The goal is to create a network of urban practitioners with a high level of expertise in administration, politics as well as business, science and civil society. Dialogue and learning programmes such as workshops, training courses and study tours mobilise German and international civil society. Dialogue and learning programmes such as workshops, of expertise in administration, politics as well as business, science and development is disseminated and contributed to international learning processes. The efficiency of municipal actors is further strengthened, and at the same time, the potential for initiative in German international cooperation is promoted. The continuous orientation of the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development promotes the exchange of municipal expertise and mediates between supply of and demand for practical experience as well as between urban practitioners. For cities are increasingly gaining importance internationally, and urban actors the world over face comparable issues in urban development. Although local solutions are required, they are increasingly becoming globally relevant. The pressing challenges posed by world-wide urbanisation call for efficient and innovative solutions, especially in the areas of Good Urban Governance, Integrated Urban Development, Local Economic Development, and Municipal Services – our four focal thematic areas. Connective Cities is a joint venture between the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and Engagement Global / Service Agency Communities in One World. The International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
CONNECTIVE CITIES - our approach

We promote sharing of experience among cities and practitioners worldwide, support cooperation between German and international cities, initiate joint projects and disseminate proven solutions and concepts. New learning experience and practice-oriented results are acquired and processed in seminars, workshops, dialogue events as well as excursions and fed back into the International Community of Practice – these are the core elements of our approach.

The International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development maintains excellent contacts to key actors of cities and municipalities worldwide. Furthermore, the development of Connective Cities comprises the establishment of contact to German cities and to relevant business and science institutions as well as to projects in German international cooperation throughout the world’s regions. In the context of these processes, thematic clusters are developed and specific fields of action are identified that are suitable for learning from one another and for jointly planning future projects.

Further partners in implementation include selected regional and national municipal associations in Africa, America, Europe and Asia as well as their member cities.

CONNECT - our range of services

With its dialogue and learning programmes, the International Community of Practice for Sustainable Urban Development mobilises German and international know-how and...

- **Experience**
  - provides a portal for the dissemination of practice-relevant experience

- **Networking**
  - identifies relevant actors from developing countries, emerging economies and industrialised countries and integrates them in networks

- **Working groups**
  - moderates thematic and regional working groups as well as virtual meetings

- **Exchange**
  - enables exchange through international conferences, training courses and expert information tours

- **Project ideas**
  - supports the formulation of innovative projects and helps with looking for financing to implement the project ideas

- **Learning**
  - contributes to making use of the learning experiences by evaluating new project approaches

- **Expertise**
  - finds municipal experts for international missions focusing on sustainable urban development topics

CONNECT - thematic clusters and fields of action

- **Good Urban Governance**
  - Democracy and public participation
  - Urban management and administration
  - Municipal and regional networks

- **Integrated Urban Development**
  - Strategic urban planning
  - Inclusive cities
  - Cities and climate change
  - Sustainable urban lifestyles
  - Safety in cities

- **Municipal Services**
  - Waste management and recycling
  - Energy production and supply
  - Water supply and wastewater disposal
  - Urban mobility and public transport

- **Local Economic Development**
  - Promotion of SME and Start-ups
  - Fostering innovation
  - Location development
  - Green urban economy
  - Corporate social responsibility / CSR

CONNECTIVE CITIES - our partners and perspectives

In the context of the first phase (2013-2015), the range of services and the entire organisational structure as well as the business model of the International Community of Practice have been developed. Up to now, nearly 400 practitioners participated in 15 thematic dialogue events and project workshops worldwide. In particular, the dialogue formats to exchange expert information together with practical excursions facilitated the development and dissemination of practice-oriented solutions and good practices. In its second phase (2016-2018), the Community of Practice will continue to support urban practitioners in the development and global dissemination of locally adapted strategies for sustainable urban development.