

Building Capacity for Local Sustainability

The Fano Guidelines

1 Learning as an organisation

Investment in training on sustainable development for both officers and politicians builds capacity within local government.

We keep pace with social and technological developments in order to make informed decisions while working towards a sustainable future.

2 Moving away from 'policy silos' within local government

The complexity of sustainable development requires a response that combines knowledge from all policy areas, and utilises the maximum resources available.

We exchange ideas and approaches through cross-departmental working groups and co-operate across policy areas on a daily basis to respond to this challenge.

3 Making alliances with people and organisations

Business, organisations and individuals are all sources of influence and knowledge for sustainable development.

We work in alliance to benefit from their input and build mutual trust.

4 Facilitating the process and developing credible leadership

Setting an example in sustainability management and activities builds up trust and credibility within civil society.

Our local government acts as a model for others, and at the same time as a facilitator of dialogue, bringing sustainability principles onto the local agenda and channelling participatory input into political decisions.

5 Encouraging creativity and innovation in policy-making

Creative people within and outside local government are key to answering new challenges.

We pilot innovative activities to allow unusual solutions to be tried and tested.

6 Communicating to make a difference

Within a knowledge-based society, communication is central to raising awareness of the changes in behaviour that sustainable development demands.

We are open to our citizens' ideas, and we are active communicators using targeted channels and tools to reach out to our community.

7 Catalysing action through raising environmental awareness

Winning people's interest in sustainable development issues can be promoted through raising environmental awareness.

We improve the economic and social performance of our city by implementing high quality environmental management schemes and approaches.

8 Maintaining commitment to achieving the long-term vision

Action for sustainability needs to be step by step whilst guided by the long-term vision.

We implement actions that are effective but acceptable, steadfastly working towards our vision.

9 Sharing experience with peers

Networking with other cities and towns creates a common cause for the reorientation of local development.

By demonstrating our progress to others, we receive recognition and are encouraged to maintain our ambitious work.

10 Influencing all levels of government

Working with other levels of government increases the opportunities for local level considerations to be included in national legislation and strategies for the promotion of sustainable development.

We support and are supported by a dialogue on the framework for local sustainable development.

The DISCUS Project Developing Institutional and Social Capacities for Urban Sustainability

What preconditions need to be fulfilled before a local sustainability process can produce tangible results? In order to examine and understand the forms of institutional and social capacities that are required for sustainable development policy achievements, the DISCUS fieldworkers undertook research in 40 cities and towns all over Europe.

Based on the findings of the DISCUS project, the Fano Guidelines outline the factors and conditions which had been identified as crucial for building up the capacity within local government needed for the successful implementation of local sustainability policies. They have been presented to European local governments during the 'Governing Sustainable Cities' Conference hosted by the City of Fano/Italy, on 4-5 November 2004.

The full results of the DISCUS project are presented in the book 'Governing Sustainable Cities' by B.Evans, M.Joas, S.Sundback and K.Theobald (Earthscan/UK).

More information: www.governingsustainablecities.org

The DISCUS project is a co-operation between the following partners: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat, Freiburg/Germany (co-ordinator); Sustainable Cities Research Institute, Northumbria University, Newcastle/UK; Abo Akademi University, Turku/Finland; WWF-UK, Godalming/UK; Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon/Portugal; FocusLab, Modena/Italy.