

## Webinar "Technology is the answer, but what was the question?"

Working languages: Latvian, Lithuanian, English, Russian (simultaneous interpretation)

12 May 2021  
13:00 – 15:00 (CEST)

Online event. Zoom platform

In 1966, the architect Cedric Price made the provocation, "Technology is the answer, but what was the question?", intending to invite the audience at his lecture to search, question, and reconsider the impact of technological progress. Now more than 50 years on, this question is as relevant as ever.

Green (and digital) transformation is the European Union's priority, but the air flows without knowing the borders. The same is with rivers, crossing beyond the EU borders and carrying on the same water through EU and non-EU countries. Environmental and climate resilience, energy efficiency is one of the priorities of the EU municipalities. These topics and SDG 13 have also been identified as one of priority cooperation areas by the PLATFORMA partners from the Eastern Partnership countries. Often these aims are perceived by the Member States and municipalities with dual feelings and doubts, that such transition would request enormous investments we don't have and thus the aims are unattainable.

In this webinar we would like to come back to the question, why the priority of green and digital Europe has arisen. And what if we add to these transformations the cultural aspect of the European Green Deal – New European Bauhaus initiative, which puts at the centre the place-based approach and local transformations in order to make our municipalities more beautiful, sustainable and inclusive places? Would then our actions seem more feasible and meaningful?

### Agenda

Moderated by *Dr.geogr. Andris Klepers, Associate professor, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences*

<p><b>13:00 – 13:10</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome speech</b></p> <p><i>Mr Gints Kaminskis, Chairman of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, CoR CORLEAP Member</i></p> <p><i>Mr Mindaugas Sinkevičius, President of the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, EU Covenant of Mayors National Ambassador from Lithuania</i></p>
<p><b>13:10 – 13:25</b></p>	<p><b>European border and the European Green deal: support for cooperation between the EU and EaP countries</b></p> <p><i>Mr Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership, DG NEAR, European Commission</i></p>
	<p><b>How green is green? Examples from municipalities in Europe</b></p>

13:25 - 13:35	<p><b>Green Europe: is it really real to reach smaller and bigger goals in smaller municipalities?</b></p> <p><i>Mr Dovydas Kaminskas, Mayor, Taurage municipal council, Lithuania</i></p>
13:35 - 13:45	<p><b>Green transformation activities: best practice examples of municipalities in Georgia</b></p> <p><i>Mr David Melua, Executive Director, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)</i></p>
	<p><b>What if we talk about cultural aspect of the European Green Deal?</b></p>
13:45 - 14:05	<p><b>Transformation = innovation + good governance</b></p> <p><i>Mr Markku Markkula, EU Covenant of Mayors National Ambassador from Finland, Chair of the Espoo City Board and President of the Helsinki Region</i></p>
14:05-14:20	<p><b>The great transformation: from the book to reality</b></p> <p><i>Mr Roeland Dudal, Director, Architecture Workroom Brussels</i></p>
14:20 - 14:30	<p><b>New European Bauhaus and "Green Street Art Festival 2021" in Kuldīga</b></p> <p><i>Mr Artis Gustovskis, Innovation and Tourism Expert, Kuldīga municipality, Latvia</i></p>
14:30 - 14:55	<p><b>Exchange of views on the common EU-EaP cooperation: priorities, preferences and ways forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr Yevgen Groza, Regional Project Manager, EU4Climate, UNDP</i></li> <li>- <i>Mrs Iryna Yarmolenko, PLATFORMA spokesperson, Councillor, city of Butcha, Ukraine</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr Alexandru Osadci, Coordinator of International Relations, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM), Moldova</i></li> <li>- <i>Mrs Nino Rukhadze, PLATFORMA spokesperson, Councillor, Tbilisi city council, Georgia</i></li> </ul>
14:55 - 15:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><i>Mrs Vaida Aleknavičienė, PLATFORMA spokesperson, Vice Mayor, Joniškis district municipality, Lithuania</i></p>