



Prague Institute
FOR GLOBAL URBAN
DEVELOPMENT





What is our fundamental challenge for global urban development in the 21st century?

Can we possibly succeed at enabling every community to peacefully grow and thrive?



Why can't we all just get along?

citizen

A legally recognized subject or national of a state or commonwealth, either native or naturalized; *Citizens of the World* - A person who is at home in any country.

city

A large town
(Origin: Latin *civitas*, *civis* 'citizen').

city-state

A city that with its surrounding territory forms an independent state.

civic

Of or relating to the duties and activities of people in relation to their town, city, or local area
(Origin: *civis* 'citizen').

civil

Of or relating to ordinary citizens and their concerns; courteous and polite.

civilization

The stage of human social development and organization that is considered most advanced; the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area; the comfort and convenience of modern life, regarded as available only in towns and cities.

common

Belonging to, open to, or affecting the whole of a community or the public.

community

All the people living in a particular area or place; the people of a district or country considered collectively; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals
(Origin: Latin *communitas*).

develop

Grow or cause to grow and become more mature, advanced, or elaborate; become more economically and socially advanced; construct or convert a building so as to improve existing resources.

development

A specified state of growth or advancement; a new and refined product or idea; an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation; the process of converting land to a new purpose by constructing buildings or making use of its resources.

metropolis

The capital or chief city of a country or region; a very large and densely populated industrial and commercial city (Origin: Greek *metropolis* 'mother state').

metropolitan

An inhabitant of a metropolis (Origin: Greek *metropolis* 'citizen of a mother state').

region

An administrative district of a city or country (Origin: from Latin *regio* [n-] 'direction, district' from *regere* 'to rule, direct').

urban

In, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city (Origin: Latin *urbanus*, from *urbs*, *urb-* 'city').

urbanity

Suavity, courteousness, and refinement of manner; urban life (Origin: Latin *urbanus* 'belonging to the city').

The history and future of urban civilization

The dictionary definitions on the facing page reveal important truths about the history and future of cities and towns, of metropolitan growth and urban development. The fundamental tradition and promise of urban life is community, civility, and citizenship, the common values that all human beings share. These include: the balance of rights and responsibilities; a feeling of belonging to a larger whole; the everyday courtesy that makes life safe, peaceful, and pleasant; the economic and social advancement that makes life secure, sufficient, and fulfilling – best represented by the definition of “civilization” which comes from the same ancient root word as “city.” The timeless human goals of enabling families and communities to thrive are fully expressed through urban development in the finest sense of the term, which involves preservation of what is already good, as well as creating new opportunities and possibilities. Urban life – despite its many problems and failings during the past few centuries, from poverty and disease to violence and overcrowding – has been and continues to be the destiny and promise of global civilization. In the 21st century, urbanism offers the world new hope for reaffirming eternal and universal bonds of humanity and nature.





Building and healing communities

The Prague Institute for Global Urban Development is dedicated to serving and enfranchising people in order to heal the many places where the universal bonds of humanity and nature are now undergoing severe challenges; to restoring accountability and balance to urban development and community; to promoting and enhancing prosperity and quality of life for all people; and to strengthening communal and civic bonds not just for our time, but for the ages. Our goal is to initiate and build a worldwide awakening of human spirit and fellowship, of economic equity, social civility, political citizenship, and environmental sustainability, as a legacy for future generations.





What is the Prague Institute for Global Urban Development?

In the 21st century, for the first time in human history, a majority of the world's population is living in cities and towns. During the coming decades, the most rapid global population growth will be in the urban areas of the developed and developing world, including a steadily rising number of "megacities" with more than ten million residents. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed by nearly 200 countries in the fall of 2000, officially recognized the vital urban challenges of the future. There is an urgent need to address these concerns, and to develop new entities which can apply intelligence and experience to generating effective solutions. The Prague Institute for Global Urban Development has joined a very select number of research and education centers around the world that are devoted to assessing urban policies and enhancing urban development. The Prague Institute is a non-profit organization devoted to research, teaching, discussion, publication, and action on the major issues related to urban development around the world – governance, citizenship, demography, planning, design, construction, economics, finance, public policy, transportation, infrastructure, employment, technology, culture, community development, housing, environment, education, recreation, health, and safety. Our primary emphasis is on organizing dialogues and designing projects that generate strategic policy interventions and program innovations which can be replicated on a very large scale to improve the quality of life in urban communities worldwide. In addition, the Prague Institute's special focus is on building and strengthening a global network that brings experts on urban issues in developing countries together with experts on urban issues in developed countries – including the United States – to actively engage in a unified worldwide conversation devoted to producing effective action, and widely publicizing the results and benefits of strategic investments.





Our mission is simple, Our vision is clear.

The mission of the Prague Institute for Global Urban Development is to find new, innovative, and practical solutions for the world's urban problems, from conception to implementation. Our vision is a world where every community, town, and city is a dynamic and creative place of magic and vitality, and where every metropolitan region is a growing center of peace and prosperity—in short, an urban world where truly “the lion shall lie down with the lamb.” The Prague Institute structures its work around three broad organizing principles: *Treating People and Communities as Assets* – Inclusive communities are productive communities. Every person and neighborhood deserves the opportunity to participate actively in governmental decision-making, to contribute to economic development through individual and cooperative initiative, and to share in the fruits of prosperity and democracy. *Facing the Metropolitan Challenge* – Urban regions are the world's dominant population centers and the main growth engines of the global economy. For effective governance, citizenship, urban planning, and economic strategy in metropolitan areas, every level of government and the private and civic sectors must collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries. *Celebrating Our Urban Heritage* – The physical and cultural legacy of urban regions is a valuable asset to be preserved, enhanced, and honored. This precious legacy connects the past to future generations, enables broad-based sustainable prosperity, and emphasizes quality of life as a key building block for economic well-being, environmental health, and social vitality.



A meeting of the minds.

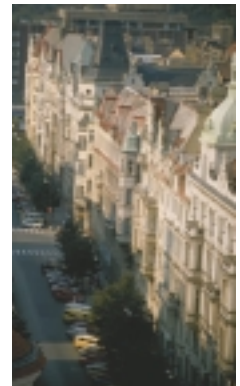
The Prague Institute for Global Urban Development brings together leaders in urban affairs from around the world, including well-known and highly acclaimed scholars, professionals, business executives, public officials, civic and religious leaders, and community activists representing the complete spectrum of non-governmental organizations. They meet frequently in Prague and many other cities to discuss how best to address worldwide urban challenges from pollution, poverty, and property rights, to economic growth, social justice, human rights, open societies, and civic harmony. A key function of the Prague Institute is to be directly involved in action-oriented projects as advisors to businesses, governments, communities, and international agencies on global urban problem-solving. The Prague Institute advances creative solutions that are market-oriented, equity-based, pro-environment, inclusive, productive, and democratic. These solutions draw on proven best practices, good urban policies, and effective enabling legislation for smart growth, sustainable development, new urbanism, metropolitan economic strategy, and a wide range of additional strategic initiatives.





Our location

The Prague Institute for Global Urban Development is headquartered in the historic City of Prague, the national capital of the Czech Republic. Prague is a traditional crossroads between East and West, and a meeting ground where the ancient and the modern come together. Currently the city and metropolitan region are key transition points in the evolution of democratic market systems in the new global economy and urban world. The Prague Institute's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is Dr. Marc Weiss, its Vice Chairmen are Sir Peter Hall and Dr. Emiel Wegelin, and it is run by an international Board of Directors and Advisory Board consisting of many distinguished scholars and practitioners from around the world. The Prague Institute also maintains an office and staff in Washington, DC.





Treating people and communities as assets

Inclusive communities are productive communities. Every person and neighborhood deserves the opportunity to participate actively in governmental decision-making, to contribute to economic development through individual and cooperative initiative, and to share in the fruits of prosperity and democracy. The Prague Institute recognizes people as the world's most important resource; therefore we develop and implement urban strategies that are participatory and inclusive. Such strategies empower people to organize effectively to solve their own problems, improve their environment, and contribute to the overall productivity of their community, city, region, and nation. For example, the Prague Institute addresses the dynamics of the "informal" sector and explores ways to fully integrate every individual and family into the international marketplace, with full citizenship, property rights, and responsibilities. The adaptive methods people create and employ to conduct business, produce goods, provide services, grow food, make clothes, build housing, educate children, maintain health, and perform many other daily activities clearly contribute to the well-being of society and should not be excluded from the formal organization of economic and social life. It is far better to welcome and encourage people's creative energy and hard-working spirit by integrating everyone into mainstream institutions and ensuring that they have the basic security of tenure and livelihood. All people will then benefit much more completely from the output that flows from the many difficult and challenging tasks they regularly perform. These same principles apply in the world of the "formal" sector. The power of people to organize cooperatively in their communities is vital for solving urban problems and improving the quality of urban life. The Prague Institute emphasizes partnership approaches as the most effective way to accomplish important urban development goals, highlighting a wide variety of initiatives from around the world where community groups have successfully collaborated with business, government, and civic organizations.



Facing the metropolitan challenge

Urban regions are the world's dominant population centers and the main growth engines of the global economy. For effective governance, citizenship, urban planning, and economic strategy in metropolitan areas, every level of government and the private and civic sectors must collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries. Public policy and urban management today generally do not correspond to the reality of metropolitan regions as fundamental units of market activity, social interaction, culture, transportation systems, land-use planning, and environmental protection. Many people across the globe are now economic "citizens" of metropolitan regions, but in most cases they are politically disenfranchised within these dynamic and rapidly growing urban agglomerations. Even stable public institutions are increasingly unable to cope with the vast array of problems confronting the entire urban region, and metropolitan residents are generally disconnected at the regional level from governmental decision-making, democratic participation, and citizenship rights and responsibilities. The Prague Institute directly addresses this 21st century challenge by developing cooperative partnerships among the public, private, and civic sectors in urban regions. These partnerships design and implement metropolitan economic strategies to generate increased prosperity; metropolitan land-use and transportation strategies to invest in infrastructure, manage growth, and enhance the urban environment; and metropolitan community development strategies that promote livable neighborhoods with improved housing, education, health, safety, and quality of life. Through effective and inclusive metropolitan strategic partnerships, urban regions can become more economically productive, technologically innovative, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable.





Celebrating our urban heritage

The physical and cultural legacy of urban regions is a valuable asset to be preserved, enhanced, and honored. This precious legacy connects history to future generations, enables broad-based sustainable prosperity, and emphasizes quality of life as a key building block for economic well-being, environmental health, and social vitality. The competitive advantage of places – what makes them attractive and special – is the character and spirit of community that is embedded in our history. The rapid pace of change in the 21st century underscores the need to conserve the treasures of the past, and to pay homage to the dynamic evolution of human ingenuity and urban civilization over many centuries. Market systems are increasingly reflecting greater respect for the value of what is old and traditional. The Prague Institute works on projects that highlight the economic and social importance of, and encourage public and private investment in: preserving historic buildings and districts, celebrating ethnic and cultural diversity, promoting heritage tourism, and appreciating recreation and nature. Many of these projects emphasize citizen participation, civic activism, and community-based initiatives, from arts festivals and crafts fairs to architecture museums and neighborhood walking tours.





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