

PRESS RELEASE.

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RESULTS TRANSFORMATIVE CITIES PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD IN THE AREAS OF WATER, ENERGY AND HOUSING

The Transformative Cities initiative, promoted by the progressive think-tank Transnational Institute, based in Amsterdam, announced the results of an international popular vote to determine the most inspiring transformative initiatives at the local level in the areas of water, energy and housing, last Friday, the 8th of June.

TNI director Fiona Dove "Transformative Cities is an opportunity for progressive local governments, municipalist coalitions, social movements and civil society organisations to popularize and share their experiences of tackling and finding solutions to our planet's systemic economic, social, political and ecological crises."

Researcher of the Transnational Institute Sol Trumbo: "Our goal with the award is not to put one experience over others (there is no prize for the one with the most votes) but to involve the public and expand these ideas and practices. We understand this initiative as an exercise of *Coopetition*. We want to give visibility and facilitate cooperation and exchange between transformative practices, but including an element of competition to attract public interest and interaction."

After publishing an *Atlas of Utopias* with 32 stories from 19 countries, the initiative presented nine stories written by local journalists and opened an open online vote for weeks that ended on the June 5.

NINE FINALIST STORIES

WATER

- "Community-led response to water pollution crisis." Developed by Fundación Abril/Platform for public community partnerships (Cochabamba, Bolivia)
- "Challenging and proposing alternatives to privatisation." Developed by Environmental Rights Action (ERA)/Friends of the Earth Nigeria. (Lagos, Nigeria)
- "Citizen participation and solidarity tariffs in a remunicipalized water utility." Developed by Grenoble Une Ville pour Tous. (Grenoble, France)

ENERGY

- "Transforming an oil company town into a progressive hub." Developed by the Richmond Progressive Alliance (Richmond, United States)
- "Energy transition built on democracy, renewables and jobs." Developed by the Roundtable on the Energy Transition in Cádiz (Cádiz, Spanish State)
- "Supporting farmers with clean energy." Developed by People's Cooperative Renewable Energy Society Ltd. (Port Louis, Mauritius)

HOUSING

- "Citizens' movement-organisation wins the city." Developed by Barcelona en Comú (Barcelona, Spanish State)

- “Women workers association builds tens of thousands of homes.” Developed by Centre of Indian Trade Unions (Solapur, India)
- “Dispossessed community finances and builds affordable homes.” Developed by Centre for Community Initiatives. (Dar Es-Salaam, Tanzania)

AWARDED INITIATIVES

On Friday June 8 the initiatives recognised by the public as the most inspiring were announced during a public event organised by TNI in Amsterdam, attended by more than 250 people. Among the participants were Saskia Sassen, the internationally recognised sociology professor at Columbia University, and recently-elected Deputy Mayor Rutger Groot Wassink, who leads the inclusion of Amsterdam in the network of *Fearless Cities* initiated in Barcelona in June 2017.

The experiences recognized by the public as the most inspiring have been those developed by the Fundación Abril/Platform for public community partnerships in Cochabamaba (Bolivia) in the area of Water, the Roundtable on the Energy Transition in Cádiz (Spanish State) on Energy, and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions in Solapur (India) on Housing.

Following this public recognition of the inspiring and transformative character of these initiatives, TNI hopes to continue to support them by giving them more visibility and by facilitating processes of exchange and collective learning.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Website Transformative Cities initiative: <http://transformativecities.org>

Explanatory video of the award (2 minutes): <https://youtu.be/qmY4CnXtt50>

Stories of the nine finalists: <http://transformativecities.org/2018award/>

Atlas of Utopias: <http://transformativecities.org/es/atlas-de-utopias/>

Website Transnational Institute: <https://www.tni.org/en>

#TransformativeCities

CONTACT

To receive more information / interviews:

Denis Burke +31 622123908 English