



European Union Helps to Build Sustainable Cities

**Capgemini Consulting
helps EU design
framework for
sustainable urban
development**

Sustainable urban development has become a major concern for the European Union. Cities are facing great environmental, economic and social challenges as well as governance issues, and they have a crucial role to play. In 2007 and 2008, two reference texts signed by the 27 Member States of the EU provided the impetus for building a reference framework for sustainable European cities.

Capgemini Consulting collaborated with the French Ministry of Sustainable Development in the design of this reference framework, a collaborative public sector-driven initiative launched in 2008 by France, EU Member States and Council presidencies, the European Commission, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and other key stakeholders across the EU.

The Situation

In 2007, the Ministers in charge of urban development across the EU Member States drew up the Leipzig Charter in Germany when the country held the EU presidency. The document states that cities' urban policies should focus on two key areas: the application of an 'integrated approach' (taking into account the impacts of any new project launched, including social, environmental, economic, cultural and governance aspects), and the rehabilitation of deprived areas in the city. In 2008, when France took its turn to chair the EU, the Member States signed the Marseille Declaration to agree that a Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities (RFSC) be created to make the Leipzig Charter concrete. The objectives of the RFSC are to define a common vision of what a sustainable European city should be like, provide tools to help cities of all sizes and in all countries progress on the path towards sustainability, and to promote the exchange of knowledge and good practices between European cities.

France took the lead in building the first draft of the framework in collaboration with other Member States, the CEMR and a team of experts. A deadline of June 2010 was given to the French Ministry of Sustainable Development (MEDDTL) to develop a prototype. MEDDTL invited Capgemini Consulting to facilitate the working group with representatives of Member States and key stakeholder organizations to assess the prototype, support the project team in the design of the tool and the management of the whole project.

The Solution

Capgemini Consulting facilitated the collaboration of an array of high profile partners, including MEDDTL, its research and technical department the Center for Urban Development Issues (CERTU), EU Member States and Council presidencies, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), EUROCITIES (the network of major European cities) and the European Commission (EC). On the basis of a survey of the tools and the practice of several European cities, this group of partners produced the RFSC prototype, an online toolkit to help cities and, more generally, public sector organizations to improve sustainable urban development. The RFSC website is a tool designed to enable users to assess, develop and analyze their urban strategy, and track their progress. It allows city officials to participate in debates on sustainable urban development, and work closely with other cities across Europe by sharing their experiences, ideas and best practices. The tool also enables cities to form networks with others facing similar challenges. Overall, it emphasizes the two key themes of the Leipzig Charter: rehabilitation of deprived neighborhoods and an integrated approach across pillars of sustainable development.

The Result

The prototype of the RFSC was completed before the deadline and within budget. In June 2010 in Toledo, during Spain's EU presidency, the Ministers in charge of urban development across the EU approved the RFSC prototype for testing. Together with France, the European Commission decided to co-finance and co-lead the testing phase, which began in June, involving a restricted group of European cities. Phase 2 of testing, involving 66 cities, is now closed and Version 2 of the web-tool is due for completion by the end of 2012.



How the French Ministry for Sustainable Development and Capgemini Consulting Worked Together

Capgemini Consulting assisted the French Ministry in the co-management of the RFSC initiative during the development phase in 2009/2010, and was involved in close collaboration with CERTU in each of the five project streams to:

- Contribute to the work led by CERTU concerning the tool's content and definition of the European sustainable city
- Organize and facilitate the think tanks working on the project
- Contribute to building the structure of the website and develop a prototype in collaboration with the IT contractor
- Bring in the Member States' support and promote the prototype of the tool in 2009-2010
- Ensure an effective interface between the French national support group and the European level

This responsibility meant that Capgemini Consulting participated in key events across Europe such as the sixth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Dunkirk, France, in 2010. Collaboration was essential throughout the project due to the involvement of multiple parties and the significance of them agreeing on a common definition for sustainable cities and design of the RFSC.

The RFSC consists of the following components:

- A place to exchange and share experiences and lessons learnt with other European cities
- A set of tools for evaluation, dialogue and discussion internally within the city and also with all stakeholders involved in sustainable urban development
- A method to stimulate more integrated approaches to urban development.

For more information on this project, please contact:
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The French Ministry of Sustainable Development (MEDDTL) is a French government agency headquartered in Paris. It is responsible for the country's State Environmental Policy including preserving biodiversity, and controlling industry's impact on the environment. MEDDTL also manages France's Transportation, Sea, and Housing Policy. More information is available at:

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr