

Post Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region

Validation Workshop

Date: 2 December 2020
Time: 09:00 – 12:00 CET
Platform: Zoom
Languages: English, Russian

Rationale

In the context of the drafting of the *Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region*, designed to respond effectively to the COVID-19 challenges and to increase urban resilience against future pandemic threats, UNECE and the Global Environmental Policy Programme at the University of Geneva organize this **Recovery Action Plan Validation Workshop**.

The objective of the validation workshop is to present and review the main policy areas of the Action Plan, share the underpinning data collected in four pilot cities, and collect feedback from leading experts, as well as local and national representatives.

The validation workshop addresses the following **three main areas**: “Built environment and Infrastructure”, “Access to Goods and Services” and “Engagement, Inclusivity and Justice”.

- The **first area** focuses on provisions related to buildings and land planning; physical infrastructure and utilities; green spaces and recreation.
- The **second area** includes discussion on the provision of food and key services; basic consumption and distribution needs; as well as access to and use of data and information technology.
- The **third area** focuses on the involvement of local communities and neighborhoods, including land rights, tenure and justice in informal settlements, as on the impacts of stay-at-home recommendations on vulnerable groups.

Each of these areas will be introduced by **the lead authors** of the Plan. This will be followed by **feedback to be provided by a panel of experts in each area**. Experts come from the UNECE Nexus Team on Smart and Sustainable Cities for All Ages, Academia and Civil Society. Discussion will be informed by **data collected by the assessment teams** on the informal settlements of four pilot cities (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Podgorica, Montenegro; Skopje, North Macedonia; Tirana, Albania). Participants will be invited to provide their input and feedback during the discussion session of each panel.

Programme

Moderated by

Mr. Matteo Tarantino, Lecturer and Senior Research Associate, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva

Mr. Alexandre Hedjazi, Director, Global Environmental Policy Program, University of Geneva

9:00 Opening

Ms. Paola Deda, Director, Forests, Land and Housing Division, UNECE

9:10 Panel 1: Built environment and Infrastructure

Policy area:

- *Buildings, construction & land planning*
- *Physical infrastructure and utilities*
- *Green spaces and recreation*

Lead authors

Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, Professor of Cadastre and Land Management, National Technical University of Athens, Honorary FIG President and WPLA Vice-Chair

Mr. Steven Nystrom, NewStream Companies, former FIG Commission 9 Chair

Mr. Rik Wouters, Senior Program Advisor, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, former Vice-Chair of WPLA

Feedback from experts

Mr. Alexandre Hedjazi, Director, Global Environmental Policy Program, University of Geneva

Mr. Spiro Pollalis, Harvard University Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure

Ms. Virginia Fuse, Environmental Affairs Officer, Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), UNECE

Discussion / Q&A

9:55 Break

10:00 Panel 2: Access to Goods and Services

Policy area:

- *Services*
- *Food & basic consumption & distribution needs*
- *Basic data needs, telecommunication & information technology*

Lead authors

Mr. Steven Nystrom, NewStream Companies, FIG Commission 9 Chair 2015-2018

Ms. Chryssy Potsiou, Professor of Cadastre and Land Management, National Technical University of Athens, Honorary FIG President and WPLA Vice-Chair

Mr. Rik Wouters, Senior Program Advisor, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, former Vice-Chair of WPLA

Feedback from experts

Ms. Virginia Fuse, Environmental Affairs Officer, Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), UNECE

Mr. Pedro Neves, Business Advisory Board on PPPs at UNECE

Mr. Jean-Henry Morin, Associate professor at University of Geneva

Discussion / Q&A

10:45 Break

10:50 Panel 3: Inclusivity, Engagement and Justice

Policy area:

- *Land rights, tenure & justice in informal settlements*
- *Stay at home recommendations & vulnerable groups (e.g. migrants, Roma, women, youth, elderly)*
- *Involvement of local communities/local action*

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Mr. Rik Wouters, Senior Program Advisor, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, former Vice-Chair of WPLA

Feedback from experts

Ms. Kerstin Sommer, Slum Upgrading Unit Leader and Project Leader Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, UN-Habitat

Ms. Marlyne Sahakian, Assistant Professor, Geneva School of Social Science, University of Geneva

Mr. Joachim Monkelbaan, Representative for Sustainable and Just Economic Systems Quaker United Nations Office

Discussion / Q&A

11:35 Conclusions

12:00 Closing
