



# CITIES

COMMUNITY of PRACTICE

## PLENARY MEETING 2021

28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

MEETING NOTES

**Opening [Moderator: Mart Grisel – EUKN]**

\*Brief welcome to the session and technical aspects of the meeting

**Word of welcome [Mikel Landabaso – DG JRC]**

\*Official opening by our director of Innovation and Growth (JRC Directorate B)

**\*Slido Icebreaker Question:**



**Updates from CoP-Cities Members**

\*Each speaker updated on activities relevant to the CoP from their organisation.

**EUKN [Mart Grisel]**

**DG REGIO [Laura Hagemann, co-chair of the CoP-Cities]**

**DG RTD [Marie Yeroyanni]**

The Urban Observatory is fully aligned with the ONE STOP Platform and the Global Knowledge platform the Cities Mission aims to promote but also with the key milestone ( Science platform) the Cities Science Initiative

JRC Future Cities report is aligned and complementary with the “Human-Centred City@ report ( see web link in my PPT)

Community of Practice, City Science Initiative, One Stop Shop Climate neutral Cities Mission and Cities networks. Connect the dots for the success post Covid cities of 2030

The RTD yearly urban mapping report to go online in a few days maps all existing EU funded projects initiatives and cities networks and stakeholders and helps to populate The CoP Urban Observatory, the One stop Shop etc

Another important aspect is the Living Lab approach promoted by the ENOLL network in synergies with RTD CNECT, City Science Initiative (THESSALONIKI Health Living Lab and other Cities Living Labs)

**DG CNCT [Niorin Ni Earcain]**

Smart Cities Marketplace Forum [https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/smart-cities-marketplace-forum-partner-event-eu-green-week-2021-jun-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/smart-cities-marketplace-forum-partner-event-eu-green-week-2021-jun-09_en)

Living-in.EU movement - <https://living-in.eu/declaration>

**DG MOVE [Luana Bidasca]**

Briefing on resilience for urban mobility > <https://www.eltis.org/in-brief/news/covid-19-sump-practitioners-briefing-now-available>

To the city representatives, your stories resonate with what we are learning with CIVITAS cities and living labs. I have to leave and remain at your service for any urban transport related info. Cities in the science initiative should be aware of the future CIVITAS topics labelled topics the upcoming Horizon Europe (focus on urban transport pilots) and of course, the opportunities that the Cities Mission will bring .

**Eurocities [Masha Smirnova]**

Good point to focus on housing&homelessness, our recent report on the topic here

<https://bit.ly/2S2gdcE>

**CEMR Nathalie Noupadja, Head of Research and studies**

CEMR= network organisation since 1951, of NATIONAL associations of LRGS -> 60 from 40 countries; or members represent all levels (so intermediate and regional as well) and ¾ of associations represent local level only . Publication on CEMR and the national associations in Europe: [https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_study\\_association\\_local\\_government\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_study_association_local_government_EN.pdf)

We represent their voice at European level, from an advocacy point of view, to make sure that whatever is done takes also local and regional level into account, but also from the knowledge point of view, sharing practices, experiences, and data.

As such, we cooperate a lot with the JRC, whether it is on urban issues, SDGs, following the work of networks like the City Science Initiative, and cooperating on reports and toolkits like the [Handbook of sustainable urban development strategies](#) or the one on SDG Voluntary Local Reviews... To deepen our collaboration, we even signed a MoU with the JRC to coordinate, mutualise and find synergies in our work on common issues.

All our work is obviously linked to LRGs but to name just one recent project, the new CEMR-URBACT pilot network of cities localising Sustainable Development Goals needs to be mentioned (<https://urbact.eu/sdg-network>). The “Global Goals 4 Cities” network (as the 19 cities participating have named it themselves: <https://www.ccre.org/fr/actualites/view/4177>) aims for capacity-building of territories to have an integrated and sustainable approach of their public policies and services.

I also need to emphasize some of our publications (I’ll paste some links in the chat) but allow me to only cite our annual series on SDGs localisation in Europe: [https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_PLATFORMA\\_SDGs\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_PLATFORMA_SDGs_EN.pdf)

We are now working on this year edition with a special focus on Voluntary Local as well as Subnational reviews, as well as COVID-19 recovery actions, and we intend to present it to the HLPF.

To finish, I’d like to insist just on one more “political point” maybe, or recommendation for the work of the CoP... My job, the whole point of my job actually, is to make sure research and data is useful and used by policy and decision makers... It is a real challenge and, in this context, CEMR teams do look a lot in the tools, methods, and networks that are now displayed in the JRC URBAN OBSERVATORY ON THE FUTURE OF CITIES AND URBAN STRATEGIES; but I’d like to insist on the importance of small and medium cities that should be given more attention.

Also, as Mr Landabaso emphasized, we all work for making sure the cities have the place they deserve = but what about rural areas? Especially in terms of recovery, of “new normal” = what kind of urbanisation and place for cities are we thinking of, what about ruralisation?

Our website for studies in general : [https://www.ccre.org/fr/papiers/index\\_broch](https://www.ccre.org/fr/papiers/index_broch)

#### **Examples of CEMR publications:**

Covid-19 and Local Finances

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/200629\\_Analysis\\_survey\\_COVID\\_local\\_finances\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/200629_Analysis_survey_COVID_local_finances_EN.pdf)

Inclucities project (integration of migrants)

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/06\\_INC\\_Leaflet\\_EN\\_pages.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/06_INC_Leaflet_EN_pages.pdf)

Reflecting on the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa Journey: Lessons learnt from the capacity-building activities and stories of success

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/9\\_lessons\\_learned\\_2020\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/9_lessons_learned_2020_EN.pdf)

Women in Politics

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_Study\\_Women\\_in\\_politics\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_Study_Women_in_politics_EN.pdf)

Update of the 2016 edition with special analysis of impact of Covid-19

[https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR\\_structures\\_and\\_competences\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/CEMR_structures_and_competences_2016_EN.pdf)

#### **\*Slido Question: What would you like to get out of the CoP-Cities?**

*More action and reflection urban co-governance*

*Knowledge cogeneration between researchers and city policy makers*

*Local relevance*

*collaboration*

*A report co-designed by all the members to enable true smart communities*

*cooperation, exchange*

*More transversal cooperation between DG’s ‘upgrading scales of action. Empowering cities*

*We like to learn about new methodologies for integrating social and ecological challenges*

*Support for transport decarbonisation and modal shift*

*knowledge*

*More collaboration opportunities and avoidance of parallel streams of work*

*reinforce urban science-policy interface  
pushing for more local level data  
A place to interact with urban development practitioners of all around Europe  
Connect the dots  
Strong Research-Policy interface  
Close collaboration on shared topics  
a kind of knowledge-hub where all EU activities concerning research & cities come together.  
Best Practices  
Common actions  
All EU opportunities for cities in a glance  
more data used by policy and decision makers  
Policy integration*

**Towards an Urban Observatory [Carlo Lavallo, DG JRC]**

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

update in May/june

**City Science Initiative [Javier Gomez, DG JRC, Chair: Caroline Nevejan, City of Amsterdam]**

for more info on the CSI and how to join: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/communities/en/community/city-science-initiative>

**\*Slido Question:**



**Concluding Remarks [Alessandro Rainoldi, DG JRC]**

\*Closing of the session, with forward-looking remarks