



COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities

President: Mr. Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao

INTRODUCTION

*Since the creation of the Committee in 2005, cities around the world, we have been working to meet the commitment entered into at the Bilbao Summit to **develop the Information Society in our territories** and we have taken **a step further with a view to promoting innovation and knowledge management processes**, two key factors to achieve the competitiveness of cities.*

*From the Committee we are aware, that the **rapid development of new technologies and of innovation processes** has resulted in a **new city model, the famous "Smart City"**.*

*A type of city that uses **new technologies to make them more liveable, functional, competitive and modern** through the use of new technologies, the promotion of innovation and knowledge management, bringing together **6 key fields of performance**: the economy, mobility, the environment, citizenship, quality of life and, finally, management.*

*A **change process of such enormous proportions** and a climate of uncertainty about the resulting social model require Local Authorities, as the public authorities closest to the citizens, to provide an **appropriate response**.*

ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN 2013

New Committee members:

In 2013, **Alcorcón City Council** (Spain) and the **Government of Mexico City**, have requested their incorporation as committee members.

Mexico City collaborated in the elaboration of the "Smart Cities Study" developed by the Committee.

Relation with other Committees and UCLG:

From the committee we are fully aware that the issues addressed by the committee are closely related in some cases with the other committees' themes, that is why we are working on **generating synergies and collaborating with other committees and working groups**.

Boosting Cities mentoring:

From the Presidency of the Committee, we consider that now a days, one of the main needs that cities have, is the possibility of having **access to knowledge and best practices carried out by other cities.**

Cities see themselves in the need of facing new changes and challenges, and in some cases they need a **"guide" or "orientation"** on how address them. For that, the way that other cities have achieve it, can serve as a reference.

In some cases, the collaboration between cities can take place more "informally" through the exchange of information, but in other cases, the "mentoring" can be more structured, with a methodology, follow-up and specific objectives.

As a response to this need, from the committee we are working on the creation of spaces, both physical -through the organization of thematic working meetings-, and virtual -through the website and online debate forums- that can facilitate these learning exchanges.

Currently, two learning programs between cities are already in process, in issues related to the "Smart Cities". One is already in a more advanced stage and it is between Bilbao and Bordeaux, and the second one will begin soon and it is between Bilbao and Johannesburg.

More specifically, in this topic, from the Committee we collaborate closely with the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning and its "Cities Mentoring" program.

During the joint meeting held in 2012 in Dakar, it was decided, to strengthen the peer learning agenda, and as a response, taking the opportunity that the IV UCGL World Congress brings, a **second joint meeting** will be organized. On this occasion the meeting will be **centered on boosting learning between cities**, with the objective of sharing ideas, approaches and methodologies.

Awareness and dissemination:

Support has been given in 2013, for the organization 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 2013:

Conference "The Great Junction between old and new ICT Industries" held in March 2013 in Bordeaux France.

The event included professional conferences, concerts digital, video game tournaments, demonstrations of innovative applications at the service of the user of meetings around the digital testimonies of entrepreneurs, etc.,

The Tour de France Digital Education Week Digital chose to stop in Bordeaux and promote exchanges between education and digital.

<http://citedigitale.bordeaux.fr>

World Cities Summit Mayors Forum held from the 13th to the 15th of June 2013 in Bilbao

More than **60 city leaders** took part in the fourth edition of the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum, an international encounter where representatives from cities all over the world, international organizations and companies specializing in urban solutions discussed **"Sustainable and Habitable Cities: Common challenges, shared solutions"**

The World Cities Summit Mayors Forum, which was held for the first time in Singapore, constituted a unique opportunity to share experiences and "good practices" between cities and metropolitan regions in the whole world, on matters related to competitive economy, environmental sustainability, improvement in the quality of life, urban governance and the elaboration of flexible urban plans that favor the balanced progress of cities.



Publications and studies:

From the Committee we are aware on the **need of cities to have reference documents**, both at policy level, as reference documents that analyses the situation and changes that cities are facing and how they are addressing them.

For that, the identification, structuration and transfer of best practices, is key, since cities are not only able to know how other cities are addressing those changes, but also it facilitates the direct contact between them.

As a response to this need, from the committee we elaborated in 2012 the "SMART CITIES STUDY: international study on the situation of ICT, innovation and Knowledge in cities"

[Download document](#)

A study in which 28 cities from all over the world have collaborated, and that aims to provide a reference document for UCLG members that show the degree of progress made by the members in regards to ICT, innovation and knowledge, but most of all, to provides many best practices and experiences that will help to boost the knowledge-sharing between cities.

Thorough 2013, diverse **dissemination activities** have been carried out for the promotion of the study.

The objective is the Study to be developed every 2-3 years, in order to have a “live” document that can better help us to evaluate the progress made by cities.

Observatory:

The world is changing constantly and in a thematic such as the one addressed by our committee, in which the rapid development of the Information Society , innovation and knowledge management processes, have turn them into key basic elements for the economic and social development of territories.

Therefore it is very important to count on with an **observatory** that can make a follow-up of the new tendencies and reference documents and make them available not only for our committee members, but to all UCLG members.

The committee **website has a specific section for documentation**, which has as min objective to serve as observatory, identifying and facilitating the members diverse publications that are considered of their interest.

Communication:

It has been establish as official communication channel with the members, the sending of information circulars. In 2013, **3 information circulars** have been sent to the committee members.

Fort more “general” communication, the committee has its own website, which includes all the information and documentation related to the committee: structure, members, circulars, reports and documents.

In the website, members can also find **news** related to the activities carried out by the members, but also other news that are considered of their interest.

Reuniones de trabajo:

With the aim **of boosting the exchange of knowledge and collaboration** between cities, and most of all, to focus the work carried out during the committee working meetings, diverse **thematic and operative meetings will be organized**. These meetings will allow having a “real” exchange and debate through the use of new methodologies such as “Mini BarCamp” that can facilitate the interaction between the participants, but also the identification of collaboration projects.

In order to focus the work developed in the working meetings, **each working meeting will be centred in one of the key areas of performance** identified during the elaboration of the **“Smart Cities Study: International study on the situation of ICT, innovation and Knowledge in cities”** and that incorporates a “holistic” vision of Smart City, which brings together 6 key Areas of performance that affect the development of cities: governance, people, mobility, environment and living.

The **first working meeting held in May 2013 in Bordeaux was focused on the “Smart Economy”** axis and allowed the attendants to share vision and also debate new tendencies on issues related with the creation, attraction and retention of talent, the importance of boosting new merging sectors of activity especially the ones related to the new technologies, innovation and green technologies, the importance of creating and enable infrastructures and spaces for the business development and creativity in order to give support to the entrepreneurship, among others issues.



During meeting, took place an open discussion and exchange of experiences through the « Bar-Camp » - style workshops. This methodology includes the establishment of topics of discussions according to the participant's interests and the topics of the meeting and then work in small groups that allow:

- Experiences and project sharing
- Identification of possible projects of collaboration.

As a result, **2 collaboration projects** were identified:

Project 1: How can cities link traditional and new ICT Industries?

The City of Bordeaux promotes encounters between different sectors of the traditional economy and the digital businesses. These meetings has so far focused on three strategic areas that represent potential growth and cost savings for companies in all sectors of activity:

- E-marketing and e-commerce for the conquest of new markets.
- Data mining for a better understanding of the market and optimal positioning
- New productivity tools: 3D and cloud
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The open proposal made by the city of Bordeaux is to create an exchange of experiences on these topics within UCLG. Many cities, with their Chambers of Commerce and private actors are also working on this topic that represents a great source of endogenous growth.

The proposed methodology for this collaboration would be:

- Online exchanges every four months on the tools developed and the strategic themes that make up the process of Grand Junction between traditional economy and the digital economy (such as the three themes mentioned above)
- Invitation to cities that are or will establish a process of Grand Junction to participate in a large-scale forum to be held on this topic in the fall of 2014 not only as spectators but bringing with them a company of classical economics having managed to accelerate its growth through the use of digital technology.
- Creation of an online compendium of good practices on this subject in the next 18 months.

City interested in the project

BORDEAUX, POITIERS, BILBAO

Project 2: Creation of spaces of collaboration for companies

The creation of specific spaces of collaboration between companies from the diverse cities. Proposals of activities:

- Organization of business encounters. The city of Lappeenranta proposed to organize something with "Greentech" companies after the summer.
- Mutual knowledge sharing between companies through the identification of 4-5 key sectors of excellence in each city.
- Online mentoring workshops where companies can share their experience regarding entrepreneurship.

City that proposes the project

BORDEAUX, BILBAO, PAU, LAPPEENRANTA

Both projects are currently in progress. Cities interested in taking part in these projects of would like to propose another project, please contact the Committee Secretariat: promotion@bilbaointernational.bilbao.net

[*Download meeting report*](#)

Next working meeting:

The next working meeting it is expected to take place in 2014 and **it will be focused on "Smart Governance"**.

Smart Governance which includes aspects of political participation and active citizenship services and intelligent operation management. All this with the support of new technologies, will allow the establishment of a new relationship between local government and citizens, in particular the establishment of online public services and the use of new technologies to improve participation of citizens in public decisions.

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