



CONCEPT NOTE

Local Economic Development for an Equitable Recovery

14 June 2022, 10 :00-11 :30 (CEST)

Hybrid session

Led by the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development, in cooperation with the UCLG Policy Council on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises

Development, unlike growth, is either inclusive, equitable and sustainable or it cannot be considered as such. It is essential to incorporate the principles of equality and sustainability at the basis of the implementation of Local Economic Development policies, which guide the incorporation of citizenship rights for all people, as well as fair access to resources and common goods.

Participation, transparency, co-responsibility, innovation, solidarity and respect for diversity are some of the keys to the development of local territories, especially at a time of recovery from the pandemic situation and a new unpredictable scenario of international conflicts, especially the situation in Ukraine.

The five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships), as well as the axes of the Pact for the Future (people, planet and government) require the implementation of policies and instruments that guarantee equality and access to the fundamental resources for the achievement of the social contract.

The need to achieve greater levels of equality and social welfare is not always met by the reality of the policies, processes and practices that are put in place at both local and national levels. According to the latest OXFAM report, "Inequality Kills", "the world's ten richest men have doubled their wealth, while the incomes of 99% of the world's population have reportedly deteriorated because of COVID-19. Growing economic, racial and gender inequalities, as well as inequality between countries, are fracturing our world. This situation is the result of economic policies that maximise economic profitability over other criteria, particularly affecting the most vulnerable people, girls, women, racialised people, among others. Hence the need to promote policies, especially at local and regional level, that reorient economic and productive models towards progressive systems and the strengthening of public services that guarantee equality.

This global dynamic has a clear impact on the local territories where people live. It is therefore necessary to design and implement equality policies aimed at eradicating these inequalities, which are a negative factor not only for people in vulnerable situations, but for society as a whole. Recognising and identifying inequalities and orienting policies, as a priority, working towards equality in access to and enjoyment of fundamental resources (food, health, energy, education, culture, work, full enjoyment of one's own identity, the right to social participation) is the basis of local policy. In this sense, it is essential to strengthen care systems, improving access and quality in the provision of public services, especially in contexts of crisis. The key idea is to reflect on how local political action corrects inequalities and, to what extent, its intervention is essential to build cohesive and sustainable societies.



Political will - in terms of influencing the construction of cohesive societies - and knowledge of the territory - with the involvement and participation of the actors who coexist in that space - makes it possible to address basic issues such as identifying the main barriers that perpetuate situations of inequality and prevent progress towards a cohesive society.

At the same time, it is necessary to identify the gender issues that underlie all the realities that overlap and coexist in a territory. This would allow us to bring to light those aspects that derive from the assignment of different roles to men and women, which undoubtedly impoverish the freedom and individual capacities of both men and women, thus diminishing the personal resources that they could contribute to their environment, and consequently to their territory.

In short, it is a question of investing in social capital, in human capital, to generate more cohesive, strong, and sustainable societies and territories, as it is people who weave and form the basis of the economy, employment and territorial growth.

Objective

The main objective of the session is to reflect on the fundamental keys to place at the heart of local economic development policies the principles that allow for a more resilient and equitable recovery, taking into account the needs and dynamics of local communities.

Guiding questions

- What are the benefits of placing equality and sustainability at the heart of Local Development policies? How could the application of the principle of equality in local policies be mainstreamed?
- What initiatives would you highlight in the process of reviving the local economy and strengthening care systems? And to what extent does the provision of basic public services play a role?

The session is organised by the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development, in collaboration with the UCLG Policy Council on safer, resilient and sustainable cities, able to cope with crises, together with FAMSI as an institution made up of local governments from Andalusia, which actively participates in advocacy strategies, technical support and cooperation with municipalities and international networks, promoting exchange and mutual learning.

Methodology

The methodology will consist of a double round of interventions by participants to address the following key issues:

1. Prioritising equitable recovery policies.



2. Initiatives and intervention measures

Each round of interventions will last a total of 30 minutes, before giving way to questions or reflections from the audience both in person and online. Finally, the key ideas shared during the panel will be presented.

The session will be interpreted into English, French, Spanish and Italian.

Please find [here](#) the link to access the session online.

Agenda

Opening remarks: (10:00-10:10)

Prioritization of equitable recovery policies (10:10-10:40)

Initiatives and intervention measures (10:40-11:10)

Open discussion: (with all panelists and questions/comments from the floor) (11:10-11:25)

Closing remarks: (11:25-11:30)

