International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development
Many innovative solutions for sustainable urban development exist at local level, for example in energy efficiency, mobility or municipal services, although they are frequently not widely known. Often, there is a lack of systematic access to these practice-oriented solutions. Against this background, Connective Cities, the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development promotes the exchange of municipal expertise and mediates between supply of and demand for practical experience as well as between urban practitioners. For cities are increasingly gaining importance internationally, and urban actors the world over are facing comparable issues in urban development. Although local solutions are required, they are increasingly becoming globally relevant. The pressing challenges posed by world-wide urbanisation call for efficient and innovative solutions, especially in the areas of Good Urban Governance, Integrated Urban Development and Local Economic Development – our three focal thematic areas. Connective Cities is a joint venture between the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Engagement Global / Service Agency Communities in One World. The International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
The goal is to create a network of urban practitioners with a high level of expertise in administration, politics as well as business, science and civil society. Dialogue and learning programmes such as workshops, training courses and study tours mobilise German and international know-how and facilitate experiences to be shared. The presentation of good practices enables practitioners to learn from one another. In discussions, colleagues offer advice on options to address topical challenges that practitioners face. Common project ideas point to approaches to the development of innovative solutions. In this manner, experience gained by urban actors in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe in sustainable urban development is disseminated and contributed to international learning processes. The efficiency of municipal actors is further strengthened, and at the same time, the potential for initiative in German international cooperation is promoted. The continuous orientation of the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development on sharing of practice-oriented experience via effective and applied solutions supports a learning process that consistently draws on practice and creates new synergies. Connective Cities acts as a facilitator, mediator and moderator of these processes. In addition, the process is supported virtually by the Connective Cities Web Portal.
We promote sharing of experience among cities and practitioners world-wide, support cooperation between German and international cities, initiate joint projects and disseminate proven solutions and concepts. New learning experience is processed and fed back into the International Community of Practice – these are the core elements of our approach.

The development of the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development comprises the establishment of contact with German cities and with relevant business and science institutions as well as with projects in German international cooperation throughout the world’s regions. In the context of these processes, thematic clusters are developed and specific fields of action are identified that are suitable for learning from one another and for jointly planning future projects.

With its dialogue and learning programmes, the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development mobilises German and international know-how and:
CONNECT
- our range of services

**experience**
provides a portal for the dissemination of practice-relevant experience

**networking**
identifies relevant actors from developing countries, emerging economies and industrialised countries and integrates them in networks

**working groups**
moderates thematic and regional working groups

**exchange**
enables exchange through international conferences, training courses and expert information tours

**project ideas**
supports the formulation of innovative projects and helps with looking for financing to implement the project ideas

**learning**
contributes to making use of the learning experiences by evaluating the new project approaches

**expertise**
finds municipal experts for international missions focusing on sustainable urban development topics
CONNECT
- thematic clusters and fields of action

**Good Urban Governance**
- Democracy and public participation
- Urban management and administration
- Municipal and regional networks

**Integrated Urban Development**
- Participation and urban planning
- The social city
- Urban transport and mobility

**Local Economic Development**
- SME Promotion
- Fostering Innovation
- Location development
- Green urban economy
- Corporate social responsibility / CSR

For further information visit www.connective-cities.net
Further partners in implementation include selected regional and national municipal associations in Africa, America, Europe and Asia as well as their member cities.

In the context of the first phase (2013-2015), the range of services and the entire organisational structure as well as the business model of the International Community of Practice are developed. Initial experiences and concepts were presented at an international launch event in Leipzig in June 2014. Thematic dialogue events have already been held in various locations world-wide.