

Building Back Better in Informal Settlements as Step Towards more Sustainable Urbanization Thematic Workshop

Date: 15 December 2020
Time: 15:00 – 17:30 CET
Platform: Zoom
Languages: English, Russian

Rationale

Cities are at the forefront of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Economic, social, health, and mobility patterns have been severely impacted. Informal settlements are exposed to challenges such as limited access to water and sanitation, little or no waste management, overcrowded public transport, and lack of basic services. These issues in informal settlements have been exacerbated by the pandemic, as local economies have been severely affected, utilities are less affordable, and lockdown restrictions have limited access to services.

Recovery from the crisis involves rethinking how informal settlements can be included in a city's urban fabric. This means providing fair and equitable access to water, energy, and transportation; ensuring information is accessible and improving citizens' opportunities to engage in participatory decision-making processes.

The workshop will focus on **how to design, implement, and monitor equitable access to resources for those living in informal settlements**. Moreover, the workshop will consider the implications of these measures for inclusivity and civic participation. A thematic focus is on **transportation, water, and energy**.

The workshop brings together lead experts and policymakers to discuss best practices on how to 'build back better' in informal settlements, to ensure recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, but also strengthen resilience for future shocks.

In preparation of the **Post COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region**, the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit, and the UNECE nexus on Smart Sustainable Cities for all Ages jointly organize the **thematic workshop on "Building Back Better in Informal Settlements as a Step Towards more Sustainable Urbanization"**.

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

15:00 Opening - The role of Nexus Thinking in Building Back Better Efforts (10')

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

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Advisor, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE

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

Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE

15:10 Panel 1: Energy - Fair Access to Energy in Informal Settlements

Mr. Andrey Dodonov, Consultant, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE

Policymaker Discussants

Mr. Aleksandar Dukovski, Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency

Mr. Artan Leskoviku, Director, Department of Renewable Energy Sources, National Agency of Natural Resources, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania

Discussion and Q&A

15:45 Break (5')

15:50 Panel 2: Water - Ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation in informal settlements

Ms. Valentina Paderi, Consultant, Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE

Policymaker Discussants

Mr. Mihail Kochubovski, Head of Sector of Environmental Health, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia

Ms. Natasha Dokovska Spirovska, Program Director, Journalists for Human Rights

Discussion and Q&A

16:25 Break (5')

16:30 Panel 3: Transportation - The need for a transportation perspective in informal settlements: The case of Madrid

Mr. Mark J. Nieuwenhuijsen, Barcelona Institute for Global Health

Ms. Carlota Saenz De Tejada, Barcelona Institute for Global Health

Policymaker Discussant

Mr. Lorenzo Casullo, Associate Director, Sustainable Transport, Ricardo Energy & Environment, The Netherlands

Discussion and Q&A

17:15 Conclusions

17:30 Workshop closes
