



UCLG Committee on Social
Inclusion and Participative Democracy

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY

21 NOVEMBER, REGGIO EMILIA (ITALY)

MINUTES



Ajuntament de Barcelona

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD) of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held at the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre in Reggio Emilia (Italy) on 21 November, between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

The opening speeches were given by the President of the CSIPD, Mr. Ricard Gomà (Deputy Mayor of Barcelona), and the Vice-president, Mr. Patrick Braouezec (President of Plaine Commune). Both speakers stressed the importance of the 2009 meeting of the CSIPD as part of the IX Annual Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD), an initiative which emphasises the Committee's desire for closer links with the IOPD.

A total of 33 people representing 17 towns and institutions attended the meeting, and the following issues were covered:¹:

1. FOLLOW-UP OF THE 2008 - 2010 WORKING PLAN

Progress made and future challenges

Ricard Gomà (Barcelona), the CSIPD president, briefly reviewed the [2008 – 2010 Working Plan](#), emphasising the progress made in its implementation, the details of which can be found in the [2008 – 2009 Activities Report](#). He also listed the working priorities for 2010 and highlighted the importance of co-ordinating the three themed areas making up the Committee's work (social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights). Finally, he called for a consolidation of the "Participatory Democracy" and "Human Rights and Local Governments" working groups in terms of presentation of results.

Patrick Braouezec (Plaine Commune) said that the three CSIPD working areas are intensifying their capacity to engage in mutual dialogue and Rocío Lombera (COPEVI) added that the World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City has been included in one of the publications published by her organisation in order to raise the profile of the work done by the CSIPD and to show how the CSIPD is co-ordinated with civil society.

Social Inclusion Observatory.

Xavier Godàs (Barcelona) presented the situation on the creation of the Social Inclusion Observatory, and said that among the participants in the Steering Group are the Barcelona City Council, Barcelona Provincial Council, the Generalitat (Government) of Catalonia, Malaga Provincial Council, FAMSI (the Andalusian Fund of Towns for International Solidarity) and Plaine Commune.

Rocío Lombera said that the IOPD Spatial Segregation Working Group has produced four case studies that could be the basis for the development of the CSIPD Observatory.

Summit of Mayors and Mayoresses for the Eradication of Poverty

Xavier Godàs (Barcelona) said that the Summit that is scheduled to be organised by Barcelona City Council as part of the CSIPD activities has had to be postponed until 2011, due to the many activities planned in 2010, both internationally and in the city of Barcelona. He also called for the collective construction of a programme for the Summit and the subsequent institutional path (presentation of the final Declaration to international authorities, etc.).

Marie-Christine Delacroix (Val de Marne) and Patrick Braouezec (Plaine Commune) suggested that the Summit should be for "local governments" and not just mayors, in order to include regional political representatives. Alejandro Luévano proposed that civil society should be included in the event, while Antonio Aniesa (Nanterre) and Ricard Herrero (Santa Cristina d'Aro) mentioned the need for the active involvement of the FALP and the FAL.

¹ The complete documentation of the meeting can be consulted at: [CSIPD 2009 Annual Meeting documentation](#).

Co-ordination with the IOPD and other actors

Ramon Nicolau (IOPD) said that UCLG is the key factor in the international local government movement, and that the various existing networks of towns, such as the IOPD, should join this working framework. He called for structured work and the co-ordination of joint agencies.

Marie-Christine Delacroix (Val de Marne) and Magali Giovannangeli (Aubagne) stressed the importance of the CSIPD being co-ordinated with other UCLG committees. Adriana Furtado (Porto Alegre) made the same suggestion regarding Metropolis' Local Governance Committee which the city of Porto Alegre is chairing. Patrick Braouezec (Plaine Commune) also recalled the importance of co-ordinating the CSIPD (and the FAL) with the social movements by means of the World Social Forum (WSF) to raise the profile of progressive public management alternatives. In this respect, Rocío Lombera explained that in the months ahead, a Themed Social Forum and the meeting of the WSF International Council will take place in Mexico City, and it would be beneficial to use these events to forge closer links with civil society.

The European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City

Patrick Braouezec (Plaine Commune) explained that the movement of signatory cities to the Charter has recently decided to join the CSIPD and that there will be a first working meeting with those cities in Barcelona on 11 December. After briefly reviewing the Charter's 10 years of existence, between its production in Saint-Denis (2000) and the next Charter Conference which will take place in Tuzla (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in October 2010, he called for the various themed networks on social inclusion, participation and human rights to be unified within the CSIPD and for the existing human rights charters to be brought together in a single document.

The World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City

Delphine Bouffenie (Nantes) explained what the Charter-Agenda is, what its objectives are and how it was produced, and seconded Patrick Braouezec's call for the unification of networks and texts to optimise resources and efforts.

UCLG

Rocío Lombera (COPEVI) proposed that the CSIPD contact the Mexico City mayor's office with a view to the organisation of the next UCLG congress, and to promote a meeting with Mexican civil society as part of that event.

Antonio Aniesa (Nanterre) insisted on the need to foster democratisation of UCLG and to highlight the role of committees in the organisation's management. Patrick Braouezec (Plaine Commune) added that UCLG should ask national and international governments to devote more efforts to eradicating poverty. Magali Giovannangeli (Aubagne) highlighted the need for UCLG to reactivate the Gender Committee and to that end, suggested that the CSIPD contribute to it between now and the Mexico Congress.

Members of the CSIPD

Alejandro Luévano mentioned the need to increase the presence of Latin American towns in the CSIPD, and Ricard Herrero (Santa Cristina d'Aro) added that a specific work space should be created in the CSIPD for small towns.

2. CALL FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATURES FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND VICE-PRESIDENCY

Ricard Gomà (Barcelona) called for the presentation of candidatures for the presidency and vice-presidency of the CSIPD for the period 2010 – 2013. He said that the deadline for doing so is May 2010 and the decision will be taken at the UCLG World Congress (November 2010).

3. INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Antonio Aniesa (Nanterre) presented the II World Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) which will take place in Getafe (Spain) in June 2010, and mentioned that many cities all over the world have accepted the invitation to the second meeting of the FALP.

4. DEBATE 1: TOWARDS THE PRODUCTION OF A DOCUMENT OUTLINING A COMMON POSITION ON PARTICIPATION

Eva Salaberria (San Sebastián – Donostia) introduced the debate by emphasising that the construction of the document on the common position on participation must be a process in which cities play a leading role. She added that the Reggio Emilia meeting should define a consensus regarding the content structuring the document, and how to work as a network to produce it.

The **debate** had three objectives:

1. To find out the **expectations** with regard to the production of a document on the common position on participation. *What do we expect from this debate?*
2. To identify and prioritise the **contents** of the debate, i.e. the key items that will structure the discussion. *Which questions must be covered?*
3. To identify the main characteristics of the debating **process**. *What methodology should be developed?*

The debate took place over an hour and a half, using a participatory methodology directed by a group of debate leaders². The results of the debate are shown below³.

RESULTS OF DEBATE 1

Core ideas on expectations

Three levels of expectations were identified:

- **Regarding the impact of the document:** It is anticipated to be an influential document both at local level (cities and civil society organisations) and at global level (UCLG).
- **Regarding the content:** The document is anticipated to cover both general issues concerning participatory democracy (underlying values, principles that distinguish it from other types of social dialogue, clarification of conceptual criteria, political positioning, etc.) and more specific questions on possible strategies / areas of action to undertake in order to continue with the reinforcement of public participation and the need to assess the procedures and tools developed.
- **Regarding the process to be developed:** The need to co-ordinate the document construction process with other debating spaces (themed participation networks) and other ongoing work (such as the initiatives being undertaken by other CSIPD working groups) was defined.

Core ideas on the contents of the debate

- Debate on the **values, wishes and basic principles** of democracy as a whole and how we can move towards a (more) participatory democracy within a system of representative democracy.

²The group was led by the ETCS Co-operative (Barcelona) thanks to the support of Barcelona and San Sebastián – Donostia Town Halls, as well as the SPIDH Nantes-Pays de la Loire. The details of the methodology used can be consulted at: [CSIPD 2009 Annual Meeting debates methodology](#) (only available in Spanish).

³ Details of the road map arising from this debate to start the construction process of the document will be sent to CSIPD members shortly.

- A debate that enables recognition and inclusion of the **diversity of ways and innovative practices** (both formal and informal) and the **diversity of actors**.
- Deal with the aspects related with the necessary **adaptation of local government** to raise the profile of public participation, both internally and externally.
- Deal with the issue of the extension of political rights and the **construction of citizenship**.
- Deal with the **necessary conditions** to promote a (more) participatory democracy. 3 conditions were identified:
 1. **Knowing how to participate:** participatory democracy processes involve the training and instruction of all the actors.
 2. **Being able to participate:** A (more) participatory democracy requires channels, spaces, processes, information and conditions of equality that enable the right to participate in local public issues to be exercised.
 3. **Wanting to participate:** Two-way participation must also be encouraged. In other words, public affairs must be brought closer to the public and the issues about which citizens feel motivated to participate must be ascertained.

Core ideas on the process to be developed

- **Regarding the starting point:** Incorporate the prior work done in this area and produce a basic document to begin the debate.
- **Regarding the journey:** The proposal is to use local debates promoted in cities as the starting point for the subsequent generation of a networked debate among cities of the world. In this second phase of the process, face to face discussions (at international events) must be combined with online discussions. A first draft could be presented at the CSIPD meeting, to take place in the II FALP (June 2010).
- **Regarding the point of arrival:** From that point on, the proposal is to move forwards towards a final version and to foster the maximum possible support for the document from local governments around the world. Finally, presentation of the reflection carried out is scheduled for the UCLG International Congress (Mexico).

5. DEBATE 2: THE WORLD CHARTER-AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY

The **objectives** of this second debate were:

1. **To check** the World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City with those participating in terms of: **(i)** the range of rights provided for in the text. *Are they all included? Is anything missing?* **(ii)** the suggested action plan (short, medium and long term agenda). *How can the action plan be improved? What other measures could be included?*
2. Foster their **knowledge** and **appropriations**.

The debate took place over an hour and a half, with a participatory methodology directed by a group of debate leaders⁴. The results of the debate are shown below.

⁴ The group was led by the ETCS Co-operative (Barcelona) thanks to the support of Barcelona and San Sebastián – Donostia Town Halls, as well as the SPIDH Nantes-Pays de la Loire. The details of the methodology used can be consulted at: [CSIPD 2009 Annual Meeting debates methodology](#) (only available in Spanish).

ARTICLE I. THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

With regard to the formulation of the right: Add the right to participate in the configuration and co-ordination of territory as a basic space and foundation for life and for coexistence. This involves: participating in the management and use of public spaces; including minorities and people suffering from social exclusion; participating in urban development plans and territorial planning (not only through formal elections).

Action plan. Point a): Training programmes on human rights should include training on respect for differences (men–women, young people–older people, disabled people–people without disabilities, etc.) coexistence and the common good. **Point b):** The audits should enable the participants to express their experiences, problems and expectations, and guarantee their participation in the design of a local development plan.

Other initiatives proposed: (i) The creation of an information service for citizens on how to gain access to the rights. **(ii)** The introduction of the role of a neighbourhood intermediary (a task that could be performed by residents and/or municipal agents on a rotating basis for a period of between 6 months and 1 year).

ARTICLE II. RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Short-term action plan. Point b): Creating participation structures exclusively for people without the right to vote may lead to this group becoming stigmatised. The proposal is to substitute this point for the following idea: promote the participation of people without the right to vote.

Other proposed initiatives: (i) Promote associations and social capital. **(ii)** Right / obligation for the legislation system of participation to be developed in a participatory manner with citizens. **(iii)** Include participation processes for monitoring and assessment of municipal policies.

ARTICLE III. RIGHT TO PEACE AND SAFETY

Short-term action plan. Point a): The proposed initiative may lead to the stigmatisation of some neighbourhoods in the city.

Other proposed initiatives: (i) Include the concept of the "right to a passable city". A passable city is a safe city. **(ii)** Do not stress policing. Stress education. **(iii)** Foster the appropriation of spaces by citizens as a mechanism to provide security. **(iv)** Foster the construction of a public identity linked to the space (decoration, design, care, etc.).

RIGHT IV. RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Action plan. Point a): Replace the first part with "Establish a public childcare network, consisting of infant schools, out-of-school activities and education on values / education for citizenship,...". Add: "... and public and private facilities to support children at reasonable prices". Replace "network of daycare centers" for "infants' schools (from 0 to 3 years old)". Replace "care" with "comprehensive attention". Replace "reasonable price" for "with universal access". **Point b):** Add "victims of all forms of exploitation (employment, sexual, domestic violence, etc.)". **Point c):** Delete "including grandparents".

Other proposed initiatives: (i) Welcome network for immigrant children. **(ii)** Seminar for children introducing the council. **(iii)** Public participation programmes specifically for children on issues that are going to affect their everyday environment. **(iv)** Facilities free of charge for children from 0 to 3 years old. **(v)** Socio-educational home care services. **(vi)** Socio-educational services and programmes outside school. **(vii)** Improve management of children's time (time for education, playing, for relationships with friends, for the family, etc.). **(viii)** Guarantee basic criteria for the management of spaces for children's activities. **(ix)** Foster growth and development without any gender discrimination. **(x)** Guarantee access to basic services (social, educational, professional, etc.). **(xi)** Initiatives aimed at children's appropriation of public space and educational spaces.

RIGHT V. RIGHT TO BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES

Short-term action plan. Point a): Guarantee not only control of provision of services, but also their design. Replace "poorest neighbourhoods" with "most vulnerable neighbourhoods and groups".

Other proposed initiatives: (i) Include responsibility measures for public institutions with regard to guaranteeing these rights. **(ii)** Provide information on the cost of the individual service and the source of the funds paying for it. **(iii)** Payment of taxes, public fees and rates according to income and intention of use. **(iv)** Create community infrastructures and facilities (schools, health centres, associations, premises for small shops, etc.).

RIGHT VI. RIGHT TO EDUCATION, CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Action plan. Point a): Establish compulsory education from 0 to 3 years old. Foster access to compulsory primary education for all children of school age.
Point d): Programmes for the dissemination of the city's cultural heritage among its inhabitants

Other proposed initiatives: **(i)** Guarantee education between 0 and 6 years old. **(ii)** Guarantee personalised special education programmes for groups with specific educational needs. **(iii)** Introduce the concept of an "educating city". **(iv)** Establish the responsibility of public institutions in guaranteeing education, and including an educational dimension in their work. **(v)** Measures to ensure a public continuous training system, providing vocational training and training for adults, with special emphasis on people with limited capabilities. **(vi)** A high quality public educational network with universal access. **(vii)** Include the idea of the pedagogical aspect in spaces for multicultural interaction. **(viii)** Universal access to information and communication technologies. **(ix)** Ensure access to the network of cultural facilities and libraries. **(x)** Measures that ensure respect for and attention to diversity within the framework of the city's educational and cultural networks. **(xi.)** Construction of community schools children from 0 to 6 years old administered by community associations with public and private resources. **(xii)** Promote plans for directing community and relational training. **(xiii)** Urban development and architecture that promotes educational public spaces. Measures to reduce early school-leaving. **(xiv)** Measures to eradicate illiteracy

RIGHT VII. RIGHT TO HOUSING AND ABODE

Action plan. Short-term measures. Point c): Explain the stipulations of the General Observation no. 7 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. **Medium-term measures. Point b):** Establish this as a short-term measure. **Point c):** Doubts were raised concerning the extent of "use of undeveloped land".

Other proposed initiatives: **(i)** Prohibit forced evictions. **(ii)** Highlight the public role of housing. **(iii)** Enable and regulate auto-recovery of housing. **(iv)** Introduce the participatory production of a development plan. **(v)** Cancel coercive mechanisms imposed on inhabitants in a situation of indebtedness.

RIGHT VIII. RIGHT TO WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD

RIGHT TO WATER. Action plan. Medium-term measures. Point a): Establish this as a short-term measure.

Other proposed initiatives: **(i)** Promote local alternatives for water collection. **(ii)** Guarantee the minimum water, energy and food supplies necessary for living. **(iii)** There is a need for a reflection on the community's right to manage its natural resources (water). **(iv)** Restore the traditional management of common property. **(v)** Promote local authorities having a public and participatory water management service, if it has the powers to do so.

RIGHT TO ENERGY. Action plan. (i) Implement effective subsidy policies for the diversification of energy sources. **(ii)** Promote the development of technologies of sustainability by communities instead of the private sector.

RIGHT TO FOOD. Action plan. (i) Add quality control to guarantee food safety. **(ii)** Create a public service school meals service in partnership with local farmers/producers. **(iii)** Create price regulation mechanisms. **(iv)** Facilitate the creation of subsidised urban kitchen gardens and community restaurants. **(v)** Establish alternative direct sale systems to avoid the disappearance of agricultural land (promote the creation of AMAP – Asoc. to maintain traditional agriculture). **(vi)** Promote equitable and fair trade. **(vii)** Declare the city as a territory free of genetically modified foods.

RIGHT IX. RIGHT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Action plan. Short-term measures. Point c): add "and against effects on protected natural spaces". **Point d):** add "accessible and free or cheap public transport". Add a new point: "Implement ecological public transport services". **Medium-term measures. Point a):** "approval of plans (...) for low cost (...) systems" (in plural). Add a new point: "Establish measures that contribute to the protection of biodiversity on a local scale".

Other proposed initiatives: Establish the need to develop urban planning strategies with a focus on social inclusion.

6. EXPERIENCES ROUND TABLE

The experiences round table was cancelled due to a lack of time. The following experiences were scheduled for presentation in this space:

- **AUBAGNE, FRANCE:** Free public transport in municipal territory.
- **SAN SEBASTIÁN – DONOSTIA, SPAIN:** Transversalization of public participation throughout the entire municipal government
- **SANTA CRISTINA D'ARO, SPAIN:** The participatory budget.

APPENDIX 1. AGENDA

9.00 – 11.00

Welcome and presentation by participants

Follow-up of the CSIPD 2008-2010 Work Plan (*doc. p. 4-10*)

- **SOCIAL INCLUSION**
 - publication *For a world of inclusive cities*
 - Observatory on Social Inclusion (*doc. p. 11*)
 - International Summit of Mayors for the Eradication of Poverty (*doc. p. 12*)
- **PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**
 - articulation with the IOPD (*doc. p. 13*) and other participatory democracy networks
- **HUMAN RIGHTS**
 - World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City (*doc. p. 14 – 23*)
 - European Charter on Human Rights in the City (*doc. p. 24*)

Call for the submission of candidacies for the posts of Chair and Vice-chairs of the CSIPD 2011-2013 (*doc. p. 25*)

International Agenda (*doc. p.26*)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Debate⁵: Towards the creation of a common document on participatory democracy (to be prepared jointly with the IOPD, the FAL and other participatory democracy networks)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Debate⁶ on the draft of the World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City (*doc. p. 14 – 23*)

15.30 – 16.30

Presentation of 3 innovative experiences on social inclusion, citizen participation and human rights (*doc. p. 27 – 28*)

16.30 – 17.00

Conclusions and closing

⁵ Group facilitation by the Cooperative “Sustainable Communitarian Transformation Strategies” (ETCS, Barcelona).

⁶ Idem.

APPENDIX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LATIN AMERICA			
Brazil	Porto Alegre	Elisabeth Corbetta Adriana Furtado	Head of the First Lady's Office Socio-economic Information Office
EUROPE			
Spain	Barcelona	Ricard Gomà	Deputy Mayor for Citizenship and Social Action
		Xavier Godàs	Head of the Deputy Mayor's Office for Citizenship and Social Action
		Ramon Nicolau	IOPD Technical Secretary
	FAMSI / Northern Antenna, FAL Network	Eva Garcia Sempere	Project Manager
	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Maria Luisa Blanco	Councillor for Public Participation
	San Sebastián	Duñike Agirrezabalaga Eva Salaberria Amaia Agirreolea	Deputy Mayor for Projects and Buildings Works, Citizen Participation and Neighbourhoods Head of Citizen Participation Citizen Participation Officer
Santa Cristina d'Aro	Ricard Herrero	Mayor	
France	Aubagne	Magali Giovanageli	Deputy mayor for Citizen Participation
		Slimane Toudert	Advisor to the deputy mayor
		Stéphanie Harkane	Councillor for Youth
	Conseil Général Val-de-Marne	Marie-Christine Delacroix Dominique Guinard Laurence Mesurer	Advisor to the President's Office Head of Schools Associations Head of the Educational Service Project
	Nanterre	Antonio Aniesa	Head of International Relations
	Nantes	Delphine Bouffenie	Deputy Mayor for Integration, Equality and Citizenship
	Plaine Commune	Patrick Braouezec Youcef Khemissi	President Advisor to the President
Permanent International Secretary for "Human Rights and Local Governments", Nantes - Pays de Loire	Franck Barrau Séverine Calza	General Secretary Project Manager	
Italy	Province of Milan	Guido Milani	Director, Milan Provincial Fund for International Cooperation
Portugal	Palmela	Adilo Oliveira Costa	Councillor for Education, Social Action and Health, Youth, Culture, Sport and Free Time
		Luis Guerreiro	Advisor to the Mayor's Office
PARTNERS			
Spain	Barcelona	Rubén David Fernández Ernesto Morales Camen de la Madrid	ETCS Co-operative
Mexico	Mexico City	Rocio Lombera Alejandro Luévano	Settlement and Housing Operational Centre (COPEVI)
Portugal	Coimbra	Giovanni Allegretti	Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra
CSIDP EXECUTIVE TECHNICAL SECRETARY			
UCLG		Eva Garcia Chueca	