

Metropolis
Commission 3
2nd working meeting, Barcelona, 5 - 6 October 2010

(On the way to Cairo - 6 October - 17:15)

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

We are now at the end of two strenuous days. The case studies which were presented yesterday, our study visit to the Raval Centre and in particular the results of our working group discussions - all these elements will be incorporated into reworking the manual on "Integrated Urban Governance".

This manual will be presented during the 10th Metropolis World Congress. The Congress will take place - as you probably know - next year, from 4th to 7th of April in Cairo. But there is work to do before we get that far.

Not only must the manual be revised and supplemented by your suggestions. One very important chapter in the manual still needs to be written - the chapter on "Urban practice - case studies and examples from Metropolis member cities". The basis for this chapter will be provided by two questionnaires which we sent out to you at the beginning of this year. In the second questionnaire we asked you about quite specific projects or activities which could be included in the manual. There is still time for you to complete the questionnaire. I am therefore asking you to be so kind - but I am emphasising this particularly - please, send us your project descriptions.

Without your collaboration an important part of the manual would not be as useful as it might be: the chapter on concrete practice in Metropolis cities might not emerge. On the one hand, nothing is as convincing as successful day-to-day practice - and this is what we aim to put forward very specifically in the manual. On the other hand, precisely in our major cities there have been many and quite diverse lessons learnt with Integrated Governance. And Metropolis is the network of major and large cities. We intend to share experience not only amongst ourselves, but also with other municipalities. After all, it is one of the aims of Metropolis to search for solutions to urban problems and to disseminate them. In this process the manual will form one component.

What is more, there is a further aspect for needing your cooperation which is so vital to us: one particularly challenging issue in the manual will be the - often very different - framework conditions in our municipalities. Something which may seem eminently sensible in one city can perhaps prove to be more of an obstacle in another. By means of case studies from Metropolis member cities, we will attempt to provide indications about how or when particular instruments and tools may be applied.

The revised draft version of the manual will be sent to you all at the beginning of next year. At that time you will then have an opportunity to make comments and put forward alternative suggestions. In this way the manual will truly be a joint product of the work of our Commission, and will also become as practical and relevant as we can possibly make it.

As we all know, there is a saying - no 'gain' without 'pain'. I am therefore asking you to work with us up to the time when we will all meet again in Cairo. Please help us by filling in the questionnaire and by working through the second draft version of the manual.

What will you get in return for this?

Apart from being able to exchange experience with colleagues in other municipalities, there will of course be the manual. However, there is an additional aspect which could be useful to you.

Part of this Commission's work includes providing training activities. The training events are a regular element in many Metropolis commissions, and in the most cases take place as workshops held in conjunction with one of the Commission meetings. We are proposing a different form of training.

In the manual you will see the 'peer review' method presented as an instrument which enables a city to further develop and improve its own project. This method has been applied very successfully in particular in developing and newly industrialising countries. We are proposing to harness the method for C3 training activities and are thus offering to provide support for you in developing or implementing specific projects. As requested, we will put together small teams of experts who will come to you for approximately three days. They will discuss the project with you, carry out conversations with various stakeholders on the spot, and at the end of the visit they will give a report on their central findings.

Members of a peer team will originate from similar working situations to yourselves and will have had experience of comparable projects. They may be experts from other Metropolis cities or they may be people who for example are working in UN Habitat projects.

To enable outcomes of the 'peer reviews' to be of benefit not only for the host city, but also for other municipalities, we will document and evaluate peer review visits. The documentation and evaluation comments will be made available to others via internet.

Before the Cairo conference we will be able to provide one or two of these peer visits. If you would be interested in having a visit, please speak to someone in the Berlin Commission 3 team once this meeting is over.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Before we meet again in Cairo there is thus quite a lot of work to do: re-working the manual, having your comments on the revisions, the questionnaires on your projects and peer review visits. If I now think back over the results of our meeting today, then I am quite sure that we will be able – with your help- to carry out these tasks successfully.

I would like to thank you all once again most sincerely for your support, for the intensive discussions yesterday and today. May I also wish everyone a good journey home, and I look forward to meeting you all again in Cairo – auf Wiedersehen / au revoir / hasta la vista.