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# Report

## Metropolis Peer-Review-Training Agenda 21 in Interaction with Climate Plan for Île-de-France Region/Paris

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### Executive Summary

The Berlin Metropolis Initiative 'Integrated Urban Governance – Successful Policy Transfer' together with the Initiative of the Île-de-France Region "Concrete actions taken by Metropolis to mitigate, anticipate and adapt to climate change' have carried out a Peer-Review-Training workshop, which took place in Paris from 15. – 16. October 2012 and was dedicated to the 'Agenda 21 in Interaction with Climate Plan for Île-de-France Region/Paris'. Peers from Hyderabad, Johannesburg, Sydney and Vienna discussed together with representatives of the Île-de-France Programme and with the participants from Berlin how to respond to policy and management challenges in carrying out the programme and strengthening the positive developments.

The results from the peer review training are summarised as:

- The inclusion of different urban policy and management institutions and the benefit to the population of the region can be optimized by methodologically adjusting community participation procedures and a stronger visibility of the implementing (public and private) organisations.
- Internal administrative steering processes and procedures could be improved by conducting regular stakeholder meetings and continuing training activities.
- The existence of a trustful atmosphere is quintessential for the co-operation of all actors involved.
- The programme could be advertised through public activities such as competitions, lotteries, or the introduction of an annual environment day.

The assessment of the questionnaire handed out to the participants during the meeting and individual discussions demonstrated that the method of Peer-Review-Trainings is very helpful to exchange practical knowledge and project experiences between the participating cities. Possible improvements of the method could be achieved by giving more time for the discussions and less for the presentations or by starting discussions on the method as well as on the programme to be reviewed before the training workshop. One of the key achievements of the Peer-Review-Training is demonstrated through the site visits and discussing the major interventions with operational management teams. This provided an opportunity to review the policies at the initial level so that the operational (policy) gaps could be discussed and solutions for improving the performance could be elaborated.

## Report:

This Peer-Review-Training was carried out within the context of the Berlin Metropolis Initiative 'Integrated Urban Governance – Successful Policy Transfer' in co-operation with the Metropolis Initiative 'Concrete actions taken by Metropolis to mitigate, anticipate and adapt to climate change' chaired by the region Île-de-France. It has been dedicated to the topic: Agenda 21 in Interaction with Climate Plan for Île-de-France Region/Paris.

The training format has been developed by the Berlin Metropolis team of the Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment of Berlin, and was carried out for the first time in Berlin in the year 2011. It aims at identifying solutions responding to difficulties in carrying out a specific programme and to discern its positive trends. This way it is functioning as a good example for the participants who conduct similar projects in their cities.

**Figure 1: Method of Peer-Review-Training**



At this year's training on October 15th-16th in Paris (region of Île-de-France) experts from Hyderabad, Johannesburg, Sydney, and Vienna discussed the programme for the implementation of the local Agenda 21 and the related climate-plan. The experts from Johannesburg and Vienna are operating similar projects in their cities; the participants from Sydney and Hyderabad are dealing with urban climate programmes on a scientific level.

### Hyderabad

**Prof. Srinivas Chary Vedala,**  
Director of the Centre for  
Energy, Environment and Urban  
Governance (ASCI) Hyderabad,  
India

### Sydney

**Mr. Sunil Dubey,**  
Metropolis country manager for India,  
Faculty of Architecture Design and  
Planning, The University of Sydney,  
Australia

### Johannesburg

**Ms. Lunelle Joy Serobatse,**  
Director for Environmental  
Policy & Integration in the City of  
Johannesburg, South Africa

### Vienna

**Ms. Andrea Binder-Zehetner,**  
Managing director of the Association Local  
Agenda 21 in Vienna, Austria (Verein  
Lokale Agenda 21 in Wien)

The programme was introduced by a so-called '**Initial Report**' forwarded to the participants prior to the training workshop in Paris. Among general information the report also contained questions relating to the improvement of cross-linkages between other existing programmes and questions relating to the increase of the integration of additional players from the administrative and private sectors as well as the local citizens in the programme's implementation. Also, during the workshop **visits** were made to a geothermal power plant and a 'green' school'.

***Pictures 1 and 2: Technical visits to a geothermal power plant and a 'green school'***



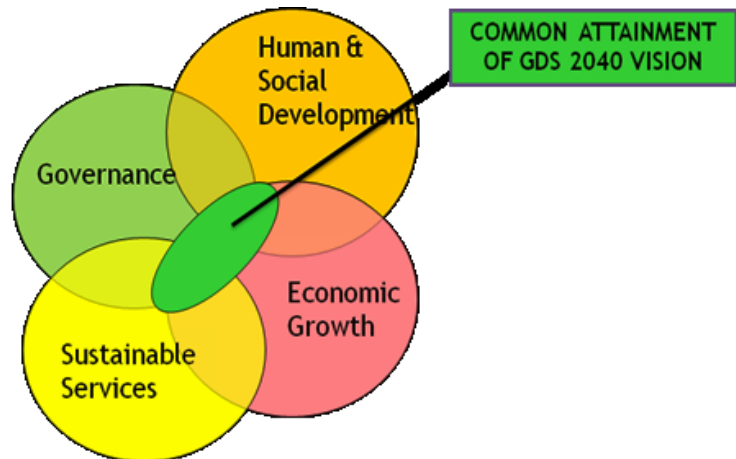
After the technical visits the leaders of the programme Danielle Sauterel, Christian Thibault and Iuli Nascimento outlined more details and basic features of the **Local Agenda 21 and the related climate-plan** in their **presentations** and in **discussions**:

The Agenda 21 implements the action plan for sustainable development adopted by 178 nations at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and thereby responds to continuing social inequalities and increasing environmental threats. Agenda 21 builds the framework for the Climate Plan which echoes the commitment to reduce the region's emissions by more than 75% over a generation, which represents an immense challenge. Thus, its implementation can only be successfully accomplished by pursuing an integrated governmental approach. The regional climate plan implements cross-sectoral measures in all fields of policy: transport, health, biodiversity, water, agriculture, buildings, etc. Within the high level goal to improve the quality of the built heritage, a particular priority is placed on fostering energy saving and efficiency in the schools of the region.

The second day of the Peer-Review-Training started with the presentations by the peers, which addressed relevant experiences made in their home cities and regions and in which they presented a range of recommendations and observations on options to increase the efficiency of the Île-de-France programme.

Ms. Lunelle Joy Serobatse started her statement by giving an overview on the **Johannesburg** context. The city pursues a vision which tasks at creating a resilient and adaptive society. The strategy to realize this vision is set to operate in 'sustainable services clusters' which are addressing human and social development, environment and sustainable services, economic growth and good governance. Thus, the expected outcomes are to provide sustainable and integrated delivery of water, sanitation, energy and waste, eco-mobility, sustainable human settlements, climate change resilience and environmental protection. The realization of these goals is embedded in a planning framework which implements 5-year programmes and annual business plans. Based on these experiences,

**Figure 2: Johannesburg City Strategy Cluster Approach**



Ms. Serobatse recommended to the Île-de-France programme to find common opportunities, interests or priorities of locally relevant networks & local municipalities in order to integrate them in the local Agenda 21 (LA21). To attract the regional staff there could be offered study opportunities in specific focus areas of LA21. Further, the involvement of the local community could be practically increased by running competitions for clean & green neighbourhoods, or/and designing competitions for local parks or river cleanup days with schools & volunteer groups. She presented a range of possible methods to support the necessary coordination between the affected groups: establish learning sessions with the local municipalities, host seminars or monthly forums on topical issues which may affect the other local municipalities or internal departments, or implementing agencies in the region to discuss concrete environmental policy requirements such as water/air quality, biodiversity conservation, waste management, etc.. Also, the mixed Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach to foster the implementation of LA21 and the Climate Action Plan could be supported through regularly meetings with strategic business partners or industry. Ms. Serobatse concluded her statement with the remark that political leadership and commitment is a key in driving long term city strategies. The continuous learning, benchmarking and sharing of experiences is equally relevant as the recognition of the value of other players towards a shared vision.

The feedback of **Vienna** was presented by Ms. Andrea Binder-Zehetner who started it by pointing out the relevance of involving stakeholders like environmental organisations and citizens in exemplary projects. This can be supported i.e. by granting funding only to projects which include these groups or by including them into the planning of projects such as the 'Eco Lycee'. Thereby it could be stipulated to mobilize the benefits of involving citizens such as: raised awareness for the issue, empowerment of citizens and more participatory democracy, or the creation of more continuous co-operation. This co-operation should be accompanied by methods and tools, such as the appointment of facilitators for designing and implementing formats and bodies for the communication processes between actors. As far as possible,



community workers, landscape planners, and urban planners should work together in interdisciplinary teams. Ms. Binder-Zehetner then reported on her experiences made during her work with communities implementing LA21 in Austria. These are commonly interested in a change towards sustainable environments. But they need solutions, financial support and help by facilitators to organize the development of the LA21 action plans. These facilitators can be private organizations or officers but they implicitly need to be specially trained for developing projects and budgets. Also the networks and co-operations have to be designed with care. They should be more open and less output orientated and thus offer plenty of possibilities and chances for co-operation. In LA 21 good experiences have been made with specific platforms such as a round table on resource efficiency. Ms. Binder-Zehetner concluded her statement by pointing to the relevance of a sound project assessment which applies appropriate indicators and puts sufficient efforts in the documentation of the reflecting process done by the actors. Moreover, the assessment should not only be accomplished by measuring along indicators but additionally assess the processes and the interests of local politicians.

**Picture 3: Activities of Local Agenda 21 in Vienna**



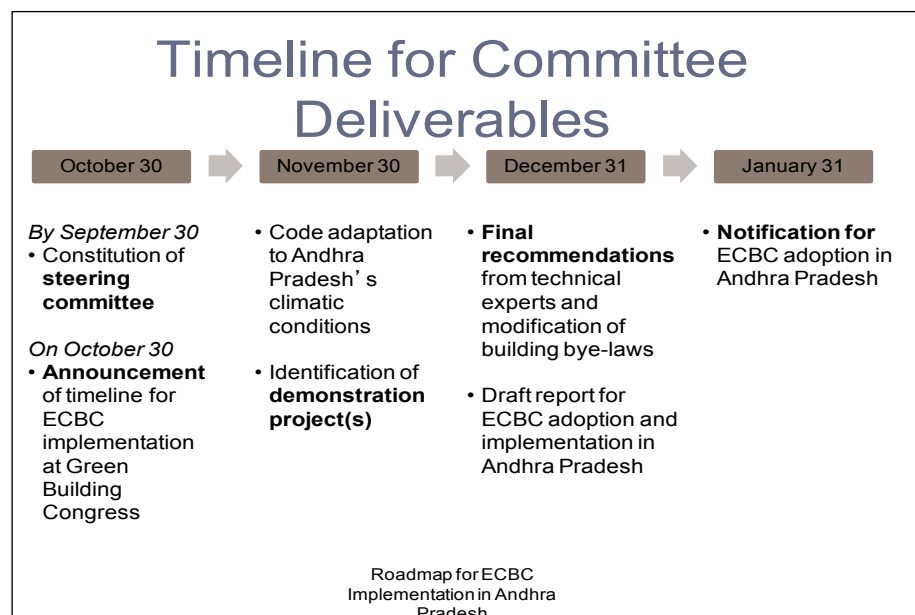
In his statement Sunil Dubey from **Sydney** was focusing on the benefits deriving from connecting cities. He emphasized that the region Île-de-France, Vienna and Johannesburg can learn a lot from each other's plans addressing climate change. Examples of Australian cities are demonstrating that the comparison and exchange between cities and their policies and programmes has led to an increase of motivation and efficiency in realizing distinct plans. In Australia there is a strong culture of competition between cities in which mainly four cities are comparing each other. As an exemplary result, these cities have acknowledged that the city of Perth has the most elaborated climate strategy which can be taken as a model for other cities. This allows fruitful learning. He further mentioned that the urban sector in Australia produces the main proportion of the national GDP. Thus the cities are on a high level in terms of carbon consumption. But they are also on a high level in pursuing strategies of reducing it. An example is a national policy to develop carbon reduction plans. He explained the principle of Australian sustainable development - 'Our Common Future', where the concept of sustainability encompasses social and economic considerations as well as environmental aspects. The principle ensures that there is a partnership strategy towards climate and the national climate objectives link with the international goals and perceived results. One outcome was to implement a carbon tax which turned out to be a very efficient method for the reduction. Other experiences from Australian cities which could serve as a model for the climate plan of the Île-de-France region are the measures to improve the education of citizens which have for instance been to raise awareness of climate change and its impacts on the Sydney webpage in a transparent and detailed way. Also, Sydney is inviting 300 people from all parts of society in a special event to address the key goal to develop linkages to other cities communities to see how they can learn from each other. In this event the participants should

find answers to the question: How can I find my area of influence? He further pointed to the role of trust between leaders, politicians and citizens. Trustful relations are the most important element for addressing climate change. An important factor for creating them is to be transparent concerning the implemented plans. It has to be clear to everyone: someone has to pay the carbon price. Revenues and employment are the basis to be able to pay this price. Sunil Dubey provided compelling examples from Sustainable Sydney's 2030 vision where communities played the most important role defining the city's vision where culture and innovation played a vital role in defining Sydney's urban renewal and sustainable infrastructure plans. He specially highlighted reference to an important document from the 'State of City 2011 - Sustainable Sydney 2030 – Implementation Challenge Workshop Report'. The report highlights similar principles as Berlin's Peer Review Training methodologies.

Prof. Chary's presentation was dedicated to opportunities to learn from the experiences made with the implementation of the national mission on sustainable habitat in India, the national action plan on climate change and its local manifestation in **Hyderabad**. The main areas of the focus of the action plan are to insure involvement, dialogue, and participation between all key stakeholders by mobilizing decentralization of power and public private partnerships. Caused by the specific Indian conditions, the plan addresses ample key fields such as the renewal of the water supply system, the problems deriving from the urbanization of poverty, energy efficiency, energy security, solid waste management, mobility, and climate change resilient cities. The plan includes various tasks to achieve the intended improvements. For example the recycling of used water should be increased by 20%, or a waste programme to create 'wealth out of waste' should be promoted. This project has already been implemented: pamphlets and special storing bags have been distributed to citizens on how to segregate dry waste in the households. The bags contain printed information on what to collect as well as a serial number and the phone numbers to contact the ones who collect the bags. In Hyderabad this system has been proven to be an exemplary PPP initiative in door to door waste collection.

Also, an energy conservation building code (ECBC) is about to be established. Its steering committee will be in charge of the building bye-laws modifications, the compliance mechanisms, the measures to increase capacity building and training, and of the demonstration projects. These deliverables are structured along the roadmap for ECBC implementation.

**Figure 3: Roadmap for ECBC implementation**



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As well as Mr. Dubey, Prof. Chary recommended to pay close attention to a sound financial basis of any strategy addressing climate change issues. In India, World Bank funding has been granted for setting up city development plans which are containing sustainable criteria. Additional funding could be raised by involving the private sector (PPP) in implementing distinct and previously stipulated climate goals.

These presentations were followed by a **discussion** of the peer's feedback on the Île-de-France programme. It revealed additional recommendations and ideas:

The inclusion of different institutions and the population of the region can be optimized by methodologically adjusted participation procedures and a stronger visibility of the implementing organisation. This will also have a positive effect on the realisation of the programme's objectives. In this context, transparency and communication are playing a central role (also to attract supporters from the private sector). Moreover, a continuous and comprehensible presentation of the programme is very helpful. This can be supported by the distribution of a corresponding logo and an easy to comprehend graphic outline of the programme structure.

Internal administrative steering processes could be improved by conducting regular meetings and continuing training activities. Moreover, they could be carried out more task-oriented by summarizing the individual objectives and measures of the programme in a long-term framework plan.

The existence of a trustful atmosphere is quintessential for the co-operation of the different actors. The citizens will only be supportive if they trust their administration and their political representatives.

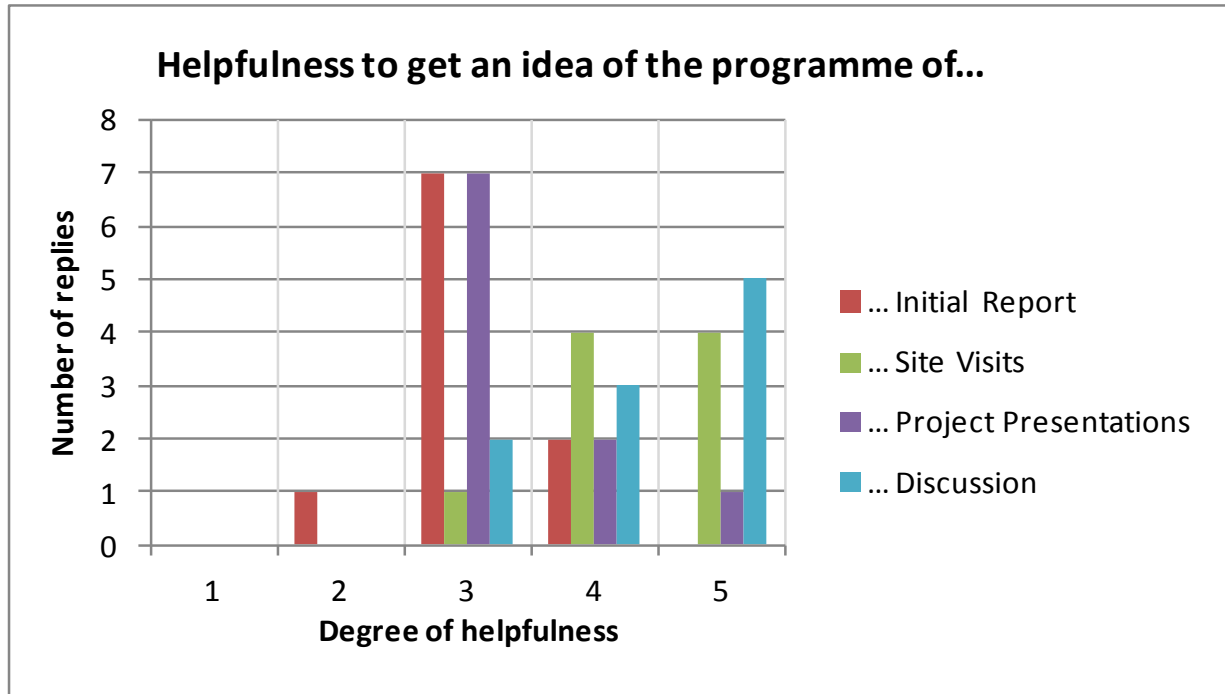
Also very concrete recommendations were made. For example, the programme could be advertised through public activities such as competitions, lotteries, or the introduction of an annual environment day.

The peers on their part appreciated in particular the visits of the heat and power plant and the 'green school' and perceived the technical and organisational aspects they were introduced to as exemplary for the practice in their own cities. In the questionnaire distributed after the workshop participants replied to the question 'What could your city learn from the Île-de-France programme' that learning is possible from the usage of rainwater in the school environment, the organisation of the heat and power plant as PPP and the policy and legal requirements for green buildings.

The **evaluation** of the workshop confirms the positive impression the peers had from the site visits. Eight out of twelve participants indicated that they were very helpful to get an idea of the programme.

In the questionnaire there also has been asked for the helpfulness of the initial report, the programme presentations and the discussion. The best values could be recorded for the discussion: five participants gave it the highest possible score and four the second highest.

Figure 4: Helpfulness of single parts of the PRT to get an idea of the Î-d-F Programme



The assessment of the questionnaire and individual discussions clearly demonstrates that the method of Peer-Review-Trainings is very helpful to exchange practical knowledge between the participating cities. However, it also revealed that the method can be improved for example by giving more time for the discussions and less for the presentations or by starting discussions on the method as well as on the programme to be reviewed even before the training workshop. Other remarks were addressing the currently rather high costs for the training. These could be minimised for example by linking the workshop to other events and thereby reducing travel costs.

The outcomes of the Peer-Review-Training are also pointing to future and continuous possibilities for mutual learning: for Berlin, the Paris climate plan can be an example. It contains a series of approaches which could serve as a model for the on-going development of the Berlin 'StEP-Klima' (Urban Development Plan – Climate). For example, the socio-spatial orientation of the Paris climate-plan which pursues social compatibility as an important activity of the city's adaptation strategy is to be mentioned in this context. This can be observed for instance in the practice to keep energy costs on a social acceptable level for poorer social groups – and at the same time without risking the climate objectives. Vice versa, the Berlin approach of the 'No regret' measures could serve as an example for climate policy of Paris. Thus, a continuation of the exchange between these capital cities seems to be fruitful and desirable.

The Peer-Review-Trainings are an effective tool to exchange project-oriented and practical expertise in an international context. They also contribute to a structural enhancement of a wide range of urban development projects. The Peer-Review-Trainings therefore are representing an important part of the Berlin Metropolis activities.



**Picture 4: Participants of the Peer-Review-Training**



## Credits

Pictures 1, 2, 4: Michael Abraham

Picture 3: Power Point presentation Andrea Binder-Zehetner "LA21 Plus, Lokale Agenda 21 Wien"

Figure 1 and 4: Michael Abraham

Figure 2: Power Point presentation Lunelle Serobatse "Metropolis Peer Review Training, Paris, Lunelle Serobatse, City of Joburg, October 16th 2012"

Figure 3: Power Point presentation Prof. Srinivas Chary Vedala "National Mission on Sustainable Habitat – India. Lessons and opportunities for mutual learning"