

# Programme

## **Creating Green Cities – European Conference on Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive Cities**

### **Presidency Conference, Online 14-15 June 2023**

A swift green transition of European cities and communities is urgently needed. Our living environments are central for the envisioned change. Strong international goals and initiatives are guiding the European work. On the ground, communities, public authorities, the private sector, financial institutions and universities are collaborating to support the transformation. Important know-how is being developed to increase the speed, reach and impact of change actions.

But are all values integrated, all perspectives considered? There is a unique opportunity to leverage society's green transition by integrating aesthetic, social, and cultural values. The built environment that will be created, in addition to the places and buildings that already exists, will last for generations, and affect people and the planet through the design, use, and management we apply. What strategies, methods, practices, and visions can inspire all stakeholders to reach even further? How can sustainable, beautiful, and inclusive cities be imagined and created for the future?

The EU's Urban Agenda and European policies and initiatives towards greener cities form the basis of this conference. Links between the green city vision and initiatives such as New European Bauhaus and the European Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities 2030 will be explored, stressing the relevance of integrated approaches towards sustainable urban development. The aim is to share knowledge and methods, showcase best practices and discuss 'next practices'.

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WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2023

## **Plenary session – Opening of the conference**

09.00 – 09.30

**Veronica Hejdelind** and **Johan Kuylenstierna**, Moderators

**Andreas Carlson**, Minister for Infrastructure and Housing

**Anders Sjelygren**, Director General of Boverket and **Christina Lunner Kolstrup**, Dean of faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Science (LTV) in Alnarp, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh**, Mayor of Malmö City

## **Plenary session: Creating Green Cities – Challenges, Perspectives & Leadership**

09.30-11.30

European cities and communities are undergoing a rapid green transition, guided by European and International frameworks and policies such as the Urban Agenda and the New European Bauhaus. The opportunity to leverage society's green transition also to integrate aesthetic, social, and cultural values in the built environment is unprecedented. The built environment that will be created – in addition to the places and buildings that already exists – will last for generations, and affect people and the planet through the design, use, and management applied. This plenary session will focus on strategies, methods, and practices that support the transition, with all values and perspectives integrated and considered.

*Keynote lectures:*

**Green Cities Initiatives: How can Planetary boundaries concept help?**

**Dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj**, Professor, Ljubljana University, Slovenia.

**Facing Climate Changes with Green Cities.**

**Eleni Myrivili**, Global Chief Heat Officer, UN-Habitat & Arsht-Rock Resilience Center.

*Coffee break 30 mins*

**Sense and sensibility. Leadership in the digital era.**

**Dr. Lars Strannegård**, Professor and President of Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden.

## **Panel session: Sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful**

11.30 -12:00

The New European Bauhaus proposes the three folded perspectives of sustainable, inclusive and beautiful to guide the creation of living environments in the green city. Such living environments need to respond to humans' and animals' need alike, navigating dynamic forces rapidly reshaping our built and natural environment while also opening up for people's various engagement with place and community. The panel will take this ambitious vision of the future green city as its starting point and discuss what actions that can be envisioned to achieve it, and how to deal with conflicting interests in the meantime.

*Panelists:*

**Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk**, Honorary Professor UBC, Founder Nature Based Solution Institute.

**Jessica Segerlund**, Head of Arkdes Think Tank, Sweden.

**Veronika Valk Siska**, Ministry of Culture, Estonia.

The panel session will be moderated by: **Lena From**, Head of the Art Unit, Public Art Agency Sweden.

## **Lunch break**

12.00 - 13.00

## **Break-out sessions: Aspects of Green**

13.00 - 14.30

These sessions will run in parallel.

### **A) Rewilding the City with Nature Based Solutions**

Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are widely recognized for a wide range of societal challenges by generating climate resilience while providing benefits for human well-being and biodiversity. Rewilding is an essential nature-based climate solution. Rewilding restores an area to its uncultivated state but can also incorporate new elements of architectural or

landscape design and provide multiple benefits. The session will give an overview of the current knowledge in the field and bring together results from European research projects and practical experiences. The session will reflect the potential of nature-based solutions to become a core component of what can be offered to cities and communities as an esthetical, sustainable, and inclusive way of building a resilient society.

*Speakers:*

**Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk**, Nature Based Solutions Institute, Professor – Nature based solutions – towards greener, healthier and resilient cities!

**Camilla Anderson**, Community planner, Region Skåne, Urban greenery with the 3-30-300 rule - from theory to practice

**Danish Ministry of Environment (TBA)** – Heading for a wilder Denmark!

**Gilles Doignon**, Team Leader Biodiversity and nature-based solutions European Commission DG Research and Innovation – How to accelerate implementation of NBS in Europe and beyond? From research to society.

This conversation will be moderated by **Marcus Hedblom**, professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU

The session is hosted by the Public Health Agency of Sweden, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Swedish Geotechnical Institute,

## **B) Circularity and energy savings in the existing built environment of the green city**

In the light of the ongoing European energy crisis this panel discuss how energy, and resource-efficiency measures in existing buildings and built environment can serve the green city through reuse and renovation practice. How can such ambitions be socially inclusive? And how can they respect aesthetic values? This panel welcomes you beyond the technical aspects, to a display of strategies and practical examples.

*Speakers:*

**Tor Broström**, Professor in Conservation, at the Department of Art History, Uppsala University, Campus Gotland.

**Roxana Apostol**, Senior Project Manager at Trans-Europe Halles (European network of grassroots cultural centres)

**Liene Blancke**, City of Leuven

**Björn Wallsten/Christoph Gollner**, Driving Urban Transitions

**Jonas Byström**, European Investment Bank.

This conversation will be moderated by **Andreas Jäger**, Senior Officer, ICLEI.

The session is hosted by Formas, Driving Urban Transitions and Swedish National Heritage Board.

### **C) The 15-minute city – new forms of mobility to increase accessibility and quality of life in cities**

The 15-minute city is an urban planning concept in which most daily necessities and services, can be easily reached by a 15-minute walk or bike ride from any point in the city. This approach aims to reduce car dependency, promote healthy and sustainable living, and improve wellbeing and quality of life. 15-minute city has retained international interests and in this session the key is to develop deeper knowledge about the concept through international and Swedish examples. This session will share knowledge and insights on a 15-minute city concept and address potential/challenges in increasing accessibility and quality of life in cities. Challenges for implementation as well as inclusion of users will be highlighted in the presentations.

*Speakers:*

**Maxi Jäger** (DUT), Creating shared mobility offer in new developments – learnings from Biotop City project, Vienna

**Josephine Darlington** (ASTER), Sustainable urban logistics – e-commerce in the 15-minute city

**Bianca Byring**, Public Transport Strategist, Region Västerbotten

The conversation will be moderated by **John Hultén**, K2 Sweden's national centre for research and education on public transport.

The session is hosted by Vinnova and Swedish Transport Administration.

### **D) Art and architecture – creating lasting values for the green city**

The green city as a sustainability concept will have to be materialized into living environments for people and habitats. The quality of that generated built environment, as well as the quality of the process through which the implementation happens, is an important part of the realization of the green city and the European Urban Agenda and New European Bauhaus framework. Art and architecture can be empowering perspectives in mission, opening up for criticality, creativity and co-creation that deliver long-standing results beyond conventional solutions. This session explores the leveraging effect of integrating art and architecture in the emergence of the green city.

*Speakers:*

Veronika Valk Siska, Ministry of Culture, Estonia

TBA

The session is hosted by Boverket, The Swedish Centre for Architecture and design, and Public Art Agency Sweden.

### **E) Impact by collaboration for green cities**

The societal challenges we face are many and complex, and they cannot be solved in isolation. There is a need to transform policies, behaviours, technologies and processes, infrastructure and business models to make real difference and impact. Increased collaboration is one important aspect of this, as well as to identify the actors with mandate to make change happen. In this session, you will get an overview of what is meant by transition work in the light of the Urban Agenda of the EU. What radical changes are needed for the Green City to become reality and what examples do we see already today? In this session, we want to increase curiosity about some of the key factors of our future work against the Green City; collaboration and impact.

*Speakers:*

**Johan Holmén**, Postdoc at Physical Resource Theory; Chalmers' Technical University

URBACT (TBA)

The session will be moderated by **Jessica Andersson**, Senior Advisor Urban and Regional Planning, RISE

The session is hosted by Boverket, The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Vinnova.

*Coffee break 30 mins*

## **Plenary session: Creating Green & Climate Neutral Cities Through Climate City Contracting**

15.00 – 16.30

One of five EU missions is about mobilizing across Europe, nationally and locally to achieve climate neutral cities by 2030. This is part of the Green Deal for Europe which aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Integrating green and blue infrastructures for climate action is key both for mitigation and adaptation in

accelerating the climate transition of cities as part of the cities mission. Within the mission, the Climate City Contract is a tool for multi-level governance to accelerate climate transition in practice. This is a learning journey to build the collective capacity, in a multi-level perspective, to transform the way we shape and live in cities for a climate neutral, sustainable and resilient continent. This is also in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative – beautiful, sustainable, together.

*Speakers:*

**Mission climate neutral and smart cities 2030 in a multi-level governance perspective – Patrick Child**, Mission Manager Climate Neutral and Smart Cities, European Commission (TBC)

**Mission climate neutral cities 2030 - Viable Cities as a role model for national platforms – Olga Kordas**, programme director Viable Cities

**Facilitating climate transition in cities from a national perspective – Darja Isaksson**, Director General Vinnova

**Governance innovation for accelerating climate transition in cities – Allan Larsson**, former Chairperson of Viable Cities and former vice Chairperson of EU Mission Board for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities –

**European and national mobilisation for climate neutral cities - local perspective Anders Almgren**, Mayor of Lund and **Jordi Peris**, Coordinator of urban strategies and sustainability, City of Valencia

## **Closing day 1**

16.30 – 16.45

**Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna**, Moderators

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THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023

## **Plenary session: Green Cities in Practice**

08.30-09.30

Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, Moderators

European cities and communities represent immense cultural heritage values through buildings, parks and open spaces, urban morphology, and everyday practices etc. Still the urban fabric needs to be transformed to better cope with challenges arising from climate change and loss of biodiversity, while also upgrading the quality of life of the everyday environments. This plenary session offers learning outcomes on how to create synergies for people through added values when transforming the urban fabric.

**The model of superblocks – the case of Barcelona – Salvador Rueda**, Director of the Urban and Territorial Ecology Agency, Barcelona

*Coffee break 30 minutes*

## **Digital Training Sessions**

10.00 – 12.00

### **A) Climate City Contracting including climate investment planning**

Within the EU mission Climate Neutral Cities 2030, a number of tools have been developed to drive the transition process. The Climate City Contract is a tool for multi-level governance to accelerate climate transition in practice. This is a learning journey to build the collective capacity, in a multi-level perspective, to transform the way we shape and live in cities for a climate neutral, sustainable and resilient continent. Two other key tools that support the mission work are the local climate transition arena and climate investment planning.

**Climate city contracting as multi-level governance tool for accelerating climate transition - Olga Kordas**, programme director Viable Cities,  
**Julio Lumberras**, CitiES 2030, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (TBC)



### **Mobilising stakeholders in a local climate transition arena -**

**Gabriella Doci**, KTH Royal Institute of Technology (TBC)

**Ana Escario Chust**, CitiEs 2030, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV), Universitat Politècnica de València

### **Climate investment planning as a tool for accelerating climate transition –**

**Fedra Vanhuysse**, Viable Cities/Stockholm Environment Institute Representative from a city (TBC)

## **B) Malmö by Movie**

The City of Malmö, a once successful industrial city that fell on hard times has since reinvented itself as a dynamic knowledge centre built on cultural diversity, youth and sustainable development. ICLEI Member since 1998, Malmö was the host of the triennial ICLEI World Congress in 2021-2022, with a focus on creating sustainable development with equity and people-centered development. In this session you will get a virtual guided tour through Malmö City and see some of the showcases that are at the forefront in Malmö right now. This is a possibility to get inspired by the best practices in local sustainable development and learn from the City of Malmö's many sustainability initiatives.

The session is moderated by **Agneta Persson, Malmö City**.

## **Lunch break**

12.00 – 13.00

## **Panel session: Futuring Green Cities**

13.00 – 14:15

Transition and transformation of our cities and communities require a lot of decision making. Amongst those decision is valuing what artefacts and narratives to keep and what to discharge, but also how to orchestrate change. This invites for interpretation and speculation regarding what the future might become. Hence, to speculate about possible futures is also way to better understand the present. But the present is not one fixed thing, neither is the future. These are ever shifting realities made up of individual and collective experiences. Hence, defining what the future will be makes no sense, but through constant conversation about possible, plausible, and probable futures we can make sure to be open for multiple opportunities.

*Speakers:*

**Anab Jain**, Architect and futurist. Founder of Superflux & Professor University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria.

**Christophe Girot**, Professor emeritus, ETH Zürich

**Panelist 3**, Expert, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop (TBC).

The panel session will be moderated by **Caroline Dahl**, Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

*Break*

## **Plenary session – Creating Green Cities – Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive**

16.10 – 16.45

*Speaker:*

**Helena Bjarnegård**, National Architect in Sweden and Chair of Council of Sustainable Cities, Boverket

**Closing the Conference – Veronica Hejdelind and Johan Kuylenstierna, Moderators**