



#EUPartnership18

**Tuesday 26 June – (14:00-15:30)**  
**Session 6 – Parallel Session**

**Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation:  
The key role of Cities and Regions for the Agenda 2030 Session**

**Background**

The European Commission supported this study on decentralised development cooperation<sup>1</sup> in light of the current high relevance of international cooperation actions of local and regional governments to achieve the 2030 Agenda' goals and the new European Consensus on Development, which commits the EU and Member States to strengthen their cooperation through decentralised cooperation and twinning.

The main aim of the project was to take stock of decades of decentralised development cooperation as to track related financial flows, to draw lessons, and most importantly, suggest ways forward to guide the action of donors, governments and stakeholders in a shared responsibility.

**Objectives**

- Present the results of the OECD study “*Reshaping Decentralised Development Co-operation: The key role of Cities and Regions for the Agenda 2030*”
- Discuss its main findings and recommendations
- Brainstorm on the way forward

**Expected Results**

- Audience is aware of the content of the OECD study on the recent trends in decentralised cooperation in EU Countries (financial flows, actors, mechanisms)
- Recommendations are shared and discussed among Local Authorities, CSOs, OECD and the European Commission/DEVCO. These will include: use decentralised development cooperation to improve cities and regions' contribution to the SDGs, improve governments' reporting on financial flows, increase coordination across levels of government for greater development effectiveness and impact and promote stakeholder engagement throughout the DDC project design and implementation.
- Participants are informed about the follow-up programmes of EC DEVCO and OECD on the localisation of SDGs - namely the CSO/LAs Thematic Program 2018-2020/ LAs component - and OECD Programme on the Territorial Approach to SDGs.

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<sup>1</sup> This term defines cooperation activities among cities and regions (or local authorities - subnational governments in general) from EU and partner countries. It may consist of financial transfers as well as partnerships, knowledge exchange, peer to peer relationships, etc.

## **Moderator**

- Anna Lixi, Head of Local Authorities Sector, Local Authorities, Cities, Infrastructure, Digitalisation, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

## **Panellists**

- Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, Local Authorities, Cities, Infrastructure, Digitalisation, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission
- Aziza Akhmouch, Acting Head of Division, Cities, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development, OECD
- Representatives of the 4 case studies, Flanders (Belgium), Basque Country (Spain), Tuscany (Italy), and France
- Civil Society representative

## **Rapporteur**

- Stefano Marta, Coordinator, Territorial approach to SDGs, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, CFE, OECD

## **Agenda**

- Short introduction by the European Commission, Mr. Paolo Ciccarelli - Head of Unit C5 - Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructures, DEVCO
- Main findings of the study, Ms. Aziza Akhmouch - Acting Head of Division, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD
- Relevance of the report for the four case studies – dynamic session with specific questions asked by the moderator to the 4 case studies (Flanders, Belgium; Basque Country, Spain; France, Tuscany, Italy)
- Open discussion among DEVCO, OECD, the 4 pilots and the audience
- Main recommendations from the study (by the OECD)
- Reflection on the way forward with a focus on the localisation of the SDGs through decentralised development cooperation (by OECD and DEVCO)
- Open discussion and closure

## **Guiding questions**

- What are the main findings and recommendations of the report?
- How can practitioners benefit from the recommendations?
- How can Decentralised development cooperation contribute to the localisation of the SDGs?
- Which are the possible follow-up activities on this?

## **Background documents**

- OECD report



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