

Peer Learning - Open Call for participants:

Basic Services as Commons:

Innovative management between local governments and communities

May 2024, online (*with interpretation in English, Spanish and French*)

From the adoption of UCLG's Pact for the Future in 2022, the UCLG constituency has been convening to imagine pathways towards a more equitable, sustainable and peaceful future.

Within that framework and building on the Future Envisioning Exercise on Reclaiming the Commons, **this peer learning - organized in partnership with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) - aims to foster exchanges and experience-based discussions around how Local and Regional Governments can engage in and benefit from commoning practices and public-community innovation mechanisms to respond to local challenges, with a particular focus on basic service provision.**

The pandemic evidenced the need for reliable social protection mechanisms and for ensuring that quality basic services are available to all. During the emergency response, local authorities showed the potential for rethinking delivery strategies and finding new models for more accessible, just and democratic basic service provision. At the same time, the role of solidarity networks pointed to the importance of community organization in ensuring that everyone can access the basic elements for a dignified life. The combination of such strategies opens the door for finding new models for more equitable and effective local service provision.

Strengthened collaboration with civil society under collective management schemes can widen the available strategies for local and regional governments to respond effectively to increasingly complex challenges. Emerging frameworks for collectively managing water, energy, public spaces, housing, community facilities and others can offer positive outcomes in terms of reinforcing equality, socio-environmental sustainability, trust, care and accountability. Such collective goods can also be understood as commons, defined by the UCLG Town Halls as “material and immaterial goods, services and social practices considered fundamental for the reproduction of life and that, thus cannot be commodified but have to be taken care of and managed in a collective way, under principles of direct participation, radical inclusion and intersectional equity and justice.” This is of key importance to create more diverse and effective channels for inclusion and participation of communities that are historically marginalized and experience under-representation and exclusion, such as women, children and youth, racialized populations, migrants and refugees, LGBTQIA+ populations; indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and older persons.

There is a growing interest around the commons as a field for social experimentation and transformative action, as well as about the potential held at the local sphere for the flourishing of commoning experiences which open the way for collaboration between communities and public institutions. From remunicipalisation of basic services to co-management of services and public facilities, or inclusive public procurement to support the social and solidarity economy, **there is a vast space for public-community innovation through commoning.**

The peer-learning exercise will be a space for joint exchange, dialogue and reflection linking concrete needs to existing possibilities and wider strategies. **This call is open to all members of local and regional governments' administrations interested in:**

- Exploring the possibilities to respond to the challenges and concerns of local and regional governments in terms of public management and basic service delivery through approaches based on the commons and the right to the city;
- Discussing the possibilities of co-creation and co-management mechanisms/agreements as comprehensive strategies for advancing social equality, environmental sustainability and democratization of decision-making;
- Advancing towards a critical mass of local and regional governments committed with the protection and fostering of the commons, contributing to the implementation of the Pact for the Future and collective advocacy towards global agendas.

UCLG's peer-learning processes are based on the experiences, practical knowledge and concrete challenges faced by local and regional governments and their partners. For such, we encourage you to present a concrete case/experience that you are developing in your domain of work and that is related to the overall thematic of the peer-learning; or existing challenges you are facing; and the relevance of advancing commoning experiences as a mechanism to provide essential services in a context a increasing crises and widening inequalities.

DATES:

- **Thursday, May 23 and May 30.** 15:00-17:30 CET (For participants from the Western Hemisphere - Americas, Europe, Africa)
- **Friday, May 24 and May 31.** 9:00-11:30 CET (For participants from the Eastern Hemisphere - Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Europe, Africa)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

To join this peer learning process, please fill out the [application form available here](#) and submit it by April 12, 2024.

A committee made up by workshop organizers will assess the applications and contact applicants with further indications for their participation by the end of April.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact learning@uclg.org