

Research and Exchanges Workshop

« Mediterranean, Climate and Cities »

Marseille, June 27th and 28th, 2009

Concept Note

Caisse des Dépôts, French long term investor, in partnership with the World Bank, the City of Marseille and the Euromed Public Establishment, decided to organize a research and exchange workshop “**Mediterranean, Climate and Cities**” dedicated to urban governance and climate change in the Mediterranean cities.

This workshop is the side event of the 5th World Urban Research Symposium, which is organized by the World Bank in Marseille from June 28th until July 1st. It also constitutes the expression of a common aspiration which is personified by the Union for the Mediterranean. It was decided to translate the goals set by the November 3rd and 4th meeting in Marseille.

The Urban Research Symposium will address climate urban vulnerability and energy efficiency required to urban activities in the Middle East and North Africa countries. Academics, practitioners and decision makers will meet in order to provide a platform to present their work, share their experiences and debate subjects.

This high level conference aims at discussing on research, practice and decision making needs (urban governance support). It will spell out incentive policies, economic measures and financial mechanisms of adaptation strategies (costs and benefits) that are relevant to be implemented in this region.



1. **The “Mediterranean, Climate and Cities” workshop (Marseille – June 27th and 28th, 2009) and the World Urban Research Symposium “Cities and Climate Change: Responding to the Urgent Agenda” (Marseille – from June 28th until July 1st).**

The World Urban Research Symposium “**Cities and Climate Change : responding to an urgent agenda**” will gather the best specialists from all over the world to understand climate change impact on cities and how cities can tackle this challenge ; understanding and measuring the impact of climate change on cities, finding the best practices to improve the energy efficiency of cities and the urban management and planning facing to climate change.

The side event workshop “**Mediterranean, Climate and Cities**” will deal with these issues focusing on the Mediterranean region.

2. **The territorial dimension: MENA, one of the most vulnerable regions exposed to climate change impacts¹**

Climate change will cause a change in living conditions of the Mediterranean region. Some of the sectors as agriculture, water, tourism, housing, are the less resilient to these changes². Within 20 or 25 years, 100 million new inhabitants of the Mediterranean will live in cities of the Middle East and North Africa, with a strong tropism coast. Some additional 100 million people will live, by 2025, in Middle East and North Africa cities and specifically around the Mediterranean rims. However, this growth occurs in a context of climate change and gradual introduction of policies to reduce GHG emissions. These elements have to be fully integrated today to reform and decide on infrastructures and urban development policies.

Such challenges have to be tackled concerning territorial and urban planning (infrastructure), governance (local and national decision processes, living standards, service management, training and expertise), risk management (energy, water) and disaster risk management (flash foods, rising sea level, fires).

In addition, some of these countries have major investment programs in urban areas (especially in the real estate sector, infrastructure and tourism) to guide land use, and where local political leaders are unable to measure its territorial impacts (positive and negative). It should also take into account the wide disparities among countries in the region, but also situations of conflict and long displacement.

¹ Raffaello Cervigny, Regional Strategy to Address Climate Change, MENA, Sustainable Development, Sector, Department, World Bank, 2007

² IPEMED publishing: To foresee climate change in the Mediterranean region, 2008



3. To invite three sets of actors to exchange: Academics, practitioners and decision makers

Urban governance (inclusive process between civil society, firms and other local actors) seems to be a leading asset to tackle climate change challenges. Support from the best specialists, experts, international and national academics is necessary in order to spell out phenomena, methodology and help to decision making. The purpose of the event is to build a stronger body of collective knowledge dedicated to local action. This dialogue between academicians, practitioners and decision makers will serve to agree on creating synergies between research and practice.

4. The side event workshop program “Mediterranean, Climate and Cities”

This workshop aims at supporting local authorities in their adaptation and mitigation efforts, by fully integrating the objectives of reducing climate change vulnerability, regarding transport, energy and built environment.

A first half-day will address:

- Urban vulnerability and challenges posed by climate change on cities (rising sea level, heat waves, reduced resources, etc);
- Energy efficiency required to cities' sustainable development (reducing GHG emissions).

Then, in a second half-day, these two subjects will be highlighted :

- Incentive policies (economic and financial mechanisms) adapted to climate policies in urban areas.
- Instruments and challenges posed by urban governance, to find a way to make actors to collaborate efficiently at a city-scale to promote both of development climate change priorities;

5. Partners

Strategic Investment Fund (Caisse des Depots et Consignations), World Bank (MENA Region and World Bank Office in Marseille), City of Marseille, Euro Mediterranean Public Establishment (EPAEM), Isted.

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