DECENTRALISATION &
LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dear Reader,

welcome to 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 recent publications.

We would like to draw your attention especially to the tutored E-Learning course on 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance', taking place from May 7 to July 7, 2018. The methodology of the course is designed to include self-paced content study and activities such as individual assignments, peer-to-peer consultation and webinars. There will be a tutor to guide participants through the course and to provide general support as well as a DLG expert for providing thematic expertise. Registration is still open until April 8.

Furthermore, this issue contains a review on DeLoG's Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace as well as a brief report on the DeLoG networking event at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur.

All the best and Happy Easter!
Your DeLoG Team

DeLoG Activities

Tutored E-learning Course on 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance'

When: May 7 - July 7, 2018

Apply by: April 8, 2018

DeLoG's next E-learning Course on Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance will take place from May 7 to July 7, 2018.

The course will cover the following topics: An Introduction to decentralisation, local governance and aid/development effectiveness, political decentralisation and political economy analysis, administrative decentralisation, fiscal decentralisation, linkages between decentralisation and sector support, designing coherent support strategies, including in fragile contexts, and monitoring change.

›› For more information, please click here

DeLoG Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace

The nexus between local governance and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings was addressed during DeLoG's joint learning event on 'Local Governance and Sustaining Peace', organised by DeLoG under the lead of UNDP, UNICEF and UNCDF. The event took place from 22 to 25 January 2018 in Brussels on the premises of the European Commission. 34 selected professionals from 12 DeLoG member organisations and over 20 countries, based in both headquarters and the field, came together to learn and discuss their work on local governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

›› For more information, please click here

DeLoG at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur

On February 10, DeLoG hosted a networking event at the 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) on "Localising the Sustainable Development Goals by implementing the New Urban Agenda: A call for decentralised governmental and administrative structures". More than 60 participants took part and discussed opportunities and approaches for strengthening multi-level governance frameworks that empower cities and municipalities to implement the New Urban Agenda and localise the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

›› For more information, please click here

News from our Members and Partners

E-Discussion on the 2018 ECOSOC Theme: "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities"

GlobalDev Hub

When: 26 March - 6 April, 2018

GlobalDev Hub welcomes you to the 2018 ECOSOC e-Discussion, this year focusing on the 2018 ECOSOC theme "From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities."

To take this discussion forward, the following two questions were proposed:

- What are the current and emerging challenges to building sustainable and resilient societies and what actions can be taken, especially at the local level to address these challenges?

- How are national and subnational institutions translating the sustainable development goals into concrete actions? What institutional frameworks for sustainable development are required, and how can they be built?

All participants are encouraged to share concrete national and subnational examples, lessons learned and experiences to feed into policy recommendations and guidance for the 2018 ECOSOC substantive session and beyond.

›› For more information, please click here

Launch of the III Regional Best Practices Awards

The United Regions Organization (ORU Fogar) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have announced the launch of the III Regional Good Practices Award. The Regional Good Practices Award is a competition awarding the best practices implemented by regional governments that have had positive effects in their public management.The contest targets regions, provinces and federal states that wish to strongly contribute – locally and internationally – to better service delivery for all citizens and thus achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) locally.

Best practices can be submitted in English, French and Spanish until May 31, 2018.

›› For more information, please click here

Uraía Platform 2018: Smart technology and citizen empowerment

Uraía, an initiative led by the Local government and decentralization Unit of UN-Habitat and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), is a platform for exchange on the possibilities offered by smart technologies to innovate local public management. The platform supports local governments in their effort to improve local finances, reduce the costs of public services and reinforce transparency and accountability by opening new channels of communication with the citizens.

This year Uraía will host two workshops: The Citizenship workshop in Brussels (30-31 May) aims to discuss the power of data for the delivery of public services, as well as its impacts for the improvement of citizens' lives. The following Chicago City Solutions event (11-12 July) constitutes the first one of a series of events, dealing with an in-depth examination of city experiences and a presentation of flagship projects. The series also provides a platform for sharing experiences with regard to public administration.

›› For more information, please click here

New ICLD training on Gender Mainstreaming Local Democracy

The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) put a great effort into redesigning their international training programme on "Gender Mainstreaming Local Democracy". The course is designed for participants who will act as mentors over an 18-months long period in their respective living environments. In its 7th edition, the regional focus was shifted from Asia, via eastern Europe, to Africa.

›› For more information, please click here

Info, News, Links, Downloads

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

During the 9th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9), a delegation of over 200 representatives of local and regional governments gathered at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments to evaluate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UCLG Secretary General Emilia Saiz and UCLG-ASPAC Secretary General Bernadia Irawati introduced the first session. Saiz recalled the importance of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda and commented on the role of local and regional governments as the guardians of the Habitat III Agenda and those who can best monitor its implementation. Bernadia Irawati addressed the rapid urbanization of the Asia-Pacific region and the need for the voice of local governments to be heard in an ever-changing environment.

›› For more information, please click here

Data For All (DFA) Initiative

The Community Systems Foundation (CSF) has developed and supports the implementation of solutions to strengthen SDG monitoring and reporting through the Data For All Initiative (DFA). As the 2030 Agenda has moved to a broader and more ambitious set of goals, targets, and indicators, CSF is supporting a transition at national, state and local levels. DFA will help governing bodies broaden the scope for management of disaggregated data, and help to ensure that the data collected are put to good use by decision-makers.
Here, you can find a brochure on the Initiative and a link to the approach to the transition towards SDG monitoring.

›› For more information, please click here

Localising the SDGs – good practices

In order to create support for the SDGs and for localising them, awareness raising is essential. To strengthen knowledge about the SDGs and make them more visible, inspiring and creative ways to raise awareness amongst municipal personnel and citizens have to be developed. Many Flemish local governments have already done so and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) has collected 50 of these examples in a publication, which is available in English and Dutch.

Another collection of good practices in localising the SDGs was done by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (ISSD) which organised a webinar on localising the SDGs in the North American context with a focus on examples from the sub-national context, such as British Columbia, Hawai'i, Winnipeg, and Baltimore. The initiatives participating in the webinar seek to stimulate and inspire progress at the local level by localising the SDGs. Different projects on how to deal with the implementation of the SDGs, the SDG targets and their indicators on the local level were presented. One of the lessons learned was that localising the SDGs has benefits for both the community and the global framework. Actors from local communities are now working to update and link their projects to SDG indicators which will help to streamline monitoring processes.

International Conferences

5th Open European Day at Bonn Resilient Cities 2018

When: 25 April, 2018
Where: Bonn, Germany

The Open European Day (OED) will be held for the fifth edition back-to-back with the Bonn Resilient Cities conference on 25 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

European Development Days

When: 5-6 June, 2018
Where: Brussels

At its twelfth edition, European Development Days (EDD) 2018 will aim at bringing together the European Union's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Gender equality and women empowerment are at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU's legal and political framework. This is why the event will focus on the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

›› For more information, please click here

ICLEI World Congress 2018

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

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.

›› For more information, please click here

Courses

The Hague Academy

Decentralisation and the SDGs (info)
Where: The Hague, Netherlands
When: 2-6 July, 2018
Apply by: 25 May, 2018

Sustaining Peace and Local Governance (info)
Where: The Hague, Netherlands
When: 9-13 July, 2018
Apply by: 25 May, 2018

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

Swisspeace

Dealing with the Past & Conflict Transformation (info)
Where: Basel, Switzerland
When: 10-14 September, 2018
Apply by: 30 June, 2018

Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course (info)
Where: Basel, Switzerland
When: 23-24 November, 2018
Apply by: 31 July, 2018

Studies and Publications

Local Governance and Decentralisation

Successfully promoting decentralisation: the potential of the multi-stakeholder approach

German Development Institute, (2018)

Sustainable Development Goal 17 assigns an important role to multi-stakeholder approaches in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Multi-stakeholder approaches aim to involve all stakeholders from politics, civil society and the private sector that are relevant for a reform process. In this publication, the advantages and impacts of a multi-stakeholder approach in decentralisation programmes are discussed. The paper argues that the multi-stakeholder approach supports the effectiveness as well as the sustainability of decentralisation and that the horizontal as well as vertical cooperation in the multi-level system is important when promoting decentralisation.

›› Read more

Decentralization and redistribution: irrigation reform in Pakistan's Indus basin

World Bank (2018)

This paper examines a governance reform in Pakistan's vast Indus Basin irrigation system and raises the question whether decentralising the allocation of public resources reduces rent-seeking and improves equity. Using canal discharge measurements across all of Punjab province, the analysis finds that water theft increased on channels taken over by local farmer organisations compared with channels that remained bureaucratically managed, leading to substantial wealth redistribution. The increase in water theft was greater along channels with larger landowners situated upstream. These findings are consistent with a model in which decentralisation accentuates the political power of local elites by shifting the arena in which water rights are contested.

›› Read more

Migration

Urban Governance of Forced displacement: Premises, requirements and challenges in the light of new humanitarian trends

German Development Institute/ Raumplanung (2017)

The paper offers a conceptual reflection on the institutional and operational conditions for (good) urban governance in light of forced displacement. It draws from the literature on urban governance of forced displacement and mobility, studies on urban refugees and related policy documents. A specific emphasis is placed on cities and municipalities in countries of the Global South, home to a large part of global refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).The authors describe two policy trends, which they describe as "local turn in humanitarian aid" and "local turn in migration and integration policies". They conclude that in order to meet the challenges in urban governance of forced displacement, it is necessary to

raise awareness for the local perspective on humanitarian aid, to place refugee and IDP policies higher on the political agenda, and to create new forms of inter-agency cooperation with development co-operations.

›› For more information, please click here

Local Finance

Making Blended Finance Work for the Sustainable Development Goals

OECD (2018)

Blended finance, an approach that mixes different forms of capital to support development, is emerging as a solution to help deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. This report of the OECD presents a comprehensive assessment of the state of blended finance and priorities for action to improve its implementation, drawing on surveys, case studies, interviews and desk research.

›› Read more

International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD) Brief 12: Central-Local Government Relationships in Property Taxation

International Centre for Tax and Development (2017)

ICTD's policy brief examines strengths and weaknesses of decentralised vs. centralised approaches for the collection and administration of property taxes. Furthermore, it analyses, which incentives the respective approaches contain for government authorities to gather taxes, as well as the political challenges that come about with a rearrangement of central-local relations. The policy brief advocates that the question on its own, of whether to centralise or decentralise the tax system, constitutes an oversimplified approach to the problem and states that since property taxation contains a multitude of distinct processes, the situation of taxes at the national or local level is highly context-dependent. Therefore ICTD first provides a list of general arguments for taxing property at a local versus central level, before delving into the key elements of property taxation in greater depth.

›› Read more

Decentralisation in a Globalised World – Consequences and Opportunities

OECD (2018)

This OECD working paper on decentralisation in a globalised world and fiscal federalism addresses the growing importance of information technology and knowledge-based production and the challenging problems they pose for federations. The authors summarise the difficulties that traditional decentralised federations face in addressing problems of competitiveness, innovation and inequality brought about by globalisation. Adapting to these challenges involves rethinking the roles of various levels of government and rebalancing them appropriately.

›› Read more

Improving the Performance of Sub-national Governments through Benchmarking and Performance Reporting

OECD (2018)

Performance systems are one tool available to central governments to improve the performance of sub-national service delivery. This paper provides a preliminary review of suitable metrics and mechanisms to reliably measure and monitor the efficiency and quality of public services that are provided by sub-national governments. This review aims to conceptualise the challenges associated with measuring public sector inputs, outputs and outcomes and implementing effective performance systems.

›› Read more

Insolvency Frameworks for Sub-national Governments

OECD (2018)

This paper identifies the benefits of setting up an insolvency framework for sub-national governments complementing existing budget rules and procedures. It analyses different design options of sub-national insolvency frameworks by drawing on existing regimes for municipalities in Colombia, Hungary, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States as well as proposals for sovereign bankruptcy procedures taken from the academic literature. The paper also explores the main challenges for implementing sub-national insolvency regimes and presents possible solutions.

›› Read more

DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Secretariat for the Development Partners
Network on Decentralisation & Local
Governance (DeLoG)

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36

53115 Bonn, Germany

info@delog.org

www.delog.org

Hosted by

GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für

Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

www.giz.de

Webversion Newsletter No. 38, March 2018

You have received this email because you have subscribed to Decentralisation & Local Governance as some@example.com. If you no longer wish to receive emails please unsubscribe