



Assises de la Coopération Décentralisée
Regions and Cities for Development
Brussels, 10-11 July 2017

WORKSHOP C on Climate change / Energy

Tackle climate change through partnerships – Decentralised cooperation for climate: A multi-stakeholder hands-on approach

Co-leaders

CEMR Platforma
City of Dakar

Abstract

This workshop will broadcast different approaches and methodologies in which decentralised cooperation contributes to the global climate objectives and how these empower local governments to take their legitimate role to make and implement policy decisions in dialogue with multiple stakeholders and across multiple levels of government.

Background information

Climate change is broadly accepted to be one of the most urgent challenges to tackle. Hence the central place of the climate issue in many global agenda's, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Multilateral agencies and national governments also increasingly understand the critical role local and regional governments have in achieving the climate goals and building local resilience to climate change phenomena.

Local and regional governments have not waited for central governments to take action. They are engaging in climate actions in their territories – most often by mobilising a very diverse group of stakeholders. They are also increasingly cooperating across borders – a logical step when dealing with global challenges but not self-evident for many local and central governments.

The plethora of climate related bottom-up city-to-city partnerships, the increasing attention to modalities such as the 1% water/waste levy to finance sustainable development, the Covenant of Mayors Sub Saharan Africa, the recently launched EU support to city-to-city partnerships on climate in the context of the New Urban Agenda and several local governments driven summits such as Climate

Co-leaders:



Chance (Nantes, September 2016) or Local Leaders Summits in the framework of the UNCCCP conferences show the commitment of local and regional governments to be part of the solution.

Content

Tackling climate change and its effects needs concrete actions to change policies and practices. Local governments at all corners of the world are engaged in adapting to the effects and in mitigating their impacts on environment to limit global warming. The needed pragmatic approach to local climate action is very close to the practice of local governments' international action.

What is commonly called "decentralised cooperation", "city-city cooperation", "municipal international cooperation" or "twinning" actually refers to a patchwork of realities and encompasses a very broad variety of practices: technical investment, advocacy, capacity-building, awareness campaigns, fostering people's participation in decision-making processes, and others.

The topics addressed are equally diverse but the hands-on nature is a shared characteristic. As such, cooperation partnerships on climate show a rich diversity in approaches and methodologies. These partnerships have the potential of offering a territorial approach to finding solutions, moving beyond sectoral approaches.

Exchanges of best practices and expertise and actions that structure territorial policies and mobilize all territorial stakeholders have a real potential to work for a sustainable and low carbon local development while tackling climate change and its effects more efficiently and more rapidly.

This workshop will broadcast different approaches and methodologies in which decentralised cooperation contributes to the global climate objectives and how these empower local governments to take their legitimate role to make and implement policy decisions in dialogue with multiple stakeholders and across multiple levels of government. In that regard climate partnerships put the principles of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development into practice. The workshop will take stock of the achievements, showcase champions and best practices, compare impacts and discuss challenges related to the different modalities of cooperation on climate issues.

Particularly, the workshop will analyze how cooperation across (Europe-Africa) and within regions (West-Africa) has specific values and where they can reinforce each other. It will also allow for a comparative analysis of the modalities and benefits of one-on-one cooperation, thematic gathering (Med-Cop), multi-stakeholder clusters (Climate Chance Coalitions) and advocacy networks (PLATFORMA).

Questions

- 1) *How does cooperation with international partners contribute to local governments' climate change actions? And how can decentralised cooperation help local and regional governments to be the effective coordinators of their territories' sustainable development when increasingly faced with global challenges beyond their sphere of control?*
- 2) *How does climate related international action foster interaction between local governments and multiple stakeholders in the territory (civil society, climate or development NGOs, local private sectors, academics, etc.)*
- 3) *How can local governments working together (through ad-hoc, thematic or advocacy networks) contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement (be part of the Nationally Determined Contributions) and the Sustainable Development Goals?*

- 4) *What are the ups and downs of each modality of climate international action by local and regional governments?*