

**CODATU XII**  
**DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION IN URBAN TRANSPORTATION**  
**Foreword**  
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The topic chosen by CODATU for its twelfth congress corresponds to a mode of action which certainly does not pretend to be the only one, which certainly does not pretend to be the panacea, but which seems to be useful in the very specific field of urban transports: Decentralized Cooperation, that is to say the action that can be undertaken in a joint way by the authorities of countries of different kind. This subject is one of the challenges over the next few years.

In France today, cooperation and international action in the life of authorities hold an increasing place even if it still remains too often underestimated. If decentralized cooperation enables the local government to show autonomy in its role of conception and implementation of local public policies, it also contributes through the exchanges of experiences to enrich the reflections and practices of local development. As a matter of fact, it remains a modest, but quite relevant, tool to struggle against poverty, to promote sustainable development and also to communicate among peoples. Decentralized cooperation, by enabling to open onto the world and to cultures, contributes to the construction and to the spreading of a culture of peace. Without development there can be no sustainable peace, and without peace, no development.

Urban transportation has become a priority stake in today's world. Indeed the need for mobility of the inhabitants of the planet keeps developing, as it is a factor of freedom and individual fulfilment, of access to work and also of economic development in every country. It is therefore essential that everybody can have access to convenient, comfortable, safe and clean modes of transport enabling to reconcile mobility and protection of the environment, freedom and economy.

That is why more than ever, the investment of public money as part of decentralized cooperation in the field of urban transport constitutes a useful act, a responsible act, a united act. But willingness and generosity are not enough. It is important to identify good practices, to develop them and to spread them. It is the object of this international conference, which should enable to go even further into the reflection at first and into the action then and in parallel.

In this respect, CODATU, which only makes sense, which only has a mission as far as it tries to commit to action, has decided to publish a methodological guide of decentralized cooperation in urban transports. CODATU therefore expects to become in the future a vector of international solidarity by leading to the development of this type of actions, namely decentralized cooperation in urban transports.

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