



**Kutaisi Second International Forum**  
**“Cities’ Challenges and Way Forward “**

**24 June 2021**  
**Kutaisi, Georgia**



**Hosted and Organized by:**  
Kutaisi City Municipality

**Co-organizer:**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**Supported by:**

Good Governance Initiative (GGI) of USAID

Good Governance for Local Development South Caucasus, GIZ GmbH



**Partner Organization:**

Ministry of Regional Development & Infrastructure of Georgia



**Partner Association:**

National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)

**Participants:**

- Partner Cities and Regions of Kutaisi City Municipality
- Cities from EaP and other Countries
- CSOs, BCOs, Business and Experts from the world

**History**

Kutaisi International Forum was established by the Kutaisi City Municipality in cooperation with European Initiative Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) and USAID Program Good Governance Initiative (GGI) in 2019. The Goal of the Kutaisi City Municipality is to provide a space for multidisciplinary dialogue on sustainable urban development between representatives of different levels of the public institutions, Civil Society Organizations, High Education Institutions and the Private Sector.

**The Second Forum**

The Second International Forum will gather together national ministries dealing with regional and local development issues, regional and local authorities of EaP countries and EU, as well as international partners and donor organizations, international financial institutions, business associations, and mass media in order to present the challenges and successes to the stakeholders. International Forum Kutaisi 2021 will be dedicated to "Cities Challenges and Way Forward". During the Forum, the following issues will be discussed:

- Opportunities for Cities During and After the Pandemic Time
- Good Practices by Cities' in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic challenges
- Business and CSO for City Development

**Working Languages**

Working languages of the forum are Georgian, English and Russian. Simultaneous translation will be provided for all sessions.

# Agenda

**11:00-11:30 Registration of the forum participants, system check and networking**

**11:30-12:15**

**Opening Address:**

**Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili** Mayor of Kutaisi City Municipality

**Congratulatory Address:**

**Mr. Irakli Karseladze** Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia

**Mr. Zviad Shalamberidze** State Representative in Imereti

**Mr. David Hoffman** USAID Deputy Mission Director

**Ms. Sigrid Brettel** Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia (tbc)

**Ms. Nino Kavtaradze** Deputy Head of Georgian Delegation to the Council of Europe, Member of NALAG' Executive board

**Mr. Irakli Karkashadze** Deputy Mayor of Kutaisi City Municipality. „Kutaisi City Profile and Challenges”

Q&A

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Zviad Archuadze** Director of the Management and Development Solutions Hub

**12:15-12:30 Break**

**12:30-14:00 Opportunities for Cities During and After Pandemic Time**

**Ms. Mzia Giorgobiani** Deputy Minister of MRDI - Government of Georgia's Urban Development Activities

**Ms. Tinatin Tkeshelashvili** Coordinator in Georgia – EU initiative Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG), phase 2

**Dr. Anatoli Beifert** Team Leader, EU4Culture - Promoting Culture & Creativity as an Engine for Economic Growth and Social Development in Eastern Partnership Countries funded by the European Union

**Ms. Beverly Hoover** Private sector engagement adviser at USAID/Caucasus

**Dr. Michael A. Rupp** Head of Sector Green Deal, Climate and Connectivity DG NEAR EaP European Commission

**Ms. Marite Moras** Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Division, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Q&A

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Christoph Beier** Programme Director of Good Governance for Local Development in the South Caucasus

**14:00-14:15 Break**

**14:15-16:00 Good Practices by Cities' in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic challenges**

**Mr. Frédéric Vallier** Secretary General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Brussels, Belgium

**Mr. Shane J. Rosenthal** ADB Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission

**Mr. Giorgi Khishtovani** Research Director, Policy and Management Consulting Group

**Mr. Jacek Jaśkowiak** Mayor of Poznan, Poland

**Mr. Andriy Moskalenko** First Deputy Mayor of Lviv, Ukraine

**Ms. Andrienn Bokanyi** Councilor, City of Szombathely, Hungary

**Mr. Martijn Kanters** City Developer, city of Tilburg, Netherlands

Q&A

**Moderator:**

**Mr. David Melua** Executive Director of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia

**16:00-16:15 Break**

**16:15-17:15 Business and CSO for City Development**

**Ms. Magda Magradze** Chancellor of Kutaisi International University - Kutaisi Innovation Ecosystem

**Mr. Alexander Mironenko** Country Director, Majorel Georgia

**Mr. Janusz Szewczuk** Senior Advisor of Polish Cities Union

Q&A

**Moderator:**

**Mr. Giorgi Nanobashvili** Economic Development Team Leader, United Nation Development Programme

**17:15-17:30 Conclusions & Future Plans**

**Mr. Ioseb Khakhaleishvili** Mayor of Kutaisi City Municipality