



(Draft)

Title: Local and Regional Government (LRG)/Municipal Sector

Purpose of brief: To report on main developments and actions in the sector since EB-159 and to inform affiliates about forthcoming PSI LRG developments, priorities and actions

Relates to: [PSI Global LRG/Municipal Workers' Network Charter](#); [PSI 10 points for fair cities and an inclusive New Urban Agenda](#); PSI Programme of Action (PoA) 2017-2022; [Action Plan for PSI's Global LRG Network 2022-2027](#) and its [Summary](#).

Background: PSI works towards building a cohesive global identity, visibility and strength for the LRG/Municipal sector. It aims to: address challenges identified and shared by LRG/Municipal affiliates worldwide; influence relevant global policy and build dialogue with LRG/Municipal employers; and develop specific LRG/Municipal research and advocacy. PSI supports LRG/Municipal trade union regional and global union networks and advances dialogue with relevant international agencies and allies. PSI convenes an online bi-annual PSI Global LRG/Municipal Network – the cross-regional policy forum for all PSI affiliates representing LRG/municipal workers – to share challenges, advance common priorities, build capacity and enable joint actions.

Discussion:

1. Global LRG/Municipal sector building and policy development

The [LRG Global Network #2/2022](#) was held on 28/10/2022 for all PSI regions. Two identical virtual sessions of the **LRG Global Network #1/2023 were held** on different time zones to enable maximum participation as follows:

- Session (1): **20 April 2023** – 9am-12.30pm CET – Asia-Pacific / Arab Countries / Anglophone Africa & Europe / Anglophone Africa & Europe – EN
- Session (2): **21 April 2023** – 4pm-7.30pm CET – Americas/ Anglophone, Africa, Europe & Arab Countries

Concise reports will be made available soon.

The **LRG Global Network #2/2023** will be held between [12-18 October 2023 at the 31st PSI World Congress](#), likely in a half a day hybrid meeting format – details are forthcoming.

2. Social dialogue and advocacy with LRG employers

PSI brought the voice of LRG workers at the [7th UCLG Global Congress](#), Daejeon, South Korea. It strongly advocated for the respect of labour and trade union rights, constructive dialogue, adequate staffing levels, public funding, occupational health and safety (OHS) for all LRG workers so they can deliver quality public services. PSI addressed LRG employers including mayors, governors and local public service leaders on 12/10/2022 in a panel on “*The future of healthy cities: Working towards caring systems through universal health coverage*” and on 13/10/2022 in a panel co-organised by the ILO on “*The future of public services: Impact on local economic development and the generation of quality employment territories*”. As a result of PSI’s dialogue and advocacy with UCLG, its Congress outcome policy document “[The Pact for the Future of Humanity](#)” contains a clear commitment to universal and equitable access to public services, to Decent Work and fair pay, and to rebuild local employment.

PSI was also invited to be a leading contributor to the UCLG and allied organisations’ collective paper writing effort on “[Caring Systems](#)”. As a result of PSI’s contributions, the paper – that will inform the implementation of ‘caring’ strategies within the global UCLG network for the next 4 years - contains strong references and commitments to trade unions, union rights for care workers, Decent Work and quality employment, the ILO conventions, public funding and regulation of care services, the PSI Care Manifesto and relies on substantial PSI literature. Finally, the 6th edition of UCLG’s Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization Report (GOLDVI) “[Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equalities Report](#)” launched on occasion of the UCLG

Congress acknowledges and recommends remunicipalisation as one of its seven policy levers (“*recognize, protect, regulate, invest, remunicipalise, scale and advocate*”) to fight inequalities in cities and territories, and as an investment to protect the commons.

In line with [PSI Global LRG Action Plan](#)'s priorities, PSI is seeking to open dialogue with additional global and regional organisations. On 20/2/2023, the PSI Officer met with the Director of [Cities Alliance](#) in Brussels, an organisation that works directly with LRGs in the Global South to enhance public service access and fight inequalities. Synergies exist with PSI, including through UD projects in specific locations. PSI has also facilitated a meeting between the UNISON Assistant General Secretary and the General Secretary of the [Commonwealth Local Government Forum](#) (CLGF), an organisation that is part of the [Global Taskforce for LRGs](#).

On 14/2/2023 [PSI Africa and UCLG Africa held a coordination call](#) to advance the implementation of their [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) and to set a common program of action for 2023. They will also hold their [first face-to-face dialogue meeting](#) on occasion of PSI's AFREC on 9-10/5/2023, seeking to define targets for localised social dialogue to improve LRG workers conditions while enhancing local public service quality and access in African cities.

3. Remunicipalisation/Insourcing

On UN World Cities Day 31/10/2022 [PSI launched an editorial](#) that summarises how remunicipalisation is increasingly seen as a viable and legitimate policies in some UN and LRG circles.

On 4-5/11/2022 PSI organised a hybrid [strategic workshop on Public Futures](#), the only Global Remunicipalisation/ deprivatisation database in existence. The FNV Overheid, UNISON, UNITE, FOA, SIPTU as well as the FES, TNI, and the University of Glasgow contributed to the activity that was meant to inform the refurbishing of the database to make it even more relevant and user-friendly to unions and workers and to reflect on the next advocacy steps to take as a result of the [recent advocacy achievements](#).

PSI and EPSU affiliates are stepping up activities, launching new campaigns and building new tools on remunicipalisation. In 2022 CUPE (Canada) published [a collective bargaining guide to lock in public ownership and control](#) of public services; the ASU/USU (Australia) reiterated the [Council services by Council workers](#) campaign; and SIPTU (Ireland) biennial Public Administration & Community Divisional conference was titled “The Future is Public” passed motions on insourcing services across all local authorities departments – also as a means to fight precarious employment - and on campaigning to reverse outsourcing and tase services back in-house via public procurement specifications (Motions 3, 4, 9). In 2023 UNISON (UK) has launched a [“Bringing Services Home”](#) campaign and the KPTU (South Korea) and its research arm the Public Policy Institute for People (PPIP) have launched the [first issue of the bi-annual magazine “The Future is Public”](#) to sensitise and educate Korean workers, activists, citizens and civil society about the value of publicness and pro-public policy alternatives.

On 18/04/2023 PSI, the ITF and Prof. Andrew Cumbers from the University of Glasgow will facilitate a seminar on [“Public services re-municipalisation: public policies and tools to tackle the world's crises”](#) for ILO and UN Geneva staff at the ILO.

After retendering the [project bid](#), PSI and EPSU have identified an expert consortium to implement the EU-funded EPSU-PSI project on Remunicipalisation/Insourcing of public services (INQPS). The project aims to create an online, on-demand, multi-language training course to assist affiliates in planning and developing their work and campaigns. PSI and EPSU will consult affiliates during the project and gather their input, expertise and trade unions materials, in particular through a Project Steering Committee that will work in principally in ENGLISH, which we hope you will be able to join. The main work of the project will be carried out between 4-12/2023 with a view to publishing and promoting the course in early 2024. PSI and EPSU have planned six meetings – three online and three in-person.

The **online** meetings will be on:

- 19/04/2023 – Project Steering Committee
- 15/06/2023 – Project Steering Committee
- 12/09/2023 – Project Steering Committee

The **in-person** meetings will be one-day events in Brussels (Belgium) on:

- 28/07/2023 – EPSU Pan-European Conference on Remunicipalisation/Insourcing
- 21/11/2023 – Project Steering Committee
- 12/12/2023 – Project Steering Committee

Even if you cannot make all the meetings, we would appreciate your input all along the project and will aim to facilitate contact with all colleagues, including those based outside of Europe. We very much hope that you will support us in the project and provide the input from national level that will ensure that the training course is as relevant and helpful as possible. PSI affiliates interested to contribute to the Project Steering Committee that will monitor and evaluate the work of the training provider should contact the PSI LRG Officer daria.cibrario@world-psi.org cc EPSU's Richard Pond at rpond@epsu.org.

PSI has launched a [new section in its website dedicated to Remunicipalisation/Insourcing](#) and has contributed on 19/04/2023 to the launch of the [refurbished version of the Public Futures global de-privatisation database](#), it contributed to inform through the [strategic workshops](#) it held on 4-5/11/2022.

4. Influencing Global Policy

On 24/10/2022 PSI was asked to contribute to the [Launch of the UCLG-OECD Third Edition](#) of the [World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment](#) (WOFI), an important effort to shed light on LRG funding and fiscal systems across countries to issue policy recommendations for OECD national governments. The WOFI also includes a database as well as an [LRG country-profile fiscal system database](#) that can be of interest and use to LRG unions. Both PSI and UCLG representatives emphasised with the OECD the need to strengthen LRG finances to ensure equitable access to local quality public services while guaranteeing adequate staffing levels and quality working conditions.

On 13/12/2022 and all along 1/2023 PSI has contributed as expert to the [OECD-EU project to collect subnational public employment data](#) for selected OECD and EU member countries. This has been a [longstanding joint PSI-UCLG demand](#). PSI provided expertise via a [presentation and comments](#) to the draft data collection methodology, ensured the inclusion of relevant ILO experts, and encouraged the participation of LRG French affiliates, as the OECD headquarter is in Paris.

Together with IndustriALL (plastic production), IUF (plastic use) and WIEGO (informal waste workers), PSI is following the UNEP Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution as part of the [Workers and Trade Unions UN Major Group](#) delegation coordinated by the ITUC representing waste collection, disposal and sanitation workers. The Second Session will take place in Paris 29/09-02/05/2023. PSI affiliates are encouraged to engage in this important process: please contact the PSI LRG Officer daria.cibrario@world-psi.org

As a result of its engagement activity of OECD at the [11th Session of UN Habitat's World Urban Forum \(WUF11\)](#) in 2022, PSI was asked to speak at the Brussels Urban Summit 12-15/6/2023, Brussels, co-organised by the OECD, the Brussels-Capital Region, Eurocities and Metropolis, which will bring together 1000+ participants from 300+ cities all around the world to discuss urban answers to global challenges. The PSI General Secretary was asked to speak at the plenary panel "Tackling inequalities and rebuilding the social contract in cities" promoted by the [OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth](#) initiative, a global coalition of 60+ mayors leading the charge to expand equal opportunity in cities and bringing their voice to OECD governments.

5. LRG Research and Publications

As a result of two 2022 workshops on (1) [Local Public Service Funding](#) and (2) [Trade union strategies for Remunicipalisation/Insourcing](#), the following Policy briefs have been (or will be) launched:

- 22 March 2023 - PSI-KPTU Policy Brief Launch (online), Lee, J., "*The municipalisation of care service providers in South Korea*", KPTU/PSI Policy Brief (2023) [EN | KO](#)
- 2 May 2023 – Launch (online) of the PSI-UCLG article "*Inclusive multi-level governance: the case for meaningful involvement of local and regional governments and public service trade unions in the multilateral system of the future*" in Spotlight on Global Multilateralism. Perspectives on the future of international cooperation in times of multiple crises, edited by the Global Policy Forum
- 22 June 2023 – 3.30-5pm CET – PSI Policy Brief Launch (online): Hanna, T. M., "*Public Services and Community Wealth Building. Leveraging the power and potential of public services to create stable and thriving local economies*", forthcoming
- 14 September 2023 – 3.30-5pm CET – [PSI Policy Brief Launch](#) (online): Marois, T., "*The potential of public banks to fund local quality public services: A policy brief for workers and trade unions*", forthcoming
- Tbd – PSI Policy Brief Launch: Comotto, S., "*Socially Responsible Public Procurement: Good Practices from Cities of the Global South*", forthcoming

Related documents:

- LRGNext2021 Brief#1 - PSI LRG/Municipal Sector Summary Report 2016-2021 ([EN](#), [FR](#), [ES](#), [SV](#), [DE](#), [JP](#), [AR](#))
- All 10 PSI LRGNext2021 Policy Briefs: <https://psishort.link/LRGBriefs>
- Action Plan for PSI's LRG Network 2022-2027 ([EN](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#) | [DE](#) | [JP](#) | [SV](#) | [AR](#)) - 1 page summary available in [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [ES](#) | [DE](#) | [JP](#) | [SV](#) | [AR](#))
- PSI LRG Video Playlist: <https://psishort.link/LRGVideos>
- PSI LRG Workers' Portraits & Professions Gallery: <https://psishort.link/LRGPortraits>
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PSI and UCLG Africa (2021) [EN](#) | [FR](#) | [AR](#)