



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2009

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY

Chair: Ricard Gomà, Deputy Mayor for Social Action and Citizenship, Barcelona

Summary: publication "For a world of inclusive cities"; World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City; Observatory on Social Inclusion; articulation with the FAL, the FALP and the IOPD.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (CSIPD) is to focus on the following urban topics: (i) the institutional response given by local authorities to urban poverty and exclusion by means of local policies on social inclusion, (ii) strengthening the democratic quality through citizen participation policies and, (iii) the role of local governments in safeguarding human rights in the city. For this reason, the CSIPD fosters political debates and exchanges of experiences based on these topics in order to have a common stance among local governments regarding social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights.

POLITICAL INCIDENCE / AWARENESS RAISING

PUBLICATION "FOR A WORLD OF INCLUSIVE CITIES". The CSIPD has promoted the publication of a policy paper on social inclusion that is the driving force behind the promotion of inclusion policies within the framework of UCLG. This document "Let's build the inclusive cities of the 21st Century" was approved on November 30th by the UCLG World Council in the meeting held in Istanbul, and defines social inclusion policies as the means to build an active citizenship and participatory democracy practices; as a means of articulating the goals of equality with the values of diversity and identity; and as a framework to guarantee human rights. This was all thoroughly debated at the World Council plenary session in Istanbul, chaired by the mayor of Barcelona (Spain) and with the participation of the mayors of Istanbul (Turkey), Guarulhos (Brazil), Jericho (Palestine), Montevideo (Uruguay) and Pixley ka seme (South Africa) as well as the deputy mayor of Barcelona and chair of the CSIPD, Mr. Ricard Gomà. A paper version of the document has been printed under the title "For a world of inclusive cities".

POLITICAL DEBATE ON THE "WORLD CHARTER-AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY". Drawing on the previous initiatives at a regional level, several local governments have fostered the elaboration of a world charter showing the political engagement of cities regarding human rights. This document includes a range of basic human rights that governments commit to safeguard, together with an action plan for each right. The document, that is currently a draft, is being discussed at a political level, both by local governments and by the civil society and academia.

TOOLS / ACTIVITIES

CREATION OF THE OBSERVATORY ON SOCIAL INCLUSION. The CSIPD is making progress in the creation of an International Observatory on local policies on social inclusion. In essence, this observatory will contain a data base on innovative local policies on social inclusion allowing to learn from local policy practices. At the same time, two studies are being promoted in order to analyse (i) the impact of participation on social inclusion policies, and (ii) the impact of social inclusion policies on the safeguarding of human rights. For the time being, 50 policies from cities located in several regions around the world have been gathered and documented.

ARTICULATION WITH THE FORUM OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FAL). The CSIPD has continued to work in close collaboration with the FAL and has stressed its wish to establish links with social movements and the organized civil society through this network. In this sense, the CSIPD has taken an active role in organizing the 8th FAL (Belém, January 2009) and other international activities fostered by this forum of local authorities.

ARTICULATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY (IOPD). The ties and collaboration with the IOPD have been strengthened through the participation of the CSIPD in the jury of the 3rd IOPD Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation" and by organising the CSIPD 2009 Annual meeting on the occasion of the the 9th Annual CSIPD meeting (Reggio Emilia, November 2009). This space will also be useful to establish the bases for a common reflection on participative democracy, where the FAL and several national networks on participatory budgeting will also participate.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY. A web page has been created, as well as several communication materials (leaflets, folders, a poster, the publication of the conclusions of the "1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Social Inclusion Policies" -Barcelona, 2007- and the publication "For a world of inclusive cities"). Since March 2009, the CSIPD also has a quarterly journal containing news.

MAIN PRIORITIES/ACTIVITIES

- Dealing with **social inclusion** within the framework of the world organization, especially at the 3rd UCLG World Conference (Mexico DF, 2010).
- Consolidating the **Observatory on Social Inclusion** and promoting technical assistance to local governments.
- Fostering the "**World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City**", especially within the framework of the next World Urban Forum (Rio de Janeiro, March 2010), under the main topic of "The right to the city".
- Fostering the "**European Charter on Human Rights in the City**" and contributing to the organisation of the 7th Conference of the Charter (Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina. 7 – 9 October 2010).
- Boosting a political debate about the strengthening of democracy through **participation** policies, in articulation with the IOPD, the FAL and other networks on participatory democracy.
- Participating actively in the organization of the 2nd FALP (Getafe, May 2010), the **9th FAL** – 10th World Social Forum (Dakar, Senegal. February 2011).
- Organizing the **1st International Summit of Mayors for the eradication of poverty** (Barcelona, 2011) where the **award "Inclusive Cities"** will be launched.