



CITIES & REGIONS

FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development

BRUSSELS, 4-5 FEBRUARY 2019



Brussels, 5 February 2019

Participants' key contributions and recommendations on the 5 Ps of the European Consensus for Development (Partnership, Peace, Population, Prosperity, Planet)

500 representatives of Local and Regional Authorities and their associations, as well as of European institutions, city networks and practitioners coming from almost 80 countries participated in the **2019 Forum on Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation** held in Brussels. On Monday 4 February 2019, the participants worked in 63 small groups according to an open space methodology around the "5 Ps", namely People, Peace, Partnership, Planet and Prosperity. In this context, they were asked the following question on local and regional partnerships for sustainable urban development: *What are the burning issues and questions you would like to discuss and present to the EU Institutions?* The present document summarises their key contributions and recommendations.

Official languages of the Forum were EN, FR, ES

Partnership (EN)

Main elements of discussion, key concerns and/or needs identified

- The galloping urbanisation growth put under huge pressure both primary and secondary cities. Internal migration flows will put an additional burden to local authorities. Coupled with all the issues the cities are facing (i.e. climate change adaptation), progressive city planning will cost less than retrofitting informal city expansion.
- An enhanced local revenue collection by councils is key to get the resources need to provide basic services to citizens.
- Localisation of the SDGs, of course comes up as an important point. And interestingly so we have been discussing about the idea of creating a Urban School for Integrated Management of SDGs. A school or a "circle of learning" to pool existing experiences allowing better involvement of local stakeholders. This school could promote local awareness campaign and specific trainings for all actors in the territories, from citizens to policy makers. This will enhance technical and technological capabilities in urban planning.
- Digital governance could help to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public good. It could also facilitate the sharing of experiences among local authorities in different countries (twinning and triangular cooperation).

- It is essential to look at the role of civil society organisation and the private sector to create partnerships with local authorities.
- Human resources in local authorities needs to be better trained and skilled. Youth should be encouraged entering the work market and should be trained to do so.

Concerns and/or needs should be addressed as a matter of priority:

- Compact cities are the most sustainable city model. Rapid urbanisation tend to create urban sprawl processes that could be avoided by a proper city master plan.
- However limited resources are dedicated to fund progressive city planning. Sources of revenue must be increased and diversified and optimisation of current systems should be improved to allow a better collection of financial resources. The lack of efficient and effective fiscal and administrative decentralisation reforms rise concerns among participants.
- Moreover, the urban-rural nexus must be created as well as reinforcing projects on regional integration.
- Environmental challenges and natural risk faced by cities call for actions on "urban metabolism" and urban resilience.
- Communication channels must be improved to reach out different stakeholders and a proper training plan for local authorities' officials should be developed.

Strategic policy recommendation/s on sustainable urban development

- Development Partners should maximise the use of funds dedicated to support local authorities to foster local economic development as to increase resource mobilisation at the local level to fund long-term city expansion strategy. Digitalisation should be promoted at all levels: from digital government to cyber security.
- At the same time, the European commission could facilitate peer to peer learning on strategies for revenue collection. Additionally it could enhance sharing of experiences (north-south and south-south). Regarding financing the European Commission could facilitate the access to financing with the use of simpler procedures for LAs applicants.
- From the local authorities side, policy makers must accept to be accountable for the actions implemented. Hence also enhancing transparency in the expenditure of local public budget. International mobility programmes for policy makers and managers should be part of the local policies to increase human resources capacities. Specific training should be given to staff to further enhance the capacities of the local authorities to provide better services to citizens.
- At the national level, clear decentralisation policies should allow for better regulations and transfer of funds from the national to the local level.
- National Associations of local authorities are pivotal in voicing the concerns of LAs at national and international level and to share experiences.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including Civil society organisations and the private sector, together with local authorities, may facilitate dialogues among stakeholders

in the territories to bring about local development. Using a Territorial Approach to local development the potential of territories could be unleashed by using existing resources (both financial and human).

Concrete inputs to the EU Call for Cities and Local Authorities 2019-2020

- Co-financing is difficult to match for LAs
- Procedures are too complicated and the administrative burden is too costly for local authorities to bear. Many LAs do not have enough human resources who could be mobilised to work on call for proposals.
- LAs ask for cleared information about access to EU funds and programmes.
- Decreasing minimum amount in the next call (allowing smaller projects)
- Associations of local authorities can play a pivotal role by sharing information at country level about available EU funds and on how to draft proposal after the publication of a call for proposals.
- The next call for Proposal should be decentralised at country level and managed by the EU Delegation.

Rapporteur: Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi ; Assistants: Carolina Mateo, Silvio Lazzari

Peace (EN)

Main elements of discussion, key concerns and/or needs identified on Peace

Women rights and gender equality:

- Women's rights in occupied territories / conflict areas are often not guaranteed;
- Early marriage presents a particular challenges, as young girls lose the opportunity for education;
- Women participation in economic activities is key for inclusive and peaceful societies. This however, is dependent on a very wide range of factors such as state policies and public services (childcare services, maternity and parental leave, etc.);
- Digitalisation can be a powerful tool for women empowerment, particularly in rural areas.

Local Authorities in fragile contexts:

- Local Authorities are at frontline of conflict and face immense challenges, including a lack of resources due to the instability of the area/region;
- Due to the insecurity, local staff of public institutions of Local Authorities and the Central State are leaving from the particular region;
- This aggravates the absence of public service in insecure areas;
- It is important to strengthen Local Authorities in their function as a "bulwark" against terrorist groups;

- How far can Local Authorities go in negotiating with terrorist movements to maintain public service?

Diplomacy (international relations):

- Diplomacy is not a domain exclusively reserved for the Central State. Local Authorities also have a voice in international relations and negotiations;
- Local decision makers can / have to / and should defend the interests of their regions at the international level.

Strategic policy recommendation/s on sustainable urban development

Women rights and gender equality:

- Focus on the inclusion of women in the labour market - including all different aspects from improved public services for women (day-care / reproductive health services) to public employment policies (maternity leave, flexible working arrangements);
- The EU should promote gender mainstreaming (including in Eastern Partnership countries);
- The EU should support Trainings in order to increase awareness about women's rights (in school / public space / gender stereotypes);
- Exchange good practices between gender experts and policy makers;
- Focus on providing access to finance for women and girls;
- Support the access and use of digital technologies for women, including to help bridging urban-rural gender divide;
- Promote the European charter for women and men in local life.

Local Authorities in in fragile contexts:

- Use the EU Emergency Trust Fund to support the Local Authorities of the G5 Sahel, as well as the Central State;
- Mobilise means for the exchange of best practices between local authorities;
- Create incentives at the political level to primarily hire staff from the locality.

Diplomacy / International relations:

- Support Local Authorities to defend their interests in different levels / formats / configurations of international cooperation;
- The level of decentralisation and the competences of local authorities play a role in diplomacy, for inter-regional and inter-municipal diplomacy to be an effective tool, the competences of the different actors should be akin / aligned;
- The role of the central state should be to support local and regional authorities to engage in diplomacy/ international relations.

Concrete inputs to the EU Call for Cities and Local Authorities

- The EC should put in place national calls for projects of Local Authorities in fragile countries to meet the specific needs of local authorities in the context of insecurity;
- The EC should open the call for proposals for Civil Society Organisations in collaboration with local authorities and the central state to meet the needs at the local level and build capacity.

Population (FR)

Principaux éléments de discussion, principales préoccupations et / ou besoins identifiés

- Rôle et responsabilités des villes et territoires dans la gestion des flux migratoires et l'accueil des réfugiés et migrants - que ce soit dans les pays d'origine, de transit ou d'accueil.
- Gouvernance participative et inclusive.
- Sécurité alimentaire.
- La pauvreté urbaine en tant que défi transversal (impact environnemental, violence, chômage, décrochage scolaire, analphabétisme, etc.).

Il ressort des discussions que les préoccupations et/ou besoins suivants doivent être abordés de façon prioritaire:

- Définition du rôle des sociétés d'accueil vis-à-vis des migrants (octroi de droits et de services basiques) et du rôle d'appui à leur intégration par le biais notamment de l'identification et de l'échange de bonnes pratiques.
- Création d'un pacte social grâce à une consultation régulière des citoyens et leur inclusion active dans la vie publique sur des sujets du quotidien. Ces objectifs ne peuvent s'atteindre qu'en encourageant le débat d'idées.
- Localisation des productions alimentaires au niveau des foyers de consommateurs et valorisation de la production locale - y compris l'autoconsommation: mise en avant des aspects bénéfiques tant économiques que sanitaires.
- La pauvreté urbaine touche notamment les enfants de plein fouet (à l'instar des phénomènes de déscolarisation ou de prostitution infantine et juvénile) – ce qui nécessite que les dirigeants tiennent compte de ce fléau et mettent en place des dispositifs spécifiques de protection de l'enfance.

Recommandation(s) de politique(s) stratégique(s) en matière de développement urbain durable

- Utiliser la logique partenariale et la coopération décentralisée comme des leviers stratégiques pour changer la perception d'une "migration de crise" à une "migration-opportunité". Il est indispensable de changer certaines mentalités vis-à-vis des migrants. Pour ce faire, les collectivités doivent disposer des moyens nécessaires – humains et financiers mais également en termes de compétences.

- L'Union Européenne doit soutenir (notamment via des appels à projets spécifiques) les collectivités territoriales qui s'engagent dans l'organisation de referendums d'initiative locale. Les bénéfices de ceux-ci en termes de gouvernance sont indéniables s'ils peuvent avoir un impact législatif.
- Soutien aux gouvernements locaux pour la promotion d'alliances inter-communautés, de réseaux de bonnes pratiques et de partage d'expériences portant sur la thématique de la sécurité alimentaire.
- Les franges de la population les plus défavorisées doivent également avoir accès à des services spécifiques. Tous les types de collectivités doivent ainsi être éligibles aux financements européens et être en capacité de répondre aux appels à projets: il serait ainsi utile que les institutions européennes conçoivent des modules d'assistance technique pour de potentiels bénéficiaires.

Contributions concrètes à l'Appel à propositions de l'UE pour les villes et les autorités locales

- Soutien à la mise en place d'actions communes et concertées au niveau territorial et local pour répondre aux besoins des populations locales et des populations déracinées. Vue l'importance de ces thématiques, le prochain appel pourra inclure des priorités thématiques portant notamment sur les migrations et la pauvreté.
- En termes de gouvernance, l'Union Européenne doit soutenir (notamment à travers le prochain appel à projets) les collectivités territoriales qui s'engagent dans l'organisation de referendums d'initiative locale.
- Favoriser des actions publiques transverses, soutien à la formation des acteurs pour créer des politiques publiques intégrés. Le prochain appel à projets devra être ouvert à tous types de territoires (urbain/rural ; centre/périphérie mais également villes et régions de différentes tailles). De plus, les appels doivent permettre de monter des projets aux montants divers afin de ne pas exclure ceux de taille modeste.

Rapporteur: Christophe Rouillon

Prosperity (EN)

Elementos principales de discusión, preocupación y necesidades identificados

- Desarrollo económico local (el papel de las regiones en la cooperación descentralizada en innovación y competitividad)
- Mecanismos innovadores de financiación para el desarrollo regional (capacidad para recaudar fondos propios y partenariados público-privados)
- Integración de proyectos sostenibles & inmigración (ej proyectos en la agricultura)
- Economía social y solidaria (e.j: para aumento de ingresos de las mujeres en medio rurales)

Las preocupaciones y necesidades siguientes destacan de los debates como elementos prioritarios por tratar:

- Falta de recursos a nivel local para proyectos de desarrollo económico local
- Ausencia de reconocimiento de las regiones en la cooperación descentralizada en innovación y competitividad
- Financiamiento de las regiones: ¿es una cuestión técnica o una cuestión política?
- Necesidad de evaluar el valor añadido real de los partenariado público-privado
- Como gestionar la migración para que juegue a favor y no en contra del desarrollo económico local
- Necesidad de desarrollar capacidades a nivel local y sensibilización de los gobiernos nacionales

Recomendaciones de política(s) estratégica(s) en materia de desarrollo urbano sostenible

- Dar a las regiones acceso a los mercados financieros y permitir a las autoridades regionales identificar posibles fuentes de recaudación fiscal
- Apoyar a los municipios para acceder a los fondos de la UE (i.e. Plan de inversión exterior para Africa)
- Reforzar y dar más valor a los trabajos artesanos u oficios.
- Dar apoyo técnico y financiero a los centros de formación profesional tanto a nivel nacional como regional
- Favorecer redes internacionales para fomentar el emprendimiento femenino
- Crear un fondo de la UE para reducir la inmigración a través de proyectos de desarrollo económico sostenible
- Involucrar a los técnicos y no solo a los políticos en el diseño de políticas de cooperación descentralizada

Contribuciones concretas relativas la convocatoria de propuestas de la UE para las ciudades y las autoridades locales 2019-2020

- Cubrir los gastos de determinación de necesidades en la preparación de propuestas de proyectos
- Desarrollo económico local debe ser uno de los sectores focales a apoyar con la convocatoria

Ponente: Balas TORRES Rosa; Asistentes: Audrey Parizel, Florence Thomé, Diana García Alcubilla

Planet (EN)

Main elements of discussion, key concerns and/or needs identified on Planet

The following sub-topics have been discussed in the framework of the PLANET exchanges:

- Urban transport and mobility
- Climate change impact
- Waste management
- Biodiversity
- Urban resilience and adaptation
- Conservation of the ecosystem and economic development
- Environmental protection in general
- Sustainable tourism
- Oceans protection
- Water management.

Strategic policy recommendation/s on sustainable urban development

- Need to have a vision and long term strategies which looks at the city boundaries as well as the territory around the city;
- These strategies and vision must be accompanied by the appropriated public and private funding and an adequate support to multi-level governance structure;
- Support to multi-level governance should focus on involvement of committed politicians and the strengthening of regulatory frameworks;
- An appropriate monitoring and evaluation system based on indicators should be put in place to assess progress beyond the political mandates of mayors.
- We must foresee specific financing (public and private) for local projects and initiatives with a focus on maximising the value of resources and share experiences in this domain. The appropriate financial assistance must facilitate infrastructure development and setting up of transparent services by SMEs. Also assure that small and medium size cities have access to this type of funding according to their capacities to manage the project;
- Awareness raising campaigns and education on environmental issues of all citizens remain crucial aspects if we really want to engage with everyone, the variety of actors can nourish local policies if everyone understand what is at stake.
- Vulnerable groups have to be able to participate as any actor in the planning phase of policy design, implementation, evaluation of policies and programmes, and in all sectors (urban mobility, planning, waste policies, water and energy access, sanitation..). Social cohesion and active citizens' participation have to go hand in hand.

Concrete inputs to the EU Call for Cities and Local Authorities

- We must assure that there is concrete capacity building and technical assistance on integrated urban transport plans, urban planning, waste management, biodiversity and ensure that the EU supports these actions through also innovation, research, technological transfer,... We must transfer competences to the local level and reinforce the capacities of the cities in managing waste but within the framework of a circular economy. We need to assure that there are solutions for increasing authorities' administrative capacities in order to apply more efficiently for European legislation and use of European Funds.
- Collaboration with other partners around the world will be critical in succeeding in our actions, and also at the global level, so in cooperation with international partners and not only local ones are a need. New Local and Regional Authorities from the North and the South have to be engaged in matchmaking, partnership and twinning initiatives to localise the sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 11 but not only.
- In line with our recommendations on sustainable urban development we must favour proposals which include criteria referring to: reinforcement of the ecosystems services to take decision from the local authority point of view; capacity and awareness at different levels on how to include the ecosystems in the urban planning and exchanges of experiences and replicability in other territories; consider new models to include protection of nature, recovery of natural habitats, build respecting nature, support green growth; having citizens involved in the project proposal.
- It is crucial that the EU continues to support and empower local and regional governments in the world; EU should continue to support the role of local and regional governments, notably on environmental issues, by advocating for an enabling environment for local governments in the political dialogue with partner countries, supporting decentralisation reforms and supporting directly local and regional governments, and their associations, notably through decentralised cooperation
- Facilitate the contribution of small and medium size cities to apply to the call according to their capacities to manage the project.

Rapporteur: Frédéric Vallier ; Assistants: Eva Banos de Guisasola, Olivier Baumard, Adrien Licha