CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network - Capacity Building Workshop
“Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development in Host Communities”
March 19 – 22, 2018 - Amman, Jordan

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In the context of the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN), 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. The workshop will take place March 19 to 22, 2018 in Amman, Jordan, in the context of the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) and will be organized in partnership with Greater Amman Municipality, the World Bank, UN-Habitat, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and United Cities Local Government – Middle East and Wester Asia (UCLG-MEWA).

The regional capacity building 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).

The theme "Strategic planning for Local Economic Development" was identified by the 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.

The workshop will consist of a 3-days training and a field visit providing customized methodological tools for host local governments, peer-to-peer exchange of experience, and applied working group session. Translation will be provided in English and Arabic only.

It is targeting about 45 staff and elected representatives of local governments from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Turkey, Iraq and Kurdistan, with selected participants from other countries, in relevance with the Workshop’s objectives. Local Government participants will be selected through this “Call for Participants”.

The CMI and its partners will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, meals, training and field trip for the selected participants.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
- Elected representatives, staff (temporary or long term) and close collaborators, working for Local Governments and involved with Local Economic Development.
- Local Governments including: Municipalities, Union / Federation of Municipalities, Municipal Departments, Regional authority, Governorate.
- Main eligible countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Iraq & Kurdistan, Turkey
- Secondary eligible countries: a few applicants - up to 10 from all other countries expressing interest to the training can be accepted, based on individual appraisal and fit with the workshop’s objectives.
- Participants must be able to understand and actively discuss in Arabic and/or English, which will be the only two languages of the workshop. Translation for other languages will not be provided.
- A maximum application of 2 persons per Local Government can be accepted – the organizers also reserves themselves the right to decline a second application per local government, based on capacity limits.

SELECTION CRITERIA
In order to fulfill the objectives of the training workshop, participants will be selected on the basis of their direct involvement, need for, and interest in LED Strategy, following the below criteria:

Pre-Selection Criteria

- **Relevance** of the local context of your municipality to i) the refugee or forced displacement issue and ii) Local Economic Development needs
- **Commitment** to pursue a LED strategy in your local area: the participant must be in a position that allows her/him to contribute to the development of a LED Strategy, and be backed in this effort by a political will (e.g. to be part of the municipal unit accountable for LED policies, or to be in a position to have an impact on LED policies). It is expected that follow-up activities will last at least 6 to 12 months.
- **Active involvement** (for existing members) in the Host Municipalities Learning Network: assessed through participation in at least two activities (workshops, webinars, compendium of experiences) and/or active participation on virtual discussions (Facebook page, C4D)

Selection Criteria / Validation of Selection

- **Completion of the LED Self-assessment**: Applicants meeting the above criteria will be pre-selected, and invited to complete a LED Self-assessment. This self-assessment is an integral part of the training, which participants will be encouraged to use during the workshop in order to refine their own LED Strategy. It consists of a questionnaire form to assess the economic situation of their town, including assets & liabilities, opportunities & challenges; and define their scope of action. Participants will also receive feedback from their peers and experts on this self-assessment during the workshop.
Completion of the self-assessment will be the last condition validating the selection of pre-selected applicants. An incomplete completion of the self-assessment will compromise the participation to the workshop.

SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE
Eligible applicants will be selected for participation to the workshop along the above criteria by CMI team and Workshop development partners, including UN-Habitat, the GIZ and UCLG-MEWA. Timeline for applications and selection is the following:
- Launch of the Call for Participants: December 28, 2017
- Pre-Selection Applications forms to be filled by: January 10, 2018
- Pre-selected participants will be informed, and will receive the mandatory self-assessment survey to complete: January 15, 2018
- Deadline for completion of the self-assessment survey in order to confirm participation: January 29, 2018

Selected participants will be asked to provide necessary documents to proceed with logistical arrangements (travel and accommodation).

HOW TO APPLY
Applications will be submitted through an online form in either English or Arabic. Only completed applications will be taken into consideration. Should you be experiencing difficulties in filling out the online form in English or Arabic, please get in touch with us at refugees@cmimarseille.org

LEGAL ASPECTS
The above call for participants rules are binding throughout the entire duration of the Call for Participants for the above mentioned workshop. Applying in the call indicates that participants accept these rules and regulations and agree to abide by them.