



CITIES

FORUM 2023

TORINO, 16-17 MARCH

TOGETHER FOR GREEN AND JUST CITIES

WEBSTREAMING AGENDA

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DAY 1

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH

13:15 – 13:45 OPENING PLENARY

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms,
European Commission

Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor of Torino (IT)

Ivan Bartoš, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitalization and
Minister of Regional Development (CZ)

Moderators: Eddy Adams and Sally Kneeshaw

13:45 – 14:00 Keynote speech

Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment
Agency

14:00 – 15:00 HIGH LEVEL PANEL

**How to support the implementation of the European
Green Deal in cities while dealing with new challenges**

Ovidiu Cîmpean, Secretary of State, Ministry of Investments
and European Projects (RO)

Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director-General DG CLIMA,
European Commission

Mihhail Kõlvart, Mayor of Tallinn (EE)

Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku (FI)

Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor of Bologna (IT)

Magdalena Młochowska, Director, Coordinator of Green
Warsaw (PL)

Simone Lammert, City of Solingen, Member of Eurotowns (DE)

Moderator: Sally Kneeshaw

15:30 – 16:45 OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE

**Innovating, sharing and inspiring sustainable urban
development in Europe**

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms,
European Commission

Daniel Leca, Vice-President, Hauts de France Region (FR)

Tim Caulfield, Director, European Urban Initiative

Normunds Popens, Acting Director-General DG REGIO, European
Commission

Kieran McCarthy, Cork City Councilor, European Committee of
the Regions

Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director, Eurocities

Marie Zezůlková, Head of Urban Policy and Strategy Division,
Ministry for Regional Development, (CZ)

Teofil Gherca, Director, URBACT Programme

Moderator: Eddy Adams

17:00 – 18:30 Greening cities in the European Union

**Strategic approaches to address climate and
environmental challenges**

Benjamin Caspar, Policy Officer for Natural Capital &
Ecosystem Health, DG ENV, European Commission

Irene Bonvissuto, Policy Officer Policy development and
implementation - Adaptation to climate change, DG CLIMA,
European Commission

Gitty Korsuize, Urban ecologist, Utrecht (NL)

Imanol Zabaleta Altuna, Director of the Environmental
Studies Center of Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES)

Susa Eräranta, Project Director, Climate Unit, Helsinki (FI)

Normunds Popens, Acting Director-General DG REGIO,
European Commission

Moderator: Anna Gumbau

DAY 2

FRIDAY, 17 MARCH

09:00 – 11:00 EUI CAPACITY BUILDING

How can cities build their capacities on sustainable urban development under the European Urban Initiative?

Normunds Popens, Acting Director-General DG REGIO

Aša Rogelj, Deputy Director-General at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning (SI)

Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of Łódź (PL)

Eilish O'Loughlin, Head of Capacity Building Unit, European Urban Initiative Permanent Secretariat

Clémentine Gravier, Capacity-Building Officer, URBACT

Aleksi Jäntti, Deputy Mayor, Tampere (FI)

Jordi Mazon, Deputy Mayor on Energy Transition, Mobility and Waste Management, Viladecans (ES)

Carlotta Fioretti, Project Officer Urban Development Strategies and Researcher, JRC, European Commission

Moderators: Eddy Adams and Sally Kneeshaw

11:30 – 13:00 Renewed Urban Agenda for the EU Implementing the next generation of Partnerships for cities of all sizes

Thomas de Béthune, Team Leader Urban policy, DG REGIO, European Commission

Roxana Triboi, Expert for Ex Ante Assessment of the UAEU Food theme

Renata Lopez, Head of Urban Planning, Pozzuoli (IT)

Orna Rosenfeld, Expert for Ex Ante Assessment of the UAEU Cities of Equality theme

Annika Dalén, Strategic development and gender equality officer, Umeå (SE)

Jan Schultheiss, Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building, Co-coordinator of the UAEU Partnership on Culture and cultural heritage (DE)

Ann Rodenstedt, Desk officer, Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure (SE)

Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit Territorial Development, JRC, European Commission

Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director, Eurocities

David Sventek, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, European Economic and Social Committee

Moderator: Sally Kneeshaw

14:00 – 14:15 Keynote speech

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal and European Commissioner for Climate Action

14:15 – 15:10 MAYORS DEBATE:

Cohesion and recovery in cities

Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor of Turin (IT)

Aleksandra Dulciewicz, Mayor of Gdansk (PL)

Alina Apostol, Mayor of Ciorțești commune (RO)

Sylvain Godinot, Deputy Mayor of Lyon (FR)

Moderator: Sally Kneeshaw

15:10– 15:40 CLOSING REMARKS

Normunds Popens, Acting Director-General DG REGIO, European Commission

Astrid Vital Durand, International Union for Conservation of Nature Young Ambassador

Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence (IT)

Moderators: Eddy Adams and Sally Kneeshaw

16:00 – 17:30 Welcoming people with a migrant background at the local level

Sonia Pereira, High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal

Syed Hasnain, Founder and president of UNIRE (Italian National Union of Refugees and Exiles)

Bart Somers, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Flanders and Flemish Minister of the Interior, Administrative Affairs, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities (BE)

Aikaterini Dimitrakopoulou, Head of Sector for Integration, DG HOME, European Commission

Diana Botescu, Interim Head of Unit for Migration and Refugee Policies, Berlin Commissioner's Office for Integration and Migration of the Berlin Senate (DE)

Geti Mubeenová, Strategic Management Coordinator for Refugees, Prague City Hall (CZ)

Moderator: Ali Al-Jaberi

High-level panel – How to support the implementation of the European Green Deal in cities while dealing with new challenges.

The European Green Deal sets ambitious objectives for the EU to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Supporting frameworks, initiatives, policies and partnerships are already in place at the EU level to bring forward the needed transformations, in particular in urban areas. These will significantly contribute to delivering the European Green Deal on the ground. A number of questions arise that need urgent answers due to current global challenges that impact urban areas, including those relating to the energy transition.

What will participants learn?

This event will allow for a discussion between the European Commission and high-level municipal and national representatives on the coherence and extent of the support provided to implement locally the Green Deal, in particular those that relate to the energy transition. This dialogue should include discussions on the needs of cities, ways to make use of available EU opportunities, approaches to channel support for adapting to changing circumstances and discussions on new challenges on the path to sustainable and resilient societies.

Official launch of the European Urban Initiative – The European Urban Initiative: innovating, sharing and inspiring for sustainable urban development in Europe

This session will mark the official launch of the European Urban Initiative (EUI), a novel instrument of Cohesion Policy in support of sustainable urban development.

The Initiative fosters innovation, exchange of experiences and knowledge, and capacity building. The EUI supports cities of all sizes as key agents in the green and digital transitions and for a more inclusive Europe.

What will participants learn?

This session will present the ambitions of the EUI and the concrete and new opportunities for the cities offered by the initiative in 2023. Key partners will also share their insights and expectations for the years to come. Finally, more information will be provided about the next Innovative Actions call and support to the Urban Agenda for the EU.

Greening cities in the European Union: strategic approaches to address climate and environmental challenges

Cities are essential to carry out the green transition on the ground and to foster the ambitious goals of the European Green Deal. To comply with this objective, they need a holistic approach that brings together many policy areas, sectors and regulatory measures. These areas include both environmental protection and climate mitigation and adaptation measures and goals. Multi-stakeholder approaches, good governance and inclusiveness are also key to building and implementing strategic and integrated visions.

What will participants learn?

In light of the EU Cohesion Policy, the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, its Biodiversity Strategy, the Horizon Europe Mission for 100 Climate neutral and smart cities and other frameworks and support measures, this session will provide an opportunity to dialogue with different cities regarding their approaches and recommendations on how they combine climate and environmental goals in their development strategies. Participants will also learn more how they can receive support for planning actions, networking, financing and capacity building when developing and implementing their strategies.

How can cities build their capacities on sustainable urban development under the European Urban Initiative?

Cities can play a stronger role in the delivery of Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 period. This is possible due to the introduction of Policy Objective 5 and the earmarking of at least 8% of ERDF resources at national level for sustainable urban development.

What will participants learn?

The European Urban Initiative is launching a capacity building offer for cities, consisting of events and peer learning activities, including peer reviews and city-to-city exchanges to support urban practitioners and improve their skills and knowledge on sustainable urban development.

Join the EU's biggest urban capacity-building community as part of the new European Urban Initiative!

A renewed Urban Agenda for the EU: implementing the next generation of Partnerships for cities of all sizes

2022 marked an important cornerstone for the implementation of the renewed Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU). Two new partnerships on Green Cities and Sustainable Tourism have recently been established and there is an ongoing discussion about the priorities of the next generation of UAEU partnerships.

What will participants learn?

In 2023, two new partnerships on Food and Equality in Cities will kick-start their work. Participants will have the opportunity to provide views and discuss more deeply their specific challenges pertinent to these topics, thus contributing to the ex-ante assessment of the Partnerships. But what is next? What are the EU's most pressing urban challenges? This session will be a platform for dialogue and sharing, while also offering the opportunity to reflect on future themes for the UAEU.

Mayors' debate – Cohesion and recovery in cities

This debate between EU Mayors will provide an opportunity for an exchange on key concerns, experiences and the needs of cities after three years of tackling the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences on economies, societies and citizens.

It will notably raise the question of how to remain focused on the key objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion, while dealing with the recovery, the reinvention of cities, and the consequences of broader global issues and crisis on urban areas of all sizes.

What will participants learn?

Mayors will discuss successful strategies to support long-term recovery, the green and just transition, and social and economic cohesion. The dialogue will also provide an opportunity to reflect upon how the EU's Cohesion Policy adapted to recent crises and propose paths for reflection on the future.

Welcoming people with a migrant background at the local level

Cities play an essential role in welcoming people with a migrant background and fostering their inclusion at the local level. When implementing integration policies, local authorities are responsible in particular for service provision. This includes, among other things, making education and housing services accessible, inclusive and non-segregated. Local authorities are also encouraged to develop their own local integration policies. Ensuring a multilevel governance approach throughout the design, implementation and monitoring of integration policies is crucial to effectively coordinate stakeholders at different levels.

What will participants learn?

This session will serve as an interactive platform for the exchange OF BEST practices and their lessons learned from responding to the current and past migration waves, including but not limited to the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.