

Draft AGENDA

2025 Forum Cities and Regions for International Partnerships

"Localising Global Gateway"

*The contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to the EU's Global Gateway strategy,
including in fragile contexts*

Interpretation will be provided in **English, Spanish, French and Portuguese** during all **Plenary** sessions.

Monday 8 December

08:45-09:30	<p>Registration and Welcome Coffee: European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Jacques Delors Building (JDE) – Ground Floor Reception Area, Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101, 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel) – Welcome Coffee JDE 6th Floor.</p>
09:30-10:00	<p>WELCOME SESSION <u>Venue:</u> CoR- JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by the Master of Ceremony • Presentation of the concept, formula, and expectations of the Forum • Welcome address by Jozef Síkela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships (Video message) •
10:00-11:30	<p>SCENE-SETTING SESSION: The local potential of Global Gateway and the EU 360° approach <u>Venue:</u> CoR- JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joško Klisović (HR/PES), CoR Co-Chair of Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) Commission on Sustainable Development, CoR Rapporteur on Global Europe, Member of the Assembly of the City of Zagreb • Koen Doens, Director General, European Commission DG INTPA • MEP Hildegard Bentele, Vice-chair of the DEVE Committee, Co-rapporteur on Global Gateway (DE/EPP) • Carlos Rivera Bautista, Director of Development Bank of Ecuador

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	<p>Presentation on LRA involvement in Global Gateway and its 360° approach by Erica Gerretsen, Director for Human Development, Governance, Migration and Peace, DG INTPA</p> <p>SIGNING CEREMONY FOR 2 NEW PARTNERSHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexico – Port of Guaymas: Signature of the first Financing Not-Linked to Cost grant with the State of Sonora and the Port of Antwerp/POABI, supporting the port's decarbonisation and green-logistics transformation. • Colombia – Cali / Valle del Cauca: Signature of the FNLC pilot with the Municipality of Cali, supporting the Green Commuter Train and complementary sustainable urban development.
11:30- 13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Best practices of LRA contribution to the Global Gateway strategy.</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> JDE 62& listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <p>For each sub-session, a group of stakeholders (EUD/Development Bank/Provider/LRA) from different countries will be invited to provide their perspective the success factors, best practices and lessons learnt that supported their ongoing inclusion in Global Gateway. Some case studies can be presented jointly by two stakeholders. A concept note providing details on the content of the sessions is being prepared.</p> <p>1- LRAs access to funding under the Global Gateway: In a limited number of partner countries, mainly those with well-established decentralisation frameworks and fiscal autonomy, LRAs can access financial instruments such as blending and guarantee schemes under the Global Gateway.</p> <p>Chair: Javier Cortes, Director General of the Basque Cooperation Agency</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecuador – Solid Waste Management, Fast Cities European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) Guarantee in Cuenca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Christian Zamora, Mayor of Cuenca ◦ Hervé Dubreuil, Deputy Head of the Urban Planning and Housing Department for AFD • India – CITIIS 2.0 Programme (Cities Investment to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Boris Böttcher, Principal Sector Economist for KfW • Morocco – Loans to municipalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sofia Djohar, Principal Banker in the EBRD Sustainable Infrastructure Group ◦ Omar Beladim, Directeur général des services Région de Guelmim Oued Noun
13:00- 14:30	<p>Lunch – CoR JDE Atrium 6</p>

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14:30- 16:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Best practices of LRA contribution to the Global Gateway strategy (cont.).</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <p>2- The 360-degree approach in practice: This session will explore how strengthening governance, project preparation, dialogue and partnerships at the local level can prepare the ground for future investments and/or maximise their sustainable territorial impact.</p> <p>Chair: Jesús GAMALLO ALLER (ES/EPP), CoR member, Director General for External Relations and Relations with the European Union, Regional Government of Galicia</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal – Enhancing Subnational Governance for Climate and Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Maya Mohan, Mayor of Birendranagar ◦ Ilija Gubic, Team Leader of UNOPS • Kenya - Involvement of County Governments in Kenya's Digital Transformation and Urban Development under the Global Gateway Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Kizito Wangalwa, Director of Committees and Programmes for the Council of Governors ◦ John Mungai, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation to Kenya • Indonesia - Support for Infrastructure Investments in Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Fakhrul Aalfa, Vice President Blended Finance and Strategic Partnership at PT Sarana Multi Infrastruktur
16:00- 16:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16:30- 18:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Best practices of LRA contribution to the Global Gateway strategy (cont.).</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <p>3- Partnership with the private sector: This session will highlight examples of projects where the partnership between local and regional authorities and the private sector has been effective and proven efficient in offering opportunities to mobilise additional resources, improve infrastructure and service delivery, and drive local economic development.</p> <p>Chair: Patrick Molinoz (FR/PES), CoR member, Vice-President of the Region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina - Green Hydrogen with the provinces of Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Natalia Rangeon, Ministry of Production of the Province of Salta • Benin - Cooperation on port development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Luc Sétondji Atrokpo, Mayor of Cotonou

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ENABEL • Libya - Zliten fish processing center – CoR Nicosia Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benedetta Oddo, Coordinator for the Nicosia Initiative ○ Fathi Al Kharraz, CEO for SBR Fishery • Nigeria - Lagos Waterways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, General Manager for Lagos State Waterways ○ Svetla Stoeva, Head of West and Central Africa Unit for EIB
18:30- 20:30	<p>RECEPTION</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> CoR - JDE Atrium 6 (consecutive interpretation)</p> <p>Welcome by Petr Blížkovský, Secretary General, and European Committee of the Regions, Marlene Holzner, DG INTPA, Head of Unit G2 (Local Authorities, Civil Society Organisations and Foundations)</p>
Tuesday 09 December	
08:30- 09:00	<p>Arrival of Participants: CoR Premises, Rue Belliard 101, 1040 Bruxelles</p>
09:00- 10:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Leveraging decentralised cooperation (DC)</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <p>This session introduces the topic of the “leveraging effect” of decentralised cooperation and the prospects for a new narrative more in line with the new trends, strategic priorities and modus operandi of EU development policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Soo-Jin Kim, Deputy Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities <p>Presentation of the new DC narrative by Jean Bossuyt (ECDPM Associate)</p> <p>Pannel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Álvaro Díaz Duque, Subdirector General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (Spain) • Benoît Pilet, Vice-President, Cités Unies France • Christophe Rouillon (FR/PES), Vice-President of the CoR, Mayor of Coulaines. • Dieudonné Batsimba, Mayor of Brazzaville and President of the Association of Mayors of Congo

10:30- 10:45	<p>Instructions and working methods for the breakout sessions: <u>Venue:</u> JDE 62 & listening rooms (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p>
10:45- 13:00 (Including coffee break)	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Global Gateway Flagship with high potential contribution by LRA and decentralised cooperation</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> CoR JDE Building (5th & 6th floor)</p> <p>Working Groups set around key topics/sectors and building on key flagship projects for identifying contribution of LRA & decentralised cooperation to Global Gateway flagship areas/projects and fragile settings. The objective will be to identify entry points for LRA contribution, and the potential of decentralised cooperation partnerships to support LRAs in partner countries to achieve their full potential in these projects.</p> <p>Output: Recommendations on how decentralised cooperation can support GG project in different areas: entry points, challenges & opportunities.</p> <p>7 working groups (5 of them with interpretation):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water & Sanitation Moderator: Joseph Chibwe (EUD, Project Manager in the Delegation dealing with Lobito and Urban Development) (TBC) Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zambia – Nexus Energy and Water Programme for Zambia Speakers: Aaron Mulinda (Managing Director of the Eastern Water and Sanitation Company in Chipata (TBC) Stefan Hörter (Environmental Engineer at Ruhrverband) Burkina Faso/Republic of Congo/France - Triangular DC Water between Brazzaville, Grand Reims and Ouagadougou Speakers: Nathalie Picard (Quality and Communications Manager at Reims Metropole), Adama Zerbo (Head of the Department of International Relations and Protocol in Ouagadougou) 2. Waste Management Moderators: TBC Case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghana - HORESID project: Kumasi Ghana + consortium Ribera Spain Speakers: Joshua Nii Noye Tetteh-Nortey (Metro Planning Officer and Project Supervisor for the City of Kumasi) Mozambique - project MUDAR with Provincia Autonoma di Trento [ECDPM mapping & Sustainable partnerships] Speakers: Valeria Pontalti (Project Manager at the Autonomous Province of Trento) 3. Transport & Mobility Moderators: Ana Urena (EUD Costa Rica); Deborah Schoenmaeckers (EUD Cameroon)

Case studies:

- **Costa Rica** – mUEve Sustainable Urban Mobility Programme OR Promoting sustainable urban mobility in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica (flagship) [ECDPM mapping]
Speakers: Karen Porras (Executive Director at UNGL)
- **Cameroon** - Douala and Bordeaux Métropole on Sustainable urban mobility plan
Speakers: Roger Victor Mbassa Ndine (Mayor of Douala)/Madam S-Nana Sunou, Bordeaux metropole representatives: GRANDJEAN Brendan
- **Vietnam** - Moov'Hanoi: mobilités en commun à Hanoi
Speakers: Cedric Guillon-Lavocat (Deputy Director General, European and International Strategy in the Île-de-France Region)

4. Sustainable Urban Development

Moderator: Sofiane MEHIAOUI (EUD Republic of Congo)

Case studies:

- **Republic of Congo** – Capacity Strengthening of Local Authorities
Speakers: Dieudonné Batsimba (Mayor of Brazzaville and President of the Association of Mayors of Congo), Kerstin Zimmerman, Head of Department for urban development. International Affairs and Citizenship
- **Indonesia** - Berlin & Jakarta (C2C partnership)
Speakers: Feirully Irzal (Head of Economic Department and the Jakarta Planning Board), Stefani Reich (Head of the Berlin State Office for Development Cooperation)
- **Mozambique** - Catalan Cooperation with the EU funded programmed SIRI (on urban planning) [Sustainable partnerships]
Speakers: Mr. Simão António Mavimbe - Provincial Director of Planning and Finance and SIRI Focal Point - Inhambane Government (Mozambique); Ms Andrea Costafreda – DG GENCAT (Spain)

5. Digital

Moderators: Francisca Onai MIDZI (EUD Zimbabwe)

Case studies:

- **Kenya** - Involvement of County Governments in Kenya's Digital Transformation and Informal Settlements Improvement under the Global Gateway Initiative [ECDPM mapping] (but internal peer-to-peer)
Speakers TBC (EUD Kenya to advise)
- **Zimbabwe** - Building resilient and inclusive cities in Zimbabwe [ECDPM mapping]
Speakers: Peter Ncube (Executive Officer Natural Resources at Beit Bridge Rural District Council)
- **DRC** - DC between Kinshasa and Belgium (digitalising public registry system)
Speakers: Daniel Bumba Lubaki (Governor of Province of Kinshasa,)

6. Health & Education/Employment

	<p>Moderator: Benedetta Oddo (Nicosia Initiative Coordinator) Case studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paraguay - Accompanying the PARACEL investment with a contribution on TVET [ECDPM mapping] (TAIEX mission at local level) Speakers: Marcos Alberto Medina Britez (Director of Coordination and Strategic Monitoring at the Ministry of Education and Science,), Maria Elisa Benitez Bate (Director of Forestry Trade and Industry at the National Forestry Institute) • Morocco – TVET project between the Centre-Val de Loire and Fès-Meknès regions, focused on crafts (artisanat) Speakers/contacts: Emmanuelle Davignon, Cheffe de service - Action européenne et internationale Direction Europe et International – DGTD • Mozambique - mais pemba E35 + Reggio Emilia + Pemba [C2C partnership] Speakers: Armando John Martins (Head of international cooperation Mozambique, Office of the Mayor of Pemba), Stefano Cigarini (Project Manager for E35 Foundation, Reggio Emilia)
	<p>7. Energy</p> <p>Moderator: Megan Spires (ICLEI) Case studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans SECAPs in Greater Amman, Madaba, Mafraq & Um El-Jimal [ECDPM mapping] Speakers: Hamza Al-Mherat (focal point for CLIMA MED at the Jordan Ministry of Local Administration) • Namibia - Implementation of partnership on raw materials value chains and renewable hydrogen [ECDPM mapping] (indirect peer-to-peer with the ports) Speakers: Samuel Oe-Amseb (President of ALAN - Association of Local Authorities Namibia); Renske Steenbergen (Deputy Director at VNG)
13:00- 14:30	Lunch – CoR JDE Atrium 6
14:30- 16:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Strategic Debate between Local and Regional Authorities and EU Institutions, building on the participants recommendations</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> JDE 62 & listening room (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/ PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Working Groups conclusions and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rahmatouca Sow - Head of political affairs, institutional and public relations UCLG Africa ○ Agustí Fernández de Losada Passols - Secretary for European and Multilateral Affairs, and Development Cooperation, Government of Catalonia • Forward-looking discussion with an inter-institutional panel (European Commission, Parliament, CoR, International Financial Institution and other key stakeholders) on the new narrative on decentralised cooperation and the localization of Global Gateway. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Magali Altounian (FR/Renew), Chair of the CoR CIVEX Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MEP Udo Bullmann (DE/S&D), Standing co-rapporteur on Global Gateway, DEVE Committee ○ Richard Amor, Director of Strategy at EIB Global ○ Amita Gill, Global Lead, Local Actions, UNDP ○ Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General, DG INTPA Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General CEMR/Platforma
16:30- 19:30	Informal Match-Making Open Space: opportunity for informal bilateral contacts
Wednesday 10 December	
09:00- 09:30	Arrival of participants: CoR Premises tbc
09:30- 11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Best practices of LRA contribution to the Global Gateway strategy. <u>Venue:</u> VMA 23 (<u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT)</p> <p>4- Working in fragile settings: The question of how to engage strategically, effectively, and sustainably in fragile and complex settings has called for a growing body of policies, integrated approaches and more flexible instruments and procedures.</p> <p>Good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Democratic Republic of Congo – Virunga Integrated Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emmanuel De Merode, Director of Parc Virunga ○ Général Evariste Kakule Somo, Governor of North Kivu ● Madagascar - ‘Tous Redevables’ (All Accountable): For Democratic Governance and Transparent Public Finances Directeur du Fonds de Développement local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rado Razafindrakoto, Directeur du Fonds de Développement local (FDL) ○ Fanny Lacroix, EU Delegation to Mozambique ● Guinea-Bissau - EU for Green and Inclusive Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mango Undjon, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Power ○ Wild Do Rosario, Chief Technical Adviser for UN Habitat
11:00- 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30- 12:30	<p>PEER-TO-PEER STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSSIONS</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> VMA 23; BVS 757 & INTPA ROOM L-41 006/A128 <u>Language:</u> EN/FR/ES/PT</p>

	<p>The final morning of the forum will serve as an opportunity for stakeholders (EUDs, LRAs from EU, LRAs from partner countries - for other participants to join these groups) - after two days of mixed debates and discussions—to reflect on the lessons learned from each panel and roundtable, and to formulate concrete takeaways and next steps</p>
12:30- 14:00	Lunch – CoR VMA building
14:00- 15:00	Transfer to the European Parliament
15:05- 16:00	<p>CLOSING SESSION OF 2025 FORUM and OPENING OF THE CoR's PLENARY SESSION (EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - Main Hall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kata Tüttö (HU/PES), President of the European Committee of the Regions • Koen Doens, Director General, European Commission DG INTPA • MEP Barry Andrews (IE/Renew), Chair of the European Parliament DEVE Committee • Jaume Duch Guillot (ES/PES), CoR Rapporteur on Global Gateway, Minister of the European Union and Foreign Action of Catalonia • Debate between CoR members and Forum Participants on the Conclusion of the Forum with Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State , Ms. Sunita Dango Deputy Mayor of Kathmandu, Dr. Christian Zamora, Mayor of Cuenca and President of FLACMA <p>Adoption of the Opinion (voting)</p>
16:00	End of Forum (continuation of the CoR plenary)