



Call for participants - Connective Cities Covid-19 Response Dialog Event

Communication strategies in the pandemic

Virtual event, 28th of October 2020

Connective Cities invite municipal practitioners to the **Covid-19 Response Dialogue Event on Communication strategies in the pandemic** to be held **virtually on the 28th of October 2020**.

The exchange event brings German municipal services experts together with municipal actors from other countries to discuss how municipal actors and practitioners can deal with the challenges involved in effectively communicating with the population in times of the Covid-19 crisis. This topic was suggested by municipal practitioners taking part on other events of this series that expressed their concern and recognize it as a recurrent challenge. Among other issues, the event will focus on the challenge of providing credible, reliable and timely relevant information concerning the pandemic and its impacts to different actors and groups. Furthermore, the strategies for communicating emergency plans and actions will be discussed. Practical examples will be presented by experts from Germany and abroad, and the overall aim of the event is to achieve a joint exchange of experiences.

Objectives of the dialogue event

An involvement of experts from municipalities and practitioners in the field of municipal services can provide the right platform to pool experiences, discuss challenges and generate ideas to better respond to the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

The aim of the exchange is to get to know **good practice examples** from municipalities with different local conditions. Here, the interest is mainly in **pragmatic solutions and approaches that can be applied or adapted to the different regional contexts**. Furthermore, the event will offer a platform to discuss the challenges around the theme of crisis management and support municipalities in an open and interactive exchange of experience. **Ideas for concrete implementation measures can be further supported by Connective Cities through follow-up exchanges with relevant experts.**

Participation and contact

If you wish to participate and **actively contribute to the dialogue event with a good practice** that you are planning or implementing which fits in the thematic focus of event, **we warmly invite you to apply for a presenter or a non-presenter spot** at the event. If the topic interests and you are interested in taking part in exchange of experience, we also invite you to apply for participation. To do so, please send us an email with your function and organisation as well as with a short description of the experience you would like to showcase or describe your motivation to participate. We welcome the participation of **municipal actors and experts** respectively working in the **health, planning departments or municipal services** to present and to participate. While municipal practitioners are the main target group, the participation by urban actors from civil society, private sector or academia is welcome. Please contact us as soon as possible.

Background

The corona pandemic does not simply affect cities around the world, it affects them in a wide variety of areas and topics. In addition to public health care functions, municipal services must be maintained during the crisis and local government must ensure its own ability to function. The consequences of the crisis, e.g. in terms of economic development, must also be locally by local authorities. The crisis has shown that resilience is an important characteristic of municipalities: this applies to the provision of public services as well as to adaptive planning geared towards greater resilience. This fast changing environment requires a dynamic way of managing communications with the population and with other actors in the municipal, regional and federal levels.

From August to December 2020, the international city platform Connective Cities is organizing a series of events in cooperation with committed municipal stakeholders. The first virtual exchange will take place on October 28, 2020 from 13h to 15:30 (CET).

The series of events is aimed at German and international actors working on various aspects of the municipal strategy for coping with the corona crisis. Collegial consultation and the presentation of concrete good practice examples enables intensive professional exchange and collegial consultation among experts. In this sense, there is also the possibility of developing individually tailored solutions in the future, which can be concretized and planned for implementation of further cooperation.

Connective Cities at a glance

The international exchange platform Connective Cities has been bringing together international urban practitioners from city administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector since 2013.

Connective Cities is a cooperation project between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW).

For more information on past and upcoming activities, please check: www.connective-cities.net

If you have any queries about the event and the participation process, we encourage you to contact us.
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Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date & Place	28 th of October 2020, virtual event
Duration	2,5h – 3h
Criteria for participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practical perspective and first-hand experience in institutional communication with the population and with other actor at different levels of government. - Presentation of a local good practice example in the response to the Covid-19 outbreak and/or willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area
Thematic focus	<p>The event will focus on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication strategies in the Covid-19 crisis
Expertise	<p>Practitioners will present their experiences on the response to the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis and the continuation of municipal service provision, and the future plans for their activities. International participants will share their knowledge and practices on this topic. Both, German and international urban practitioners will also share and discuss their encountered challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experts from Stuttgart will present about communication related to public transportation users, physically impaired population and immigrants during the pandemic; - Two more Good practice presentations still to be confirmed.
Objective	<p>Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners active in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic</p> <p>Facilitate peer-to-peer learning</p>
Language	English

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