**Background**

The UCLG Research Forum (RF) organized during the UCLG World Congress in October 2022, will be the first-ever meeting of the research community that has been constructed through the networked work of UCLG’s Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) since its establishment in 2005. co The RF seeks to create a space to further develop partnerships between academia, civil society, local actors, international organizations and local and regional governments. Fostering innovative approaches that will reflect local and regional governments’ interests and vision, this first edition of the RF aims at taking stock of past achievements; extracting key lessons from the partnerships that made them possible; mapping current activities, priorities and objectives for research; and pooling them as a basis for exploring new partnership opportunities to jointly construct a relevant and transformative urban and territorial research agenda, in line with UCLG’s Pact for the Future.This first edition of the RF will also seek to shape the next editions of the RF.

**Concept**

**The Research Forum gathering in Daejeon is structured in 2 main stages:**

**I.** During the morning, there will be two sessions: one dedicated to the UCLG network and another one dedicated to partners. In each session, participants will share visions and define objectives to do “better joint research” (Sessions 1 and 2)

**II.** In the afternoon, a final session will be devoted to defining a common research agenda in line with the Pact for the Future and give shape to this new Research Forum (Session 3)

**Programme**

1. **Morning – How can the UCLG network and partners do “better joint research”? How to include LRGs’ perspective? Then, what are our common objectives for the RF?**

11:00 - 11:20 **General introduction to the Research Forum**

Welcome to the UCLG Research Forum: Evolution of the research activities within the UCLG network and with partners, and objectives of the new Forum

11:20 - 12:15 **Session 1 – The Research experiences, needs and aspirations of the organized municipal movement**

* **Introduction** (5 min)

* **1st Round of questions** (20 min): **What does “better research” mean to you?**

* + What are the main objectives and modalities to increase its added-value for local governments? → Based on your previous experiences, current needs, and aspirations.

* **2nd Round of questions** (25 min): **How can “better joint research” be done to strengthen the collaboration between LRGs and research partners?**
  + In particular, how to better involve LRGs in the research processes?
  + How to make sure research products and results reach them and are useful to them?
  + How can the Research Forum contribute to these objectives?
  + Open floor for questions from partners to the UCLG network

* **Wrap-up** (5 min)

12:20 - 13:15   
**Session 2 – The Research Agenda from the perspective of the academia and partners: boosting research impact and renewing partnerships with local governments**

* **Introduction** (5 min)

* **1st Round of questions** (15 min): **What does “better research” mean to you?**

That is, what are the main objectives and modalities to increase the added-value for your institution of working in partnership with LRGs? → Based on your previous experiences, current needs, and aspirations

* **2nd Round of questions** (25 min): **How can “better joint research” be done to strengthen the collaboration between research institutions, partners and LRGs?**
  + In particular, how to include LRGs’ perspectives in the definition of research agendas/activities?
  + How to make sure research products and results reach them and are useful to them?
  + How can the Research Forum contribute to these objectives?
  + Open floor for questions from the UCLG networkto partners

* **Wrap-up** (5 min)

13:15 - 14:30

**LUNCH BREAK**

1. **Afternoon – Our common objectives for the RF and the UCLG Pact for the Future: what shared priorities, format, modalities and themes do we see emerging?**

14:30 - 16:20

**Session 3 – New Research approaches to strengthen the UCLG Pact of the Future**

* **Introduction** (14:30 - 14:45)
  + **Introduction to the Pact for the Future**:
    - Process, objectives and key topics

* + - Kickstarting the discussion: preliminary ideas on how can a joint research agenda support the implementation of the Pact for the Future and what roles may the RF play in this respect

* **“World Coffee”** (14:45 - 15:45)for sharing ideas to better work together: **What are the main themes and modalities of working together that can help UCLG in developing a research agenda for the coming years related to the Pact for the Future?**
  + Discussion in groups, around three tables, for each one of the axes of the Pact: People, Planet, Government.
  + Questions to be answered for each of the Pact’s pillars:
    - What research-related processes are you already undertaking that can contribute to this axis of the Pact?
    - What needs or gaps can you identify to strengthen these processes and their contribution to this axis of the Pact?

* **Back to plenary** (15:45 - 16:15): **Giving shape to the RF to support the Pact of the Future** 
  + Reporting back from the World Coffee tables
  + Open debate:
  + How can the RF strengthen/support current research-related activities of the participants?
  + How can the RF fill the gaps identified to enable the creation of a strong, shared research agenda that supports the implementation of the Pact for the Future?
  + What form could the RF take, in terms of consultation mechanisms, format, modalities, etc.?

* **Wrap-up and next steps** (16:15 - 16:20)

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