Forecast urban growth, notably in developing countries, combined with technological advances and new definitions of quality of life are leading to greater recognition of the dynamics of intermediary cities.

Given the degree of urban concentration (urbanization) on a global scale, it is fundamental for intermediate cities to co-operate and work together. UCLG wants to understand and project the specific planning challenges into an international context.

We invite you to participate in this open-thinking and networking experience to disseminate lessons and recommendations for strategic planning in intermediate cities. **Contribute to the debate that we have already started in a Yammer network:**

**What is the role of intermediary cities?**
- a. Economic anchor, central place for public services in rural areas?
- b. Core of innovation in rural areas?
- c. Core of Regional economic clusters?
- d. Overspill towns for overcrowded metropolitan areas?
- e. Target places for deconcentration of public institutions?

**What are their most relevant interactions and with whom?** Surrounding rural area? Other intermediary cities (national or international)? Metropolitan Areas?

**Where lays the political strength of leaders?** Intermediating between regional, local, national governments, community stakeholders?

**What about financial and administrative capacities?**

**What is the specific identity of the intermediary city?** How can they position and compete?

**Is the Intermediate city a question of size or other type of hierarchy (tiers)?** How to deal with the different definitions between regions like Europe or Asia?

What is the future role for these cities?
If these questions relate to you or if you are intrigued to find out what colleagues, experts, researchers, practitioners and thinkers are discovering and sharing on intermediary cities, join the debate!

Join us at: https://www.yammer.com/intermediarycities

**Partners and Agenda:** Urban strategic planning is crucial to prioritize actions that address the challenges faced by cities. We work in cooperation with Cities Alliance, the Norwegian government and global and regional networks through the UCLG Strategic Planning Committee.

**Activities and Key dates in 2013:**

Learning and debates will reveal the diversity of actors, planning tools, decision making and indicators for intermediary city planning and strategies.

**March 2013: (18 -20)** Seminar in Kwadukuza, South Africa, a learning event, "Effective planning and management to become a sustainable Intermediary city"

**April 2013: (23 - 25)** Brazilian – Mozambique, mayors roundtable at Brazil mayors meeting, Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (FNP)

**June 2013:** Spain, global debate on Intermediary planning policy and leadership

**October 2013:** Develop and present orientation document/ debate in the UCLG world congress in Rabat, Morocco

**How can you participate?**

Send a mail to UCLG: s.hoeflich@uclg.org, or a.bennaton@uclg.org indicating if you are familiar with the Yammer.

Let us know and we will send you an invitation and beginner’s guide to get you started.

**We look forward to promoting your inputs and agenda, and fueling the discussions!**