



International PPP Centre of Excellence

Programme¹

Fifth International PPP Forum:

“Building Back Better through People-first Public-Private Partnerships”

22-26 April 2021

*Palais des Nations, Tempus 2 and online
Geneva, Switzerland*

¹ As of 23 April 2021

Thursday, 22 April 2021

Tempus 2 and online
(Morning session)

10:00-10:45 **Opening session: “Building Back Better”: the policy challenge**

Challenge:

- What measures have been identified and/or taken for making infrastructure and public services more resilient?
- How are Governments protecting disadvantaged communities from the worst excesses of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What should be the role of a People-first approach to “Building Back Better”?

Moderator:

- **Olga Algayerova**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Panellists:

- **H.E. Nikitina Anzhelika Aleksandrovna**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Belarus
- **H.E. Ambassador Meirav Eilon Sahar**, Israel
- **H.E. Ambassador Sadık Arslan**, Turkey

10:45-12:00 **International Debate: Is Building Back Better a slogan or can it really mean something?**

Challenge:

Concerted and focussed efforts will be needed to “Build Back Better”. Early months of the pandemic showed that the bottom 60 per cent of the population got poorer because of the economic crisis whereas higher earners were benefiting – the result in many cases of Government policy that supports employers and their companies. **Not all is however bad:** there are trends hastened by COVID-19 but apparent before it struck, such as the greater use of e-Commerce, the uptake of contactless payments, the use of new ways for connectivity and service delivery and the transition from carbon energy to renewable electric power and these trends need to become permanent shifts which will be positive for our future. **There is a need for infrastructure and services that can boost these positive trends, on the one hand, and which can overcome the increasing inequalities on the other.**

The debate will discuss three main questions:

- **Why** is “Building Back Better” so important and how People-first PPPs outcomes are aligned to contribute?
- **What** are the priority projects that can be used to “Build Back Better”?
- **How** is “Building Back Better” best accomplished?

Strategic goal and expected outcome

Raise the profile of People-first PPPs amongst key stakeholders and place “Build Back Better” into the policy mainstream.

Moderator:

- **Geoffrey Hamilton**, UNECE

Panellists:

- **Vera Songwe**, Executive Secretary, UNECA
- **Alexander Bazhenov**, Chairman, InfraKAP
- **Matthew Jordan-Tank**, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Policy & Project Preparation, EBRD
- **Neil Dhot**, Executive Director, Aquafed
- **Louis Downing**, CEO, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation
- **Nathalie Bernasconi-Osterwalder**, Executive Director, IISD Europe
- **Maksim Merkulov**, Managing Director, VEB.RF
- **James Mnyupe**, Economic Advisor to the President of Namibia

12:00-15:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

Thursday, 22 April 2021

Tempus 2 and online
(Afternoon session)

15:00-17:00 **Session 1: The UNECE Competition for the “Building Back Better” infrastructure award**

Challenge:

The challenge is to guide better design of People first PPP projects by testing and improving the Evaluation Methodology to ensure maximum use and effectiveness of project delivery: consulting and testing should be carried out with all stakeholders namely, Governments, private sector, civil society especially community groups who are at the forefront of “Build Back Better” programmes.

15:00-16:00 **Part 1: Commendations for projects meeting one specific People-first outcomes**

The Chair of the Jury,² James Stewart, will begin by announcing those projects which they consider merit commendations for better achieving one of the five specific People-first PPP outcomes.

Selected contestants will describe how their projects better meet one specific aspect of People-first PPP outcomes.

16:00-17:00 **Part 2: “Building Back Better” infrastructure award (putting the Evaluation Methodology into practice)**

The Chair of the Jury will announce the best “Build Back Better” projects selected for the final round and the rationales for their decision.

The finalists will then present to the Forum their projects aspiring to be People-first.

The Forum participants will, after these presentations, rank the finalists and select the winner using this [online form](#) or by scanning the QR code below from a smartphone or tablet (the vote will be opened from 17:00 to 18:00, Geneva time):³



The winner and the runner-up will be announced on the second day of the Forum at 15:00.

Moderator:

- Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, UNECE

Chair of the international Jury:

- James Stewart, Chair of the international Jury

Contestants - Special commendations for projects meeting one of the People-first outcomes:

- **Saudi Arabia: Social Care Homes:** Ahmed Abas - Access and equity
- **Scotland (UK): The Scottish Futures Trust hub Programme:** David MacDonald - Economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability
- **Spain: MESBarcelona:** Miquel Rodríguez Planas - Environmental sustainability
- **Haiti: Water PPP in St Marc:** Jean-Mary M. Georges - Resilience
- **Russian Federation: Cancer diagnostic centres in the Moscow region:** Aleksandra Golovanova - Replicability
- **India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh: Better Life Farming:** Lino Dias - Stakeholder engagement

Contestants - Finalists of the “Building Back Better” infrastructure award:

- **Bermuda (British Overseas Territory): International Airport Redevelopment Project:** Gabriela Moreno
- **Brazil: Nova Ceasa:** José Wellington Barroso de Araujo Dias
- **China: Zhenjiang Sponge City:** Pei Peng
- **Philippines: Regional Development Programme in Caraga:** Jett Tommy P. Tolentino
- **Spain: MetroTenerife Light Rail Train:** Andrés Muñoz de Dios Rodríguez

Documentation:

- [First version of the People-first Public-Private Partnerships Evaluation Methodology for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (ECE/CECI/WP/PPP/2020/3/Rev.1)
- [Draft Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Draft User’s Guide to the Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Testing Protocol](#)
- Rules on the competition (see [online](#))

Friday, 23 April 2021

Tempus 2 and online
(Morning session)

Session 2: Empowering local authorities to build community resilience

Challenge:

Local authorities must protect communities most at risk from the pandemic and must find the projects which can best do this. A new bottom up approach is called for. Local authorities however may lack the knowledge and expertise to deliver projects and make them bankable: local government revenues are also at an all-time low caused by the economic recession and the steep decline in revenues from local taxes, a huge challenge therefor is to identify those People-first PPPs that are especially needed (see below) to reach and protect the vulnerable members of communities: COVID-19 has struck at such groups and exposed existing social divisions, inequalities and community deprivations.

Format of the session

The session is divided into two panel discussions:

- **Panel 1. Involving Mayors and heads of local authorities - Protecting vulnerable groups and promoting People-first PPP projects: the views of Mayors and local authorities on the projects which can “Build Back Better”?**
- **Panel 2. Identifying priority projects in infrastructure and PPP that can build community resilience and can “Build Back Better”**

Strategic objective and expected outcome

- To discover the key projects that enhance community resilience
- A road map for “Building Back Better” and a pilot project launched involving local authorities and private sector and national PPP agencies to develop a portfolio of projects which can both be considered People-first and “Building Back Better”.

10:00-11:00 **Panel session: Involving Mayors and heads of local authorities - Protecting vulnerable groups and promoting People-first PPP projects: the views of Mayors and local authorities on the projects which can “Build Back Better”?**

Challenge:

Local authorities and cities are all engaged in “Building Back Better” and they have the direct challenge of finding solutions to very concrete problems and needs: They need in the day to day struggle against COVID-19 to engage directly with the communities concerned.

Key questions:

- Why do they see People-first approaches to infrastructure as contributing to Build Back Better?
- What specific projects are they targeting to build resilience amongst vulnerable communities in their cities?
- Have they got the necessary skills to develop these projects and if not, how is this skills’ gap to be overcome?
- How do they involve in the design and rollout of these projects, the full engagement with stakeholders and vulnerable communities?

Moderator:

- **David Dodd**, New Orleans, United States

Panellists:

- **Ilsur Metshin**, Mayor of Kazan and President of United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities
- **Miquel Rodríguez**, Commissioner of 2030 Agenda at Barcelona City Council
- **Maryna Khonda**, Deputy Head of Kyiv City State Administration
- **Quentin Messer**, President and CEO, New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA)
- **Alex Mejia**, Director, UNITAR

Strategic outcome

Agreement on the best approach / policies to engaging with communities and meeting their needs through infrastructure projects and PPP.

11:00-12:00 Panel session: Identifying priority projects to enhance community resilience and “Build Back Better”
Challenge:

What projects should be prioritised to deliver projects that “Build Back Better”?

Amongst some of the possible sectors where projects could be envisaged, are the following:

- Healthcare;
- Education;
- Food security;
- Water, Sanitation, Waste management and circular economy;
- Promotion of new jobs amongst poor communities, e.g. IT, start-ups, innovative industrial districts, expanding broadband etc.

Key questions

- Why is People-first approaches in PPP consistent with “Building Back Better”?
- What are the priority projects that can enhance community resilience?
- Can these projects belonging to the “pandemic cluster” be joined up to maximise their beneficial impact?

Moderator:

- **Paola Deda**, Director, UNECE

Panellists:

- **David MacDonald**, Programme Director, Scottish Futures Trust
- **Imeh Okon**, Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Infrastructure
- **Mark Halliday**, Global PPP Director, Medtronic
- **Carlos Salle**, Volunteer, Energía Sin Fronteras
- **Daniel Adrados**, Head of Operations, Energía sin Fronteras

12:00-15:00 LUNCH BREAK

Friday, 23 April 2021

Tempus 2 and online
(Afternoon session)

15:00-15:05 Announcing the winners of the “Building Back Better” infrastructure award	Olga Algayerova , Executive Secretary, UNECE
15:05-15:15 The role of People-first PPPs in “Building Back Better”	Special address by: Sanda Ojiambo , Executive Director and CEO, UN Global Compact
15:15-16:00 Panel discussion: Setting up a Project Team to develop a framework for “Building Back Better” projects Challenge: “Build Back Better” will require an inter-disciplinary team that has expertise addressing not just the technical, financial and legal aspects of the projects, but also the social, environmental and climate change aspects with stakeholder participation that can effectively deliver the five People-first outcomes. Key questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the project pipelines that can “Build Back Better” especially to enhance community resilience (e.g. waste, healthcare, food, water etc.)?- How can the experiences of local authorities to date be best distilled into a document that would help local authorities to “Build Back Better”?	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jan van Schoonhoven, Former Chair of the UNECE Team of Specialist on PPPs Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tetiana Bessarab, Managing Partner, Bessarab and Partners Attorneys at Law, Ukraine- Anand Chiplunkar, Former Director, Urban and Water Division, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank- Art Smith, Co-Chair of the Working Party on PPPs- Felix Dodds, Senior Fellow, Global Research Institute, University of North Carolina
16:00-17:00 Concluding session and next steps Challenge: “Build Back Better” will remain a slogan until delivery of pipelines of projects become a reality. And critical are the challenges local authorities face when directly with communities where access to services like health, meaningful jobs, adequate housing are problematic. However, these high valued projects are difficult to do and need new skills such as procurement, contracts, negotiation etc. How can the capacity within the Governments be strengthened to develop and complement their skills? It takes time to develop these skills and while many staff in public administrations having acquired skills, leave for jobs in better paid private sector work. This being said, national PPP units have engaged with local authorities to deliver municipal services, demonstrating that such challenges can be overcome. But even so, there are today, to date, few regular opportunities to exchange experiences on PPP activities and projects internationally. This is a pity as such work could do much to improve the capacity of the Governments at all levels.	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tony Bonnici, UNECE Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tientip Subhanij, ESCAP- Ricardo J. Sanchez, ECLAC- Yohannes Hailu, ECA- Yarob Badr, ESCWA

This final session explores how the UN Regional Commissions are playing an important role in developing regional networks of PPP units and infrastructure entities to improve the capability to deliver projects and how such networks can turn their attention to those projects which can have potentially a dramatic impact on “Building Back Better”: ESCAP, UNECA, ECLAC, ESCWA and UNECE.

Key questions:

- How could the UN Regional Commissions develop their own networks and institute greater cooperation between PPP Units across their respective regions?
- Could the annual PPP Forum be a mechanism by which PPP Units from each of the UN Regional Commission organise regular exchanges on best practices, “Building Back Better” strategies and achieving the SDGs?

Monday, 26 April 2021

Side events to the International Forum⁴
(Morning session)

9:00-10:00 Side event (English only) organised by the International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPP Policy, Laws and Institutions: Impact of the Centre in attracting the private sector for People-first PPP projects in low and middle-income countries

Documents:

- UNECE Guiding Principles on People-first Public-Private Partnerships in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([see online](#))
- UNECE Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement ([see online](#))
- Public-Private Partnerships: Project Planning and Prioritization ([see online](#))
- Involving reliable and independent experts to develop People first Public-Private Partnerships projects in low and middle-income countries ([see online](#))
- Concession for essential public services meeting the SDG's in LDC's and MIC's (PfPPP): Proposed list of clauses and guiding principles ([see online](#))

Moderator:

- **Marc Frilet**, General Secretary, International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPP Policy, Laws and Institutions

Panellists:

- **Roger Fiszelson**, Advisor and former Managing Director, Confederation of International Contractors' Association (CICA)
- **Maude Vallée**, Chief Legal Counsel & Head of Operations, African Legal Support Facility (African Development Bank)
- **Vincent Piron**, Senior economist and PPP expert, PIRON Consulting, lead contributor to SOURCE and GLOPRAM
- **Fred Einbinder**, French American Attorney, Consultant and Expert in PPP transactions and Associate Professor in law at the American University of Paris
- **Júlio César Bueno**, Lead Infrastructure and PPP expert in South America, partner at Pinheiro Neto Advogados

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

10:00-11:00 Side event (English only) organised by UNECE (Urban Development, Housing and Land Management Unit): U4SSC Thematic Group on Innovative Financing Instruments for Smart Sustainable Cities

The side event is a Special Meeting of the U4SSC Thematic Group on Innovative financing instruments for smart sustainable cities.

The Group exists to facilitate an exchange of information on activities of different UN agencies, national and local governments and relevant stakeholders related to the existing and emerging instruments to finance urban development projects aimed at supporting cities' sustainability and smartness.

In 2021 the Group is working on developing the Compendium of Practices to Finance Sustainable Smart City Projects.

The objective of the Meeting is to share 6 out of 15 cases selected for the Compendium with the members of the group and the registered participants and to facilitate further cooperation and peer learning among the participants on the subject of financing of Sustainable and Smart city projects.

Moderator:

- **Nadiia Yeremenko**, Coordinator of the U4SSC Thematic Group on Innovative financing instruments for smart sustainable cities, UNECE

Opening by Co-Leaders of the U4SSC Thematic Group:

- **Gulnara Roll**, UNECE
- **Tony Bonnici**, UNECE

Panellists:

- **Peter Malika**, Global Manager for the Local Finance Initiative, UNCDF: *Municipal Solid Waste Management of the City of Mamou, Guinea*
- **Pedro Neves**, CEO, Global Solutions: *Regeneration Project in Parque das Nações, Portugal*
- **Irina Zapatrina**, Founder of Ukrainian PPP Academy: *University Campus in a Smart and Sustainable City Vilno, Ukraine*
- **Eduardo Avila**: *The First Solar Energy Cooperative in Rio Favelas (Informal Settlements), Brazil*
- **Mehmet Uzunkaya**: *Elazig Fethi Sekin City Hospital, Turkey*
- **Alexander Bazhenov**, *InfraKap: Rostov on Don Wastewater System, Russian Federation*

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

11:00-12:00 Side event (English only) organised by the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND) and the World Association of

**PPP Units & Professionals (WAPPP):
Making PPPs fit the 2030 Agenda**

This Side Event is co-organised by CSEND and WAPPP. During the session, PPP experts will present chapters of a new publication titled “Making PPPs fit the 2030 Agenda”. The research has been undertaken jointly by seven authors, all are members of WAPPP and two are also members of the UNECE PPP Bureau. The intention of this paper is to contribute to the development of PPP theory and best practice and to align PPPs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The seven chapters reflect the individual authors’ insights into different aspects of the current state of PPP development and areas for policy and practice improvement including: - The need for harmonized actions and - The evolving theoretical developments of PPP and their alignment with the 2030 SDG Agenda. The topics of the presentations will be:

- The Need for a High-Quality SDG 17.17.1 Indicator
- Evolution of PPP Concepts and Practice
- The Emergence of People-first PPP
- When Public-Private Partnerships Put People First
- PPPs and ESG
- Intergenerational Redistributive Effects in Value for People and Value for the Future
- Closing Comments

The paper is still under embargo. It will be released to the public on 26 April 2021 at 11am on the occasion of the UNECE side event on both websites. For more information see the preface [here](#) and WAPPP videos [here](#).

Moderator:

- **Elisabeth Tuerk**, Director, UNECE

Panellists:

- **Raymond Saner**, Director CSEND, Prof Titular, U. of Basel, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs
- **Marc Frilet**, General Secretary, International Specialist Centre of Excellence on PPP Policy, Laws and Institutions
- **Jean-Christophe Barth-Coullaré**, Executive Director, WAPPP
- **David Baxter**, former Executive Director of the Institute of Public-Private Partnerships (IP3)
- **Ziad Alexandre Hayek**, President of WAPPP and Vice-Chair of the UNECE Working Party on PPPs
- **Domingo Penyalver**, PPP Advisor, UNOPS
- **Mateu Turró**, Honorary A. Director, European Investment Bank (EIB)

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

12:00-13:00 Side event (English only) organised by 4IP Group: Levers which can help Governments and DFIs increase private-sector financing for SDG-aligned infrastructure

According to a 2017 report by the United Nations, the current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030. This population increase will necessitate commensurate increases in development and expansion of infrastructure. While new or expanded infrastructure systems will ensure a basic level of service is provided to meet individuals’ needs, the short-term and long-term impacts of these systems will be more far-reaching.

Developing countries will need to invest more than \$2 trillion a year in infrastructure just to keep pace with projected GDP growth over the next 15 years—yet many of them face challenges in mobilizing the resources to finance this investment.

To close the gap, governments in these countries, together with their partners in DFIs, will need to unlock private-sector infrastructure financing at scale.

Moderator:

- **Jean-Patrick Marquet**, Member of the Global Future Council, World Economic Forum

Panellists:

- **Thibaut Mourgues**, Managing Partner 4IP & Member of WAPPP Executive
- **Christian Kingombe**, Managing Partner 4IP & Board Member of SIIA
- **Brandon Cox**, Senior Investment Director 4IP: 4IP-IIF1’s Project Pipeline Analysis by Region and Sector.
- **Louis Downing**, CEO, GIB Foundation
- **Anders Hove**, Project Director at GIZ CN
- **Doris Chevalier**, CEO, Infraboost & 4IP Advisory Board

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

⁴ The side events are held under the responsibility of the organisers of the side events, and the opinions and views expressed in these sessions do not necessarily reflect those of the UNECE.

Monday, 26 April 2021

Side events to the International Forum
(Afternoon session)

13:00-14:00 **Side event (English only) organised by 4IP Group and Global Infrastructure Basel: How Technology can facilitate ESG data collection and verification?**

Infrastructure ESG ratings and standards can play a decisive role toward reaching out to the 2030 SDGs especially in the context of Public-Private Partnerships.

ESG ratings can play a substantial role in this respect in several dimensions:

Helping Governments preparing infrastructure projects ensuring that the projects design and objectives will be aligned with the SDGs and will actually contribute to reach them.

Helping Government to prioritize projects that are most supportive of SDGs. Helping to make sure that infrastructure projects are operated and maintained in a way that is SDG-oriented.

Helping to attract investors (Retail, HNWI or Institutional like DFI) that focus on the ESG dimension by convincing them that the projects are well aligned with their strategy.

Unlocking the growing pool of retail capital could create an essential source of future funding.

Moderator:

- **Pablo Nunez**, Director Sustainable Finance, GIB Foundation

Panellists:

- **Nicolas Merle**, Innovation Designer
- **Louis Downing**, CEO, GIB Foundation
- **Yves Carnazzola**, President of AxessThinkTank, Representative at SI Geneva Hub, CEO AxessImpact
- **Dag Dawit**, CFA, FRM, Advisory Board AxessThinkTank, Executive Director - Private Wealth Management
- **Thibaut Mourgues**, 4IP Group
- **Michele Soavi**, 4IP Group
- **Christian Kingombe**, 4IP Group
- **Anders Hove**, Project Director at GIZ CN

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

14:00-15:30 **Side event (English only) organised by the UNECE: Improving, using and testing the UNECE People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology as a public good**

In the first part a short video will be presented.

The side event starts with the secretariat presenting the preliminary results of a survey for Government users.

This side event will be split into two parts as follows:

1. Improving and using the Evaluation Methodology
2. Testing the Evaluation Methodology

Moderator:

- **Doris Chevalier**, CEO, Infraboost

Video on the Evaluation Methodology

Speaker:

- **Irina Novikova**, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine

Presentation by the secretariat

- **Antonin Menegaux**, UNECE

Panellists:

- **Jean-Patrick Marquet**, Member of the Global Future Council, World Economic Forum
- **Melissa Peneycad**, Managing Director, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure
- **Sedef Yavuz-Noyan**, Head of PPP Department in the Presidency of Turkish Republic
- **Rose-Lourdes Elysee**, Chief of the Central Management Unit of PPP of Haiti

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)

16:00-17:00 Side event (English only) organised by the World Bank: Role of the private sector in Building sustainable and socially inclusive infrastructure in Europe and Central Asia

The session will highlight the efforts of international organizations to support essential infrastructure to build back better post COVID-19 crisis in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia member countries. In doing so, the discussion will aim to respond to two main questions:

- Year 2020 has seen decrease in the private sector investment in infrastructure in the Europe and Central Asia region, mainly due to the pandemic-related measures. Can this trend be reversed going forward?
- Can the private sector serve as a partner and a major source of financing the transition to a Resilient, Inclusive, Sustainable and Efficient (RISE) infrastructure needs of developing Europe and Central Asia countries?

Moderator:

- **Jyoti Bisbey**, Infrastructure Finance Specialist, The World Bank

Panellists:

- **Imad Fakhoury**, Infrastructure Finance, PPPs and Guarantees Global Practice, Director, The World Bank
- **Fatouma Ibrahima**, PPP Group- Practice Manager in the Infrastructure Finance, PPPs and Guarantees Global Practice, The World Bank
- **Paul da Rita**, IFC Transaction Advisory-PPPs
- **Edwin Law**, Head of Division in the Infrastructure and Procurement Division in Governance, OECD
- **Lora Kamenova**, State Expert, Economic and Social Policy Directorate, Administration of the Council of Ministers, Bulgaria

[Link to join the side event on Microsoft Teams](#)