



COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY REPORT 2012

Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities

President: Mr. Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao

INTRODUCTION

The Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities chaired by the city of Bilbao, has continue its work in 2012 to set up an efficient network of co-operation between local authorities with a view to seizing the opportunities provided by new information and communication technologies (ICTs), innovation and knowledge, sharing them, assimilating them and adapting them to local needs so as to create new opportunities for all.

ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2012

Relationship with UCLG World Secretariat and other Committees:

- In February 2012, the Presidency of the Committee received the visit of Mr. Josep Roig, UCLG Secretary General, to present the activities developed by the committee and explore new points of further collaboration.
- During this period the committee has also worked to intensify the co-operation and collaboration with other UCLG committees and working groups.
- In this sense, the committee has continue to strengthen the collaboration initiated in the joint meeting held in Florence 2011 with the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning and the Committee on Urban Mobility.
- Diverse contacts have been held with UCLG World Secretariat about the "Action Learning Programme" and the role that the committee could have to support it and boosting it.
- As a first experience in this programme, contacts have been initiated between the City of Bilbao and the City of Johannesburg to explore possible topics of collaboration.

Awareness and dissemination:

Support has been given in 2012, for the **organising and development of events** to heighten awareness and disseminate the importance of implementing ICTs, innovation and knowledge at local level with a view to achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life of citizens in the various regions of the world. The following events can be remarked in **2012**:

- Knowledge transfer conference: Cities of Excellence in the Public Sector: The Innovation Front with their New Practices and Formulas from the 4-5 June 2012 in Bilbao.
- Presentation of the Committee and its activities during the Conference "Perspective of the Administrations for the Smart Cities" held on the 3rd of July 2012 in Madrid.

Publications and Studies:

The last few decades have seen rapid development in information and communication technologies (ICTs), innovation and knowledge, which has increased their presence in day-to-day life and made them basic elements for the social and economic progress of territories. The world is becoming increasingly digital and no-one can afford to be left out of the changes taking place. This rapid development has given as a result a new model of city, the so called "Smart City".

A city that aims to become more liveable, functional, competitive and modern through the use of new technologies, boosting innovation and knowledge and that converge in six key action fields: economy, mobility, environment, citizens, quality of life and governance.

Being aware of this new tendency, the Committee has been working in 2012 in the elaboration of the “**SMART CITIES STUDY**: International study on the situation of ICT, innovation and knowledge in cities” in which 28 cities from all around the world have collaborated.

The study does NOT aim to be a ranking of cities. With the study we want to provide a reference document for the UCLG members that show the current situation of the members of what it refers to ICT, Innovation and knowledge in these six action fields and also to identify best practices that will enable the exchange of knowledge among cities.

For the development of the study a number of follow-up indicators have been set-up, that will allow us to know if we are working in the right direction for achieving more competitive cities/municipalities and we have design a data collection form.

The initial results were presented on the 3rd of July in Madrid. And the final document will be presented to the UCLG World Council and the Committee members in the next meeting in Dakar.

Communication:

For what it refers to communication, along in 2012, circulars have continued to be used as a channel of communication between the Committee and its members. During 2012, **1 circular** has been sent to the members with the meeting report of Florence and an **invitation mailing** to the members for conference: Cities of Excellence in the Public Sector.

Also, an ongoing work has been developed, to continue on the updating of the technical instruments rolled out, i.e. the website and the TV channel.

The **website** has been the communication channel to keep members up to date on any news concerning the Committee and its members.

Meetings:

The Committee Secretariat took part in the **meeting of the committee secretariats** held the 14 September in Barcelona. Also, the Committee will hold its **annual meeting** in December 2012 in Dakar, for analyzing the work done to date and discussing the working plan for the next period.

NEXT ACTIVITIES:

- Annual meeting of the Committee in Dakar (5 de December 2012).
- Working meeting of the Committee members in Bordeaux (1 February 2013)
- Conference “The Great Junction: gathering “old” and IT economy to foster growth” in Bordeaux (March 2013)
- World Mayor’s Forum 2013 in Bilbao (13-14 June 2013)

For more information: <http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/cdc/>