



Building block of the European Commission – European Track of the 11th session of the World Urban Forum

European Track

The **European Track of WUF11** is a block of events dedicated to the European dimension of sustainable urbanization and a just transformation of cities in the context of global challenges. The European Track will be organized within the 11th session of the World Urban Forum, by the Polish Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy as well as the Institute of Urban and Regional Development. The block of events includes number of thematic sessions of 90 minutes, which will be hosted by leading institutions from European countries. Additionally, there will be 10 poster sessions - dedicated mainly to the academic and local governmental environment. The European Commission acts as a partner as part of this process in order to highlight the European dimension of the forum and to provide additional content to enrich discussion among stakeholders on various priority areas. It will offer overall a rich programme of events to WUF participants, on various themes and strategic areas, covering key issues for sustainable urban development. You are warmly invited to consult the information about the overall European track and its building blocks through this [link](#). You will find there the framework programme as well as the concept note.

Building block of the European Commission

As part of a dedicated building block of the European Track, the series of 14 events organised or co-organised by the European Commission aims to highlight the EU approach towards integrated sustainable urban development through various dimensions. Sessions organised by the European Commission and its partners will complement other European track sessions and thematic areas by showcasing key priorities for supporting cities and urban development actors in taking forwards the green, digital and just transition in urban areas, while using common sustainability principles and requirements for integrated development.

Among events organised by the European Commission and its partners, there will be sessions focusing on:

- **key principles** such as:
 - citizens' engagement - *Involvement of local governments of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and young people active at the local level for the climate transition*
- **strategic areas** such as:
 - economic, social and territorial Cohesion - *Sustainable urban development support in the EU – frameworks, practices and tools*
 - climate neutrality & Innovation –

- *Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030*
 - *Collaborative Governance & Innovation Ecosystems: Best Practices from the 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge Network*
 - *Global Covenant of Mayors - understanding how to plan for energy access, develop synergies and financing climate action.*
- *digital transition - The Living-in.EU experience: Interoperability as a key enabler of the local digital transformation*
- **tools and methods** such as:
 - *How do European cities tackle inclusiveness strategies in Voluntary Local Reviews?*
 - *Launch of the second edition of the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews*
 - *Envisaging Urban Futures with JRC Open Data and Tools*
 - *International urban and regional cooperation to rethink sustainable urban and innovative models for a greener and better future.*
 - *Just, Productive, Creative and Climate-Neutral cities: R&I approaches towards sustainable urban transformation*
 - *Novel data for a better urban future – ensuring data continuity with the Global Human Settlement Layer*
 - *Nature-based solutions for sustainable urban development*
- **external partnerships** such as :
 - *How the EU support partner countries in their implementation of the new urban agenda*
 - *Strengthening access to finance for cities/urban investments through the EU guarantee scheme – European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+)*

The series of events organised by the European Commission within the European Track emphasizes key building blocks of the EU approach to support sustainable urban development, articulating both different thematic and strategic areas as well as practices, tools, and methodologies to support cities and urban actors in their transformation for a more sustainable urban future, within the EU and beyond.

Context

The **European Union**, represented by the European Commission, as well as EU Member States, has been very actively engaged in supporting sustainable urban development as well as the implementation of the **New Urban Agenda (NUA)**. A strong framework is in place at EU level with ambitious goals to activate transitions on the ground and reach the objective set by the **European Green Deal** to make Europe a climate-neutral continent by 2050. The Green Deal is an integral part of this Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals, and constitutes an approach for sustainable growth and development. The EU supports structural and transformative transitions that are managed in a socially fair and just way, in order to **leave no one and no place behind**, by setting up sustainable development policies (sectorial and territorial), investments and financial assistance, capacity and knowledge building support as well as urban proofing instruments. Cities have an essential role to play in this process, to innovate, to invest, to mobilise, together with other levels of governance, in order to make urbanisation sustainable and ensure territorial cohesion.

The **New Leipzig Charter**, adopted by EU Member States, also provides a key policy framework for sustainable urban development in Europe and in every Member State. The Charter highlights that just, green

and productive cities need to establish integrated and sustainable urban development strategies and ensure their implementation for the city as a whole, from its functional areas to its neighbourhoods. The document is strongly aligned with the EU **Cohesion Policy** and its **framework for sustainable urban development**, while recognising the need for multi-level participatory governance. The values and principles highlighted in this document are already guiding the action of the EU through numerous initiatives and policies.

This series of events and its **red thread** emphasizes key building blocks of the EU approach to support sustainable urban development, articulating both different thematic and strategic areas as well as practices, tools, and methodologies to support cities and urban actors in their transformation for a more sustainable urban future, within the EU and beyond. They will collectively be highlighting the European dimension of this World Urban Forum and showcase how the NUA delivery can be accelerated.

Programme

A dedicated programme is available below to highlight all the sessions comprised in this building block.

You are also invited to consult the WUF 11 website in order to access detailed information about each event, as well as to register to the Forum. Please note as well that some of the events will be hybrid so you will have the opportunity to connect remotely to participate. This is to be viewed in complementarity with the programme of the other building block composed of 27 sessions which is available [here](#).

Monday, 27 June 2022	
<p>13:30 -15:00</p> <p>Voices from cities room A</p>	<p>Sustainable urban development support in the European Union – frameworks, practices and tools</p> <p>This event will present the framework in place under cohesion policy’s urban dimension in the 2021-2027 programming period, in line with the New Leipzig Charter and its key principles for integrated sustainable urban development. The EU approach promoting integrated, place based approaches, ownership and involvement of local authorities as well as capacity building and innovation will be presented. This event will also reflect on how European metropolitan cities can drive a green and just transition through strategic planning, and introduce the tools developed to support cities in building their integrated sustainable urban development strategies.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>15.30 – 17.00</p> <p>SDGs in Action Room 2</p>	<p>How do European cities tackle inclusiveness strategies in VLRs?</p> <p>Whilst many cities and regions have engaged with processes of local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is considerable variation in how, and to what extent, communities have tackled the principles of “Leave No One Behind” so far. The aim of this event is to provide feedbacks based on the analysis conducted on a number of EU cities, of how these challenges are featured in European cities’ mission statements towards 2030 and related local policies and budgets.</p> <p>Among the many dimensions of vulnerability that will be discussed, particular attention will be devoted to extreme poverty and housing inadequacy and unaffordability.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>16.00 -17.30</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 20</p>	<p>How city leaders and youth are making climate neutrality a reality in their territories</p> <p>This event will focus on the cooperation between local leaders and youth for the climate and energy transition. The Covenant of Mayors – Europe (www.eumayors.eu) is an initiative bringing together more than 10,000 municipalities taking climate and energy action to secure a better future for their citizens. They act and advocate for a transition to a fairer, climate-neutral Europe that will leave no one and no place behind. Many cities and youth groups are experimenting different models of participation for their local actions, but also co-creation of policies to speed up the transition.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>16.00 - 17.30</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 6</p>	<p>International urban and regional cooperation to rethink sustainable urban and innovative models for a greener and better future.</p> <p>The IURC, at its core, aims to use knowledge-exchange to accelerate sustainable urban development worldwide and bolster cities’ efforts towards achieving the sustainable development goals. This session builds on IURC’s success in this realm, as presented by panelists from IURC cities (Europe, Asia, Americas). It will capitalise on the IURC’s rich</p>

	<p>experience facilitating knowledge-sharing. And, this will set the stage for the final objective of the session – namely to provide for a platform for exchange, co-creation of innovative solutions, inspiration and generation of ideas, all of which serves to identify successful measures that can be replicated across contexts and to inspire and forge sustainable cities.</p> <p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>Tuesday, 28 June 2022</p>	
<p>9.00 -12.00</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall : Room 14</p>	<p>Envisaging Urban Futures with JRC Open Data and Tools</p> <p>The objective of the event is to train participants to use the open and free data and tools developed by the European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC) to support policy makers, city leaders, practitioners, researchers, and local communities, to better understand urbanization trends and patterns at local, regional and global scales as well as progresses towards the monitoring and achievement of the SDGs in Europe.</p> <p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>9.00-10.00</p> <p>Urban Library 4</p>	<p>Launch of European Handbook for SDGs Voluntary Local Reviews – 2022 edition</p> <p>The second edition of the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews builds on the first edition published in 2020. The SDG Voluntary Local Reviews encompass both the monitoring and the analysis of the achievements with respect to SDGs at local level. They may include an assessment of all SDGs, or only priority SDGs, and operate at target level or not. VLRs usually also include references to local strategies for 2030 or existing, ongoing or planned local initiatives.</p> <p>The new edition of the European Handbook includes an updated analysis of the VLRs published globally and in Europe, their evolution over time in terms of use, main characteristics, and building blocks. Compared to the first edition, the 2022 edition also proposes an updated list of exemplary indicators to monitor SDGs in European cities. The 2022 European Handbook includes detailed information on 72 indicators and related data, which can facilitate/enable cities to measure their progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The set of indicators includes examples of both official and experimental indicators, coming from international and European institutions, but also regional and local governments and research institutes.</p> <p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>12.30-14.00</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 14</p>	<p>Achieving coherent financing of sustainable urban development at various territorial scales. (The external dimension - enhancing urban finance in EU partner countries)</p> <p>To harness urbanization for productive growth and liveability, investment in urban development and infrastructure is required. In our partner countries there are multiple constraints for mobilizing finance for investments in urban infrastructure. Coordination of investment for larger impact needs an enabling institutional environment that ensures effective multilevel governance and targeted policies at national and subnational levels</p>

	<p>securing coherence of national and subnational spending and revenues and external finance.</p> <p>The EU has put in the place the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) which aim to support the mobilization of finance for more effective investments in urban infrastructure through blended finance and guarantees. This event, which will explore how to strengthen urban finance, builds on the findings from an EU funded initiative on “Financing Sustainable Urban Development”, which will be presented at the beginning.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>16.30-18.00</p> <p>ICC</p> <p>Multifunction Hall: Room 11</p>	<p>EU Mission on 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030: pathways to climate neutrality and international outreach</p> <p>The aim of the event is to showcase how the Horizon Europe Mission on Cities will deliver 100+ climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030 and inspire all other cities to follow suit by 2050. Cities play a key role in meeting the targets set by the European Union with the European Green Deal as well as in fulfilling the commitments of international policy frameworks such as the COP21 Paris Agreement and the Habitat III New Urban Agenda. Research and innovation are instrumental in helping cities and its citizens to co-design and accelerate the green and digital transition towards the target of Europe becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050.</p> <p>The event will present the holistic and co-created solutions the Mission will use (e.g. Smart city solutions combined with green solutions for example in monitoring emission reductions in mobility, providing smart energy grids, improving energy efficiency in buildings, monitoring air pollution, water and waste management, towards climate neutral, resilient, inclusive, equitable and innovative cities. It will also show how the Mission successfully interacts with global cities networks Mayors, and UN Habitat to discuss the implementation modalities of the Cities Mission, generating strong interest with these important external partners. To this aim the event will also present the Global EU Mission Urban Transitions and its contribution to the UN Habitat Global Agenda.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>Wednesday, 29 June 2022</p>	
<p>9.00 -12.00</p> <p>ICC</p> <p>Multifunction Hall: Room 16</p>	<p>Global Covenant of Mayors - understanding how to plan for energy access, develop synergies and financing climate action.</p> <p>Thousands of local governments committed to taking voluntary action to combat climate change are part of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) initiative. The training will approach crosscutting issues involved in the future of the city: how energy access shapes the urban environment and the life of citizens, financing opportunities for pursuing urban sustainability and equality, and improving air quality in urban areas in synergy with mitigation. With an interactive approach, participants have the chance to exchange with peers, share their experience and play a central role during the event.</p>

	<p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>12:30 -14:00</p> <p>Voices from Cities room B</p>	<p>Collaborative Governance & Innovation Ecosystems: Best Practices from the 100 Intelligent Cities Challenge Network</p> <p>Across Europe and worldwide, cities are dealing with shared challenges related to climate change, migration and the Covid-19 crisis. In order to respond to these problems, cities and regions are developing collaborative approaches, bringing together public, private and civil society actors in various partnerships, open networks, and “coalitions of the willing”. What are the key characteristics and success factors of these collaborative approaches? What is the role of digital and social innovations in building these innovations ecosystems? And what is the role of various actors, including national governments and the European Commission in supporting and scaling these initiatives?</p> <p>This session will bring together several cities and regions participating in European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge to share their experience and lessons learned from collaborative governance initiatives with focus on accelerating the twin green and digital transition.</p> <p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>14.30 - 16.00</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 9</p>	<p>The Living-in.EU experience: Interoperability as a key enabler of the local digital transformation</p> <p>Interoperability is a key enabler for the accelerated digital transformation of cities and communities across the globe. Promoted by both the European Commission (through Living-in.EU and Interoperable Europe, the European Commission's open stop shop for e-Government), and by the UN (through U4SCC, a collaboration of 17 UN bodies coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat in support of SDG 11.) Use of open standards and technical specifications, and deployment of city platforms allow for the roll-out of integrated digital solutions for efficient and effective management of infrastructure, data and services in cities, to tackle interlinked challenges for greater resilience and sustainability. Further benefits include reducing deployment costs for public administrations and allowing co-creation of solutions for people-centred cities. The EC publication 'Proposal for an EIF4SCC' is a reference document, which explains the different aspects of interoperability (technical, semantic, legal, organisational, and cultural) and provides use-cases and good practice examples.</p> <p>More details and the event's agenda are available through this link.</p>
<p>16.30 -18.00</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 7</p>	<p>Just, Productive, Creative and Climate-Neutral cities: R&I approaches towards sustainable urban transformation</p> <p>The event is co-organized with the Fab City global initiative - a global Network of 41 cities and regions that aim to produce (almost) everything they consume by 2054 - and focuses on how novel R&I approaches can help cities in developing new urban, economic, social and industrial model that relocalises production to the city, promoting decarbonisation, healthy lifestyles and indirectly contributing to target climate neutrality.</p>

	<p>Stemming from the Fab City Full Stack strategy for cities, the event will host 3 EU R&I projects funded by Horizon 2020 Framework Programme and will be structured around 3 main questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How can we use the ‘meanwhile’ of urban regeneration to create Just Cities? lead by T-Factor project •How can we guide collective action towards a Productive City? led by CENTRINNO project <p>How can we foster Creative cities balancing forward-moving innovation and preservation of cultural heritage? led by HUB-IN project</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
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Thursday, 30 June 2022

<p>09.00 – 10.30</p> <p>Voices from cities Room A</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions for sustainable urban development</p> <p>Cities’ representatives will be showcasing examples of how cities can harness and incorporate nature to achieve environmental, social and economic benefits. The event will be highly interactive: after pitches from cities (with visual examples of solutions implemented), there will be a constant exchange with the audience. A discussion on the benefits and challenges encountered will enable to co-produce take away messages on how a city can use systemic solution such as nature-based solutions (NBS) in its transformative change towards an inclusive, resilient and attractive city. Speakers will come from Europe and all over the world - from the city of Wroclaw to urban living labs in Latin America.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
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<p>14.00- 15.30</p> <p>ICC Multifunction Hall: Room 18</p>	<p>Novel data for a better urban future – ensuring data continuity with the Global Human Settlement Layer</p> <p>Detailed and updated information on population, building stocks and settlement classification produced by the Global Human Settlement Layer GHSL project at JRC supports various applications across disaster risk management, sustainable development, urbanisation, environment, and sustainability. This event will host the launch of the new GHSL data release 2.0. To ensure that information is constantly updated and accurate, the Copernicus Programme will ensure an operational production of GHSL human settlement data for the future.</p> <p>More details and the event’s agenda are available through this link.</p>
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