

## Theme 1 - Economic Aspects in Learning Cities And Regions- Topics and questions

In discussing each of these let others have the value of your own experiences, ideas, knowledge and expertise.

### 1.1 Characteristics of Learning Regions and Cities

What constitutes a learning city or region – how is it different? How would you recognise one?  
Why might it be necessary? What economic factors are pushing/pulling cities/regions to transform themselves into Learning Cities/Regions?

Where are the examples of good practice and what are they doing differently?

How can progress as a learning city or region be measured ?

Who is responsible for developing economic strategies to cope with this and what are they doing?

Which aspects of city/region life need to be involved in economic development ?

How important is continuing personal development to economic development in the learning city/region?

For whom is continuing personal development relevant?

What factors affect innovation and creativity and how can it be fostered?

Who is responsible for fostering innovation and creativity and how can it be done?

What is the role of the local authority, the university and other stakeholders in this?

What do we mean by diversity and how does it affect economic development

What is the importance of learning to the economic future of cities and regions and what needs to change?

How can local progress in economic development be measured locally?

What is the international dimension to economic development and how important is it locally?

Who is responsible and how is it being fostered?

Which regeneration projects can contribute to economic development?

What part will technology play in economic development of the learning (smart?) city of the future?

What is the role of the local/regional authority, the university and other stakeholders in this?

What other questions do you think should be asked under this heading?

What recommendations for improvement are you making in these areas? (at least 5)

### 1.2 Resources and Capital for economic development in learning cities and regions

What is the link between resources and capital ?

What types of capital are relevant to economic development?

What resources are available to help create a learning city?

How can the various capitals and resources be built up?

Where does the leadership come from to activate the resources and how can it be done?

Who pays for learning city development ?

Who benefits? How?

Where is the finance to come from?

What improvements would you make within your own city/region?

What examples are there of good practice in creating/managing new and existing resources?

What other questions do you think should be asked under this heading?

What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas? (at least 5)

### 1.3 Stakeholders and their roles in economic development in learning cities and regions

Who are the stakeholders?

What is the role and contribution of each to economic development short and long-term?

How can this role and contribution be activated?

(How) should schools and other stakeholders change to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century economic development challenges?

What is the role of the local/regional authority and the university vis a vis the stakeholders ?

Which adopts the leadership role?

Which local partnerships should be set up to assist economic development in the short and long term and what activities would they undertake?

Which national and international partnerships between stakeholders would assist economic development and how?

What examples of good partnership practices exist ?

What other questions should be asked under this heading?

What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas? (at least 5)

### 1.4 Research, knowledge, intelligence and information, sustainability for economic development in learning cities and regions

What knowledge, intelligence and information is needed to help regions flourish economically?

Why is it important?

Which organisations can provide it?

Which can use it and how?

How can the process be improved?

Who is responsible for deciding and commissioning research and development and how do they decide?

What courses exist to foster economic development and to whom are they delivered?

What consultation takes place between which organisations to ensure that the courses meet defined needs?  
Who is responsible for this and how do they do it?  
What courses exist to help build a learning city or region and to whom are they delivered?  
How can economic development in learning cities/regions be made sustainable?  
What is the role of the local/regional authority, the university and other stakeholders in all of this?  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What other questions should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations for improvement in this area are you making? ( at least 5)

#### **1.5 Economic Development, Quality and Learning Organisations in a Learning City/Region**

Why might this topic be important?  
What are the Characteristics of a Learning Organisation?  
How does it affect your own organisation?  
Which organisations in your own city/region would qualify as true learning orgs?  
How does this affect decision making processes?  
For whom are continuous learning programmes important? Why  
Does your own organisation have continuous development programmes for everyone?  
How are they/ should they be administered?  
How can external quality assurance programmes help the learning city/region? Which ones?  
What conditions are relevant for developing Innovation and creativity?  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What other questions should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations for improvement are you making in this area? (at least 5)

#### **1.6 Marketing and publicising Learning Cities and Regions for economic development**

What methods can be used to communicate a learning city/region message to its citizens?  
What methods can be used to communicate a learning city/region message to institutions  
What methods can be used to communicate the message to the outside world?  
Which of the communications media can be best used and how?  
Why is it important to communicate these messages?  
How can international links be used to assist economic development and how are they set up and administered?  
What is the role of the city/region web-site?  
How can all these aspects be improved in your city/region ?  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What other questions do you think should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

#### **1.7 Employability, Employment, skills and learning etc for economic development in Learning Cities and Regions**

What is the link between economic development and learning?  
(Why) is employability more important than employment in your city/region? Who believes it?  
What Skills and competences are relevant for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning cities and region  
(How) do education providers respond to the learning needs of the future?  
How and by whom are future skills needs decided?  
How are Individual Learning Needs decided in your organisation?  
How are individual learning needs decided in your city/region?  
Which organisations provide education and training in the region?  
(How) should/have educational methods change(d) to meet the challenges of the 21st century?  
What tools and techniques can be/are used to create a culture of learning  
Which of the following is used – how, by whom and by how many?– personal learning audits , personal learning action plans, mentoring, distance learning, internet downloaded learning programmes  
Is there a joined up plan to stimulate economic development through learning ?  
How might new technology help ?  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What other questions can be asked under this heading ?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

## **Theme 2: Learning Regions, Learning Cities - Social and Community Development**

### **2.1 Social and Community characteristics of a Learning City/Region**

**What do you understand by the term ‘social capital?’**

**What other types of capital might be included under this heading?**

**How can social capital be developed and increased?**

**What social and community factors need to be addressed when constructing a learning city/region?**

**Why might it be necessary to do this? What social and community problems are pushing/pulling cities/regions to transform themselves into Learning Cities/Regions?**

**Where are the examples of good practice and what are they doing differently?**

**What is the importance of learning to the future of communities in cities and regions and what needs to change?**

**What is the political dimension to learning city/region development in social and community matters?**

**Who is responsible for developing social and community learning city strategies and how can they do this?**

**Which aspects of city/region life need to be involved in social and community development ?**

**What do we mean by diversity and how does it affect social and community development?**

**How can it be harnessed in the service of the learning city/region?**

**How can community cohesion and social inclusion be created?**

**What part will technology play in social and community development in the learning city of the future?**

**From where will the resources come to implement social and community development?**

**Which City/region regeneration projects can contribute to social and community development?**

**How can progress in social and community development be measured locally?**

**What other questions do you think should be asked under this heading?**

**What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)**

### **2.2 Creating a culture of learning in learning cities and regions**

**What do you understand by a ‘culture of learning’?**

**How can a culture of learning be created in the city/region?**

**Why is it important?**

**Where does learning take place in the city? Who delivers it?**

**What are the social and community barriers to Learning?**

**Where are the examples of good practice in breaking down barriers?**

**How else can they be broken down?**

**How might an ‘attitudes to learning’ survey help in your city/region?**

**Who is responsible for creating strategies to break down barriers and how can they do this?**

**How long will this process take?**

**What would a ‘Learner’s Charter’ outlining the commitment of the city/region to all learners contain?**

**(How) would it improve learning in your city/region?**

**How can the human potential of all citizens be developed?**

**What are the personal learning tools and techniques that will improve learning – where and how are they used?**

**What strategies exist for 3<sup>rd</sup> age learning?**

**What support services should exist for personal learning development in the city/region?**

**Where are the examples of good practice in support and the use of tools and techniques?**

**What other questions should we be asking under this heading?**

**What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)**

### **2.3 Stakeholders and their roles in social and community affairs in learning cities and regions**

**Who are the major stakeholders and what are their roles and (potential) contributions to social and community development in a learning city?**

**How should schools and other stakeholders change to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century social and community challenges?**

**Which voluntary and community organisations contribute and how?**

**How can cultural services organisations improve their image to the public?**

**What should the learning providers do to help create social and community cohesion?**

**How can joined up government in social and community matters be achieved?**

**Who is responsible for mobilising stakeholder involvement in cities and how can it be done?**

**Where are the examples of good practice in stakeholder involvement?**

**What other questions should be asked under this heading?**

**What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)**

### **2.4 Consultation and Democracy in learning cities and regions**

**Why and when is it important to consult?**

**What are the advantages and drawbacks?**

**What consultation methods are used in cities and regions?**

**Who is to be consulted and to what level.**

Who is responsible for drawing up consultation exercises and how do they do it?  
How can citizens be empowered to help implement consultation results?  
How are the results of a consultation exercise communicated?  
How are people kept informed in cities and regions?  
How do you improve involvement and democracy in local affairs?  
What facilities are there for training elected representatives, how is it done and how much is it taken up?  
What is the role of the city/region website in learning city/region development?  
Where are the examples of good practice in consultation and the fostering of local democracy?  
What other questions should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

#### **2.5. Active Citizenship, volunteering and the international dimension**

What are the advantages and drawbacks of active citizenship and volunteering?  
How can active citizenship and volunteering be encouraged?  
Who is responsible for active citizenship and volunteering in the city/region and how do they do it?  
What sort of activities are conducive to active citizenship and volunteering?  
How can international links by all ages assist in local active citizenship efforts?  
How could business and industry get involved in the volunteering effort? Local examples?  
How can local citizens contribute internationally as well as locally?  
How important is mentoring in a learning city? Who mentors, who is mentored? Examples  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What other questions should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

#### **2.6 Celebration, leisure and culture**

Why would a city or region wish to organise a learning festival?  
What are the main components of a learning festival and how can it benefit learning in the city?  
What other elements of learning celebration will help to develop a learning city/region?  
Who is responsible for organising learning celebrations and how can they do it?  
What are the roles of the universities and other stakeholders in celebrating the learning city/region?  
What are the new sporting and leisure activities of a learning city? How are they organised?  
What new facilities need to be developed?  
What would be included in a learning cities charter for showing a commitment to its citizens?  
How would it be accepted and distributed?  
How can citizens be made more aware of their local cultural heritage?  
What other cultural or social events would animate a learning city/region?  
How can museums, libraries etc be made more attractive to citizens?  
Where are the examples of good practice in all these areas?  
What other questions should be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

#### **2.7 Environmental protection, climate change and sustainability?**

What are the signs of climate change locally?  
What measures are being/need to be taken locally and regionally to cope with environmental protection?  
What measures are being/need to be taken to cope with climate change?  
Who is responsible and how can it be done?  
How can citizens be made aware and mobilised to help?  
What education about these matters is being given, to whom and how?  
Where are the examples of good practice in these areas?  
What are the measuring tools for sustainability of environmental and other actions in the local regional authority?  
What other questions need to be asked under this heading?  
What recommendations are you making for improvement in these areas ? (at least 5)

### **Theme 3 Learning Regions, Learning Cities – Networking, intelligence, knowledge, Integration. Putting it all together**

#### **Sub-themes**

**How do local and regional authorities integrate economic, social and community development within a learning city/region framework? (joined up local government)**

**Where are the examples of good practice in this?**

**What are needs and requirements of cities and regions and how might PASCAL satisfy them?**

**What intelligence do cities and regions need and how should it be communicated?**

**How useful are the European connections that PASCAL is establishing?**

**How useful are PASCAL's global connections?**

**How can PASCAL help establish partnerships, and between whom?**

**What resources will be needed to establish a network that is useful to local and regional authorities?**

**How would PASCAL communicate with local and regional authorities and universities?**

**What would be a viable membership fee and structure?**

**What practical steps should now be taken to further the PASCAL Observatory network?**

**How should members communicate between each other?**

**How can the network be made sustainable and useful??**

**What will take home from this workshop?**

**How will you make a difference back home?**