



المعهد العربي لإنماء المدن
Arab Urban Development Inst.

Arab Urban Development Institute

Business Profile



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About AUDI



Overview of AUDI

The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO). AUDI is the first large-scale pan- Arab institute dedicated to urban development and municipal cooperation, and it remains unsurpassed in this role.

01	Technical Support through dedicated training and advisory programs	02	Strengthen The Relations between Arab cities through conferences and meetings	03	Better Urban Development In Arab Cities Through Qualitative Research	04	Mediatize Arab urban development through written and audiovisual output formats	05	Preserve the Memory Through urban documentation and knowledge sharing in the Arab region
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AUDI History

AUDI was founded in 1980 by Arab cities mayors as a regional organization. AUDI works across 22 Arab countries, with headquarter in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It operates as a non-governmental, non-profit organization. Specializing in research and training in urban development and municipal affairs. AUDI focuses on the economic, environmental, and social development of Arab cities.

Across its 45 years of existence, it has brought together municipalities, urban researchers, donors, and international organizations. Its network of 650+ municipalities, affiliated with the Arab Towns Organization, represents the largest in the Arab region.





Arab Urban Development Institute, Riyadh, 2024

Our Strategy

In previous years, the scope and impact of AUDI’s work remained relatively limited in the face of multiple internal and external challenges. To address this situation, AUDI’s President and Director General have determined that an important transformation is needed.

The AUDI Strategy 2025 is a cornerstone of this transformation effort. It charts a path for AUDI, as an influential actor, to support cities in the Arab region in their efforts to deal with multi-faceted urban challenges.

The strategy, along with proposed programs and activities, was created from information gathered from an envisioning workshop with the advisory board, benchmarking exercise, and interviews held with key informants throughout the process.

Vision And Mission

Vision

A leading institution that contributes to a better global urban future through innovative partnerships and collaborative learning.

Mission

Support municipalities and cities in the Arab region in addressing their urban development challenges, by providing credible and impactful policy research products and training programs and by instigating a culture of collaboration and collective learning.



Arab Urban Development Institute, Riyadh, 2024

Core Values

01	02	03	04
Credibility	Impact	Collaboration	Innovation

Strategic Objectives

Policy research

To engage in high-quality policy research on priority urban development issues faced by municipalities and cities in the Arab region

Responsive programming

To diversify activities and outputs, and align them with the needs and aspirations of stakeholders

Training platforms

To contribute to the capacity development of municipalities through quality training and leadership programs

Strengthened network

To build a strong network of Arab cities and municipalities and international urban development organizations

Action Lines

01	Urban Policy Research	02	Capacity Development	03	Networking
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VISION

A leading institution that contributes to a better global urban future through innovative partnerships and collaborative learning

MISSION	Support municipalities and cities in the Arab region in addressing their urban development challenges, by providing credible and impactful policy research products and training programs and by instigating a culture of collaboration and collective learning							
VALUES	Credibility Impact Collaboration Innovation							
OBJECTIVES	To engage in high- quality policy research on priority urban development issues faced by municipalities and cities in the Arab region		To diversify activities and outputs, and align them with the needs and aspirations of stakeholders		To contribute to the capacity development of municipalities through quality training and leadership programs			
FOCUS AREAS	ACTION LINES							
	URBAN POLICY RESEARCH			CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT		NETWORKING		
	Municipal Institutional Development							
	Urban Resilience							
Local Economic Development	Arab Urban Development Portal			Arab Urban Development Barometer		Practice Reports and Policy Briefs		
Livable Cities	Arab Cities Urban Living Lab			Newsletter		Webinar		
FOUNDATIONAL ACTIONS	Policy research advisory group		AUDI affiliates network		AUDI roster of experts		Meetings with relevant donors and international organizations	
	Address book		Road show		Communication plan			
INSTITUTIONAL ENABLERS	Reorganization of AUDI's structure and bylaws		Capacity development and performance management		Rebranding		Business model	
							Development of financial resources	

Governance



Advisory Board



H.H Mayor Dr. Faisal bin Ayyaf

President

Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz bin Ayyaf, President of the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) and mayor of Riyadh, leads efforts in urban transformation and modernization. His work aligns with Vision 2030, focusing on improving quality of life, expanding green spaces, and advancing Riyadh's global role in business, culture, and innovation.



Dr. Anas Almughairy

Director General

Dr. Anas, an urban policy expert, helped establish the Aseer Development Authority, advised the Regional Authority Support Center, and led an executive training program for municipal leaders with the Ministry of Municipalities and King Saud University.



Thomas Murphy

Member

A former three-term Pittsburgh mayor, known for securing \$1 billion to revitalize over 1,000 acres of industrial areas into commercial and public spaces. He also served eight terms in the Pennsylvania State General Assembly and worked with the Peace Corps in Paraguay.



Dr. Fuad Malkawi

Member

A senior urban development specialist at the World Bank, Malkawi leads the Spatial Planning Community of Practice. He specializes in urban planning, management, and design, advising governments and organizations globally, and has developed revitalization plans for major cities and regions.



Prof. Yasser Elsheshtawy

Member

An independent scholar and Adjunct Professor of Architecture at Columbia University's GSAPP, he is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute. Previously, he was a Professor of Architecture at UAE University, leading the Urban Research Lab.



Dr. Neila Akrimi

Member

Akrimi, with a doctorate in European Law, has over 20 years of experience in public administration reforms, contract management, and development projects. A former lawyer and diplomat, she is an expert in Euro-Mediterranean policies, governance, migration, and gender equity.



Prof. Robert Cervero

Member

Cervero, professor emeritus at UC Berkeley, specialized in sustainable transportation policy. From 1980 to 2016, he focused on the link between transportation and land-use planning, served as Department Chair, and directed the UC Transportation Center.

Executive Management Team



Dr. Anas Almughairy

Director General

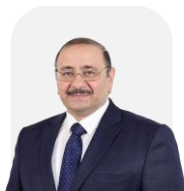
Dr. Anas is an urban policy expert, coach, and leader with over 18 years of experience, during which he has worked for multiple private, public, and international organizations. Prior to joining AUDI in 2022, he managed the establishment of Aseer Development Authority and its regional development strategy, while serving as an advisor to the Regional Authority Support Center. In 2018, Dr. Anas led the efforts to design and manage the first executive program to train municipal leaders in a joint venture between the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and King Saud University. Dr. Anas has published multiple research and working papers in the domains of municipal institutional development, regional development strategy, and urban planning. He holds a doctorate in Metropolitan planning and Governance from the University of Calgary.



Dr. Montaser Hiyari

Director of the Capacity Development and Training

An architect and urban planner. Ph.D holder in spatial planning from the Technical University of Dortmund, Germany. Worked as a project manager for urban planning and urban design projects in many countries. Provided consultancy in capacity building for international organizations working in urban and regional development. Dr. Hiyari contributed to the development of urban policies and framework in many countries.

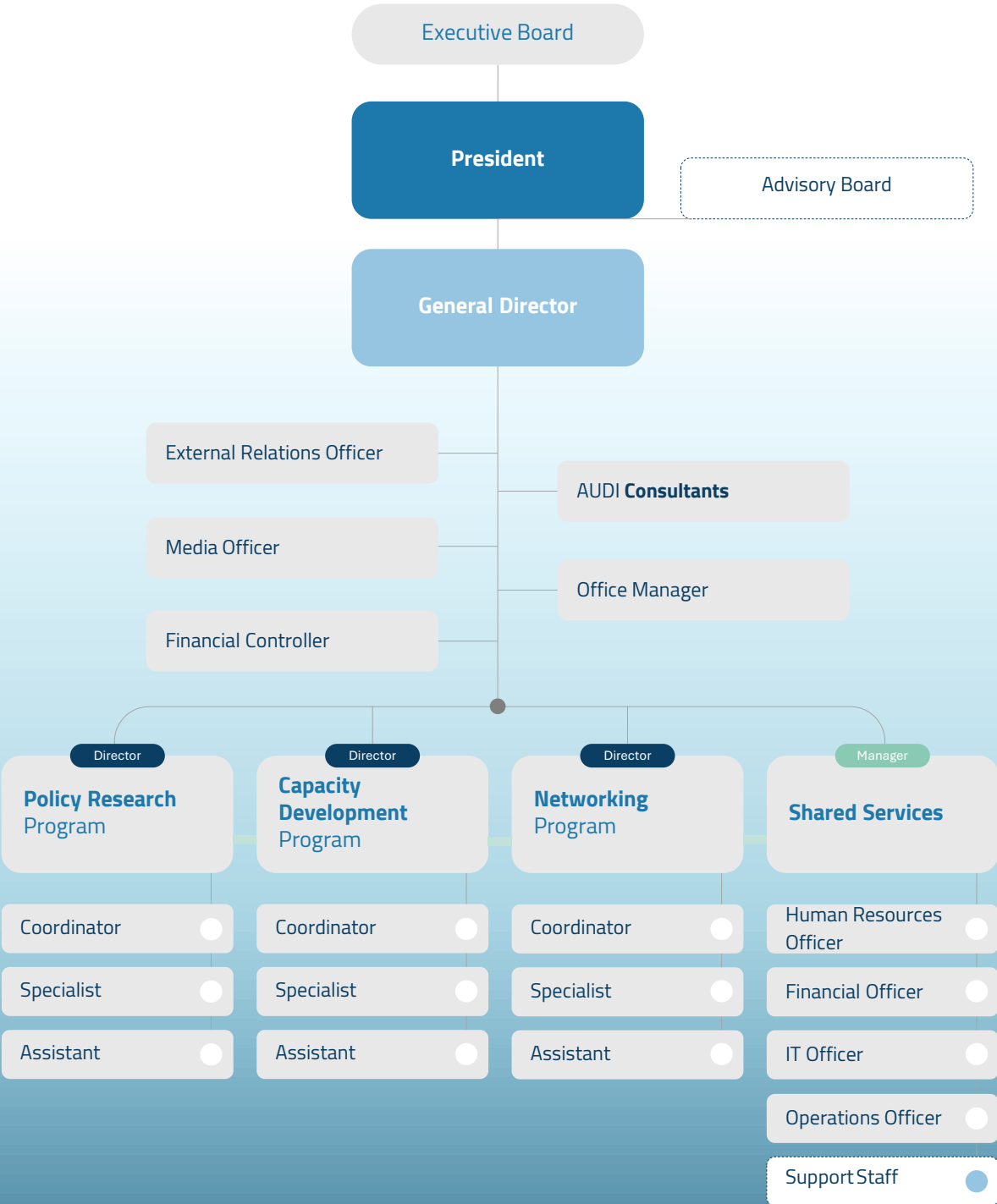


Dr. Ziad Alameddine

Director of the Urban Policy Research Program

Holds the position of Director of the Urban Policy Research Program at the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI). Joined AUDI in August 2024 and assumed responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the research program's activities and ensuring its ongoing alignment with AUDI's Vision 2025 while supporting the transition towards AUDI's progressive Vision 2030, "The LEAP". An Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Design with over 26 years of academic experience. A Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI) since 2016 until now - the United Kingdom. Conducted numerous training workshops focused on enhancing the skills and capabilities of municipal staff in urban development areas related to improving the urban landscape and creating more human-centered environments across Saudi cities. Supervised several international training programs for municipal leaders in Saudi cities held in the United States, the Netherlands, Austria, and Sweden

Organizational Structure



Programs & Activities

- Urban Policy Research
- Capacity Development & Training
- Networking



01

Urban Policy Research

01 Urban Policy Research

This program's activities are steered towards the production and dissemination of knowledge on Arab cities and urban development policies and practices. Research methods include document review, interviews, surveys, and roundtable discussions, resulting in the drafting of reports, summaries, and more. At the organizational level, a policy research advisory group will be created to identify priority themes and review outputs.

Arab Urban Development Portal



A comprehensive data library created for institutions, professionals, and the public. It gathers contributions from multiple sources to serve as the central repository for data and literature on urban development in the Arab region, featuring sections on Arab cities, urban development projects, organizations, and related publications.

The Arab Urban Development Barometer



The Arab Urban Development Barometer consists of a series of surveys that are conducted every 6 months, the analysis of which is published as consolidated report. The aim of this barometer is to map urban trends and the subsequent evolution of Arab cities over time.

Urban Development Reports and Briefs



The urban development reports and briefs by AUDI are developed through three different but interlinked activities, each with its own format of publication. These include practice reports, dialogue roundtables, and policy briefs and campaigns.

Arab cities urban living lab



The lab, organized by AUDI, comprises thematic learning groups of municipalities, researchers, practitioners, and nonprofits in the Arab region. It aims to tackle urban development challenges through knowledge exchange, applied research, and pilot projects.

Newsletter



AUDI's newsletter is a bilingual (Arabic and English) online publication released every one to two months, highlighting urban development policies, projects, and initiatives in the Arab region through reports and interviews. It serves as an effective communication tool, especially for connecting with AUDI's extensive network of cities.

Webinar



A monthly webinar led by the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI). It is held virtually and invites a representative of a project situated in the Arab region, to not only present the project but also discuss the process by which it was materialized.



Arab Urban Development Portal

A digital portal consolidating all information regarding cities, Urban Development projects, organizations, and publications relevant to the Arab region. The portal serves as a central hub of information for the benefit of all stockholders working on urban development concerns in Arab cities.

+280

Projects
published

100

Organizations
data uploaded

+150

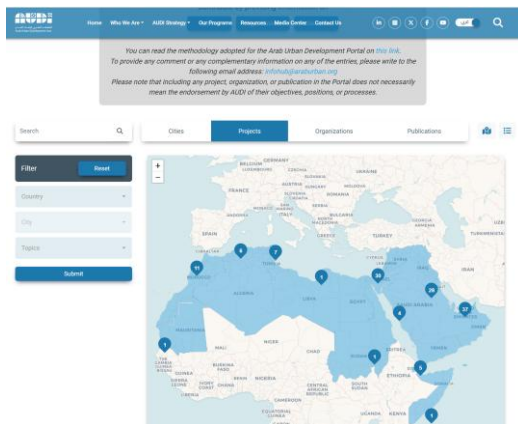
Publications

+50

Cities uploaded
their data

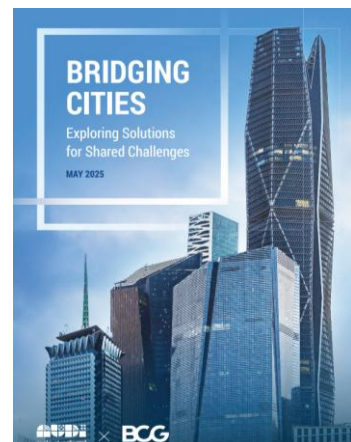
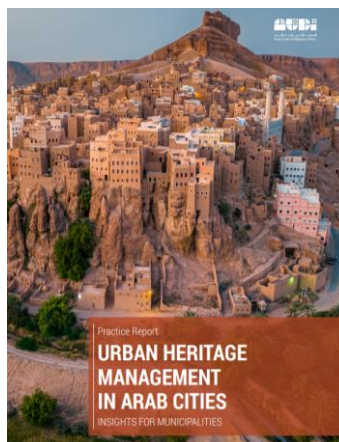
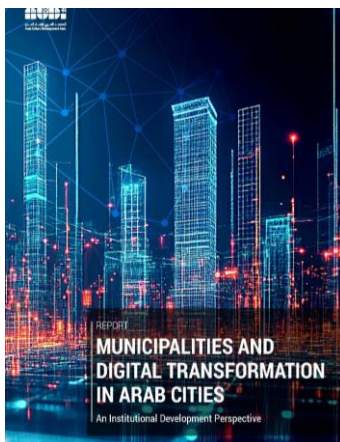
3

Reports



Practice Reports And Policy Briefs

Comprehensive 40–60-page reports are developed to analyze urban development approaches, policies, and practices in Arab cities. These are followed by a series of roundtables with strategic decision-makers and stakeholders, leading to policy briefs including recommendations for addressing urban development challenges and implementing effective policies.



Arab Cities Urban Living Lab

Thematic learning group of municipalities, researchers and practitioners in the Arab region, set and animated by AUDI, seeking to innovatively address a defined urban development challenge through exchanges and experimentation.

Supporting Green Activities in Selected Arab Cities- Participatory Neighborhood Greening

A pioneering initiative AUDI in partnership with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The project aims to promote sustainable urban greening in selected Arab cities (Tunis, Amman, and Nouakchott) by empowering local communities and municipalities to lead and implement greening initiatives within residential neighborhoods.

It focuses on engaging residents, local associations, and the private sector in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of green spaces, thereby reducing the operational burden on municipalities and ensuring the sustainability of public open spaces.



Tunis, workshops, 2025

The project has three main components:

1. **Applied field track**, which uses interactive tools and strategic design techniques to co-create community-driven green infrastructure that reflects local needs and aspirations.
2. **Practice Reports**, which are developing comparative analytical reports to explore key urban greening themes, leveraging data and insights available through the Arab Urban Development Portal.
3. **Online educational and training track**, offering specialized content on participatory planning and tactical urban greening. It targets municipal staff, civil society actors, and urban development professionals.

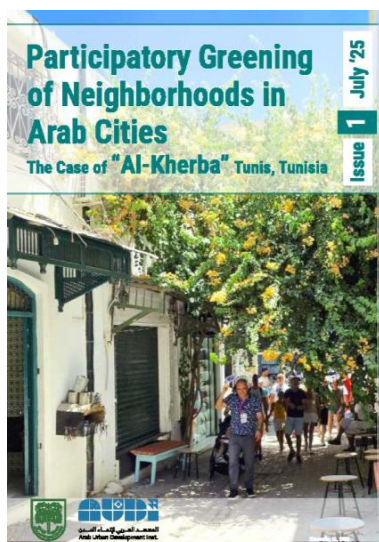
01

60 Urban Greening Projects – Arab Cities' Path to Sustainability and Resilience

The report showcases sixty exemplary urban greening projects implemented across various Arab cities. It highlights the innovative approaches and best practices these cities are adopting to enhance sustainability and resilience in their urban environments. The report aims to inspire policymakers, urban planners, and community stakeholders by providing insights into successful participatory greening initiatives that contribute to healthier, more livable cities.

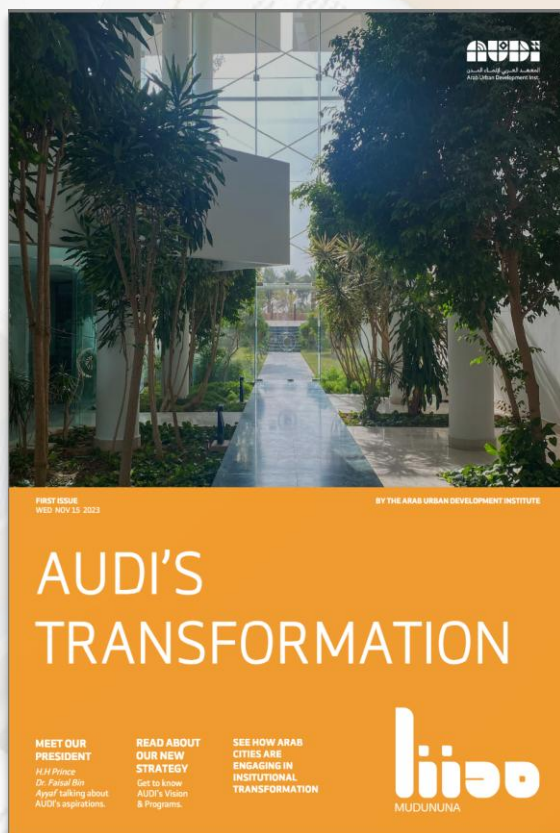
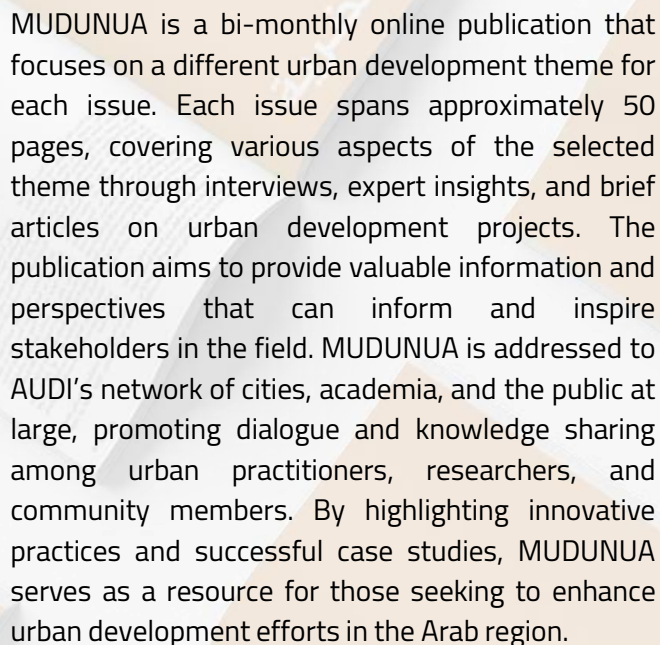


02



Participatory Greening of Neighborhoods in Arab Cities – The Case Study of “Al-Kharba” Tunis, Tunis

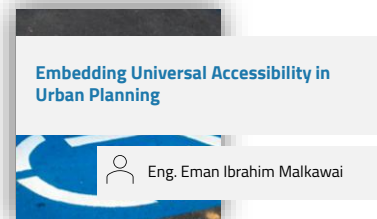
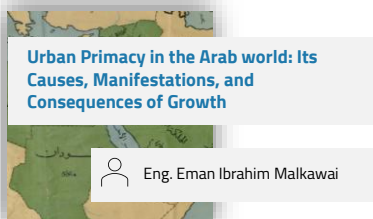
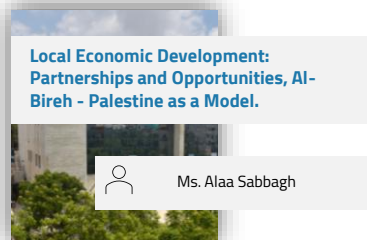
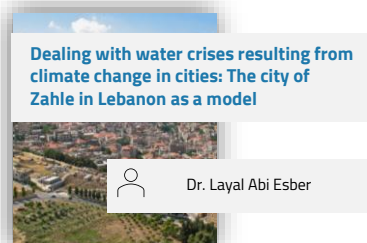
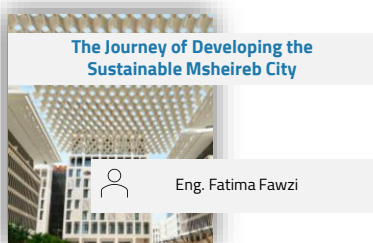
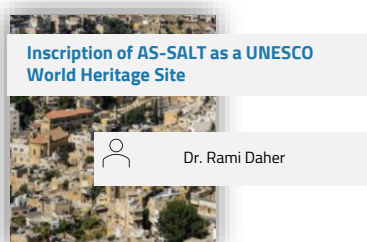
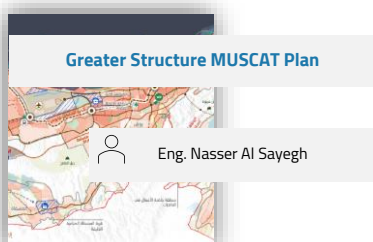
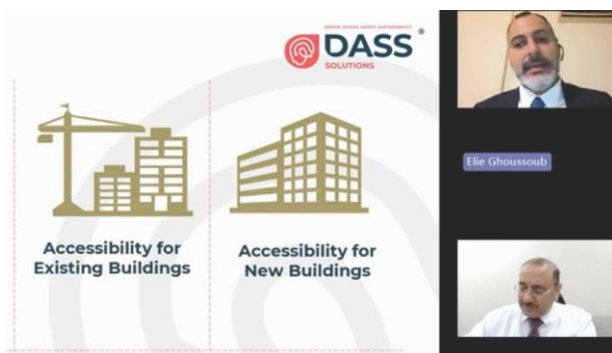
This report explores the participatory greening project in Al-Kharba, Tunis, highlighting how residents, authorities, and community groups collaborated to create sustainable green spaces. It discusses challenges, innovative solutions, and the positive impact on the environment and social cohesion, serving as a model for similar initiatives in Arab cities.





Webinar: Cities In Action

The 'Cities in Action' webinar is a series of monthly meetings hosted by AUDI with the aim of enriching dialogue, knowledge and exchanging experiences between specialists in the field of urban and municipal development. The meeting is moderated by an industry expert and focuses on a presentation of a project in an arab city.





02

Capacity Development & Training

02 Capacity Development & Training

This program provides municipalities – and anyone else interested in urban development in the Arab region – different levels of training and technical support through varied training formats and methodologies. While some of these activities could be externalized to specialized partners, others, such as the Training Center, require significant effort on AUDI’s part, including the involvement of AUDI fellows.

Executive training program



This advanced training program, designed to lead to a diploma in urban development policies and management, is tailored specifically to the Arab region's context and will be developed and delivered by a globally recognized academic institution. AUDI will primarily serve as a facilitator, helping to ensure access and coordination. Through this high-quality program, promising young urban scholars in the Arab region can gain expertise that may enable them to make a transformative impact in their careers as urban specialists.

Training Program



The Training Programs aim to share knowledge and best practices in urban development with municipal and urban professionals. AUDI will create and customize training materials tailored to the Arab region's needs. Experienced AUDI trainers will deliver these sessions, either online or in person, to cities across the Arab world. Additionally, AUDI will collaborate with relevant organizations to provide accredited certifications for participants, ensuring the programs meet recognized standards.

Advisory & knowledge Sharing



This technical support initiative by AUDI is designed to assist municipalities by providing them with access to specialized expertise. Cities interested in improving their urban development practices can engage AUDI’s roster of experts through formal agreements. Under these agreements, AUDI’s experts act as technical advisors, offering guidance on a variety of urban projects and issues. This support includes developing project concepts, reviewing documents created by the cities or their consultants, and auditing services to ensure quality and compliance with best practices. This targeted support helps municipalities strengthen their project outcomes, improve service quality, and advance urban development goals more effectively.

EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM

International Program In Innovation & Urban Management

International programs empower municipal professionals with cutting-edge knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving landscape of Urban Development. EPIUM emphasizes digital transformation, data driven decision making, and the integration of AI to address the needs of urban planners.

In collaboration with

Berkeley City & Regional
Planning

SALAR International 

EPIUM offers a comprehensive curriculum that combines theoretical instruction with practical experience. The program is divided into two phases:



BERKELEY, California

Phase 01: The Avant-Garde (Global Urban Innovation) This 2-week training workshop, focus solely on theoretical knowledge that dive into the advanced urban solutions that will shape cities beyond 2030, took place at the UC Berkeley Campus, August 2024

STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Phase 02: The Mastery (Global Municipal Visits), October 2024, this phase provided participants with practical experience through a two-week study tour in Stockholm, Sweden. Participants delved into the methodologies of municipal management, explore the workings of Stockholm's municipal departments, and engage with city officials to discuss urban challenges, applications, and successful urban solutions.





TRAINING PROGRAM

- TRAINING MANUALS

AUDI offers a range of specialized training manuals through a network of experts in urban development and management. These manuals focus on institutional development and capacity building to enhance competencies and support leadership development. They are available in both Arabic and English.



- TRAINING PROGRAMS

The training programs aim to develop the skills in municipalities, enhance the innovation in solving problems by using the new trends and technologies. AUDI provides more than 30 specialized workshops featuring: experts specialized in municipal work, professional training content enhanced with applications from the municipal sector, and certificates accredited locally and internationally.

+500

Professionals
Trained

+20

Participating
Cities

+13

Participating
Countries

10

Partnerships





+30 Training courses specializing in municipal development.
More than 150 experts involved in training programs.

These programs aim to empower municipal practitioners with specialized skills and knowledge to drive effective urban development.

01 Urban Planning & Design
Principles and techniques of effective urban planning and design, to create sustainable and livable cities.

03 Preservation of Urban Heritage
Providing skills in heritage management, urban renewal, and integrating preservation into modern urban planning.

05 Road Planning & Management
Essentials of road network planning, maintenance, and safety management to improve urban mobility and infrastructure quality.

07 Digital Transformation
Strategies for adopting digital tools and improving digital governance to increase efficiency and public service quality.

02 Municipal Leadership Development
Focusing on strategic planning, decision-making, & governance to improve municipal performance.

04 Municipal Projects Management
Equipping municipalities with tools for effective project management, including planning, budgeting, and implementing urban projects.

06 Institutional Development in Municipality
Empowering municipal institutions through improving operational & organizational development.

ADVISORY & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

• Leader's (Mayor) Coaching

A specialized remote training program was delivered by a renowned international expert in municipal governance with extensive global experience. The program comprised five focused sessions, each dedicated to a key area of municipal leadership and performance improvement. Designed to strengthen executive capabilities, the training fostered the exchange of international best practices and supported the adoption of innovative approaches in municipal management, aligned with global trends and local strategic priorities.

-  Institutional Performance Improvement (Performance Evaluation and Human Resource Development)
-  Fostering Collaborative Partnerships between the Municipality, Local Community, and Stakeholders
-  Driving Investments through Asset Partnerships and Service Privatization
-  Municipality's Presence Locally, Regionally, and Globally in International Organizations and Events
-  Municipal Work Development Strategy

• Benchmarking

The benchmarking studies aim to support municipalities in enhancing the planning and implementation of their projects by learning from global best practices. These studies help identify successful approaches from around the world and analyze how they can be adapted to the local context.

Each study includes a comparative review between the municipal project and similar international projects, based on a project description provided by the municipality. The analysis highlights strengths, advantages, and areas for improvement.

The final report features:

- A presentation of relevant international projects and best practices.
- A comparative analysis outlining key similarities and differences.
- Identification of key success factors based on lessons from international experience.

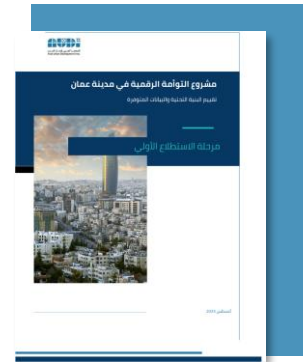


- **Specialized Consultancy**

By mobilizing world-class expertise, AUDI empowers Arab cities to lead with innovation, translate global know-how into local impact and set new benchmarks in urban excellence.

Urban Digital Twin Readiness

To support a partner city's journey toward a city-wide urban digital twin, AUDI conducted an inception visit in July 2025. The visit was led by AUDI international digital transformation expert and focused on understanding the city's existing digital infrastructure, data availability, and institutional readiness. This collaborative effort engaged the municipality senior leadership and technical teams for key departments including urban planning, IT, GIS, Smart cities and Urban Observatory. It allowed the city to gain valuable insights from global best practices, while the AUDI team gathered firsthand information crucial for developing a customized roadmap moving forward.



- **AUDI-Bloomberg Philanthropies :Global Mayors Challenge in Arab Cities**

Bloomberg Philanthropies drives impact in arts, education, environment, **government innovation**, and public health, reaching over 700 cities across 150 countries. Its flagship initiative, the **Global Mayors Challenge**, awards \$25 million to cities innovating in areas such as transportation, housing, and emergency response.



In partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, AUDI hosted a November 2024 webinar for 35+ Arab cities, providing advisory support and guidance through the application process. This collaboration helped **4 Arab cities** rank among the top 50 globally in the Mayors' Challenge 2025, highlighting their innovative potential and advancing sustainable urban development with support from the Arab Institute for Urban Development.

Bloomberg Philanthropies | MAYORS CHALLENGE





03

Networking

03 Networking

The program aims to promote collaboration among Arab cities by establishing partnerships between municipalities and various stakeholders at both regional and international levels. Networking opportunities are facilitated through direct interactions, events, and collaborative learning experiences. Certain activities will adopt a project-based model, supported by grant funding and dedicated teams responsible for implementation. Furthermore, AUDI associates in different countries play a crucial role in ensuring ongoing engagement and participation of municipalities in these initiatives, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among urban leaders in the Arab region.

Arab-European Cities Dialogue



This annual event convenes mayors and practitioners from the Arab and European regions to share their experiences and develop partnerships to address issues of common interest. AUDI organizes it in partnership with relevant European organizations interested in municipal and urban development, and the location alternates between Arab and European cities.

Global Presence



AUDI's global presence is characterized by its extensive network of partnerships and active participation in international forums and initiatives. Through these collaborations, AUDI contributes to advancing urban development practices and policies in the Arab world and beyond.

ARAB-EUROPEAN CITIES DIALOGUE (AECD)

A pioneering inter-regional initiative that promotes collaboration and exchange between mayors, city leaders, and representatives from Arab and European cities, in partnership with international and financial institutions. The initiative aims to strengthen Arab-European relations by harnessing the power of urban diplomacy and strategic partnerships to advance resilient and sustainable urban development.



CONNECT

+120 Mayors of major cities from Arab and European regions

EXCHANGE

+50 Specialized organizations, innovative urban policies, and practices

DISCOVER

+20 Large-scale projects in Riyadh, a city in transformation

ENGAGE

+25 To capture investment and development opportunities for cities





Global Presence

A strong global presence by actively connecting Arab cities to international urban networks and initiatives. Through its participation in major international platforms including the World Urban Forum, the Smart City Expo World Congress, and the Arab-European Cities Dialogue Forum AUDI reinforces its role as a bridge between the Arab region and global best practices, ensuring that Arab municipalities are effectively represented in shaping the future of livable, resilient, and innovative cities worldwide.



أبرز مآثره الحضر العام للمعهد
الدكتور أسن القهري

خلال مشاركته كممثل رئيسي في المجلس العالمي للمدن في
مدينة أكسبو دبي تحت عنوان "مهمه خضره المدن المستقبل"

"أربعة تحديات رئيسية تواجه تنمية المدن العربية وهي: التحضر السريع والموارد المائية، والصحي، والبيئي، ومحدودية الفرص الاقتصادية المتاحة. وتحتل عام 2030 مساحات 13 مدينة عربية إضافية لتصل عدد مليونية. كما تعاني المدن العربية من التدهور واستهلاك المياه 184 جاليتاً من المياه المتاحة للفرد، ويتوقع أن يتضاعف بحلول عام 2030 من 700 لتر في العام بمتوسط في المنطقة العربية كل هذه التحديات تشكل تحدياً خطيراً على البنية التحتية، فضلاً عن تقديم الخدمات البلدية والتي هي تؤثر سلباً على جودة الحياة".

"نظراً لحاجة المناطق الاقتصادية والحضرية الناجمة عن التفاعل بين المدن، أبحاث الكثير من المدن العالمية التي تركز على تخطيط المدن وتكاملها مع المدن، على وجه التحديد في المدن العربية، التي تعاني من محدودية الفرص الاقتصادية المتاحة، وتحتل عام 2030 مساحات 13 مدينة عربية إضافية لتصل عدد مليونية. كما تعاني المدن العربية من التدهور واستهلاك المياه 184 جاليتاً من المياه المتاحة للفرد، ويتوقع أن يتضاعف بحلول عام 2030 من 700 لتر في العام بمتوسط في المنطقة العربية كل هذه التحديات تشكل تحدياً خطيراً على البنية التحتية، فضلاً عن تقديم الخدمات البلدية والتي هي تؤثر سلباً على جودة الحياة".

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International Presence

AUDI PARTICIPATES IN THE 9TH EDITION OF CASABLANCA SMART CITY CONFERENCE

The Arab Urban Development Institute participated in the ninth edition of Casablanca Smart City Conference, reinforcing its regional presence and commitment to driving digital transformation and smartening smart, inclusive government across Arab cities.

In the panel discussion titled "Towards Participatory and Connected Governance", Dr. Hassan Hajar, Director of Capacity Development and Training at AUDI, highlighted key findings from the Institute's recent Urban Policy Report series, "Innovative and Digital Transformation in Arab Cities: An Institutional Development Perspective".

The discussion focused on the rapid changes shaping digital governance in Arab cities, underscoring the critical need for municipal institutions to be prepared and to develop citizen-centered digital platforms, to also highlight the importance of

digital platforms that foster participatory urban governance.

Dr. Hajar emphasized that digital transformation has bridged the gap between highly advanced cities and those in earlier stages, it also connects local government and the private sector. This study calls for reforming digital urban policies that bridge social and technological divides, ensuring the segment of society is left behind in the path toward sustainable development.

The session featured several reports from various cities and international institutions, including representatives from Casablanca, Rabat, Paris, India, and Luxembourg. Their participation created a dynamic platform for sharing experiences and exploring innovative digital solutions in urban governance.



International Presence

ARAB URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE DELEGATION STRENGTHENS REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE UAE

A delegation from the Arab Urban Development Institute visited the United Arab Emirates, where it participated in the Arab Urban Development Summit and conducted a number of meetings and workshops to enhance the Institute's international presence.

Currently, city-to-city cooperation is becoming one of the most dynamic engines for sustainable urban transformation across both Arab and European cities. However, given the many challenges facing cities, a number of critical issues top the list, particularly those related to demographic pressures, climate change, resource management, and complex transportation requirements. Responding to demographic changes now places additional pressure on critical infrastructure.

It is evident today that many indicators support the notion that human activities contribute to the acceleration of these challenges and the extent of their tangible impact on various aspects of humankind, even becoming apparent in our immediate and in our residential neighborhoods. These global challenges are accelerating to include issues related to local contexts, such as mounting traffic congestion, increasing risks from climate change and environmental pollution, the rising demand for housing, social and economic pressures, and other critical issues. To address these challenges, cities are implementing more corrective measures than ever before, as intercity cooperation is no longer a luxury but a necessity.

In summary, a deep and well-structured cooperation is precisely what is needed, especially for complex topics such as climate and sustainability, digital transformation, and municipal finance. Such initiatives can serve as building blocks for city-to-city cooperation, where we work hand in hand to pool knowledge, set shared goals, and tackle common urban challenges together.



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AECD, Riyadh, 2025



○ World Urban Forum 2024 (WUF12)

At the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) held in Cairo in November 2024, the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) reaffirmed its leadership in advancing sustainable and inclusive urban development in the Arab region. Through high-level sessions, strategic partnerships, and an engaging exhibition booth that drew over 1,500 visitors, AUDI showcased its flagship initiatives—from visionary planning and resilient city design to innovative financing and capacity-building. The Institute's presence underscored its pivotal role in shaping the future of Arab cities and strengthening urban governance across the region.

+1,500

Visitors

6

Partner-led events

3

MOUs Signing





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