



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

EPIC-N training workshop, 3rd May 2017 • ICLEI's 8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

2. The DATE attended:

3-11 May 2017

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

This was two events; one in Germany and the second in the USA at the following venues:

- Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bonn Germany
- Rivercentre Conference Centre, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Manager: Climate Protection Branch

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

Culture, heritage and sport	x	Engineering and the built environment	x	IT and Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development and Tourism	x	Health and Safety	x	City strategy and planning	x
Energy and the natural environment	x	Good governance	x		

Other: climate change adaptation

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

The EPIC-N training workshop convenes pairs of city officials and their academic counterparts from local tertiary institutes to train these pairs in establishing transdisciplinary research partnerships using the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N). Essentially, EPIC-N connects university lecturers to municipalities and their communities whereby the municipalities provide real life projects for students to work on. A typical agreement between university and municipality will see 15 – 20 projects completed in a year with around 40,000 hours of student time dedicated to real life work. It looks like a good model for Africa. The purpose of the event was to train these pairings to implement an EPIC-N partnership in their local municipalities.

ICLEI's Resilient Cities Congress 2017 had a strong partnership-focused theme. There was a strong focus on transdisciplinary research partnerships, building upon the EPIC-N training. As with every annual Congress, there was a strong focus on capacity building and increasing climate change knowledge.

- During the event, I participated as a panelist on the following two sessions, and facilitated a third:

☐ Session E3: Violence and Climate Change in cities; Friday 5th May, 14h30. Role: Panelist. This panel explored the impacts of climate change on violence, including domestic and xenophobic violence. An increase in temperatures, especially during extreme heat events can result in a measurable increase in violence in cities.

Session G1: Global Platform for Sustainable Cities; Saturday 6th May, 09h00. Role: Panelist. This is a new multi-million dollar platform that connects with cities to drive global sustainability. Currently, the only South African city accessing the platform is Johannesburg, but there will be a second phase launched in the near future. There is potential for Durban to benefit.

☒ Session B2: Integrating ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem services into urban management strategies; Thursday 4th May, 16h00. The panel provided examples of where EBA has been used to reduce vulnerability in communities and increase value/ savings from avoidance of loss of life/ costs during disasters.

- During the event I also participated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICLEI and the Urban Climate Change Research Network. UCCRN have initiated a global network of city/ university partnerships that advance a climate change response. Durban was the third UCCRN node to be established, and is busy developing its own regional network with Mozambican and Tanzanian city partners. There will be a meeting of the UCCRN directors in Paris in July, where directors will be given the opportunity to connect with funders, and I have been invited to attend this. The aim will be to drive the establishment of UCCRN Hubs in our Mozambican and Tanzanian partner cities.

- Dr O'Donoghue was a programme steering committee member for RC2017. The committee was responsible for driving the programme for the Congress, and for choosing which presentation submissions were included. The final role was to attend the post-Congress Steering committee debriefing session, where plans for next year's Congress were initiated.

- During RC 2017, I also participated in three meetings: one was with Lisa Junghans, C40 to plan Durban's submission for the C40 Cities Finance Facility proposal. The second meeting was with the research/ city official pair from Lusaka, where we planned another DAC exchange visit and the third was the meeting of the Durban/ Mozambican partners to report progress on implementing the DAC Hub and Compact Approach.

- On the first morning, I gave an interview for ICLEI about the DAC Hub and Compact approach.

Dr O'Donoghue, at the invitation of the Global Adaptation Network, attended the United States National Adaptation Forum, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 9 – 11th May 2017, where he participated in a GAN panel on adaptation exchanges.

- The panel was very well received, and Dr O'Donoghue was invited to participate in planning for a similar exchange with the city of Toronto, Canada. An initial discussion explored the potential for conducting an exchange that focusses on indigenous knowledge and creating narratives couched with cultural beliefs, leveraging traditional knowledge, to advance understanding of the issue of climate change in indigenous populations of these participating cities. This would align closely with the climate change work being done in the Palmiet River Rehabilitation Project where youth are developed into Eco Champions to address community challenges relating to water and climate change in that catchment.

- One of the panelists, Ms Jessica Hitt, manages the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) platform; a global online resource connecting adaptation practitioners. Ms Hitt agreed to do a special DAC Hub and Compact approach edition on the CAKE platform.

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

As with my recent attendance at LoCS 2015, I was impressed with the level of commitment shown by African participants at the training, and their understanding of the issue of climate change in their regions.

During the ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress plenary, emphasis was put on integrating our response to the multiple international agreements, including the Sustainable Urban Development Goals, Paris Agreement (for climate change), the new Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction amongst others. The DAC has already undertaken a review of these agreements to draft its own integrated response. There was a strong emphasis on building and implementing partnerships, both vertical and horizontal, and between organisations, with transdisciplinary research strongly advocated. Another key theme that emerged was the ability to work across municipal silos.

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

The organisers agreed to run a regional training workshop of the EPIC-N model in Southern Africa. They're looking to tack it onto a climate-focused event in South Africa this year, and if Durban is hosting anything significant, we'll try for the FRACTAL annual meeting in Cape Town in November. This will be a good opportunity for getting our regional leaders and practitioners to this event for training. For Durban, I would like to pilot an EPIC-N partnership within the Palmiet Rehabilitation Project. More broadly, the DAC will try to drive the establishment of EPIC-N partnerships in its Hub and Compact approach.

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

Contact details for USEPA, UNEP, UNFCCC and EPIC-N are available on request.

10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to mile@durban.gov.za so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION