

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2020-2021

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON DIGITAL CITIES

1. **Main activities of the Consultation mechanism in 2021 organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities when relevant.**

A. Implementation

The main objective of the Community of Practice Digital Cities is the update each 2-3 years of the **"Smart Cities Study: International study on the situation of ICT, innovation and Knowledge in cities"**. A study with a global and cross-cutting approach of the different levers in which the potential for a city to grow and transform lie.

The study has the following objectives:

- To characterize the current situation and the opportunities of these fields at the local level.
- To identify the key elements that may either slow the development of these fields at the local level, or may facilitate their growth.
- To identify successful case studies (good practices) that can serve as a reference for other cities to advance the "smart city" concept.

Until date, 3 editions have been published:

2012: The first edition of the Study gives a **HOLISTIC** vision of the Smart Cities, which brings together 6 key Areas of performance that affect the development of cities: Economy, People, Governance, Mobility, Environment and Quality of life.

2017: The second edition of the Study focused on the **"ECONOMY"** Area of performance, and analyzed the key factors associated with Smart cities in fields such as innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge and talent, and the digital economy.

2019: The third and most recent edition. It was published officially at the beginnings of 2020. This edition is focused on the **"GOVERNANCE"** Area of performance. It analyzed the main keys on smart governance and its main areas of action, open government and advanced strategic management in cities have been analyzed as factors in the transformation of smart cities.

The following calendar of activities has been scheduled:

Activities developed during the first semester 2020

During the first semester 2020 the main activity of the Community of Practice has been in collaboration with UCLG Secretariat the launch and implementation of the Communication Plan of the Smart Cities Study 2019.

Activities foreseen during the second semester 2020

During the second half of 2020, work will continue on the dissemination of the Smart Cities Study 2019 but the preparation of the 2021 edition will begin.

During the last months of the year, work will mainly focus on the new edition approach.

Activities foreseen in 2021:

During 2021, once the study next edition approach is defined, the preparation of the study will begin. Therefore, the same preparation methodology as in previous editions will be applied.

During the 2021 World Council meeting the study will be officially launched and published.

B. Advocacy

The **City of Bilbao represented by its Mayor, Juan Mari Aburto** continues leading the work carried out by the Community of Practice of Digital Cities.

During the last months of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, it is planned to carry out a process to **update the list of members** of the Community of Practice.

C. Monitoring and follow-up

The Community of Practice periodically reports to the World Secretariat on the progress made in the implementation of its activities, especially for the preparation of the Smart Cities Study fourth edition.

D. Learning

It is planned to **collaborate with the UCLG Research team in charge of preparing the next GOLD VI report**, which will address the issue of inequalities in the world.

Also the collaboration in the organization of **learning meetings** with other international institutions that work on issues related to Smart Cities: UN-HABITAT, Uraia Platform, We-Go, WBA, among others, to position new technologies as a tool to achieve sustainable development of cities.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

For the elaboration of the Smart Cities Study fourth edition, we will seek to obtain the maximum participation of the members of the UCLG Community of Practice and of all the UCLG members.

Likewise, it is considered that the study can be very useful as a reference for the Political Councils, and therefore we encourage disseminating this document widely among them.

In addition to the leadership of the Community of Practice of Digital Cities, the City of Bilbao participates in the leadership of the following UCLG consultation bodies, which facilitates the **creation of possible synergies**:

- Co-chair of the Political Council "Opportunities for all, culture and diplomacy of cities: keys for development and peace"
- Local4Action Hub linked to the project "Bilbao City of Values"
- Vice-president of the Commission of Culture

2. Update in the leadership of the Consultation Mechanism and any relevant information.

As a result of the Executive Bureau held in May 2020 virtually and with a view to holding the next meeting of the **UCLG World Council, scheduled for November 11-15 virtually**, UCLG began a **consultation mechanisms renovation process**.

The City of Bilbao has expressed its desire to continue with the leadership of the Community of Practice of Digital Cities.

3. Two paragraphs summarizing the results of 2020 and how the mechanism has adapted to the COVID crisis.

The main result obtained in 2020 by the Community of Practice of Digital Cities, has been the publication of the third edition of the Smart Cities Study 2019, which has focused on the situation and trends in terms of "Smart Governance" or "Smart Governance". To this end, success stories have been identified and the main keys to smart governance and its main areas of action, open government and advanced strategic management in cities, as factors in the transformation of Smart Cities have been analyzed. In this edition, 24 cities have participated, most of them members of the UCLG Community of Practice of Digital Cities.

The COVID crisis has changed the world order and it is a challenge itself for cities around the world. In this new context, new technologies have played a fundamental role so that cities and the people living in the cities can adapt to this new scenario. The Community of Practice has continued to develop all its activities virtually and it has collaborated closely with the World Secretariat in the various activities carried out on the occasion of the pandemic.