



Municipal platforms for local strategic development

August 20 to September 13, 2012

**Conducted by the Weitz Center for Development Studies in partnership with
TAG International Development**

The process of development has brought rapid urbanization and the creation of many new large cities across the developing world. Research shows that often urbanization has the power to promote processes of industrialization and economic growth, and is essential for development. However, at the same time, and especially in developing countries, urbanization put significant pressures on local governments to promote local economic development, fight poverty, create suitable infrastructure solutions in cities and slums, and solve social hardships as unemployment and crime. While investing in addressing these needs, local authorities often suffer from lack of institutional capacities which would allow them to provide real sustainable solutions to guarantee long-term support to sustainable socio-economic development

The international training on "Municipal platforms for local strategic development" is designed to provide local officials and policy makers tools and methods which would enable them to use their resources and build platforms to support local strategic development. Drawing on extensive successful experience in Israel as well as the Weitz Center's experience worldwide, the course offers effective tools and knowledge which will allow officials and policy makes to support bottom-up initiatives, provide required services and infrastructure and attract entrepreneurs and investments to promote local economic growth.

The training will focus on the role of local authorities and municipalities in promoting local development, specifically on the platforms the authorities can construct in order to promote entrepreneurial and business activities in the locality, for the benefit of the community. These platforms have the power to promote positive cycles of economic development and income generation. These include support services, special strategic planning units, PPPs, municipal corporations, and more.

Central to this training course is providing the participants with tools to adapt the Israeli experience to local conditions and challenges, in order to ensure successful utilization of the knowledge gained during the course.

The seminar will enable participants to benefit from the Israeli experience in the following areas:

1. MSPUs (Municipal Strategic Planning Units) – the establishment process and special attributes of their operation which promotes strategic development in localities across Israel
2. Municipal Development Corporations – a PPP mechanism employed to improve utilization of existing resources and promotion of municipal development in areas such as tourism, agro-

industry, infrastructure, local economic development, public facilities development, maintenance and management

3. Industrial Zone Management – planning, development, marketing, maintenance and management of municipal industrial and business zones

4. Municipal Branding – as a complementary strategic development mechanism to attract resources, people and activities

5. Jobs and income generating support centers – local and regional institutions supporting the establishment and survival of SMEs and local employment programs

6. Municipal water companies - water and wastewater infrastructure and management conducted by companies linked to municipalities

7. Platforms for cooperation among local authorities for better service delivery and exchange of knowledge and experience

The training course will provide participants with knowledge and tools regarding

- The legal frameworks of these mechanisms
- PPP opportunities and financial aspects
- Modes of operation and working patterns
- The relations between the mechanisms and the local authorities and other stakeholders,
- Projects operated by these municipal mechanisms and more.

The training involves presentations, workshops, discussions, field trips and meetings with professionals and decision makers. The training also involves personal assignments and exercises.

Selection of candidates

The seminar targets professionals, policy-makers and high officials from local authorities, regional institutions and organizations and ministries, directly involved in municipal administration and municipal financing, planning, economic development, social and community development and social services, environmental management and other related areas

*Selected participants must submit **prior** to the seminar:*

- + *A short abstract of a project (maximum 500 words) they wish to formulate throughout the seminar (please note that only 5-6 projects will be select to be developed in small groups)*
- + *A short presentation on the role of local authorities in promotion of strategic development in your respective country or local area*
- + *A passport photo by electronic file*

Further instructions will be sent in advance to the selected participants.

How to apply?

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, and www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) not later than July 6st, 2012.

Scholarships

The scholarship include: 25 days with full board, tuition, study visits, transportation from/to the airport in Israel and medical insurance (excluding dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses)

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: Participants have to take into account to book flight reservations for the dates covered by :
: the scholarship (arrival August 19-20 and departure September 13). All expenses or liabilities :
: beyond this term shall be covered entirely by the participant. :
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Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the seminar. Transportation will **be free of charge only if transported by this company.**

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers' hall. Use the left automatic staircase near gate 2 to the gallery hall and look for "**TRAKLIN ARBEL**".

Insurance of personal belongings

MASHAV, and Weitz Center are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

Additional Information

For additional information please contact us at:

