



**"Localization of SDGs and decentralized cooperation with Covid19"**

June 3, 2020, 3.30 pm

Zoom meeting

**DRAFT**

**General consideration**

The health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has required all cities in the world to activate short-term containment measures, but at the same time to prepare medium and long-term territorial policies. While in the short term the priorities have focused on emergency management, in the medium term the priorities should be geared towards managing an economic, social and public finance crisis.

If the pandemic in the world was tackled differently by national governments, at the local level, the mayors had to face an unpredictable situation that asked them to respond to citizens and adopt new territorial strategies. "The covid-19 pandemic is testing the limits of societies and economies around the world and African countries are at risk of being hit particularly hard," said Hafez Ghanem, vice president of the World Bank for Africa.

Up to five months ago local administrators were pursuing policies in line with the SDGs of the UN 2030 agenda, but now actions such as separate waste collection or the use of public transport to decrease CO2 pollution have been abandoned during Covid19 and they will have to be rethought in light of the new sanitizing and spacing needs. If the 2030 Agenda is to remain our point of reference, urban issues such as public health, mobility, the right to study, inclusion, the circular economy and sustainable growth must be rethought quickly so that the SDGs do not remain unattainable objectives. This is possible only if we share experiences and contributions with the help of local administrators and their associations. With this meeting we want to move our gaze to the policies that must be shared between local administrators to build a better world based on cooperation between the cities and regions of the world.



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The associations of local authorities must stimulate exchanges between administrators around the world, aiming for new models of sustainable development: the strategies that had been undertaken at local level to implement the SDGs must now be rethought in accordance with the health provisions and the need for distancing imposed by the pandemic and with an attention to what happens in the rest of the world. Father Kizito Sesana, a Comboni missionary who lives in Nairobi, Kenya, said: "This pandemic shows us and reminds us how we are all on the same boat, but some have oars and some do not; some have the means to deal with the storm and get out of the crisis, others are more vulnerable. "

In Italy, in terms of cooperation, as an Association of local governments we have a duty to take action so that the current legislation in terms of cooperation with developing countries is rethought so that local governments can be identified as subjects of cooperation and not as simple partners. The contribution of cities in cooperation has become even more evident in this pandemic period where the required collaboration between Mayors came from the local administrators of the world themselves, but also from citizens. Looking ahead, in order to be able to face future challenges, this cooperation becomes more stringent.

At European level, it is important to start building new cooperation actions at local level immediately and to reclaim the need to participate in the definition of the next programming of European funds to guarantee local authorities the possibility to invest in decentralised cooperation activities.

The learning session will be organized into **four focuses**:

1. the role of cities, networks and associations of local authorities during Covid19;
2. the response of the mayors to the pandemic: the different experiences and approaches through the emergency to build resilient territories;
3. what strategic changes in local policies we should implement quickly in order not to lose the goal of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
4. tools that will be made available to local authorities and the future of decentralised cooperation.

#### **Guiding questions**

How has international action by local governments, in particular decentralized cooperation, contributed to managing the crisis? What lessons have been learned? Are learning communities like #BeyondTheOutBreak useful?

What challenges have mayors faced in the world? What role have local authorities played in fighting pandemic and what form of dialogue have they had with central governments?

How important are exchange relationships in a difficult time as the one we are going through?

The 2030 Agenda remains our reference, the beacon to change our lifestyle, to give a future to next generations?

What lessons, challenges and changes does the pandemic leave for cities? Is the time to innovate and work towards a transition to a sustainable and resilient society from a social, economic and environmental point of view?

What tools will be put in place to get out of the emergency? How do the European institutions want to support local authorities not to leave a virtuous path that has just started? Will local authorities play a key role in cooperation 2021-2027 programs?



<b>Agenda</b>
<p>Welcome greetings Carla Rey, AICCRE Secretary General Stefano Bonaccini, AICCRE President, CEMR President</p>
<p>Session 1. <b>The role of cities, networks and associations of local authorities during Covid19</b> Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General Frédéric Vallier, CEMR Secretary General Pilar Diaz, Government of the Province of Barcelona, Observatory for Decentralised Cooperation</p>
<p>Session 2. <b>Mayors' response to the pandemic: the different experiences and approaches to the emergency to build resilient territories</b> Introduce: Massimo Seri, Mayor of Fano, Italy Pietro Puccio, Mayor of Capaci, Italy Andreas Wolter, Mayor of Cologne, Germany Annalisa Palozzo, Vice Mayor of Cepagatti, Italy UCLG Africa, Representative (tbc)</p>
<p>Session 3. <b>What strategic changes in local policies must be implemented quickly in order not to lose the goal of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs</b> Introduce: Ilaria Bugetti, Councilor of Toscana Region, Italy Belinda Gottardi, Mayor of Castel Maggiore, Italy Silvia Baraldi, Councillor of Legnago, Italy Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco Claudia Lopez, Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia (tbc)</p>
<p>Session 4. <b>Tools that must be made available to local authorities and the future of decentralized cooperation</b> Introduce: Amandine Sabourin, Platforma Policy Officer Anna Lixi, DG DEVCO Diana Lopez Camarazana, Partnership Specialist, Urbanization, UNDP</p>

Platforma and Connection Details:

The webinar will take place via Zoom. Please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86351039765>