



# The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development



# Uniting actors to address the challenges of urban development

The current rapid urban growth in developing countries has considerable consequences for the world's social, economic and environmental balance. By 2030, 95% of urban growth will be in developing countries. **The cities of the South will house 5 billion people, or 80% of urban dwellers worldwide.**

Close to 1 billion men and women live in precarious neighbourhoods or slums. That will rise to 2 billion in 2030.

## An integrated approach

While cities crystallize the challenges of development, they also hold solutions. Following an integrated territorial approach, they offer a favourable framework for drawing up solutions to global problems which are now too complex to be resolved on a single scale by a single actor.

## Democratic urban governance, a strategic focus of French cooperation

The orientations of French cooperation in support of urban governance emphasize the importance of supporting partnership-based public action mechanisms centred on local authorities, which should act as catalysts for territorial development. It is through the participation of territorial actors – local people, the private sector and civil society, centred on local authorities and in coordination with the State – that policies capable of effectively addressing the needs of the greatest number of people can be drawn up.

# The objectives of the French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development

- Provide a **platform for exchange and capitalization** on cities and territories between French urban cooperation actors.
- Promote common positions to participate in the **international debate**.
- Develop **French expertise** in liaison with local expertise in urban cooperation matters in order to offer better coordinated and better integrated responses, particularly to partners in the South.

The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development (PFVT) is committed to working for **more inclusive and sustainable cities and territories** through:

- an integrated approach: local economic development, social inclusion, functional diversity and preservation of the environment;
- support to urban governance processes which adopt partnership-based public action processes centred on local authorities, involving civil society and private partners in particular.

## **Decentralized cooperation between Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and the Greater Lyon Urban Community**

Initiated in the 1990s, this decentralized cooperation launched a debate in the 2000s on the development of the capital of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou (Agenda 21, the first land occupation plan, urban mobility strategy). A triangular cooperation partnership is now underway between different local authorities from the two metropolitan areas, donors (French Development Agency and the European Union), supported by the Lyon urban planning agency.

It supports enhancing the capacities of municipalities and building strategic urban infrastructure (roads, markets, etc.).

[www.grandlyon.com](http://www.grandlyon.com)

[www.urbalyon.org](http://www.urbalyon.org)

Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).  
View from a street in the city's outskirts.



© Christian Sozzi/Agence d'urbanisme de Lyon

# An Alliance which brings together French urban cooperation actors

The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development was launched in June 2011, in the presence of Dr Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT:

- it brings together French urban cooperation actors: the State, public institutions, regional authorities and elected representatives' associations, professionals, businesses and consultancies, research and training organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- it is co-chaired by Yves Dauge, a former senator and Deputy Mayor of Chinon; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE); the Ministry of Regional Equality and Housing (METL); and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE).

## A new conception of the city in France

Action in support of sustainable cities in France is conducted according to several operational focuses including the promotion of EcoQuartiers through calls for projects, the EcoCités approach, segregated public transport, and the plan to restore and develop nature in cities.

Each of these focuses maintains an important place for the project approach, the governance mode and the living environment.

[www.territoires.gouv.fr](http://www.territoires.gouv.fr)

[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

## France's mobilization in support of universal access to basic services

**UN-HABITAT entrusted France with the role of spearheading the implementation of the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All.** This text is focused on multi-partner governance with responsibilities shared between the State, local authorities, users and service providers. The MAE supports the implementation of national pilot programmes in partnership with UN-HABITAT in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Laos, as well as with the French Institute for PPP in Togo and the Comoros. Veolia Environnement has for its part supported a programme in the Mexican city of Aguascalientes. The MAE also supports United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in drawing up the international Gold III Report on decentralization and access to basic services.

## The financing of sustainable urban development

Between 1997 and 2011, the AFD allocated €6 billion to urban development. The French agency for development supports the Kisumu urban project in Kenya including support to the local authority, waste management, rehabilitation of slums, equipment and networks through a loan of €40 million to the State, passed on as a gift to the municipality. It also financed, to the sum of €190 million through a direct loan to the Colombian city of Medellín, the project for a rubber-tyred tram and urban gondolas which is part of the municipal programme to extend the city's public transport system.

[www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)



Medellín MetroCable  
(Colombia)

© Thomas Dworzak/  
Magnum Photos

## Support for urban governance and local taxation in sub-Saharan Africa

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) launched in 2011 a multi-year **Priority Solidarity Fund (PSF) on strengthening urban governance and local taxation in sub-Saharan Africa**. This project, for a sum of €2 million, aims to build the capacities of the State and territorial authorities in terms of urban planning, mobilizing local resources, and local financial governance in Togo, Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou, Koudougou, Fada N'gourma and Tenkodogo), Cameroon (Bertoua), Mali (Bamako), Mauritania (Nouakchott) and Senegal (Saint-Louis).

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr)

# The activities of the PFVT

## Leading thematic working groups

On the basis of experience exchange, the working groups, which are open to all PFVT members, produce recommendations to improve practices in urban cooperation and assume a common position in the international debate.

The first groups launched in 2011 focused on:

- strategic urban planning;
- access to basic services in the framework of decentralization.

Other themes have been identified as priorities and could be the subject of PFVT work depending on the international agenda.

## Participation in international events

The PFVT structures the participation of its members in international events in order to enhance the integration of urban and territorial issues in the world agenda. Events include:

- the World Urban Forum, organized by UN-HABITAT;
- Africities, the summit of African territorial authorities, organized by United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA).

## Capitalisation et communication

- Website: documentation, exchanges between members, newsletter;
- Up-to-date documentation: publications on the themes of cities and territories;
- Newsletter from French development cooperation actors: *Villes en développement* (Developing Cities Association).

### ***La gouvernance urbaine dans tous ses états*** **(Urban Governance in All Its Forms)**

This work provides a summary of debates conducted in 2007-2008 by a network of French and foreign researchers, following on from the Urban Development Research Programme (PRUD) which was run by GEMDEV from 2000 to 2005.

[www.gemdev.org](http://www.gemdev.org)

## **The integrated sustainable development guideline framework of Binh Duong province, Vietnam**

The teams of Artelia, in partnership with AREP Ville, have drawn up a guideline framework for this province of 1.5 million inhabitants, centred on a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy. This framework covers the major challenges of urban development, including transport and mobility, energy and climate, integrated water resource management, and waste management and valorization, with a historic ecological approach.

[www.arteliagroup.com](http://www.arteliagroup.com)

## **The activities of the Alliance of European Cultural Cities (AVEC)**

In 2010, the AVEC network, in partnership with the MAE and several Mediterranean rim cities and organizations including Aix-en-Provence, Arles, Tours and Vienne (France), the Office of the Protection and the Promotion of the M'Zab Valley (Algeria), Baalbek (Lebanon), El Djem (Tunisia), Marrakesh (Morocco) and Osijek (Croatia), drew up a methodological guide for sustainable management of historical Mediterranean cities, aimed at territorial authorities involved in decentralized cooperation.

[www.avecnet.net](http://www.avecnet.net)

## **The Cergy-based NGO Les Ateliers internationaux de maîtrise d'œuvre**

This international network of professionals, academics and decision-makers in urban development has assisted the municipality of Rennes and its partner, the municipality of Diyarbakir in Turkey, in exploring alternatives to conventional urban renewal and to rehousing the inhabitants of the Ben U Sen consolidated illegal settlement.

[www.ateliers.org](http://www.ateliers.org)

## **The activities of GRET, (association of professionals for fair development, a French NGO) in support of precarious neighbourhoods in Morocco**

From 2009 to 2011, GRET conducted an evaluation and impact assessment of the slum and shanty-town clearance action programme (PARHIB), concerning more than 300,000 people in five Moroccan cities.

[www.gret.org](http://www.gret.org)

Sidi Larbi (Rabat, Morocco)



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ET DE L'ÉNERGIE



A street in Luang Prabang (Laos).



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