Corruption and Urban Planning
In Sub-Saharan Africa
Course Overview and Roll-Out Strategy
22 – 24 February 2017

Introduction

Compromising the good of the public for personal, professional, or political gains – also known as corruption – is a global challenge. Regarding urban development, the effects of corrupt planning decisions made today have long-term and often irreversible negative impacts for cities.

Urban planning decisions inevitably result in material changes to land values; hence it is here where opportunities and temptations to compromise broader public interests in pursuit of private gain are most acute. It is thus no surprising that corruption is a major issue in current urban planning and development practice. Thomas Melin writes in Pieterse and Parnell's "Africa's Urban Revolution" (2014) that 'many African cities continue to be plagued by deep-seated corruption at multiple levels of government'. In consequence, the question of how to tackle - and ultimately eradicate - corrupt planning practices is increasingly and urgently pertinent.

The New Urban Agenda calls on all countries to 'promote capacity development programmes to help sub-national and local governments in financial planning and management, anchored in institutional coordination at all levels, including environmental sensitivity and anti-corruption measures.' However, despite the pressing challenges presented by the Urban Age, municipal officials, political decision-makers, and civil society advocates still possess only very few practical tools that would help them to better understand and effectively address urban corruption. This professional training course – developed in close collaboration with Transparency International's Urban Integrity Initiative – has been specifically designed to close this gap.

Course Overview

The course equips practitioners in the planning and urban development profession from private, government and civil society practices with the latest tools, tactics and networks to tackle the complex issue of corruption in urban planning processes.

Consisting of five modules taught over three days, it unpacks the negative effects of urban planning corruption, discusses challenges of personal ethics and professional integrity, and presents different hands-on approaches for how to combat corrupt planning practices in the context of urban development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Module A – The basics of corruption

Module B – Major issues and dynamics of corruption in urban planning

Module C – The role of moral reasoning with application to planning

Module D – The role of professional ethics in urban planning

Module E – Tactics and strategies for addressing urban corruption

Course Objectives

The course aims to:

- Raise awareness for the complex causes and effects of corruption in African cities
- Provide participants with an evidence-based understanding of the nature, scale and scope of corruption and how it relates to their own experiences
- Strengthen integrity and advance collective responsibility in the local planning and urban development domain
- Introduce participants to practical tools, strategies and mechanisms to identify and act against corruption
- Provide an open platform for the reflection of personal moral and development of collective professional ethics

Course presenters

The course will be co-presented by Dr. Laura Nkula-Wenz and Stephen Berrisford

Stephen Berrisford is an independent consultant working at the intersection of law and planning in Southern and Eastern Africa. He is also an honorary Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities. He has been directly involved in almost all aspects of the evolution of planning law in South Africa since 1993. For four years he was Director: Land Development Facilitation in the then Department of Land Affairs and in that capacity was responsible for the implementation of the Development Facilitation Act, 1995, as well as the establishment and management of the Development and Planning Commission. He was the principal drafter of the 2001 White Paper on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management. Since then he has worked in all provinces of South Africa, as well as in internationally. He has been directly involved in the drafting of provincial planning legislation at various times in Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape provinces. For local government he has worked on planning legal issues for Cape Town, Mbombela, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Mogale City and eThekwini municipalities. He holds an MPhil in Land Economy from the University of Cambridge in the UK as well as a Masters in City and Regional Planning and a BA LLB from the University of Cape Town.

Dr. Laura Nkula-Wenz is a Postdoctoral researcher and university lecturer in the domain of urban geography and city development with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. She holds both an MA and a PhD in Social and Political Geography from the University of Münster (Germany) and has designed and taught courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level for, amongst others, the University of Cape Town and the Stanford University Centre. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Pôle de Recherche pour l'Organisation et la Diffusion de l'Information Géographique (PRODIG) in Paris, as well as an affiliated researcher at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, working across topics of urban governance, interurban policy learning, cultural and political geography. Laura has also consulted for the City of Cape Town and UNESCO on cultural planning issues, as well as for Transparency International on curriculum development and the promotion of urban integrity within spatial planning practice.

Course Partners

Transparency International (TI)
Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS)
Centre for Urban Law and Finance in Africa (CULFA)

Course information

Who should attend?
This course will benefit all practitioners working in spatial planning and urban development in Sub-Saharan Africa. This includes municipal, provincial and national government employees, NGO and private sector representatives, as well as planning scholars keen to expand their curriculum.

Format
This is an intensive course. Each module consists of a lecture, an interactive teaching and group work session, as well as an individual immersion section based on key readings. It is assumed that the participants will have practical experience in the field of urban development that they are willing to share and reflect on with the group. No previous experience in anti-corruption work is required.

Cost
The cost of the course is R6500.00. The course fee includes course notes as well as lunch and refreshments. Payment information will be sent on receipt of an application form.

Certificates
A certificate of attendance, will be issued to all participants who attend for the duration of the course. A register will be taken daily.

CPD Credit Requirements
The course is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa, and is accredited for the award of 3 CPD points, which are now required for continuing professional registration. The ECSA course code for this course is UCTUPC17.

Registrations and cancellations

In order to ensure a place on the course applicants must complete and return a signed registration form: www.cpd.uct.ac.za/cpd/cpdcourses/2017. Confirmation will be sent on receipt of a registration form.
Registrations close one week before the start of the course
Cancellations must be received one week before the start of a course, or the full course fee will be charged.

Venue

Belmont Square Conference Centre, Rondebosch, Cape Town
Final information and directions will be sent to all registered delegates in the week prior to the start of the course.

Contacts:

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