



ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2016–2018

DISSING+WEITLING architecture.
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Enabling Local Democracy and Inclusive Urban Development through the SymbioCity Approach

Inception Workshop in December 2016

Training in Sweden: September 2017

INVITATION

International Training Programmes (ITPs) are used as one of the tools in Swedish global development policy to alleviate poverty. In cooperation with Sida, the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) offers ITPs as one of several methods to support institutional and capacity development at the local level in low and middle income countries. The ITPs are specially designed to meet the needs for capacity and competence development in cooperation countries and to support Sweden's development goals. In the long-term perspective the programmes are intended to contribute to strengthening institutional capacity in the participating countries.

With the increasing scale of urban growth – especially in transition and developing countries – there is immense need for more holistic planning and governance of urban development, including environmental system solutions. The world community highlighted this by adding as Goal 11 in the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals: “Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable”. This ITP will focus on this and on good governance from a local government perspective, with the SymbioCity Approach as the point of departure. This approach is based on the

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Secretary General

experiences from Swedish local governments who have earned international recognition in the field of sustainable urban development not least for their best practice solutions and holistic approach. By continuously adopting these methodologies Sweden has become one of very few countries that have managed to combine economic growth with reduced emissions and high quality of life.

The training programme is organized jointly by ICLD and SKL International and is open to applicants from Macedonia, Serbia Turkey and Ukraine. It is designed for professionals who work actively with topics related to urban planning, local development and management and who hold positions in their institutions with a mandate to run processes of change. The methodology is based on the assumption that your city wishes to become more sustainable and is willing to invest adequate resources for that purpose. In the programme, your specific urban challenges will be addressed by using the SymbioCity Approach.

This brochure includes information on the specific objectives for the programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. We hereby invite your organization to nominate candidates.

Håkan Gustafsson
Managing Director
SKL International

INTRODUCTION

Some scenarios predict that 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2030. The urbanization levels of the countries Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine range from 55 % in Serbia to 73 % in Turkey, a country with a rapid urbanization. (Swedish level is 86 %). The cities are often drivers of economic growth, but are also responsible for pollution and excessive resource consumption. Increased urbanization poses challenges to the local governments in providing sustainable local services such as urban transport systems, waste management systems, and urban water supply and sanitation. To meet these challenges, local governments benefit provided that they are able to improve and strengthen democratic urban governance. A holistic planning system built on integrated environmental solutions, inclusive planning, social sustainability and economic growth should be developed.

The SymbioCity Approach is a conceptual framework developed to address current challenges of the urban environment and builds upon a people-centred, inclusive approach and practical experiences and best practices from both Swedish local governments and other international environments. The SymbioCity Approach explores opportunities to strengthen local governments and local institutions and their capacity to sustain local development, by making use of existing resources more efficiently, while at the same time, identifying means to reduce poverty and the current negative environmental impact created by our urban areas. The concept puts emphasis on methods and tools for an integrated approach to sustainable urban development with special focus on the promotion of horizontal and interdisciplinary working proce-

dures in local governments and among key stakeholders. The concept can be applied within a range of development processes, such as when formulating city-wide strategies for short, medium and long term development, or in preparing for urban infrastructure investments. This programme provides an opportunity to get in-depth knowledge about the SymbioCity Approach and of its practical application at the local level.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the programme is strengthened capacity of local governments to plan, develop and manage urban areas in a sustainable and inclusive way, through the use of SymbioCity as an approach and methodology. The programme seeks to enhance the capacity of individuals as well as organizations. It aims to provide inspiration, approaches and tools which are effective and useful in the local context and which will ultimately lead to improved health,

safety, comfort and quality of life for people living in urban areas.

After completing the programme, the participants are expected to:

- understand the importance of good governance for equitable local development
- know how to make urban development inclusive, holistic and a matter for all inhabitants
- be able to use SymbioCity as an approach and methodology
- understand integrated and holistic planning so as to be able to identify synergies between urban systems
- understand how to manage change through multi-stakeholder and multi-level collaboration
- have increased knowledge of different innovative solutions to urban challenges
- make use of SymbioCity Approach to improve the quality and outcome of urban *change projects*



CONTENT

The programme is a joint venture between ICLD and SKL International and will draw on experiences from Sweden and the participating countries through a facilitated collaborative learning process that utilizes the ITP methodology. The approach combines cutting edge theory, practice oriented and relevant study visits and facilitation of change projects.

The SymbioCity Approach – a holistic approach to sustainable urban development

The programme is based on SymbioCity both as an *approach* and as a *methodology* for sustainable and inclusive urban development. It combines support to planning, development and management of urban areas. The below areas are central to the SymbioCity Approach:

- Equitable community participation and multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Gender mainstreaming
- Leadership for sustainable development
- Shared visions and strategies for all stakeholders
- Holistic and integrated urban planning
- Innovative solutions to urban challenges

- Utilizing synergies between urban systems
- Analysis of impacts and optimization of outcomes
- Implementation and management of urban change

These *process modules* are supported by modules on *urban systems and contexts* (such as waste, mobility/transport systems, energy, water and sanitation, cultural heritage or public space) and *thematic modules* (such as governance, local democracy, gender mainstreaming, poverty reduction, communication and participation, environment and climate change).

The training is informed by innovative examples and experiences from Sweden and globally, and illustrated through site visits.

Challenges or problems to be included in the application

Challenges/problems that the teams shall describe in their application to the training, are challenges/problems of practical relevance for the local urban environment of the participating teams. During the ITP, the participants will in their teams work continuously on these to develop them into *change projects* used as a way of linking the SymbioCity Approach methodol-

ogy to practical implementation at their local level. Working with these specific challenges/problems during the training should be endorsed by the respective local governments. Challenges or problems can be presented in sectors including e.g.; waste, mobility/transport systems, energy, water and sanitation, cultural heritage or public space or areas such as; local democracy, gender mainstreaming, poverty reduction, communication and participation, environment and climate change.

Participants will apply and be selected as small teams (2-3 participants) from each city/institution. The applying team should consist of professionals, preferably from different departments or sections that are involved in the development of the local urban environment. They should as such form a critical mass capable of implementing lessons and experiences acquired through the training programme. Each team is expected to jointly identify, formulate and submit one common challenge/problem for urban development. Teams are consequently encouraged to apply with challenges/problems that have not yet developed into projects and work on which has not yet started.

Throughout the training programme, the respective teams will develop their challenges/problems into change projects with the support of the international ITP trainers as well as a National SymbioCity Approach Facilitator.

Development of Challenges/problems

Between each phase of the project, participants will work on the development of their change projects, supported by the SymbioCity Facilitators. The teams must be able to work on their projects continuously during the programme.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme consists of the following five phases spread over a total of 18 months;

<p>Phase 1 Inception Workshop - 5 days A general introduction to the SymbioCity Approach is given and the participants' challenges/problems are presented and discussed with the SymbioCity Approach facilitators. Participants meet to develop a shared understanding of the content, structure, methodology and management of the programme.</p> <p>The Introduction will be held in one of the participating countries in December 2016.</p>
<p>Phase 2 Regional Workshop - 5 days The regional training will give participants knowledge on using the SymbioCity Approach during planning, development and management of urban areas. With the challenges/problems as a basis, innovative ideas for urban improvements will be developed and discussed.</p> <p>The programme will consist of a combination of thematic presentations, group discussions and study visits. The learning process will be facilitated by a team of resource persons.</p> <p>The Regional training will be held in one of the participating countries in April 2017</p>
<p>Phase 3 Training in Sweden – 2 weeks – this will consist of a series of lectures, workshops and study visits, giving a hands-on perspective on the SymbioCity Approach and how it is applied in practice. A two-day on-the-job training in Swedish municipalities will offer practical experiences of Swedish solutions.</p> <p>This phase will take place in different Swedish municipalities and cities and covers a period of 2 weeks, tentatively during September 2017. The learning process will be facilitated by a team of resource persons from academia, the private sector and practitioners from relevant local governments in Sweden.</p>
<p>Phase 4 National Workshops – 2 days – the national workshops focus on the developments of the change projects; the institutionalisation of these, changes in the project design etc. The national Workshop also forms an opportunity to learn from each other's change projects.</p>
<p>Phase 5 Final Workshop – 2 days - Reflective learning and sharing. This phase entails presentations of the change projects including reflecting on the learning outcomes and implications for organizational and policy change for the sponsoring institutions. It is also an opportunity to recognize and appreciate sponsoring institutions and award certificates to the participants. The documentation of the projects shall follow a special template provided by the programme organizers.</p>

Teaching

All lecturers for this training course are highly experienced in the field of urban planning both in terms of professional and academic background. Learning from colleagues is a vital part of the entire training and all participants are expected to actively take part in the programme by sharing their knowledge and experiences with each other.

Management and staff

The programme is organized by ICLD and SKL International in collaboration with leading academic in-

stitutions, national and sub national governments and technical experts on local democracy, local governance and sustainable urban development.

PARTICIPATION

Eligible countries

Applicants from the following countries are eligible for the programme: **Macedonia, Serbia Turkey and Ukraine.**

Target group:

The programme is intended for professionals in local or regional authorities, preferably from differ-

ent departments or sections that are involved in the development of the urban environment. Applicants can be involved in the development and/or management of urban areas and urban systems of different kinds: transport, waste, sewage systems, social affairs, environment, building departments, infrastructure departments etc.

Participants will apply and be selected as team delegations from each city (e.g. working groups) of 2-3 people. The organizers expect the applicants to strive for a gender balance within the teams.

Hotel and training facilities are accessible for all regardless of functional ability. Please indicate in your application the kind of adaptations required for your full participation.

Only participants officially nominated by the appropriate authority within their home organization will be admitted to the programme. The selection of participants will to a large extent be based on the commitment of the participant's home institutions and engagement in concrete actions. Due to the character of the programme, family members are not allowed to accompany participants in the programme.

Language requirements

Participants must have a good active knowledge of English as they are expected to make written and oral presentations in English. Applicants should in the application state their knowledge in English.

COST OF PARTICIPATION

The training, including necessary travel to and accommodation at the venues of the workshops and the Swedish training is fully covered by the ICLD. Costs incurred in traveling to the nearest airport are paid by the participants. A per diem is paid calculated according to Swedish per-diem regulations. Please note that these are often different from those used in other countries.

The ICLD will **not** finance the teams' projects that will be developed out of the challenge/problem.

ACCOMMODATION

All participants will be accommodated in single rooms at the same hotel during workshops and during the Swedish training.

VISAS FOR SWEDEN

The visa should be valid for the whole period of the training and the passport should be valid for at least three months longer than the entry visa. The programme management will advise and direct the visa procedure and support the visa applications. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that the correct visas are obtained before leaving their home country, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement. Website: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp> offers more information about visas for Sweden.

VISAS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

During the training, several workshops are held in participating countries. Visas may be required also for these visits. The organizers will inform about such requirements during travel arrangements.

INSURANCE

All participants are covered by a group insurance policy while participating in the training programme in a country outside of their home country. This insurance covers costs for medical care in the event of serious illness or accidents. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered. Applications should be made using the online form accessed via www.icld.se/eng/trainingprogram.pab, and should include **all** required information and documents. Please note that each member of the team must make an individual application

and each shall note the team members' names in the relevant box. The applicant **must** be nominated to the training by her/his organization or institution and work on the proposed challenge/problem **must be** approved by a legitimate authority at the applicant's workplace. In the application, the applicant should explain the intentions and importance of the particular challenge/problem for the city's planning and development.

After the first selection, shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via skype or telephone. Once accepted, the participant and his/her supervisor must confirm the applicant's participation and will then receive an invitation letter containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements.

This information brochure can also be found on – and downloaded from – the ICLD's website (www.icld.se/eng/trainingprogram.pab) or the SKL International website (www.sklinternational.se/).

The closing date for application is October 14th, 2016

PRESENTATION OF THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) is an international and national actor and collaborating partner in the field of local democracy, local governance, and decentralization. The ICLD focuses on local development in low and middle income countries through our various activities, such as international training programmes, municipal partnership programmes and knowledge management. One of our main ambitions is to develop a balance between the practical knowledge gained through experience and the theoretical knowledge gained through research.

The ICLD is located in Visby on the island of Gotland, and is an autonomous organization that works in close collaboration with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), which has a majority of the seats on the ICLD board.

Sida finances the ICLD's operations, which cover three main areas; Municipal Partnerships, International Training Programmes and The Centre of Knowledge - Research and Capacity Development. The ICLD's overall target is to alleviate poverty, mainly through promoting democracy and democratic processes at local levels.

PRESENTATION OF SKL INTERNATIONAL

SKL International is one of Sweden's leading organizations in the field of local democracy and strengthening of political institutions and public administration at the local level. As a subsidiary of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), SKL International has unique access to concrete examples of local self-government and best practices from all Swedish local governments. From its long experience of working with development co-operation, SKL International also brings experiences from around the globe including the Balkans and Eastern Europe as well as Africa, Asia and Latin America. Areas of expertise include support to good governance at local level, strengthening the local voice, local and regional development as well as improvement of municipal management and service delivery.

SKL International hosts the SymbioCity Approach Secretariat with access to a variety of methodologies and tools adapted to support urban development in low- and middle-income countries. The secretariat contributes to sustainable urban development in partner countries through capacity development, technical assistance and process support.

Concrete support has previously been provided in cities in Macedonia, India, Indonesia, China and Zambia in the form of developing sustainability reviews for urban improvements. In East-Africa and South-East Asia training programmes have developed the capacity of local governments in addressing urban challenges and globally, the secretariat has shared the SymbioCity experiences in numerous forums.

Contact information

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