



ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2015–2016

DISSING+WEITLING architecture,
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Enabling Local Democracy and Inclusive Urban Planning through the SymbioCity Approach

Regional Training: October 2015

Training in Sweden: February – March 2016

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 participant 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. This ITP will focus on sustainable urban development and good governance from a local government perspective, with the SymbioCity Approach as the point of departure. This approach is based on the 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 Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. 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 own resources to achieve changes. Training is focused on support to change projects. The change projects should be well established in the team's organization and are a basic part of the programme concept.

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.



Jerker Stattin
Acting Secretary General
ICLD



Håkan Gustafsson
Managing Director
SKL International

INTRODUCTION

Some scenarios predict that 60 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2030. The urbanization levels of the countries Georgia, Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey range from 53 % in Georgia to 77 % in Turkey, a country with a rapid urbanization. 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 often benefit if they are able to improve and strengthen democratic urban governance, develop a more holistic planning system built on integrated environmental solutions, inclusive planning, social sustainability and economic growth.

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 Swedish local governments. 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 procedures in local governments and among key stake-

holders. 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:

- be able to use SymbioCity as an approach and methodology
- know how to apply integrated and holistic planning to identify synergies between urban systems.
- understand how to manage change through multi-stakeholder and multi-level collaboration.
- implement methods and tools for enhanced and inclusive public participation.
- have increased knowledge of different innovative solutions to urban challenges
- make use of SymbioCity Approach to improve the quality and outcome of the *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:

- Community participation and multi-stakeholder collaboration
- 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* (such as waste, mobility, energy, cultural heritage or public space) and *thematic modules* (such as governance, local democracy, gender mainstreaming, inclusive development, poverty reduction, environment and climate change).

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

Change Projects

During the ITP, the participants will work continuously on change projects as a way of linking the SymbioCity Approach methodology to practical implementation at the local level. Change projects are planned or ongoing projects of practical relevance to the local context, and should be endorsed by the local government. Examples of change projects include preparation of urban strategies or plans, improvements to service delivery,

or planning for urban infrastructure investments.

Participants will apply and be selected as small teams (2-3 participants) from each city/institution, which form a critical mass capable of implementing lessons and experiences acquired through the training programme. Throughout the training programme, the respective teams will develop their change projects with the support of a SymbioCity Approach Facilitator.

Development of Change Projects

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

Date and venue

The Inception Workshop will be held in May - June 2015 in Macedonia. The Regional Workshop will be held in Turkey in October - November 2015. The Training in Sweden will be held in Visby and Stockholm in February – March 2016. The National Workshops will be held regionally in May 2016. The Final Workshop will be held regionally in October 2016.

The exact dates and venues for the National and the Final Workshops will be announced at a later stage.

Teaching

All lecturers for this training course will be highly experienced within the field of urban planning both in terms of professional and academic background. It is also vital that all participants actively take part in the programme by sharing their knowledge and experiences with the other participants.



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

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

<p>Phase 1 Inception Workshop – 4 days</p> <p>A general introduction to the SymbioCity Approach is given and the participants' change projects 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. During this phase, senior level representatives from participants' institutions are also invited to join.</p> <p>The Inception meeting will be held in one of the participating countries in May - June 2015.</p>
<p>Phase 2 Regional Workshop – 5 days</p> <p>The regional training will give participants knowledge on using the SymbioCity Approach during planning, development and management of urban areas. With the change project as a base, innovative ideas for urban improvements will be developed and discussed.</p> <p>The programme will be combined with thematic presentations 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 October - November 2015</p>
<p>Phase 3 Training in Sweden – 18 days – this will consist of a series of lectures, workshops and study visits, including a more detailed description of the SymbioCity Approach and how it can be 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 Visby, Stockholm and other municipalities and covers a period of 18 days during February – March 2016. The learning process will be facilitated by a team of resource persons from academia and practitioners from relevant local governments in Sweden.</p>
<p>Phase 4 National Workshops – 1½ 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 – 1½ 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.</p>

Management and staff

The programme is organized by ICLD and SKL International in collaboration with leading academic institutions, national and subnational 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: **Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.**

Target group:

The programme is intended for urban development professionals and managers in local or regional authorities, involved in planning, development and/or management of urban areas.

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.

Each team is expected to jointly identify, formulate and submit **one** common project for change. Change projects should be planned or ongoing projects of practical relevance to the local context addressing a problem, and should be endorsed by the local government. Examples of change projects include preparation of urban strategies or plans, improvements to service delivery, or development of

projects for urban improvements. Only participants officially nominated by the appropriate authority within their home institution 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.

Language requirements

Participants must have a good knowledge of English as they are expected to write and 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 work-shops and the Swedish training is fully covered by the ICLD. Costs incurred in travelling to the nearest airport as well as visa costs when visas are required 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 your country.

The ICLD will **not** finance the teams' change projects.

ACCOMMODATION

All participants will be accommodated in single rooms at the same hotel during workshops and during the Swedish training. Due to the special character of the programme participants may not be accompanied by family members.

VISAS FOR SWEDEN

Participants are responsible for obtaining and paying all visa costs necessary for their journey and stay

during the Swedish training. 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. Inquiries should be directed to the participant's closest Swedish embassy/consulate or another Schengen representative as soon as possible after acceptance onto the programme. 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 work-shops 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 including the organized tours. 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 on the online form found at www.icld.se/eng, and should include all required information and documents. The applicant must be nom-

inated by her/his organization or institution. This information brochure can also be found on – and downloaded from – the ICLD's website (www.icld.se/eng/) or the SKL International website (www.sklinternational.se/).

The application must include a proposal for a project for change responding to the criteria in the application form. The application, as well as the proposal for the change project, must be approved by a legitimate authority at the applicant's workplace. In the application, the authority is expected to explain the intentions and importance of the change project.

The application should be submitted to the Swedish embassy in your country which will register the application and forward it to ICLD headquarters in Visby, Sweden. The application can be submitted as an email attachment or in a printed version. After the first selection, shortlisted candidates may be interviewed for the final selection. 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.

The training programme consists of international travel and work away from home in a new environment, good health and full working capacity is required.

**The closing date for
application is April 17th, 2015**

**www.icld.se/eng
www.sklinternational.se**

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 selfgovernment 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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