



Scaling-up financing for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure – Experiences from the UNECE region

Networking event at the World Urban Forum in Katowice

Tuesday, 28 June 2022, from 14:30 to 16:00 CET

The meeting will be held in-person at ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 14

Background

Investments in sustainable urban infrastructure made today will play a key role in limiting the impact of climate change, and in the creation of liveable and sustainable cities. Designing and financing well planned urbanization is an investment in our present and future that enables progress towards achieving the SDGs. In the UNECE region, many cities have been unable to develop the required supporting infrastructure to keep pace with sustainable, climate resilient urban growth. Cities face common challenges to scale-up sustainable urban infrastructure delivery, from inadequate enabling environments and policy frameworks, human and financial capacity constraints and low creditworthiness, among others. Needless to say, that the war has brought these challenges to a whole new level for some cities. The outbreak of the war in Ukraine has caused unprecedented destruction and damage of infrastructure that was built by generations of Ukrainians. Entire cities will have to be rebuilt and that is a big undertaking.

Since 2020, UNECE has been leading the UNDA12th tranche project Smart Sustainable Cities with Innovative Financing. Support has been devoted to enhancing local capacities in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Tbilisi (Georgia), Podgorica (Montenegro), Grodno (Belarus) and Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan) for urban planning and sustainable urban infrastructure project preparation, localizing the 2030 SDGs, implementing the New Urban Agenda, and promoting urban resilience and smart sustainable development. UNECE has also been supporting the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv since April 2022 through the project UN4Kharkiv: Integrated Rehabilitation of Settlements (Territories) in Ukraine. UNECE is working together with the Norman Foster Foundation to coordinate the development of the new Master Plan of Kharkiv. Given the thorough knowledge of UNECE on the housing and land management systems of Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine invited UNECE to inter alia elaborate city-based financing mechanisms for infrastructure projects.

The side event aims to showcase UNECE's support to cities under the UNDA12th tranche project Smart Sustainable Cities with Innovative Financing as well as the project UN4Kharkiv: Integrated Rehabilitation of Settlements (Territories) in Ukraine. The event highlights the power of multi-stakeholder projects, in helping close the sustainable urban infrastructure financing gap. In so doing, the side event aims to contribute to strengthening the capacities of local governments to design, develop and implement plans and projects that promote sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban planning.



DRAFT PROGRAMME

14:30-14:40 Opening

Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

14:40- 15:00 Presentation on key urban challenges and efforts to scale-up sustainable urban infrastructure finance

Moderator: Gulnara Roll, UNECE, Regional Advisor of the Forests, Land and Housing Division

Vakhtang Lomjaria, Head Municipal Department of Economic Development, Tbilisi, Georgia

Dejana Radovic, Head of IT Center, Podgorica City Hall, Podgorica, Montenegro

Svetlana Dogotaru, Chief Architect of Chisinau, Moldova

15:00-15:25 Presentation on city infrastructure reconstruction and approaches of urban infrastructure financing for the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine

Olga Demianenko, Kharkiv City Council, Director of the Department for cooperation with International Agencies and Financial Institutions

15:25-15:50 Panel discussion on approaches to scale-up sustainable urban infrastructure finance

Moderator: **Dmitry Mariyasin**, UNECE, Deputy Executive Secretary

Discussion questions:

1. How can cities ensure sustainable municipal financing to effectively respond to the immediate and long-term socio-economic and environmental needs of their local communities?
2. What practical steps can cities take to scale-up in the preparation of inclusive urban infrastructure projects?
3. How do they see UNECE's role in upscaling synergies and establishing further partnerships?

Panellists:

Lukas Prinz, Advisor, FELICITY II, GIZ and EIB

Maxine Mueller, City Coordinator, C40 Cities Finance Facility

Kristian Mjøen, Head of Centre for Sustainable Development in Trondheim

Questions and answers.

15:50-16:00 Closing remarks

Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE

Language

The event will be conducted in English.

For more information on the meeting, please contact:

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ELEVENTH SESSION



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