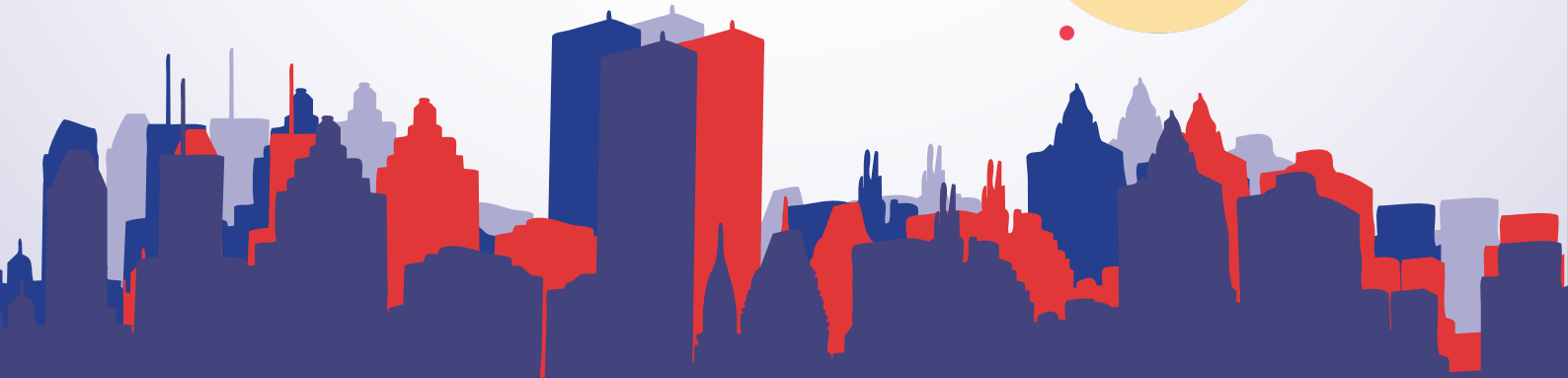




M I L E



MUNICIPAL INSTITUTE OF LEARNING



# MILEstones

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# About MILE

The Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE), is a Knowledge Management initiative, established in 2009 to position eThekweni Municipality as an international city of learning.

The purpose of MILE is to help enhance the capacity of professionals working in local government on the continent (and beyond), to respond more effectively to meeting the scale and variety of developmental local government challenges. This is achieved by creating learning opportunities through platforms such as master classes, learning exchanges, workshops and seminars.

MILE's mandate also includes strategic facilitation and technical support and forming strong local and international partnerships with strategic role-players in government, academia, development organisations, global organisations, state owned enterprises and business.

This edition of MILEstones focuses on MILE learning activities held since the release of the Winter 2020 issue and it also provides a glimpse of future events that are scheduled to take place.

**For more information visit: [www.mile.org.za](http://www.mile.org.za)**



# PLANNING WITH PEOPLE

The “Planning Disrupted” series hosted its second Webinar which focussed on Planning with People. This time participants took a deep dive into what planning with people means. The webinar engaged with approaches and Covid19-induced opportunities within the local and international planning context.

The event was hosted in collaboration between eThekweni Municipality, International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), South African Cities Network (SACN), South African Planning Institute (SAPI), South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE).

Facilitated by SACN, the Webinar created an accessible, interactive platform for conversations on cities, inner cities – spaces of opportunity and inclusion. It brought together about 232 planning and built environment professionals and interested organisations and people, worldwide to discuss critical thematic areas pertinent to planning and prevalent during this crucial time of the Covid-19 pandemic which has disrupted planning ... as we know it!

“The webinar has evolved since the first session. There is much interest to have follow-up sessions and politics and planning have emerged as possible topics. There is richness from people’s experiences to build in future webinars. The topic that connects everything is ‘planners as bridge builders’ between politics, design and people. Planners need to try to build skills as bridge builders and moderators between the different parties, that is their role for the future,” said Milena Ivkovi , Director Urban Planning Advisory Teams and Member of the Board of Directors at ISOCARP.

“The webinar approach was insightful. It is important to keep planning feasible, planning is measured to what can be done and how the city would look like. Planning is becoming more consultative and fosters the importance of participation; less technocratic and more social approach is necessary. This is the decade for big change, in terms of the various global agenda’s i.e. NUA. In terms of planning in Africa, the role of councillors is pertinent. And they should be invited for future engagements, “ said Sara Hoeflich from UCLG.

The webinar provided a platform to ask difficult questions and have provocative and honest conversations amongst participants. It is envisioned that through the partnership between ISOCARP, SACN, SAPI, SALGA and MILE more webinars under the ‘planning disrupted flagship will be hosted soon.



# CITY HOSTS SERVICE LEARNING FORUM WEBINAR

EThekweni Municipality's Area Based Management Unit (ABM) in partnership with the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) hosted a Webinar on 17 of September and 22 September to learn and share experiences on Service Learning. The eThekweni Service-Learning Forum recognises Service-Learning as an educational practice, knowledge creation and sharing, applying and preserving, to further community goals and to promote civic-minded, critical thinking and highly skilled participants. Service-Learning enters its third decade of practice in South Africa in a context that challenges the very cornerstone of that practice, namely engagement between communities, higher education and service providers.

During the webinar the presenters depicted the importance of service learning and the impact it has on the community. Dr Clive Bruzas: Academic Coordinator, presented on Service Learning and shared various lessons learned. "Reflection is the process by which we better understand our experiences, make sense of our experiences, make meaning from our experiences."

Mrs Karen Venter, University of the Free State (UFS) spoke about Transformation of Service-Learning towards E-Service Learning. She said, "The UFS is a research-led, student-centred and regionally-engaged university that contributes to development and social justice through the production of globally competitive graduates and knowledge. We have categorised engaged scholarship into engaged teaching and learning, engaged research, and engaged citizenship."

Day two of the webinar focused on the local, national and global reflections on growing service learning as a field of practice. Prof Ahmed Bawa, Universities South Africa, presented the keynote address for the event. "Service learning must be co-owned and integrate into each programme as a formal component. It must be co-founded out of the core budget of budget of institutions and by the city, said Bawa.

Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) Work Integrated Learning Coordinator, Dr Bethel Mutanga spoke on Work Integrated Learning in the SMME space. The webinar also included various stories from UKZN students who spoke about service learning and how it is impacting their lives and the lives of people.

The virtual event had engagements from participants and it enabled the attendees to understand more about service learning and growing service learning as a field of practice in country. The webinar provided participants with a space to learn and enhance their knowledge about service learning. Presenters shared informative presentations which paved the way for a fruitful discussion session.

# Upcoming Events for MILE

\*These are proposed events for the next quarter and are subject to change:

- **Internal Stakeholder Engagement on Green Economy Projects and Programmes: 8 October 2020**
- **Online Training Workshop on Faecal Sludge Management Toolbox: 15 October 2020**
- **World Town Planning Week: 4-6 November 2020**

For more information about MILE learning events contact us on:

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