

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

## **Western Balkans subregional online training workshop**

Date: 10 November 2021  
Time: 14:30 – 17:00 CET  
Platform: Zoom  
Language: English

### **Rationale**

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

**The Implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan for Informal Settlements in the Western Balkans online training workshop** focuses on the implementation of the Plan in the Western Balkans as well as other countries 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

Western Balkans sub-regional online training workshop

### Programme

14:30 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

14:45 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

15:05 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

15:25 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

15:45 Participant Discussion Questions from Survey / live participants

***BREAK 10 Minutes***

16:05 *Perspectives on informal settlements in the city of Tirana*

**Ms. Frida Pashako**, Director of Territorial Development Control at the Municipality of Tirana

16:20 *Reflections on the implementation of the COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan in the Republic of Serbia*

**Mr. Darko Vucetic**, Head of Center of Geospatial Information Management, Republic Geodetic Authority, Republic of Serbia

16:35 Participant Discussion on the basis of local presentations; questions from questionnaire or live participants

16:45 Actions to take and closing

**17:00 Workshop closes**