



## Diverse Cities facing the COVID-19 crisis:

### EU Research & Innovation for Inclusive Urban Development

7 July 2020 – Zoom Webinar. Please register at:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jXyKj8kLTPmkCrNGfEpGGg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jXyKj8kLTPmkCrNGfEpGGg)

15:00 – 16:30 CEST



#### Overview

This event is organised by the *Directorate General for Research & Innovation* (DG R&I) and the *Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises* (EASME) of the *European Commission* in cooperation with the *World Economic Forum Covid Action Platform* and its initiative [Hour of Pride](#).

The dramatic spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities and businesses worldwide. Cities have been the hardest hit by the crisis. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has further confirmed that most of our societal challenges are intrinsically urban. Compact cities have been struggling to ensure physical distancing while trying to reorganise health-care and school facilities, rearrange urban mobility systems and support vulnerable social groups.

However, cities are also key players in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and other societal challenges. Cities are the hubs of global innovation: they often team up with universities, civil society organisations, start-ups, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and other private companies to have access to innovative technologies and solutions. Science, research and innovation are helping European cities of different size to find innovative ways to weave together every strand of their community, so that every resident has a fair shot at opportunity and prosperity.

In this respect, supporting diversity and inclusion (D&I) becomes crucial to ensure the ‘right to the city’ for all, fighting discrimination and biases based on age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, language, geographical location, migrant status, or any other reason.



## Structure

The event is structured around the following questions:

- How can Research and Innovation help cities to foster D&I and be better prepared to respond to crisis?
- What is the role of social innovation in changing current urban governance models?
- Why are gender and intersectionality key for inclusive urban development?

Moderator: **Ugo Guarnacci**, Project Adviser, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, European Commission

Setting the scene - 10 minutes

**Luisa Prista**, Acting Director, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, European Commission

**Silvia Magnoni**, Head of Civil Society Communities, World Economic Forum

Zooming into Gender, Diversity and Inclusion in cities – 45 minutes

**Marina Della Giusta**, Professor of Economics, University of Reading (UK)

**Caroline Nevejan**, Chief Science Officer, City of Amsterdam (NL)

**Linda Gustafsson**, Gender Equality Officer, City of Umea (SE)

**Joke Quintens**, Social Designer and Founder of the Living Lab Marseille & Wetopia Making Cities Together (FR)

**Dr. Im, Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed**, Founder of the First European Inclusive Mosque in Paris (FR)

Q&A at the end of the presentations - 30 minutes

Concluding remarks - 5 minutes

**Maria Yeroyanni**, Senior Expert in Innovating Cities, Directorate General for Research & Innovation, European Commission



### **Target audience**

This event should engage representatives of cities, universities, start-ups, SMEs, private companies and key stakeholders working on D&I at the urban level from the angle of European Institutions, networks of cities, EU funded projects, national governments and regions, among others.

Special thanks go to the EU-funded, Horizon 2020 project [Urban Maestro](#), coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), for the technical support in organising this Webinar.