

Iudit Semeredi Bere  
Municipality of Timisoara, Romania

Freiburg, 21<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## How good is your local process for sustainable development?

Dear Ms. Semeredi Bere,

In recent years local sustainable development has become a popular catchphrase, with hundreds of local governments in Europe and beyond engaging in various activities around this topic. We all “do” sustainable development now and your city is probably no exception. But how do you know if you are doing it right?

**How does your city compare to others across Europe? Are you doing better or worse than other cities of the same size? What are your strengths? What is possible in terms of sustainability performance, and what is ambitious? Do you have the right management and governance processes in place?**

We would like to invite you to participate in an exercise that will help you, along with 100 other selected European local governments, to find the answers to these important questions. Based on our long-term cooperation with local governments, we have identified two research-based tools for sustainable urban management and we are currently offering dedicated, individual support in their implementation.

The tools selected for the exercise, Local Evaluation 21 and Urban Ecosystem Europe, are based on existing data that you have collected, they are easy to use and provide relevant, complementary information on local sustainability, taking into account both governance processes and quantitative indicators. Participating cities will also have the opportunity to benchmark their activities against those undertaken by other local governments.

## How to get started?

First, please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to participate in this exercise, by emailing [informed-cities@iclei.org](mailto:informed-cities@iclei.org).

To use the online self-assessment tool **Local Evaluation 21**, simply visit [www.localevaluation21.org](http://www.localevaluation21.org), undertake the simple assessment, and receive your personalized report via email.

For **Urban Ecosystem Europe**, you will receive a set of spreadsheets by email. Please enter your information as requested and send them back to [informed-cities@iclei.org](mailto:informed-cities@iclei.org). The data collected will not only give you the answers you need but also feed into the European Report on Urban Sustainability, to be delivered to the European Commission in 2012. All participating cities will receive a copy of the report, as well as the database containing all the indicators used in the report.

[www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities](http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities)

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### Informed Cities

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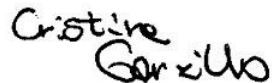
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The report, serving both to show progress on local sustainability and to motivate others to undertake similar efforts, will be also used for local governments' preparations towards the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

We hope you will take this occasion to take a critical look at your sustainability processes and results and... move forward!

With best regards,



Cristina Garzillo  
Project Coordinator

The explorative application is part of the **Informed Cities** initiative, a three year European project which aims to enhance the connectivity between research and policy-making in sustainable development. To find out more about the project and opportunities it offers, you can visit the Informed Cities website at [www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities](http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities)