



The Africa Caribbean Pacific Local Government Platform
 Plateforme des Collectivités Locales des pays Afrique Caraïbes Pacifique

Newsletter N° 50 - July 2018

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACP-LG Platform). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organisations, local authorities & countries. All former editions of the newsletter are available on the Platform website: www.acplgp.net (go to 'News', then 'Platform Newsletters'). For those who want to know about the Platform and its history, please visit the Platform website www.acplgp.net (go to 'The ACP-LG Platform', then 'Background', 'Establishment of the Platform' and 'Future orientation'). The Newsletter N 23 is a special edition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Platform.

EC calls for proposals: open / foreseen

Various EC calls for proposals open/foreseen for some programmes of interest to local authorities can be seen at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

• **EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Nigeria	28/08/2018	600.000	EuropeAid/160440/DD/ACT/NG
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

• **Food Security**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

• **Various fields in ACP countries**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Chad	27/08/2018	3.067.274	EuropeAid/160345/IH/ACT/TD
Burkina Faso	20/08/2018	3.000.000	EuropeAid/160615/DD/ACT/BF
Zambia	25/09/2018	18.500.000	EuropeAid/160364/DD/ACT/ZM
All ACP countries	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU

Should you need assistance in responding to an EC call for proposals let the ACP-LG Platform know by sending an email to platform@acplgp.net and we will be pleased to help you register in the PADOR system, find partners, check your proposal, etc. You are also encouraged to read the article "How to write a good project" on our website www.acplgp.net

News from the EU

1st Preparatory meeting for the 6th 'Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation' (former 'Assises of Decentralised Cooperation')

On 14 June 2018 the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the EC jointly organised the 1st preparatory meeting for the 6th edition of 'Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation' which will take place in Brussels on **4-5 February 2019**. The Forum consists of policy dialogue on decentralised development cooperation between city and region representatives from EU & partner countries and the European institutions. The 5th edition in July 2017 brought together over 500 participants, 100 speakers from 28 EU Member States and 50 partner countries. The two co-organisers want the 6th edition to be a more focused Forum having as general objective: open and continuous dialogue between local and regional authorities (LRA) from the EU, from partner countries, and with EU institutions.

New approach to the 6th edition with:

Specific topic: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Focus on concrete outcomes

Specific theme: Local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development

Specific objectives:

- Discuss LRA and city partnerships with a focus on sustainable urban development, including sub-topics such as urban planning, climate change, inclusiveness, migration, public finance management, etc.
- Share experiences and good practices in twinning and pairings between EU and partner country LRAs

Suggested topics:

- Good urban governance ('Partnership'), including multilevel and multi-actor governance: integrated urban planning, public finance management, land management, etc.

- Social dimension of urban development ('People') through inclusive and safe cities and regions ('Peace'): urban poverty, inequalities and social exclusion, food insecurity and malnutrition, forced displacement and migration, etc.
- Green and resilient cities and regions ('Planet'): urban mobility, energy efficiency and transition, water and waste services, etc.
- Prosperous and innovative cities and regions ('Prosperity'): boosting business development and job creation at local and regional level, etc.

Structure

Day 1 (full day)	Day 2 (half day)
Opening and plenary session	Thematic discussions
Presentation of partnership initiatives at local and regional level	Plenary session
Thematic discussions	Closing with the Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development and the President of the Committee of the Regions

Your support is welcome

- Your feedback on the suggested topics: Which issues would you consider to be most important? What additional topics should be included?
- Information about your successful partnerships with LRAs from partner countries in the area of sustainable urban development.
- Your suggestions of participants and speakers from partner countries that should be invited to the Forum.

Preparatory calendar

- July-September 2018 Process of receiving suggestions of elected representatives from partner countries (participants and speakers)
- 25 September 2018 Closing of invitees list
- October 2018 Invitation letters, practical conditions and visas
- December 2018 Finalisation of programme
- 4-5 February 2019 6th edition 'Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation'

Representatives from partner countries - Selection criteria

- Added value of the speaker for the Forum
- Gender
- Geographic repartition
- Representation level in the country

Contacts

Email: lra4dev@cor.europa.eu and/or EUROPAID-C5@ec.europa.eu

Telephone: +32.2.282.23.78 and/or +32.2.298.85.44

Those local elected authorities interested in participating in the Forum are invited to send an email to lra4dev@cor.europa.eu and/or EUROPAID-C5@ec.europa.eu with copy to platform@acplgp.net. If you experience any difficulties let the ACP-LG Platform know and we will be pleased to assist you.

The EU organises its development aid

The share of development aid in the EU new budget and the reorganisation of its implementation instruments worry NGOs. The European Commission presented its multiannual financial framework for the period 2021-2027. They propose to devote €123 billion to external action, i.e. an increase of 27% compared to the external budget. With the uncertainty caused by the United Kingdom exit - one of the largest contributors to the EU budget and to development policy - this news is perceived as a modest success by civil society groups. "Within the Brexit context it could have been worse, however is it really in line with our ambitions?" said Emily Wiggins, ONE interim Director in Brussels. "By increasing resources allocated to external action in the next budget, the EU creates the means of confirming its commitments made with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement" said Johannes Trimmel, CONCORD President. But the planned merger of 12 existing instruments in one worry the most NGOs. For the Commission, the aim is to simplify its external expenditure. However NGOs are concerned that it will water down the objectives of development policy and further increase the allocation of official development assistance to EU national priorities such as accommodation costs of refugees.

Source: EURACTIV + CTA Newsletter 565 FR

News on the Post-Cotonou negotiations

Post-Cotonou: EU Negotiating mandate with ACP

The purpose of the negotiations is to conclude a strengthened Partnership between the European Union (EU) and its Member States of the one part, and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific of the other part. The new Agreement is envisaged as a comprehensive partnership with the aim to strengthen the relations between the Parties and generating mutually beneficial outcomes on common and intersected interests. The Agreement will aim to advance sustainable and inclusive development, based on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris

Agreement on Climate Change as the overarching frameworks guiding the partnership. The Agreement will seek to build peaceful and resilient states and societies. The objective is to obtain a new Agreement that consists of a Foundation and three regional partnerships. The Foundation, applicable to all members of the Partnership, will list general objectives, principles and priorities, and enable increased cooperation at international level. The centre of gravity will be on the regional partnerships, setting region-specific priorities towards countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, in line with intensified regional dynamics and the increased importance of regional organisations. The Agreement will be open to and welcome the involvement or accession of third countries which subscribe to the same values, contribute to meeting the objectives, and share the same interests. The Agreement will take into account the specific concerns of the EU's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

Source: Council of the European Union + CTA Newsletter N 575 EN

EU Commission to start negotiations with ACP countries

On 22 June the European Commission received authorisation from the Council to open negotiations for a new partnership agreement with countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). The European Commission welcomes the Council decision allowing to launch the negotiations with the ACP group of States in the coming weeks. For recall, the existing framework, known as the Cotonou agreement, is due to expire in February 2020. On this occasion, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: "We are ready to embark upon a modern and dynamic partnership with our partners in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. This new partnership will be a powerful tool to jointly tackle global challenges - from fighting poverty and inequality to peace and security, from climate change to sustainable growth for all." The key objectives of the negotiations are:

- To secure a new legally binding framework adapted to today's realities based on a modern and forward-looking agenda.
- To explore new ways to achieve key interests and better address global challenges, such as inclusive growth, investment, job creation, sustainable development, peace, security and migration issues, human development, fundamental freedoms, human rights, rule of law and democratic principles.
- To build a powerful alliance in international fora, as the EU and ACP countries represent more than half of the UN membership.
- To develop a more tailored approach to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.
- To draw lessons from 43 years of ACP-EU collaboration in order to nurture the sustainable development roadmaps in place (UN2030 SDGs Agenda, Paris Climate Change Agreement, European Consensus on Development, Africa Agenda 2063, etc.).

Source: European Commission & CTA Newsletter N 571

Future ACP-EU partnership: MEPs agree on concrete objectives

MEPs and African, Caribbean and Pacific MPs agreed on the future of their partnership at the 35th Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels. During the 35th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) from 18 to 20 June in Brussels, Members of the European Parliament and their counterparts from 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries adopted several resolutions. Ahead of negotiations to renew the Cotonou Agreement - the ACP-EU partnership's founding treaty - due to begin in August 2018 - Members call for the parliamentary dimension to be strengthened in the future agreement. The European Union and the ACP Group have undergone considerable political and economic changes since the ratification of the Cotonou Agreement, say MEPs. They insist that the financing aspect of the new partnership should be addressed and negotiated as a matter of priority, including the possible integration of the European Development Fund into the EU budget. MEPs advocate for gender balance in JPA delegations, integration of delegates under 40, representation of opposition parties, non-state actors and civil society in the resolution adopted by show of hands. A clear strategy to tackle the illegal trade in plant protection products, seeds and other illegal inputs (PPPSIs) is fundamental, MEPs and their ACP counterparts say.

Source: European Parliament & CTA Newsletter N 571 EN

ACP-EU partnership: MEPs list key aims for new agreement

Political dialogue and mutual respect should remain at the core of the future EU/African, Caribbean and Pacific partnership from 2020, MEPs said on 14 June. Ahead of negotiations for a renewed partnership between the EU and the ACP group of 78 African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, which are to start in August 2018, MEPs welcomed the proposed overall architecture of future cooperation between the two regions, as recommended by the EU Commission, in a debate on 13 June. However, MEPs also stipulated that the future deal, to replace the ACP-EU partnership's founding treaty - the Cotonou Agreement, should:

- have as central element the fight against poverty,
- include the principles of equity, mutual respect and mutual interest,
- keep political dialogue as an integrated part of the partnership, and
- integrate support schemes for sustainable agricultural practices.

MEPs also underlined that the parliamentary dimension of the ACP-EU partnership should be further reinforced, with its Joint Parliamentary Assembly dialogue between MEPs and their ACP counterparts at the core of the new partnership. The resolution was adopted by a show of hands.

Source: European Parliament & CTA Newsletter N 571 EN

Post-Cotonou: Samoa and Papua New Guinea to represent the Pacific

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade CEO Peseta Noumea Simi, Samoa and Papua New Guinea will represent the Pacific at the Ministerial level central negotiating for the post-Cotonou agreement. He said Samoa is in the technical negotiating team for pillar two on development cooperation. "Samoa has also registered its interest to be the host of the signing of the post-Cotonou agreement," Peseta told the Samoa Observer. Peseta was part of the Pacific ACP delegations that attended a series of trade meetings in Apia in early July. "Samoa has used the opportunity (trade meeting) to update

and share its experiences/information with Pacific neighbours on all trade agreements Samoa is party to as well as its membership in a number of trade organisations. “It has also learnt from the challenges faced by other Pacific countries as well learn of means to address capacity constraints. A most valuable factor in Samoa’s case is its ability to engage in wide consultations on trade issues.”

Source: samoaplanet.com + CTA Newsletter N 575

AU-EU: Carlos Lopes to lead post-2020 trade negotiations

The African Union has appointed Carlos Lopes, a member of President Paul Kagame's dream team in reforming the continental body and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as the high representative for the post-2020 negotiations with the European Union. The appointment of the Bissau-Guinean development economist was ratified by the Heads of State Summit in Nouakchott, formally opening the doors for engagements with the EU on a continental economic partnership agreement (EPA). Mr Lopes’ appointment comes barely a week after the European Commission received authorisation from the Council to open negotiations for a new partnership agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. The current agreement was revised in March 2010, to capture the growing importance of regional integration in the ACP bloc; the interdependence between security and development; the global challenge of climate change; and the transaction costs of EU aid to the ACP.

Source: theeastafrican.co.ke + CTA Newsletter N 574 EN

Cameroon lost FCFA2.6 billion of customs revenue because of EPA

Since the signature of EPA with the European Union (EU), from 4 August 2016 to 25 February 2018, Cameroon lost FCFA2.6 billion of customs revenue. Only for the month of February 2018, Cameroon lost FCFA676.5 million. On 25 February 2018, there is a global total of 2755 import declarations having benefiting from the EU preference amounting to FCFA95.2 billion. Since the effectiveness of EPA, 1760 European products enter every year in Cameroon benefiting from a reduced custom tax of 25%. In 2018, another category of European articles will be added to the list of exemptions, then a third from 2021.

Source: lebledparle + CTA Newsletter N 562 FR

Lessons from EPA must inform Post-Cotonou Agreement

Mr Tetteh Hormeku, Head of Programmes at the Third World Network, has advised governments in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to use lessons from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for the post-Cotonou possible framework. He said the ACP countries would get “the same rotten deal we got from the EPA” if they failed to apply the experiences gained from the EPA. Mr Hormeku was speaking at the opening of a two-day Civil Society Consultative Seminar on the Post-Cotonou Agreement in Accra. The Cotonou Partnership Agreement is a framework for cooperation between the European Union and the ACP Group of States and was signed in 2000 and came into force in 2003 for a period of 20 years. The Seminar is to prepare for effective engagement by civil society organisations in the ACP countries with the Post-Cotonou processes and to influence the possible outcome and also review the key experience of the implementation of the partnership agreement. He said as part of their advocacy work over the years around EPA, it had emerged that, ACP countries had been heavily short changed in those negotiations, the result of which had been bad for the Ghanaian economy. The Head of Programmes said the agreement also undermined African’s industrialisation agenda and limited access of African products into the European market due to the strict standards, technical barriers and other trade conditions. He said the EPA was the main centre-piece of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and within that agreement, countries were supposed to negotiate for the EPA.

Source: Ghana Business News + CTA Newsletter 563 EN

43rd session of ACP-EU Council of Ministers: both sides commit to enhance their cooperation

The annual meeting of Ministers from the European Union and the countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific was an opportunity to hold fruitful and constructive discussions on the way forward for their future relationship and to take stock of the progress already made. The meeting, which took place in Lomé, Togo in 1st June, was hosted by the President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbé and co-chaired by H.E. Ms Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica and H.E. Ms Ekatarina Gecheva-Zahareva Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

Future ACP-EU Partnership after 2020

The EU welcomes the adoption by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of its Negotiating Mandate, which will lead its members to start meaningful negotiations soon. This ACP-EU 43rd Session was crucial in taking preparatory steps towards the negotiations and underlined the importance the longstanding partners attach to their cooperation including after 2020.

The EU Commissioner for International cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, expressed his gratitude for the excellent collaboration in Lomé, and called for a new ambitious partnership: “*This is a very defining moment. We are determined to strengthen and reinforce our relationship with the ACP even further and to conclude an ambitious political partnership, which will allow us to jointly address our common challenges and opportunities - to the benefit of all our citizens, both in Europe and in the ACP countries alike*”.

For her part, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica stated that “*the imminent expiry of the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement provides a unique opportunity for us to modernise our relationship that is fit for purpose and will help us together to refine our approaches to national and regional issues, and define our ability to contribute collectively to a stable and progressive international environment, leaving no one behind*”.

Outcomes of the Ministerial meeting

As like-minded partners, the ACP Group of States and the EU agreed to increase their international cooperation in key areas, such as climate change, migration and throughout the upcoming UN Conferences this year. A specific calendar should be developed accordingly in the coming weeks.

Further cooperation is expected in the area of inclusive sustainable growth as the EU and the ACP Group of States exchanged views on how to increase trade, strengthen investment and management of natural resources, addressing the vulnerabilities of ACP countries and the situation of middle income countries and take appropriate steps in relation to issues of EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.

Both partners reaffirmed their commitment to tackling climate change through a joint declaration in anticipation of the upcoming UNFCCC 24th COP on Climate Change to be held in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.

Background

The ACP-EU partnership is one of the oldest and most comprehensive frameworks of cooperation of its kind. Uniting more than one hundred countries and over 1.5 billion people, the Cotonou Agreement governing ACP-EU relations is due to expire in February 2020.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 570 EN

ACP-EU Partnership: after 2020

The negotiations for a new ACP-EU agreement should start after the summer holidays. The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States was the first to adopt its negotiation mandate on 30 May, during the ACP Council of Ministers in Lomé. The EU mandate was approved on 22 June, with little substantial changes compared to the Commission proposal in December 2017. Despite several analyses reporting to the contrary, the two negotiation mandates always assume that the ACP-EU framework - which is now more than 40 year old - provides a good basis for a stronger and renewed political partnership, in a multipolar world in constant evolution. In its negotiation mandate, the EU indicates their wish for the ACP to continue play an important role. In parallel, they recognise the increasing importance of the African Union and of the regional economic communities (REC). The EU proposes therefore a hybrid formula, with bases which will apply to all EU Member States and the ACP Group (with common provisions, strategic priorities and strategic alliances for global action), completed by three regional partnerships with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, which should be at the heart of the Post-Cotonou agreement.

Source: European Think Tanks Group + CTA Newsletter N 574 FR

News from the ACP-EU

EU commits to \$25m solar project in Africa

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a \$25 million financing plan for the installation of off-grid solar systems, to strengthen energy access in Africa. EIB Vice-President, Ambroise Fayolle, announced the project at the 6th African CEO Forum in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and stated the focus countries are: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Uganda. The project will boost power delivery to both rural and suburban populations. The bank will be working with d.light Design to supply energy through solar kits rather than through grid connection. The kits are inexpensive for users and utilise a pre-payment system. Fayolle said the EU financing would enable d.light Design to develop the installation of solar kits, including the panels and lamps, as well as low-energy equipment such as radios and TVs, in sub-Saharan Africa with the ambitious goal of reaching 10 million solar installations within five years. *"I am delighted that the EIB has signed this new financing with d.light in Africa for an off-grid solar project that will have a major economic and social impact on people and micro-entrepreneurs. The EU bank is determined to implement the Paris climate agreement and to cooperate to achieve the sustainable development goals, particularly when it comes to ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all. With its unique technical and financial expertise in the support of solar projects, the EIB will mobilise new investments to develop renewable energies in Africa,"* Fayolle said.

Source: esi-africa.com + CTA Newsletter 562 EN

Caribbean Export and EU soon providing grants for Caribbean companies

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in cooperation with the European Union is gearing up to provide grant funds to the CARIFORUM private sector. Over the next few months, Caribbean Export will be sensitising businesses and Business Support Organisations (BSOs) across the region on the process to apply under the Direct Assistance Grant Scheme (DAGS) - a reimbursement grant funding facility specifically designed to provide financial assistance to legally registered firms and individuals with the potential to export their products and services. DAGS have typically been used by companies to modernise equipment, upgrade facilities to international food and quality standards, enhance products and packaging, implement alternative energy systems, train staff, develop collateral materials, market and promote products and services for export. Caribbean Export will be training representatives from each of the CARIFORUM countries to become DAGS experts. These Country Advisors will provide assistance to businesses during the application and reimbursement stages of the programme.

Source: caribbean360 + CTA Newsletter 562 EN

Pacific: EU commits \$45m to gender equality

In a show of commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women around the world, the European Union will fund a \$45 million regional programme to improve gender equality and address violence against women and girls. The new Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership) brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG), and increase access to quality response services for survivors. *"We are proud to be funding this new and important partnership programme through the 11th European Development Fund in the Pacific, to address the causes of gender inequality and violence against women,"* said Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation for the Pacific, Julian Wilson. Earlier this month, he said the programme would start on International Women's Day and aimed to deliver concrete results over the next few years, turning each day into a woman's day. Australia's High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes, said Australia was very pleased to support the new Pacific Partnership through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development programme. *"Recent surveys indicate that over 60 per cent of women in the Western Pacific Region have experienced*

gender-based violence," Mr Feakes said. "Women and girls who experience violence deserve accessible and high quality essential services including health, police, justice and social services to help them recover," he said. "Through the Pacific Partnership we will also work with individuals and communities to consider the influence of social norms, attitudes and behaviour in preventing violence against women and girls."

Source: [fjtimes](#) + CTA Newsletter 562 EN

News from the ACP

Senegal: €80M from AFD for Support programme for municipalities

The French Development Agency (AFD), the World Bank and the Senegalese State signed a financing agreement of €223 million earmarked for a Support programme for towns and cities of Senegal (PACASEN). It consists of €80 million provided by the AFD as a loan, €93 million by the World Bank and €50 million by the Senegalese State. The project aims 123 towns and communes which will benefit from additional resources and will involve in future about 600 local authorities. The programme indeed has as objective the direct increase of resources of local government and the increase of qualified and performing human resources. For recall, the PACASEN forms part of initiatives designed to improve territories sustainability and attractiveness, in accordance with the strategic orientations of the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE).

Source: [Financial Afrik](#) + CTA Newsletter N 574 FR

Announcements

Discover new tools and supporting resources to localise the SDGs

The virtual platform offers a selected set of concrete tools and resources to help you designing and implementing development policies in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals. Among the resources available on the platform you can find:

[Localising the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: Strengthening Local Government Action in Central Africa](#). By *UNDP*

Local Development plays an important role in the development of local economies, enhancing jobs and livelihoods creation as well as in the provision of basic services to the population, all having a significant impact on achieving the SDGs and fostering communities' well-being. The search for the most appropriate means of localising the SDGs is critical to the successful implementation and optimisation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda in Africa. Drawing from research on the state of local governance in Central Africa, the report establishes the baselines, highlight best practices, identify key challenges and propose strategies and policy options under the 4 following areas: (1) Decentralisation and Local Governance Legal and Policy Framework; (2) Local Finances and Inclusive Services Delivery; (3) Local Economic Development and (4) Capacity Building. For each section, special considerations and recommendations for Fragile and Conflict-Affected States have been developed.

[Monitoring the global agenda in municipalities: the Mandala tool](#). By *UCLG learning and CNM*

The Mandala is a tool developed by the Brazilian National Confederation of Municipalities, which encourages the use of data and reflects local realities based on different indicators, in order to develop appropriate public policies in line with SDG localisation. The process of introducing the Mandala process in Brazil began in 2016, with the formulation of the criteria and indicators required to create the different analysis groups. Once the indicators had been decided, the necessary data were collected, systematised and validated by the CNM team. The process - promoted within the framework of the 'Localising the SDGs in Brazilian municipalities' project in association with UNDP - was publicised in a subsequent outreach campaign. Mandala is also one of the many tools that UCLG is using in its learning sessions and is of special interest for national associations.

[Localising the SDGs in Utrecht](#). By *City of Utrecht*

This publication describes Utrecht's approach to localising the SDGs. The aim is to share Utrecht's experience as a means of knowledge-sharing and cooperation. Like many other public, private and non-profit sector actors, Utrecht has adopted the SDGs as a guiding framework to orient the city's development, as well as its cooperation with other cities, to be sustainable and inclusive. The document also highlights innovative practices in development planning that can serve as good examples for other countries and regions for their work in planning for the 2030 Agenda.

[Connecting cities and communities with the SDGs](#). By *United 4 Smart Sustainable Cities*

This publication on 'Connecting cities and communities with the SDGs' has been developed within the framework of the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative. It provides an overview of how cities can use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to achieve the SDGs. It also maps the case studies to the various international agreements as well as the SDGs. Based on the mapping in this publication, U4SSC aims to derive the best practices and guidelines with the final goal of propelling transitions to smart cities while simultaneously achieving the SDGs. The outputs presented are expected to provide urban stakeholders with an overview of innovative concepts, policies and frameworks that have been adopted in various countries, to facilitate smart-city transformations. The U4SSC initiative is a distinctive global smart-city platform. This unique initiative launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in May 2016, is supported by 16 UN agencies, programmes and secretariats.

For further information: www.LocalizingTheSDGs.org

Local Economic Development, 1-12 October 2018, The Hague

This practice-oriented course focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of local and regional communities. Taking into account the UN's post-2015 development agenda, this course will explore strategies and tools for local authorities to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all.

International experts will present strategies to improve local conditions for job creation and poverty reduction. The course will also explore international examples of financing LED-initiatives and best practices in public-private partnerships.

LED in different contexts

During the course, you will learn about different approaches to accommodate the different needs of urban and rural contexts as well as local economic and social development in least-developed and post-conflict states. Furthermore, you will become familiar with strategies and tools to support decent work and human rights and include vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as women and youth, in the local economy. There will be ample opportunity to bring in experiences from your own local context.

LED in practice

During study visits, the staff of The Hague municipality will talk about their long-term economic strategy and show projects supporting entrepreneurs in The Hague. And you will experience economic development in the rural municipality of Westland at the 'Demokwekerij', a knowledge centre for innovation, information and inspiration in glasshouse horticulture.

Objectives

This course will help you:

- Assess the economic and political context for regional development;
- Identify challenges and opportunities for strengthening the local economy and job creation together with stakeholders at local, regional and national level;
- Develop approaches for strategic local economic planning;
- Become acquainted with practical tools for supporting the local economy.

After this course, you will receive a professional certificate of completion from The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

Intended audience

Professionals involved in local economic development processes, including development workers, officials working for municipalities, regional governments and ministries, as well as development banks.

Practical information

The course fee is € 3,150. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation are not included. Group discounts are available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information. The course language is English.

For questions or more information about this course, please direct your inquiry to the Programme Manager, Lars Burema at info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-37 38 695.

The deadline for the application is **20 August 2018**.

For more information about the application procedure and the online application form:

<https://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2017/03/local-economic-development-2018/>

Conflict, Rule of Law and Local Security, 29 October-9 November 2018, The Hague

How can local governments improve security in conflict-affected areas? What challenges affect the local government's ability to promote the rule of law? And how will conducting a thorough conflict and security assessment help ensure stability at the local level? In partnership with Transition International, this course will pay specific attention to the underlying principles of community security and how best to apply its basic components.

Conflict and its myriad forms – interstate war, intrastate rebellion, armed militia's destabilising a region, violent extremism or social exclusion – affect all, especially at the local level. Understanding the root causes and drivers of conflict is one of several steps necessary to ensure local security.

In this training, you will gain specific knowledge, tailored approaches and practical tools to help you conduct a thorough conflict and security analyses. International experts will guide the discussion to impart a better understanding of how stakeholders at the different levels of government can promote positive conflict transformation.

Specific attention will be given to the concept of community security and its underlying principles. Using a diverse set of case studies, along with interactive workshop sessions and a simulation exercise, you will be guided in the development and implementation of a comprehensive security plan.

Security at the local level can only be reached with an integrated approach focusing on immediate quick-wins and sustainable long-term solutions. Not only the security and justice sector, but all actors in the different governance layers play an essential role in achieving this goal.

Objectives

This course will help you:

- understand the root causes and dynamics of conflict;
- increase knowledge of the different approaches and tools for conflict mapping and conduct a conflict analysis;
- gain more insight into the roles of different governmental, security and judicial institutions in conflict transformation and restoring security;
- Reflect critically on the general notions of Rule of Law, its dilemmas and its implementation at the local level;
- understand the need for comprehensive security programming and community-driven approaches to reintegration, prevention of violent extremism, local economic development and social cohesion;
- apply the lessons learnt in the simulation exercise.

Intended audience

Professionals from government agencies, civil society, and non-governmental organisations, as well as international institutions, who have been working directly with or on issues related to conflict-affected areas.

Practical information

The course fee is € 3,150. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation are not included. Group discounts are

available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information. The course language is English.

For questions or more information about this course, please direct your inquiry to the Programme Manager, Samir Marmouri at info@thehagueacademy.com, or call +31-70-37 38 695.

The deadline for the application is 10 September 2018.

For more information about the application procedure and the online application form:

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