

# Local Voices Towards Permanent Dialogue in the Mediterranean

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## “Local authorities and bankable urban transformation projects: accessing international funds”

May 16-19, 2022 | Agadir – Morocco at Royal Atlas Agadir Hotel

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In October 2021 KAS PoDiMED and the Mediterranean network of cities MedCities, organized a first seminar to launch a dialogue among local authorities in the Mediterranean aiming to reinforce their capacities to implement local sustainable development and position themselves as regional actors with the ability to contribute to the current agendas. The event was organised in Tunis and gathered mayors and municipal councillors from five different Southern Mediterranean countries in order to discuss the needs and priorities of municipalities, with a regional perspective. The results of the first event pinpointed the crucial importance of establishing a permanent dialogue among Mediterranean Municipalities and a series of regional events will be organised during 2022 and 2023. This event, responds to an identified need raised on the first regional exchange: **Enhancing the capacities of municipal representatives to access international funding for the implementation of urban transformation projects, towards greener and more inclusive cities in the Mediterranean.**

Municipal government finances are secured from a range of sources: central government transfers; access to municipal borrowing; as well as locally-generated revenue, through property taxes, business taxes and user fees. However, the lack of resources at local level is nothing new. This is a primary concern for many cities and regions, especially in the Global South, where the demand for public services and infrastructure is most pressing and many times beyond the powers and resources that local councils are given. Territorial public authorities are too often left aside within a global financial architecture which remains largely designed by and for the States or when it comes to innovative sources of finance, such as blended financial models for development<sup>1</sup> or climate finance.

As in the global south, the municipalities in the Mediterranean are facing enormous challenges in accessing funds for sustainable development regarding the 2030 Agenda (with its Sustainable Development Goals) and the New Urban Agenda and responding to the demands of international donors and IFIs.

The event “Local authorities and bankable urban transformation projects: access to international funds” aims at offering a better understanding of the opportunities to finance sustainable urban development actions through grants; loans and blended mechanisms. The event has a mixed component of political exchanges and technical training, by targeting both Mayors and high-level technical staff of local development units working on big urban projects.

**Working language:** Simultaneous **English –Arabic** interpretation will be provided

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*This event is on-invitation only*

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<sup>1</sup> Blended finance is the strategic use of development finance for the mobilisation of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries. It attracts commercial capital towards projects that contribute to sustainable development, while providing financial returns to investors.

## Objectives of the event

- Connect the participating local authorities and promote an active exchange of experiences in accessing international funding for the implementation of urban projects. 2/8
- Identify the challenges faced by local authorities in accessing international funds.
- Familiarise the participating local authorities with donors' requirements to access international funds and enhance their technical capacities for identifying, preparing and implementing innovative financing.

## Targeted cities

- Tunisia: Tunis and Sfax
- Lebanon: Saida and Beirut
- Palestine: Bethlehem and Ramallah
- Jordan: Greater Irbid and As-Salt
- Morocco: Tetouan and Agadir

The event targets the Mayors and high-level officials, such as the Directors of Local Development Units or Managers of Big Projects.

## Proposed agenda

The first day of the event aims at promoting a political dialogue in order to discuss the role that local authorities in identifying and promoting strategic urban projects as a means to achieve integrated urban development. As promoters or as stakeholders of such projects, municipalities can lead the mobilisation of city stakeholders in the governance structures of such operations. They also promote public-public and public-private partnerships around them, lead the lobbying efforts for the prioritisation of such operations at national and international level and create the enabling conditions at local for accessing international funding. Such projects contribute to the long-term vision for the development of the city since they are based on a strong consensus on the ground and that they contribute to the social, economic and urban sustainability of the territory.

The first part of the day would focus in a debate with IFIs and international donors on existing and on innovative funding mechanisms available for Southern Mediterranean cities and on the typology of projects that are in the priority of the international agenda. The participating mayors will then discuss on previous and ongoing experiences in accessing funds for the implementation of such projects, such as the UPFI instrument, the access to climate related support mechanisms, the access to EU territorial cooperation projects and especially, the opportunities given by several IFIs under the form of loans or blended financing mechanisms.

The second day of the events aims at strengthening the technical capacities of local authorities' representatives in accessing international funding. The aim of the event is to provide participants with a good understanding of the guiding principles behind such operations and an insight on project cycle management, from the identification until the evaluation of its impact. The seminar will also focus on how to integrate criteria of bankability in the design of urban projects in order to attract the interest to international donors and to foster public-private partnerships. This training will also try to identify further recommendations for reinforcing local capacities in accessing international funding, in order to complement the political dialogue results of the first day.

## May 16, 2022

Arrival of participants.

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## May 17, 2022 | 09.00 AM Agadir Time

Moderated by **Mr. Adel Ben Youssef**, Professor of Economics, University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis

**08.45 AM**      **Registration**

**9.00 AM**      **Welcome Address & Opening Remarks**

**Mr. Thomas Volk**

Director, Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung – KAS POLDIMED

**Mr. Josep Canals Molina**

Secretary General, MedCities

**09.30 AM**      **Round Table discussion: “Innovative funding for strategic and bankable urban projects: requirements for access”**

**Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni**

Senior Deputy Secretary General, the Union for the Mediterranean-UFM

**Ms. Dina Ranarifidy**

Senior Urban Development Specialist, the World Bank Group

**Mr. Neji Larbi**

Urban Mobility and development Specialist, the African Development Bank-AfDB

**Mr. Andreas Berding**

Head of Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ

**10.45 AM**      **Coffee Break**

**11.15 AM**      **Mayors’ political debate**

Presentation of experiences: How international funding can accelerate sustainable urban development?

**12.30 PM**      **Lunch Break**

**02.00 PM**      **Mayors’ political debate I**

What challenges do cities face in accessing international funds?

How to reinforce cities’ access to innovative funding: proposals and recommendations

**03.15 PM**      **Coffee Break**

**03.30 PM**      **Mayors’ political debate II**

What challenges do cities face in accessing international funds?

How to reinforce cities’ access to innovative funding: proposals and recommendations

**04.30 PM**      **Conclusions**

**08.30 PM**      **Dinner**

## May 18, 2022 | 09.00 AM Agadir Time

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**Mr. Albert Sorrosal**, Senior expert of the Technical Support to Implementation and Management of ENI-CBC programmes (TESIM)

- 09.00 AM** Recap of first day and introduction to the scope of the training
- 09.15 AM** Funding opportunities for urban strategic projects
- 09:45 AM** Key elements for building a good funding proposal
- 10.30 AM** Coffee Break
- 11.00 AM** Project cycle management: from identification to evaluation
- 01:00 AM** Challenges for institutional governance of the international funding
- 01.30 PM** Lunch Break
- 02.30 PM** Good practices for communication, capitalization and visibility of strategic projects
- 03.30 PM** Coffee Break
- 03.45 PM** Technical visit:  
Presentation of the strategic projects of Agadir in the frame of its Urban development plan.  
Technical visit to the Bus Rapid Transit construction site  
Visit of the project Rehabilitation of the Kasbah of Agadir (cultural and historic heritage)
- 08.30 PM** Dinner

## May 19, 2022

Departure of participants

### Venue

**Agadir – Morocco**

### Conception & organization:

**Medcities**

<http://www.medcities.org/>

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)**

Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean  
(PoDiMed)

<https://www.kas.de/poldimed>

## Speakers



### Thomas Volk

Director

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Thomas Volk is the Director of the Regional Program Political Dialogue South Mediterranean of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS PoDiMed) based in Tunis. He has a background in Social Studies and holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Studies. He was the KAS Resident Representative for Senegal and The Gambia based in Dakar from 2016-2020.



### Josep Canals Molina

Secretary General

Secretary General of MedCities since June 2019. He is an ecologist with long-standing expertise on urban issues. Graduated in biology, he holds a postgraduate degree in land and landscape management and a master's degree in territorial and urban studies.

Professionally, he has been advisor on environmental and urbanistic policies of the AMB and the Parliament of Catalonia between 2003 and 2007. Advisor on public space and waste management of the Mayor of Bogota 2012-2015 and advisor on public space of the Sabadell City Council (Catalonia) 2017-2019.



### Grammenos Mastrojeni

Senior Deputy Secretary General

Grammenos Mastrojeni is Senior Deputy Secretary General at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean since September 2019.

Grammenos Mastrojeni is an Italian diplomat, professor and writer who has focused for the past 25 years on the societal, geo-strategic and economic impacts of environmental degradation, as well as on topics related to environmental protection, human cohesion, peace and security. He has taught sustainability and conflict resolution in various universities in Italy and abroad, and in 2009, the Ottawa University in Canada entrusted him with the first class by a University on the issue of Environment, resources and geostrategy.

He is President of the largest Italian association for sustainable development education "Isola della Sostenibilità" and member of the Scientific Boards of numerous university courses and entities.



### **Dina Ranarifidy**

Senior Urban Development Specialist

Dina Ranarifidy is a senior urban development specialist in the urban and resilience department of the World Bank Group. Her areas of focus include informal settlement upgrading, urban resilience and local governance. She led and contributed to investment programs, program-for-results, technical assistance, analytical work and multi-donor trust funds in the Africa and Middle East and North Africa regions since 2015. In her current assignment in the MENA region, she leads the urban and local governance program, and decentralization activities in Tunisia.

A Malagasy national, Dina Ranarifidy is a graduate from Paris Sorbonne University and Sciences Po Paris. She was a Fulbright Humphrey scholar at Cornell University.

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### **Neji Larbi**

Urban Mobility and development Specialist

Neji Larbi is the Urban Mobility Specialist for the Urban Development Division at the African Development Bank, a newly established division dedicated to driving the Bank's vision for African Cities including urban planning, policy and strategy, infrastructure, finance, and governance.

Previously, he worked in engineering consulting and was an expert in urban development, advisor to Governments and ministries in Africa, North America, and Middle East. Experience covers urban and municipal development, infrastructure, institutional, finance, etc.



### **Andreas Berding**

Head of Project of the Governance Advisory Funds in Libya

Andreas Berding is the Head of Project of the Governance Advisory Funds in Libya – supporting decentralization reform and local governance at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ. He has been working on decentralisation, local governance, local economic development and municipal own source revenues in Libya since 2018.

Previously, he had experiences with GIZ in Germany and in International Cooperation in Thailand, Belgium and Saudi Arabia. Andreas Berding is a holder of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung scholarship with a Master degree in Political science and macroeconomics.



## Moderator



**Adel BEN YOUSSEF** is doctor of economics and professor of economics. He is a lecturer at the Université Côte d'Azur and a member of the CNRS research laboratory (GREDEG - CNR UMR 7321). Adel BEN YOUSSEF has taught in many schools and universities in several countries. He is an international expert in climate change, the environment and the circular economy for many international institutions (African Development Bank, GIZ, UNDP, European Union, World Bank, French Development Agency, SECO, KOICA, ...). His areas of expertise include public policies, training, climate negotiations, academic publications, etc. Negotiator during COP 23, 24, 25 & 26 (2017 - 2018 - 2019-2021) on behalf of Tunisia in terms of climate finance. He has participated in the facilitation of around a hundred workshops over the past 25 years. He has been involved in the coordination committee or in the scientific committee of more than 50 scientific and cultural events and has published over 100 academic papers in different journals.

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## Trainer



**Albert Sorrosal** was born in Barcelona (Catalonia). He has a degree and a master in business administration. Sorrosal started his professional career as auditor, but he has been involved in EU funds since 1997, both at project and programme levels. He is currently working as an expert for DG REGIO for cross-border cooperation in the EU external borders (including the Mediterranean Sea basin), after more than 10 years with DG NEAR in the same area. Albert Sorrosal has extensive experience in EU-funded programme and project management.