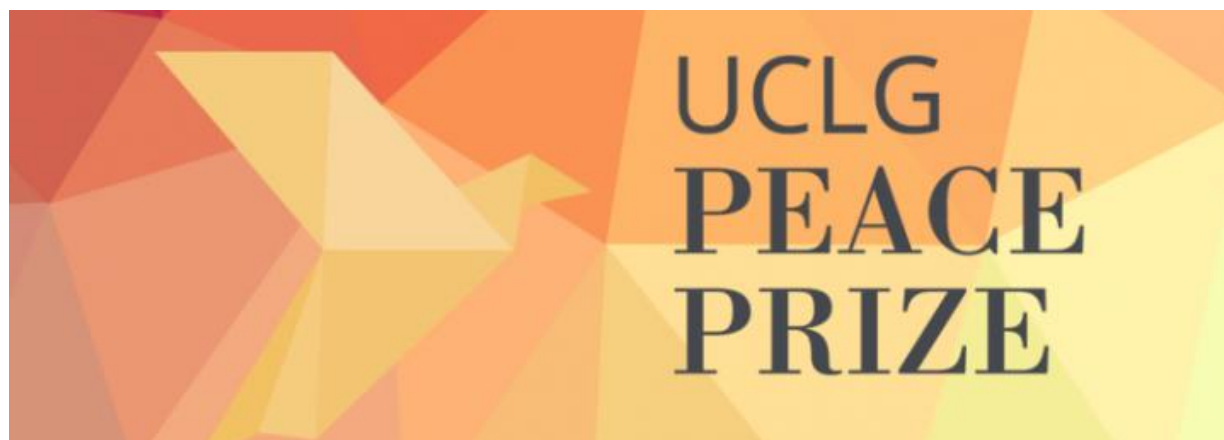


UCLG Peace Prize

Report UCLG Peace Prize 2019

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Background

The consequences of any violent conflict often manifest themselves on a local scale, which is why a local level approach is vital. Local governments have an important role to play in situations of conflict as promoters and facilitators of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity and by doing so they contribute to the international development and peace-building agenda. Therefore, local governments are instrumental in preventing conflicts, building bridges and dialogue after conflict and promoting a peaceful environment. We want to highlight the role of local governments in promoting peace, dialogue and reconstruction throughout the world.

With this purpose comes the UCLG Peace Prize. The idea of creating a peace prize for local governments worldwide arose in 2008 in the framework of the first World Conference on City Diplomacy at the proposal of the UCLG Cities Diplomacy Commission chaired by the Association of Municipalities of the Netherlands (VNG). This is a triennial award and consists of € 20,000 that will be awarded to the winning local government with the objective of carrying out peace projects and facilitating the exchange of learning between local governments with similar challenges.

Supporting partners of the Peace Prize are the Provincial Council of Barcelona, the Dutch NGO PAX, Guipuzkoa Regional Council, the City of Tromsø , Vfonds and the VNG Fund for Emergency Relief, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding. The first edition of the prize has been awarded at the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá in 2016, and the second edition of the UCLG Peace Prize has been organised within the framework of the Word Congress of UCLG in Durban in 2019.

Objectives for 2019

The year 2019 has been an important year, as the Peace Prize has been awarded for the second time. All activities carried out this year have contributed to the general objectives:

1. To achieve (increased) recognition and visibility for the role of local governments in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation
2. To foster and facilitate exchange and learning on innovative approaches by local governments in this field

Specifically, for 2019, the Peace Prize Secretariat had set the following additional objectives:

1. Broadening of the UCLG Peace Prize network, with specific attention to established organisations and network in the field of peace
2. Ensuring a prominent position of the Peace Prize at the UCLG World Congress

Activities carried out in 2019

In early 2019, a communication campaign has been organised to promote the opportunity to apply for the UCLG Peace Prize. The Secretariat has mobilised all its partners and connections to help promote the initiative. It has updated the website and contacted numerous organisations to inform them of this opportunity and ask them to help in spreading the word. The channels used in this campaign have been:

- UCLG: newsletters, circulars, website, social media, events, regional sections
- Social media: LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram
- International networks of local governments, humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations
- NGOs, civil society, institutes in the field of peace
- Networks of the Peace Prize partners
- Events with a large gathering of relevant actors
- Active outreach to potential applicants through desk research

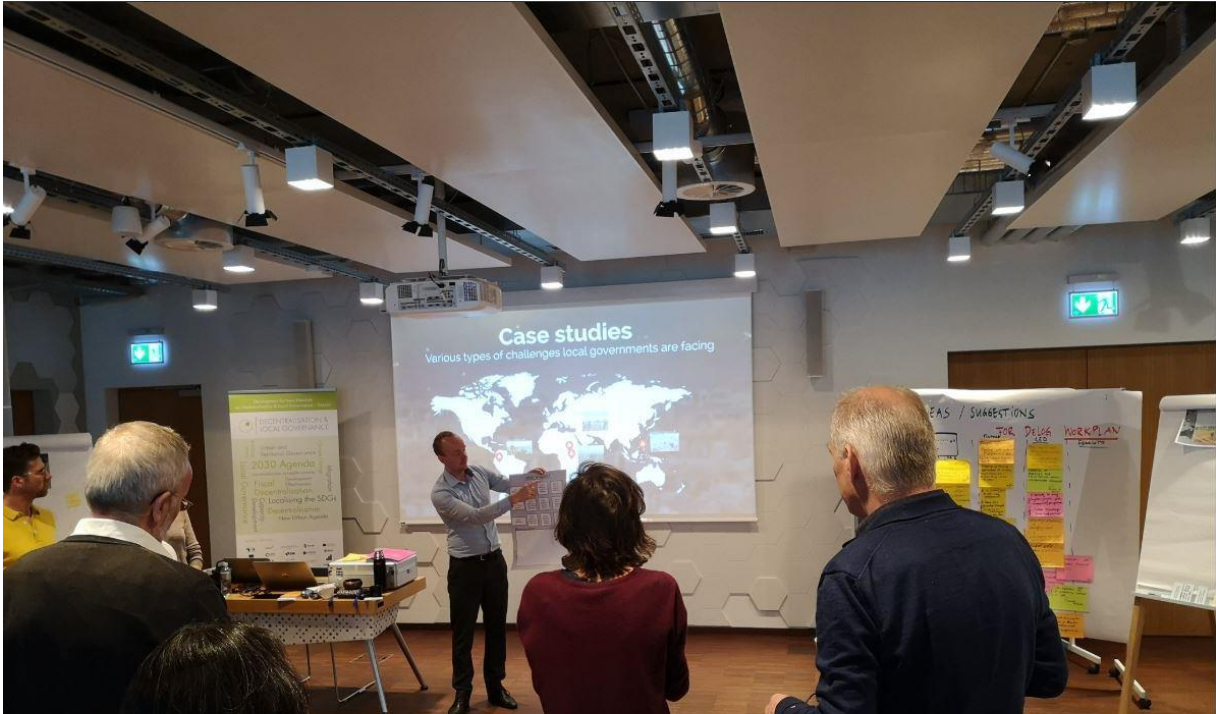
Besides the search for applicants, the Secretariat has lobbied for speaking opportunities in events to promote the theme of peacebuilding where possible. The focus has been on 'low-hanging fruit', events where peace prize partners or relevant connections are already present, or events with low travel costs, due to budgetary constraints. Events where speakers participated to spread the messages of the Prize are:

- The UCLG Middle East and West Asia committees on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy in Ramallah, Palestine (April 2019) .



Senator Rombouts speaking on the Peace Prize at the meeting of the UCLG Middle East and West Asia committees on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy in Ramallah, Palestine.

- The annual meeting of the donor network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) in Bern, Switzerland (May 2019). Here, the UCLG Peace Prize secretariat gave a workshop about the role of local governments in promoting peace. The report of the meeting can be found [here](#).



DeLoG annual meeting 2019

- The Geneva Peace Week, where an event has been organised together with UNDP and UCLG (November 2019).



(Photos Courtesy of City of Granollers)

Geneva Peace week

- A workshop with Dutch stakeholders in this field has been organised at the Dutch National Fund for Peace, Freedom and Veterans Care in Utrecht, the Netherlands (November 2019). Participants were staff of the Fund, (former) Mayors and parliamentarians, students and representatives of organisations in peacebuilding and international affairs.

Towards awarding the 2019 UCLG Peace Prize

- The call for applications has been published. Examples of communication outings and the guidelines for applicants can be found on our [website](#). 28 eligible applications have been received.
- The high level jury has been recruited. More information on the members of the jury and their qualifications can be found through [this link](#). Guidelines for the jury and the jury report can be found on the Peace Prize [website](#).
- The technical evaluation committee has been established. It consisted of Dion van den Berg (PAX for Peace), Tica Font (delegated by the Provincial Council of Barcelona), Janny Vlietstra (Senator and delegated by VNG International), and Mainer Marañá (delegated by Gipuzkoa Regional Council).
- A technical assessment format and guidelines have been developed by the Secretariat.
- The jury meeting has been prepared and documented, as can be found on our website. The jury decided on the following shortlist:
 - Arsal, Lebanon
 - Duhok Governorate, Iraq
 - Manizales, Colombia
 - Santiago de Cali, Colombia
 - Bogotá, Colombia
- Upon selection of the finalists, they have been supported to create short documentary videos about their initiatives and some of them have been requested to provide more detailed information. The videos can be viewed through [this link](#).
- A second jury call has been organised to determine the winner of the prize.

Awarding the Prize in Durban, South Africa

The prize has been awarded at the UCLG World Congress, and the opportunity has been used to promote the importance of peacebuilding, reconstruction and resolution for local governments. This World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, convened by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is the largest gathering of mayors, presidents of associations, councillors, and local and regional practitioners from around the world. It also gathers the most influential local and regional

leaders, councillors, local governments, partners, and actors implicated in the decision making of city and community life. The Peace Prize found its place in two sessions at the congress:

- During the congress, a session has been organised in which the finalists presented their initiatives using the videos that have been produced. All finalists had the chance to present their project and answer panel questions. The session also featured participation of representatives from VNG International, the Provincial Council of Barcelona and Gipuzkoa Regional Council.



Learning session with Peace Prize finalist – UCLG World Congress 2019

- Secondly, the award ceremony has been organised in which all finalists received a token of recognition and the winner has been announced (the municipality of Arsal in Lebanon). Pictures of the award ceremony can be found on our website, and the entire ceremony can be viewed here (from 1:32). All finalists were called on stage and received a bronze statue. The winner ultimately received a larger bronze statue and a prize cheque of €20.000 to invest in the winning peace initiative or to stimulate learning and exchange. The finalists received their statues from political representatives of Barcelona Provincial Council and Gipuzkoa Regional Council, and the Mayor of Arsal received the award from UCLG President Parks Tau and UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau. All finalists will receive support in

sharing their initiatives so that others can learn from it in the future, both in online webinars and on international events. The award ceremony was reported on in many online news outlets, for example in *El Pais*, which [reported](#) on the initiatives of the winning municipality of Arsal.



Award ceremony UCLG Peace Prize - UCLG World Congress 2019

Next steps

The path of the Peace Prize does not end with the 2019 award ceremony. The partners will continue to work towards the goals of increasing recognition for the role of local governments in this field, showcasing successful examples and inspiring local governments to set up new initiatives. To this end, the Secretariat will continue to support finalists and other successful examples in sharing their initiatives. An example is the support that has been given to representatives of the Governorate of Duhok to share their story in various sessions, among which a dedicated session for the Peace Prize, at the World Urban Forum in Duhok in February 2020. Furthermore, a publication is forthcoming on local governments and peacebuilding. The groundwork for this publication has been laid in 2019 and it will be launched at a suitable event in 2021. Continuous outreach will also take place through the Peace Prize social media channels, as has been done in 2019 as well. The reach of these channels has been growing exponentially, with a peak of **33.096 Twitter-views** and **874 Twitter-profile visitors** in November 2019.

Conclusion

The activities for the UCLG Peace Prize in 2019 have been implemented according to plan. We remain committed to collecting an ever growing amount of good practices from around the world and sharing these. We have sought synergies with stakeholders in the peacebuilding field to expand the scope of the award and expanded our network, and some first results of that are for instance the participatory workshops with the DeLoG network in Bern and the Dutch National Fund for Peace, Freedom and Veterans Care in Utrecht, as well as the event co-organised with UNDP during the Geneva Peace Week. This expands the reach of our initiative to stakeholders that have previously not been engaged. We aim to continue to expand our engagement with stakeholders in these and other networks to strengthen our initiative and find synergies with others.

