



CONCEPT NOTE

Paving the way towards the Learning Forum
Wednesday 23 February 2022, 10:00-11:30 (CET)

Background

Live-long learning is critical for local and regional governments (LRGs) that have been exposed to unprecedented challenges due to the on-going crises and emergencies. At the same time, since the early days of the COVID pandemic, UCLG members expressed a common global agenda and other local practices being critical to undergo changes with a perspective of sustainability, resilience and shared future. The LRGs' networks, including UCLG regional sections and Metropolis, and several partners offered and promoted plenty of virtual meetings and exchanges to share insights, local practices and knowledge during this time.

In consequence, the UCLG learning strategy has adapted to those responses and opportunities by: (i) focusing on the methodologies on how to deliver knowledge effectively; (ii) enabling peer-to-peer learning initiatives among members and with partners; (iii) creating self-paced learning opportunities to build a thematically open curriculum for practitioners that considers how cities and local leaders learn best.

The UCLG learning strategy has been structured in three different blocks since the last UCLG Congress to multiply training offers, namely: *Localizing Global Agendas*, *Peer-to-peer Learning* and *Learning Forum*. These blocks continue, but are now fed and more connected to the experiences of the last years and include more angles of the network. Today, the learning strategy has expanded and is held by committees, working groups and UCLG regional sections. These initiatives nurture particularly the online platform #LearningWithUCLG.

Paving our way towards the UCLG Congress in Daejeon, we want to expand our horizons by building and enlarging the learning approaches based on local knowledge and experience, as well as strengthening the learning community.





21-25 FEB 2022
#UCLGMEETS



Objectives

In this context, UCLG Learning seeks to listen and to support the initiatives and activities our members have co-created connected to the following lines:

- Learning events to localize the global agendas and to amplify the Learning Modules scope
- Develop massive online courses through the platform #LearningWithUCLG
- Promote peer-to-peer learning to strengthen the communities around specific topics
- Identify, develop and apply methodologies to improve the functioning of the network and the effective use of outputs
- Foster practical learning to provide feedback to the international agenda and to development partners. This knowledge is critical for the advocacy on decentralized cooperation, and for learning for local government to be problem-based, practical, and adapted to local contexts.

Heading towards the UCLG Congress in Daejeon, the Retreat offers the opportunity for the Learning Forum to get stronger with more active UCLG practitioners, to:

- Measure the progress
- Enlarge the network with new membership through learning
- Sharing knowledge among members around their challenges and needs
- Activate learning within the members' work with their partners and projects
- Draw attention to what and how to do to strengthen the capacities of local governments at the local and global level
- Connect the Learning Forum with more partners and possibilities

Proposal and expectations for the session

As part of this strategy, the UCLG World Secretariat Learning Team invites network practitioners to share their ideas on a personal and thematic approach to learning. We would like to share and peer review the experiences of the:

1. Focal points around the Modules on localizing the Sendai Framework
2. Actors engaged in localizing and SDGs
3. Knowledge managers that undergo the adventure to lead a MOOC
4. Members enrolling, supporting or teaching online courses and enjoying a new and expanded community





21-25 FEB 2022
#UCLGMEETS



5. Hosts of peer-to-peer learning events that bring members together for active learning and cooperation
6. Town Hall stakeholders' members who will conduct field visits and will want to review and share local policies with the broader community
7. Advocate for a better consideration of peer learning in practice

Agenda

1. Welcome

- a) Overview of UCLG overall learning approach
Narrative and latest developments
- a) Interactive introduction: Who is who and who are you?
Group methodology with guiding question: *What do I do to support learning in municipalities?*

2. Peer review on learning process

Fishbowl methodology for a playful exchange between participants

- Localizing and MOOC development
- Peer-to-peer learning and methodologies

3. Way forward: Towards a useful and practical Learning Forum

- Activities of interest to have an active Forum
- Program and ways of working foreseen for 2022
- Suggestions for the UCLG Congress in Daejeon

