



Social Inclusion Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

*UCLG Committee on Social
Inclusion, Participatory
Democracy and Human Rights*

Articulating a common voice for UCLG local and regional governments on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights with a view to bring about the Right to the City in worldwide cities and territories



UCLG

United Cities and Local Governments

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Local Democracy: #FreeGültan

1 INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY



@UCLG-CCGLU/Mark Schardan

*The Committee has focused its advocacy strategy on the defense of the **right to the city and human rights** on **global and local government agendas** as well as within the **global municipal network (UCLG)**. This effort has been possible thanks to the mobilization of its member-local governments and civil society partners within the framework of the **Global Platform for the Right to the City**. The Committee has thus promoted the recognition of the role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights; the **right to housing**; the rights-based approach in the **global governance of migration**; as well as the advance of worldwide decentralization and local democracy.*

1.1 RIGHT TO THE CITY

After the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (2016), the Committee has defended the concrete implementation of the Right to the City in worldwide cities and territories. It has done so by taking advantage of UCLG's mobilization and engagement strategy in specific work areas such as the Right to Housing or the global governance of migrations. On a conceptual basis, the Right to the City has been present in all the advocacy lines of the Committee.

This strategy has been carried out within the framework of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, which has had three coordination meetings to discuss its post-Habitat III advocacy agenda: one in São Paulo (28 -29 May), one in New York (14-16 July) and one in Nairobi (11-13 October).

1.2 HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES

The Committee has carried out advocacy activities aimed at promoting and defending the vision of "human rights cities" around the world. This vision is both reflected within the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City, as well as in Gwangju's Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City.

The Committee has focused on achieving the recognition of local governments as key actors for the promotion and defense of human rights. These advocacy efforts have targeted both the UN Human Rights system and other international stakeholders, as well as the agendas of local governments and UCLG.

1.2.1 Organization of a local governments delegation to the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 4 September)

The Committee organized a local governments delegation to the UN Human Rights Council, on the occasion of a High-Level Panel on “Local governments and human rights”. A UCLG official statement was presented by Madrid’s Deputy Mayor Mauricio Valiente, welcoming the progressive recognition by the Council of the role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights. The delegates of the Committee (among which, the Deputy-Mayor of Madrid Mauricio Valiente and the Councilor of Lausanne David Payot) were received by Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, in order to renew the commitment of UCLG to advance the human rights agenda in close cooperation with the OHCHR.



1.2.2 Promotion of guiding principles on Local Governments and Human Rights

(Geneva 4 September & Gwangju 15 September)

A side event was co-organized by the Committee on the occasion of the local governments delegation to the Human Rights Council, so that the voice and experience of local governments was taken into account in drafting UN Guiding Principles on local governments and human rights. The event was organized in partnership with INFID and ADN21, in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation and the Korean Foundation for Human Rights.

On September 15, and on the occasion of Gwangju’s World Human Rights Cities Forum, the Committee co-organized a meeting of Gwangju Experts’ group in partnership with the Metropolitan Government of Gwangju, the Korean Foundation for Human Rights, the Center of Human Rights of the University of Korea and ADN21 in cooperation with the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. This meeting provided a follow-up to the drafting of UN Guiding Principles on local governments and human rights. It was attended by representatives of Gwangju and other South Korean cities, as well as Grenoble, Madrid, Mexico City and civil society organizations.

Participation of Mayor Yoon in a consultation meeting on the “Right to participate”

(Bangkok, 2-3 October)

The Mayor of Gwangju and co-chair of the Committee, Dr. Yoon Jang Hyeon, took part in a “Regional Consultation Meeting to create draft guidelines on the effective implementation of the Right to participate in public affairs” organized by the OHCHR in Bangkok. On this occasion, Mayor Yoon brought the voice and experience of local governments in the preparation of these principles.

1.2.3 Promotion of the Global Charter-Agenda and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City

The Committee promoted the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City as benchmarks for an effective, local implementation of human rights. Those Charters have been distributed on numerous occasions in events where the Committee took part. They have also been promoted through systematic references in UCLG and UN working documents.

1.3 RIGHT TO HOUSING

Participation in the “The Shift” movement to defend housing as a human right

The Committee has defended the Right to Housing within the framework of the “The Shift” movement launched by the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing: a campaign that brings together UN human rights organizations, local governments, national governments and civil society. The campaign calls for shifting the approach to housing as a human right, and to stop looking at it only as a commodity; it is a vehicle for equality, not exclusion.

1.3.1 Co-organization of the Meeting of Cities and Regions for the Right to Housing

(Barcelona, 2 and 3 November)

Local and regional leaders and housing experts met in Barcelona on 2-3 November to reaffirm their commitment to see housing as a human right, and to share experiences that make this vision a reality. The meeting was organized by the Co-Chair of UCLG and Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and by its Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights. This event mobilized the Director of Urban Development of Montevideo, Silvana Pissano, as well as the Deputy Mayor of Urban Land and Housing of Plaine Commune David Proult.

It was held within the framework of UCLG’s “Wave of Action” on the Right to Housing and “The Shift” Movement. It was key to renew the commitment of UCLG and its member-local governments in order to promote and advance the Right to Housing in global and local government agendas. On this occasion, Barcelona’s housing expert David Bravo presented a Manifesto for the Right to Housing which establishes ten commitments for local governments altogether with a series of concrete instruments that can serve to fight evictions, gentrification or the lack of housing in cities.



Attendance at The Shift preparatory meeting (Ottawa, 8-9 June)

The Committee took part on behalf of UCLG in the strategic meeting organized in Ottawa by the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next stages of “The Shift”: the global campaign for the Right to Housing launched at the Habitat III Conference (2016) with the support of UCLG. The Committee expressed the commitment of its member-local governments, and showed its willingness to articulate this campaign within the framework of UCLG.

Support to the global call “Stop forced evictions” (31 October)

The Committee joined the global call “Stop Forced Expulsions” of the Global Platform for the Right to the City on the World Day for the Right to the City. This call showed universal opposition to evictions and forced displacements that dramatically impact urban and rural communities.

1.4 MIGRATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Throughout 2017, the Committee has defended the human rights-based approach in regards to migration, both at a global governance-level as well as in regards to the local level. This work has been carried out within the framework of the UCLG action wave on migrations #Cities4Migration.

1.4.1 Participation and organization of sessions in the Conference Cities and Migration

(Mechelen, 16-17 November)

The Global Conference on Cities and Migrations was held in November organized by UCLG, UN-Habitat, the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the city of Mechelen. The conference brought together more than 150 representatives of local and regional governments from around the world, as well as representatives of UN agencies and civil society. The representatives called for an international governance of migration based on human rights and the recognition of local governments as key actors in regards to migration policy.

Within the framework of the Conference, the Committee organized a side event, “Human Mobility and the Right to the City” and moderated the session “Human Rights of Migrants”. The Conference culminated with the adoption of the Mechelen Declaration on Cities and Migrations; a concrete contribution to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration set to be approved by 2018.



2 FORUMS, MEETINGS & SEMINARS



Forums, meetings and seminars constitute **spaces of confluence and exchange between local governments, activists, civil society and the academic sector**. These are collective moments in which to share **experiences, challenges and points of view** in order to adopt shared initiatives and narratives based on the right to the city, provide new inputs to the network and nurture its long-term advocacy strategy.

2.1 Co-organization of the World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju

(Gwangju, 14-17 September)

The World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju was held under the theme “Do we live in peace? Human Rights cities, Democracy and Practice”, focusing on the global promotion of the human rights cities’ agenda while exploring its specific relationship with the concepts of local democracy and peace. More than 700 participants took part in it.

Member cities of the Committee sent representatives to the event: the Mayor of Bethlehem, Anton Salman; the Deputy-Mayor of Madrid, Mauricio Valiente; the Deputy-Mayors of Grenoble, Emmanuel Carroz and Bernard Macret; as well as Stefany Campins, on behalf of the Secretary of Social Development of Mexico City, José Ramón Amieva. Representatives of partner organizations also took part in the Forum, such as the Global Platform for the Right to the City, the Observatori DESC, the Kota Kita Foundation or the US Human Rights Cities Alliance.



2.2 Co-organization of the Meeting of Cities for Human Rights and the Right to the City

(Madrid, 18 April)

On the occasion of UCLG’s Executive Bureau, the Committee and the City Council of Madrid organized a meeting of cities for Human Rights and the Right to the City. In the presence of a large audience, representatives of local governments (including Madrid, Plaine Commune, the Departmental

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Council of Seine-Saint-Denis, Gwangju, Barcelona, Mexico City, Montevideo, Nanterre, Toronto, Sao Leopoldo and Lausanne) shared their priorities and strategies in regards to the defense and guarantee of human rights. This was also the occasion for Madrid to present its Strategic Plan for Human Rights, recently approved by the Municipal Plenary.

Speakers to the session provided relevant inputs on shared challenges for the local promotion of human rights: global xenophobic tendencies, austerity policies that considerably limit the capacity of local governments to fulfill human rights, as well as a generalized restriction of public liberties. Faced with these threats, participants shared their practices to allow universal access to rights, particularly for migrants. Participants also insisted on the relationship between historical memory and human rights culture.



***Participation in the Meetings on the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City* (Terrassa, 2 June)**

In June, the Committee attended a local meeting in the Catalan city of Terrassa convened to monitor the implementation of the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City. It was organized by Terrassa's City Council, counting on the facilitation of the Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya (Human Rights Institute of Catalonia)

2.3 Participation in the Biennale of Cities in Transition (Grenoble, 7-12 March)

In March, the Committee travelled to Grenoble to take part in the *Biennale des Villes en Transition* (Biennale of Cities in Transition), organized by the City Council of Grenoble. On the same occasion, the Committee also took part in the meetings on critical geopolitics and the right to the city organized by the Institute of Alpine Geography, the Association Modus Operandi and a Grenoble-based collective of organizations and inhabitants. Throughout the week, the Committee was able to attend several events of the official programme, as well Grenoblois civil society-led initiatives organized around the issue of the Right to the City.

***Participation in the event "Del civisme al Dret a la Ciutat" (From civility to the Right to the City)* (Barcelona, 29-30 June)**

The Committee took part in a conference on the right to the city that assessed its concrete relation with the notions of urban commons and "civility". Focused on evaluating the different "uses and representations" of public space (with special emphasis on the Barcelona case), those debates explored the relationship between municipal public action and the access and fulfillment of all city dwellers' human rights without exclusion.

Participation in the TRISE Conference “The Right to the City and Social Ecology – Towards ecologic and democratic cities” (Thessaloniki 1-3 September)

The Committee participated as a keynote speaker in the Trise Conference on Right to the City and Social Ecology. Among the multiple topics discussed, participants assessed the relationship between the right to the city and “urban commons”, its translation into concrete local actions as well as the link with the notions of ecological transition and social ecology.



2.4

Participation in the Final Conference of the MC2CM Project on migrations in the Mediterranean

(Beirut, 7-8 November)

The Final Conference of the project Migrations City-to-City in the Mediterranean (MC2CM) took place in Beirut in November, bringing together more than 80 representatives of local and national governments, NGOs, international organizations, the European Union, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The final conclusions of the first phase of the project were presented in parallel to a debate on the future of urban migration in the Mediterranean. Committee representatives to the event, among which Mauricio Valiente of the Madrid’s City Council, called for a human rights-based migration policies, presenting local practices for the social inclusion of migrants as well as Madrid’s commitment for welcoming refugees under “Ciudades Refugio” initiative.

Participation in an Event on Cities and Migration (Barcelona, 2 February)

The Committee attended a dialogue on migration, development and social cohesion organized by the Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation) with the support of Diputació de Barcelona (Provincial Council) and UCLG. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to base the local governance of migration on human rights, human development and sustainability.

Participation (video) in a meeting of the Red Al·las on Welcoming cities (Mexico City, 1 June)

The Committee took part in the conference organized by Al·las Network and Mexico City on “Welcoming cities”. This was the occasion to promote the work of the Committee and UCLG in regards to migration its Latin American membership (Mexico City being a co-president of the Committee), while continuing to recall the necessary guarantee of the Right to the City of migrants and for a human rights-based global governance of migrations.

Participation (video) in the INFID Forum (Jakarta, 6 December)

The Committee presented its axes of action in regards to the implementation of Rights-based local policies of social inclusion on the occasion of the 4th Conference of Human Rights Cities of the Indonesian NGO INFID, focused on strengthening the role of local governments in the prevention of intolerance and extremism through the rights approach.

2.5

Participation and organization of sessions during the Metropolis Congress*(Montreal, 19-22 June)*

The city of Montreal was the host of the XII Metropolis World Congress. On this occasion, the Committee organized the side-event “How to guarantee the Right to the City in Metropolitan Areas?”. The event was based on a dialogue between Mayors and representatives from metropolitan areas, civil society and scholars. It was aimed at assessing the relationship between the “Right to the City” and the notion of “competitive metropolis”. Participants wondered how to value the inputs of every territory conforming a metropolitan area, especially working-class areas, in order to overcome the notions of centre and periphery and to promote the emergence of polycentric and solidary metropolitan areas. The debate was focused on assessing concrete cooperation lines among local identities, as well as on the development of a metropolitan model of local democracy.

The roundtable gathered Daniel Martínez, Mayor of Montevideo; Abdoulaye Thimbo, Mayor of Pikine; Patrick Jarry, Mayor of Nanterre; Teresa Incháustegui, General Director of Mexico City’s InMujeres programme; Dominique Olivier, Directress of Montreal’s Public Office; Laurence Kwark, Secretary General of Seoul’s Global Social Economy Forum; Dimitri Rossopoulos, President of Montreal’s IPAM; and Agnès Deboulet, researcher at LAVUE centre.



2.6

Participation in the FALP Forum – Peripheral Local Authorities*(São Leopoldo, 23-25 November)*

The Committee representative Antonio Aniesa (Plaine Commune) attended the FALP Network seminary hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Rio Grande do Sul State and the Municipality of São Leopoldo. This meeting brought together 47 local governments from countries such as Brazil, France, Senegal, Palestine, Argentina, Chile and Mozambique, who exchanged perspectives and experiences around the subject of “Sustainable alternatives and solidarity in a world in crisis”. The political declaration of the Forum was elaborated in a collaborative way, focusing on the future of metropolitan areas and reaffirming participants’ willingness to be taken into account as full actors.

Slum is beautiful? Rethinking poor neighborhoods *(Paris, 16 March)*

In March, the Committee took part in the conference-debate “Slum is beautiful? Rethink poor neighborhoods” organized by the French Agency for Development. The event assessed the process of accelerated urbanization that multiple cities of the world are experiencing, focusing on the challenge in ensuring that this growth does not lead to an explosion of poverty and urban inequalities, with a special focus on the situation of poor neighborhoods.

2.7

Co-organization and participation in the IOPD Conference “Participation without exclusion”

(Montreal, 16-19 June)

In June, Montreal’s Office of Public Consultation held the XVII Conference of the IOPD. Its thematic approach, focused on achieving full participation without exclusion, led the Committee to become a partner organization of the event. Besides attending and taking part in its numerous sessions, the Committee was also a member of the Jury that granted an IOPD distinction on best practices on citizen participation around the world. The 2017 distinction was finally awarded to La Paz “Real neighborhoods and communities”.

Participation in the General Assembly of Educating Cities

(Granollers, 23-24 March)

The Committee took part in the General Assembly of the International Association of Educating Cities in Granollers. Sylvie Ducatteau, Councilor of Plaine Commune in charge of international affairs (co-president of the Committee) took part in the round table “The Right to the City: strategies for inclusion in public services”.

Participation in a meeting on Direct Democracy

(Barcelona, 27-28 June)

On this occasion, the Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, Jaume Asens, highlighted the need to reinvigorate local democracy in the face of increasing human rights violations and social bonds fragmentation. Barcelona’s Commissioner on Active Democracy, Tati Pindado, stressed the need for wider inclusivity in political systems in order for them to be sustainable. The meeting on direct democracy counted with a plural participation, with sessions that combined institutional, academic and civil society representatives.

Attendance to the Festival of participation

(L’Aquila, 6-9 July)

The Vice-President of Local Democracy of Plaine Commune, Anthony Daguet, represented the Committee in L’Aquila’s “Festival of participation”; an event promoted by local civil society and the capital-city of Abruzzi aiming to contribute to social transformation through citizen empowerment, participation and active promotion of rights.



2.8

Participation and facilitation of session in the Conference Democratic Cities

(Madrid, 16-18 November)

In November, the Committee attended the Democratic Cities Conference: an event organized by Madrid and MediaLab Prado focused on the exchange of experiences putting digital technologies at the service of the common good and local democracy. On this occasion, the city of Madrid was able to present the CONSULCON Platform: a free-software citizen participation initiative that allows everyone to propose initiatives, contribute to the drafting of municipal ordinances or take part in participatory budgets.

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On the occasion of a round table facilitated by the Committee on how to put digital technologies at the service of the common good, the co-president of the Committee, Patrick Braouezec, presented Plaine Commune's project of Digital Urbanity and Right to the City. Francesca Bria, Commissioner on Technology and Digital Innovations shared the Digital Government Plan of Barcelona, which seeks to "decolonize digital technologies for the benefit of the common good and all inhabitants". Anne Gaël Chiche, representing Nanterre, presented the Agora Permanente project, awarded with the 2017 International Observatory on Participatory Democracy distinction.



Participation in the Conference on hate speech in social networks (Barcelona, 2-3 March)

In March, the Committee took part in a conference on hate speech and social networks organized by Barcelona, which was attended by prominent experts in the field of communication, social activism and justice administration. Organized around various workshops and round tables, the conference explored topics such as the relationship between hate speech and freedom of expression, the judicial approach to hate speech or the way in which victims experience hate speech.

On this occasion, Barcelona's Deputy Mayor Asens shared the strategy by which the city seeks to appease this phenomenon, in the line of promoting counter-narratives and to build a committed cyber-citizenship. The municipality is equally taking an active role in countering Islamophobia or aporophobia. In the same vein, Aida Guillén, Directress at Barcelona's Service of Citizenship Rights defended a re-newed approach to cultural and religious diversity in order to face hatred from its root and turn it into an isolated phenomenon.

Participation in the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Peace (Madrid, 19-21 April)

In April, the Committee took part in Madrid's World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace. Conceived as a meeting place for local leaders, international organizations and networks, researchers and activists alike, this Forum enabled various debates around local solutions to eliminate violence.

3 KNOWLEDGE HUB & COMMUNICATION



*In line with its advocacy and learning activities, and in close collaboration with **academia**, the Committee has carried out an **intense activity of knowledge production**. It has thus edited and disseminated several publications relevant to the working topics of the network; it has collaborated with the UCLG-GOLD intelligence team; and has made efforts to **promote and disseminate local initiatives of its members** through interviews, videos and other visual or digital formats. As a whole, the network's initiatives have continued to gain visibility thanks to the promotion of its website, social networks and newsletter.*

3.1 Contribution to GOLD V chapter on the Right to Housing

UCLG's research and monitoring team has begun the drafting work of the GOLD V Report, which will mainly deal with the role of local governments in localizing Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on SDG 11 on Inclusive Cities. Housing policy will be an essential component in this regard, with an integral chapter for 2018 that will explore the role of local action in guaranteeing access to decent housing, along the lines of the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the rights approach.

The Committee has collaborated with the GOLD V team in drafting this chapter, either by facilitating contact with local authorities of the Committee or by mobilizing the network for specific events such as the Meeting of Cities and Regions for the Right to Housing of 2 and 3 November. Along the same lines, the Committee has offered its experience and defended the Rights-based approach in the drafting of its documents and terms of reference.

Call to contributions for local governments on the Right to Housing

In October, the Committee mobilized its network of members to contribute to the next thematic report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, which will deal with how local actors carry out Right-based housing strategies. This call kept extending UCLG's wave of action and reinforced its involvement in the "The Shift" Campaign.

3.2 Dissemination of MC2CM outcomes (Migration city-to-city in the Mediterranean)

In 2017, the MC2CM project has focused on disseminating local practices on migrants' social inclusion in the nine participating cities. The Committee has coordinated the drafting process of nine case studies with a team of researchers facilitated by UCL's Development Planning Unit Bartlett Institute.

KNOWLEDGE HUB & COMMUNICATION

In addition, the learning peer-review “Social Cohesion and Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue: The Role of Local Governments in Public Policies of Social Inclusion of Migrants” has been published as a way to value the exchange among local governments participating in MC2CM Lisbon’s meeting.

3.3 Add new cases and promote the Inclusive Cities Observatory



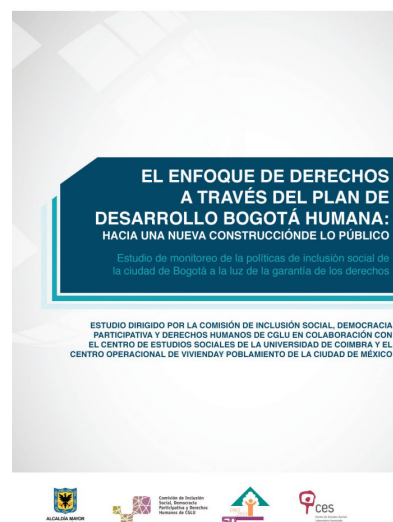
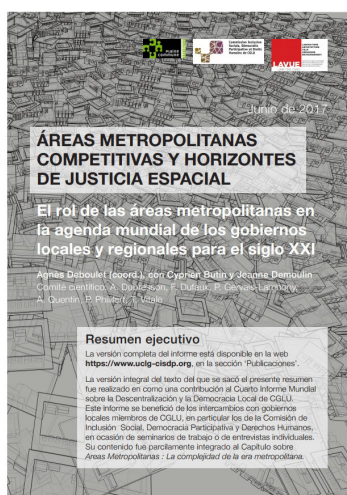
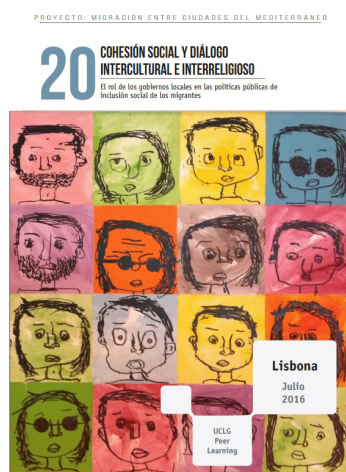
The MC2CM Project case studies described above will be included in the Inclusive Cities Observatory in the first months of 2018. In 2017, the Committee has also added new cases to the Observatory, such as the Lisbon policy SOMOS, which focuses on the fight against discrimination and promotes a culture of rights between local authorities in Lisbon. Efforts have been made from the communication team in order to keep valuing its study cases.

3.4 Value and advance the publication of publications

In 2017, the Committee continued to disseminate the results of the Human Rights Monitoring Program “On the Road to Rights” carried out in Bogotá and which led to the publication “The Rights Approach through the Human Bogotá Development Plan: Towards a new construction of the public sphere”.

Specific efforts to publish the Report “Competitive metropolises and the prospects for spatial justice: the role of metropolitan areas in the global agenda of local and regional governments for the 21st century” have advanced steadily. A summary of the Report was published last June.

Thanks to the support of the Public Consultation Office of the City of Montreal, the Committee was also able to print the publication “Social inclusion and participatory democracy: from the conceptual discussion to local action”, a document developed in partnership with the Institute of Government and Public Policies of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. The document was distributed during IOPD’s Conference.



3.5 Valuing local experiences and visions

Throughout 2017, several interviews to local and regional authorities carrying out initiatives in the Committee's working areas have been published in its website. These interviews have disseminated among the network Barcelona's Municipal plan to combat Islamophobia (by Deputy Mayor Jaume Asens); Madrid's initiatives on direct democracy and human rights governance of Madrid (by the Director of Participation Miguel Arana); Toronto's poverty reduction strategy with the participation of the most excluded envisioned (by councilor Pam McConnell); Bogotá's Social Control initiative to promote transparency and citizen participation in the city (with the Local Ombudsman Jaime Torres-Melo); Saillan's initiative to strengthen direct democracy counting (by Mayor Vincent Beillard); Grenoble's focus on promoting the participation and realization of foreign residents rights (by Deputy Mayor Bernard Macret); or Montevideo's policy on housing cooperatives in dialogue (with the city's Directress on Urban Development Silvana Pissano).



3.6 Supporting the project “Les voies de la démocratie”

Throughout the year, two students from Grenoble have travelled throughout Europe in order to meet local democracy initiatives in the framework of the project “Les Voies de la démocratie”. This trip has taken them to cities and territories in Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Croatia, Sweden, Italy or Poland, where they have observed and shed light on the municipalist movement calling for a democratic renewal at the city level. Requested for its part, the Committee gave its support to the project by facilitating contacts with municipalities carrying out innovative democratic projects, as well as making known and valuing the results of their project. In exchange, Les Voies de la démocratie team committed to publicize the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the city as well as the activities of the Committee among the municipalities they meet along the way.

4 COOPERATION & LEARNING



*The organization of spaces of exchange between local authorities and communities, researchers and international institutions has facilitated the establishment of **solid dynamics of learning and cooperation**. This fourth line of work has been present and has nourished from the other lines of action of the Committee.*

4.1 Co-organization of the Online Course on the Right to the City

In collaboration with the Observatori DESC and the Global Platform for the Right to the City, the Committee has co-organized the pilot edition of the online course “The Right to the City: towards the construction of a common understanding on it and global articulation”. The course aimed to rethink the current urban model from the conceptual and programmatic framework provided by the Right to the City. The course counted with fifty registered participants, among whom many Latin-American local government representatives.

4.2 Training public officers on the Right to the City (Summer school of Barcelona’s Provincial Council)

(Barcelona, 11 de julio)

In collaboration with the Observatori DESC, the Committee took part as a speaker of a training course on the Right to the City for local officials of Barcelona’s Provincial Council.



5 STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK & LEADERSHIP



*In 2017, the Committee has continued to **gain relevance within the framework of UCLG's strategy**; an articulation that has been concretized by the Committee's involvement in the **waves of action** on housing and migration and the **Policy Council on the Right to the City**. The confluence with other networks has been reinforced, along with joint action with the **Global Platform for the Right to the City**. The Committee has gained recognition at the international level, with a deeper collaboration with the **United Nations Human Rights system**. The Committee has continued to attract new members and give space for the consolidation of its political leadership.*

5.1 Celebration of the Committee's Annual Meeting

(Madrid, 18 April)

The Committee held its annual meeting on the occasion of UCLG's Executive Bureau of Madrid, with the assistance of the representatives of its co-presidencies and its most active cities. Local governments' representatives insisted on the importance of networking in the framework of the Committee, especially in this difficult period of "human rights global retreat". The main goal is therefore to reinforce, from the local to the global level, the messages and practices aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. On this occasion, the Co-Chairs presented the Activity Report and the Action Plan.



5.2 Strengthening the network

In 2017, local governments engagement with the Committee was maintained while new local leaders joined the network. This is the case of Madrid, which has represented the Committee on numerous occasions; Grenoble, with whom the Committee has shared multiple spaces, either at the Biennial of Cities on Transition, at the IOPD Conference or at Gwangju's World Human Rights Cities Forum; or Montevideo, whose local authorities have shown a clear commitment for the Right to Housing and whose relations with the Committee have been strengthened within the framework of ICCAR's Network of Cities against Racism.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK & LEADERSHIP

Throughout the year, new local governments have joined the Committee: Bolivia's Association of Municipalities, Beit Fajjar (Palestine), Birmingham (Alabama), Wallonia's Public Service Interdepartmental Directorate for Social Cohesion, Rabat and Seoul. The Committee has also welcomed new partner organizations, including the Observatory DESC, Cameroon's FAPEFE Association, Peru's Citizen Movement Against Climate Change, Montreal's Office of Public Consultation, Cameroon's National Network of and the International Network of Territories for Co-responsibility - TOGETHER.

The Committee shared numerous events with other networks. Namely, these networks are the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD), the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP), the International Association of Educating Cities, the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) or the UCLG Culture Committee.

The Committee's commitment with the Global Platform for the Right to the City has been reinforced with the organization of several events and projects, as well as the celebration of the regional meetings where members agreed on a renewed strategy for the Platform.



5.3 Participation in the global municipalist network – UCLG

As reflected throughout the report, the Committee's work has nurtured, promoted and supported multiple advocacy, research and learning activities of the UCLG network. These synergies have always upheld the network's commitments towards the Right to City and Human Rights acquired by the organization in its Bogota Commitment and Action Agenda.

Throughout 2017, and in order to enhance members' policy ownership and political participation, UCLG restructured its work organization around renewed consultation mechanisms called Policy Councils. In this regard, the Committee mobilized local governments-members and took part in the inauguration of the Policy Council on the Right to the City on the occasion of UCLG's World Council in Hangzhou (December 6-9).

In addition, the Committee has also taken an important role in the development of UCLG waves of action on the Right to Housing and Migration, mobilizing its local elected members and its advocacy capacities to defend the human rights approach in these agendas.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY: #FreeGültan

On the basis of the initiative of some of the Committee's most active local governments, as well as in accordance with the position of international institutions for the protection of human rights such as the OHCHR or the Council of Europe, the #FreeGültan campaign has been intensified, in order to defend the release of Diyarbakır's Mayor and member of UCLG's World Council Gültan Kisanak (in prison since October 2016) as well as to respect local democracy in Turkey. The city councils of Barcelona, Madrid, Plaine Commune and Nantes have positioned themselves in favor of the liberation of Diyarbakır's Mayor, addressing the Turkish government and its diplomatic representative bodies as well as the whole global municipalist movement.

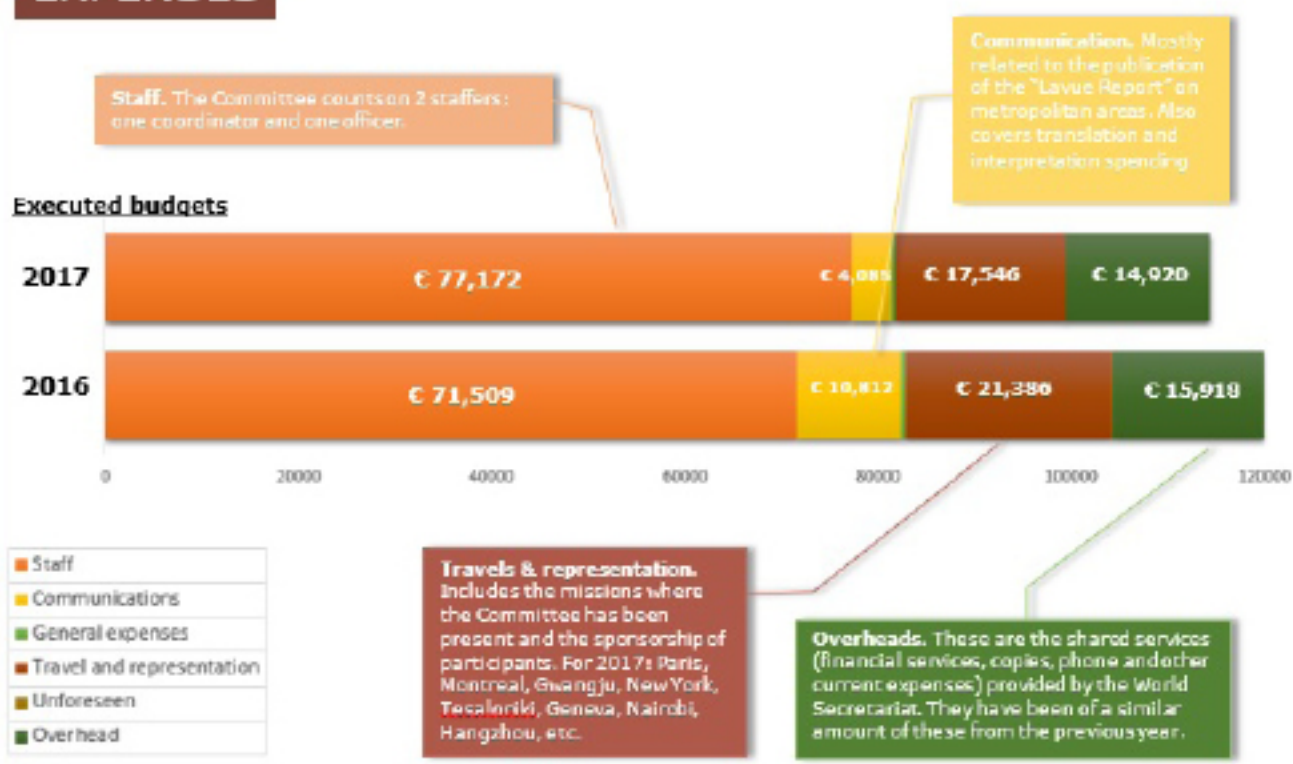


FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION (CISDPDH) FINANCIAL REPORT

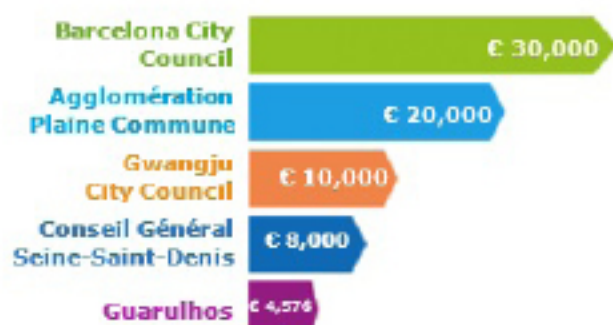
2017 budget was expected to be more ambitious than the budget of the previous year. However, some opportunities were not finalized due to the lack agreements with some partners. Below are some graphs and comments regarding 2017 executed budget.

EXPENSES



CONTRIBUTIONS

From a total amount of €114,388 of revenues, €68,000 came from partners' contributions:



As a co-chair and main promoter of the World Human Rights Cities Forum, the Metropolitan Government of Guangju also covered the expenses of the local governments' delegation to the Forum.

On the other hand, the Committee could also benefit from the Operating Grant awarded to UCLG by the European Commission.

El trabajo de la Comisión ha sido posible gracias a las contribuciones de sus miembros activos:



En 2017, la Comisión recibió un apoyo financiero del Secretariado Mundial de CGLU en el marco del proyecto “Strengthening Associations of Local Authorities at Regional, EU and Global Levels” of the EU Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”. (SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT No. DCI-NSA/2016/372-440)

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