

Municipalities that care, an approach from practical experience

Thematic meeting organised by UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development

Online session, 12 December 2023

14.00–16.00 hours CET

Description

As the size of the world's population increases, the demand for care increases, especially in certain stages of life and in the case of the most vulnerable people. In areas such as Europe, where the population pyramid is ageing significantly, but also in the rest of the world, the care crisis is creating ever-deepening inequality gaps.

The spaces in cities and their infrastructures and economic and development policies have traditionally been designed from the perspective of the productive sphere, and the satisfaction of needs linked to the reproductive sphere has often not been taken into account. In other words, the city has not been thought of as a physical support for the development of care activities, which is a major problem today.

Placing care provision at the centre of political action will be necessary to promote a system of services aimed at reducing inequalities and caring for communities and the people who care for them. There is an increasing need for a conception of the development model that includes a complex and proximity-based view of cities and towns, where the different activities - economic, care, habitability - coexist on an equal basis.

In order to respond efficiently to the needs of the territories in terms of care, care must be placed at the heart of local development, recognising it as an intrinsic element of this and taking into account its implications in the practice of local development policy based on co-responsibility. The social and solidarity economy has

already pointed out some measures that highlight the importance of the social and collective responsibility of the productive fabric with respect to citizens in general.

The session, organised by the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development, will highlight the potential of the care economy in promoting local and regional government policies aimed at re-signifying more sustainable, inclusive and respectful economic models, based on equity and social cohesion.

The online meeting will facilitate the sharing of representative practical experiences from around the world and will provide input to the document under development "The political agenda of Feminist Municipalism. Care and the care economy at the heart of local management".

Objectives

- To highlight the main challenges that the care crisis presents and to analyse what avenues local and regional governments can explore to respond to the care needs of their communities.
- Share experiences of successful policies in strengthening care systems from local and regional governments.
- Establish connections between the promotion of the social and solidarity economy at local and regional level and the development of solid care systems that are accessible and focused on the well-being of people and territories.
- To highlight the contributions of the social and care economy to local development from the point of view of sustainable and redistributive service provision models (employment generation capacity, defence of community interests, etc.).

Guiding questions

1. What would be the main challenges from a governance point of view to put care at the centre of municipal action?
2. What areas and policy levers are key in the transition of the development model towards a people-centred model, from a comprehensive approach?
3. Some city initiatives that are beginning to transcend the traditional city model.
4. The role of the care economy and the social and solidarity economy in the paradigm shift.

Format

The session will take place online via the Zoom platform, with a round table format with interventions on practical experiences and the presentation of a document under development on the care economy from local governments. Questions will be posed to the participants focused on their respective experiences. This will be followed by a space for the participation of the audience and exchange with the speakers. The workshop will last about two hours and will be interpreted in Spanish-English-French.

Agenda

- Introduction (10')
- Presentation of the draft document on the care approach in local policies (10')
- Panel of experiences, practical applications (60')
- Open dialogue (30')
- Conclusions and wrap up (10')

Participants

- Institutional welcome, **Francisco Toajas Mellado**, Member of the Seville Provincial Council and President of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee on Local Economic and Social Development
- Presentation of a document in progress on the **care economy at the heart of local management** by **Ana Falú**, expert on gender and local policies and gender advisor to UCLG and **Cintia Rizzo**, Master in Urban Studies, member of the technical team of the Centre for Exchanges and Services in Cordoba (Argentina) and university professor
- Presentation of experiences from the territory:
 - **Rosario Olivares**, Deputy Director of Gender Equality, Sexual Diversity and Inclusion, Santiago de Chile, Chile
 - **Raquel Coello**, Regional Economic Empowerment Policy Specialist, UN Women, Panama
 - **Lidia Rodriguez Chavez**, General Director of Inclusion and Social Welfare, Iztapalapa, Mexico
 - **Ingrid Gómez**, Secretary of Women's Affairs, Mexico City, Mexico
 - **Isabela Calil Quintino**, Advisor IV of the Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance and Development and 2nd Secretary of the Municipal Council of Social Assistance, São Paulo, Brazil
 - **Francisca Medina Teva**, First Vice-President and Deputy of the Area of Equality and Social Welfare of the Diputación de Jaén, Vice-President of FAMSI, Spain
 - **Huma Haq**, Social Welfare Officer at the World Federation of Public Service Workers' Unions (PSI)

Facilitated by FAMSI and UCLG's Committee on Local Economic and Social Development