European Track of WUF11
Transforming European Cities - for a Better Europe, for a Better World

The concept of the block of events dedicated to the European dimension of urbanization in the context of global challenges organized within the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) in Katowice, Poland
(26-30 June, 2022)
BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT:

European Track of WUF11: Transforming European Cities: for a Better Europe, for a Better World is a block of discussion and poster sessions dedicated to the European dimension of sustainable urbanization and just transformation of cities in the context of global challenges. The event is organized by the Polish Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Institute of Urban and Regional Development within the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11). The event refers directly to the main goal of WUF11, outlining the European dimension of the discussion and pointing at the same time to the special meaning of the cities of the region for the solutions of global problems.

The block of events includes thematic sessions which will be hosted by the leading institutions from European countries. Additionally, there will be poster sessions (in total up to 400 posters). The event will last 4 days, i.e. from the official opening (27th June, 2022) to the closing of WUF11 (30th June, 2022).

INTRODUCTION:

The main theme of the Eleventh Session of World Urban Forum in Katowice focuses on cities transformation, emphasizes better future to present and next generations of its inhabitants. The influence of cities is not limited to the citizens only but also plays an important role for the whole countries, regions... and the world. Cities, although often perceived as a threat, a place which accumulates a lot of negative phenomena, can simultaneously allow for more productivity and efficiency, as well as decreasing the negative effect of humans on the environment thanks to spatial concentration and used resources optimization.

Whether cities will be in fact a good place to live in, whether they will serve their environment and become a solution and not a problem in the era of global environmental challenges and climate crisis, depends mainly on the way of their future development and particular solutions implemented in order to ensure more sustainable urbanization.

European countries and cities are generally considered as leaders of transformation in the direction of sustainable development on the global scale. At the same time, due to high consumption, their negative effect on the environment is incomparably higher than the cities of the developing countries. Economic attractiveness of many
European cities attracts newcomers, including the migrants from the Global South. This creates many opportunities but also challenges related to ensuring equal development opportunities, counteracting social polarization and providing decent housing conditions. Many European cities and towns experience depopulation and urban shrinkage. Migrants might help to diverse these negative trends.

The future of the continent, and indirectly also of the world, highly depends on the success of the transformation of European cities. What to do, what to improve in order to make European cities an example to follow and a forerunner of changes? How should urban policy look like on various levels of its planning and implementation, starting from European, through national and local as well as public and private sector engagement? These are just some of the questions we want to face during the special series of events organized by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Institute of Urban and Regional Development within the WUF11 in Katowice.

Discussions, presentations and poster sessions will address 4 main thematic strands: 1) Green City, 2) Equitable and Inclusive, 3) Sustainable Urban Mobility and 4) Affordable Housing.