



**20 MAY 2021**  
12:00-13:30 (CEST)

## **HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE**

### **HEALTHY PEOPLE AND TERRITORIES LEADING OUR WELLBEING**

#### **Background and objectives of the Policy Dialogue**

The world is facing a crossroads: In order to protect all of our communities, and especially those that are most vulnerable, we need to overcome the inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the access to vaccination and to healthcare during a global crisis, in the difference in how the pandemic is affecting our communities through the inequities in access to basic services: to housing, to transportation, and even in who can access the open spaces in the city.

During the last year we have come to view health in our communities as never before. The pandemic is contributing to reshape what we understand as essential. We are very sharply being made aware that, to ensure healthy communities, a stronger connection is needed between health services and the city that we live in. To ensure healthy territories, we need to take to heart the lessons from the pandemic, working as a humanity that cares for its citizens, and ensuring that the inequalities that are more evident than ever do not become the only way forward.

At a moment in which the survival of both nature and humankind has been put at stake, redefining healthy cities is integral for the survival of our communities. The commitment of UCLG towards health in our territories covers equal access to healthcare, the delivery of basic services as a cornerstone of the health response, and a clean environment in our cities that enables us to weave healthy communities and territories. Our work with the World Health Organization over the past months has been geared to ensuring that local perspectives are considered in urban preparedness and that the only way to protect everyone is by involving all of us in the decisions.

UCLG is taking to heart the lesson that we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us. This is why we joined the Call for Vaccine Equity that the World Health Organization launched, and this is also why we launched a call for open vaccine patents: the world is showing us that no-one is safe unless we can provide healthy environments to all.

The policy dialogue on health of the UCLG 2021 Executive Bureau will highlight the essential efforts that local and regional governments have undertaken in protecting their communities in the COVID-19 pandemic and their perspectives going forward. The session aims at bringing together local and regional governments, representatives from the health community, and policymakers to discuss the future of health in cities, how the response to the pandemic shapes the future of health





## Care at the heart of local service provision for an inclusive recovery

systems in our territories, and how to involve communities in the decisions that will keep them safe, healthy, and engaged in their cities.

### Guiding questions

- How do you see cities and territories working to protect their citizens in the post-covid era?
- Healthcare in our cities and regions: How can we ensure it is delivered equally to all people? What role can local and regional governments play in the future?
- Democracy and healthy territories: What is the role that local democracy can play in protecting our territories?
- Health and the common goods: Considering healthcare is a priority for all, what role do public services play in its achievement?
- How can we plan our cities in the future to protect our people's physical and mental wellbeing?
- What do we need to protect going forward to ensure healthy territories beyond healthcare?

