

NETWORKING EVENT

Boosting Digitalization to achieve a Sustainable and Equitable Urban Development: Examples of 3 Subnational Strategic Plans

Wednesday, 29 JUNE | 14.30 – 16.00 CEST | Multifunction Hall. Room 12

Katowice, Poland

Brief summary

The role of digitalization addressing sustainability in the urban development field is fundamental for countries, cities and regions to meet its goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

The development of digital and smart solutions can generate unique opportunities to strategically address challenges associated with the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs to ensure an equitable, environmentally sustainable, and healthy society.

Catalonia, Antioquia and Yucatan are examples of regions that are working on a digital transformation that will benefit everyone, by opening up new opportunities for businesses, encouraging the development of trustworthy technology, fostering an open and democratic society, enabling a vibrant and sustainable economy, and helping fight climate change and achieve the green transition.

The event will start a debate around the potentialities of subnational regions in fulfilling the climate-neutral goal by benchmarking 3 long-term flagship strategies that can perform as beacons for other subnational governments in the world.

Key Objectives

- Providing a forum to share knowledge, experiences and best practices on how to address the global agendas at subnational level (federal states, provinces).
- Benchmarking 3 long-term strategies, with an overall and cross-cutting vision, all of them aligned with the New Urban Agenda principles:

- Urban Agenda for Catalonia (Government of Catalonia)
 - Agenda Antioquia 2040 (Departmental government for Antioquia)
 - Agenda Yucatán 2040 (Technical Secretariat of Planning and Evaluation of Yucatan)
- Enhancing the role of the subnational governments as key actors in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the SDGs, by underlining the need for a common digital transformation strategy along with an appropriate storytelling.
 - Underlining the need for cooperation between the subnational governments and local and national levels of governance in the achievement of common values and principles, stressing the need for a territorial perspective in the decision-making process, especially on urban and territorial affairs.

How relevant to WUF11

The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have shown us empirically and painfully the importance of actions at the local level for global well-being. Never before has it been so clear how the vulnerability of some groups impacted the whole of society.

On the way to the review of the status of the New Urban Agenda, it is clear that the territorial level not only influences, but also has to shape the global level.

The deployment of innovation and technology, when it is human-centered, can help societies respond to different types of shocks, therefore becoming more resilient. Digitalization can guide actions to face climate change, provide equity access to public services or foster a fair and competitive digital economy. In this context, sustainable digitalization must be regarded in the territorial agendas to implement the global agendas.

Promote strategy of the event

The event enjoys the endorsement of 3 regional governments, and therefore, it can dispose of a wide range of channels for being disseminated. The governmental websites and official accounts on social media networks will be used to that end. Besides, a booth representing the region of Catalonia will be settled in the exhibition area of the WUF11 where the event will be permanently announced and further information will be always available to participants, visitors and other exhibitors.

Outline of the session

- **Opening remarks** by the moderator (10min)
 - **Ms Rosa Suriñach**, Director of Partnerships, Advocacy and Outreach at City Resilience Global Programme, UN-Habitat

- **Panel** (75min: 15min presentation each + discussion)
 - **Ms Maria Galindo**, Director General for Digital Nation and Urban Agenda, Government of Catalonia, Spain
 - **Ms Claudia Andrea García Loboguerrero**, Director of the Planning Department, Government of Antioquia, Colombia (online)
 - **Mr Jorge Avilés**, Technical Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, Government of Yucatan, Mexico (online)

- **Wrap-up** by the moderator (5min)