



Connective Cities - Concept for Regional Networks in MENA, Southeast Europe (SEE) and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Connective Cities is a Community of Practice of urban practitioners worldwide, with networks in focus three regions, who pursue the goal of sustainable urban development through exchange of good practices and peer-to-peer consultation.

How did the regional networks come into being?

The regional practitioners' networks build on the experiences of the global project of the German development cooperation *Connective Cities International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development*. The project has been implemented by three organisations on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) since 2013. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**) GmbH together with the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global (**SKEW/EG**) and the German Association of Cities (**DST**) mobilise German and international municipal practitioners from five regions of the world for peer-to-peer consultation on different aspects of **sustainable urban development**. In the current phase, Connective Cities offers three fields of action: global and regional learning processes, building and promoting networks (on-site and virtual) as well as the virtual provision of good practices on the [website](#) and dissemination via existing communication channels such as newsletters and social media.

Where are the regional networks located?

The regional networks are set up in three focus regions (**MENA, SEE, SSA**). Regional representatives of Connective Cities coordinate the exchange and networking here in consultation with the project management. Experiences and good practices from the other world regions (Asia and Latin America) are also considered in the development of the networks.

An [online platform](#), which is also used as a basis for virtual events, was created for the virtual **presence of the Connective Cities Community of Practice**. This opens further opportunities for discussion and collegial consultation at the global level and strengthens demand-oriented identification of themes (e.g., in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic).

What is the aim of Connective Cities in this context?

In addition to the learning processes, the regional networks open another **channel of cooperation and exchange for urban practitioners and other relevant actors** from the different regions, in which local/regional challenges and project ideas can be discussed and jointly developed with other peers. The aim is also to strengthen or build up the regional networks in the focus regions in such a way that they can provide **needs-oriented advice**. Further services (e.g., financial advice, development of studies, collection of good practices, etc.) are carried by Connective Cities into the networks and thus stimulate the exchange between the network members. Urban practitioners involved in the networks are supported by Connective Cities in introducing their practical examples into international and regional processes, e.g., conferences or publications.

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Who can participate in the regional networks?

- **Urban practitioners** worldwide, especially in the focus regions of SSA, MENA and SEE, are the main target group of the Connective Cities project.
- In addition, representatives of **national and international city associations or networks** can also play an important role as network partners for the multiplication of solution for local challenges.
- **Representatives of local/regional citizens' groups and NGOs** that are committed to problem solving and knowledge sharing for the promotion of urban development can be included in the appropriate sections of the CC Community of Practice.
- Connective Cities and its regional networks promote diversity and connection between theory and practice through exchange with **experts from research/science/education**.

What are the advantages for the members of the regional networks?

- The Connective Cities regional networks help cities to **learn** from **good practices**, **take them up** and to develop **locally** adapted solution options.
- **Exchange of experience** and **peer-to-peer consultation** can be continued beyond the learning processes and extended to other municipal actors. Measures and activities that relate to current challenges of the municipalities can arise directly from the exchange in the regional networks.
- The network offers members **access to empirical knowledge and methodological skills** for peer-to-peer consultation and for their tasks in municipal management.
- The online platform enables **virtual networking** of urban practitioners, offers the opportunity to meet many like-minded urban experts, **create partnerships** and find support for specific questions.
- Regionally and thematically oriented **activities** (virtual and on-site) are offered in and for the regional networks and access to **joint projects** on specific topics is provided.

How can interested practitioners enrol?

With their registration (declaration of membership) via the [platform](#) and confirmation of the guidelines, the members of the regional networks confirm their willingness to advise urban actors and to engage in exchange. The peer-to-peer advice takes place with the idea of a joint learning experience and without fee.

What are the rights and duties of the individual members of the regional networks?

Members can use the network's offers for **exchange** and **capacity development**. They can **help shape** the regional **network's programme** or **initiate events or discussions on their own**. They commit themselves to collegial interaction and to the confidential handling of participant-related data of the regional networks and agree to the European Data Protection Regulation. Members do not pay a membership fee.

Contact

Muna Shalan: Regional Coordinator MENA: muna.shalan@giz.de

Sophia Kamau: Regional Coordinator Sub-Saharan Africa: sophia.kamau@giz.de

Irakli Samkharadze: Regional Coordinator Southeast Europe: irakli.samkharadze@giz.de

Franziska Loibl: Coordinator Regional Networks: franziska.loibl@giz.de

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