

6th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

20 April 2023



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Draft Agenda

Thursday 20 April 2023 | 09:30 – 17:15 (CEST) | Hybrid event

European Committee of the Regions (CoR) HQs, Brussels

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

- **Launch** three OECD reports on i) *Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation in Germany*; ii) *Decentralised Development Co-operation: A Global Policy Toolkit and Guidance for Practitioners*; and iii) *City-to-city partnerships to localise the Sustainable Development Goals*
- **Analyse** the progress on SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities as a contribution to the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
- **Present** the preliminary results of an OECD-Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)–European Committee of the Regions (CoR) survey on “The role of cities and regions for the SDGs in an uncertain geopolitical context”
- **Discuss** the role of cities in promoting sustainable food systems and addressing the food crisis generated by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.

Session I: 09:30 – 11:30 CEST

Decentralised development co-operation and city-to-city partnerships: what works?

Room: JDE52

City-to-city partnerships and decentralised development co-operation (DDC) can play a key role in advancing the SDGs as well as in addressing global megatrends, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks. For example, cities and regions can support each other in addressing multiple crises, rebuilding urban infrastructure and strengthening resilience. The adoption of the G20 Rome High-Level Principles on city-to-city partnerships for localising the SDGs in 2021 has emphasised the importance of DDC for the 2030 Agenda. Moving forward, it is critical to share guidance and examples on effective implementation modalities of DDC and to develop monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the impact of DDC on development outcomes.

This session will:

- Launch three OECD reports on i) *Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation in Germany*; ii) *Decentralised Development Co-operation: A Global Policy Toolkit and Guidance for Practitioners*; and iii) *City-to-city partnerships to localise the Sustainable Development Goals*
- Discuss innovative examples of implementation modalities of DDC, including examples from the Global Policy Toolkit as well as monitoring and evaluation frameworks to strengthen the role of DDC and city-to-city partnerships

Moderator: **Aziza Akhmouch**, Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

09:30 – 10:00 Opening and highlights from three new OECD reports

- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Helsinki Region, Finland, Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Lamia Kamal-Chaoui**, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD
- **Pilar Garrido**, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
- **Jochen Steinhilber**, Director-General for Displacement, Crisis prevention and Civil society, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- **Erica Gerretsen**, Director DG INTPA, European Commission

10:00 – 10:30 Panel discussion with spotlight on key DDC actors

- **Markus Delfs**, Regional Director Germany-North, GIZ
- **Melanie Habelitz-Wollgam**, Head of Unit; International relations, Development Cooperation, Africa and Middle East; Bavarian State Chancellery, Germany

- **Verena Schwarte**, Dept. of International Affairs and Global Sustainability, City of Bonn, Germany
- **Maria Pilar Moreno Fernandez**, Head of Decentralised Development Cooperation and Education, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain
- **Fabrizio Rossi**, Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- **Neila Akrimi**, Director of Strategies and Development, VNG International and Chair of the UCLG Capacity and Institution Building Working Group

10:30 – 11:00 **Open discussion**

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

Session II: 11:30 – 13:00 CEST

A renewed role for cities and regions to drive the SDGs through troubled waters

Room: JDE52

The consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine since 2022 continue to fuel an alarming humanitarian and refugee crisis, while generating indirect effects on key policy areas such as the cost of living, energy and food. As it was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic, the SDGs can offer a powerful framework to help cities and regions navigate an uncertain global outlook.

This session will:

- Present the preliminary results of an OECD-SDSN-CoR survey on "The role of cities and regions for the SDGs in an uncertain geopolitical context"
- Share how different stakeholders are using the SDGs through troubled times

*Moderator: **Stefano Marta**, Coordinator, A Territorial Approach to the SDGs, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD*

11:30 – 11:50 **Presentation of the preliminary results of the OECD-SDSN-CoR survey**

- **Lorenz Gross**, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD, **Eamon Drumm**, Senior Program Officer, SDSN and **Audrey Parizel**, Policy Officer, CoR

11:50 – 12:20 **Panel discussion on the results of the survey**

- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Helsinki Region, Finland, Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Asier Aranbarri Urzelai**, Director, General Secretariat for Social Transition and 2030 Agenda, Basque Country, Spain
- **Junko Ota**, Policy Researcher, City of Kitakyushu, Japan

12:20 – 13:00 **Open discussion**

Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:30 CEST

Room: Atrium 5

Session III: 14:30 – 15:45 CEST

Towards the review of SDG11

Room: JDE62

In July 2023, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will feature an in-depth review of the progress on SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, including in terms of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. However, in 2019-2021, the world made no progress on the SDGs. Cities and regions have an urgent role to play to put SDG11 back on track.

This session will:

- Take stock of the progress on SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities as a contribution to the 2023 HLPF
- Discuss how various institutions are contributing to the review of SDG11, to the 2023 HLPF and SDGs Summit

14:30 – 14:45 Taking stock of SDG 11 progress towards the HLPF

- **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN Habitat

14:45 – 15:15 Panel discussion on SDG11

- **Ricardo Rio**, Mayor of Braga, Portugal, Rapporteur on the SDGs, European Committee of the Regions
- **Laia Pinós Mataro**, Deputy Head of Unit, Secretariat General, European Commission (tbc)
- **Riina Jussila**, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA
- Speaker from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (tbc)
- **Marcos Díaz Ramirez**, Economist, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD

15:15 – 15:45 Open discussion

Session IV: 15:45 – 17:00 CEST

Cities for Sustainable Food Systems

Room: JDE62

Food – together with energy and the cost of living - is one of the main sectors affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The shortages and disruptions in food supply chains caused by the war have highlighted the importance of local food production and systems to complement global food chains. Cities have a crucial role to play in achieving sustainable food systems: as the world is increasingly urbanised, by 2050 an estimated 80% of all food will be consumed in cities. Food systems are also increasingly seen as a key driver of urban and regional development and livelihoods.

This session will:

- Discuss the role of cities in promoting sustainable food systems and addressing the food crisis generated by the war
- Identify synergies between food systems policies and SDG localisation strategies

15:45 – 16:00 **FAO perspective on cities for sustainable food systems**

- **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General, FAO

16:00 – 16:30 **Panel discussion**

- **Gabriel Ferrero**, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (tbc)
- **Anna Scavuzzo**, Deputy Mayor, City of Milan, Italy
- **Peter Defranceschi**, Global City Food Program Coordinator, Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI
- **Koen Deconinck**, Economist, Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (tbc)

16:30 – 17:00 **Open discussion**

17:00 – 17:15 **Conclusion of the Roundtable and next steps**

- **Aziza Akhmouch**, *Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE), OECD*
- **Markku Markkula**, President of the Helsinki Region, Finland, Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions

17:30 **Cocktail reception (Room: Atrium 6)**