



## Agenda

### Connective Cities Virtual Global Exchange on Municipal Response to COVID-19 in the Business Sector

Part of the Connective Cities Series on Municipal Response to COVID-19

24 March 2021

13:00 – 15:00 CET

#### Virtual platform

BigBlueButton (BBB)

#### Overview and objectives of the virtual event

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare systems is substantial and the spread of the virus presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, it is also having a significant negative effect on the private sector worldwide. Pertinently, the crisis has posed a number of new challenges to companies in this sector. Working under strict lockdowns and amid uncertain circumstances, companies have had to make change to their existing approaches to survive, albeit local governments have generally endeavored to support vulnerable businesses during these challenging times.

This web-seminar is devoted to exploring municipal initiatives and measures taken to address economic and business sector challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to review how municipalities have managed to support vulnerable businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the web-seminar will explore innovative private sector support schemes responding to COVID-19, outline the actions and strategies deployed to communicate with the private sector, and highlight the importance of business recovery plans.

Covering all of the above-mentioned topics, the event is divided into the following three parts: in the **first part**, the best practices in terms of innovative business approaches and business recovery plans in response to COVID-19 crisis among Connective Cities network members are presented; thereafter, the **second part** of the event is dedicated to the cases of municipal responses to COVID-19 in the business sector from Lima (Peru) and Cape Town (South Africa); and, in the **third part**, a panel discussion will take place in which the effectiveness of business recovery plans at municipal level during the COVID-19 pandemic will be discussed.

The web-seminar is being held as part of the Connective Cities international network initiative and will gather representatives of cities from all over the world. In addition, during the event, representatives of GIZ and cooperating experts on business and local development will also take part.

This online exchange is part of a series of Connective Cities virtual events promoting knowledge exchange in the fields of municipal response in health, business, and governance globally. This virtual exchange brings together city leaders and field experts in health, business, and governance to discuss prevalent trends, opportunities, and challenges emerging, along with the development and reinvention of municipal responses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Connective Cities international exchange platform is a multi-stakeholder project run by the German Association of Cities, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW). The project has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

**Agenda:**

Connective Cities virtual exchange in direction of business (times in CET)

24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021		
Time	Theme	Institution/person in charge
12:45	<b>Registration of participants and system check</b>	
13:00	<b>Welcome and presentation of the objectives of the project (10 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks</li> <li>• Interactive check-in</li> <li>• Objectives and agenda</li> </ul>	Dr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ Connective Cities Regional Coordinator  Dr. Piotr Żuber, Team Leader, Moderator of the Event
	<b>First Part</b>	
13:10	<b>Presentation of the methodology and results of the study on COVID-19 business responses within the Connective Cities network (10 mins)</b>	Dr. Giorgi Khishtovani, Research Director, Policy and Management Consulting Group
	<b>Second Part</b>	
	<b>Practitioners' exchange - presentations of good practices in direction of business</b>	
13:20	<b>Good practice 1 (15 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The case of Lima, Peru</li> </ul>	Ms. Patricia Talavera  Head of Economic Development Department, Lima, Peru
13:35	<b>Good practice 2 (15 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The case of Cape Town, South Africa</li> </ul>	Mr. Lance Greyling  City of Cape Town's Director for Enterprise and Investment, Cape Town, South Africa
13:50	<b>Q&amp;A (10 mins)</b>	Ms. Patricia Talavera  Head of Economic Development Department, Lima, Peru   Mr. Lance Greyling  City of Cape Town's Director for Enterprise and Investment, Cape Town, South Africa
	<b>Break (10 mins)</b>	

	<b>Third Part</b>	
14:10	<p><b>Interactive panel with the representatives of municipalities and business experts (45 mins)</b></p> <p><b>Topic: The effectiveness of business recovery plans on municipal level during the COVID-19 pandemic</b></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Max Van Der Sleen, Project business expert (tbc)</p> <p>Discussion participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Piotr Cieslinski, Deputy Director of Economic Development Bureau at Warsaw City Office, Warsaw, Poland</li> <li>• Mr. Vakhtang Lomjaria, Head of Municipal Department of Economic Development, Tbilisi, Georgia</li> </ul>
14:55	<p><b>Wrap-up session (5 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short summary – common challenges, efficient responses, and good cooperation practices</li> <li>• Next steps and opportunities for further cooperation</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Piotr Zuber, Team Leader, Moderator of the Event</p> <p>Dr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ Connective Cities Regional Coordinator</p>

### Connective Cities Virtual Exchange (CET time zone)

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