



Agenda

Connective Cities virtual exchange discussing the Southeast European Network's development and presenting good municipal practices in the area of digitalization and crisis management

Part of the Connective Cities Series on Municipal Response to COVID-19

12 November 2021

12:00 – 14:30 CET

Virtual platform

BigBlueButton (BBB)

Overview and objectives of the virtual event

The COVID-19 crisis has posed new challenges to governance structures at both central and local levels. Indeed, the pandemic has shown how important it is for cities to maintain flexible communications to increase their resilience in an ever-changing environment. Thus, the need to develop appropriate strategic plans for crisis management has been abundantly highlighted. The pandemic has also shown that the process of digitizing services has become an integral part of municipal management, and that cities to have implemented digitalization are more likely to adjust to the situation created by COVID-19, and to respond effectively.

The virtual event is devoted to exploring municipal measures and initiatives taken to address the COVID-19 crisis. It aims to review municipal good practices in the area of **crisis management and digitalization** and to review the tight link between them.

The virtual event is divided into the following three parts: in the **first part**, the keynote speech about the topic of COVID-19 and territorial policy will be delivered by Neli Georgieva, a research associate at the European Policies Research Centre. In the **second part**, cases of municipal responses to COVID-19 in terms of digitalization and crisis management are presented; the **third part** of the event revolves around a panel discussion in which the importance of digitalization for efficient crisis management on local governance level amid COVID-19 is discussed.

The virtual event is being held as part of the Connective Cities international network initiative and will gather representatives of cities from all over the world with a particular focus of the Southeast Europe. In addition, during the event, representatives of GIZ and cooperating experts on crisis management, digitalization and local development will also take part.

This online exchange is part of a series of Connective Cities virtual events promoting knowledge exchange in the fields of municipal response in crisis management and digitalization globally. This virtual exchange brings together city leaders and field experts in crisis management, digitalization and governance to discuss prevalent trends, opportunities, and challenges emerging, along with the development and reinvention of municipal responses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Connective Cities international exchange platform is a multi-stakeholder project run by the German Association of Cities, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW). The project has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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Connective Cities virtual exchange discussing the Connective Cities Network's development and presenting good municipal practices in the area of digitalization and crisis management (times in CET)

12 th November 2021		
Time	Theme	Institution/person in charge
11:45	Registration of participants and system check	
12:00	Welcome and presentation of the objectives of the project and the Connective Cities Network's development (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks • Interactive check-in • Objectives and agenda 	Ms. Ricarda Meissner, GIZ Senior Programme Manager Dr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ Connective Cities Regional Coordinator Dr. Piotr Żuber, Team Leader, Moderator of the event Dr. Giorgi Khishtovani, Research Director, Policy and Management Consulting Group
First Part Keynote Speech		
12:15	COVID-19 and territorial policy (25 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A 	Professor Ms. Neli Georgieva, Research Associate at the European Policies Research Centre
Second Part Practitioners' exchange - presentations of good practices		
12:40	Good practice 1 (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The case of Melitopol, Ukraine • Q&A 	Mr. Oleksandr Saienko, Head of ICT and Information Protection Division at Melitopol City Hall
12:55	Good practice 2 (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The case of Tbilisi, Georgia • Q&A 	Ms. Mariam Fruidze, Chief Specialist at Economic Development Department at Tbilisi City Hall
13:10	Good practice 3 (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The case of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Ms. Kristina Bevanda, Medical Epidemiologist and Acting Director of the Health Centre Mostar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A 	
Break (10 mins)		
Third Part		
Interactive panel		
13:35	<p>Interactive panel with the representatives of municipalities, international organizations and private sector and experts (45 mins)</p> <p>The Importance of Digitalization for Efficient Crisis Management on Local Governance Level Amid COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges • Visions • Peer-to-peer exchange 	<p>Moderator: Ms. Nino Samvelidze, Program Manager for Digital Economy, Youth and Culture, EU Delegation to Georgia</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ife Fashoro, Researcher, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa • Ms. Elba Fuster Figuerola, Technical Expert, Smart Cities and Digitalization, UNDP • Ms. Teona Turashvili, Local Government / Internet and Innovations Directions Head, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
14:20	<p>Wrap-up session (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short summary – common challenges, efficient responses, and good cooperation practices • Next steps and opportunities for further cooperation and the Connective Cities Network's development 	<p>Dr. Piotr Zuber, Team Leader</p> <p>Dr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ Connective Cities Regional Coordinator</p>

Connective Cities Virtual Exchange (CET time zone)

In cooperation with:

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