THE PARLOCAL PROJECT ENDS

PARLOCAL is a project focused on doing research, providing training, and strengthening networks for participatory democracy and participatory budgeting which the Malaga Provincial Council, the Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) and the Municipality of Paysandu (Uruguay) launched in 2010 with financial support from the European Union.

Over a 2-year period, the project has conducted comparative research in 36 municipalities from Spain, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic with relevant participatory budgeting experiences. It has also provided training to a total of 60 city officers and politicians from these 3 countries, as well as from Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador. The themed blocks focused on the development and methodology of participatory democracy, an evaluation of its impact over its 20-year history and the role of city networks for participatory democracy in the promotion of these practices. A best practice guide (in Spanish) has been published as a result of the research conducted. The guide is available in the following website: www.infoop.org.

For more information, click here (in Spanish).

JOSEP ROIG, NEW UCLG SECRETARY GENERAL TAKING OFFICE

The meeting of the UCLG Executive Bureau in Rabat held from 22 to 24 June 2011, appointed Josep Roig as UCLG Secretary General after an international selection process. Josep Roig, who has been Secretary General of Metropolis since 2000, has been involved in the UCLG’s Metropolitan section as a founding and active member since 1985. He is an economist by profession, he has held various posts in the Barcelona metropolitan area and he was Executive Director of the University of Barcelona from 1990 to 1994.

In his speech to 216 local government leaders from 40 countries, Mr. Roig highlighted the need to strengthen the role of UCLG as a network of networks, as a guarantor of local interests and as a driving force behind local innovation.
THE GLOBAL CHARTER-AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY IS PRESENTED IN MONTREAL

Between 22 and 26 August, the city of Montréal (Canada) hosted the Ecocity World Summit, an event aimed at reflecting on how to build and manage sustainable cities from an environmental, social and political perspective.

One of the themes of the Summit focused on the issues of "Governance and Democracy" and in this context, Montréal City Council organised a round table on "Human rights in the city", to which it invited the Committee’s Executive Secretary to present the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City. Two representatives of Montréal, one representing the City Council and the other from civil society, presented the Montréal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities.

This charter was adopted in 2006 as a result of an intensive dialogue between local government and the Montreal civil society. Since then, a local ombudsman has monitored the implementation of the charter. As Montréal was the first city in North America to adopt a human rights charter, the city was invited by the Committee to join the group drafting the Charter-Agenda and has since taken part in several international debates organised to discuss the initiative.

The Mayor of Montréal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay, was one of the most enthusiastic advocates of the Charter-Agenda when it was presented at the meeting of the UCLG Executive Bureau in Mexico in November 2010. It is anticipated that the next UCLG World Council, which will be held in Florence (Italy) in December this year, will formally approve the Charter-Agenda and make it a tool for promoting human rights in the city.

For more information:


THE COMMITTEE AT THE TAVIRA SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2011

The third edition of the Summer University, this time on "Societies in Transition, building inclusive communities from the local level", was held from 6 to 9 September in the municipality of Tavira (Algarve, Portugal).

This activity is a result of the three-way partnership between a civil society organisation, the Asociación In Loco; a research centre, the Centro de Estudos Sociais (CES), at the University of Coimbra; and the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

The course focused on analyzing the challenges posed by the paradigm shift that we are currently experiencing and presented some initiatives by groups and municipalities working to build a different future on a participatory basis. The discussions focused on four central proposals for change: Politics, Sustainability, Citizenship and Inclusion. In view of the recent social protests worldwide claiming for a real democracy, the course featured a wide range of speakers from various countries were these revolts have taken place: Iceland, United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain.

During the course, one of the key concepts was the construction of inclusive cities, an issue on which the Committee is working and which has led to the creation of the Social Inclusion Observatory. The initiative, which took place with the scientific support of the CES, is a virtual platform that contains case studies of successful local policies for social inclusion. Some of these policies were presented at the Tavira Summer University, such as those implemented in Jerez de la Frontera and Banco Palmas.

For more information:

- [https://sites.google.com/a/in-loco.pt/uv2011/](https://sites.google.com/a/in-loco.pt/uv2011/)
MEETING ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN RIVAS VACIAMADRID

On the occasion of the 4th Assembly of the Spanish Participatory Budgeting Network, the municipality of Rivas Vaciamadrid, the FAL Network and the Spanish Participatory Budgeting Network have convened a European meeting from 21 to 23 October in order to exchange local experiences of participatory democracy. To see the programme of the meeting, please click here.

The Spanish Participatory Budgeting Network was established in 2008 by the Malaga Provincial Council and has around forty members (including cities, supra-local government bodies and research centres). Malaga Provincial Council acted as technical secretary of the network until early 2011, and it is currently managed through the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity – FAMSI.

NEXT UCLG WORLD COUNCIL IN FLORENCE

The next meeting of the UCLG World Council will be held between 9 and 11 December 2011 in Florence (Italy), at the invitation of the Mayor Matteo Renzi. UCLG will soon be sending the registration forms and all the relevant logistics information. At the Council meeting, the Committee will present the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City for formal adoption. After the interest generated by the initiative at the Executive Bureau meeting in Mexico, it is anticipated that the adoption will take place in a positive manner.

AGENDA

27 - 30 September
4th Ibero-American Forum of Local Governments
Asuncion (Paraguay)
Organised by: Municipality of Asuncion, UCLG, FLACMA, FEMP, ICCU MERCOCIUDADES and SEGIB

28 - 30 September
12th Digital Cities Conference
Bilbao (Spain)
Organised by: Bilbao City Council, UCLG and FLACMA Digital Cities Committee

3 October
UCLG - ASPAC World Council
Jakarta, Indonesia
Organised by: UCLG - ASPAC

5 - 7 October
1st World Forum of Local Development Agencies
Seville (Spain)
Organised by: FAMSI, Andalucía Regional Government and ART UNDP

8 - 15 October
Mondissimo. Aubagne local world forum
Aubagne (France)
Organised by: Aubagne Town Council

21 - 23 October
4th Assembly of the Spanish Participatory Budgeting Network
Rivas Vaciamadrid (Spain)
Organised by: Spanish Participatory Budgeting Network, FAL Network and Rivas Vaciamadrid Town Council