



## Call of Participants

### Connective Cities Virtual Dialogue Event on

## Promoting Energy Efficiency in MENA through innovative city-led projects

Date: 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Energy efficiency in cities is key to promoting a low-carbon future in the MENA region. Energy efficiency enables cities in the region meet their SDGs on combating climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), as it minimizes GHG emissions resulting from excessive and inefficient consumption of energy. Reducing the energy used to heat, cool and light buildings is an essential ingredient of any municipal plan aiming at achieving broader climate goals.

Cities in MENA are making undeniable strides in implementing ambitious climate policies. Nevertheless, there is still a pressing need to enhance policy efforts, both in designing new programmes and making adjustments to programmes already under implementation. Implementing energy efficiency strategies calls for stable sources of financing and legislation, which is lacking in many cases. In most cities in MENA, metropolitan authorities have little political autonomy and lack financial and human resources to implement innovative policies geared towards energy efficiency. Furthermore, challenges related to the lack of awareness of the importance of energy conservation; inefficient appliances and equipment (in industries and lighting/heating systems); and lack of energy efficiency building codes and other regulations hinder achieving energy efficiency.<sup>1</sup>

Against this background, Connective Cities 2<sup>nd</sup> learning process for the MENA region will focus on the topic of city-led energy efficiency programs.

### Thematic Focus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> learning process for the MENA region

- 1) **Energy management:** refurbishment of existing structures and enforcing related building codes and standards in new structures to achieve substantial energy savings in city-administered buildings; measuring and tracking energy performance through audits to produce municipal action plans for reducing energy consumption, certification programs and disclosure, examples of tools-methods for future-oriented investments in building renovation.
- 2) **Domestic renewable energy production:** fostering onsite local renewable energy production to reduce expenditure and energy imports; financial incentives and funding mechanisms for initiatives with high upfront expenses, innovative financing.
- 3) **Engagement of stakeholders in energy efficiency programs:** improved engagement with the *financial sector* through targeted; partner-focused activities designed to demonstrate smart

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2016, May 6). Delivering Energy Efficiency in the Middle East and North Africa, available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/642001476342367832>

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financing; partnering with the private sector; municipalities' access to energy usage data through alliances with local utilities to enable evidence-based decision-making about energy efficiency goals; awareness campaign for local communities.

## Objectives and Methodology

The Connective Cities **dialogue event on city-led energy efficiency projects** aims at promoting the exchange of expertise on good practices for planning and implementing energy efficiency projects in cities in MENA. It thus facilitates practice-oriented exchange and peer-to-peer consultations among municipal actors on effective solutions to address challenges related to this field. Through its virtual format, the learning process enables sharing of a broad variety of information synchronously as well as asynchronously, while ensuring the ease of communication between the participants. Interaction will take place using a variety of tools and the discussions will be recorded for future reference.

The objectives of the learning process include:

- Facilitating exchange of know-how and experience on **good practices** through peer-to-peer consultation among urban practitioners from MENA and Germany;
- Developing the capacity of participants to analyse and overcome challenges of implementing energy efficiency programs;
- Determining future support needed for **project ideas** proposed by the participating municipalities, which includes peer-to-peer learning as well as technical and financial advisory.

The work process involves the following steps:

1. Content preparation and **production of the virtual event materials**. This includes podcasts, videos, interviews on good practice examples. This digital content will be available to participants on the online platform. Participants will receive a technical walkthrough and instructions on using the online tools.
2. Thematically focused input on city-led energy efficiency projects including **keynote speeches and showcasing of successful locally-implemented projects**;
3. **Peer-to-peer consultations** among participants to identify and discuss existing challenges and lessons learned from implementing energy efficiency projects.
4. **Action planning**: in moderated working group sessions, participants will use visual tools to formulate project ideas and discuss appropriate practice-oriented solutions that would leverage local resources and are adapted to the local needs.
5. Selected projects that are developed as part of this event will have the chance to be further supported by Connective Cities through follow-up activities including for example local project workshops, expert missions, study tours and financial advisory sessions.

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## Participation and Contact

Prospective participants are expected to provide a **good practice example from a project** they implemented or are currently implementing fitting the thematic focus of the event. We particularly encourage showcasing of good practices **that incorporate gender- and/or climate-sensitive solutions**.

To apply for a participant spot, please send us an email with your function and organisation as well as a short description of the project you would like to showcase. We encourage participation of **two experts** from relevant municipal departments with a possibility of being accompanied by a partner from the civil society, private sector or utility providers. The deadline for application is **15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

Please be aware that you do not need an app or other installations to participate in the virtual event, nevertheless, it is necessary to have

- A reliable internet connection
- A desktop/pc with the latest version of Chrome or FireFox
- A head-set

For applications and queries from interested experts from the MENA region, please contact: **Dr. Muna Shalan**, GIZ Regional Network Coordinator Connective Cities – MENA region ([muna.shalan@giz.de](mailto:muna.shalan@giz.de)).

Interested German experts should contact **Ms. Alice Balbo**, Connective Cities Project Manager at the German Association of Cities ([alice.balbo@staedtetag.de](mailto:alice.balbo@staedtetag.de)).

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**Factsheet: The virtual dialogue event at a glance**

<b>Type of Event</b>	Virtual dialogue event
<b>Date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Technical orientation &amp; networking:</b> 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (11:00-12:30 CEST)</li> <li>ii. <b>Keynote speeches and good practices:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (11:00-14:30 CEST)</li> <li>iii. <b>Peer to peer advisory and formulation of project ideas:</b> 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (11:00-14:30 CEST)</li> <li>iv. <b>Action planning:</b> exact date and time of the online sessions will be determined in consultation with the working groups to take place in the week of 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Duration</b>	Three online session of three hour each (including a break) followed by an action planning session. The duration of the working group meeting for action planning is determined by its members thus it may vary. Individual offline tasks include navigating the Good Practices gallery on the Connective Cities virtual platform. The final agenda of the event will be shared with the selected participants in due course.
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	<p><b>City-led Energy Efficiency projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Energy management</b></li> <li>- <b>Domestic renewable energy production</b></li> <li>- <b>Engagement of stakeholders including the private sector, utilities and CSOs</b></li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	A total of approximately 27 participants, including 24 representatives from 12 municipalities in MENA and 3-4 German and/or international experts.
<b>Criteria for Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical perspective and first-hand experience on city-led energy efficiency projects;</li> <li>- Willingness to virtually present a good local practice example;</li> <li>- Digital literacy and readiness to engage in a virtual exchange during the event</li> </ul>
<b>Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interactive webinars and capacity building</li> <li>- Virtual interactive group discussions with a focus on peer-to-peer consultation;</li> <li>- Action planning to operationalize project ideas.</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	The event is to be held in English. English-Arabic simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
<b>Contact</b>	Dr. Muna Shalan ( <a href="mailto:muna.shalan@giz.de">muna.shalan@giz.de</a> ) for international participants Ms. Alice Balbo ( <a href="mailto:alice.balbo@staedtetag.de">alice.balbo@staedtetag.de</a> ) for German participants