

ANNUAL REPORT

Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy



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SWEDISH MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS ARE MAKING A STRONG CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND AGENDA 2030, EVEN DURING A PANDEMIC

Creating a sustainable world requires a well-developed local democracy. There is ample evidence that the foundations of a vibrant and strong society are linked to the opportunities of citizens to exercise their rights in a well-functioning local democracy. Strengthening democracy is absolutely crucial to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030 and thereby giving all people the opportunity to live in freedom and dignity.

ICLD believes that these global goals can only be achieved if there is responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, with the aim of strengthening democratic principles such as equality, participation, transparency and accountability as fundamental components. A democratic system of government based on freedom of expression, freedom of the press, free elections, equality before the law and non-discrimination has over time proved to be a decisive factor in development and a safeguard for previously implemented development initiatives.

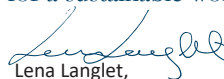
ICLD notes that Swedish municipalities and regions are motivated to reduce the gap between what people demand and actual delivery by forming partnerships to contribute to inclusive, responsible and transparent institutions focused on achieving sustainable development. Support for municipal partnerships, well-designed international education programmes and research gives local democracy

genuine tools for the continued development of citizens' rights and opportunities. Swedish municipalities and regions have a long tradition of local democracy, and can in collaboration, through networks and partnerships, strengthen established democracies and support the development of democratic capacity in weak democracies. This has probably never been as important as today, in terms of all the challenges that citizens are currently facing: pandemics, political instability and climate change.

Democracy has been weakened during the pandemic and we must all counter growing authoritarianism and democratic decline together by investing in education, supporting local democracy and civil society, and fighting misinformation and protecting free and independent media.

If democratically-elected representatives continue to promote inclusive civic dialogue where the equal rights of minorities are safeguarded, where equal opportunities are guaranteed for women and men, where under-represented groups participate in developing a sustainable society together, then there is a positive future for our world. We look forward to continued good partnerships with Swedish municipalities and regions. Together for a strong institutionalised local democracy and for a sustainable world!




Lena Langlet,
Chairman of the Board


Johan Lilja,
Secretary General

ICLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ICLD is a non-profit association. The Board of Directors of ICLD comprises the organisation's members, who also represent the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Region Gotland and Lund University. ICLD's operations are financed by SIDA (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency). Our activities are regulated by national and international policy documents and agreements between ICLD and SIDA



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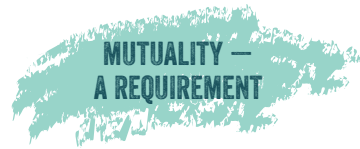


Sveriges
Kommuner
och Regioner



Region
Gotland

ICLD'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT AND MANDATE



ICLD's activities are guided by the overarching objective of enabling people living in poverty to improve their living conditions from a human rights perspective. Our long-term focus is on working towards improved local democracy, based on knowledge and experience, with the ambition to contribute to an equal and sustainable world.

This mandate will be achieved by promoting local democracy in economically and democratically weak countries by building on knowledge and experience from Swedish municipalities and regions and on the research and knowledge development with decentralisation and local democracy that exists from an international perspective.

ICLD'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO ITS MANDATE

MUTUALITY

Mutuality in partnerships is a prerequisite for long-term, lasting results. Democratic development is stimulated by the exchange of experiences between equal partners, working in collaboration, where both parties contribute and receive know-how and experiences.

LOCALLY ROOTED, EXPERIENCE- AND RESEARCH-BASED

Socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development requires decisions and action at international, national and local levels. Although what happens locally can be both hindered and encouraged by national decisions, ICLD sees local ownership of both problem definitions and solutions as a prerequisite for achieving our objectives.

Therefore, ICLD supports initiatives taken by those directly affected. In practice, this means that

projects within the framework of the municipal partnerships, and projects supported by ICLD through the international training programmes, have primarily been identified by the stakeholders in partner countries or by these stakeholders in collaboration with their Swedish counterparts. Equally, in terms of research, projects run by, or in collaboration with, researchers in partner countries are encouraged.

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SYSTEMATIC EXPERIENCE

ICLD regards both theoretical knowledge and systematised, practical experience as essential for local development. ICLD's activities are based on the use of this knowledge and experience in both municipal partnerships and educational programmes. These programmes bring together practical experiences from different contexts and confront participants with research-based knowledge. There is significant research within the broad field of decentralisation, local democracy and development. ICLD has connected with renowned researchers and supports research on issues within its field of activity, so that current research can be naturally integrated into the organisation's work.

ICLD assumes that the learning and the experience of individuals within defined projects has the ability to have a long-term effect. It is particularly important that projects and individual learning can be transformed into organisational learning and long-term institutional change.

ICLD'S CORE VALUES

The foundations of democracy are based on freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, universal and equal suffrage, equality before the law and the principle of non-discrimination. ICLD's core values are based on the foundations of well-functioning local democracy and are expressed under the following headings: equity, participation, transparency and accountability.

EQUITY



Citizens must be treated in an inclusive and fair manner. All citizens should have equal opportunity to express their needs and be considered based on their different circumstances. Efforts to ensure that no discrimination or abuse occur, and that the needs of vulnerable groups are taken into account, with a particular focus on the position of women, are examples of measures that are seen as success factors.

There must be clarity in terms of power and responsibilities in a well-functioning democracy.

There must be possibilities for sanctions and accountability.

PARTICIPATION



Local governments have a responsibility to actively promote a high level of participation in local decision-making processes concerning the design of public policies and services. Different approaches to increase citizens' participation and influence in decision-making processes should be applied. Examples of steps in this direction are the development of instruments for increased dialogue, greater responsiveness and adaptation to civic needs.

TRANSPARENCY



Transparency in decision-making processes, planning and policy-making is crucial for citizens to be able to participate in local issues in a well-informed way, and for a socially sustainable local democracy. For citizens, increased transparency means that politicians and officials act in an open and predictable manner. Measures that ensure increased transparency, openness and predictability are therefore necessary in order to strengthen local democracy.

ACCOUNTABILITY



There must be clarity in terms of power and responsibilities in a well-functioning democracy. There should also exist opportunities for sanctions and accountability. As it is not always possible for citizens to participate directly in decision-making, responsibilities must be made visible so that accountability can be demanded during ongoing processes, not just during elections. For the ICLD, signs that local governments are providing citizens with greater opportunities for accountability are when they're making information available that shows how decisions are made, who is responsible, how citizens can appeal decisions and what the consequences are for misconduct.



Agenda 2030 is not a project; it is the common understanding of all UN member states of what needs to be achieved for a sustainable world. A world where people can live and work in dignified conditions, understand how to manage with finite resources and take care of the planet on which we all live. Decisions taken at the global level can only be realised if they are implemented at a local level. Therefore, Agenda 2030 is as much a local issue as a global one.

AGENDA 2030 REQUIRES COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

ICLD's experience is that there is a high level of knowledge of Agenda 2030 within Swedish municipalities and regions, and that there is a clear will to develop governance towards meeting the goals within their own municipal operations. Agenda 2030, however, requires efforts beyond municipal and regional level to achieve truly sustainable change. A large proportion of the global goals can only be achieved if things take place at a local level while other corresponding local stakeholders do the same elsewhere. The world is interconnected in a shared ecosystem, and no single person can solve the challenges on their own. The road to Agenda 2030 requires cooperation and partnership with others, but it also needs a human rights perspective and strong local democracy.

In 2021, ICLD collaborated within the information project *Glokala Sverige*, and sees municipal partnerships as an excellent method and model to increase the options of municipalities in

sustainability management. In a partnership model, municipalities and regions find tools and instruments to address challenges in both the short and long term. Collaboration with SKR and the UN has given ICLD the opportunity to naturally extend the ambitions of the municipality and the region after completing *Glokala Sverige* training.

AGENDA 2030 TOOLS

In 2021, ICLD developed a tool for municipal partnerships to review their project from an Agenda 2030 perspective, as well as customised steering group training. Evaluation of partnerships using the tool provides a good overview of the impact of the project on Agenda 2030, along with the ability to propose concrete actions to strengthen partnerships and reduce or avoid any negative impact. The Agenda 2030 tool encourages learning and participation but also concrete efforts and clearer embedding.

The 2021 evaluation showed that the partnerships had a significant direct impact on 14 goals in the agenda, but also provided greater recognition that greater focus on Goal 5 is necessary to achieve even better results within the other focus areas of the partnership.

An innovative network of municipal partnerships, where more municipalities collaborate and support change is an excellent tool for progressing with Agenda 2030 work and for achieving measurable and concrete results.

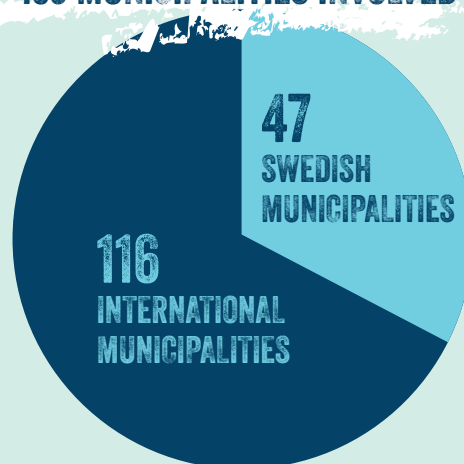
ICLD IN FIGURES

ICLD is achieving strong results in terms of both local democracy and Agenda 2030.

MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED DURING 2021

In 2021, 163 Swedish and international municipalities were involved in activities in ICLD programmes. Of these, 47 were Swedish municipalities.

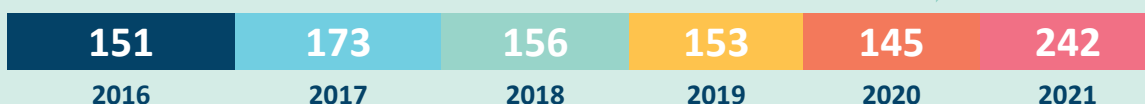
163 MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED



86% OF THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND REGIONS MEMBERS FEEL THAT MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS HELP WITH OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.*

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

NUMBER OF WOMEN SUPPORTED, 2016-2021



Between 2016 and 2021, ICLD has supported 1,652 local and regional administrative personnel and politicians, 1,020 of whom were women.

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTION TO AGENDA 2030

ICLD has conducted an analysis of active municipal partnership projects in ICLD's 15 focus countries. The tool used is the "SDG Impact Assessment Tool", developed by the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development. 26 projects were analysed.



Directly positive or negative = immediate effect
Indirectly positive or negative = indirect effect

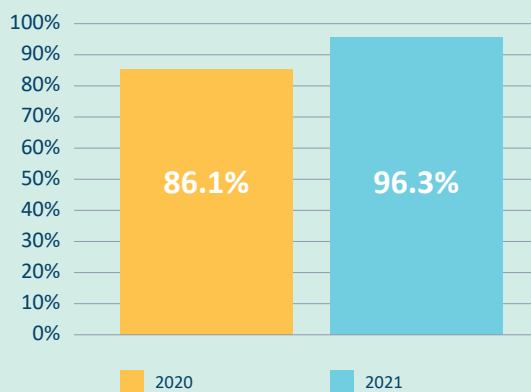
Note on goal 5.

The table reflects the current challenges that Swedish municipalities currently want to work on in partnerships.

There is an increased willingness among Swedish municipalities to contribute to Agenda 2030 through municipal partnerships*

*SveMa survey

During 2020 and 2021, ICLD carried out a knowledge survey within the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. The response rate was just over 26% for the two surveys.



ICLD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE • BOTSWANA

There are 41 active municipalities in the southern African cluster. It is the second-largest geographical cluster in the municipal partnership programme. In 2021, Zimbabwe was added as a partner country and municipal partnerships are expected here in 2022. One partnership that has received a lot of attention and seen good results is the "LuMa Youth For Change" project between Malmö and Lusaka, with the aim of increasing inclusion and empowerment among children and young people in environmental issues.

The project, between the City of Malmö and Lusaka (Zambia) is three years old and now in its final year. The project, called "*LuMa Youth For Change*" started with the common ambition to address young people's lack of influence in local environmental issues. The objective is to increase the municipalities' capacity to include young people in their environmental and climate work.

Both parties identified the need to develop better strategies to involve young people and take on board the views and perspectives of children and young people. Together, the two parties have tested new methods and identified suitable platforms to give young people a greater opportunity to influence and participate in qualitative dialogue on local environmental issues.

Through this partnership, the two parties have found new ways to empower young people to

influence local environmental issues. They have taken action including developing a digital toolkit that makes it easier for other municipalities to involve young people in local environmental and climate issues. Thanks to the project, a youth council has also been established in Lusaka and the project has contributed to increased awareness and interest in the need to include young people in decision-making processes.

ICLD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

- 19 active municipal partnerships
- 28 active ITP municipalities with a total of 60 ITP participants
- 6 research projects
- 7 declarations of intent from universities



Photo: Ida Edvinsson

SOUTH AFRICA

Active partnership municipalities: 9

Bergriver, JB Marks, Mogale, Cape Agulhas, NMB, Overstrand, Stellenbosch, Sundays River MP and Sarah Baartman District together with Ekerö, Falkenberg, Falun, Gothenburg, Jönköping, Ovanåker, Växjö, Åmål, Älmhult

Active ITP municipalities: 8

Thekwini, JB Marks, Rustenburg, Cederberg, Sarah Baartman, Cape Agulhas, Kouga, Overstrand

ZIMBABWE

Active partnership municipalities: 0

Active ITP municipalities: 10

Binga, Bubi, Buhera, Bulilima Chaminuka, Hwedza, Makonde Mwenezi, Vungu, Zivagwe

ZAMBIA

Active partnership municipalities: 5

Chililabombwe, Chinsali, Lundazi, Lusaka, Rufunsa together with Alingsås, Forshaga, Kungsör, Lidköping, Malmö, Piteå

Active ITP municipalities: 9

Senanga, Lukulu, Sesheke, Kalulushi, Kitwe, Mushindamo, Luanshya, Kapiri Mposhi, Lusaka.

“THE FORMATION OF THE JUNIOR COUNCIL WILL BE A SUSTAINABLE TOOL FOR YOUTH DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING”

Chisha Banda, project coordinator for the Lusaka-Malmö partnership

BOTSWANA

Active partnership municipalities: 5

Chobe, Gaborone, Ghanzi, Francistown Lobatse together with Ale, Bollnäs, Lund, Vänersborg, Västerås

Active ITP municipalities: 1

Lobatse



BOTSWANA

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

SYDAFRIKA

ICLD IN EAST AFRICA

KENYA • TANZANIA • UGANDA

There are 30 active municipalities in the East African cluster. It is also the largest geographical cluster in the municipal partnership programme. In 2021, Rwanda joined as a partner country but no operations were started during the year. The cluster has seen many good, concrete results.

A good example of this within the framework of ICLD's activities in East Africa is the production of the *"Toolbox to conduct a safety audit"* handbook. It will act as a step-by-step guide for municipal officials and politicians who want to design and plan for inclusive, safe and sustainable public transport.

The handbook was based on the experiences of Machakos in Kenya, but in principle the process can be applied anywhere. Because residents needed safer transport among the busy city streets, the ICLD chose to support the **Flone Initiative**, a female-led group working for safer public transport, to address this critical issue. Researchers conducted interviews with key stakeholders in public transport and focus groups of working women in the public transport sector.

They also carried out safety walks to identify problem areas for women, with the aim of reducing the potential for abuse and harassment and increase safety for women in Machakos County. Participants in ICLD's "Gender mainstreaming" international education programme played an important role in the production of the publication as they identified needs and preferences at a workshop organised by ICLD where researchers and practitioners met to discuss solutions to challenges at a local level.

ICLD IN EAST AFRICA

- 20 active municipal partnerships
- 19 active ITP municipalities with a total of 33 ITP participants
- 6 research projects
- 3 declarations of intent from universities

HOW TO PLAN FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSPORT: A TOOLBOX TO CONDUCT A SAFETY AUDIT

Photo: Anne Scheffer Leander

KENYA

Active partnership municipalities: 11
Mombasa, Elgeyo Marakwet, Homa Bay, Mfangano Island municipality in Homa Bay, Kajiado, Lodwar (in Turkana), Machakos, Makueni, Moi's Bridge, Muranga, Uasin Gishu together with Arvika, Borlänge, Hultsfred, Härryda, Karlstad, Lycksele, Norrköping, Väster-norrland, Östergötland, Robertsfors, Umeå, Upplands-Bro, Västerbotten, Öckerö

Active ITP municipalities: 6
Nyamira, Homa Bay, Kajiado Muranga, Makueni, Machakos

TANZANIA

Active partnership municipalities: 3
Kibaha, Ilala (in Dar es Salaam), Makunduchi (in Zanzibar) together with Gotland, Strängnäs, Sundsvall

Active ITP municipalities: 6
Ilala, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Temeke, Kibaha, Tanga

Rwanda: Not active in 2021

UGANDA

Active partnership municipalities: 6
Jinja, Lugazi, Masaka, Mukono, Nansana, Soroti together with Kalix, Kristinehamn, Leksand, Stockholm, Ronneby, Vimmerby

Active ITP municipalities: 7
Kabale, Jinja, Kapelebyong, Mukono, Amuru, Gulu, Soroti



UGANDA

KENYA

TANZANIA

ICLD IN EASTERN EUROPE

SERBIA • KOSOVO • RUSSIA • UKRAINE

There are 20 active municipalities in the Eastern Europe cluster. It is also the geographical cluster with the least number of municipal partnerships. One successful example in the cluster is the partnership between Växjö and Kommuna Vushtrri in Kosovo, which works to improve young people's desire and ability in terms of entrepreneurship. "This type of project is extremely rewarding," says Magnus Nilsson, head teacher of Teknikum upper secondary school in Växjö.

Växjö municipality's partnership with Komuna Vushtrri in Kosovo has been ongoing since 2013 and there has been a partnership project since 2017 regarding entrepreneurship, aimed at upper secondary school teachers, head teachers and students. The main objective is to develop teaching methods to improve learning about social entrepreneurship.

Within the framework of the project, both parties have carried out pilot tests, organised "Dragons' Dens" and trialled social entrepreneurship business plans.

When the project was evaluated, it showed that both students and teachers had increased their

knowledge of social entrepreneurship, and students grew in their roles as entrepreneurs. The project has also resulted in Växjö expanding its collaboration with Linnaeus University. Head teacher Magnus Nilsson believes that this type of project is the best training you can get as a teacher.

ICLD IN EASTERN EUROPE

- 5 active municipal partnerships
- 16 active ITP municipalities with a total of 29 ITP participants
- 4 research projects
- 2 declarations of intent from universities

Photo:
Växjö municipality

"THIS TYPE OF PROJECT IS EXTREMELY REWARDING! FOR THE TEACHERS, IT IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST TRAINING YOU CAN GET AND THE STUDENTS GAINED KNOWLEDGE THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE THROUGH JUST READING BOOKS".

Magnus Nilsson, head teacher of Teknikum in Växjö on the municipal partnership with Vushtrri.

UKRAINE

Active partnership municipalities: 2
Zmijivka in Berislav and Kamianets-Podilskyi together with Gotland and Mariestad

Active ITP municipalities: 2
Lviv and Kamianets-Podilskyi

RUSSIA

Active partnership municipalities: 0

Active ITP municipalities: 11
Kargopol, Velsk, Lesjukonskoye, Krasnoborsk, Arkhangelsk, Kostomukja, Olonets, Petrozavodsk, Yantarny, Kaliningrad and Baltiysk

SERBIA

Active partnership municipalities: 1
Vračar together with Borås

Active ITP municipalities: 0

KOSOVO

Active partnership municipalities: 2
Peja and Komuna Vushtrri together with Hörby and Växjö

Active ITP municipalities: 3
Novo Brdo, Prizren, Pristina

SERBIA

UKRAINE

RUSSIA

KOSOVO



ICLD IN ASIA

VIETNAM • INDONESIA

There are eight active municipalities in the Asia cluster. It is the smallest cluster in which ICLD operates and is only active in two countries – Vietnam and Indonesia. Nevertheless, there are a number of solid results to highlight.

One of these is the first prize won by Team Yogyakarta in Indonesia for their work towards the more inclusive and sustainable development of slum areas.

Team Yogyakarta, which participates in the ICLD Symbio City programme, took part in a major national competition in Indonesia in the autumn of 2021 and was awarded a prize for its "Inclusive city in a slum upgrade project". The project was developed within the framework of the ICLD training programme and emphasises the importance of an inclusive process to achieve sustainable urban development in Indonesian cities.

The aim of the project, through an inclusive "bottom-up" strategy, is to give citizens greater opportunities to participate in the more inclusive and sustainable development of slum areas.

ICLD IN ASIA

- 5 active municipal partnerships
- 4 active ITP municipalities with a total of 12 ITP participants
- 2 research projects
- 1 declaration of intent from universities

VIETNAM

VIETNAM

Active partnership municipalities: 3
An Giang, Cầu Giấy, and Da Nang
together with Umeå, Växjö, Piteå and
Sjuhärad

Active ITP municipalities: 2
Quy Nhon and Can Tho City

INDONESIA

INDONESIA

Active partnership municipalities: 1
Probolinggo with Helsingborg

Active ITP municipalities: 2
Yogyakarta and Semarang

**"SYMBIO-CITY" - FOR MORE
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES.**



Team Yogyakarta, who won first prize, from left: Yunita Rahmi Hapsari, Agus Salim and Siti Nursanti Irriani.

Photo: Team Yogyakarta

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

