



CENTER for MEDITERRANEAN
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مركز التكامل المتوسطي

Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network Webinar

Strategies for Local Economic Development in Forced Displacement Contexts

February 26, 2018

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Forced displacement is among the most pressing challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean region. As after six years of Syrian conflict, 92% of refugees reside outside camps. Their socio-economic inclusion with regards to access to labor and income is still insufficient and may limit their contributions to host economies as well as increase their chances of falling into poverty. In the meanwhile, host local governments have to adapt their strategic plans accordingly, scaling up existing services, shelter, and jobs to meet the needs of both the original residents and the displaced. They are also struggling with missing planning and response capacities as well as ineffective organizational arrangements: they are lacking skilled staff, financing, and incentives to create a better economic environment for both communities. Solutions could come from adopting a sound Local Economic Development (LED) approach, namely a comprehensive and participatory local strategy that would consider the business climate and economic environment, labor market structure, private sector mobilization, physical infrastructures, as well as other relevant features in the contexts of shocks and population changes.

Under this framework, since June 2016 the [Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network](#) aims to support host local governments with evidence-based knowledge and Capacity Building to improve their response capacity for forced displacement. The Network benefitted from several face-to-face workshops and webinars on priority themes, surveys, as well as online discussions in the ad-hoc Collaboration4Development (C4D) online collaborative platform. The Host Municipalities Network is moderated by the Center for Mediterranean Integration, as part of the [Mediterranean Refugees and Host Communities Program](#).

OBJECTIVE AND WEBINAR STRUCTURE

In preparation for the [Training Workshop on Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development in Host Communities](#), to take place on March 19-23, 2018, in Amman, Jordan, and building on the network's learning requests, this Webinar will discuss examples of city strategies which include a strong LED component in a forced displacement / migration shock context. Furthermore, the Webinar will also serve to introduce the Training Workshop on Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development and discuss its curriculum and modules.

Main objectives of the 2-hours Webinar are:

- To provide a first glance on cities' strategic approaches for Local Economic Development in forced displacement contexts;
- To identify good experiences and lessons learnt for improvement or possible replication in municipalities hosting refugees;
- To introduce the topic, methodology, and curriculum of the Training Workshop on Strategic Planning for Local Economic Development.



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TARGET AUDIENCE

This Webinar is part of the Host Municipalities Learning Network's activities. Both selected and non-selected applicants to the Training Workshop on Strategic Planning for LED are encouraged to join this webinar as an additional learning and exchange offer. Likewise, they are also encouraged to continue the discussion on the C4D online collaborative platform.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WEBINAR

The webinar will consist of a virtual exchange allowing participants to interact by connecting to the webinar directly from their computer. Arabic-English translation will be provided.

Please confirm your interest to participate here ([English](#) – [Arabic](#)).



AGENDA

Please note that timings refer to UTC+01 (Central European time). See the table below for further information.

15.00 – 15.20	Opening Remarks and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Janette Uhlmann, Senior Program Officer, CMI</u> and• <u>Rami Sharrack, Syrian Economic Forum</u> <i>Feedback from 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9)</i>
15.20 – 15.50	Local Economic Development Strategies in Forced Displacement Contexts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Samer Bagaeen, 100 Resilient Cities Program</u> <i>Presentation of strategic approaches for cities' resilience</i>• <u>Nisreen Alaraj, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan</u> <i>Amman Resilience Strategy</i>
15.50 – 16.30	Q&A Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Discussant: Anthi Christou, Athens Municipality, Greece</u>
16.30 – 16.45	What's Next: Training Workshop on Strategic Planning for LED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Sara Boughedir, Urban Consultant, CMI</u> and <u>Nicolas Meyer, Knowledge and Learning Officer, CMI</u> <i>Presentation of Curriculum and Agenda</i>
16.45 – 16.55	Feedback on the Training Workshop Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Moderator: Steve Commins, University of California (UCLA)</u>
16.55 - 17.00	Conclusions and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Ms Janette Uhlmann, Senior Program Officer, CMI</u>

LOCAL STARTING TIMES

LOCATION	LOCAL STARTING TIME
MARSEILLE	15.00
BEIRUT	16.00
AMMAN	16.00
JERUSALEM	16.00
ISTANBUL	17.00
BAGHDAD	17.00
YEREVAN	18.00
WASHINGTON D.C.	09.00