

LIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE: BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE OUTBREAK

CONCEPT NOTE:
Local Democracy
18th June, 2020,
15:00 - 17:00 CEST





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Thematic session: Local Democracy

Objective

The thematic session will focus on how local authorities' democratic processes have been impacted: election processes, meetings of municipal councils and political bodies, deliberation processes, participation and co-creation with citizens are some examples. It will also highlight the different solutions implemented to overcome this situation as well as the challenges they face in terms of access to these technologies and the protection of rights.

Live Learning

UCLG, in partnership with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, are organizing a **Live Learning Experience** for local and regional governments on **11th June, 15:00 - 17:00 (CEST)** to push more than ever, through and political will, for the fulfillment of their critical role as drivers of change. Its solidarity will be the opportunity to show that LRGs are working to carry out public service delivery specially regarding local democracy, fostering the preservation of the commons, and promoting human rights.

Guiding questions:

- **Challenge:**
 - How has democratic life developed in cities and territories in the absence of face-to-face meetings?
 - What will happen with the election processes planned for the coming months?
 - What specific challenges have been faced and what new lessons have been learned regarding local democracy and respect for human rights?

- **Roles and opportunities**
 - What role can remote meeting forms play in implementing democratic and multilevel governance?
 - What new forms of LRGs-citizens collaboration are emerging amid the COVID-19 crisis?



- **Action**

- Which experiences of citizen collaboration during the pandemic are inspiring transformative local policies and can be pursued to support the reconstruction phase
- Which policies can help promote a new social and solidarity pact in the face of inequalities and the vulnerability of those most affected?

- **Recommendation**

- What joint recommendations and advocacy strategies can you propose to LRGs?
- What role do LRGs play in reinvigorating democratic practices and in curbing authoritarian/technocratic drifts?

Different local and regional governments across the world will provide specific inputs to enhance and collect learning and foster knowledge exchange to better prepare for such challenges, how to respond to them in the present and mitigate in the future. Doing so requires fast and comprehensive action on the ground and highlights the crucial role of local democracy in times of emergency.