



STATE OF ISRAEL



Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Weitz Center for
Sustainable Development

**MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation**

with

The Weitz Center for Sustainable Development

invite professionals
to participate in the

International Course:

Addressing the Urbanization Challenge

May 21st – June 8th, 2018



About the Course

Background

Cities are currently home to majority of the world's population. Over the next 30 years most of the two-billion-plus person increase in global population is expected to occur in urban areas in the developing world. If well managed, cities offer opportunities for economic and social development. Cities have always been focal points for economic growth, innovation, and employment. Cities are also centers of modern living, where indicators of general health and wellbeing, literacy, women's status, and social mobility are typically highest. While cities command an increasingly dominant role in the global economy, rapid urban growth throughout the developing world is seriously outstripping the capacity of most cities to provide adequate services for their citizens. Of particular concern are the risks to the immediate and surrounding environment, to natural resources, to health conditions, to social cohesion, and to individual rights. For many observers, however, the greatest concern is surely the massive increase in the numbers of the urban poor. Many of these urban poor are living in informal settlements made up of informal housing, often called slums. According to UN-Habitat, there are 823 million people living in slums worldwide. An estimated 72% of the urban population of Africa now lives in slums. The proportion is 43% for Asia and the Pacific, 32% for Latin America, and 30% for the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Slums and the complex web of challenges causing their existence and resulting from their existence is one of the greatest challenges faced by decision makers in the urban sphere. The international training *Addressing the Urbanization Challenge* is designed to empower participants to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing urbanization challenges – one that maintains financial and management mechanisms while integrating land use planning, construction of infrastructure, stimulation of economic growth, provision of social and health services, promotion of social cohesion and environmental protection.

The Israeli experience

Israel, one of the most urbanized countries in the world (with an urbanization rate of nearly 92%), has gained extensive experience in both the revitalization of poor urban areas and the integration of immigrant social groups from various backgrounds and origins. Though slums and poor urban neighborhoods in Israel are different from those in developing countries, the accumulated Israeli knowledge on the approaches, strategies and tools to deal with these challenges is relevant for participants.

Aims

The course aims to:

- Provide participants with knowledge, tools and strategies related to addressing urban challenges
- Inspire and energize participants to be agents for positive change in their countries
- Expose participants to new approaches and opportunities in the field of addressing urban challenges
- Present Israel as a case study from which to draw valuable lessons about addressing urban challenges
- Enrich participants with professional skills with which to develop their careers and best benefit their communities and countries
- Connect participants with an international network of professionals in their field

Main Subjects

The program will provide participants with knowledge and tools in the following subjects:

- + Concepts in urban planning for development (land use and infrastructure planning; financial, management and organizational tools; urban branding; the triple bottom line & sustainability, asset-based development)
- + Slum upgrading and migration to the city
- + Housing (inclusionary zoning, project renewal, public housing)
- + Stimulating economic growth (LED – local economic development; support systems for innovation, entrepreneurship and SME's; conservation of the built heritage; PPP's - public-private partnerships)
- + Social Sustainability (migrant absorption, social cohesion, youth engagement)
- + Environmental services (natural resource management ; municipal water and waste management; energy issues)

The methodology

Participants will participate in both classroom based lectures and study visits, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. Israeli case studies and practices will be discussed throughout the program. Additionally, participants will be required to formulate and present a project of interest relevant to the topic of this course. For this purpose, some pre-course work will be required. Detailed instructions will be sent to the selected participants.

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as during field visits.

Application

Application Requirements

The training targets highly motivated decision makers, policy makers and professionals from the fields of urban planning, architecture, engineering, economics, community work, administration, working in government ministries (such as local government, housing, development, welfare, health and others), in local authorities, NGOs and CBOs active in the field, as well as business organizations and academic institutions engaged with urban revitalization and slum upgrading programs.

Application forms

[Application forms \(download\)](#) and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli mission or at MASHAV's website: <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il/MFA/mashav/Courses/Pages/default.aspx>.

The completed forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) should be submitted in **WORD documents** to the relevant Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronit@weitz-center.org) **no later than the morning of March 5th 2018**. Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.

General Information

Arrival and Departure

Arrival date:	May 21, 2018
Opening date:	May 22, 2018
Closing date:	June 7, 2018
Departure date:	June 8, 2018 morning

Participants must arrive at the training center on the arrival date, and leave on the departure date. Early arrivals/late departures if required, must be arranged by the participants themselves, directly with the hotel/center, and must be paid for by the participant him/herself.

Location and Accommodation

MASHAV awards a limited number of scholarships. The scholarship covers the cost of the training program including lectures and field visits, full board accommodation in double rooms (two participants per room), health insurance (see below) and transfers to and from the airport. Airfares and daily allowance are not included in the scholarship.

Health Services

Medical insurance covers medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care and eyeglasses. Health authorities recommend that visitors to Israel make sure they have been inoculated against tetanus in the last ten years. Subject to the full binding policy conditions. Participants are responsible for all other expenses.

The course will be held at **the Weitz Center for Sustainable Development**, situated within the campus of **the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel**. Participants will be accommodated at **the Reisfeld Residence** in single rooms in shared apartments (4-5 participants per apartment).

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation is dedicated to providing developing countries with the best of Israel’s experience in development and planning. As a member of the family of nations, The State of Israel is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to contribute to the fight against poverty and to the global efforts to achieve sustainable development. MASHAV, representing Israel and its people, focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel's own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives. MASHAV’s approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, and is taking active part in the international community’s process of shaping the Post-2015 Agenda, to define the new set of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MASHAV’s activities focus primarily on areas in which Israel has a competitive advantage, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; entrepreneurship and innovation; community development; medicine and public health, empowerment of women and education. Professional programs are based on a “train the trainers” approach to institutional and human capacity building, and are conducted both in Israel and abroad. Project development is supported by the seconding of short and long-term experts, as well as on-site interventions. Since its establishment, MASHAV has promoted the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process – an approach which has attained global consensus.

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

<https://www.facebook.com/MASHAVisrael>

About the Weitz Center for Sustainable Development

The Weitz Center for Sustainable Development is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change both in Israel and abroad across developing and transitioning countries. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development.
<http://www.weitz-center.org/>

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