

**DIALOGUES
FOR URBAN CHANGE**



**NATIONAL
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
POLICY**

Dialogues for Urban Change (D4UC)



Project Flyer

What do we want to achieve?

Dialogues for Urban Change

Both the [New Leipzig Charter \(NLC\)](#) and the [German National Urban Development Policy, or NSP \(Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik\)](#), demand that no city or county should be left to re-invent the wheel. Instead, they postulate that innovative approaches to learning and exchange need to be promoted both nationally and internationally to invigorate urban development praxis and strengthen the capacity to implement integrated urban development interventions. These demands also resonate strongly with the stipulations of the [New Urban Agenda](#) and [SDG 11](#) since only by working together can cities and countries make use of the transformative power of cities to reach the ambitious objectives set forth by the global community.

Our objectives

In line with this thinking, the Urban Development Policy Division of the **Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB)** initiated a number of national and international initiatives in 2012, fostering peer-learning between cities and countries. The project [Dialogues for Urban Change \(D4UC\)](#) builds on these first experiences and supports the BMI division with regards to its objectives, to

- promote the internationally acclaimed approaches of the German urban development policy for the common good, based on the principles of integration, participation/co-production, subsidiarity and sustainability
- ensure that Germany's urban development policy and practice at city and national level is strengthened further to deal with today's and future challenges through the integration of innovation and good practice from international partners

D4UC's objectives are therefore to strengthen municipal capacity and national urban policy fit through innovative international forms of peer-learning and exchange in order to foster the foundations for sustainable and integrated urban development as envisioned by the [New Urban Agenda](#), the [New Leipzig Charter](#), and the [National Urban](#)



Thematically, D4UC focuses on integrated urban development with all relevant

- sub-themes: place-based approaches, the development of quality public spaces, affordable housing for all, safety and resilience, mixed-use and liveability
- related governance processes: multi-stakeholder management, integrated funding streams and management models, the development and implementation of city-wide/neighbourhood integrated urban development concepts
- principles: participation and co-creation, multi-level governance as well as a focus on the common good as a value-based compass for all thinking and action

Our Partners



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Standing partners are

- the partners of the German National Urban Development Policy such as the *German Association of Cities (DST)* and selected German cities
- national agencies/ministries responsible for urban development in South Africa, the United States, the Ukraine and Germany as well as the respective city associations
- selected cities/municipalities of these four countries as members of the peer learning networks as well as the alumni cities (of previous peer learning network editions)

- the implementation of the US cooperation is carried out in partnership with the *German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)*
- ministries responsible for urban development in Brazil and India under the framework of so-called urbanisation partnerships

Associated partners constitute

- countries with an interest in, and passion for national urban development policies and the integrated approach, such as Ecuador, Romania, Chile or Serbia
- *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* urban development programmes and similar initiatives

How we go about it

The D4UC peer learning model

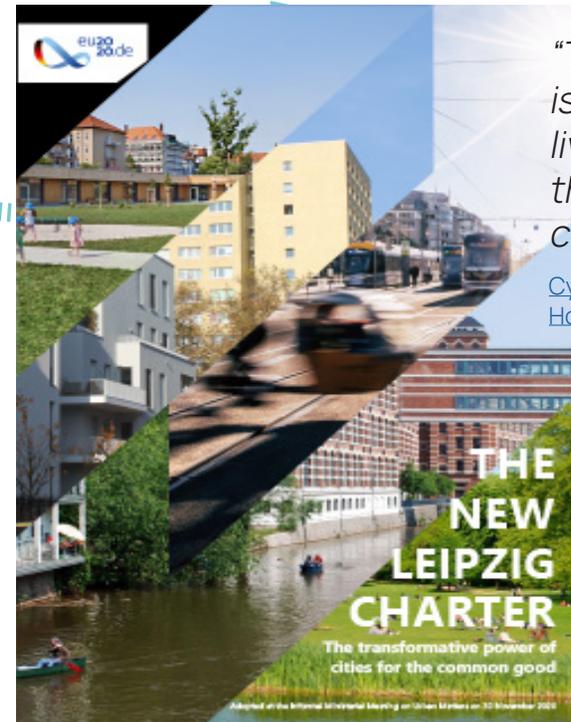
- Participants are 6-8 cities from Germany and a partner country with 2-3 representatives each (government, civil society, private sector), national level partners (ministries responsible for urban development, city associations)
- Duration of one peer learning cycle: approx. 24 months, with 4 to 6 face-to-face meetings, short professional placements, virtual engagements and joint conference contributions
- 'Living Labs' as backbone of peer learning: on-site visits and ongoing peer advisory sessions on one pilot project per city
- Horizontal and vertical learning and exchange

The D4UC approach encompasses three dimensions or work formats of D4UC:

- To generate and transfer knowledge to advance thinking and action in integrated urban development for the common good as per the principles of the *New Leipzig Charter* (joint conferences, expert days, study and expert tours, reverse innovation labs)
- To strengthen municipal capacity and jointly and critically interrogate the national context (policies and programmes) through transcontinental/international city peer learning and the "living lab" approach
- To import international impulses to strengthen the German National Urban Development Policy and its programmes

Upcoming network activities

- Joint City Makers Virtual Base Camp as an online introductory series (up to 6 events starting in 2022)
- A minimum of three network meetings per network season (preferably two meetings in 2022, one meeting in 2023)
- Participation in, and contribution to the Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy (September 2022, Germany)
- Joint participation in, and contribution to the World Urban Forum (WUF11, June 2022, Poland), followed by study and expert tour



“The New Leipzig Charter is a huge achievement, a living breathing document that every single country should aspire to.”

[Cynthia Campbell, US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

Impact of peer learning at different levels

- Individual level: Personal skills, professional stance and motivation is strengthened through shared innovation and peer support network
- City project implementation level: Participants enhance their implementation capacity to deal with everyday challenges through the living lab approach, advising one another, developing new ideas and putting them to the test
- City level: National and international engagement puts innovative cities and their practices on the national and global radar
- Multi-level governance: Horizontal and vertical exchange between local and national sphere of government builds trust and supports exchange at eye level to enhance frame conditions set by national level
- Federal/national level: National urban policy fit is enhanced through feedback loops and open engagement with city (association) practitioners
- Beyond: Lessons and insights are shared proactively through city associations and joint conference contributions

Testimonials



“In our international cooperation we had the great experience of learning the method of integrated urban development directly on the projects. We bring people together and work with multi-level governance at a round table. We sit together with representatives of the cities, with representatives of the national level, and create the space where integrated urban development takes place and where the Leipzig Charter as a strategy is living its life.”

MARIANA KUKHLEVSKA, POLICY OFFICER 'URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY', BMWSB, GERMANY



“We placed a couch in public space and people came to ask what that was about. We told them: We want to know your opinion about the city center - and they told us their opinion. The couch was such a great idea - we got it from Munich.”

GEORGE LEBELO (+), FORMER CHIEF TOWN PLANNER SPATIAL PLANNING, SOUTH AFRICA



“The main urban challenges that municipalities in Ukraine are facing are multidisciplinary and complex, involving at least several sectors and different fields of knowledge. Departments and municipalities still have difficulties in communicating and cooperating in a targeted way. The integrated approach as propagated by the New Leipzig Charter and the exchange on eye-level with peers from other municipalities, city associations and national ministries in Ukraine, Germany and further network partner countries help us to tackle this challenging task.”

IEVGENIIA DULKO, FORMER COORDINATOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, KHARKIV SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, UKRAINE

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