What are the Communities of Competence?

The Communities of Competence develop a specific base of experiences, knowledge and insights, feeding into the programme Objective 2030, helping to articulate the vision of INTA members on future directions in urban development and providing durable responses to the issues facing the city of tomorrow.

The added value of these working groups - clusters - is in the density of exchanges between members, their ability to share specific problems, and "test" new solutions in response to the challenges of the future of urban development.

How it works

> Identify common challenges and explore adapted solutions among members of the CCs;
> Invite members and partners to address the challenges and to propose their own solutions (validated through a referential framework developed within INTA);
> Share international experience among members of the CC and between CCs at the occasion of roundtables;
> Seize every opportunity of INTA activities to increase interactions between CCs;
> Publicise the work of the CC on the INTA website and through social networks and to contribute to the general programmes of the Association

The Communities of Competence in 2012.

The Communities, launched in 2011 have started to be really active last year, involving more members and developing more issues to be discussed within a Community and also exchanging from one CC to another. There were 5 Communities, and a 6th one was just created by the end of the year:

- Metropolisation
- Workspace Urbanism
- Innovation and services (Urban services, health, retail and tourism)
- Tomorrow’s habitat
- TransMed
- Territories in Africa (launched in December 2012, first activities are expected in 2013).

Not less than 16 different activities were organised in collaboration with members within the Communities of Competence, and many more discussions. All these exchanges have shown that there is a need to be linked to the network in a continuous way in order to deepen the reflection on issues that really matter on each territory.

Many issues have crossed the boarder of one or another Community, joining CCs together to enrich the debate. The following pages show the content of the work of each Community. A progress report is available for each of them.
CC Tomorrow's Habitat

The current economic environment, including the weakening financial situation where public policies are not anymore necessarily assured, brings members and partners of INTA questioning about the new levers of territorial action in particular as regards the topic of affordable housing and habitat. The production of land property is highly debated in the advanced countries - where public policies have a central role in the production of housing especially for the less advantaged classes - or in emerging countries, especially tropical and sub-tropical areas where the responses to the demand for housing do not necessarily fit in a regulated framework.

In response to these questions, Community of Competence "Habitat for Tomorrow" serves as a platform for communication and exchange of experiences & strategies searching for solutions to the questions "how we will live tomorrow and how we will be accommodated".

The first thoughts of this Community of Competence led to place the debate on two levels: habitat and housing. As habitat, we refer to the way of living, and, far beyond the technical solutions (self-construction, eco-construction, materials, modularity and units' flexibility) or the public policies (housing finance, landownership production, social mix), to all that makes "living together". Housing is the way to make possible to "live together".

The Community of Competence already identified a number of issues:

- Could the informal settlements in emerging countries be developed in the industrialized countries when the successive crises are likely to make the issue real for many people?
- How to produce land for affordable housing?
- What financial dynamics to meet the need of future investment in affordable housing?
- What interactions between housing demand and other urban services (mobility, workspace, retail, health, energy, water, waste, etc.) as part of an integrated urban development?
- How can we change the design and shape of housing (flexibility)?
- What changes in working practices for those involved in construction?
- What role for private companies that contribute to the production of the city and the building process of dwellings?
- What innovations in the construction in terms of processes and materials (eco construction, self-construction)?

Activities within the community have been oriented, on one hand towards developing countries where housing policies are still very weak and on the other hand, towards housing public policies but not only with a social housing policy approach.

These discussions will go on, themes will sometimes merge to put inputs from each other during next year's activities.
CC Tomorrows' Habitat Activities 2012

"Cities in transition towards a green economy:"

April - Lima and Province of Piura, Peru: International round table on cities in transition towards a green economy: habitat, energy, waste and health in South-American cities.

"Affordable housing" round table

June - Paris, France: International round table on affordable housing.

"INTA 36 World Urban Development Congress"

December - Paris, France: "A New Economy for a New Habitat" Plenary Session at INTA36 World Urban Development Congress
Animators
Maurice Charrier, Vice President Grand Lyon, France
Michael Gahagan, former Director for Housing, Department of the Environment, London, United Kingdom
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Partners and speakers in 2012 events:
Anne Gerstlé, Urban Dynamics Pole Bordeaux Urban District, Bordeaux, France
Arnaud de Cambièvre, Deputy Director, Regional Office of the CDC, Île de France
Attilla Cheyssial, School of Fine Arts of Reunion Island, Reunion Island, France
Brigitte Raynaud Secretary General National Council of Cities, France
Christine Lor, INTA, France
City of Vaux-en-Velin, France
COFHUAT, French Federation for Housing and Planning, France
Eduardo MENESES, City of Vaulx-en-Velin, France
Emmanuel Fournier, Deputy Director for Development, Spie Batiqnoles, France
Françoise Coupé, National University of Columbia at Medellin, Colombia
Jean-Philippe Motte, Vice President, Grenoble-Alpes Métropole, France
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Louis Henry, Architect, Urban policies and urban development CDC, France
Marc Brabant, Director, Logistранstripes, Paris, France
Marek Bryx, Profesor of Economics, Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
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