

# Financing Infrastructure Investments for Local Communities

WEB SEMINAR ON ZOOM PLATFORM

4 FEBRUARY 2021  
FROM 12.00 TO 15.00 (CET)

As the world gradually recovers from the Covid-19 crisis, most governments will have to move away from actions aimed at limiting the economic impact of the pandemic on households and businesses and start designing strategies to revive long-term growth. Current challenges, like climate change and growing inequality, will be compounded by new ones because production and consumption patterns have been greatly modified by the pandemic. At the same time, the acceleration of the digital transformation is providing new opportunities for growth.

A key success factor will be the capacity to restart and reorient infrastructure investments at a time when public finances have been reallocated from capital to current expenditure and private investments have been held back by the uncertain course of the pandemic. These challenges are particularly severe for local infrastructure investments because funds available for local authorities and their capacity to attract private investors are more limited there than at the national level. Furthermore, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been more severe for urban areas, the informal sector and marginalized groups.

The workshop will analyze public-policy issues related to infrastructure investments at local level – including how to build an institutional environment that is most conducive to public and private investments. It will also examine the fiscal and regulatory instruments needed by subnational entities in order to support the transformations and the social needs that cities and local communities need to overcome the current challenges and to seize new opportunities. The event will also cover the role that national and supranational authorities can play as catalysts of external finance while ensuring compliance with social, environmental and fiduciary requirements.

The aim is to show that properly designed and implemented local infrastructure investments are crucial to foster stronger, more inclusive and resilient growth in a post-pandemic world.