

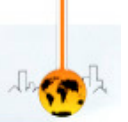


LOCAL ACTION – LOCAL SOLUTIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE SESSIONS

Bali, Indonesia, 10-11 December 2007

I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability



Parallel event to the United Nations Climate Change Conference
(UNFCCC COP 13, CMP 3)

Sustainfo Launch Breakfast

Date: 11.12.2007

Time: 08:30 - 09:30

In cooperation with: Sustainfo Consortium

REPORT

Pascal van den Noort, Master Plan BV The Netherlands, gave an overview of the progress of the project in the past two years. He made clear that the 2 months ahead of the project would be used to fulfill demands of the project in terms of exploitation.

Dr. Wolfram Schrimp, DG Research, European Commission discussed:

- The EU policy context
- FP6 and ongoing research; and
- FP7 with regards to development.

Details of his presentation can be accessed on the website where his Power Point Presentation is available.

Dr. Marco Keiner, Chief, Urban Environment, UN-HABITAT discussed the following:

- UN-HABITAT is hosting the Best Practices database and wants to make use of the info that is being collected in daily work undertaken with cities, especially with regards to Safer Cities, Sustainable Cities, Local Agenda 21 and the Slum Upgrading program.
- The UN-HABITAT mandate is to provide secure shelter and promote sustainable urban development, but money/staff is limited, despite the desire for it to be the information hub and to disseminate good practice.
- UN-HABITAT wants to talk a 'simple language' for the local level – to allow the city to adopt those kinds of activities that are disseminated

Paul van Beek, Senior Consultat, Goudappel Coffeng, Co-ordinator for Susta-Info highlighted that Susta-Info will be continued for the 2 years following the end of the project, but that at the moment, this is likely to be only a technical continuation (and not a content update). Questions he raised about the future of Susta related mainly to:

- Will Susta be international?
- Will it be used by professionals?
- Should others be made more aware of it?

There is a desire amongst the consortium for Susta to gain more EC/UN-HABITAT info, for it to be linked to other initiatives, and for it to be used more interactively.

3 operational scenarios for the post-project exploitation of Susta-Info were proposed:

- Maintaining Susta-Info
- Expanding Susta-Info
- Developing Susta-Info

Questions for the panel (Wolfram Schrimp; Marco Keiner and Ewa Ciuk) were:

- Will the system be useful for sustainable urban development?
- Should it be improved and linked to other systems?
- Which organisations should be involved?

Dr. Marco Keiner judges that the system will be useful, if the term 'sustainable development' appears. It already has the notion of expanding/developing. The ideal scenario would be a combination of expanding and developing Susta-Info as time goes along. There will be many new Good Practices. If no pro-active dissemination of the good practices is undertaken, they will not be known by the cities/practitioners. Susta is therefore a useful tool for achieving that dissemination.

Dr. Wolfram Schrimp agrees with Marco Keiner. Best Practices in 2007 will not be best practices 5 years from now. 80% of the time, local governments want information on best practices. Important for information to be targeted and important also to get contextual local practices; this is why using Susta is so important.

Usefulness means that the system is continued, maintained and content is updated. There is a need for interaction between users and developers on how to develop the website.

A question from the audience was to what extent is Susta-Info useful for sustainable *rural* development?

The Description of Work for Susta does not make mention of this. However, it would be vital for Susta's expansion. Also, even if Susta-Info is not specifically intended for the rural areas, much of its content will be helpful for rural sustainable development.

Marco Keiner feels that Susta is aimed at *local* sustainability – for local authorities. He does not want to make distinctions between urban and rural. Anyone should be able to use the Best Practice examples – it is more about governance.

Question from audience, David Cadman, President, ICLEI:

Will the system be able to track users?

Dr. Wolfram Schrimp comments: All UN-HABITAT database information has contacts, and these contacts have been validated. We can track how many hits we have on the website, and eventually, there are possibilities for having a 'Comment' function on the website which asks what sectors the users come from.

Which organisations would potentially be involved?

Marco Keiner feels one should encourage other institutions dealing with the same topic. Recommending universities (which have lots of projects running at the same time) would be good; there is a need to assess what they have done so far and for this information to be 'brought in' too. UN-HABITAT is launching a new sustainable urban development network. It wants to be a platform in between existing networks – there are currently 56 city networks worldwide dealing with Sustainable Urban Development issues. UN-HABITAT wants access of the information to the partners they are working with. It also wants a portal for getting information – and MK can imagine being 'a part of' Susta-Info – it is a 'solution' they have already been looking for, and he is keen to develop what is already existing – it should therefore 'have a future'.

Dr. Wolfram Schrimp says that local government associations need to be involved. It is important that an organisation like ICLEI, if not one similar to ICLEI, should be involved. The European Commission would be happy for a result where Susta-Info is used in other projects and for users. Financing should be agreed in the user community.

Comments from Konrad von Ritter, Sustainable Development, World Bank

Konrad von Ritter was interested in whether Susta would have material that could be used for training, development etc i.e. something that could be used for capacity-building for local authorities. The issue is about having a 'tool' which could be used straight away, i.e. where the practice could be applied from the example.