



PSI Local and Regional Government Workers Network

LRG Workers Network's Series 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (draft)

Sessions' structure: each thematic session encompasses two segments of 1h15min each. These are structured as follows: an initial kick-off contribution by affiliates, experts and allied organisations as appropriate (30 min); a plenary discussion (30 min); and a summary of key conclusions and action points (15 min). All sessions are online.

Serie #1	OPENING SESSION:	15 September 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	I. Global and regional overviews of PSI's LRG sector (1h15') This session will draw a global overview of the LRG sector worldwide and of global PSI sectoral work. PSI affiliates and regions will have an opportunity to report on the main LRG sector developments, challenges, good practices and achievements since 2016, while looking at the future proposing priorities and next steps.		
14h15-14h30	Break (15')		
14h30-15h45	II. Taking stock to build the future: common challenges, and priorities (1h15') PSI affiliates and regions will have an opportunity to report on the main LRG sector developments, challenges, good practices and achievements since 2016, while looking at the future proposing priorities and next steps (continued).		
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')		

Serie #2	1st THEMATIC SESSION:	30 September 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	I. Public financing for quality local public services (1h15') This session will explore the shared challenges, good practices and options for LRGs to finance universal quality local public services for all. It will look at the connection between adequately funded local public services, decent work for LRG workers and socio-economic inclusion in cities and territories.		
14h15-14h30	Break (15')		
14h30-15h45	II. Public service digitalisation & the digital transformation of LRG professions and workplaces (1h15') The introduction of digital technologies in local public services has been fast forwarded by the Covid pandemic. It has cast a major impact on public service delivery, quality, and access for users, and on LRG jobs and workers' conditions. This session will look at what LRG unions are doing and what more is needed to drive forms of public service digitalisation that are publicly led and controlled in the common interest, while ensuring quality LRG workers' conditions.		
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')		

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Serie #3	2nd THEMATIC SESSION:	15 October 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	<p>I. Remunicipalisation: Reclaiming local public services for all (1h15')</p> <p>The growing trend of returning privatised services under public ownership and control is primarily taking place at a municipal level. All over the world, citizens, public authorities and labour unions have been mobilising to bring vital services and infrastructures back into public hands. LRG workers and unions play a critical role in these processes. The Covid crisis has emboldened collective demands for public investment in local public services and remunicipalisation.</p>		
14h15-14h30	Break (15')		
14h30-15h45	<p>II. Public Services 2.0: Democratic governance and participation in local public services (1h15')</p> <p>Remunicipalisation provides an opportunity to build a new generation of local quality public services that are innovative, participatory, accountable, democratic, and work for people and their communities. This vision must fully include workers and their trade unions. It provides a unique space to pioneer new, progressive staff management and worker participation practices while creating quality employment in local communities, all while delivering universal access to quality public services.</p>		
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')		

Serie #4	3rd THEMATIC SESSION:	28 October 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	<p>I. Trade union rights, employment conditions and labour relations in the LRG Sector (1h15')</p> <p>LRG workers deliver vital public services that are the glue of local communities and societies and cornerstones of inclusive socio-economic development. They also are the first level of government citizens turn to when emergencies hit and represent the bulk of public sector employees worldwide. Yet their conditions are often precarious, with poverty wages, lack of training and safety equipment, while attacks on trade union rights of LRG workers are a daily reality in many countries. To deliver quality local public services to all and serve communities at their best, LRG workers must have decent working conditions and respect for trade union rights.</p>		
14h15-14h30	Break (15')		
14h30-15h45	<p>II. Gender & intersectionality in LRG services and workplaces (1h15')</p> <p>Women represent the largest share of workers in many LRG professions (e. g. community health services, child and elderly care, etc.). Together with other vulnerable categories (e.g. disabled, LGBTI, migrant and refugee workers, etc.) they face multiple layers of discrimination and bear the brunt of the precariousness and poor working conditions of many LRG jobs. This section will look at LRG union policies and good practices to ensure human and labour rights, decent working conditions and inclusion for all LRG workers.</p>		
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')		

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Serie #5	4th THEMATIC SESSION:			18 November 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	<p style="text-align: center;">I. The LRG & territorial dimension of Care (1h15')</p> <p>Social care, whether public or private, is often subsidised, regulated and provided through at a local and regional government level. It is often delivered via community health centres and homes. In some countries, care remains a highly feminized, undervalued, precarious and informal profession, even when delivered within a LRG framework. Covid has unveiled the deep injustice and major shortcomings embedded in the current social organisation of care. This session will discuss issues, good practices and proposals for change. It will be co-designed with PSI's Health and Social Services and Gender Equality staff.</p>				
14h15-14h30	Break (15')				
14h30-15h45	<p style="text-align: center;">II. The LRG & territorial dimension of climate, public emergencies and environmental protection (1h15')</p> <p>Cities and regions are at the forefront of the climate crisis, which is causing more frequent and severe disasters, requiring stronger public emergency response mechanisms. LRGs have the potential to cut up to one-third of global greenhouse gases and many are implementing climate innovation. They are also key to protect public health, the environment, green spaces and natural resources. LRG workers such as first responders, firefighters, waste workers, rangers and urban planners and their unions must have decent working conditions and respect for trade union rights to enable them to fully engage in all the challenges ahead, both in the risks they assume in their work and the skills and dedication they bring to bear.</p>				
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')				

Serie #6	CONCLUDING SESSION:			3 December 2021	1-4pm CET
13h00-14h15	<p style="text-align: center;">I. Building the Future of local public services (1h15')</p> <p>This session will take stock, draw conclusions from the whole LRG Series 2021. It will present emerged priorities to define PSI's LRG unions coordinated policies and actions.</p>				
14h15-14h30	Break (15')				
14h30-15h45	<p style="text-align: center;">II. An Action Programme for PSI's LRG Network: towards the PSI Congress (1h15')</p> <p>This session will present a draft Action Programme based on the discussions and conclusions drawn from the LRG Series 2021. It will represent a roadmap for PSI's LRG Network action and for PSI's Regions and will contribute to PSI's Congress Programme of Action.</p>				
15h15-16h00	Conclusions and Action points (15')				