



REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS

Networking – Side – Training events

City Changer Room – Urban Library – Agora – One UN events

Deadline: 30 April 2014

Please send via email: wuf@unhabitat.org

Reporting Format for Partners
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

Name of Reporter:	Eddy Adams
Event title/number:	Open cities of tomorrow - fostering inclusiveness and community involvement NE 27
Date:	08/04/2014
Venue:	Yellow Pavilion, room 4
Time:	04:30 p.m. – 06:30 p.m.
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	European Commission
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Belgium, Brussels
Approximate number of participants:	80

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):

How can cities tackle the challenges they face in the globalised 21st Century? How can they grow their economies, reduce social inequalities and act as stewards of the environment?

In Europe, the economic crisis underlined the connectedness of cities and the need for shared solutions to chronic challenges. Cities must co-operate more effectively with one another to share learning, experience and know-how.

Within cities, stakeholders must co-operate more effectively to optimise resources and co-create sustainable results. At the centre of this co-operative model is a more trusted set of relationships between city administrations and their citizens.

This workshop highlighted the role of integrated approaches to urban development to successfully tackle social challenges, such as exclusion, segregation, community fragmentation. It especially pointed to the benefits of community participation and engagement in the development and management of public services and public space. The workshop showcased examples from European and South American cities. The examples came from two networks designed to promote effective urban learning and exchange – [URBACT](#) in Europe and [URBELAC](#) between Europe and South America. The examples focused on key challenges for cities – housing, the environment and youth jobs – providing an insight into co-creation and open-innovation approaches. The focus was practical, with an emphasis on ‘what works’ and how we can share it better.

It was a participative session with ample space for interaction and exchange.

All reports received will be included in the WUF7 final report to be published after the closing of the Forum. We kindly urge you to send the report of your session to us **before 30 April 2014** following this format. Please be aware that not delivering the report within the deadline will be taken into consideration when applying for future events at the World Urban Forum.





- *Relevant Focus Areas:*
Urban equity; Sub-theme 5: Resilience Cities, Sub-theme 6: Safer Cities

Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

The workshop was introduced by Corinne Hermant-de Callataÿ and Christian Svanfeldt (European Commission) and by Francesco Lanzafame, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It was presented as an opportunity to reinforce collaboration between the European URBACT programme – which is the European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development – and the URBELAC platform.

The representative of IDB referred to URBELAC as a platform jointly supported by the European Commission and IDB to encourage direct exchanges between cities facing similar problems by sharing information, good practices and lessons learned and to conceptualise integrated development processes of cities. URBELAC has achieved visibility and recognition for its methodological approach (based on European experience) and concrete results. In their introduction, the representatives of the European Commission referred to some of the challenges highlighted in the European Union [Cities of Tomorrow](#) report.

The moderator, Eddy Adams, reminded the audience about the objectives of the session and gave the floor to the six cities' representatives. There were a number of cross-cutting themes emerging from the city presentations.

2. Major emerging issues

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

Leadership was a recurring point. Several presenters (including York, Sao Paulo and Malaga) underlined the important part city leaders occupy in relation to citizen engagement. Effective leaders build trust in communities and drive change within public agencies.

The evolving role of city authorities was another shared point. Particularly in Europe, many cities with diminishing resources, are reinventing their traditional roles. There is greater emphasis on a collaborative model involving public, private and NGO sectors. Within this, city authorities are assuming the role of broker/enabler.

Building the capacity of public employees was an important theme within the discussion. Building trust and working effectively with citizens requires a particular set of skills and attitudes. The ability to empathise, facilitate and communicate effectively are amongst the most important. Valuing and building these capacities amongst public employees is a growing priority.

Ability to apply an appropriate repertoire of process tools was evidently important from the city presentations. Knowing what techniques to apply and





when to use them is key. For example, the methods used by Malaga in neighbourhood regeneration differed from those used by Turin and Riga to work with young people. Again, the important role of the facilitator – knowing what to use when – was underlined.

The growing value of social media as a tool to communicate directly and in real time with citizens was apparent. York’s award-winning citizens’ innovation channel (www.geniusyork.org) was a good example shared in the workshop, and other cities described how Twitter and Facebook in particular are increasingly employed.

The role of culture in facilitating urban development was a point of connection between our presenting cities and the success of Medellín, WUF host city. The Malaga example illustrated how culture (street art) can be a platform to engage citizens and convey key messages. In the discussion, participants noted that Medellín had also given a prominent role to contributions from the cultural community.

Wide community participation was highlighted, not least as a tool to appropriate and reinvent public space. São Paulo worked not only with social society, but also with young and children, as well as public sector agents. Mar del Plata used participative management to facilitate the participation of citizens in the public policy debate.

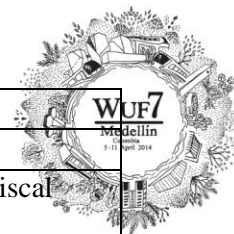
Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

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UN-Habitat Thematic areas

All events are identified by UN-Habitat priority substantive areas as below.

URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE

Land & GLTN, Urban Legislation, Urban and Community Management & Governance, Safety

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Regional & Metropolitan Planning, City Extensions & Enlargements, Market Town & Intermediate City Planning

URBAN ECONOMY

Urban & Municipal Finance, Urban Productivity, Youth and Job Creation

URBAN BASIC SERVICES

Water & Sanitation, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste Management

HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING

Housing, Slum Upgrading, Shelter Rehabilitation

RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

Urban Risk Reduction, Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Resilience

RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Global Urban Observatory, Flagship Reports, Capacity Development

Cross-cutting issues:

GENDER

YOUTH

HUMAN RIGHTS

