



Digital Conference | Brussels, 30 September 2020

# Building back better: A stronger social Europe What role for cities?

Hosted by MEPs



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DRAFT  
PROGRAMME



#inclusivecities4all  
#MySocialEurope

9.30 – 10.00 Technical check-in

10.00 – 11.30 **SESSION I: How to move social Europe forward with cities as partners?**

The corona crisis offers an opportunity to build a more inclusive and sustainable society. The recovery is our chance to do more than just undo the effects of the pandemic crisis. It is time to 'build back better' by putting people first. Many cities are already doing this. The Eurocities campaign 'Inclusive cities for all: social rights in my city' shows how cities take action to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, leaving no one behind.

**Official welcome**

- **Anna Lisa Boni**, Secretary General, Eurocities

**Opening remarks**

- **Estrella Dura Ferrandis**, Member of European Parliament

**Launch of Eurocities statement on reinforcing social Europe with cities**

- **Sedat Arif**, Deputy Mayor of Malmö, chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum

**Announcement of new city pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights**

**Cluster 1: Cities committing to strengthening childcare services and support to children**

- **Rudy Coddens**, Deputy Mayor of **Ghent**
- **Helen Godwin**, **Bristol**'s Councillor for women, children and young people
- **Constantinos Yiorkadjis**, Mayor of **Nicosia**
- **Itxaso Erroteta**, Councillor of **Bilbao** for Youth and Sport
- **Régis Laurand**, **Pau**'s Deputy Mayor for youth
- **Can Akin Çağlar**, Secretary General of **Istanbul**

**Cluster 2: Cities committing to enhancing healthcare and social infrastructure**

- **Thomas Fabian**, Deputy Mayor of **Leipzig** in charge of social affairs
- **Anne Voituriez**, Vice-president of **Lille metropole**
- **Grigoris Leon**, City Councillor of **Athens** in charge of housing
- **Sara Fernández**, Vice-Mayor of **Zaragoza**

**Cluster 3: Cities committing to active support to employment and skills training**

- **Katarina Niewiedzial**, Commissioner of the **Berlin** Senate for Integration
- **Emil Boc**, Mayor of **Cluj-Napoca**
- **Ritva Viljanen**, Mayor of **Vantaa**
- **Anabel Marie**, Councillor of **Rennes**

**Cluster 4: Cities committing to equal opportunities and protecting from poverty**

- **Rutger Groot Wassink**, Deputy Mayor of **Amsterdam**
- **Alexandra Sußmann**, Deputy Mayor of **Stuttgart**
- **Dejan Crnek**, Deputy Mayor of **Ljubljana**
- **Begoña Villacis**, Vice-Mayor of **Madrid**
- **David McDonald**, Deputy Leader of **Glasgow**
- **Tom Meeuws**, Deputy mayor of **Antwerp**

11.30 – 12.20 **SESSION II: How to tackle rising urban poverty and inequalities? The role of EU policy and funding to support social investment in public social services**

The corona crisis has exacerbated pre-existing social inequalities. Poverty is rapidly rising in cities with new groups of people at risk of poverty - the 'new urban poor'. Territorial inequalities are also deepening, with people living in deprived urban areas being most heavily affected. Social cohesion is at risk. Tackling these social impacts will require considerable social investment at local level. Cities are already seeing an increasing demand for social services at local level, but municipal budgets are under pressure. These urban problems need European solutions.

**High-level panel debate**

Moderated by **Ivo Banek**, Director of Communications, Eurocities

Speakers:

- **Agnes Jongerius**, Member of European Parliament
- **Brando Benifei**, Member of European Parliament
- **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director of Social Affairs, European Commission
- **Anne Karjaainen**, Chair of the Social Policy and Employment Committee (SEDEC) of the Committee of the Regions
- **Katarina Niewiedzial**, Commissioner of the Senate for Integration and Migration, Berlin
- **Michiel Grauss**, Deputy Mayor for poverty reduction, Rotterdam

**Q & A with participants**

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12.20 – 12.30 **Closing remarks: What next for a stronger social Europe?**

- **Agnes Jongerius**, Member of European Parliament
- **Maarten van Ooijen**, Deputy Mayor of Utrecht and vice-chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum

**Wrap up and launch of Eurocities website dedicated to #inclusivecities4all**

- **Ivo Banek**, Director of Communications, Eurocities

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12.30 – 13.30 Networking lunch online (*optional*)



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