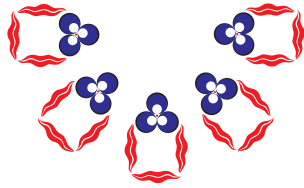


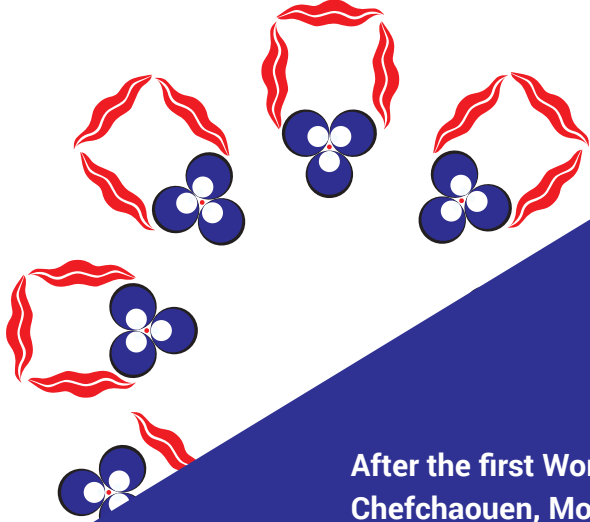
UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities



Life Systems for a Resilient Future

5-8 October 2021
Kutahya-TURKEY

Executive summary



After the first World Forum of Intermediary Cities held in Chefchaouen, Morocco in July 2018, Intermediary Cities have made greatest efforts to make themselves visible, “voice-able”, and heard before the pandemic. The “potential to unlock local implementation agendas” in the first world forum has generated a momentum, making these cities heard by International Institutions, and local governments, aware of their conditions being unique ones. The momentum has also generated advocacy, financing, and accelerated the implementation of the Global Agendas at a moment when Intermediary Cities did not usually enjoy such recognition.

The pandemic has revealed the failures and gaps in the functioning of territories: inequalities experienced in the survival throughout the health crisis have placed local governments in the frontline of the health crisis, that has shown its different faces in territories: the economic crisis, the social crisis and the ecological crisis. Today, many Intermediary Cities are in a state of emergency, especially in the global South and the risk of unrest is high.

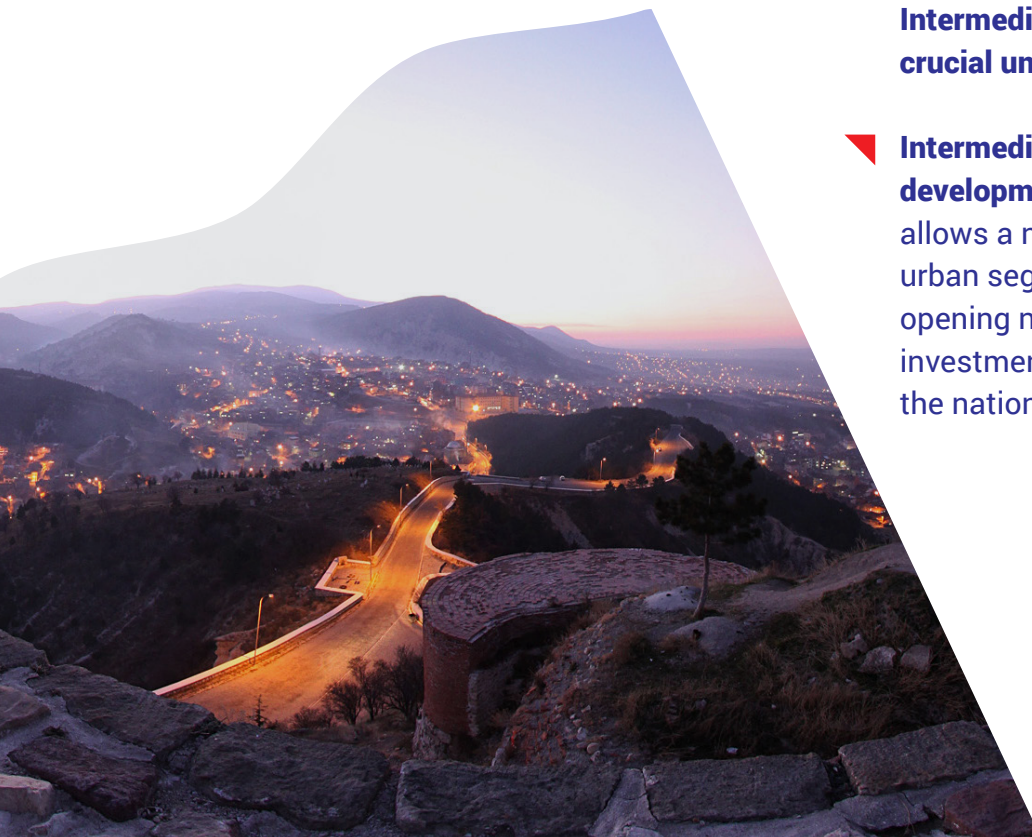
However, and more than ever, the specific character of intermediation poles of development in territories, that defines them, is needed to build a strong, resilient and healthy Recovery: it is not only a need for the populations living there, but it is the closest solution to achieving true Global Resilience for our planet.

This is the main objective of this Second World Forum.

Key potentials

The attractiveness of Intermediary Cities seen during the Pandemic for those that wished to leave crowded and dense areas has enhanced their key potentials and include:

- ▶ **Rural-urban linkages** opening to proximity with Nature, and to healthy food and natural resources.
- ▶ **Local consumption and production** patterns for food sometimes still directly linked to improving local production structures.
- ▶ **A large area of policies impact the territory:** decentralization & cooperation between municipalities becomes a key player for the life of/in the territory.
- ▶ **Areas of integration into the democracy principles especially for global South countries:** from rural to urban worlds.
- ▶ Mass of Intermediary Cities are the key feature to play on to reveal the true potential at global level: scaling up solutions, and enhancing large national or/ continental strategies are the most adequate strategy to play on this mass of cities. **National scale of developing strategies and international cooperation between Intermediary Cities becomes crucial under this light.**
- ▶ **Intermediation poles of development in the territory:** this allows a new lecture of the national urban segments and development, opening new strategies for investment and development onto the national territory.



2021 a crucial year for the World and for Intermediary Cities

2021 is a crucial moment, not only for Intermediary Cities, but for the world as a whole: it is the time to decide and set in motion the recovery we want for the planet. It is the opportunity to define new future paths for the post-COVID world. The next question is: what is the Recovery we are seeking?

Is this the right opportunity to draw the main lines for the post-COVID world?

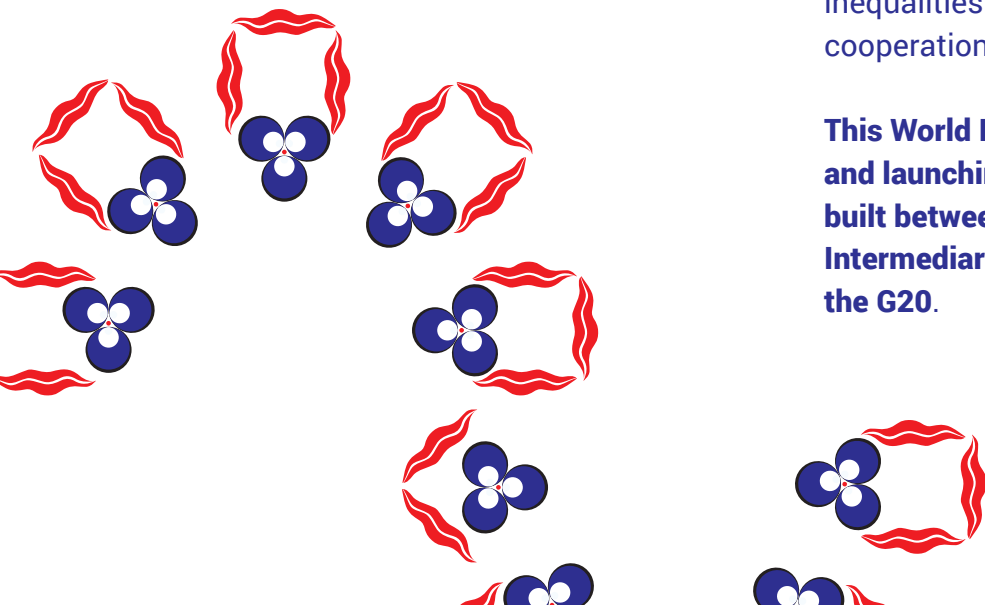
We, in UCLG, as well as other international institutions have been brainstorming on the the new era and the transformation it is demanding from us as a global community: the main challenge faced is whether we want it, we acknowledge it, and whether we accept it. Because these are new times, whether we accept it or not. There will be a world before the pandemic, and a world after the pandemic.

Our responsibility as international community and municipal movement is to prepare and support the populations and local governments to drive the transformation that is happening in the most adequate way for our people and for the planet.

These are indeed the key factors for development to be resilient, inclusive and healthy.

A key year for Intermediary Cities: they have been addressed, not only by Local Governments like up until now, but by the G20 Countries. The Italian Presidency did bring them as a key issue in the G20 agenda, making of them a key player in the Recovery efforts for fighting inequalities and seeking a more just cooperation and decentralization.

This World Forum will be acknowledging and launching the new synergy to be built between the Local Governments of Intermediary Cities through UCLG and the G20.



Objectives of the World Forum

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the urgency to pursue the ecological transformation of intermediary cities, in line with the trends identified during the 1st World Forum and laid out in the Chefchaouen Declaration. As catalysts of territorial development, it is fundamental to address the increasing pressure over intermediary cities and ensure we stand prepared to lead the way to an inclusive and resilient recovery.

On the basis of the consultations carried out this year, we will jointly define an outcome Declaration, drawing **the lines of the post-COVID world and sending a strong message to the global arena that the inclusive, caring and resilient world of the future requires a territorial approach through intermediary Cities.** The cultural diversity and the fight against inequalities of Intermediary Cities can **pave the way to a new set of essentials, which places care for the people and the planet at the center of our priorities.**

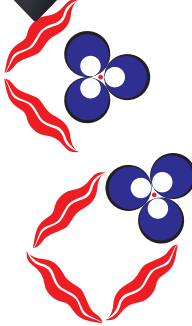
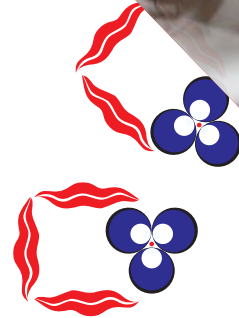
The Forum will bring forward the challenges Intermediary Cities face in the current crisis, the common solutions they offer to global challenges, as well as the alternatives to unlock the potential of these cities in shaping a different future.

Pact for the Future UCLG's multiannual strategy: Reshaping the future of our common planet

After the consultation gathered in May 2021, some key takeaways have been gathered, allowing to find a common ground between all of them: recommendations focusing on **the Citizenship**, and recommendations focusing on **policies and actions to be taken**. Both set of recommendations have a common ground that is based on the Environment and Ecological Transformation needed for a resilient planet.

Both documents will accompany a strong Declaration which aims at drawing the lines of the new era, the post-COVID world with/by/through Intermediary Cities.

The final aim is to contribute to the Pact for the Future, the multiannual strategy of UCLG, based on 3 components: People, Planet & Governance.



Methodology

The “potential to unlock” in the first world forum has been greatly heard by International Institutions. The results of the first important global gathering on Intermediary Cities did present some powerful results mentioned in the “Declaration of the Intermediary Cities of the World” that include:

- ▼ Living systems.
- ▼ Resilience structure for measuring the balance of concrete projects and local agendas based on the 5 capitals of Resilience.
- ▼ Enhancing the impact of green friendly policies and investments.
- ▼ Having prerogatives on natural resources as a key player, directly linked with local culture, as a paradigm to nurture and safeguard, while integrating smart technologies to enhance it.
- ▼ A definition that is based on the Intermediary Cities’ role of catalyst of development into the territory than the number of citizens which is more depending on the national and continental classification.

The Intermediary Cities 1st World Forum was **based upon the 5 capitals of Resilience**: Human-Social-

Economic-Cultural-Environmental. This methodology has allowed to arrive to the **Charter of Intermediary Cities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Intermediary Cities, based on the structure of Resilience capitals.**

Although the momentum has generated advocacy, financing, and implementation where Intermediary Cities were not identified as such before, the present moment of COVID has enhanced the challenges, while allowing a new perspective on the Intermediary Cities’ potential for resilience.



The dynamics and movement, as well as mobility of people have accelerated the impact on and increased the attractiveness of the Intermediary Cities. More than ever, Intermediary Cities have taken their places as intermediation poles in the territory, and this has allowed the generation of different stages of development, as they become part of the territory strategy and resilience balance.

Today, 3 years after the first Forum, and while still dealing with the COVID pandemic, the world is still looking for the processes, paradigms, methods, systems and models to be transformed.

Therefore, in preparation of the 2nd World Forum a series of Consultations are undertaken to listen, analyse, identify and position the role that the Intermediary Cities of the world are representing for the post-COVID world.

Some key takeaways, per criteria, were gathered from these consultations allowing to rethink the systemic patterns that will allow transformation to happen.

From those 4 takeaway documents and 2 set of recommendations have been developed, composing the ground for the Declaration of this 2nd World Forum. Each one of the consultation sessions will be bringing final recommendations to the World Forum sessions, under key and strategic high-level sessions.

UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities supported by key partnerships

This World Forum is building a new partnership with the G20, in order to allow an important global conversation between local governments and G20 countries. Some key partners have also been accompanying us along the way, and will be supportive institutions for the world Forum.

- ▼ OECD DEV Center
- ▼ Cities Alliance
- ▼ UN-Habitat
- ▼ UNDP
- ▼ International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
- ▼ ICLEI
- ▼ Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM)



Programme

UCLG
World Forum of
Intermediary Cities



DAY 1 CLIMATE DAY October 5th

Format: Virtual through Zoom

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

High-level Dialogue. Intermediary Cities & the Planet for Climate Justice

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

Special session. Acting on Climate Justice: Enabling Intermediary Cities to join the Race to Resilience & Race to Zero

DAY 2 October 6th

Format: Virtual through Zoom

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

Opening Plenary. Intermediary Cities for Equal Territories

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

Special Session. Intermediary Cities for Water Justice: from a regional to a global dynamic

DAY 3 October 7th

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

Cultural and field visits in Kutahya

Welcome of in-person delegations

DAY 4 October 8^h

Hybrid Format:
In-person in Kutahya & Virtual

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

High level Dialogue. From Kutahya to the World: Intermediary Cities for Caring Economies

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

High level Dialogue. Intermediary Cities for the Human dimension of the Transformation

17.30 to 18.30 CEST

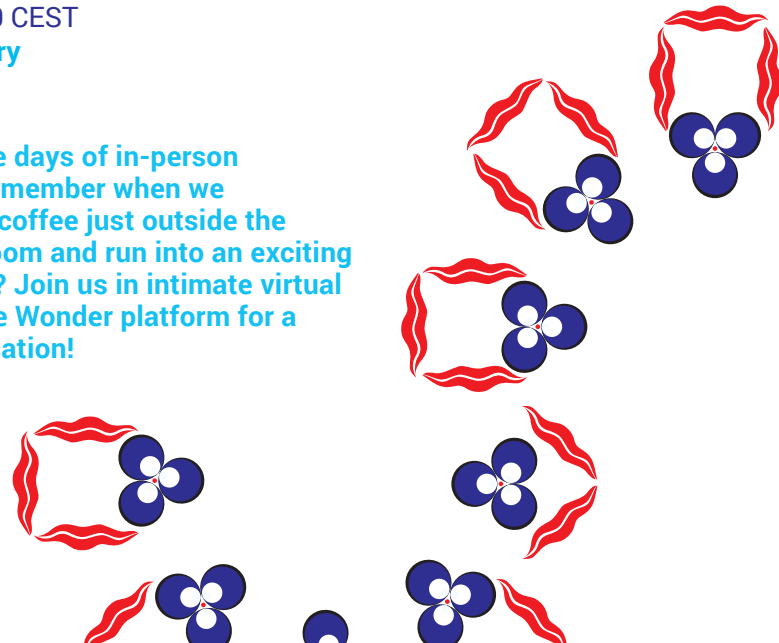
Closing Plenary

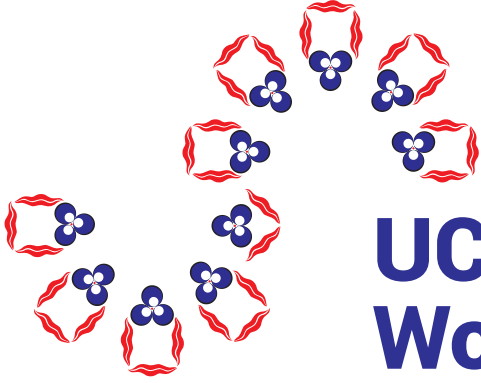
LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space from the 6th to the 8th

Format: Virtual with 'Wonder'

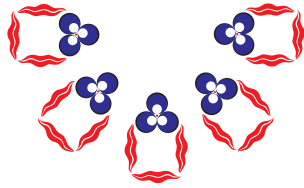
Missing those days of in-person meetings? Remember when we would grab a coffee just outside the conference room and run into an exciting conversation? Join us in intimate virtual debates in the Wonder platform for a lively conversation!

More information and expression
of interest to organize
a session available on this form:
<https://forms.gle/pShkPTr4HF1QZets6>





UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities



PROGRAMME

5-8 October 2021

Kutahya-TURKEY

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UCLG **World Forum of** **Intermediary Cities**

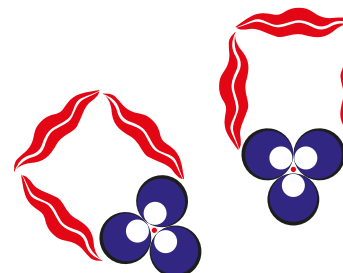
Kütahya, Turkey

Climate Day
October 5, 2021

During the consultations towards the 2nd World Forum organized in May 2021, the interlinkages between culture, environment and the ecological transformation of intermediary cities was vastly emphasized as a key aspect to enable a new relationship with the planet. Intermediary cities can have a fundamental role in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 and pursuing climate justice in the territories, while enhancing resilience and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

Two main sessions will look into the role of intermediary cities as catalysts of territorial development that focus on the wellbeing of the people and the planet, prompted by culture, traditions and diversity as drivers of sustainable practices and awareness-raising. Intermediary cities can hold the key to connect actors and undertake integrated approaches, contributing that territories allow the harmonic coexistence of nature and humanity, of the living systems.

Given the necessary support, resources and competencies, intermediary cities can anticipate urban growth, recover from the pandemic crisis by investing in green technology and solutions, which in turn can promote and enhance solutions to global challenges, especially the climate emergency and the loss of biodiversity.



High-level Dialogue: Intermediary Cities & the Planet for Climate Justice

Ecological transformation for healthy and inclusive intermediary cities

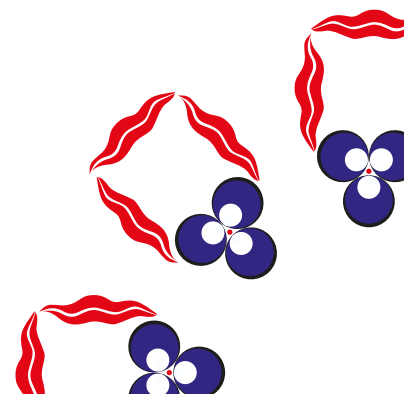
October 5, 13h30 – 15h30 (CEST)

Across food systems, ecotourism, water, forest and other resources and ecosystem services, intermediary cities have a unique potential to unlock a new model of development, that generates jobs, addresses inequalities, secures climate justice, adopts nature-based solutions, seeking the conservation of the global commons. In close collaboration with local stakeholders and communities, intermediary cities can adopt innovative practices and contribute to safeguarding natural heritage, reducing pollution and instigating circularity.

As articulators of the urban-rural continuum, intermediary cities can empower local communities, women, youth and those living in rural areas or informal settlements. Intermediary cities should be prepared and become a prospective of opportunities to next generations, addressing climate impacts and to ensure an equal distribution of the benefits of climate actions.

As emphasized by the Communiqué of the G20 Development Ministers meeting, the capacities of intermediary cities need to be strengthened and multi-stakeholder action and mechanisms can help mobilize support and redress gaps in knowledge, policy or financing that may limit the full potential of intermediary cities.

In 2022 it marks 50 years of the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, which led to the creation of UNEP. Towards Stockholm+50 and to advocate for the proper reflection of intermediary cities in this process, the dialogue will focus on the key relevance of these cities, their needs and main contributions to redefining the relationship with nature and the planet.



Key messages to consider

Intermediary Cities can contribute to tackle different global challenges. The strengths of intermediary cities can pave the way for climate justice, for instance regarding:

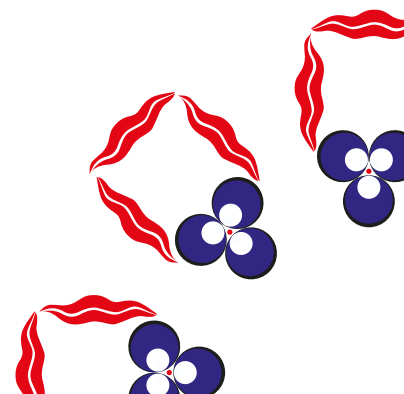
Financial and economic resilience of local and regional authorities is paramount to achieve ecological transformation. How to enhance the financial capacities associated with climate justice efforts in Intermediary Cities?

There are growing vulnerabilities to climate change in intermediary cities. How to support Intermediary Cities to fight inequalities, address urban sprawl and the expansion of informal settlements? How can they improve infrastructure and access to basic services?

Long-term and future visions for intermediary cities can help achieve and accelerate global agendas as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban agenda. In this process, how to ensure that Intermediary Cities are given a role in the global agendas, and that territories are mobilized and invested to empower this potential?

Intermediary Cities have the capacity to further mainstream health and well-being of nature and of humanity in all policy development issues and link global agendas with an inclusive and just ecological transition - what global policies could enhance this potential?

Our mental and psychological well-being is inextricably linked to nature. What can this be made systemic in the living systems, through culture to enable a scaling up of the ecological transformation in these cities?



Special session - Acting on Climate Justice: Enabling Intermediary Cities to join the Race to Resilience & Race to Zero

5 October, 16h00 – 17h30 (CEST)

At the global level different initiatives are established to rally efforts at all levels and by non-State actors, such as the Race to Resilience, which aims to catalyze action by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks. Under this framework, the Cities Race to Resilience offers cities themselves the unique opportunity to showcase action and drive ambition, according to their own contextually relevant local landscape. As the initiative takes shape and gathers cities to join this international campaign, partners turn on how to assist local and regional governments to enhance their journey to resilience.

Founding partners of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), UCLG and ICLEI developed the Global-Regional Coordination (GRC) project focused on improving coherence, trust and the participation of in the GCoM activities, both at global and regional levels. Within the activities of the GRC project, this session will present a proposed package of tools and solutions that will support intermediary cities to further engage the Race to Resilience and to undertake their journey to build long-lasting resilience to climate change, and including consideration of social impacts and crises building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

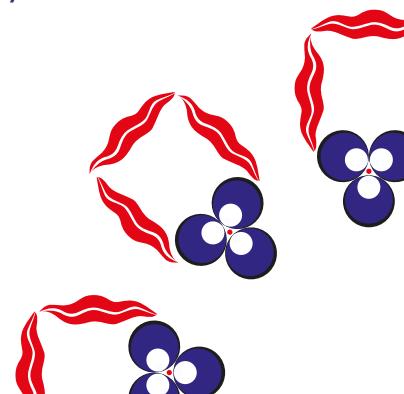
Climate justice is also about ensuring that cities of all sizes and levels of development are equipped to engage global processes, agendas and to play their part in enhancing resilience and attaining decarbonized pathways. The session will look into how to ensure that intermediary cities can access the global campaigns, and particularly the Race to Resilience.

The package will include:

Opportunities for climate financing & access to intermediary cities

Access to expertise, trainings & learnings to empower cities

Common advocacy messages of intermediary cities on global resilience



UCLG

World Forum of Intermediary Cities

Kütahya, Turkey

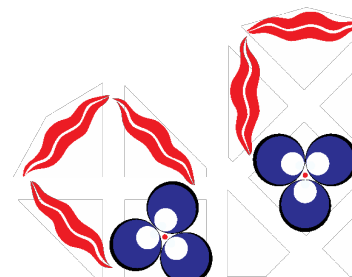
Opening ceremony

October 6, 2021 - 13:30-15:30 CEST

The world faces the huge challenge of mitigating the crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and of recovering in an inclusive and sustainable manner. As was clear by the lessons learned from these crises, an integrated and coordinated response is what is needed to truly ensure that all people and the planet are duly protected.

An integrated and coordinated response is one that is territorial and based on multi-level governance. One that takes into account urban rural linkages and the challenges and solutions of big metropolises, intermediary cities, and small towns. Moreover, the pandemic brought to light the integrated role that local public service provision plays in the health response and the link between health and other essential services such as, among others, housing, mobility, water and sanitation, and education.

Within this context, intermediary cities have played a key role in development processes contributing to an integrated response to development challenges before and during the pandemic. Intermediary cities are essential poles of intermediation in a territory, making the link between

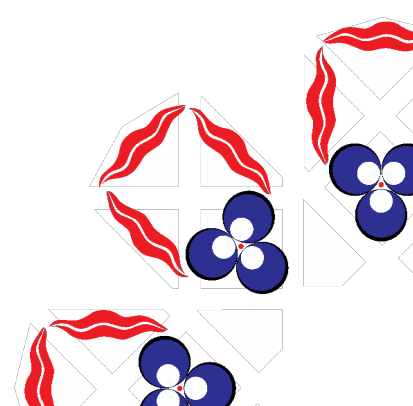


urban and rural development strategies. They contribute to policies of decentralization fostering innovative methods of cooperation among government actors, and methods of production and consumption. Furthermore, they have illustrated that equality and development are intrinsically interconnected and that one cannot be achieved without the other, highlighting the need to work towards a society of care.

During the pandemic, intermediary cities have brought to light their vision for a more resilient, equal, and caring future. Their strengths were brought to the world stage acting as a caring safe haven for many leaving big metropolises in search for protection and increased quality of life as was their challenges linked to a strong need to increase services and financing to ensure a shared and balanced development.

The frontline and vital role of intermediary cities and in general of local and regional governments to contribute to social, economic, and environmental resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic is undoubtedly clear and has brought us to a shared vision. This vision is grounded on the active advocacy work of the constituency, including through the 1st Intermediary Cities World Forum and laid out in the Chefchaouen Declaration, but also through the emerging and recent advocacy work and recognition by the Group of 20 (G20) under the 2021 Italian Presidency. In particular, the G20 has highlighted the relevance of intermediary cities in fighting inequalities, contributing to resilience and to strengthening international cooperation within the *G20's Development Working Group Outcome Document on Territorial Development and SDGs Localization*. Within the outcome document, there is also a specific reference to UCLG's Intermediary Cities World Forum and the relevance of "raising the profile of intermediary cities" and localisation of the SDGs in the international agendas.

This Opening Ceremony of the 2nd World Forum of Intermediary Cities, will set the scene for this advocacy milestone for intermediary cities and include two special roundtables on the relationship between intermediary cities and inequalities, grounded in caring and rights, and intermediary cities and cooperation grounded in a balanced and shared development.



The session

This session will bring to light the inputs of experts from different intermediary cities & regions and international development partners to showcase how intermediary cities have been contributing to drawing the main lines of the post-pandemic world and their importance in the international stage. A special connection will be made with the work of the G20, including special representation from the Italian G20 Presidency.

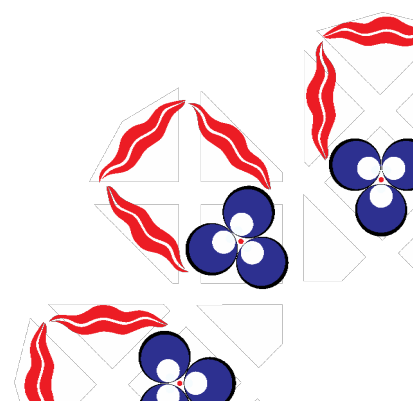
The roundtable on ***Intermediary cities & Inequalities: for Equal Territories*** will focus on the essential role that intermediary cities play towards addressing challenges rising inequalities by fostering social cohesion. The roundtable on ***Intermediary Cities & Cooperation*** will focus on the catalyst role that intermediary cities play for transformative production and consumption models through their intermediation role within territories and their ability to contribute to decentralization.

Key messages to consider

Intermediary cities are key to ensuring that development is balanced, resilient, and inclusive.

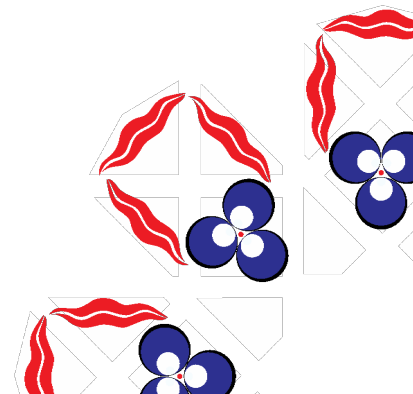
The G20 explicitly recognizes the importance of intermediary cities in fighting inequalities, contributing to resilience and to strengthening international cooperation.

Intermediary cities come out strongly in the G20's Development Working Group Outcome Document on Territorial Development and SDGs Localization.



Intermediary cities will be key drivers to foster stakeholder collaboration due to their proximity to the communities. This is a key added value.

Intermediary cities can help achieve social justice through alliances with youth and women, regions, and the international community.



UCLG

World Forum of Intermediary Cities

Kütahya, Turkey

**Special session – October 8,
2021**

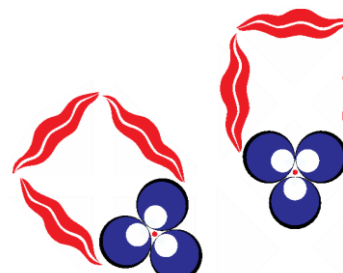
Intermediary Cities for Caring Economies

October 8, 2021 - 13:30-15:30 CEST

The world faces the huge challenge of mitigating the crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and of recovering in an inclusive and sustainable manner. As was clear by the lessons learned from these crises, an integrated and coordinated response is what is needed to truly ensure that all people and the planet are duly protected.

With the aim of assisting Local Governments to face the current situation of COVID and giving them orientations in building a true and resilient Recovery, UCLG has been developing, building on the knowledge shared by local and regional governments, the importance of the new essentials: as we enter the recovery, we need to develop cities of care, cities of equal opportunities, and a new way of doing politics in order to truly achieve the transformation that our communities call for.

During the month of May, the preliminary session on Intermediary Cities for Caring Economies aimed to develop a common narrative around this debate through different mechanisms and consultations to respond to this moment when the questions of 'rebuilding', 'recovering' and 'caring'



are at the center of the debate following the crisis and aftermath originated by the COVID-19.

Local and regional governments are working to place public service delivery at the core of their efforts, endeavouring to care for their communities and the public workers who care for them. At a moment in which the survival of both nature and humankind has been put at stake, and where we are redefining what is essential, we need to talk about resilience, about thinking and redefining caring places, in respect of the environment and natural ecosystems. Economic resilience is also about and about harmonizing the survival of the planet and people.

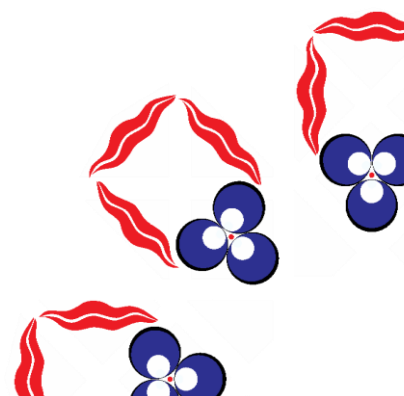
The preparatory meeting that took place in May 2021 laid the foundations of cities as caring economies, introducing the importance of caring places as life systems. Among the commitments and work priorities, participants agreed that it is necessary to develop a local-national dialogue around intermediary cities; to develop models that address depopulation, harnessing the New Urban Agenda as a framework for models that build on the potential of territories; and foster the potential of intermediary cities as essential actors to reshape value and food chains.

As we enter the recovery, Intermediary Cities are in the need of a model based on Caring Economies: understanding the economic capital, as an inseparable part of the human capital in cities and territories, in its links with the social capital and natural/environmental capital. It is essential to rework the financing ecosystem to ensure fair and equal opportunities for intermediary cities to finance basic services and reach their target. The session will bring to life these issues, and build on the experiences of local, regional, and national governments as well as partners to ensure the potential of intermediary cities as spaces for transformation can be fulfilled.

Key statements for equal territories

New development models based on Caring, in the wake of the current production model

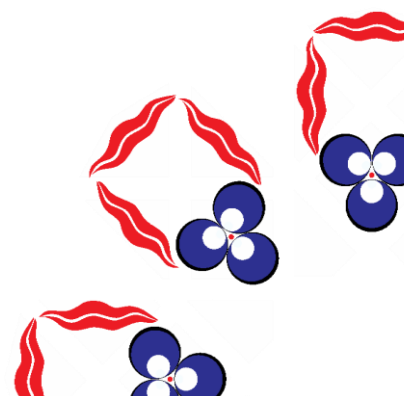
Rethinking funding to access opportunities at the territorial level



Depopulation and repopulation in post-COVID

The value of the New Urban Agenda for territorializing development

Local-National dialogues to address the potential of intermediary cities



UCLG **World Forum of** **Intermediary Cities** **Kütahya, Turkey**

Closing Plenary

October 8, 2021

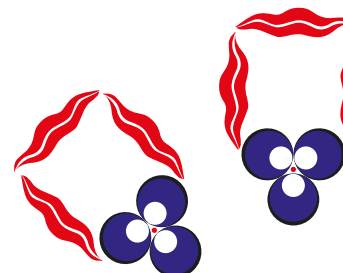
17h30 – 18h30 CEST

The current crisis has galvanized the role of intermediary cities in the process of human transformation. It has put a magnifying glass on their key function of developing and stimulating human capital.

Intermediary cities are trying to transform this moment of crisis into a moment of opportunities. With an increased pressure on them, as the population from major urban centers sought greener space and increased life quality during lockdown, intermediary cities have put the human dimension at the centre.

The current crisis the world is living is a true and direct reminder of the need for a people-focused dimension of urban and rural life and the livelihoods they can both offer in harmony. It is a reminder of the need to plan for people in both urban and rural areas, and not only linkages, and of our appreciation of human settlements, of the urban-rural continuum and of the importance of people in making territories.

A city is rich by its human capital, by its human talents, by its brains, and its ability to attract them and transmit it to future generations (legacy). This is why human capital also means economic capital: most of the revenues and incomes will come from investing in human capital. Local resources contribute to our cultural identity so heavily and are critical for our economy, linking cultural identity and branding in the DNA of the city.



The current context shows how critical it is to plan for the quality of life of inhabitants, in favour of a new productivity, an economy that cares about human and natural life. The current context demonstrates the important

transformation potential of intermediary cities for a new model of development, consumption and production, based on proximity.

The challenge is now to rethink mobility and working patterns in the post-Covid19 era and is an opportunity to promote cultural activities in harmony with the local natural ecosystem (soft-tourism).

Intermediary cities and their ecosystem is well placed to mainstream health and well-being of nature and of humanity in all policy development issues for an inclusive and just ecological transition, in intermediary cities and their territories.

Given that cities grow twice as large every 15 years, addressing the growing vulnerabilities and inequalities will be critical to maintain a resilient human fabric in the city: urban sprawl, expansion of informal settlements, resilience, access to basic services.

