



NEWSLETTER No.5 MAY 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with pleasure that we are once again communicating with you through this newsletter. Most local authorities all over the world have lately focussed mainly on Covid-19 pandemic. This is the most obvious since our people's health is given the priority it deserves.

This situation brought about stressful times for us Chief Executives/Director Generals of local authorities. Many business entities and governmental organisations reduced their output, either as a result of national restrictions or due to lack of demands. On the contrary, we local authorities had to rise to the challenge, and despite the risks involved continued to provide services to their respective communities. Many, if not all, provided additional services to assist those in difficult situations.

For this I cannot praise and show appreciation for all those involved in local authorities. Mayors, Councillors, staff... but most of all my dear colleagues who had to manage, guide and motivate your staff to continue to provide the services as such high risks.

Now we will soon be going through another phase; some say it may even be riskier. Most of the countries are softening restrictions and travel will soon resume. It is evident that the economic blow was too hard on many

countries and so they are trying to strike the right balance between the health of our people and the economy. Whether this is a good move or not, only time will tell. However what is sure is that we will have to continue living with this pandemic and the 'new normality' for months to come.

In view of all this we would therefore need to continue to do our best to provide all the protection necessary first of all for our members of the staff, our communities and also our service providers without whom our authorities will face disastrous consequences.

One thing had definitely been proven in this situation; the importance of local authorities has been recognised not only by central authorities but also by many organisations, including the EU Commission. As a matter of fact it is so satisfying noting that the EU Commission wants to gather member states, local authorities and stakeholders to consider a number of measures and initiatives.

I thank you once again for your dedication and hard work to continue providing the statutory services and additional ones to your respective communities



PRESIDENT PAUL GATT

LAUNCH OF NEW UDITE WEBSITE

UDITE is delighted to introduce you to the new UDITE website that we have developed in partnership with the Knowledge Hub (Placecube). You can access it easily by going to UDITE.eu. Our new website provides all visitors with a wide range of publicly available information from UDITE and its national member associations including news on projects, networking opportunities, professional developments of interest to local government stakeholders. We have even developed a [COVID-19 exchange page](#) where anyone can post and share important developments from a local government perspective on local measures to tackle the outbreak and maintain services through this challenging period. In addition, to the publicly available information, we have included a members login only area. It provides members with access to private pages, including access to association documents, a shared association photo album 2014-2020, and a forum for exchanging information and best practices. We intend to kick off a series of themes for the forum during our next Executive committee meeting online in June. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to give us your feedback on the website and we will be delighted to add your new content and suggestions to the site. We would particularly like to thank Simon Pascoe and Liz Copeland at the Knowledge Hub for their cooperation and extensive work to produce an excellent new website for our association. [TAKE A LOOK NOW!](#)

OECD TERRITORIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19: MANAGING THE CRISIS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

With subnational governments at the frontline of the COVID-19 response. Regional and local authorities are responsible for delivering critical short-term containment measures and more long-term recovery activity – from health and social care to economic development and public investment. Read the latest report from OECD comparing approaches at local and regional level across 40 countries globally [READ MORE](#)

SAFELY COLLECTING HOUSEHOLD WASTE IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

CEMR is helping its members to share their experiences and practices on how local governments are handling the situation in relation to the impact and lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis in the field of waste management. Cities and regions across Europe face many challenges in collecting household waste while limiting the spread of the coronavirus. [READ MORE](#)

OECD REPORT FOCUSES ON CITIES POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID-19

As COVID-19 was spreading through cities around the world, with devastating impact on local communities and the wellbeing of residents, many local governments found themselves in the frontline combating the

outbreak. Cities in many countries have played an important role on the ground implementing nation-wide measures, on one hand, whilst spearheading more bottom-up, innovative responses given their unique proximity to citizens (i.e. attention to vulnerable groups). This report includes examples collected from over 40 cities that have been are clustered into six categories of policy response to the pandemic [READ MORE](#)

UN INVITES LOCAL LEADERS TO RECORD THEMSELVES ON THEIR WORK ON SDGs AND COVID-19 RESPONSES

Local2030, the initiative of the UN Secretary General on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, has recently launched the Local2030 Spotlight Series. Cities and regions around the world are invited to share 2-minute videos highlighting their perspectives on the main challenges and innovative solutions developed at the local level to fight the outbreak in the context of a global effort to implement SDGs. Local2030 is convinced that local efforts are essential to win the fight against COVID-19 and that the SDGs offer a framework to do so. [READ MORE](#)

GOOD GOVERNANCE PROJECT IS STARTING IN PORTUGAL

The Council of Europe's European Stakeholder Platform for the Strategy on Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level has agreed to accredit UDITE to implement the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) in Portugal up until 30th June 2022. It will involve the focus shifting to Portuguese municipalities. A call to participate in the self-assessment exercise that could eventually lead to the ELoGE (European Label of Governance Excellence) award will be launched in late 2020 by UDITE and ATAM who will lead this project. [READ MORE](#)

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL?

Europe needs a new growth strategy that transforms the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth is decoupled from resource use and no person and no place is left behind. To achieve this ambition, the Green Deal road map will make this happen by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. Actions are set out that will boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition and builds upon the European Covenant of Mayors, with close to 10,000 signatory cities to date, to make it a central force in the fight against climate change.. [READ MORE](#)