

CONCEPT NOTE

Information workshop on overcoming the economic consequences of the pandemic – 23 December 2020 09:00 – 11:00 CET – Kharkiv, Ukraine
“Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”



Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is far more than a health crisis; it is affecting societies and economies at their core. While the impact of the pandemic varies from country to country, it has increased poverty and inequalities at a global scale and made achievement of SDGs and the 2030 Agenda even more urgent. To address the crisis, the United Nations developed a UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, which highlights the need to “empower local governments; scale community and city level resilience” as core components for recovery.

The UN Regional Economic Commissions (UNECE, UNECA, UN ESCWA, UN ELCAC, UN ESCAP) together with UNCDF and UN-Habitat are collaborating on a joint project on “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”. This project draws from the UN framework and promotes the “recovering better” principle by developing measures for planning and building resilient cities, advocating for an approach that is multi-hazard, multi- sectoral and multi-stakeholder, promoting the green and circular economy, overcoming inequalities and assisting the most vulnerable groups.

Workshop Description

The workshop programme has been developed by UNECE as an essential part of the “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19” to ensure the engagement of the relevant local stakeholders, as well as to strengthen local government capacity to manage and recover from economic shocks, such as COVID-19 crisis. This workshop is designed to build a better understanding and knowledge of the key principles, characteristics and dimensions of urban resilience with a special focus on urban economic recovery and resilience diagnostics and planning.

The main objective of the workshop is to provide detailed information on the project to local stakeholders and to strengthen the capacity of local government in the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine by introducing the key concepts and issues on urban (economic) resilience, how to diagnose the current state of a city through data collection and analysis, and how to design actions for resilience and sustainability – including economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding measures. Through these, the workshop will guide and inform the city towards the application of the UN’s ‘building back better’ principle in their recovery strategies and ensure alignment with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives

After the workshop, the participants are expected to:

- Gain deeper understanding of the economic impacts of COVID-19 in the city and explore common solutions and practices
- Be familiar with a global and practical framework and Diagnostic and Planning Tool on building urban resilience for local economic and financial response and recovery in the context of COVID-19

Workshop Overview

The workshop will be conducted online over Zoom platform (invite to be sent to all participants) with all information on the project available through the project website: [https:// unece.org/housing-and-land-management/urban-resilience-after-covid19](https://unece.org/housing-and-land-management/urban-resilience-after-covid19)

Date and Time:

- Session for Kharkiv, Ukraine: 23 Dec 2020 at 09:00-11:00 CET

Duration: Approx. 2 hours

Participation: Selected local officials and stakeholders from the City of Kharkiv