

PLATFORMA webinar #1 – COVID outbreak – EU global response & local governments’ international action

Friday 17 April 2020, 9:00-10:15

Online meeting: link to [registration](#) and to [Zoom](#)

Context

The ongoing COVID-19 virus global pandemic has had immediate impact on municipalities and regions, affecting people in their daily life, distressing healthcare infrastructures, schools and universities, transport and mobility, housing, companies and businesses. They must also ensure the right conditions for people to have a good consciousness of what is happening, enable and support solidarity actions from people to people, continue to provide essential services, identify vulnerable groups including caregivers, isolated people, elderly, disabled people, those at risk of domestic violence, workers in essential services, and others. Without any doubt, as the level of government closest to the citizens, local and regional governments are at the forefront of this crisis management on the ground.

The situation is now spread all over the world and calls for solidarity. Collaboration is essential, learning from each other’s approach is crucial. In this situation, the role of national associations is also instrumental, in order to assess the needs on the ground, to coordinate actions and communication with the national government, to ensure sharing of good practices and responses, and mutual learning.

On 8 April, the [EU released its global respond to fight the pandemic](#). PLATFORMA – as coalition of LRG and associations active in international cooperation - intends to provide EU decision-makers with facts-based policy input on what local and regional governments are doing and plan to do in the field of decentralised cooperation to face the health emergency that has triggered the COVID-19 pandemic.

Draft Agenda

- 1. Introduction** by Frédéric Vallier, CEMR Secretary-General & Marlène Siméon, Director of PLATFORMA – *5 minutes*
- 2. What is the EU global response to COVID-19?** - *15 minutes*
Aida Liha Matejcek, Head of Unit - Culture, Education, Health - DG DEVCO, European Commission
- 3. How do local and regional governments and their associations engage with peers in partner countries? The added value of decentralised cooperation** – *25 minutes*
 - Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, Cités Unies France
 - Pilar Diaz, Mayor of Esplugues de Llobregat, and Deputy for international relations, Province of Barcelona
 - Hans Janssen, Mayor of Oisterwijk and member of the VNG Committee on European & International affairs
 - Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General, UCLG Africa
 - Kelmend Zajazi, Executive Director, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe
- 4. Other experiences and Q&A** - *30 minutes*
- 5. Closing remarks** - MEP Monica Silvana Gonzalez, DEVE & REGI Committees, S&D