

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

## Balkans Sub-regional Stakeholder Workshop

Date: 9 December 2020  
Time: 11AM – 2PM CET  
Platform: Zoom  
Language: English (with interpretation to/from Albanian, Macedonian, Montenegrin)

### Rationale

In the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UNECE is preparing a *Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region*. This Recovery Action Plan aims at providing cities with robust and efficient action measures to enhance the integration of informal settlements in the urban fabric while recovering from the crisis caused by the pandemic. The Plan is underpinned by assessment reports on informal settlements in the four project cities: Tirana, Albania; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Skopje, North Macedonia.

The **Balkans Sub-regional Stakeholder Workshop** focuses on three pilot cities in Albania, North Macedonia and Montenegro: Tirana, Skopje and Podgorica. The event is designed to:

- Raise awareness about the Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region and its key deliverables,
- Present key findings of the draft local assessment reports of the Balkan cities, and
- Discuss with representatives of local and national authorities and local stakeholders how to best implement the Plan's recommendations within their specific context.

After a general introduction to the Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region, the event is divided into three city-focused sessions. In each session, **data from the assessment report of each city** will be illustrated by a local consultant, followed by an **identification of priorities by local and/or national government representatives**. Finally, **local stakeholders are invited to discuss** with the assessment team, the experts and government representatives from their perspective.

Materials explaining the Recovery Action Plan's key measures in detail will be made available beforehand on UNECE's website.

*Draft 8 Dec 2020*

## 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

11:00 Opening (10')

**Ms. Gulnara Roll**, Secretary, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, UNECE

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

11:10 Introduction to the Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements (15')

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

### **Tirana, Albania**

11:25 Tirana Assessment Report – Key Findings and Recommendations (15')

**Mr. Edlir Vokopola**, Director of Planning and Development, Urban Research Institute

11:40 Comments to the draft Assessment Report and outline of the city priorities in relation informal settlements - Discussion / Q&A (20')

**Mr. Joni Baboci**, Advisor to the Mayor for Urban Planning, Tirana, Albania

*12:00 Break (5')*

### **Skopje, North Macedonia**

12:05 Skopje Assessment Report – Key Findings and Recommendations (15')

**Mr. Mirsat Esati**, UNECE local consultant

12:20 Comments to the draft Assessment Report and outline of the city priorities in relation informal settlements - Discussion / Q&A (20')

**Ms. Sofija Basmadzjeva**, Mayor's Support Department, City of Skopje

*12:40 Break (5')*

### **Podgorica, Montenegro**

12:45 Podgorica Assessment Report – Key Findings and Recommendations (15')

**Ms. Suzana Stijovic**, Country Representative, COSOV Development Cooperation

13:00 Comments to the draft Assessment Report and outline of priorities in relation informal settlements - Discussion / Q&A (20')

**Mr. Marko Čanović**, General Director at the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro

*13:20 Break (5')*

13:25 Feedback from Lead Authors of the Recovery Action Plan on Key Measures (15')

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

**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

13:40 Conclusions (15')

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

**Ms. Gulnara Roll**, Secretary, Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management, UNECE

14:00 Workshop closes

---