

Caring Cities:

Supporting solidarity
communities and social welfare
responsiveness in times of crisis

11-13 May 2022 | Barcelona



Programme overview

Wednesday 11 May	Afternoon	Social Affairs Forum business meeting City actions in solidarity with Ukraine
	Late afternoon	Opening the doors to Barcelona Official welcome and keynote speech
	Evening	Official dinner
Thursday 12 May	Morning	High-level political debate Presentation of new city pledges
	Lunch	Political session for SAF politicians Roundtable with City Directors of Social Services
	Afternoon	Parallel site visits
Friday 13 May	Morning	Parallel workshops
	Before lunch	Final plenary with presentation of conclusions and final remarks
	Afternoon	Meetings of some of the SAF working groups

Moderator

	Shada Islam , journalist, commentator, advisor, analyst and strategist
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#Inclusivecities4all



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Caring Cities: Supporting solidarity communities and social welfare responsiveness in times of crisis

Background

The covid-19 pandemic has hit hard on the healthcare and social care systems in all cities across Europe. It has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities in the coverage, availability, quality and access to social and care services, but has also shown there is a need for systemic change. The sad developments with the war in Ukraine make it an ever more pressing need to adapt our social and care services for welcoming in our cities people fleeing Ukraine and putting into action solidarity to help them.

Many cities have already embarked on local social care reforms to integrate social and care services and improve access to these services. Other cities are engaging in national debates about reforming social welfare policies, such as part of the national recovery plans.

This debate has also reached the EU level. Later this year, the European Commission will propose a European Care Strategy, which would address both carers and care receivers, from childcare to long-term care. The EU Strategy is expected to set a framework for policy reforms to guide member states in developing sustainable long-term care that ensures better and more affordable access to quality services for all and better working conditions in the sector. It will also help close the gender employment gap, increase women's empowerment and contribute towards gender equality.

What to expect?

The SAF in Barcelona will bring together over 170 representatives from cities across Europe, including deputy mayors and city directors for social services to discuss the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the care systems in cities, exchange on recent trends and social care policies in cities and debate on how to transform social welfare systems to support a fair and inclusive recovery in our cities.

The Forum will mainly focus on policies on care, but it will also be a space for discussing innovative social policies at large, with a complete programme of debates and site visits about gender equality, digital inclusion and participation, migrants' welcoming and rights, creative housing services, fight against discrimination, policies for a barrier-free cities, community-based social action, minimum income schemes and childcare policies. We will place a special emphasis on young people and elderly, which are the target groups severely affected by the socio-economic impact of the covid-19 pandemic.

During the Forum, cities will have the chance to announce new city pledges to the European Pillar of Social Rights as part of our renewed Eurocities campaign 'Cities 4 Inclusive Recovery' that engages city leaders to prove their commitment to put principles into action through dedicated social investments at local level. So far, we have gathered 73 pledges from 45 cities, representing over 55 million citizens, and totalling an investment of over €15.8 billion. All pledges are available at www.inclusivecities4all.eu

Expected outcome

We will use this Forum to formulate policy recommendations from cities to feed into the upcoming EU Care Package, in particular on long-term care and on childcare provision, which are key social services at local level, as well as on minimum income, in view of bringing an urban dimension to the key upcoming EU initiatives in this field.

We will be announcing at the Forum the new Eurocities statement '**Caring Cities: Acting in Solidarity with All Refugees**'.

DAY 1: Wednesday, 11 May 2022 Venue: Barcelona City Hall, Main Entrance (Plaça Sant Jaume s/n)	
Morning (optional)	Joint WG meeting on homelessness and Roma inclusion (from 10 May to 11 May)
14.30 – 16.00	SAF Steering Committee meeting <i>For chairs and vice-chairs of SAF working groups only</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Registration for all participants
16.00 – 16.45 <i>For members only</i>	Social Affairs Forum business meeting (<i>for Eurocities members only</i>) Key updates on EU policies & funding and Eurocities advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU response to humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and EU funding (CARE) • EU social agenda: European Care Strategy, minimum income, digital skills, combatting homelessness, Child Guarantee, social part of recovery Discussion with SAF members on key social challenges in cities to inform SAF priorities for 2023 – interactive exchange and discussion Upcoming opportunities in SAF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcing call for host city for Social Innovation Lab in autumn 2022 • Announcing call for host city for Social Affairs Forum in Nov 2023 • Announcing Forum and WG elections for 2023
16.45 – 17.45 <i>For all participants</i>	Solidarity with Ukraine: Learning from city actions to support newcomers Many cities have been quick to mobilise solidarity actions and put in place support structures to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine, including arranging for temporary housing, childcare, education, guiding towards health and social services. This session gives SAF members the chance to learn innovative ways how cities organise support for newcomers and what works in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warsaw – presentation by Tomasz Pactwa, director of social services • Riga – presentation by Ilze Meilande, Head of Society Integration • Stockholm – presentation by Rebecka Glaser and Anna Almén Q & A with audience
17.45 – 18.00	Break
18.00 – 19.00 <i>Plenary session with livestream and interpretation</i>	Official welcome and announcement of Eurocities Statement on Caring Cities Laura Pérez , Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for Social Rights Thomas Fabian , Deputy Mayor of Leipzig, representing Eurocities Vice-President Keynote speech Nicolas Schmit , European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights (online)
19.00 – 22.00	Official dinner (preceded by artistic performance)

DAY 2: Thursday, 12 May 2022

Venue: Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau, C. Sant Antoni Maria Claret 167

9.00 – 9.30	Registration for day 2 and welcome coffee
9.30 – 10.00	<p>Inspiring stories from young people in Barcelona: How do young people contribute to making Barcelona a city for social rights?</p> <p><i>Live interviews with young people from Barcelona sharing their stories</i></p>
<p>10.00 – 10.30</p> <p><i>Plenary session with livestream & interpretation</i></p>	<p>Launch of renewed campaign ‘Cities 4 Inclusive Recovery’</p> <p>Looking back and moving forward with the campaign, by Bianca Faragau-Tavares, Senior Policy Advisor, Eurocities</p> <p>Announcement of new city pledges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barcelona’s pledge on gender equality • Nantes new pledge on healthcare • Madrid’s new pledge on combatting homelessness • Vienna’s new pledge on active support to employment • Amsterdam’s new pledge on mental health
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee break (preceded by photo of city politicians with city pledges)
<p>10.45 – 12.30</p> <p><i>Plenary session with livestream and interpretation</i></p>	<p>High-level political debate: How can cities contribute to transforming care systems in the EU to be more equitable, non-discriminative, and inclusive for all, in times of crisis?</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Blanca Garcés-Mascareñas, Senior Research Fellow in Migrations and Research Coordinator at Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Pérez, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for Social Rights • Aldona Machnowska-Góra, Deputy Mayor of Warsaw • Dominique Bé, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission • Kim van Sparrentak, Member of European Parliament • Philippe Cori, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF <p>Moderator: Shada Islam</p> <p>Q & A with participants</p>
12.30 – 13.00	Artistic break – Sant Pau Venue history (preceded by group photo)
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break

<p>13.00 – 17.00</p>	<p>Special programme for city directors of social services</p> <p>The programme will start with a roundtable discussion whereby city directors of social services will have the unique opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue with European Commission official. The directors will be able to have their questions answered about the social policy files high on the EU agenda this year, to discuss how cities and the European Commission can partner up in adapting local level care systems and social services to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Particular attention will be given to medium and long-term city measures such as support to access the labour market, housing and social benefits. Following the roundtable discussion, the city directors will have the opportunity to go on site visit to the new facilities set up in Barcelona for welcoming newcomers from Ukraine.</p> <p>Host: Lluís Torrens (Barcelona) Moderated by: Duco Stuurman (Amsterdam) Topics: medium and long-term city measures for adapting care systems and social services in relation to people fleeing the war in Ukraine Participants: 25 directors of social services from cities members of Eurocities SAF: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Braga, Brno, Ghent, Gijon, Lyon, Madrid, Milan, Oslo, Utrecht, Vienna, Warsaw. Invited guest: Dominique Bé, DG EMPL, European Commission</p> <p>Agenda: 13.00 – 13.40 Lunch 13.40 – 15.20 Roundtable dialogue of city directors with the European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introduction to the Roundtable by Duco Stuurman, Director of Social Services, Amsterdam & initiator of the Roundtable • Dialogue with Dominique Bé, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission <p>15.20 – 15.30 Walking to site visit 15.30 – 16.45 Site visit to new facilities to welcome newcomers from Ukraine 16.45 – 17.00 Walk back to the main venue</p>
<p>14.30 – 17.00</p>	<p>Special programme for Deputy Mayors of Social Affairs (<i>Eurocities members only</i>)</p> <p>14.30 – 16.00 Political discussion: ‘How can cities help people to deal with the cost-of-living crisis, further impacted by the war in Ukraine?’ 16.00 – 16.30 Transfer to site visit 16.30 – 17.00 Site visit to Open Arms NGO’s Rescue Boat</p> <p>Moderated by: Marc Serra, Barcelona City Councillor of Citizens Rights and Participation (his portfolio includes responsibility for reception of refugees). Participants: 11 deputy mayors and councillors from cities members of SAF: Barcelona, Dresden, Leipzig, Lyon, Munich, Nantes, Riga, Turin, Warsaw.</p>
<p>14.30 – 15.00</p>	<p>Transfer to the site visit locations for all SAF members</p>

15.00 – 17.00	<p>Parallel site visits</p> <p>Site visits will offer participants the opportunity to discover and learn from Barcelona’s social policies and services and engage in workshop discussions on key trends and challenges in transforming different areas of social welfare systems and social care services in cities.</p>
Site visit 1	<p>Welcoming cities Open Arms NGO’s Rescue Boat</p> <p><i>Visit to Open Arms NGO’s Rescue Boat</i></p> <p>Participants will visit the ship of the NGO Open Arms in the port of Barcelona to learn about their work saving lives in the Mediterranean Sea. Afterwards, the participants will get to know some of the accompanying programmes for migrants that Barcelona deploys, services that are provided in close collaboration with civil society organisations and NGOs with extensive experience working with migrants. Services like the Service for the Care of Immigrants, Emigrants and Refugees (SAIER), the Service for the Detection and Intervention of Children, Adolescents and Young Migrants Alone (SDI) or the House of Opportunities, are focused on providing spaces for liaison, advice, opportunities and access to rights. Many of these services are especially aimed at young people.</p> <p><i>There will be two rounds for this site visit: one political site visit for SAF politicians linked to the Solidarity Cities Initiative of Eurocities; and one technical site visit for SAF members, including members of the WG Migration & Integration.</i></p>
Site visit 2	<p>Digital inclusion and citizen participation</p> <p><i>Visit to Canòdrom (Centre for Digital and Democratic Innovation)</i></p> <p>Barcelona City Council is committed to a model of technological development that remains open and democratic and places citizens at the centre of its strategy. For this reason, several projects and spaces have been built in the city that seek to bring technology closer to citizens, connecting social rights, digital rights, communitarian practices and citizen engagement. One of them is Canòdrom (Centre for Digital and Democratic Innovation) with various programmes for training and digital empowerment, accompaniment and support for communities, and innovation and experimentation in democratic field. It has also promoted the Decidim platform, an open-source project for the empowerment and participation of citizens and social organisations which has become a reference at international level. All these projects can be linked to the visit of the Canòdrom, an innovation laboratory for citizen participation, open technologies and digital inclusion.</p>
Site visit 3	<p>A fairer organisation of care</p> <p><i>Visit to Centre Barcelona Cuida (Barcelona Care Centre)</i></p> <p>Barcelona City Council, with the support and collaboration from various entities in the city, promotes a different way of socially organising care from a transformative point of view. To achieve this, different pioneering strategies and services that tackle the gender care gap have been developed. During the visit, the participants will learn about some of the most relevant actions carried out by the <i>Centre Barcelona Cuida</i>, an innovative space that makes visible and accessible to everyone the existing city’s resources in the field of care. We will explain, among others, our latest project around caregiving: the VilaVeïna (Neighbourhood Town), an innovative project that addresses care in small territorial units. In each unit, specialised professional teams, people receiving care and neighbours are part of a community network co-responsible for collective well-being.</p>

Site visit 4	<p>Innovation in housing policies <i>Visit to temporary social housing, elderly housing and mixed facility</i></p> <p>The Barcelona Municipal Housing and Renovation Institute (IMHAB) and the Barcelona Municipal Social Services Institute (IMSS) work together to address all housing challenges and related social needs, and to deploy social housing policies in Barcelona. While IMHAB develops most of the public social housing projects in the city, IMSS is responsible for the social management of some of the facilities. This visit will focus on three social housing projects co-managed between the two entities: APROP temporary social housing built with recycled shipping containers (New European Bauhaus 2021 awardee); Glòries elderly housing (BAUMIT and AVS 2018 awardee); and Tànger mixed facility, combining permanent affordable rental housing and temporary accommodation for the homeless (AVS 2018 awardee).</p>
Site visit 5	<p>Fight against discrimination <i>Visit to the LGTBI Centre</i></p> <p>One of the priorities of the Barcelona City Council is to address discrimination through awareness-raising, prevention and guaranty of rights policies and projects such as the LGTBI Centre, the Office for Non-Discrimination (OND) or the Barcelona Anti-Rumour Strategy. All of them have been developed in close collaboration with involved organisations, civil society and local communities. These are the projects you will learn about during the planned visit to the LGBTI Centre of the Barcelona City Council, a reference institution for sexual diversity and gender policies in Spain.</p>
17.00 – 17.30	Transfer back to the main venue
17.30 – 18.30	Joint meeting of SAF and KSF steering committee (optional, <i>WG chairs <u>only</u></i>)
19.00 –	<p>Film session on care Presentation & screening of a European movie on long-term care, followed by Q&A</p>
21.00 –	Informal dinner (at own cost)

DAY 3: Friday, 13 May 2022

Venue: Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau, C. Sant Antoni Maria Claret 167

<p>9.00 – 9.30</p>	<p>Registration for day 3 and welcome coffee</p>
<p>9.30 – 11.30</p>	<p>Parallel workshops</p> <p>Three workshops will run in parallel where participants will work together to develop policy messages from cities to feed into the key upcoming EU policy initiatives in 2021. Each workshop will start with a brief ‘setting the scene’ on the policy topic and how can cities have their say on the Commission’s proposal. City representatives will then share their inputs in a focus group discussion that will lead to developing common policy messages on the given policy topics. Eurocities will use these policy messages in its advocacy work with the working groups in order to formulate the contribution from cities to EU policy proposals.</p>
<p>Workshop 1</p>	<p>Digital skills for digital inclusion</p> <p>Topics: <i>digital divide, digital inclusion, digital skills</i></p> <p>Link to EU policy agenda: upcoming Recommendation on digital skills in education and training (expected for Sep 2022)</p> <p>The covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the ‘digital divide’, as digital inequalities have become ever more visible. Children from poor families in deprived neighbourhoods were not able to connect to home schooling as often as their well-off peers did. Many elderly lacked the digital skills or tools to stay connected during times of imposed isolation. As social services moved online, many recipients of social assistance had to learn to communicate with the city services online. Giving all people the chance to acquire basic digital skills is crucial to foster their digital inclusion and participation in society now, and in the future. The European Commission plans to propose a recommendation on provision of digital skills in education and training later in 2022. Cities should have a say based on the lessons learned from the pandemic. Join this workshop to discuss which measures are needed at local and EU level to overcome the digital gap.</p> <p>Chair: Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona and Chair of Digital Forum Moderator: Lodewijk Noordzij, Policy Advisor, Eurocities</p>

Workshop 2	<p>Minimum income policies to reduce inequalities in our cities</p> <p>Topics: <i>territorial urban inequality, minimum income, social cohesion</i></p> <p>Link to EU policy agenda: upcoming EU-level Recommendation on minimum income (expected for Sep 2022)</p> <p>Minimum income schemes are designed and decided on at national level, but the consequences are felt at local level. The design of social safety nets also has an impact beyond national borders, creating divergences not only from one country to another, but also regional divergences. The absence of adequate minimum income schemes for people in need, coupled with ineffective activation and labour market integration policies, negatively affect the individuals concerned and their families. Over the past few years, several cities have tested innovative pilots of minimum income, some with resounding success for the people involved and their communities. Some other cities have taken the approach to reduce territorial inequalities between neighbourhoods. Despite these efforts, poverty levels remain high in our cities given the impact of the covid-19 pandemic. This shows that local efforts need to be supported and completed by national and European efforts. Join this workshop to learn from the most innovative city pilots of minimum income and discuss which measures are needed at national and EU level to provide guiding principles for adequate minimum income schemes.</p> <p>Chair: Alexander Fischer, Berlin State Secretary for Labour Moderator: Nikita Sanaullah, Policy Advisor, Eurocities Presentation: Marie-Astrid Gallet, policy officer, & Julien Titren, Head of projects on inclusion and employment, Lyon metropole</p>
Workshop 3	<p>Childcare provision in cities</p> <p>Topics: <i>childcare provision, child poverty, Child Guarantee</i></p> <p>Link to EU policy agenda: Recommendation to revise EU targets on childcare</p> <p>High quality, accessible and affordable childcare is vital for children’s cognitive and social development as well as for women’s labour market participation. As part of the upcoming European Care Strategy, the European Commission is preparing a proposal for a Council Recommendation to revise the Barcelona targets for childcare provision. The Barcelona objectives were set by the European Council in 2002 with targets for childcare: ensuring at least 33% of children under 3 and at least 90% of children under primary school-going age go to childcare. On average, these have been reached in the EU. However, between member states there are significant differences. The Commission is looking to propose supporting measures for affordability, accessibility and quality of early childhood education and care. Special attention will be given to children with disabilities and children from disadvantaged groups (e.g children from a migrant background and Roma children). Given that childcare is a local competence in nearly all EU countries, cities should have a vocal say on this file. Join this workshop to discuss ideas and proposals for the revision of the targets for childcare provision, based on local needs, trends and experiences in your city.</p> <p>Chair: Anna Scavuzzo, Vice-Mayor of Milan, chair of WG Children and Young People Moderator: Bianca Faragau-Tavares, Senior Policy Advisor, Eurocities Presentations: Maria Truñó i Salvadó, Education Commissioner of Barcelona; Lucie Vacher, Lyon Metropole Vice-president for Children, Family and Youth</p>

11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 12.30	<p>Final plenary session</p> <p>Conclusions from the workshops <i>Chairs from workshops present key conclusions</i></p> <p>Final remarks and closing of the SAF meeting</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Laura Pérez, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for social rights</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Silvia Ganzerla, Policy Director of Eurocities</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Light lunch break (option take-away)
14.00 – 17.00 (optional)	<p>Parallel meetings of the following Working Groups (<u>only for WG members</u>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Children and Young People • WG Smart Social Inclusion • WG Migration and Integration

