

Ibero-American experiences of **Tactical Urbanism** against **COVID-19**

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Context

The last months of 2019 and the first ones in 2020 hit the world due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Having to respond to the situation, different cities around the world activated immediate emergency response mechanisms by undertaking measures to adapt public services as a tool to prevent the spread of the virus in urban public spaces. According to UN-Habitat, 95% of COVID-19 cases are concentrated in urban areas.

Urban space has proved key to maintain basic activities such as food supply and distribution, water provision, garbage collection, emergencies, safety, as well as access permitted work functions. Municipalities have been able to react quickly to the crises, adapting their provision of basic services, that has become more important than ever in times of the pandemic.

Local governments around the world have found in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a common response to the crises. The 2030 Agenda contains many specific indicators that have inspired many administrations to guide actions and design impact follow up mechanisms. Cities have responsibilities that go beyond SDG 11 regarding poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, water, economic growth, industry, etc. Urban space provides the ideal playfield where social, economic and infrastructure-linked indicators and public services meet.

The event will be held online, counting with the participation of municipal experts who have

been in charge of the development and implementation of tactical urban planning projects. They will compare experiences and confront difficulties and successes experienced both in the design and implementation, with special emphasis on the reaction of citizens and the social changes generated by urban interventions to stop the spread of the virus.

The event is organized by the United Nations Development Programme (Cities and Urbanization Secretariat) and Metropolis, the World Association of the Major Metropolises.

Agenda

1. Welcome by Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis
2. Carlos Soberanis, Emilio Vargas y José Miguel Benitez, Urban Planning Department, Guatemala City (15 min)
3. Silvia Casorran, Head of the Bicycle Office, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (15 min)
4. Nicolás Rivillas, Assistant Manager of Design and Innovation of the Urban Development Company of Medellin (15 min)
5. Constanza Delón Córdoba, Secretariat for Mobility, Mexico City (15 min)
6. Q&A
7. Comments and recommendations by Diana Lopez Caramazana, Partnership Specialist, Cities and Urbanization, UNDP
8. Closing by Octavi de la Varga

The event is addressed to

- Urban planners
- Students and researchers
- Public officers and decision makers, especially in urban planning

Objectives

- To identify innovative experiences where tactical urbanism has been applied as a municipal action instrument to break the expansion of COVID 19.
- To contribute to the systematization of municipal experiences to be included in the Platform <https://www.citiesforglobalhealth.org/> promoted by Metropolis, UCLG, ALLAS and Barcelona City Council

- To exchange on the challenges and opportunities raised by the implemented projects, with special attention to the reaction of citizens and the generation of changes in social behavior.
- A final report with the results of such an exchange

Technical instructions

The webinar is open to all, registration is completely free. It will be held on October 28 at 4.30pm Central European Time. Speakers will intervene in Spanish, with available English interpretation.

All persons interested in participating are invited to register here: <https://forms.gle/r4YLCcj2grJo8iZC8>

The day before the event we will send a reminder with the specific link in Zoom.

Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 11 (Cities and sustainable communities), SDG 3 (Health and wellbeing) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities)

