

## **MAIN RESULTS OF THE SESSION “GOOD GOVERNANCE, MULTI LEVEL PARTICIPATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING**

The session “Good Governance, Multi Level Participation and Institutionalization of strategic planning” was organized as a talk show with various participants as representatives from municipalities and governmental institutions from the Mediterranean region.

The panel was moderated by Mr. Meinolf Spiekermann who leads the GIZ Program “CoMun – Learning network for urban development in the Maghreb region“. The panel was led in by a presentation of Mrs. Ingrid Schwoerer, GIZ Senior Expert for Urban planning and local governance who emphasized the importance of effective political institutions and the transparent use of political power and management of public resources by the state and local governments. Mr. Abdallah Lehzam, Professor of the Rabat based ‘Institut National d’Aménagement et d’Urbanisme’ (INAU), while presenting the Moroccan politics on strategic urban development, stressed the need for capacity development for local governments in the Kingdom. Examples of practices of City development strategies (CDS) were given from Palestine, Egypt, and Tunisia. They were underlining the conditionality between investment planning and the existence of a CDS, as well as multi-level civil society participation as a success factor.

A final debate within the audience stated that strategic approaches for urban development are the answer to an urbanizing world, where the cities’ contribution to economic and social development is increasingly essential, both at local and national scale. But only well managed and well governed cities can assume this role. CDS processes intrinsically contribute to develop capacities for good urban governance and management “on the job”, including multi-level participation which is essential for a broad acceptance and, finally, the efficiency of urban action. However, in many cases more efforts are required for developing institutional, technical, procedural and financial capacities.