

# Future of Cities: Transparent and Innovative Urban Development

*Side-event at the margins of the European Week of Regions and Cities*

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Brussels, 10 October 2018, 16:30-18:00, UN House Conference Room, 14 rue Montoyer

The UN foresees that by 2050, 68% of the world's population will be living in cities, thereby increasing pressure on local governments to deliver on a high quality of life for their residents. With this expanding urban population, we are witnessing a global shift to cities as primary drivers of innovation. It is widely agreed that to accommodate these new patterns, cities need to be resilient, economically vibrant and sustainable, and their governance well-planned and inclusive. The interconnected nature of urban development requires going beyond sector-specific or individual technical solutions: it requires understanding the systemic challenges that cities face, governing in a holistic and inclusive manner, and placing residents' voice, well-being and development in the centre of decision-making. Successful interventions require cutting across public administration, resident life and public participation. At the same time, local governments are highly vulnerable to integrity violations and corruption due to their tight networks of power, weak accountability systems and non-transparent operational procedures. Building trust in local governments and enhancing their accountability through financial transparency, and the delivery of high quality, inclusive and accessible services, is essential for modern urban development.

The Eastern Partnership partner countries are experiencing both urban growth and decline. [In Ukraine and Moldova, the World Bank estimates that between 70-80% of cities are facing population decline](#), while at the same time there is high concentration in a few urban centers such as Kyiv and Tbilisi, which are constantly growing. UNDP has been [supporting](#) local governments across the region to provide mechanisms for transparent and [accountable governance](#), strengthen integrity and assess risks to it at the local level (such as the support to cities in Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine to assess corruption risks and develop Anti-Corruption Action Plans using innovative, citizen-participatory methods), and test out innovative solutions through its network of innovation labs (in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, designed to generate, prototype, test and implement innovative governance solutions). These initiatives not only aim toward more transparent and innovative urban governance, but support the overall efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by localizing them within the complex organism of cities.

During the course of the side-event "Future of Cities: Transparent and Innovative Urban Development", we will explore practical innovative approaches that are transforming life in cities, bringing residents to the center of attention and strengthening local governance infrastructure. The examples at this event will also highlight how UNDP's work in the EaP partner countries draws on the [EU "Urban Development Agenda"](#). The 2017 Eastern Partnership and the 20 deliverables by 2020 call for increased engagement with local authorities, including on such issues as local economic

development, energy and environment, as well as support to active citizenship and better service delivery to citizens and how these instruments can be anchored to foster innovation and transparency in the management of cities in Europe. The side event will also discuss efforts of several European cities in implementing of the SDGs in their own territories, considering that the EU Urban Development Agenda has been developed as a framework for the implementation of the urban component of Agenda 2030.

**This side-event aims to showcase experimentation in innovative methodologies and technologies and their implementation in Eastern Partnership countries with the view of strengthening accountability and integrity in city management.** In particular, the side-event will seek to:

- Demonstrate political commitment and participatory processes as accelerators for reforms;
- Showcase the role of technology in achieving higher level of integrity and efficiency in city management and delivery of public services;
- Stimulate an open discussion on the systemic nature of challenges for cities in the region, analyzing the intersections of smart urban development, sustainability, green energy consumption, resilience, and governance;
- Reflect on concrete examples and lessons learned and identify the next generation of solutions, including new technologies for systemic change and inclusive urban development.

### **Speakers**

*Moderator: Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia*

- Ms. Valentina Casian, Mayor of Straseni Municipality, Moldova
- Ms. Nino Tvaltvadze, Deputy Mayor of Kutaisi, Georgia
- Mr. Vladyslav Skalskiy, Deputy mayor of Vinnytsya
- Mr. Thomas Osdoba, Senior Cities Advisor, Climate-KIC
- Mr. Anthony Zacharzewski, Founder of Democratic Society

## Programme

16:15 – 16:30	<b>Registration</b>
16:30 - 16:40	Opening statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky</b>, Deputy Assistant Administrator / RBEC Deputy Regional Director</li><li>• <b>Ms. Barbara Pesce-Monteiro</b>, Director, UNDP Brussels Representation Office</li></ul>
16:40 - 16:50	Introduction and presentation of speakers by the moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Dmitry Mariassin</b>, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Armenia</li><li>• <b>Mr. Irakli Kotetishvili</b>, Anti-Corruption and Public Administration Specialist at UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub <i>Short presentation by on online <a href="#">Guide to Corruption Corruption-Free Local Governance</a> and a short <a href="#">video</a></i></li></ul>
16:50 - 17:00	<b>Ms. Nino Tvaltadze</b> , Deputy Mayor of Kutaisi, Georgia
17:00 -17:10	<b>Ms. Valentia Casian</b> , Mayor of Straseni Municipality, Moldova
17:10 - 17:20	<b>Mr. Vladyslav Skalskiy</b> , Deputy mayor of Vinnytsya, Ukraine
17:20 - 17:30	<b>Mr. Anthony Zacharzewski</b> , Founder of Democratic Society, Brussels, Belgium
17:30 - 17:40	<b>Mr. Thomas Osdoba</b> , Senior Cities Advisor, Climate-KIC, Brussels, Belgium
17:40 - 17:55	<b>Q&amp;As and closing</b>
17:55 - 18:00	Final remarks: <b>Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky</b> and <b>Ms. Barbara Pesce-Monteiro</b>