



The ABC for Sustainable Cities: a glossary for policy makers

PRESS RELEASE

Geneva and Brussels, 14 March 2016

The increasing proliferation of initiatives related to smart and sustainable cities demonstrates convincingly critical challenges and potential opportunities.

The proliferation of frameworks, visions and concepts can hinder a common understanding and thus the implementation of integrated strategies for sustainable urban development on the ground. Consulting engineers are confronted with such misunderstandings in their daily work in urban development projects all over the world.

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), in cooperation with the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Federations (EFCA) - representing FIDIC in Europe, supported UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and UN HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme) in drawing up the "ABC for Sustainable Cities", a glossary of terms and definitions.

The "ABC for Sustainable Cities" aims to bring clarity on the concepts related to urban sustainability by collecting definitions from internationally recognised sources, and to support dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders, by providing a reference tool easily accessible by a technical and non-technical audience.

The publication does not provide globally agreed definitions, but compiles the existing ones, which may continue to evolve over time and with the input of relevant stakeholders.

The publication is launched at an event on the side of HABITAT III Regional Consultation for Europe in Prague on 16 March 2016.

The consulting engineering industry is well placed to deal with sustainable development issues and is committed to increase its contribution to society dealing with sustainability challenges.

In this context, it launched for RIO +20 a "[Sustainability Pack](#)", comprising PSL@2013 - a tool to support owners and their partners with collaborative work on sustainability and PSM II - a guideline for consulting engineers implementing major sustainability issues in projects, as well as "[Rethink Cities](#)" - a white paper on societal challenges.

The latter paper advocates for a systemic approach to cities and demonstrates with many examples from engineering consultancy firms the benefits that can be gained when considering interrelationships between urban functions.

FIDIC joined the [World Urban Campaign](#) and is thus actively contributing to 'The City We Need', a manifesto and input to the Habitat III process.

'Urban Solutions' (i.e. initiatives, practices, policies, legislations and models that address urban challenges and constitute effective responses to The City We Need) including some of our industry will be posted the WUC website.

About FIDIC

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers was founded in Switzerland in 1913. Today, FIDIC membership covers 97 countries of the world.

About EFCA

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations was founded in 1992, and represents 24 national associations from EU member states and EFTA countries.

Source:

FIDIC

<http://fidic.org/>

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