



Call for participants - Connective Cities Dialogue Event

Local Government Associations and their role in localising the SDGs

7-9 April 2020 - German Association of Cities, Cologne, Germany

From 7 to 9 April 2020 the German Association of Cities will be hosting a Connective Cities Dialogue Event for local government associations (LGAs) on the topic of “Localising the SDGs” in Cologne, Germany.

A first Connective Cities event for LGAs took place in July 2018 in Cologne and brought together 25 representatives from 11 local government associations. In this occasion the discussion spanned across topics such as structure, processes and financing of LGAs, representation of local government interests and influence on law-making but also thematic members’ committees and working groups and membership services for training and exchange of municipal know-how. The report of the event can be found [here](#).

The upcoming Connective Cities event for LGAs in April 2020 will be focusing on the topic of localising the SDGs.

Background

Several LGAs have been implementing successful projects for the localisation of the SDGs in cooperation with their member cities, some are just getting started and some others have a good understanding of the Agenda 2030 but have not yet formal ideas of how its implementation could look like as a project in their LGA.

While several exchange opportunities among LGAs are happening at the regional level, among others through the UCLG network, there are not many opportunities for in-depth global exchange of experiences bringing together LGAs at different stages of their SDGs localisation journey.

Objectives of the dialogue event

The aim of the exchange is to get to know good practice examples from LGAs with different approaches to the localisation of the SDGs. Here, the interest is mainly in pragmatic solutions and approaches that can be applied or adapted to the different regional contexts.

Furthermore the event will offer a platform to discuss the challenges of localising the SDGs from a LGA perspective and support LGAs in developing new joint project ideas among peers that can be further implemented in the respective organisations. Project ideas can span from a very target project for getting started on the localisation of SDGs to bilateral cooperation projects between two LGAs.

This dialogue event is the first step of what we call a “Connective Cities learning process”. Selected project ideas developed as part of this event will have the chance to be further supported by Connective Cities through a follow-up activity such as an expert mission or webinar and through advice on options for project financing. The final goal of this Connective Cities learning process specifically dedicated to LGAs is to support selected LGAs with peer-advice towards external or third-party financing allowing the implementation of a fully-fledged project resulting from this learning experience.

Target group

The event will be a very interactive workshop with around 30 participants from local government associations from around the world with a specific expertise in the area of localising the SDGs, ideally project managers that can discuss in detail the implemented or planned projects or ideas in their association.

Around two third of the participants will be presenting projects on how they are localising the SDGs in their countries. The rest of participants are expected to come from LGAs that are willing but have not necessarily started their work on localising the SDGs yet and could use this opportunity to develop ideas with this goal with the support of LGA peers. With a mix of project presentations, peer-to-peer consultations focusing on current challenges in this area and finally the space to develop joint project ideas generated from such interactions, we hope to support an intense and productive knowledge exchange.

Thematic focus of the dialogue event

In order to be able to discuss the broad field of SDG localisation at a practical level, the Connective Cities dialogue event will focus on two specific aspects:

- Localising the SDGs through awareness raising;
- Monitoring the SDGs at the local level.

Participation and contact

If you are a representative of a Local Government Association and wish to participate and actively contribute to the dialogue event with a project you are planning or implementing that fits in the thematic focus of event, we warmly invite you to apply for a participant spot at the event. To do so, please send us an email with your function and organisation as well as with a short description of your LGA organisation and:

- the project you are implementing in this thematic area and you would like to showcase;
- the project you are planning or willing to plan in this thematic area and the type of expertise you might be looking for to make this project a reality or get it started.

The deadline to apply for participating in the event is **18th February 2020**.

If you have any queries about the event and the participation process, we encourage you to contact:

Alice Balbo, Connective Cities Project Manager, German Association of Cities: alice.balbo@staedtetag.de

Connective Cities at a glance

The international exchange platform Connective Cities has been bringing together international urban practitioners from city administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector since 2013.

Connective Cities is a cooperation project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World.

For more information on past and upcoming activities please check: www.connective-cities.net