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WORLD BANK GROUP

**Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network
Regional Capacity Building Workshop**

“Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development”

March 19– 23, 2018

*Le Grand Amman Hotel,
Amman, Jordan*

Concept Note & Agenda

Context:

The theme "Strategic planning for Local Economic Development" was identified by the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network members (HMLN) as one of the priority solutions for host local governments to improve the welfare of their communities in a protracted refugee crisis context. A strategic planning approach to Local Economic Development (LED) can help local governments to better identify their assets and challenges, arbitrate for better integrated actions - such as providing a favorable business environment for investors, facilitating entrepreneurship and home-based businesses - and ultimately better implement LED actions. Developing LED solutions supports host local governments in responding to the forced displacement crisis by enabling refugees and vulnerable populations to contribute to the local welfare. Municipalities expressed the need to: i) develop LED strategies on the mid-long term; ii) inform their strategies through data collection and needs assessments; and iii) improve their planning capacities and methods.

The CMI is organizing a capacity building workshop “Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development in Host Communities”, targeted at local government representatives, local economic development practitioners and experts, in partnership with Greater Amman Municipality, the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and with the support of United Cities Local Government – Middle East and Western Asia (UCLG-MEWA).

The workshop will focus particularly on LED strategic planning processes developed by local governments hosting refugees: participants will focus on economic planning, and learn and work together on improving or developing their local economic development strategies in the context of the refugee crisis.

With the support of



**Greater
Amman
Municipality**

Objectives:

This training workshop aims at:

- Improving capacities in local economic development planning for communities hosting refugees / forcibly displaced in the Middle East, Turkey and beyond;
- Supporting regional peer-learning among host local governments, and;
- Strengthening the regional network (HMLN).

TARGET AUDIENCE & CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The workshop targeting about 45 staff and elected representatives of local governments from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian territories, Turkey, Iraq, with selected participants from other countries, in relevance with the theme. A selected number of Afghan representatives will also participate in the workshop, for cross-regional knowledge sharing. Local Government participants were selected through a “Call for Participants”, based on a few eligibility and selection criteria (including relevance to the training topic, completion of a LED self-assessment questionnaire, and active involvement in the HMLN for existing members).

The LED self-assessment will be used during the workshop as a baseline for participants to receive feedbacks from their peers and experts, adjust it, and develop their local economic strategy, including: i) economic opportunities and challenges; ii) elements of a strategic vision: definition of possible scope of actions which could impact LED (ex: possible incentives for investors, aspect of business and city environment they could improve, comparative advantage, etc.).

Content and Design:

The training workshop will build the capacities of participants in developing LED Strategies through applying existing expertise and analytical tools to their own context, and will inform them on challenges and keys of success for implementation through peer-to-peer exchange of experience. The content and design of the workshop is developed along four main Modules designed in close collaboration with members of the Network * key development partners, and using existing tools in a customized manner. Each Module will use a “simulation tool” (a customized fictional case) to illustrate the methodological approach, followed by methodological and technical presentations and a presentation of existing examples from selected HMLN members and partners. Small working groups (5-6 people from the same country) and twinning activities will enable participants to apply the presented methodology to one of their towns for the whole duration of the workshop, helped by technical support from experts.

Twinning activities will also be pursued after the training workshop using online collaborative tools, e.g. the HMLN’s C4D online platform and ad hoc webinars.