

# 4th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

29-30 June, 2021



European Committee  
of the Regions

## 4th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs

### Agenda

**Tuesday, 29 June 2021 | 12h00-14h00 (CET)**

**Wednesday, 30 June 2021 | 12h00-15h00 (CET)**

The Roundtable will bring together key stakeholders from cities, regions, national governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropy and international organisations to:

- **Present** the preliminary findings of the OECD-CoR Survey on the *SDGs as a framework for COVID-19 recovery in cities and regions* and related good practices;
- **Launch** three new OECD pilot reports on *A Territorial Approach to the SDGs*, and chart the way forward to implement the recommendations on the ground;
- **Shape** High-level Principles on city-to-city partnerships to localise the SDGs as a contribution to the Italian G20 Presidency; and
- **Discuss** the role of higher education institutions to support cities and regions in achieving the SDGs

29 June 2021 : 12.00 – 14.00 CET

## The SDGs as a Framework for COVID-19 recovery in Cities and Regions

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The pandemic has set back parts of the progress made on the 2030 Agenda but also illustrated how local and regional governments have been on the frontline, taking powerful political decisions in exceptional circumstances to enhance the well-being of residents in cities, regions and rural areas. The SDGs offer a clear and stable framework to guide local and regional governments in shaping a transformative recovery from COVID-19.

- This session will launch three new OECD reports on *A Territorial Approach to the SDGs* in Kitakyushu (Japan), Córdoba (Argentina) and Paraná (Brazil) and highlight how these cities and regions plan to use the OECD tailored recommendations to recover from the pandemic in the medium and long term.
  - The session will also present and discuss the preliminary findings of the **OECD-CoR Survey on the SDGs as a framework for COVID-19 recovery in cities and regions** and related good practices.
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### 12:00 – 12:20 Opening Remarks and Launch of the OECD reports

- **Thomas Wobben**, Director for Legislative Works, European Committee of the Regions
  - **Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
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### 12:20 – 12:30 Video testimonies from pilot cities & regions (10 min)

- **Kenji Kitahashi**, Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan
  - **Silvina Rivero**, Minister of Coordination, Province of Córdoba, Argentina
  - **Keli Guimarães**, Vice-president of the State Council for Economic and Social Development, Paraná, Brazil
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### 12:30 – 12:40 Virtual Break & Interactive Poll with participants

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### 12:40 – 13:00 The SDGs for long-term COVID-19 recovery strategies in cities and regions – Keynote

- **Paola Deda**, Director of Forest, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (10 min)
- **Q&A (10 min)**

### 13:00 – 13:10 EU implementation of the SDGs : preliminary findings of the OECD-CoR Survey (10 min)

- **Ricardo Rio**, Mayor of Braga, Portugal, Rapporteur on SDGs, CoR

### 13:10 – 13:40 Panel discussion (30 min)

- **Antoine Neumann**, Counsellor, Delegate for Agriculture and Food Policy, City of Strasbourg, France
- **Åsa Bjering**, Project Manager, International Relations, City of Helsingborg, Sweden
- **Kirsten Korte**, Managing Director, Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region, Germany
- **Anna Lisa Boni**, Secretary General, Eurocities

*Moderated by Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, OECD*

13:40 – 13:55 **Group discussion (15 min)**

13:55 – 14:00 **Conclusion of Day 1 (5 min)**

- **Stefano Marta**, Coordinator, A Territorial Approach to the SDGs, OECD
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**30 June: 12.00 – 13.30 CET**

### **City-to-city partnerships to achieve the SDGs**

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City-to-city partnerships are gaining traction as a mechanism to achieve the SDGs with, in particular, the dedicated goals on “Partnerships and enablers for SDGs” (SDG 17) and on “Sustainable cities and communities” (SDG 11). The G20 Development Working Group, supported by the OECD secretariat, is developing High-level Principles for city-to-city partnerships and a compendium of good policy practices with inspiring examples to promote the localisation of the SDGs through partnerships between cities, notably intermediary cities.

- The session will discuss how city-to-city partnerships can contribute to the localisation of the SDGs and seek participants’ comments on the draft High-level Principles on city-to-city partnerships produced by the OECD for the Italian G20 presidency.
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12:00 – 12:20 **G20 High-level Principles on city-to-city partnerships - Keynote**

- **Francesco Rampa**, Prime Minister's Office, Italian Presidency (10 min)
- **Q&A** (10 min)

12:20 – 13:00 **Panel Discussion (40 min)**

- **Christine Moro**, Ambassador and Head of Delegation for External Action of Local Authorities, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- **Nicole A. Hofmann**, Senior Policy Officer, Federal States and Local Authorities Division, BMZ, Germany
- **Imme Scholz**, Co-Chair, Independent Group of Scientists for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report
- **Marlene Holzner**, Head of Unit, Civil Society and Local Authorities, DG INTPA, European Commission
- **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN Habitat

13:00 – 13:20 **Group discussion (20 min)**

*Moderated by Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, OECD*

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13:20 – 13:30 **Virtual Break & Interactive Poll with participants**

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**30 June: 13.30 – 14.50 CET**

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**The role of universities to support cities and regions to achieve the SDGs**

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Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) hold a direct role in the achievement of the SDGs. In fact, as they often bear the responsibility of promoting sustainability and inclusion, in many cases HEIs have been early adopters of the SDGs, which have inspired their strategic documents and initiatives. Universities are increasingly playing a key role for the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews of targeted cities across the globe through providing data, evidence and analytical support to city governments.

- The session will explore the role of HEIs to support cities and regions to achieve the SDGs through a territorial approach.

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**13:30 – 13:50 The key role of universities for the localisation of the SDGs - Keynote**

- **María Cortes-Puch**, Vice-President, Network Program, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) (10 min)
- **Q&A** (10 min)

**13:50 – 14:30 Panel discussion (40 min)**

- **Johan Blaus**, Senior Advisor, KTH Stockholm, Sweden
- **Denis Gauvreau**, Director of Innovation and Business Management, Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada
- **Sean Fox**, Senior Lecturer, University of Bristol, UK and **Allan Macleod**, Sustainable Development Goals Coordinator, City of Bristol, UK
- **Erin Bromaghim**, Director of Olympic and Paralympic Development and Hilton Fellow on the SDGs, City of Los Angeles, US

**14:30 – 14:50 Group discussion (20 min)**

*Moderated by Raffaele Trapasso, Coordinator, The Geography of Higher Education, OECD*

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**14:50 – 15:00 Conclusion of the Roundtable and next steps (10 min)**