

Metropolis Initiative on Integrated Urban Governance – Successful Policy Transfer

Outcomes and prospects

The Berlin Metropolis Initiative on Integrated Urban Governance IUG evaluates case studies in good municipal practice, makes these outcomes available, organises exchange of experience between metropolises and links Berlin up with the cities involved. By means of an **internet platform**, the **peer review method**, which has been developed for Metropolis, and the **dialogue meetings**, the Initiative has provided the network with innovative instruments by which to intensify exchange between member cities and to document lessons learnt and day-to-day practice in member cities, and to make these accessible to others.

What will be present by the time of the 11th Metropolis World Congress in Hyderabad (07 - 10 October 2014)?

The Berlin Initiative has developed two innovative formats for '**face to face**' **exchange of experience meetings**:

1. the **Peer Review Process**:

By means of a peer review meeting, programmes and projects in a host city can be the focus of a (very structured) brief evaluation. Peers come from comparable cities and work in comparable conditions, i.e. they contribute concrete lessons learnt about the particular topics involved in the case being considered. The method allows the host city to progress development of its programmes and projects. The peers are enabled to reflect critically about their own activities.

At least four of these process meetings will have been initiated by the time of the Metropolis World Congress.

After Berlin and Paris the **third peer review meeting** took place from 15 to 16 July 2013 in **Johannesburg**, dealing with the Rapid Bus System in the capital city of South Africa. The meeting was evaluated as having been so beneficial that Johannesburg has requested a further peer review meeting for the second phase of its project.

The fourth peer review meeting took place in Seoul and dealt with organising inter-cultural exchange and training processes, and took place, in cooperation with the Metropolis International Training Institute Headquarters, in **Seoul** from 12 to 14 March 2014.

2. **Dialogue meetings**:

This format for exchange and conferences brings together political decision makers, public administration personnel, representatives of business and of civil society. The aim is not only to exchange experience and ideas but is also jointly to elaborate and agree upon a 'policy paper' (in the case of the dialogue meetings dealing with climate change adaptation: a Charter on municipal climate change adaptation), which both formulates recommendations for cities – in particular metropolises – and also itemises demands addressed to regional, national and supra-national regional administrative authorities and governments.

The **first dialogue meeting** “No Regrets – Pre-acting and Adapting to Climate Change in Cities” was held in **Berlin** on 14 and 15 October 2013. The **second meeting** took place in **Brussels** on 09 and 10 February 2014.

On the basis of the first meeting, the Charter entitled **No Regrets Charter** – Principles of climate change adaptation in cities was drawn up. The draft document was discussed and amplified during the second meeting. At the time of writing the final version is being formulated.

The Charter

a) specifies general principles within municipal climate change adaptation, in the centre of which are no regret and integrated measures;

- b) formulates guidelines in implementing adaptation strategies oriented according to the sustainability precept;
- c) provides action recommendations in those fields of action which were addressed during the dialogue meetings;
- d) formulates demands addressed to higher-level regional administrative bodies to give advice and support for municipal adaptation strategies. In the European context these are demands addressed to the European Commission.

The intention is as a concluding measure to present the Charter during the forthcoming **Metropolis World Congress** in Hyderabad. On this occasion it is hoped to acquire as many member cities as possible to support the aims and principles put forward in the Charter and to encourage that the no regret measures and similar concepts within integrated urban governance approaches in climate change adaptation - some of which are listed as examples in the Charter - are trialled, further developed and form the subject of exchange of mutual experience and lessons learnt.

The Charter will additionally be brought to bear in current discourse about **climate change adaptation in the EU**. It can enable Berlin and the other cities involved to influence this discourse and to position themselves accordingly. In its Communication entitled 'An EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change' dated April 2013, the European Commission identified municipalities as central players and proposed – by analogy to the Covenant of Mayors and facilitated by this movement - a Climate Change Adaptation Initiative for Cities. At the time of writing work is going on to produce this. It is anticipated that a conference for signatories will be held in June this year (2014).

In addition to these direct formats for exchange of experience and ideas, the **internet platform** on 'Integrated Urban Governance - the way forward' has created a further information and exchange instrument, by means of which considerably more people can be reached than is the case using direct formats. The platform will be handed over by the programme developers on 24 February 2014, and subsequently will undergo a test phase lasting several months by selected users from Metropolis member cities. Whilst this is taking place, it is proposed to supplement the contents – case studies, instruments, experts. The platform comprises the following elements:

1. **a good practice database:**
the database brings together case studies for good practice in the field of integrated urban development. It differs from existing databases because of its user-friendly in depth search function and because the case study descriptions are all structured in a unified fashion. It supplements a database on the Metropolis network which contains structural data on the member cities. The database can not only provide information via the internet, in addition it can also provide basis material for Metropolis training activities.
2. **an experts' database:**
the database makes information available about experts in a variety of topics in urban development and urban management. It can be used by municipalities for consultancy purposes or for Metropolis activities – for example, for peer reviews, in order to identify suitable advisors, presenters or trainers. In addition, it offers an opportunity to record centrally the many and diverse specialised subject contact persons whom a municipal administrative body can call upon.
3. **a collected source of tools and instruments:**
the platform describes instruments in integrated urban development – for example, elaborating framework strategies, many procedures in public participation and so on. In this way, it provides a user with a pool of knowledge and enables Metropolis member cities to document newly-developed processes and instruments and to make them available to others.
4. **an exchange platform:**
the internet platform gives users an opportunity to communicate with one another concerning specific topics, meetings or events, case studies and so on, and to exchange ideas and lessons learnt in these categories.

Prospects for the next Metropolis working period (2015-2017)

In principle, all the instruments and formats developed during the current working period should be continued and further developed, so that in the course of (or at the latest by the end) of the next Initiative, responsibility for them can be transferred to the Metropolis Secretariat General and/or to the Training Headquarters in Seoul:

1. **the internet platform:**

by means of this platform, the Metropolis network has available for its use an instrument with which to document and make available to others lessons learnt within the network and know-how. During the practice phase it would seem to be indicated to have advice and support for a limited time, so that the contents within the platform may be augmented and extended.

2. **the Peer Review Process:**

by the end of the current working period, by means of the peer review process, a format for exchange and training will have been developed and trialled which the Secretariat General is already understanding as a Metropolis method. The format seems to be appropriate, in particular for training institutes, as an innovative instrument for specific training and exchange activities. However, during the next working period, the institutes need to become familiarised with the format and the methodological requirements. This therefore involves 'training the trainers'. In addition, the Berlin Initiative should organise peer review process meetings on the topic of municipal climate change adaptation. By this means, the No Regret Charter can be disseminated, elaborated, and the recommendations can be fed into the implementation process.

3. **Dialogue meetings:**

As was the case with the peer review meetings, by means of these dialogue meetings it was possible to develop a new instrument for Metropolis, by means of which various players within urban development and urban management can be brought together in a structured way, and outcomes and recommendations can be fed into the political (and policy) discourse. Lessons learnt with this format to the present time indicate that activities of this nature should be continued during the next working period. For Berlin this would then mean the opportunity to continue to develop Berlin approaches, strategies and network links, and to feed in topics into Metropolis – and thus international – discourse.

The topic for the subsequent dialogue meetings should be coordinated with the Metropolis network.