

# ENPI info centre

## The People Behind the Projects

CIUDAD > Interview with Frank Samol

## Local authorities – a bridge across the neighbourhood



■ **Frank Samol**,  
Team leader of the CIUDAD  
supporting mechanism

The **Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue (CIUDAD) programme** seeks primarily to promote cooperation and dialogue between local and regional authorities in the EU and ENPI partner countries. On the ground, **CIUDAD** aims to help local governments in the ENPI region enhance their capacity to plan for sustainable, integrated and long-term urban development using good governance principles. *“Being implemented at local level, the ultimate beneficiaries of CIUDAD projects are citizens of urban communities in the partner countries,”* explains **Frank Samol**, team leader of the CIUDAD Supporting Mechanism, in an interview with the ENPI Info Centre.

*Q: What is the programme trying to achieve?*

**Frank Samol:** The **Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue (CIUDAD) programme’s** primary objective is to promote cooperation and dialogue between local and regional authorities in the EU and ENPI partner countries. It aims to boost the exchange of experience and know-how, and strengthen the interaction between local authorities and civil society actors in the beneficiary countries. It acts at the local level (cities and municipalities), seeking thus to improve the level of involvement of local governments and the participation of civil society.

On the ground, **CIUDAD** aims to help local governments in the ENPI region enhance their capacity to plan for sustainable, integrated and long-term urban development using good governance principles. By creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones among local and regional authorities in the ENPI region (South-South, East-East and South-East), it also hopes to achieve long-term benefits that would have an impact beyond the life of the programme.

*What are the areas on which the programme focuses?*

CIUDAD covers three main themes of urban development: **Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, Sustainable economic development and reduction of social disparities, and Good governance and sustainable urban development planning.** A total of 21 grant projects address these themes. Each project will be implemented by a Consortium of

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at least three partners including local authorities, thematic networks, academic and research institutions, and civil society organizations in a minimum of two ENPI countries. These work together on specific issues of relevance to all communities involved.

CIUDAD encompasses 10 projects in the South, 6 in the East and 5 inter-regional, i.e. involving partners both from the South and the East. It is one of the first programmes that encourage partnerships covering both ENPI regions.

*What is the expected impact on the citizens of the partner countries?*

Being implemented at local level, the ultimate beneficiaries of CIUDAD projects are citizens of urban communities in the partner countries. Most projects aim to improve the quality of basic urban services in an environmentally sustainable way, and thus benefit citizens of the city/municipality where they are implemented. A good example is a project being implemented in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, which promotes the establishment of efficient systems of **Solid Waste Management** using a participatory community-based approach.

**“It is one of the first programmes that encourage partnerships covering both ENPI regions”**

Some projects benefit a certain category of the population. One project, for example, promotes innovative and socially inclusive governance in sports and outdoor activities with a focus on women and youth as final beneficiaries.

*What are the challenges you expect to encounter in the implementation of the programme?*

Given CIUDAD's broad scope and the many partners involved, one of the biggest challenges will be to develop a common understanding of all stakeholders in working jointly towards tangible achievements. Sustainability of the projects is another challenge, as one of the objectives of CIUDAD is to build lasting partnerships that would survive beyond the programme.

## CIUDAD – Sustainable urban development

<http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/index.php>

Aims to help local governments in the ENPI region address urban development problems in a sustainable manner, promoting cooperation between local actors and their EU counterparts

### *Participating countries*

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

### *Objectives*

The programme “Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue” (CIUDAD) aims to promote mutual understanding, dialogue and cooperation between local actors in the EU and in the Partner Countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood (ENPI region) through the provision of capacity building for the modernisation and strengthening of local and regional government. It also seeks to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, among local and regional authorities in the ENPI region (South-South, East-East and South-East partnerships), leading to long-term benefits extending beyond the life of the programme.

### *Find out more*

CIUDAD fiche > [http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=310&id\\_type=10](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=310&id_type=10)  
ENPI Info Centre - Civil society and local authorities > <http://www.enpi-info.eu/thememed.php?subject=14>

### *Timeframe*

2009 - 2013

### *Budget*

€14 million

The ENPI Info Centre is an EU-funded Regional Information and Communication project highlighting the partnership between the EU and Neighbouring countries. The project is managed by Action Global Communications.

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[www.enpi-info.eu](http://www.enpi-info.eu)