

Call for Participation for Municipal Experts

Global Green Sports: Implementing Sustainability Strategies for Major Sports Events

Invitation to the Dialogue Event in Berlin, 20–22 October 2026

Connective Cities invites two experts from your municipality to participate in the international professional exchange in Berlin and the subsequent learning process.

Applications
still possible

Major sports events inspire billions of people worldwide – while also standing at the centre of the global sustainability debate. How can cities design major sports events in ways that create ecological, social, and economic added value? Which solutions are already proving successful in practice – and what can cities learn from one another?

In Berlin, these questions are being explored intensively. Together with Connective Cities, the district of Charlottenburg-Wilmsdorf and the Berlin Senate Department for the Interior and Sport are inviting five additional German and six international municipalities to participate in a dialogue event on sustainability strategies for major sports events.



Connective Cities – the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Municipal Development supports international exchange of expertise among municipal actors. Through peer-to-peer consultation, municipal experts from Germany and the Global South mutually strengthen one another in addressing challenges related to sustainable development. To this end, one-year learning processes on topics relevant to development policy are initiated. The learning processes consist of an international dialogue event followed by subsequent activities, such as expert exchange visits and virtual exchange formats.

The Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global, as one of the implementing organisations of Connective Cities, facilitates learning processes in Germany together with selected host municipalities. The Service Agency (SKEW) covers the event and travel costs for the German and international participants.

- ☒ Two experts from your municipality will benefit from an expanded network of contacts in Germany and countries of the Global South,
- ☒ Through interactive exchange formats, you will experience good practices from other municipalities, gain ideas for solutions to your local challenges, and take away valuable insights for your work,
- ☒ As part of the learning process, additional Connective Cities activities are available to you, such as topic-specific online exchanges and expert exchange visits abroad.

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with its

What is the background of the dialogue event?

Major sports events are increasingly featured prominently in sustainability debates. They generate high levels of CO₂ emissions due to international travel, infrastructure projects, and energy consumption. New construction projects, the short-term use of sports facilities, and increasing resource consumption pose ecological and financial challenges. Social aspects – such as displacement effects, rising rents, and unequal distribution of economic benefits – are also being critically discussed. At the same time, major sports events offer considerable opportunities: they can establish new environmental standards in event management, act as drivers of innovation for sustainable urban development, and accelerate investments in climate-friendly infrastructure. In addition, they have a strong signalling effect and can raise awareness of sustainability issues both locally and globally. If planned effectively, they can create long-term ecological, social, and economic impacts.

During the dialogue event in Berlin (20–22 October), an intensive technical exchange between German and international municipalities will take place, and the one-year learning process on sustainable major sports events will be launched.

What are the objectives of the dialogue event?

The objectives of the dialogue event are joint learning through the exchange of municipal good practices, peer-to-peer consultation on challenges arising from municipal practice, and the co-creation of solutions to identified challenges.

Which thematic priorities will be addressed?

1. Political anchoring of sustainability strategies for major sports events
2. Operationalisation of said strategies in city administrations and event management
3. Public engagement & education formats about sustainable development during major sports events

Who is the call for participation addressed to?

We look forward to welcoming two experts from your municipality, particularly from the fields of event management, sports, sustainability & climate action or Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). All costs, including travel expenses related to participation in the event, will be covered by us. All participants are expected to contribute proactively to the international technical exchange.



How can you participate?

If you would like to participate in the dialogue event, please send us the following information via email:

- ☒ the name of your municipality / organisation (including universities or NGOs) and your role/function,
- ☒ a short description of a project from your municipality that you would like to present to the other participants as a good practice. You are also welcome to describe a local challenge you are currently facing and would like to discuss with the other municipal experts.



Deadline and contact:

Please get in touch about your participation **as soon as possible**. We will subsequently inform you whether you have been allocated a place. As part of the preparation process, we will ask you to provide a project description. **If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:** Nikola Krause, project coordinator Connective Cities (nikola.krause@engagement-global.de); +49 (0)228 20717 2922 and connective-cities@engagement-global.de.