

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

CIS, Ukraine and Georgia subregional online training workshop

Date: 12 November 2021
Time: 9:30 – 12:00 CET
Platform: Zoom
Language: English, Russian, Armenian

Rationale

In the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UNECE prepared the *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: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as well as Tirana, Albania; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Skopje, North Macedonia.

The Implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the CIS, Ukraine and Georgia subregional online training workshop focuses on the implementation of the Plan in the subregion. The event is designed to:

- Raise awareness about the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region and its key deliverables,
- Discuss with representatives of local and national authorities and local stakeholders how to best implement the Plan's recommendations within their specific contexts.
- Present the online learning platform for the Recovery Action Plan with resources and trainings on the Plan's implementation amongst other resources.

After a general introduction to the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the UNECE Region, the event will walk the participants through the different policy areas that need implementation. In each session, an indication of priorities by stakeholders including, local and/or national government representatives will be presented and stakeholders are invited to discuss with 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.

Kickstarting the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements

10 November 2021

CIS sub-regional online training workshop

Programme

9:30 Opening and introduction on the workshop

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

Moderators:

Matteo Tarantino, Lecturer and Senior Research Associate, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva

Alexandre Hedjazi, Director, Global Environmental Policy Program, University of Geneva

9:45 The COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements helping to implement a strategy for recovery: *It's all connected: RAP Strategy, Framework, & Cross-cutting Themes of Implementation.*

Steven Nystrom, NewStream Companies, former FIG Commission 9 Chair

10:05 How the Guidelines for Formalization of informal constructions integrates with the Recovery Action Plan

Chryssy Potsiou, Professor of Cadastre and Land Management, National Technical University of Athens, Honorary FIG President, former Vice-Chair of WPLA

10:25 How land registration and cadaster can help in the recovery: *Integrate land registration and cadaster with formalization & the RAP*

Rik Wouters, Director, Eureg Advice, former Vice-Chair of WPLA

10:45 Participant Discussion Questions from Survey / live participants

BREAK 10 Minutes

11:05 Tackling informal settlements in the city of Bishkek

Mr. Bolot Apilov, Director, Mayor's Office of Bishkek, Public-State Administration of Capital-Construction

11:20 Experiences on addressing the challenges of informal settlements (“domics”) in the 1988 Spitak earthquake zone, in the cities of Gyumri, Vanadzor and Spitak, Armenia.

Ms. Tanya Arzumanyan, Urban Development Committee, Armenia

11:35 Participant Discussion on the basis of local presentations; questions from questionnaire or live participants

11:45 Actions to take and closing

12:00 Workshop closes