



Online conference | 6 May 2021

# Cities Social Summit:

Delivering social rights  
and supporting  
an inclusive recovery

PROGRAMME

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# Cities Social Summit: Delivering social rights and supporting an inclusive recovery

6 May 2021, ONLINE

Cities are essential partners in delivering the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan and ensuring a fair, inclusive and sustainable recovery. Being home to over 75% of Europe's population, cities are the engines of Europe's economies, the beating hearts of Europe's societies and the closest level of government to Europe's people. Cities are responsible for implementing more than half of EU's social *acquis* and cover two thirds of the total public social investment. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on people's health, jobs and income, leading to rising poverty in cities and exacerbating pre-existing inequalities. Cities have stepped up as leaders on the frontline of this crisis, putting in place immediate measures to save jobs, help local businesses and protect the most vulnerable people. Cities play a key role not only in managing the crisis and mitigating its social impact, but also in driving a recovery that is both inclusive and sustainable. The road to a stronger social Europe by 2030 needs cities in the driving seat, now more than ever, to bring Europe closer to citizens and bring all people on board for just transitions.

## Our aim

Mayors and deputy mayors from cities across all over Europe will meet for the first-ever cities' social summit to reaffirm their strong commitment to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and decide on the contribution from cities to the new action plan. Taking a step further, city leaders will propose to EU and national leaders a new pact to work together between all levels of government to connect the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan with the EU Green Deal and with the right investments under the recovery plans at local, national and EU level.

## Objectives

This event will launch a **political dialogue at the highest level between city leaders and EU leaders** to strengthen social investments in the recovery plans at local, national and EU levels. City leaders will share their vision for an inclusive and sustainable recovery and how to make it happen by strengthening the social dimension in the EU's green and digital agendas.

City leaders will discuss their **contribution to the action plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights**. They will reflect on what cities have done so far to promote social rights for all people, what challenges remain and what more cities can do to contribute to the EU social objectives.

This is also a milestone event of our Eurocities campaign '[Inclusive Cities for All](#)'. City leaders will announce **new city pledges to support** the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights with concrete actions and investments at local level. We will **take stock of all city pledges** over the last three years and look into how the cities' political commitments contributed to translate the EU principles into actions on the ground and the impact they had to improve people's lives.

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## Questions to discuss

- What is the vision of cities for an inclusive and sustainable recovery, and how to make it happen?
- How can we better connect green, digital and social recovery with the right investments in the local, national and EU recovery plans? How can cities be better involved in the recovery plans?
- How can cities contribute to the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan and ensure that it makes a real difference for people on the ground?
- How can we use the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan as a tool for recovery, resilience and just transitions?
- How can cities, national and EU authorities work together on the new EU social agenda for 2030 and mainstream its objectives in the recovery and the EU's green and digital agendas?

## Format

The high-level political discussion online between city leaders and EU leaders will consist of two parts. A first roundtable debate will address the wider issues of recovery and how to connect green, digital and social recovery with the right investments in cities. The second roundtable will be focusing on how to deliver the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan and how to push social policies in the EU forward.

## Audience

We will bring together leaders at the highest level of policymaking from all levels of government:

- Mayors and deputy mayors of cities from all parts of Europe
- Members of European Parliament
- European Commissioners
- Representatives of the Council EU Presidency
- Representatives of EU social partners and civil society

## Expected outcome

The **conclusions** of the cities' social summit will **serve as a strong message by city leaders to the EU Social Summit**, reaffirming cities' commitment to be partners in the new EU social agenda for an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery in Europe. The Eurocities President will present this message from cities to the EU and national leaders at the EU Social Summit on 7 May in Porto.

Programme | Digital high-level conference  
**Cities Social Summit: Delivering social rights and supporting an inclusive recovery**  
6 May 2021 @ 10.00 – 16.00 CET

9.30 – 10.00 Technical check-in

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10.00 – 12.00 **SESSION I: How to ensure the recovery is both inclusive and sustainable in cities and in Europe?**

Green and digital transitions need to go hand in hand with social investments to ensure transitions are fair and inclusive of all people. Cities play a key role in bringing the social, green and digital agendas together at local level, but they cannot do it alone and without appropriate support from the EU and national level. During this session, city leaders will share their vision for an inclusive and sustainable recovery and how to make it happen by strengthening the social dimension of the EU Green Deal and the digital agenda. They will present their priorities for local recovery plans and their proposals for collaboration with the EU and national governments on how to better connect green, digital and social recovery with the right investments in the EU and national recovery plans.

10.00 – 10.15 **Official welcome**

- **Dario Nardella**, President of Eurocities and Mayor of Florence

10.15 – 10.30 **Keynote address**

- **Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

10.30 – 10.45 **Inspiring presentation: The role of city leadership in European recovery**

- **Prof Robin Hambleton**, University of the West of England, Bristol and Director of Urban Answers

10.45 – 12.00 **High-level panel debate**

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

Speakers:

- **Anne Hidalgo**, Mayor of **Paris** (*video message*)
- **Ada Colau**, Mayor of **Barcelona**
- **Rui Moreira**, Mayor of **Porto**
- **Ahmed Aboutaleb**, Mayor of **Rotterdam**
- **Katrin Habenschaden**, Mayor of **Munich**
- **Ricardo Rio**, Mayor of **Braga**
- **Susan Aitken**, Leader of **Glasgow** City Council

Reactions by:

- **Pedro Marques**, Member of European Parliament, Vice-President of S&D
- **Dragoş Pîslaru**, Member of European Parliament, Rapporteur on the Recovery and Resilience Facility and Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights

**Open discussion with participants**

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12.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

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13.45 – 14.00 Technical check-in

14.00 – 16.20 **SESSION II: How can cities contribute to the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan?**

Cities are allies in pushing the European Pillar of Social Rights forward. Cities have already proven their commitment to deliver social rights for all people. The Eurocities campaign '[Inclusive cities for all](#)' shows how cities have taken action to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights in 13 of the 20 policy areas, committing over €14.5 billion in social investments from municipal budgets to create, among others, more and better jobs, improve skills training, increase places in childcare, and invest in affordable housing. During this session, city leaders will share their vision for a stronger social Europe and how to make it happen by improving coordination between cities, national and EU level. They will share their priorities to deliver the European Pillar of Social Rights action plan and will discuss how cities can contribute to the EU's targets to support employment, skills development and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

14.00 – 14.30 **Keynote speeches**

- **Agnes Jongerius**, Member of European Parliament, Rapporteur on EP report on strong social Europe for just transitions
- **Miguel Cabrita**, Deputy Minister for Labour and Vocational Training of Portugal

14.30 – 15.00 **City pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights**

- **Maarten van Ooijen**, Chair of Social Affairs Forum and Deputy Mayor of **Utrecht**
- **Renaud Payre**, Vice President on social housing and urban policy of **Lyon Metropole**
- **Betina Beškina**, Deputy Mayor of **Tallinn**
- **Reaction by Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**, Director of Social Affairs, DG EMPL

15.00 – 16.00 **High-level panel debate**

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

**Employment and skills**

- **André Sobczak**, Deputy Mayor of **Nantes**
- **Elke Decruynaere**, Vice Mayor of **Ghent**, responsible for education and youth
- **Matteo Lepore**, Deputy Mayor of **Bologna**

**Poverty reduction, social inclusion and equal opportunities**

- **Thomas Fabian**, Deputy Mayor of **Leipzig**
- **Alexandra Sußmann**, Vice Mayor, **Stuttgart**
- **Sonia Fuertes**, Commissioner for Social Action, **Barcelona**
- **Marina Hanke**, Vice-chair of Committee on European affairs, **Vienna**

**Reactions by**

- **Kim van Sparrentak**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Per Hilmersson**, Deputy General Secretary of European Trade Union Confederation

16.00 **Closing remarks by Maarten van Ooijen**, Chair of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum



*This event has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information, please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*