



## Call for participants - Connective Cities Dialogue Event

### Climate proofing urban development

Dortmund, Germany, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Connective Cities and the City of Dortmund invite municipal practitioners to the **Dialogue Event on climate proofing urban development** to be held in **Dortmund, Germany** from **3rd to 5th September 2019**.

The event is geared towards both German and international municipal actors working on climate proofing their urban development plans and strategies for their cities.

Climate change and the effects of more frequent climate impacts and extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms, storms, prolonged droughts and heat waves are posing major challenges for cities around the world. In fact, while climate change is a global challenge, the adaptation to its impacts is mainly local. Furthermore climate change is a cross-cutting issue that has impacts across sectors and therefore should be addressed with a cross-departmental approach and incorporated at different levels in the urban development plans and projects of cities.

Connective Cities is organising the event in close collaboration with the City of Dortmund, which is currently developing its municipal climate adaptation plan focusing on inter-departmental coordination and is eager to share its own experiences on this topic.

### Background

Climate change and its associated extreme weather events are no longer a future scenario. The steady urbanization, soil sealing and increasing densification further worsen the already negative impacts of climate change, costing lives and millions of dollars.

Municipalities play a pivotal role in the fight against climate change, a role that has been formally recognised at the international level to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement in ensuring a 2 degrees Celsius pathway, aiming for 1.5 degree Celsius. Cities have been even defined “battle-ground for climate change” (UN-Habitat, *Hot Cities: Battle-ground for climate change*, 2012). It is indeed at the local level that the impacts of climate change strike first and at the same time municipalities are at the forefront in the fight against climate change both with the implementation of climate mitigation actions and climate adaptation measures.

Urban development should therefore be given a decisive role as it is responsible for managing many areas of action affected by climate change. Climate adaptation must therefore be seen as part of an integrated urban development that also keeps an eye on synergies and conflicts with other challenges, such as demographic change.

### Thematic focus of the dialogue event

In order to be able to discuss the broad field of climate proofing urban development at a practical level, the Connective Cities dialogue event in Dortmund will focus on three specific aspects:

- Cross-departmental coordination in integrating climate adaptation and urban development;
- Climate change adaptation and urban development: land management win-win and conflict situations;
- Integration of climate adaptation measures in the urban built environment (e.g. projects to prevent heat islands).

### **Objectives of the dialogue event**

An involvement of experts from municipalities, civil society and their organisations, as well as research, academia and businesses provides the right platform to pool experiences to discuss challenges and generate ideas for climate proofing urban development.

The aim of the exchange is to get to know best practice examples from municipalities with different local conditions. 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 around the theme of integrating climate change adaptation in urban development and support municipalities in developing new joint project ideas among peers that can be further implemented in the respective home communities or in the framework of existing or new thematic municipal partnerships.

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 a local project workshop, webinar or study tour and through advice on options for project financing. The final goal of a Connective Cities learning process is to support a municipality with peer-advice towards external or third-party financing allowing the implementation of a fully-fledged project resulting from this learning experience.

### **Participation and contact**

If you 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 the project you would like to showcase. We welcome the participation of municipal delegations of two experts respectively working in the environmental and planning departments to present their project cooperation. The deadline to apply for participating in the event is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

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

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### **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](http://www.connective-cities.net)

## Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date & Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019, Dortmund, Germany
Duration	2.5 days including site visits
Thematic focus	<p>The event will focus on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-departmental coordination in integrating climate adaptation and urban development;</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation and urban development: win-win and conflict situations;</li> <li>• Integration of climate adaptation measures in the urban built environment.</li> </ul>
Expertise	German practitioners will present the experiences they have made on their way towards integrating climate change adaptation in their urban development. International participants will share their knowledge and good practices on this topic. Both, German and international urban practitioners will also share and discuss their challenges.
Objective	<p>Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners active in climate proofing their approach to urban development;</p> <p>Facilitate peer-to-peer learning;</p> <p>Foster the development of concrete project ideas.</p>
Criteria for participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical perspective and first-hand experience in municipal strategies and projects in the area of climate change adaptation, specifically in integrating adaptation in urban development processes;</li> <li>• Presentation of a local good practice example;</li> <li>• Willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area.</li> </ul>
Language	English

### On behalf of:



### Implemented by:



### In cooperation with:

