



Roundtable

Title of the session 1.1.1: Alliances and partnerships among actors: towards co-responsibility to address crisis contexts and achieve sustainable objectives.

Thematic Line 1: The territory as a basis for innovation and economic, social, and environmental reactivation.

Sub-theme 1.1: The territory as a source of innovation, knowledge and transference.

Organizers: UCLG Forum of Regions/ CONGOPE

Date: 26/05/2021

Time: 9:55 - 11:25 (UTC-3)/ 14:55 - 16:25 (UTC+2)

Platform: Zoom

Capacity of the session: Up to 150 people

Registration needed: Registration required

Language: ENG - SPA - FR

Short summary of the session (max. 250 words):

The territory is the place where relationships of coexistence are established and social practices are configured and promoted. In addition, it is a space that generates resources, knowledge and transfer; as well as the enhancement of innovation and cooperation dynamics.



Local and regional governments as facilitators of alliances and partnerships between all the actors in the territory facilitate the integration of policies (horizontal and vertical), allow the increase of competences and new legal frameworks, ensure governance, promote innovative and sustainable policies and ensure the provision of public services, among others.

These policies of alliances among actors require the implementation of strategies that increase synergies between actors and institutions and strengthen multilevel governance models. Integrated and participatory territorial planning also links rural and urban activities for balanced territorial development.

Currently, our societies are facing an unprecedented crisis, exacerbated by the pandemic. And to the extent that local and regional governments are the intermediary between citizens and the State due to their proximity, they are essential in the articulation of the different levels of government to guarantee a real multilevel governance.

In the current context, a dynamic action plan is essential that, with a systemic and strategic territorial vision, encourages participation, co-creation and political dialogue that contributes to a better balance of the territories, a better quality of life of their communities, which provide resilience and build a dignified future, redesigning economically competitive territories, physically and digitally connected and socially cohesive.

1. Conceptualization of the session (max. 1000 words)

The territory is distinguished not so much by its geographical dimension but by being the place where relationships of coexistence are established and social practices are configured and promoted. It is also a space that generates resources, knowledge and transference; as well as the enhancement of innovation and cooperation dynamics.



7th WORLD FORUM OF
LOCAL
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA

May 26th > June 1st
#ledworldforum2021

But the territory can also be a controversial and variable space, which requires instruments for reflection, negotiation and decision-making. The differences in criteria and interests between actors and organizations require co-responsibility to achieve objectives that revert to the common good, especially when the needs and challenges are wide, with scenarios of uncertainty such as that caused by the current health crisis and where an additional effort on economic and social recovery is required. Thus, economic strategies and mechanisms are necessary to guarantee the continuity of local and regional governments as essential actors for the deployment of agreements with decision-making capacity and action.

Local and regional governments as facilitators of alliances and partnerships among all the actors in the territory facilitate the integration of policies (horizontal and vertical), allow the increase of competences and new legal frameworks, ensure governance, promote innovative and sustainable policies and ensure the provision of public services, among others.

These policies of alliances among actors (all levels of government, public companies, agencies, academia, strategic planning offices, research centres, entities of the social and solidarity economy, small and medium-sized companies, civil society organizations, etc.) require the implementation of strategies that increase synergies between actors and institutions, and strengthen multilevel governance models. Integrated and participatory territorial planning also links rural and urban activities for balanced territorial development.

But the capacity of local and regional governments to achieve their tasks depends to a large extent on the provision of sufficient resources, and in this context it is necessary to analyse the degree of community participation in the capital gains generated by their action in territorial development. Perhaps, this is an ideal time to revisit and review which forms of financing are or may be available to these governments to contribute, and also participate in local economic development.

Today, our societies are facing an unprecedented democratic crisis. A crisis that, in many cases, the pandemic has only worsened. Citizens have lost trust in institutions and politicians. This loss of trust is explained by a feeling of lack of representation of their interests, a fact that has a negative impact on the democratic system. Therefore, under the premise that local and regional governments are the intermediary between citizens and the State due to their proximity, they are essential to intercede and articulate the different levels of government to guarantee a real multilevel governance.



Sustainable development has a clear territorial dimension which must be considered by all spheres of government, for the acceleration and localization of the SDGs. The constant movements and flows of products, people and information around the city expand beyond its geographical or administrative limits, and the territory enables an integrated and comprehensive approach to the urban-rural ecosystem, which passes through the metropolis, through the relationship with other regions, with the state government and with the presence in the international sphere. In addition, the regions occupy a strategic position in the territorialisation and implementation of global agendas.

During the pandemic, the importance of solidarity, coordination and collaboration among all the actors in the territory has become evident. Under this indication, it is imperative to transform governance structures and territorial dynamics, as well as reformulate the role of local and regional governments, particularly to ensure a fair, sustainable, green, resilient and egalitarian recovery.

In this environment, a dynamic action plan is necessary; a plan that, with a systemic and strategic territorial vision, encourages participation, co-creation and political dialogue that contributes to a better balance of the territories, a better quality of life for their communities, a plan that provides resilience and builds a dignified future, redesigning economically competitive territories, physically and digitally connected and socially cohesive, leaving no one or any place behind.

Joining efforts and optimizing resources to solve the needs and enhance the endogenous knowledge of the territories are essential to reaffirm trust and help strengthen democracy.

2. Objectives *(max. 100 words)*

This round table aims to be a space for reflection and exchange of concepts, strategies and experiences, where the importance of strengthening cooperation between actors in the territory is addressed, especially citizen participation and local democracy as pillars of development, placing all citizens at the centre of the debate.

It also aims to reach conclusions and an effective proposal, which allows strengthening alliances and local democracy, for which, local and regional elected representatives are invited to propose how to: implement a logic of co-creation from a vision of multilevel governance and multi-actor; generate the capacity to innovate; create structures for dialogue, work and evaluation commissions; take on the challenge of management that demonstrates transparency.

3. Main points of discussion *(max. 150 words)*



7th WORLD FORUM OF
LOCAL
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA

May 26th > June 1st
#ledworldforum2021

- How to guarantee the balanced participation of actors with diverse interests and needs, avoiding that no one is left behind, especially in crisis scenarios?
- What governance instruments are necessary to contribute to social and economic recovery, under what procedures?
- How can local and regional governments better contribute to local economic development through adequate participation in the results of their territorial action?
- What planning elements / mechanisms are most appropriate in crisis contexts?

4. **Relevant documents** *(if applicable)*