

PSI Local & Regional
Government Workers'
Network Series



LRG
NEXT
2021

THE FUTURE OF LOCAL
PUBLIC SERVICES

Brief #1

**PSI Local and
Regional Government
(LRG)/Municipal Sector:**

**SUMMARY REPORT
2016–2021**



LRG NEXT2021

Brief 1 - PSI Local and Regional Government (LRG)/Municipal Sector:

SUMMARY REPORT 2016-2021

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMALGUN	African Municipal and Local Government Union Network
APRECON	PSI Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
BWI	Building and Wood Workers International
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
CGU	Council of Global Unions
CTM	Argentinean Municipal Workers Confederation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EB	Executive Board
EGM	UN-Habitat Experts Group Meeting
EPSU	European Federation of Public Service Unions
ERC	European Research Council
EU	European Union
FES	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
FNME-CGT	Energy branch union of the French General Labour Confederation
FNV	Federation of Dutch Trade Unions
GAP	General Assembly of Partners of Habitat III
GLOBALMUN	Global Remunicipalisation and the Post-Neoliberal Turn Research Project

GS	General Secretary
HLPF	UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICRICT	Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ITF	International Transport Federation
JALGO	Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers
KCGWU	Kenya County Government Workers Union
LAEU	Mauritius Local Authorities Employees Union
LRGNext2021	LRG Workers Network's Series 2021
LRGs	Local and Regional Governments
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NULGE	Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
PoA	Programme of Action
PrepCom3	3rd Preparatory Committee of the Habitat III Conference
PSI	Public Services International
PSIRU	PSI Research Unit
ReMCoT	Rencontres Méditerranéennes des Conditions de Travail
SC	Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSG	Sectoral Steering Group
TNI	Transnational Institute
TUED	Trade Unions for Energy Democracy
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UGTT	Tunisian General Labour Union Confederation
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
WUF	World Urban Forum

1. BACKGROUND

In 2016 PSI held a global [Local and Regional Government \(LRG\)/Municipal Workers' Conference in Brussels \(Belgium\)](#) gathering 60 LRG union representatives from 30 countries. The Conference established the PSI LRG Workers' Network in compliance with the [PSI Durban Congress Resolution no. 34](#). The Conference adopted its [Charter](#) and identified 11 priorities that have since guided PSI LRG sectoral work. These are listed below:

- Fighting privatization, outsourcing, public-private partnerships (PPPs), etc.
- Organizing, building membership and power
- Capacity/skills/professionalization of LRG workers
- Tackling lack of resources – austerity – tax avoidance
- Excessive workload/stress at the workplace/violence at work/occupational health and safety (OSH)
- Freedom of association & collective bargaining (trade union rights)
- Poor wages and working conditions/precarious work (working conditions)
- Digitalization/employment and OSH implications
- Disaster/climate change preparedness & mitigation
- Migration & refugees
- Gender equality, non-discrimination and disability

These were reflected in the sector urban policy guidelines “[Ten Points for Fair Cities and an Inclusive New Urban Agenda](#)” adopted by the PSI Executive Board (EB) in November 2016. Section 7.3 of the [PSI Geneva Congress 2017 Programme of Action \(PoA\)](#) emphasised the strategic, cross-cutting role of LRGs in confronting the world's challenges and stressed its potential for developing innovative solutions. It reiterated some of the above-mentioned priorities and further encouraged PSI and affiliates to work on:

- Strategic LRG/municipal sub-sectors, such as waste and on issues such as digitalisation
- Continue to engage global policy fora which are strategic for the LRG/municipal sector and build on the dialogue opened with LRG/municipal and city-based organisations
- Organise and grow targeted LRG/municipal sub-sectors to build power;
- Build relationships with local civil society and service users' organisations;
- Engage in the development of local economic development policies;
- Grow the affiliated membership of PSI, increase unionisation rates and organisation of workers in the sector¹.



Given the broad diversity of LRG professions and public service delivery systems world-wide, as well as the availability of resources for LRG work, between 2016-2021 PSI has prioritised the following areas:

- build a cohesive global identity, visibility and strength for the PSI LRG sector
- address identified challenges working with LRG affiliates worldwide
- influence relevant UN global policy fora
- establish dialogue with LRG employers
- develop specific LRG research, advocacy and communication
- support LRG regional capacity and networks
- advance dialogue with relevant allied organisations

Detailed reports were provided in PSI Executive Board (EB) and Steering Committee (SC) documents, in PSI Annual Reports, on the [PSI website](#), and through the [PSI LRG/Municipal Union Network Facebook](#) closed group². Areas of work overlapping with overarching PSI priorities (e.g. trade union rights, gender equality, migrants and refugees, tax justice, utilities, climate change, etc.) have been led by and/or advanced in coordination with the PSI officers in charge. A summary of main achievements in the different areas follows.

¹. See section 7.3 of the PSI Programme of Action 8PoA).

². This group is open to all PSI LRG union representatives and trusted allies and is moderated by PSI staff. Membership can be requested anytime and is vetted by the moderators. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1387749988199227/>



2. STRENGTHENING THE LRG SECTOR & DEVELOPING STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

PSI's 2016 Global LRG Network Charter provides guidelines for sectoral network building both at a regional and global level. On that basis, PSI has worked towards strengthening/building regional LRG networks; building LRG-related expertise and facilitating dialogue among LRG unions in the regions and subregions on rotation, compatibly with the yearly PSI LRG sector budget allocation. PSI has also scoped membership and activated regional work in municipal waste services in the regions.

2016

- PSI organised an LRG Asia-Pacific (A/P) meeting in conjunction with the 3rd Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3) of the Habitat III Conference in Surabaya (Indonesia) to identify A/P priorities and challenges ahead of the 2016 Global LRG/Municipal Workers' Network Conference and PSI's Asia-Pacific Regional Conference (APRECON).
- PSI organised an African Municipal and Local Government Union Network (AMALGUN) meeting in Mauritius hosted by the Mauritius Local Authorities Employees Union (LAEU), where joint commitments were made on union rights, tax justice and remunicipalization.

2017

- The first ever PSI municipal waste services workshop took place in Bogotá (Colombia). It issued a municipal waste workers' call to public authorities and LRG employers for labour rights and decent working conditions and a joint action plan for field work in the municipal waste sector in Latin America. WIEGO, the global organization representing informal waste workers worldwide, participated in part of the programme and engaged into dialogue with the PSI Latin American affiliates.
- PSI supported the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) in its nation-wide action for local government autonomy in Nigeria. PSI's LRG/Municipal Global Union Network sent a support letter that was delivered to the Nigerian Senate.
- PSI LRG Latin American unions met in Asunción (Paraguay) to discuss the labour and trade union situation of LRG women workers. They adopted a joint action plan to empower municipal women workers; stand up for gender equality; and halt harassment and gender-based violence at work.

2018

PSI organised two workshops (LRG and Municipal Waste services) for Anglophone Africa in Nairobi, (Kenya) to strengthen the AMALGUN network with the identification of regional LRG priorities and scoping of municipal waste membership and conditions in the region. LRG union representatives endorsed a joint set of priorities, developed a shared action plan, and engaged into dialogue with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Africa, UN Habitat and WIEGO for the first time.

2019

- PSI supported the first nation-wide demonstration of Tunisia's municipal waste workers organised by affiliate UGTT Municipal³ on April 28th, World Day for Safety and Health at Work.
- PSI organised two workshops (LRG and Municipal Waste services) for the PSI Francophone Africa and the Arab Countries in Marrakesh (Morocco) to support affiliates with the identification of regional LRG priorities and scoping of municipal waste membership and conditions. LRG union representatives set up the LRG/Municipal Union Network for Francophone Africa and the AC (ReMCot)⁴ and initiated dialogue with UCLG Africa and WIEGO representatives for the first time.

2020

Due to the pandemic, the LRG and municipal waste workshops planned for South Asia could not be held. Through the Covid-19 pandemic, PSI has worked with LRG affiliates to make publicly visible and acknowledged the life-saving work carried out by frontline LRG professions other than health and social services, including water and sanitation, municipal waste services, public administration, firefighters, burial services, local police, energy, public and social housing. PSI published and disseminated internationally a series of articles and ran activities to raise awareness about LRG workers' specific challenges through the pandemic, advocating for adequate PPE, decent working conditions, and the need to bargain collectively to ensure public service continuation for local communities while keeping workers safe.

2021

Given the impossibility to convene a Global LRG Conference 2021 due to Covid, taking advantage of the new digital tools available, PSI has organised a cycle of online thematic consultations with its LRG membership and allies, the LRG Workers Network's Series (LRGNext2021). These aim to provide a space for policy discussion; consult and engage the PSI global LRG membership over shared policy priorities ahead of the PSI Congress; and promote enhanced participation and engagement from PSI affiliates, union leaders, staff, and members in PSI LRG work.

³ «UGTT Municipaux » is the municipal sector branch of the Tunisian General Labour Union Confederation.

⁴ In French « Rencontres Méditerranéennes des Conditions de Travail ».

3. RECLAIMING PUBLIC SERVICES & BUILDING THE LABOUR DIMENSION OF REMUNICIPALISATION

The other side of the fight against privatisation, (re)municipalisation⁵ overwhelmingly occurs at a subnational level. Recognizing the frequent involvement and growing experience of LRG unions in remunicipalisation processes, PSI has worked with affiliates to identify and disseminate lessons learnt; built tools for PSI unions wishing to de-privatise local public services; and developed strategic pro-remunicipalisation alliances with civil society organisations.

2018

- With the PSI Research Unit (PSIRU), PSI convened trade unions, academia and civil society allied organizations at the University of Greenwich (UK) to build strategic intelligence and deliver guidance towards the development of a re-municipalization guide for PSI affiliates.
- PSI's [Global Labour Remunicipalization Workshop](#) gathered over 50 participants from 28 affiliates, 4 academic and 3 allied organizations from 5 continents at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in Geneva (Switzerland).

2019

- With the support of FNV Overheid⁶, PSI led an [international delegation of 19 PSI trade unions from 14 countries to Amsterdam](#) (The Netherlands) that joined over 300 representatives from civil society, local government, academia and experts in the [“The Future is Public” International Conference](#), organized by the Transnational Institute (TNI).
- PSI co-edited and launched TNI's book [“The Future is Public: Democratic Ownership of Public Services”](#) of which PSI and affiliates authored 4 chapters.



2020

- PSI became partner to a 4-year European Research Council (ERC) project on global remunicipalisation ([GLOBALMUN](#)) headed by Prof. Andrew Cumbers of the University of Glasgow (UK). PSI affiliates can help build an evidence-based, pro-public narrative by reporting remunicipalisation cases; and taking and disseminating the [“Global Remunicipalisation Survey”](#) among their members.
- PSI produced a [paper](#) on the fundamental role strong public and housing services have in halting global pandemics and protecting public health. The paper was published in the [Spotlight Report on Sustainable Development 2020](#).
- PSI released [“Taking our public Services back in-house. A Remunicipalisation Guide for Workers and Trade Unions”](#). The guide comprises concepts, lessons, and recommendations drawn from 50 remunicipalisation cases worldwide and across sectors.

2021

- PSI [co-launched](#) [“Public Futures”](#), the most comprehensive remunicipalisation/de-privatisation available database documenting 1500+ cases - with the University of Glasgow and TNI.
- PSI launched a “Trade Union Task Force for a Public Energy Future” together with [Trade Unions for Energy Democracy \(TUED\)](#) and French affiliate FNME-CGT⁷ to bring a strong pro-public energy message at COP26.

⁵ Remunicipalisation refers to the return of public services from private control and/or ownership in any form to full public ownership, management and democratic control.

⁶ Government sector branch of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions

⁷ Energy branch union of the French General Labour Confederation.

4. FACILITATING DIALOGUE WITH LRG EMPLOYERS

PSI has stepped up dialogue and cooperation with United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), the most representative membership-based LRG global association – to advocate together the centrality of local public services for human rights and local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and to step stones towards global social dialogue with LRG employers. PSI also had exchanges with Metropolis on public service continuation through Covid; with ICLEI⁸ on responsible public procurement; and with C40 on urban public transport jointly with the International Transport Federation (ITF). PSI and UCLG are currently advancing dialogue at a regional level.

2015

- PSI and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) met with the UCLG leadership and identified new areas of cooperation including Habitat III, UN Water, migration, local economic development, decent work, tax justice and trade.
- The PSI General Secretary (GS) spoke at a UCLG-ILO panel at the Local Economic Development Forum.

2016

- A PSI LRG delegation from Colombia spoke at the [5th World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#), the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá (Colombia).
- PSI and UCLG advanced joint advocacy at Habitat III as part of the [General Assembly of Partners \(GAP\)](#).

2017

- The PSI General Secretary (GS) spoke in UCLG [events at the UN High Level Policy Forum \(HLPF\)](#) in New York (USA).
- For the first time, a UCLG representative took part in the PSI Congress 2017, speaking on the LRG sector panel.
- UCLG [endorsed](#) PSI's Campaign "[Municipal Workers make Cities Happen!](#)" on World Cities Day 2017.

2018

- The [PSI GS addressed world mayors](#) at the UCLG Annual Retreat 2018 in Barcelona (Spain).
- The PSI GS [spoke at the UCLG event at the UN High Level Political Forum](#) over SDG 11.
- A [PSI delegation from the African and Arab Countries Region](#) brought the voice of public service workers to African mayors' and local governments' summit Africities in Marrakesh (Morocco).
- In a [Joint Statement](#) at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) [PSI and UCLG asked for better labour statistics for LRG workers](#) worldwide.

2019

- PSI and UCLG [co-authored the SDG11 chapter](#) of the 2019 Spotlight on Sustainable Development Report, highlighting the importance of trade union rights and decent employment for LRG workers.
- The PSI GS was a keynote speaker at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York (USA), organized by UCLG's Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. The event launched the 3rd UCLG report at HLPF on the role of LRGs in localizing the SDGs: [PSI contributed to the SDG8 \(Decent Work\) chapter](#).

2020

- In their [Joint Statement in the context of the Covid-19 pandemics](#) "Strong local public services for a safe world" launched on 23 June UN Public Service Day, [PSI and UCLG called for adequate financing, staffing and decent conditions](#) for LRG workers to ensure local public service delivery continuation and a resilient post-Covid19 world.
- PSI obtained that the ILO carries out a scoping study on the working conditions of LRG workers in a sample of countries per continent as part of its Sectoral Activities work in the biennium 2020-21.

2021

- The [PSI GS addressed over 100 city and local government leaders](#) on the importance of putting care at the centre of cities in an online UCLG care-related event.
- The UCLG GS spoke about care and LRGs at PSI's May EB.
- PSI Africa and the Arab Countries and UCLG Africa negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for dialogue and cooperation between the two regions.
- PSI contributed with a working paper to the VI edition of the UCLG Flagship bi-annual publication "GOLD" (forth. 2022).

⁸ ICLEI is the "Local Governments for Sustainability" city network.

5. INFLUENCING GLOBAL POLICY

PSI LRG global advocacy asserts the centrality of local public services in public hands and of decent work and trade union rights for LRG workers, as preconditions to achieve inclusive cities (SDG11), effective local government, thriving communities and fair socio-economic development. PSI was mandated by the Council of Global Unions (CGU) to lead on urban policies and UN Habitat advocacy together with Building and Wood Workers International (BWI). PSI has been leading [pro-workers and labour rights policy advocacy all along the Habitat III](#) process and World Urban Forums (WUF).

PSI also made steps forward towards getting LRG workers and governments visible and heard in the UN system (UN Habitat, the ILO, the OECD etc.), recognized as essential for the SDGs implementation; and valued as equal partners in international organisations' normative work and governance structures. Since 2016, PSI has also been the lead contributor to the annual [“Spotlight on Sustainable Development Reports”](#) on SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities).

2015

PSI organised a [Panel at COP21 on ‘Cities, the Key to Climate Justice’](#) to illustrate the LRG dimension of climate change and the challenges it entails for LRG workers and their unions.

2016

- The [PSI GS spoke at Habitat III's Preparatory Committee of the Habitat III Conference](#) (PrepCom3) in Surabaya (Indonesia) presenting the Workers and Trade Unions' Major Group position. PSI, ICRICT⁹ and PSIRU also organised an event on the LRG dimension of tax justice [“Financing and investing in urban public services: The key to inclusive cities”](#) at PrepCom3.
- The PSI delegation at Habitat III pushed for its urban policy position [“Ten Points for Fair Cities and an Inclusive New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)”](#) and developed the [Trade Union Response to the Zero draft of the New Urban Agenda](#) of Habitat III.
- PSI organized the ‘Cities for people, not for profit’ event in the HIII counter-forum organized by civil society and Ecuadorean affiliates in collaboration with the International Alliance of Inhabitants “Resistance to HIII”, Quito (Ecuador).

2017

- With Argentinean affiliate Municipal Workers Confederation (CTM), PSI organised a [public debate at the International Labour Conference \(ILO\) at the ILO](#) “Collective Bargaining in the Municipal Public Sector”, drawing attention to the trade union rights challenges of LRG workers.
- The PSI General Secretary (GS) spoke in UCLG [events at the UN High Level Policy Forum \(HLPF\)](#) in New York (USA).
- PSI provided a [trade union assessment of the New Urban Agenda](#) (NUA) and [recommendations](#) on how to implement its commitments.

2018

- With BWI, ActionAid, WIEGO and the UCLG – [PSI brought the voices of public LRG workers at UN Habitat's World Urban \(WUF\) Forum 9](#), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).
- The [PSI GS addressed at the UN HLPF](#) during the review of SDG11.
- A [PSI union delegation negotiated](#) new [ILO Guidelines for decent work in public emergency services \(PES\)](#). The Guidelines recognize the LRG dimension of public emergency and the key role of trade union rights.
- In a [Joint Statement](#) at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) [PSI and UCLG asked for better labour statistics for LRG workers](#) worldwide.

2019

PSI got [LRG trade union good practices](#) referenced in the [2019 OECD guide on responsible public procurement](#) practices.

2020

With UCLG, Metropolis and UN-Habitat PSI held a live learning experience webinar where [almost 200 LRG leaders discussed frontline workers' safety for local public service continuation through the pandemic](#).

2021

The [PSI GS addressed the UN-Habitat Experts Group Meeting \(EGM\)](#) on The Future of Urban Governance on “Public Service Delivery” stressing the need for adequate public funding and staffing for stronger local public services to beat the pandemic and drive an inclusive recovery.

- The [PSI GS joined the Mayors of Montevideo, Polokwane and Lima](#) in the opening panel of the 4th Local and Regional Governments (LRG) Forum at the UN HLPF.
- With the ITF, a PSI delegation took part the Workers' Delegation to the ILO Tripartite Technical meeting on the future of decent and sustainable work in urban transport services and got an official reference to remunicipalisation in the [ILO report](#).

⁹ Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation



6. ADVANCING GLOBAL LRG RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATION

PSI has worked towards building a cohesive global identity, insider intelligence and visibility for the LRG sector through research and publications. It worked and created tools to facilitate safe, interactive communication and peer learning among its LRG affiliates.

BOOKS AND RESEARCH REPORTS

- 2016 - [Reclaiming Public Services: How cities and citizens are turning back privatisation](#) – with TNI
- 2016 - [Overview of global megatrends affecting local and regional governments](#) - PSIRU
- 2017 - [Fiscal Contracts and Local Public Services: Bridging Tax Justice and Inclusive Cities for the New Urban Agenda](#)
- 2018 - [Municipal solid waste management services in Latin America](#) – with PSIRU
- 2019 - [Municipal solid waste management services in Africa and the Arab countries](#) – with PSIRU
- 2019 - [Digitalization and Public Services: a Labour Perspective](#) - with FES funding
- 2019 - [The Future is public: Towards Democratic Ownership of Public Services](#) – With TNI
- 2020 - [Taking our Public Services Back in House. A Remunicipalisation Guide for Workers and Trade Unions](#) – with PSIRU

UN WORLD CITIES DAY 31 OCTOBER

- 2017 - “[Municipal workers make cities happen!](#)” – LRG professions gallery campaign and [op-ed in The Guardian](#) Public Leaders’ Network
- 2018 - “[Stop precarious work in local public services!](#)” – [poster](#)
- 2019 - “[Smart cities: for people or for profit?](#)” – [poster](#)

SPOTLIGHT REPORTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORTS - SDG11 CHAPTERS

- 2016 - [Towards an Inclusive New Urban Agenda](#)
- 2017 - [Four critical steps to operationalize the New Urban Agenda's transformative commitment to decent work and inclusive and sustainable cities](#)

The Future of LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES



- 2018 - [To ensure sustainable waste services, we must value waste workers and make sure they are in decent jobs](#)
- 2019 - [Tackling the challenges of global urbanization: flagship local government initiatives to meet the SDGs](#) - with UCLG
- 2020 - [More than ever with COVID-19 we need strong public and social housing services](#)

OTHER LRG PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 - [The Labour Dimension of Remunicipalisation. Public Service Workers and Trade Unions in Transition](#)
- 2020 - [Strong Public and Social Housing Services: A Key Asset in halting global pandemics](#)

PSI LRG/MUNICIPAL UNION NETWORK FACEBOOK GROUP

Launched in 2016, the [PSI LRG/Municipal Union Network Facebook Group](#) is a closed group aimed to encourage direct discussion, sharing and peer learning among PSI LRG union representatives and close allies. It enables members to share LRG union stories, pictures, videos, good practices, campaigns, reports and other resources directly and in their own languages. Postings and membership are vetted by PSI staff. It currently counts almost 500 members. PSI LRG union representatives can require membership anytime.



7. REGIONAL LRG SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA AND ARAB COUNTRIES

Through the AMALGUN and the ReMCoT Networks, PSI LRG affiliates got more engaged in addressing the challenges faced by municipal waste workers in the region. The LRG and Municipal Waste sector workshops in 2018 in Nairobi (Kenya) and in 2019 in Marrakesh (Morocco) build contacts and initiated communications and dialogue among LRG unions in the subregions; and the adoption of specific action plans helped address the challenges faced by LRG and municipal waste workers, including OSH, lack of PPE, organising and recruitment. The Covid pandemic has emphasised the importance of LRG workers including those in municipal waste services to protect public health and local public service continuation.

In 2020 an AMALGUN meeting in Ghana strengthened LRG unions' commitment to collaborate and organize/recruit municipal waste service workers, a critical step to negotiate better working conditions.

As a result of the contacts earlier established with WIEGO, the Kenya County Government Workers Union (KCGWU) and PSI took part in a WIEGO waste pickers' workshop in Kisumu (Kenya) to continue collaboration and solidarity building and peer learning between municipal and informal waste workers.

Municipal waste workers affiliates in Senegal won improved working conditions including social protection and retirement benefits. The case of Senegal can be used as a model for other LRG affiliates in the Region to organise and build the union power needed in this sector. Efforts are also under way to make the informal waste workers join or form formal trade unions that can become PSI affiliates.

INTERAMERICA

Caribbean

In 2018-2019, affiliates in the Caribbean established an LRG Sectoral Steering Group (SSG) to guide work and activities in the sector. The Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO) shared its role and successes in social dialogue and collective bargaining when the government of Jamaica made major reforms to the local government system in that country. The experiences serve as best practice for other affiliates' involvement in local government reform processes.

In the Caribbean, workers in the LRG sector play an increasingly active and important role in disaster and emergencies – especially during the hurricane season (01/06- 30/11). The [ILO Guidelines on decent work in public emergency services](#) are an important tool for affiliates, guiding them on proposals to be included in collective bargaining and social dialogue.

Workers in the LRG sector in Jamaica and Dominica – especially those in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and public emergency services - are the participants in the PSI-Union to Union Climate Change project "[Building Trade Union Capacities and Quality Public Services for a Just Transition to Climate Change](#)". They have engaged with decision-makers and advisers to influence local and national climate change actions. Using tools/materials produced during the project, they have conducted training with union delegates and work colleagues on public service union action on the climate crisis.

There are still major challenges with the status of some local government workers. Daily-rated workers suffer from low-pay and face victimisation and discrimination because of the nature of their work in the LRG sector. The work is mainly manual and the budgets for their departments have been reduced. Funding for the LRG sector remains a major issue in all countries, especially given that the largest chunk of their budgets comes from central government.



Latin America

Forthcoming

North America

Forthcoming

ASIA-PACIFIC

Forthcoming

EUROPE (EPSU)

PSI LRG work has been carried out in regular cooperation, coordination and dialogue with the EPSU LRG Standing Committee. Between 2016-2021, the EPSU LRG Standing Committee (SC) has covered different work areas to implement its Congresses' resolutions ([2014](#) and [2019](#)), in close collaboration and partnership with PSI.

Among these are the fight against privatization and [knowledge building](#) about remunicipalisation/in-sourcing processes. As part of this work in 2021 EPSU and PSI have applied together for European Union (EU) funding to jointly develop an online training curriculum on in-sourcing/remunicipalisation to support LRG unions and workers (funding pending approval). EPSU has also continued to monitor, advocate for better policy and legislation proposals in Europe, and to contribute to EU consultations. Public procurement has been a focus as well, from the active lobbying during the legislative process at EU and national level, to monitoring transposition, exchanging and promoting good practices, and highlighting loopholes and problems. A series of events with affiliates and policy makers have been organized between 2016-2021, [the latest one](#) taking into account the COVID19 pandemic.

Digitalisation, the digital transition of LRG and working time have been additional focus areas of work for the EPSU LRG SC over the past two years, as the use of technologies and telework has increased following the Covid pandemic. The public health crisis has also led EPSU to apply - together with its EU Social Dialogue counterpart the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) – the European chapter of UCLG - for a EU-funded project to explore the use of telework in LRGs in view to negotiate a joint text. Besides, other joint projects were held within the EU Social Dialogue framework on the [EU Semester and LRGs](#); and on the [assessment of the joint EPSU-CEMR Guidelines on violence, migration and gender](#). EU LRG social partners EPSU and CEMR also developed dialogue that led to joint contributions to EU policy (e.g. on minimum wage, gender equality, COVID19 response, future of EU social dialogue, public procurement, etc.)¹⁰.

Within the framework of the LRG Standing Committee, the [EPSU Firefighters' Network](#) has been exchanging good practices and developed policy guidelines to influence national and EU policy and legislation in the areas of: [adaptation to climate change](#); [exposure to carcinogens and mutagens](#); and [working time](#).

¹⁰ Texts can be retrieved from the EU Social dialogue texts database: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=521&langId=en&day=&month=&year=§orCode=SECT35&themeCode=&typeCode=&recipientCode=&mode=searchSubmit&subscribe=Search>





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