

Introduction and Background

The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) is the international institute for Urban Management of Erasmus University working in low-income and transitional countries. It offers specialized post-graduate and accredited education and training, advisory services and applied research in the fields of urban management and housing.

The institute works closely with local governments, international and local non-governmental organizations and the private sector worldwide, mainly in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Its mission is to develop human and institutional capacities and provide support to policy makers to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in cities worldwide. IHS was established in 1958, and since January 2004, it has been part of the Erasmus University Rotterdam and draws on the extensive academic and institutional resources of the University.

IHS is managed by a Director and Management Team and advised by an independent Supervisory Board. Currently IHS has 40 permanent multi-disciplinary staff members, one regional office for Central and Eastern Europe, located in Romania and 25 associate fellows. Its global network of alumni comprises more than 7500 urban professionals.

IHS Advisory Services

IHS works globally, providing advisory services to local and national governments, non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as academic and training institutions. IHS has worked on contract for the World Bank, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AFDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), SIDA, the EU, GTZ and Cordaid. The institute also works on contract for local and national government clients. Services provided include: policy level support and institutional development, on the job training for government professionals, aid in the development of citywide strategic planning and participatory processes, development of methodologies and frameworks,

research and programme evaluation. IHS' teams have extensive experience in linking international and local knowledge, and working with (local) partners on finding innovative solutions that are embedded in and relevant to the local contexts. IHS also ensures that **advisory services are combined with knowledge transfer**: this approach ensures that the knowledge remains with the client and interventions are sustainable.

A special focus of IHS' services is on institution building. For the last three decades, IHS has been involved in supporting the development of training and research institutions in China, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, Egypt, Poland, Albania, Belarus and Romania. Besides assisting organizations in developing the capacity to provide training to local governments and their partners, IHS also provides support in the set up and management of these institutions by advising on approaches to organizational change. IHS' assistance in institution building provides key tools for growth and change at the individual as well as the organizational level.

IHS Advisory Services: Thematic coverage

IHS thematic expertise covers the following topics:

- **Urban Housing and Livelihoods:** housing policies, housing rights, housing finance, slum prevention and upgrading, resettlement strategies, development and management of social housing projects, and livelihood strategies of the urban poor
- **Urban Land Management:** land tenure options and land regularisation, land value capture, land-related instruments of land development
- **Integrated Planning and Urban Strategies:** participatory planning, performance planning, human settlement planning, city development strategies
- **Governance and Public and Private Partnerships:** decentralization, principles of good governance, network management, public sector reform, business planning for partnerships
- **Managing and Financing Urban Infrastructure:** innovations in the implementation of public infrastructure

- **Public finance:** revenue mobilization, CIPs, creditworthiness, debt and borrowing, performance budgeting
- **Urban Competitiveness and Resilience / Local Economic Development:** linking economic geography with urban management and planning
- **Environment and infrastructure:** environmental policy, urban infrastructure, energy and low carbon cities; climate change adaptation, mitigation and vulnerability; green cities and buildings

Developing Innovative Tools/Approaches

IHS Staff is also involved in the development of practical tools/approaches to aid policy development and decision-making. Some examples follow:

Climate Prio: This is a climate awareness, decision support and capacity building tool for assessment, screening and prioritization of climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Capital and Economic Flows in Cities: This tool uses multiple software to a) identify the flows of capital occurring between urban regions and especially to define, for any city in the world, which its true economic competitors are; b) to measure the impact of economic flows on urban development, using urban location factors of many cities.

Atelier Approach: This is a learning approach used in training courses and on the job to allow practitioners to work in a multi-stakeholder setting, applying a variety of decision making tools (i.e. Profiling, SWOT, Linkages Analysis, Goal Achievement Matrix, Cost-Benefit Analysis).

Action Planning: This is a well-tested and interactive tool that helps to establish a number of feasible short term actions, that combines spatial, institutional and financial strategies and that addresses: a) the context and stakeholders; b) problems and its causes and effects; c) objectives; d) strategies; e) timing and resource allocation for implementation, and f) communication.

Flagship Projects

Ghana Urban Management Pilot Programme (2011-2015) (Keywords: participatory planning, urban finance)

Best Practices for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans (2012-2013) (Keywords: legalization of land and housing, informal settlement upgrading, social housing)

Integrating Climate Change into City Development Strategies (2012-2013) (Keywords: CDS; planning for climate change; framework development)

Development of Sustainability Benefits Assessment Methodology for Colombo Green Growth Program (CGGP) (2013) (Keywords: sustainability benefits, integrated assessment)

Erasmus Mundus Linking European, African, Asian Networks on Climate Change (LEAN-CC) (2011-2013) (Keywords: climate change education, dissemination, awareness, barriers to education)

Fostering Partnerships for Equitable Cities, capacity building for participatory spatial planning in Albania (2010-2013) (Keywords: spatial planning; participatory planning; capacity building; policy)

The Battle for Capital: International Network position and Spatial distribution of Foreign Direct Investment in South Holland (2011-2012) (Keywords: investment flows, network analysis and economic geography)

Design of a Program for Productive Housing in Guatemala (2011) (Keywords: affordable housing, housing finance)

Tbilisi City Development Strategy for Sustainable Development (2010-2011) (Keywords: CDS, urban planning)

Capacity Building for Urban Planning in Kosovo (2002-2006) (Keywords: integrated urban development, capacity building, spatial planning)

UN-HABITAT

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IHS –55 years of making cities work Advisory Services

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