



TERMS OF REFERENCE

URBAN DESIGN LAB (UDL) - Design Consultancies for young professionals (Junior Consultants)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IDB Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector / Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD)

Background

The Inter-American Development Bank, the largest and leading source of financing for regional development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), is seeking consultants in the fields of Architecture, Planning and Urban Design to support the implementation of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative. A team of consultants will be formed to conduct planning services in each of the partner cities.

The “Emerging and Sustainable Latin American and Caribbean Cities Initiative” employs a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the challenges facing the urban areas of LAC, integrating environmental sustainability, comprehensive urban development, fiscal sustainability and good governance. The Initiative provides a set of tools for intermediate cities to be able to: (i) identify key bottlenecks that they may face in their path towards sustainability; (ii) weigh and prioritize the identified problems to guide investment decisions in the sectors that may generate more positive impacts; (iii) find specific adequate solutions according to their cost-benefit that would pave the road towards increasing sustainability. In addition solutions should take into consideration potential different local sources to finance them as well as the institutional capacity for their implementation; and (iv) follow up progress and advances in closing gaps and reaching goals.

Austria supports the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) through financial contribution and technical expertise. In collaboration with the Institute for Urban Design and Landscape Architecture at the University of Technology Vienna (UTV), this consultancy program was set up to enable Master students and recently graduated Masters of Architecture and Urban Planning of Austrian Universities to contribute to the implementation of the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI). The Interns will be assigned to work in a designated partner city of the ESCI program and tasked to develop a specific urban project in the respective city.

The purpose of this cooperation is the fruitful exchange of experiences and lessons-learned (“know-how”) and academic research (“know-why”) about urban development and urbanization processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Austrian academic staff and students study the challenges of the rapid urbanization process and collaborate in the development of concrete design-based solutions for the partner cities’ Action Plans. One of the goals is to bring academic staff and masters students of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning the UTV closer to the ESCI program while working directly on concrete tasks like urban strategies, urban design and small-scale architecture and public space interventions. A multi-disciplinary team of professors, lecturers, invited professionals and masters students works in ESCI partner cities in close cooperation with IDB specialists, city administration and local universities.



In the context of rapid urban growth, the leading theme of this cooperation is the development of innovative integrated urban design and management tools for the creation of sustainable new neighborhoods through in-fill developments of abandoned areas, city extension and urban regeneration projects in the context of climate change adaptation and urban resilience. The cooperation between the IDB and UTV wishes to enrich the current planning discourse of sustainable urban development in LAC with contemporary topics like proximity, Transport Orientated Development (TOD), the dense city, mixed used development, affordable housing, repopulation strategies, application of urban rules and conditional urban design, land management, cross-financing and subsidizing, climate change mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

The partners are already deploying a clear multi-disciplinary and participative planning approach. In this light, the Urban Design Laboratory (UDL), with its dialogue orientated planning tool-kit, shall be further developed and promoted as a planning technique and applied in these projects. The UDL is a tool-kit for participatory urban design that was developed through a grant, sponsored by IDB and Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) during the academic year (2014/15) and was successfully tested in ten partner cities of the ESCI program: Panama City, Montería, Pasto, Managua, Quetzaltenango, Xalapa, Campeche, Santiago de los Caballeros, Montego Bay and Valdivia.

In this context, the Academic Partnership Program (APP) seeks to sharpen and improve the planning methodology of the UDL. Students of Austrian universities work temporarily together with local academic institutions, universities and the local municipalities and foster partnerships and collaborations in the respective countries.

Consultancy objective

The consultancy's objective is to prepare a pre-feasibility study for an urban project in the Dominican Republic in the context of the satellite city "Ciudad Juan Bosch" in the east of the capital city Santo Domingo. Together with local planning and financial experts, the IDB's team in Santo Domingo and members of the City Hub / HUD the contractual will develop an integral urban strategy and pilot urban design projects.

Main activities

The selected candidate will conduct the following activities:

- Organize a preparatory workshop to introduce to the program methodology
- Conduct preliminary analysis of existing data, research on reference projects (best practice) and verify and precise the work program
- Elaborate a conceptual design and contextualize with the stakeholders
- Organize a Mid-Term-Workshop
- Elaborate a final version of the conceptual design and finally,
- Present the result to the stakeholders

Deliverables

Final Design Report submitted to the Bank in an electronic file. The report should include cover, main document, and all annexes.



Qualifications

- Academic Degree/Level & Years of Professional Work Experience: The candidate must hold a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Architecture or/and Urban Planning and must be a full-time master student or recent Master of Science (no longer than one year after graduation) of Architecture and/or Urban Planning with minimum 2 years' study at an Austrian University.
- Languages: Fluency in Spanish and English
- Areas of Expertise: housing, urban design and/or strategic urban planning

Characteristics of the Consultancy

- Consultancy category and modality: Temporary Term Contractual
- Contract duration: four months
- Place of work: Santo Domingo / Dominican Republic
- Responsible person: Andrés Blanco (CSD/HUD)

Payment and Conditions: Compensation will be determined in accordance with Bank's policies and procedures. The Bank, pursuant to applicable policies, may contribute toward travel and moving expenses. In addition, candidates must be citizens of an IDB member country.

Visa and Work Permit: The Bank, pursuant to applicable policies, may submit a visa request to the applicable immigration authorities; however, the granting of the visa is at the discretion of the immigration authorities. Notwithstanding, it is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain the necessary visa or work permits required by the authorities of the country(ies) in which the services will be rendered to the Bank. If a candidate cannot obtain a visa or work permit to render services to the Bank the contractual offer will be rescinded

Consanguinity: Pursuant to applicable Bank policy, candidates with relatives (including the fourth degree of consanguinity and the second degree of affinity, including spouse) working for the Bank as staff members or Complementary Workforce contractuels, will not be eligible to provide services for the Bank.

Diversity: The Bank is committed to diversity and inclusion and to providing equal opportunities to all candidates. We embrace diversity on the basis of gender, age, education, national origin, ethnic origin, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and HIV/AIDS status. We encourage women, Afro-descendants and persons of indigenous origins to apply.