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 Ms. Amita Gill, Local Governance Specialist as well as DeLoG´s focal point at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Your DeLoG Team
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DeLoG Activities

DeLoG´s 12th Annual Meeting

From 16-18 May 2017, the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted DeLoG´s 12th Annual Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, which gathered around 40 representatives from over 20 member and partner organisations of the network to discuss and exchange about "Localising the SDGs: What Role for DeLoG?". Throughout the event, real time updates and key inputs have been captured through Storify, a blog-like platform where all presentations, synopses, videos and pictures of the Annual Meeting can be found. A detailed report of the meeting will soon be available online.

›› Read more

In Profile: Ms. Amita Gill, Local Governance Specialist, UNDP

Ms. **Amita Gill** is Local Governance Specialist in the Responsive and Accountable Institutions Team within the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster, at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as DeLoG´s focal point since 2013/2014. Given that UNDP is at the forefront of the "Localising the SDGs" process, in this interview Ms. Gill provides an insight into UNDP´s strategic partnership with DeLoG, as well as into UNDP´s strategy on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

›› Read the interview here

News from our Members

Localizing Global Agendas in Multilevel Governance Systems

The challenge of achieving policy coordination in multilevel and multisector settings is not a new one. This Governance Brief on *Localizing Global Agendas in Multilevel Governance Systems: The Benefits of Functional Assignment as Core Element of Decentralization Reforms*, of the **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) argues that achieving the objectives of the global agendas requires informed decisions and deliberate choices to design decentralized governance systems.

›› Read the publication here

Urban Finance as a game changer for the SDGs

This **United Nations Capital Development Fund** (UNCDF) publication provides an overview of the challenges Least Developed Countries (LDCs) face in financing sustainable development at the local level and illustrates concrete country experiences in meeting related challenges. It is designed to promote knowledge sharing among stakeholders in urban finance and local sustainable development and to support national and local government officials in the LDCs to strengthen their urban finance frameworks and to create an enabling environment in their constituencies.

›› Read the publication here
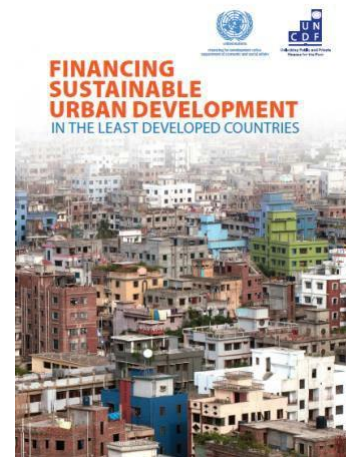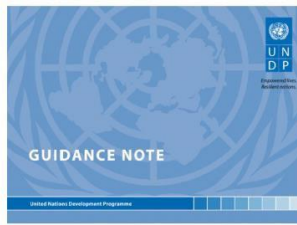
Municipalities and People on the Move: Cities' Development Policies for Successful Local Management of Migration and Displacement

This guidance note of the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) aims to enable country offices to support cities to adopt adequate public policy interventions to increase the positive impacts of human mobility. It offers a set of policies, programmes and institutional arrangements that enable local authorities to address migration phenomena in a tailored manner and to mainstream migration and displacement into municipal activities and development plans.

›› Read the guidance note here

Forcibly Displaced : Toward a Development Approach Supporting Refugees, the Internally Displaced, and Their Hosts

This report of the **World Bank** Group suggests ways to rebuild the lives of the displaced through development support and examines how to help host communities that need to manage the sudden arrival of large numbers of displaced people. As work on a new Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees progresses, the report underscores the importance of humanitarian and development communities working together in complementary ways to support countries throughout the crisis.

›› Read the report here
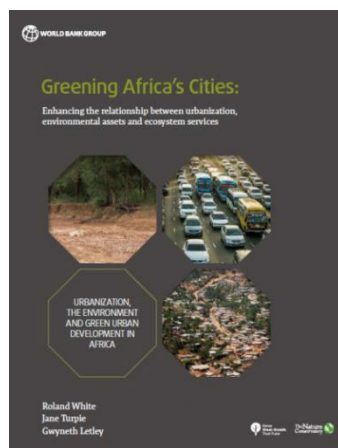
Greening Africa's Cities to Protect People and Growth

A fast urbanizing Africa is rapidly degrading the environmental assets of its cities. Protecting those assets can increase the productivity and livability of these cities, improve tourism opportunities, and enhance resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events. This **World Bank** report highlights the opportunities and actions to change the current environmental trajectory towards a more harmonious relationship between urbanization, environmental assets and ecosystem services.

›› Read the report here

Prioritising Citizen Participation to Build Communities in Zimbabwe

The Local Authorities Capacity Enhancement Project (LACEP), funded by the EU and implemented by **VNG International** and the Municipal Development Partnerships, has changed the way communities in Zimbabwe think about participation. Through a series of democratic dialogues and civil society workshops - delivered by the **Hague Academy for Local Governance** - local leaders and citizens focused in 2015 on establishing alliances in the community to better address mutual concerns.

Canada's feminist international assistance policy goes local

Canada´s first feminist international assistance policy recognizes the important role that **local governments** and **local women´s organizations** play in achieving these goals. This is why Canada commits itself to provide better support for these organizations and movements that advance women´s rights, and to help local governments in developing countries address the differential needs of women and men through policies and services.

Info, News, Links, Downloads

New EU Consensus on Development: the achievement of the SDGs is dependent on local and regional authorities

The New European Consensus on Development - adopted in may 2017 by the Council of the European Union and setting out a new framework for development cooperation for the EU and its member states - recognizes the **role of local and regional governments in achieving the SDGs** and **commits to support decentralisation reforms and decentralised cooperation**. In this article, UCLG applauds the emphasis that the consensus puts on local and regional governments.

Mayors of Major Cities Commit to Implement Paris Agreement, SDG 11

On June 22nd 2017, in the framework of the 12th Metropolis World Congress and the 37th General Assembly of the International Association of Francophone Mayors, almost 140 mayors of the world's largest cities issued a '*Montréal Declaration: Cities in the Vanguard to Address Local and Global Issues and Implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change*.' The Declaration reaffirms mayors' determination to exercise leadership and contribute to the resolution of local and global issues, and to ensure effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

Local and regional governments at COP23

On 6-17 November 2017, COP23, the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference will be convened in Bonn. Local and subnational governments will further position themselves as vital partners to shape global climate action through the **Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders** on 21 November, the **Summit Dialogues** on 9-14 November and a **Cities & Regional Pavilion** for two weeks. A website dedicated to all the activities of cities and regions at the COP23 is accessible here.

U.S. Local Governments networks mobilize to keep Paris

Agreement alive

It's been nearly a month since President Donald Trump announced he would pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, prompting a sudden action on the part of cities across the country which signed an open letter of support for the Paris Agreement, passed resolutions formally committing their jurisdictions to the Agreement and organised clean energy initiatives. At the individual city level, the outpouring of official responses has been striking. But collectively, how significant is it? This article from **Citiscope** explains more...

›› Read the article here

Regional Best Practices Database

After closing the call for submissions of the II Regional Best Practices Award together with the **United Nations Program for Development**, **ORU Fogar** (United Regions Organisation) has launched the Regional Best Practices Database, a platform gathering the winning projects to ensure their maximum projection and international recognition, as well as facilitating their replicability.

›› Read more

Strong Role of Local and Regional Governments at the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

At the end of May, during the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and under the aegis "Making Cities Resilient", UCLG, UNISDR, UN-Habitat, ICLEI and other stakeholders celebrated the Summit of Local and Regional Governments. In this framework, the *Declaration of Local and Regional Governments at the GPDRR* was adopted. This document informed the Global Platform's Chair Summary that will be presented to the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a contribution to the 2017 High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), to be held in New York in July.

›› Read the declaration here

OGP Subnational Action Plans 2017

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international platform that aims to secure commitment from governments to promote transparency, accountability and strengthen governance. In 2016, OGP opened to **subnational participants** that submitted Action Plans with over 70 commitments and will be implementing them throughout 2017. This publication highlights some of these notable reforms such as Buenos Aires´ open bus transit data that allow data-informed improvements to public services, or Madrid´s creation of a public registry of lobbyists.

›› Read more

Land degradation and cities: The essential role of local and regional governments

Global concern for the challenges posed by land degradation has been affirmed by target 15.3 of the SDGs, which is aimed at halting and reversing land degradation. Engaging with the challenges posed by land degradation in the 21st century requires a systematic approach that recognizes urban activities as a meta-underlying driver and includes the existing and

potential contributions of local and regional governments as part of the solution. This ICLEI briefing sheet highlights the root causes of land degradation, its consequences and local solutions.

›› Read the briefing sheet

International Conferences

## Assises de la coopération décentralisée / Regions and Cities for Development

When: 10-11 July 2017
Where: Brussels, Belgium

The Regions and Cities for Development / Assises de la coopération décentralisée is an event coorganised by the **European Commission** and the **European Committee of the Regions**. It is a unique biennial opportunity to bring together local and regional authorities' representatives from EU and partner countries to exchange among themselves, with their counterparts and with the EU institutions their experiences and ideas relating to development policies and key issues of the field of decentralised cooperation.

›› More information

United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
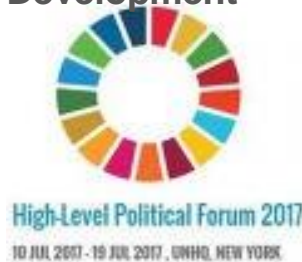
When: 10-19 July, 2017
Where: United Nations Headquarters, New York

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, is the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, that provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies.

›› More information

UNGA High-level Meeting on UN-Habitat

When: 5-6 September, 2017
Where: United Nations Headquarters, New York

Convened by UNGA President, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Meeting on UN-Habitat meeting will discuss the effective implementation of the **New Urban Agenda** (NUA) and the positioning of **UN-Habitat** as called for in the NUA adopted at Habitat III. The event is expected to bring together mayors, community administrators, city resilience leaders, and other stakeholders to focus on implementation of **SDG 11** and to discuss the Secretary-General's report on UN-Habitat.

›› More information

4th World Forum of Local Economic Development

When: 17-20 October, 2017
Where: Praia, Cabo Verde

The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development (LED)

will be held in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 17 to 20 October, 2017. This event is part of an open working process, started in 2011, which promotes an international dialogue and shares experiences on Local Economic Development. Registrations close on October 16th.

›› More information

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 IOM, UN Habitat and UCLG as institutional partners.The Conference will aim to facilitate 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 GCM, hosted by the Government of Mexico in December 2017.

›› More information

Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2017

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. In 2017 the CLGF conference will be held for the first time in Malta under the theme *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.

›› More information

Courses

The Hague Academy

Multilevel Water Governance (info)
Where: The Hague
When: 18-19 September 2017
Apply by: 12 July 2017

Conflict, Rule of Law and Local Security
(info)
Where: The Hague
When: 30 October - 10 November 2017
Apply by: 1 September 2017

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

Policy Research Center

Summer Course: Taxation and Development (info)
Where: Bled, Slovenija
When: 28 August - 1 September 2017
Apply by: 15 July 2017

UN Summer Academy

Localising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (info)

Where: Bonn, Germany
When: 21 - 25 August 2017
Apply by: 7 August 2017

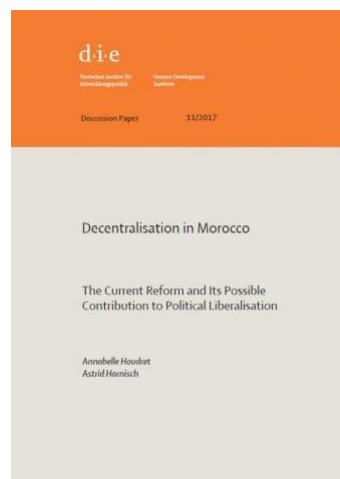## UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Territorial Planning for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda (info)

Where: Santiago, Chile
When: 16 - 27 October 2017
Apply by: 1 Septemebr 2017
Course language: Spanish

Other Studies and Publications

Decentralisation and Local Governance

Decentralisation in Morocco: the current reform and its possible contribution to political liberalisation

German Development Institute (DIE), Discussion Paper No. 11, 2017

In reaction to the political unrest of 2011, new laws for decentralisation reform intended to enhance political participation and improve the institutions´ efficiency and transparency should have been adopted in Morocco. However, the process of implementation has been delayed significantly. Against the background of international experiences in this field, this discussion paper reveals the factors that need to improve to make decentralization work and enhance the chances for political liberalization.

›› Read more

Localising international Agendas

Metropolises addressing the global agendas

Metropolis Observatory, Issue Paper Nr. 2, 2017
The new generation of global agendas that will set the guidelines for sustainable development in the coming years addresses the main challenges faced by metropolises and offers a frame of reference for public policies that major cities must promote. This publication analyses the connection between six of the main global agendas on sustainable development and the principal metropolitan challenges.

›› Read more

Urban and Territorial Governance

National Urban Policy in OECD Countries

OECD, **2017**

Cities are crucial for national economic, social and environmental performance. A national urban policy (NUP) has been recognised by the international community as an important instrument for harnessing urbanisation to achieve national and global goals. This report provides an assessment of the state and scope of NUPs across 35 OECD countries and describes how urban policy and its place in national political agendas is evolving.

›› Read more

Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa´s Transformation

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2017

This report examines how to harness the opportunities from rapid urbanization to speed industrialization and accelerate structural transformation. It shows that industrialization requires better functioning cities and systems of cities, which in turn require better performing industrialization processes, and stresses that African countries can leverage the momentum of urbanization to accelerate industrialization for a more prosperous and equitable future.

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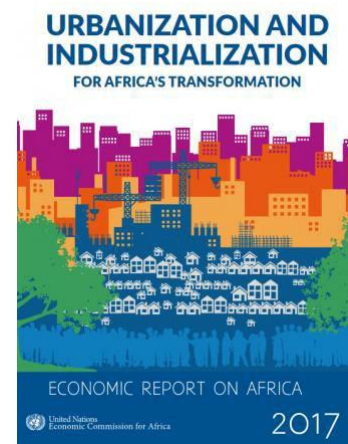
New Planning Culture in German Cities: Topics, Priorities and Processes

Darmstadt University of Technology, German Association of Cities and Federal Institute for Building, Urban and Environmental Research (BBSR), 2016

This publication is an inventory of 55 projects for practical implementation that are examples of best practice where cities are not only responsibly adopting new directions in the planning process, but have also set qualitative standards for their basic planning goals, priorities for plans and projects, and regulations of their own planning procedures. Aimed at showing how current challenges in urban development can be overcome by innovative approaches, the publication concludes with an outlook on future challenges.

›› Read more

Fiscal Decentralisation

Municipal Pooled Financing of Infrastructure in the United States: Experience and Lessons

Dr. Lili Liu *et al.,* World Bank, 2017

There has been great interest from policymakers in developing countries in learning from the experience of the advanced countries in developing pooled financing facilities. After having completed a review of specialized financing vehicles for municipalities in Europe, this paper reviews the legal, institutional and operational frameworks for subnational pooled financing (bond banks) in the United States, focusing on small municipalities, hence to help strengthen the capacity of the World Bank´s advisory services in infrastructure financing.

›› Read more
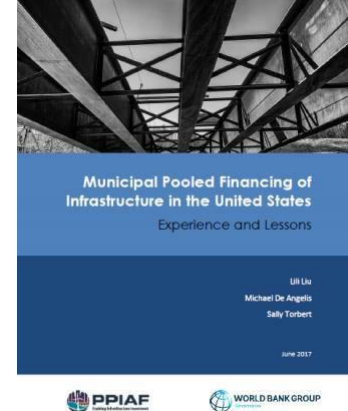
Service Delivery

Governance and Service Delivery: Practical Applications of Social Accountability across Sectors

A. Wetterberg et al., RTI Press Publication, 2016

This collection examines six RTI International projects that pursued different paths to integrating service delivery and governance through engaging citizens, public officials and service providers on issues related to accountability and sectoral services. The cases illustrate the multiple ways in which social accountability can lead to positive effects on governance, citizen empowerment, and service delivery.

›› Read more

Climate Change

From Challenges to Solutions: How to improve integration of climate change aspects into urban development instruments, strategies and initiatives

Cities Fit for Climate Change Project (GIZ), 2017

This is the report of one of the International Learning Exchange Workshops organized by Cities Fit for Climate Change in partnership with Connective Cities in order to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange about climate-appropriate urban development among its three partner cities (Santiago, Chennai and Durban) and German and further cities. The workshop, held in Durban from 14 to 16 February 2017, pulled together a number of urban practitioners and gave them the opportunity to glean appropriate ideas from the workshop participants and to develop action plans for their own cities.

›› Read more

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