United Cities and Local Governments Organization (UCLG)

UCLG represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. Headquartered in Barcelona, the organization’s stated mission is as follow: to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Organization (UCLG-MEWA)

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA) is one of the nine Regional Sections of UCLG and functions from its headquarters in Istanbul. Our organization performs its activities and initiatives through 20 countries and has almost 140 members. We aim at representing our members in international organizations such as United Nations, and enabling our members to develop and implement new projects.

*Committees and Working Groups*

Through UCLG Committees and Working Groups, UCLG-MEWA carries out activities in various spheres such as “Decentralization, Local Finance, Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, Gender Equality, Culture and Sustainable Development”. These issues are among the most discussed ones at local, regional, national and international levels. UCLG-MEWA Secretariat General coordinates the relations between the different Committees and Working Groups allowing UCLG-MEWA members to access solutions developed within the whole membership of UCLG World Organization.

Introduction of UCLG Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities

Citizens are living in a society where everything is going faster with new technologies and innovation. To be adapted to these new changes, knowledge becomes essential in this field. To reach this knowledge, local authorities have an important role to play as they are the nearest to the citizens and know their needs. In this framework, an important meeting has been organized in November 2005 in Bilbao, the Second World Summit of Local Authorities on the Information Society and gathered all local authorities of the world to share knowledge and experiences. In this summit, it has been decided that “the use of New Information and Communication Technologies is a universal right that should be available to everyone”. Besides, the local authorities agreed to implement the use of new technologies as tools for development. In the end of the summit, the Local Digital Agenda has been established by local authorities as the main contribution of the Bilbao Declaration. In 2009, the members of the Committee on the Information Society changed the name of the committee to the Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities.

The Committee aims to create an efficient network of cooperation integrated by local authorities to take advantage of the opportunities that the new information and communication technologies (ICT), innovation and knowledge bring, and to share, assimilate and adapt them to local needs, and create new opportunities for all the cities and municipalities.

## The main objective is to reach an alliance among all the Committee members to achieve a competitive economy driven by the local authorities in which knowledge, innovation and new technologies (ICT) are created, transmitted, acquired and used to promote the economic and social development of the own community.

In this regard, UCLG-MEWA is planning to create a working group about Smart Cities to improve the knowledge of local authorities and citizens in new technologies’ field and also to strengthen the network between local authorities of the Middle East and West Asia region. Therefore UCLG-MEWA would like to know more about the activities of the municipalities of MEWA region in new technologies’ field through a survey to help them to fill in the lack that can exist by proposing them a training in any required field.

UCLG-MEWA proposes the following survey:

## SURVEY

1. Does your city use new technologies for its development?



1. Does your city offer Wi-Fi hotspots?



1. Is there any Internet public access center in your city?



1. Does your city make promotion deals with ISPs (Internet Services Providers) to provide the public a high-quality Internet connection at reasonable prices?



1. Does your city provide trainings in computer using?



Select the courses your city provides:

 

 



1. Did your city implement a system to improve the public safety (example: video surveillance cameras)?



If so, what kind of system is it?



1. Did your city implement a system for transportation services?



If so, what kind of system is it?



1. Does the city provide the electronic health card for citizens?



1. Does your city provide on-line medical services?  
   

If so, what kind of services does it provide?



1. Is there any event organized to promote new technologies in your city?



1. Is there any interaction between your municipality and citizens through on-line platform such as social networks, on-line surveys, on-line payments etc.?



1. In terms of democratic participation of local residents and consultation, what do you think about using the electronic system of voting for some services?
2. Do you believe your city needs more smart technologies in providing services?



1. Would you be interested in participating in a training organized for IT staff?



If so, which topic would you propose for this training?



1. Would your municipality be interested in participating in a working group on Smart Cities?



Comments