

# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

29 – 30 MARCH 2023 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE



## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Gathering and applying evidence for development: an entry point for progress for all in times of crisis

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### Background and Rationale

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Across the SDGs, the importance of informed individuals, institutions and populations is clear. This is particularly true in times of crises, where having the evidence and skills necessary to respond to the unexpected is a central pillar of resilience.

Yet too often, the need to gather, organise, safeguard, and enable access to evidence is an after-thought, leading to missed opportunities and poor decision-making at all levels. And when a crisis hits, it is often too late.

While the role of information is often addressed from a sectoral perspective – that of public health, of science-policy interfaces, of open science, of good governance, or of media and information literacy – it is too often not dealt with in a holistic, comprehensive way.

This is inconsistent with the 2030 Agenda's wider emphasis on integrated, cross-cutting approaches, as well as on development strategies that look to empower individuals to realise their own rights to development.

This session therefore looks to take this perspective, bringing together insights and experience from different areas of development in order to identify commonalities and needs, and set out recommendations for how we can realise the potential of evidence to accelerate development. Through this, it looks to contribute, in particular, to ongoing work around the Global Digital Compact and Code of Conduct on Public Information.

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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- 1) Build an understanding of the cross-cutting importance of information for development, and of where Europe stands in delivering on this in its different dimensions
- 2) Collectively identify steps that can be taken to incorporate the need for evidence (and the ability to use it) to be integrated into wider development processes
- 3) Identify areas where Europe's libraries can be mobilised – in partnership with governments and other stakeholders to achieve this goal
- 4) Define key insights and recommendations to be shared by library representatives at the High Level Political Forum as well as at an SDG moment planned for the World Library and Information Congress this August

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## Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

**Contributors:** Magdalena Gomulka, Silesian Regional Authority, Poland, Jolita Stepanoite, National Library of Lithuania, Lithuania, Emma Farrow, Consultant to Public Health England, United Kingdom, Stuart Hamilton, Local Government Management Agency, Ireland, Jeannette Frey, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Frédéric Blin, National University Library of Strasbourg, France.

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## Agenda and Structure

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- *Introduction: How evidence enables development (moderator)*
- *Short opening pitches:*
  - *Informing the international policy agenda – evidence to support the work of the UN*
  - *Informing national policy in times of crisis – the experience of COVID*
  - *The cross-border dimension – sharing evidence to advance science*
  - *Informing individuals in need – the experience of libraries in helping displaced persons from Ukraine to find their feet*
  - *Not just evidence, but the skills to use it – delivering digital skills*
  - *Cutting through the confusion – building media and information literacy skills*
- *Panel discussion*
  - *How well is the need to create, organise, safeguard, and enable meaningful access to evidence recognised in your countries?*
  - *What benefits come from a more systematic approach?*
  - *What recommendations would you make?*

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## List of Panellists

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Magdalena Gomulka, Silesian Regional Authority, Poland

Jolita Stepanoite, National Library of Lithuania, Lithuania

Emma Farrow, Consultant to Public Health England, United Kingdom

Stuart Hamilton, Local Government Management Agency, Ireland

Jeannette Frey, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

UN Geneva Library and Archives representative (tbd)

Moderator: Stephen Wyber, IFLA

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## Sign-up / Registration Link

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[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YzdIUQqDT9mMLydSUdQ8Xg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YzdIUQqDT9mMLydSUdQ8Xg)