

Habitat Partner University Initiative

- UN-Habitat's network for academia/researchers

Universities provide an existing infrastructure of outposts in cities complemented by motivated young professionals, experienced mentors and new ideas. These outposts produce not only knowledge and human resources but are incubators of the next generation of urban professionals who are expected to play a crucial role in achieving sustainable cities.

The HPUI supports global awareness of the work of academia worldwide, provides connectivity with ongoing work of UN-Habitat and facilitates communication with other UN-Habitat agenda partners (including local governments and civil society) - supporting stronger connectivity between current pressing urban issues, the outputs of universities and shifts towards sustainable cities.



To date the Initiative is comprised of 1200 *individual* members, and 140 *institutional* members with varying levels of agreement, focusing on universities that deal with the built environment in an urban context.

To strengthen the role of universities as active city changers, the HPUI focuses on strengthening:

- a) the local quality of education
- b) the global spread of knowledge
- d) the anchoring of university work in real-life contexts
- c) the application of research through active university-city collaborations



Two main HPUI mechanisms for enhancing partner collaboration:

HPUI website:

providing overviews of the members work, library of knowledge and interaction opportunities for all levels of the partnerships (expected completion date April, 2013)

Thematic Hubs:

connecting consortia of universities under specific themes directly linked to UN-Habitat focal areas, providing an important contact point for academia/researchers and colleagues within UN-Habitat and vice-versa.

Three steps to become an institutional partner of the Habitat Partner University Initiative:

1. Expression of Interest: Potential partner to fill out an Expression of Interest introducing the university/ department: find the template for this at www.unhabitat.org/HPUI under "becoming a member". The Expression of Interest is to be signed by the highest possible level at the university and sent to HPUI@unhabitat.org

2. Exchange of Letters/Memorandum of Understanding

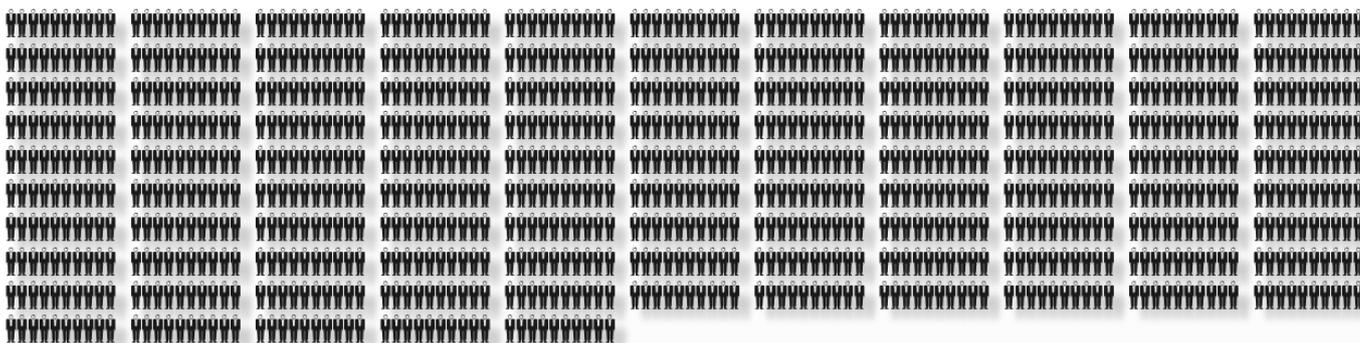
- a. If the HPUI office determines the collaboration to be mutually beneficial a return letter will be signed by UN-Habitat and sent to the University, after which the University is considered a Habitat Universities partner.
- b. Should particular elements of the collaboration require a stronger legal framework, a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement of Cooperation may subsequently be developed; UN-Habitat will inform whether this is required.

3. Commitment and Management: The HPUI requires the partner university to appoint a Focal Point who will act as the focal point for communication and the direct link of the partnership. The partner decides whether eg. an internal steering committee is required in addition to this.

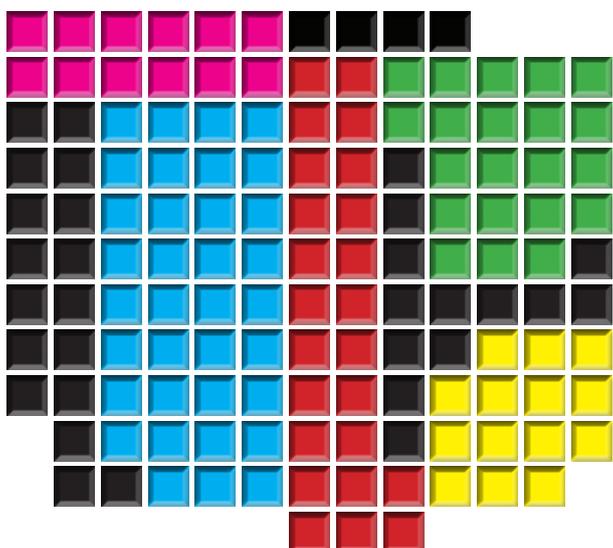
For any questions or additional information, please contact the HPUI Office:
HPUI@unhabitat.org

PARTNERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: 1200



INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS: 140



Associated universities, with varying level of partnerships:

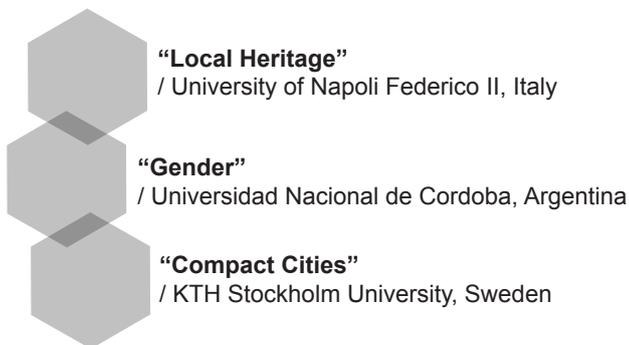
- Latin America and the Caribbean (14)
- Europe and Former Soviet Union States (52)
- Africa and Arab States (27)
- North America (16)
- Asia and Pacific (31)

Higher formalized partnerships indicated in black.

HUBS: 5 INITIATED



HUBS: 3 PROPOSED



The Habitat Partner University Initiative is supported by the Government of Sweden via the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Government of Norway