



United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

## COMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

### COMITTEE OF DIGITAL AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED CITIES COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE ON URBAN MOBILITY

Outcomes of meeting in Florence

## CIRCULAR 21

Dear members, partners and colleagues,

During the last World Council in Florence, on 9 December 2011, the three Committees on Urban Mobility, Urban Strategic Planning and Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities, met in Florence to confirm joint interests and objectives regarding the UCLG agenda on sustainability and cooperation. Coherence and possible action was identified:

**Policy:** Cities respond to criteria of sustainability in a huge variety of actions. The importance of considering cities contributions more in the UCLG agenda on Rio +20 was underlined. The three Committees agreed on a joint input which was presented by Lisbeth Iverson, Councillor of Bergen, and through the intervention of Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, Mayor of Stuttgart, to the Executive Bureau on the following day.

**Agenda:** Learning and research can benefit from more cooperation between the Committees. This is the case of the presiding cities: Bilbao (Digital and knowledge-based cities) has recently received the European Public Service Award (EPSA) 2011 for its innovative experience on "Political Management based on Economic Stringency and Strategic Budgets" and its approaches of capacity building on digital agenda; Stuttgart (Urban mobility) has become a knowledge hub for mobility; and Rosario and Durban (Urban strategic planning) could institutionalize municipal learning through MILE. Besides a sharing of research and policy notes, the mentoring programme was seen as an excellent opportunity to build effective decentralized cooperation, especially on the management level, where the Committees see their strengths. The Committees currently revise a possible practical cooperation in the agenda of 2012. Furthermore, the mentoring and peer agenda has found recognition by our partners, with the government of Norway and the Cities Alliance interested in continue supporting the agenda.

The debate revealed that many participants feel knowledge and research need to be more holistic, for example not isolating the concept of "low carbon cities" from governance to ensure inclusion, as well as taking into account the need to find other indicators and ways to express success, by this helping to identify alternatives to the indicators which only measure economic growth and prosperity.

We thank you all.

Sincerely,

**The UCLG World Secretariat**

on behalf of the Committees on Urban Mobility, Urban Strategic Planning and Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities

Please click on the links below to access the following documents:

- [Contribution Rio + 20](#)
- [Report of the meeting held in Florence](#)