

Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) on behalf of local authorities

The current pandemic has demonstrated that local and regional governments are at the forefront of the efforts to recover and rebuild better. The crisis is also demonstrating the paramount importance of maintaining the functionality of basic public service provisions.

With this in mind, implementation of the EC priorities needs to ensure that:

- Subnational and local governments are viewed as natural allies, whose full potential is mobilized.
- We would like local governments to be truly seen as a sphere of government. This is important to ensure that our dialogue with organized civil society is productive.
- The principle of subsidiarity is promoted in the design and effective implementation of public policies supported by the EU.
- Strong and resilient local service provision is developed and its continuity ensured. This should address inequalities and ensures equal access by all citizens.
- Access to internet is available to everyone as a basic service, as a tool to access not only information, but other essential services such as education.
- Access to financing for local and regional governments is available, to continue to work at the frontline for the communities.
- European and worldwide green deal supports local and regional environmental plans, making our communities more resilient to future outbreaks. This means returning to full economic activity through sustainable models.

Development is ultimately local and a majority of the goals will need to be realised at local level. In order to enhance existing relations with stakeholders the EU can specifically:

1. Bring stakeholders together to carry out a holistic approach to development challenges.
2. Defend multilateralism by building on the force of cities, local and regional governments. Support them to define policies together.
3. Promote knowledge and experience sharing through decentralized cooperation.

In this way we can capitalise on shared experience to build back better, stronger, and more inclusively.

Question:

- How will LRG be involved in the Team Europe governance mechanism to address the post-covid19 phase?