

**BELGIUM: A CASE STUDY ON COMMITMENTS-RELATED BEST PRACTICE OR  
LESSONS LEARNED IN  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

**Localizing Agenda 21: Action Planning for Sustainable Urban Development**

This multilateral cooperation programme with Belgian Development Cooperation core funding, was initiated by UNCHS and a Belgian Consortium of universities, experts, NGOs and municipalities (coordinated by the Post Graduate Centre Human Settlements of the University of Leuven) in 1996.

Strongly supporting the 1992 AGENDA 21 call for local authorities to develop, with full community participation, a local agenda 21, and as reconfirmed in the 1996 HABITAT AGENDA to harmonize urban development and the environment, the programme offers a multi-year support system for selected secondary cities.

At present it provides concentrated capacity-building and supports interventions in Nakuru (Kenya), Essaouira (Morocco) and Vinh City (Vietnam); in 2001, the city of Bayamo joined the programme.

So far results have been quite interesting. Not only have these cities implemented a Local Agenda 21, they have inspired and guided other cities in the respective countries to initiate a national Local Agenda 21 programme. In addition, active City-to-City initiatives are well developed. The Nakuru (Kenya) – Leuven (Belgium) C2C obtained the 2002 World Habitat Award.

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