Forum "Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation" / Brussels, 4 - 5 February, 2019

Co-organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The overall aim: to strengthen the *policy dialogue between the EU institutions and Local and Regional Authorities* from both Europe and Partner countries and among them.

The specific objective: to discuss local and regional partnerships for *sustainable urban development* and to improve the way the Commission and the CoR are working on *sustainable integrated urban development* in the context of decentralised cooperation.

Expected results:

1. Issue strategic policy recommendations (...) to sustainable urban development agenda.
2. Identify and showcase good practices and projects to twinning/partnerships (...).
3. Engage in new partnership and twinning initiatives to localise the SDG, notably SDG 11 "Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

Programme

First part: panel discussions.

Second part: interactive "Open Space methodology", clustered around the 5Ps of the New European Consensus (Partnership, People, Peace, Planet, Prosperity).

The participatory approach will allow all stakeholders to actively shape the event and to convey policy recommendations to the European Institutions.

Topics:

- Good urban governance ('Partnerships') at various levels of administration (local, regional, national) and between different actors (elected officials, civil servants, citizens' groups etc.) including fostering civic engagement and ensuring inclusive participation in integrated planning and public finance management.

- The social dimension of urban development ('People') through inclusive and safe cities ('Peace'), in order to better address challenges such as urban poverty, inequalities, food insecurity, malnutrition, forced displacement, migration, social exclusion, as well as cooperation in contexts of state fragility.

- Green and resilient cities ('Planet') through the sustainable use of natural resources and protection and enhancement of natural capital (energy efficiency and biodiversity in cities) and the transition towards a low-carbon, climate resilient and circular economy.

- Prosperous and innovative cities ('Prosperity') with a focus on sustainable growth and job creation, fostering a responsible business environment where businesses can thrive and encourage private investment in sustainable development.