

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Local Answers to Global Challenges

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Maia Forum, Maia Municipality, Portugal

6th March 2013

Background

The latest international projections foresee that by 2030, 60% of the world population will be living in urban areas. This reality will require a change in the current socioeconomic, cultural and environmental paradigms. Against this backdrop, the role of municipalities as key actors in development and cooperation issues is of the utmost importance to strengthen the three pillars of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental.

Faced with the new local, national and international challenges that shape daily lives of both Portuguese and European cities, such as: high unemployment, financial constraints and strong social and environmental pressures, Local Authorities - key actors in the development process - with strong responsibilities in the promotion of the wellbeing of their communities, have the power to give strong and effective responses to these challenges. However, the answer to local communities cannot be dissociated from global realities, requiring “glocal” strategies and approaches.

In an interdependent world we need to strengthen global partnerships for development. All stakeholders with responsibilities in development policies – including Portuguese Municipalities – have to raise their voices and efforts in the pursuit of international commitments and goals.

Partnerships between civil society and local authorities have clear added value to development processes and are crucial to the convergence of efforts towards poverty eradication, education for all, gender equality, health, economic and environmental sustainability.

10H00 **OPENING SESSION**

NEW GLOCAL CHALLENGES

Challenges are part of the Humanity’s development DNA. It is not only economic and financial challenges that reflect a desire for a more fair and sustainable world, but also social and environmental challenges that will ensure Human Sustainable Development.

11H00 Fair Break

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The campaign Go Local: Towards a Sustainable City aims to raise awareness and mobilise the Municipalities and citizens to changes in policies and practices towards Social Justice, Inclusive Economy and Sustainable Development.

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11H15 NEW PATHS FOR GLOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

How can Municipalities be on track with the promotion of development values and principles? How to align the promotion of environmental issues, technology, education, equality, inclusive economy and eco-mobility with complex demographic, economic and social challenges?

14H30 LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL MUNICIPALITIES :: NEW MODELS, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable development requires new strategies, aimed at strengthening the coordination of local actors for the dissemination and expansion of their good practices. Economy, Environment, Education, Integration, Mobility and Inclusion are not just theoretical issues but daily realities for which we cannot turn back. Realities that must be addressed from local to global dimensions. This is the only path to ensure a sustainable future for all. As key actors in the international system, there is a need for Municipalities to develop and promote new models for sustainable development. They have always been an engine for dynamic societies and have, therefore, a crucial role in boosting new partnerships and approaches.

16H15 Fair Break

16H30 FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA POST-2015

In the ongoing debate about a post-2015 global development agenda, the identification of priority issues to ensure that globalisation becomes a positive force for global population is certainly a priority. An agenda with specific goals and objectives, set by the global community, in which all raise their voices on behalf of the future that we want and desire should become a reality.

Social Inclusion, inclusive economy, environmental sustainability, peace and stability are some of the key issues that must be present in this new global agenda. This agenda should be coherent with the principles of development and aligned to the three dimensions of sustainable development.

18h00 LOCAL ANSWERS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES: WRAP UP

Go Local
Towards a Sustainable City

DEVELOPMENT IS A CORE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. WHAT WILL BE YOUR ROLE?

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