



Roundtable

Title of the session 1.2.3: Infrastructures and public services: instruments for reactivation and territorial cohesion

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

Sub-theme 1.2: Innovative strategies for a post-pandemic time. Towards collaborative, resilient and inclusive territories

Organizers: FAMSI, ORU FOGAR

Date: 27/05/2021

Time: 13:45 - 15:15 (UTC-3) / 18:45- 20:15 (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*):

Public infrastructures and services are essential to maintain territorial balance and social cohesion. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to guarantee health and sanitary services to the entire population.



In addition to the protection of people in vulnerable situations, services and infrastructures allow a better territorial distribution, by providing territories beyond the cities.

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

A fundamental aspect that the resulting health and socio-economic crisis has highlighted with greater force is the need for an intelligent policy of public infrastructures that contributes to maintaining territorial balance and social cohesion. Of particular relevance are the health and sanitary services, which have endured the impact of the pandemic with greater harshness but, at the same time, have highlighted the importance of strengthening these services to guarantee the care of the entire population and, especially, of the most vulnerable groups.

On the other hand, these public services also constitute a factor of territorial balance and contribute to the distribution of the population in the territory. Since the 1980s, especially in Europe, the policy of decentralization and regionalization has endowed local territories with facilities that were previously exclusive to cities and capitals (universities, cultural facilities and large infrastructures). At the same time, a road communications network has been deployed that - at the local and regional level - facilitates mobility. More recently, digital connectivity has been promoted to cover the entire territory.

Even with these efforts, socioeconomic dynamics continue to concentrate activity and wealth in large cities and the rural exodus persists, degrading agricultural activity. Rural unrest is evident in many countries. Settling people in their territory continues to be a challenge.

The commitment of the public administrations with the territorial policy of infrastructures must continue with updated parameters. More than support infrastructures that supply unsatisfied demands for services, now the fundamental thing is drive infrastructures that encourage growth towards desired locations.

Mobility is key. Having efficient and well-articulated public transport is not enough. Administrations and the private sector must promote smart strategies that optimize sustainable mobility and prioritize new centralities through adequate infrastructures.

It is encouraging that diverse regions and local governments around the world take on the drafting of its New Urban Agenda as an exercise in favour of territorial balance.



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2. Objectives (*max. 100 words*)

This round table will give space to reflection, from different territorial perspectives, on how infrastructures and public services are established as essential instruments to build more cohesive societies and territories. Special attention will be paid to the rural urban link, the fundamental needs that manage to maintain the population in their territories and the impetus for their economic reactivation.

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

- How to promote economic reactivation in areas far from capital cities and large urban centers?
- What are the key infrastructures and services for the population to stay in its territory?
- How are agriculture and the primary sector revitalised, so that they retain the population in the rural sector?
- What are the basic infrastructures that the rural sector needs?
- What should be the complementary economic sectors of the primary sector? Can tourism be a support to these sectors?
- How do we get the entire territory to participate in the energy and digital transition?

4. Relevant documents (*if applicable*)