 22 of the most affected cities around the world. The report also presents a high level framework to achieve long term migrant integration and in delivering urban infrastructure and services efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of migrants.

›› For more information, please click here

Local Finance

Turning up the volume: Financial aggregation for off-grid energy

International Institute for Environment and Development (2017)

This paper explores the benefits and challenges of financial aggregation for off-grid energy through five case studies, highlighting lessons learned as well as the need for further experimentation in this growing sector. Decentralised renewable energy finance comes with higher actual and perceived risk, increasing its costs.This includes market barriers, such as countries with significant off-grid populations having low scores on ease of doing business. Aggregating finance can overcome some of these challenges, reducing both risk and the cost of finance and tackling market barriers.

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Webversion Newsletter No. 37, January 2018