News

European Development Days 2016, EUEI PDF Project Lab:

Future Energy Scenarios for African Cities – Unlocking Opportunities for Climate Responsive Development

A workshop to discuss and test 16 energy scenarios for African cities

Graphical recording conducted by © Housatonic

In the framework of this year's European Development Days, the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), in partnership with Cities Alliance and representatives from Covenant of Mayors Africa conducted the session "**Future Energy Scenarios for African Cities – Unlocking Opportunities for Climate Responsive Development"**.

The workshop, attended by about 40 experts ranging from practitioners in both African and European municipalities as well as representatives from the private sector and NGOs, is part of the process building up to the development of four detailed energy scenarios for African cities in a thematic study being conducted by the EUEI PDF. The keynote speaker, Mr. Edison K. Masereka of KCCA (Kampala Capital City Authority) opened the session with some details of the current situation in Kampala in terms of action oriented sustainability measures as well as facts informing policies planned for the future of the city.


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Top left and right: ***Francesca Oliva****, Program Manager & Energy Focal Person, AVSI Foundation;* ***Jamie Simpson****, Project Manager, Cities Alliance; Bottom left and right:* ***Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi****, Secretary General, UCLG Africa and* ***Annika Lenz****, Liaison Officer, UN Habitat* facilitated group discussions of the scenario matrices and implications during the workshop. The outcomes of these discussions include feedback on the plausibility of scenarios, examples of cities that have the characteristics pertaining to a predicted scenario or critical analyses of the definition of key drivers and their relevance to African cities. This valuable feedback will be used to inform the next stages of the project as well as the selection of four main scenarios. A consultative process will be maintained throughout the rest of the study including interviews and a second workshop as well as continuous literature research. Final outcomes and developed energy scenarios will be presented in October this year at large international conferences such as Habitat III and COP22.

The EUEI PDF currently receives contributions from the European Commission, Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden

Background of the thematic study

Local governments in Africa have great interest and incentives to initiate climate action in their own constituency but are often constrained by a lack of institutional capacities and policy options to exploit the full range of local action. With this backdrop, the EUEI PDF has commissioned Atkins to conduct a thematic study which:

- **mitigates risk in strategic policy-making** by providing a long term horizon 2050 in order to **identify uncertain drivers for change and wildcards;**
- **breaks down complexity** of urban planning (inter-sectorial inputs) by presenting four scenarios and concrete policy choices;
- **enhances effectiveness and design of plans, programmes and projects** at city level by complementing and informing city level energy scenarios modelling; carbon inventory and climate risk modelling work;
- informs debate of how cities can support the **achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.**

"Opportunities for African cities could be constrained by resource scarcities and a lack of capacity and governance which will influence the effectiveness of action. These are some of the uncertain factors we are assessing." Silvia Escudero, EUEI PDF Project Manager

"This project will fill the gap which exists in considering how the opportunities brought by urbanization in African cities can be unlocked by providing a tool which can assist organizations in translating their plans into action." Roger Savage, Atkins Project Director

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The scenarios explore the interplay of economic, social, environmental and technological dynamics and identify implications for city leaders, policy makers and infrastructure providers. To inform the scenarios, 50key drivers of change have identified and further categorized according to **significance and certainty** (e.g. increasing energy demand is significant and certain whereas income distribution is significant and uncertain). **Common assumptions** to all scenarios and **wild cards** which are low-probability, high-impact events such as oil price rising to more than 200 USD per barrel have also been assessed.