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# RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

## EUROCITIES 2020 ROADMAP

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### **Introduction: what have we done so far?**

Since the break-out of the pandemic in Europe, we have supported members in the initial Covid19 emergency through

- Sharing experiences and solutions on our CovidNews website across a range of topics. The collection of examples from cities also from outside our network is a highly valuable source of information for members and EU policy makers
- A series of city dialogues also with external organisations, including OECD, WHO and ILO, to assess the impact of the crisis on cities, present cities responses and preparation for the recovery
- Overview of the EU packages and initiatives (funds and new regulations flexibility) to mitigate COVID-19 crisis through briefing notes and webinars with record high attendance of members
- Visibility at EU level:
  - o a timely statement and a video delivered as EU where negotiating emergency measures
  - o participating in a wide range of coalitions supporting the plight of people and cities during the crisis

### **From emergency response to green and inclusive recovery: objectives and next steps**

Moving beyond the activities related to dealing with the emergency situation, we want to ensure that:

1. Our activities throughout the year continues to fully support our members in dealing with the longer-term implications of the crisis and progressing towards a green and inclusive recovery for all. To this end, in the short to medium term we will:
  - o Continue Covid19 focused activities: CovidNews, the city dialogues addressing implications of the crisis and recovery in the different sectors, as well as webinars facilitating the understanding of EU level responses and exchanges with EU policy makers.
  - o Adapt plans for working groups and forum activities and priorities in collaboration with working group and forum chairs to deal with impact and recovery where necessary.
  - o Monitor potential gaps in our work in dealing with all aspects of the crisis, for example in relation to health responses, security, financial instruments and broader issues related to longer term resilience in cities.
2. The role of cities in dealing with the pandemic and its consequences is fully

recognised and supported at EU level, reinforcing our call for ‘a seat at the table’ and additional resources for cities. To this end, in the short to medium term we will:

- Capitalise on the evidence base available through the examples and stories from cities, from city dialogues and our cooperation with OECD, on the impact of the crisis and the role of cities dealing with it, protecting and supporting people and business. The evidence will feed into EU policy developments on an ongoing basis throughout the year.
  - Refocus and continue planned advocacy work on the green deal, for a social Europe and a boost to digital transformation. In addition, we will step up efforts related to the new MFF proposals and in relation to the new EU action plan for recovery. Our participation in the activities of the Cohesion Alliance and the political ExCom meeting on 12 June with Commissioners Hahn and Ferreira are part of this work.
3. We capitalise on the urban expertise and political leadership present in the network to provide thought leadership on urban development and resilience coming out of the crisis, reinforcing the overall positioning, influence and recognition of EUROCITIES at EU level. Possibilities to consider for the medium to longer term include:
- Seek collaboration with other urban networks and researchers to gain clout and critical mass when looking at longer term implications for cities and urban development: spatially, financially, socially, environmentally etc. This would also mean a continuation of our work with OECD and other external partners.
  - Develop a reflection piece and a strong message on urban resilience, building on the impact on the crisis, the role of cities, lessons learnt and insights into what can make cities and urban areas stronger in the future.
  - Identify opportunities to generate momentum around recovery, resilience in urban areas and strong cities in the future, for example:
    - The informal council meeting on urban matters in Leipzig in November 2020, with the launch of the updated Leipzig Charter, including aspects related to the role of cities in the EU, sustainable urban development and citizens engagement, which would all have to be reconsidered in view of the crisis.
    - The Conference of the Future of Europe will provide opportunities to highlight the need to reinforce the ways of working with cities and citizens in the EU, which should also be reassessed in view of the crisis.
    - Consider organising an Urban Thought Leadership Forum on urban resilience in the second half of 2020, possibly in connection with our annual conference with mayors and urban leaders.

### **Potential allies and partners (not exhaustive):**

- CEMR and CoR on the MFF and cohesion policy
- Friends of Europe on political visibility and role of cities in the EU

- OECD, ESPON, ILO and WHO on evidence base and research
- C40, 100 Resilient Cities and the Global Parliament of Mayors
- Urbact and the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) for knowledge sharing
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of General Interest (CEEP)
- Sector specific networks - including the Covenant of Mayors' partners and the urban mobility network organisations working on green recovery as well as the networks of social NGOs working on inclusion, housing, migrant integration on social recovery

## **Oversight of activities**

ExCom and forum chairs will contribute to steering the relevant network activities to ensure they respond to cities' needs, taking into account the objectives outlined above. They will monitor the development and implementation of the road map and provide input throughout the year.