



CONNECT is an initiative of VNG International and PLATFORMA, a pan-European coalition representing over 100,000 local and regional municipalities. Supported by the European Commission, it facilitates the exchange of expertise, which acts as a catalyst for change and learning, on a personal, organisational and community level.

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Exchanging municipal expertise
for tangible results



CONNECT, share and learn with your colleagues

Today, local and regional governments from all over the world can start making real progress on issues ranging from urban and rural planning to ecotourism, sanitation and more. How? By requesting local expertise through CONNECT.



More than 100,000 municipalities have unique know-how to share

CONNECT is a new and practical mechanism created by PLATFORMA and one of its founding partners VNG International and supported by the European Commission. It gives you the possibility to connect with international colleagues and benefit from their experience, knowledge and skills. You can also offer your expertise and put it to good use in municipalities and regions around the world.

Municipal matchmaking

It all starts with an application. Once this has been validated, CONNECT seeks municipal colleagues in Europe and beyond: people with the right experience and knowledge for the job. CONNECT carefully matches local and regional (elected) officials and their expertise – then arranges the exchange.

This can take the form of:

- Expert assignments
- Temporary work placements
- Roundtable meetings
- Study visits

“Knowledge and skills are exchanged between people doing the same job, facing similar problems and looking for practical solutions.”



Frédéric Vallier
CEMR SECRETARY GENERAL
PLATFORMA

“You get a different perspective on how to address and tackle issues in service delivery for local government.”



Sigrún Árnadóttir
MAYOR SANDGERDI MUNICIPALITY
ICELAND

CONNECT continues working after the match has been made – monitoring and evaluating the actions taken before, during and after the exchange. This all leads to concrete solutions, new ideas and valuable connections.

Sharing knowledge

To increase the impact of CONNECT, local and regional government associations are involved in all exchanges. They can participate in events, and share the lessons learnt – either with local and regional governments, the central government or the international donor community. CONNECT also documents best practices, so that others can benefit too.



Flexible, worldwide network

of local authorities who understand the issues local governments are facing today.



Widespread learning

is CONNECT's goal, as exchanging expertise leads to direct action and mutual learning.



Colleague-to-colleague approach

brings people together with similar positions but from different parts of the world, leading to mutual trust and concrete, pragmatic solutions.



First CONNECTIONs

In spring 2017, municipal staff from Iceland, Spain and the Netherlands exchanged skills and knowledge with colleagues in Cambodia, Colombia, Ghana and Uganda.

Find out more

You can discover more about CONNECT and PLATFORMA at www.platforma-dev.eu/connect

Are you interested in getting involved in CONNECT?

Email us at connect@ccre-cemr.org

Or call **+32 2 265 09 30**

“Due to CONNECT we were able to bring a lot of stakeholders together and make a joint plan for sanitation management in Agona West.”



George Freeman
CHIEF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE AGONA WEST MUNICIPALITY GHANA



Demand-driven

based on the needs of local and regional governments in EU partner countries.



Creates opportunities

for local and regional governments to enter into international decentralised cooperation.