

Urban Future.

Ljubljana 26



LJUBLJANA
24-27
MARCH
2026
SLOVENIA

THE BETTER-CITIES EVENT

PROGRAMME



City of
Ljubljana

Laudes
— Foundation

iChoosr.



eurotowns
Big enough to cope, small enough to care!



TPF TONI PIÉCH
FOUNDATION

WELCOME TO URBAN FUTURE

THE BETTER-CITIES EVENT!

Where 2,000 urban change-makers
come to shake things up.

This time, in bold, green and magical Ljubljana.



MEET THE WORLD'S MOST FEARLESS CITYCHANGERS!

All under one roof.
And out in Ljubljana.

2,000+ urbanists, city leaders
and rule-breakers

200 speakers with opinions

100 partners who actually do things

150 mayors and city representatives

30 field trips into real city life

0 bullshit

∞ inspiration



TOGETHER, WE MAKE CITIES BETTER

From local streets to global change.



City of Ljubljana | SPIRIT SLOVENIJA | I FEEL SLOVENIA | REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY | REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE | REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SPATIAL PLANNING | REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, TOURISM AND SPORT

Laudes Foundation | iChoosr. | Google | IKEA | HOLCIM | TPF TONI PIÉCH FOUNDATION | Danfoss | IUCN

EURO CITIES | C40 CITIES | eurotowns* | ZMOG Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia | Norman Foster Institute on Sustainable Cities | ie UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN | klima+ energie fonds | Federal Ministry Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure Republic of Austria

Climate-neutral City Pioneer City | Interreg Alpine Space Co-funded by the European Union RE-INCITE | ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA | BERLIN | City of Vienna | Celje Mestna občina Celje | CNCA CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE | Austrian Association of Cities and Towns

Deutscher Städtetag | MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION | BABLE | NET ZERO CITIES EU MISSION PLATFORM CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES | ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability EUROPE | AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Explore our full partners line-up [here.](#)

URBAN FUTURE WEEK

MONDAY | MARCH 23

JUST STREETS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
14.00 – 18.00



TUESDAY | MARCH 24

Urban Future.

FIELD TRIPS

UF26 YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME
ALL DAY
CENTER ROG



JUST STREETS
TWINNING CITIES PROGRAMME
LJUBLJANA WORKSHOP



MAKING PEDs
FINAL PROJECT EVENT



FAB CITIES
NETWORK EVENT



WELCOME RECEPTION BY THE MAYOR OF LJUBLJANA
BY INVITATION ONLY | CASTLE
19.00 – 22.00



RE-DESIGNING STREETS MOVIE NIGHT
ENJOY INSPIRING SHORT FILMS
AND CONVERSATIONS
Hosted by JUST STREETS | 19.00 – 21.30



WEDNESDAY | MARCH 25

CONFERENCE DAY 1

MEET & GREET
FOR CITY REPRESENTATIVES
BY INVITATION

LOUNGE EXPO
In and around Vienna, Celje,
Eurotowns and Austrian Pioneer
Cities Lounges

Join this casual networking
opportunity for city representatives
to meet peers, meet the hosts and
unwind with drinks and light snacks
after a busy day.

17.45



Celje



City of Vienna



eurotowns



Climate-neutral City

CITYCHANGERS NIGHT OUT
URBAN FUTURE'S #1 SOCIAL
GATHERING AT LJUBLJANA'S BIGGEST DINNER
STARTING 19.00

THURSDAY | MARCH 26

CONFERENCE DAY 2

CITIES FUCK-UP SHOW
CELEBRATING MISTAKES, LEARNING, AND LEADERSHIP
16.00 – 17.30

AFTERPARTY
WIND DOWN AFTER TWO FULL DAYS
OF CONFERENCING
WITH GOOD MUSIC AND TASTY BITES.
17.30 – 19.30

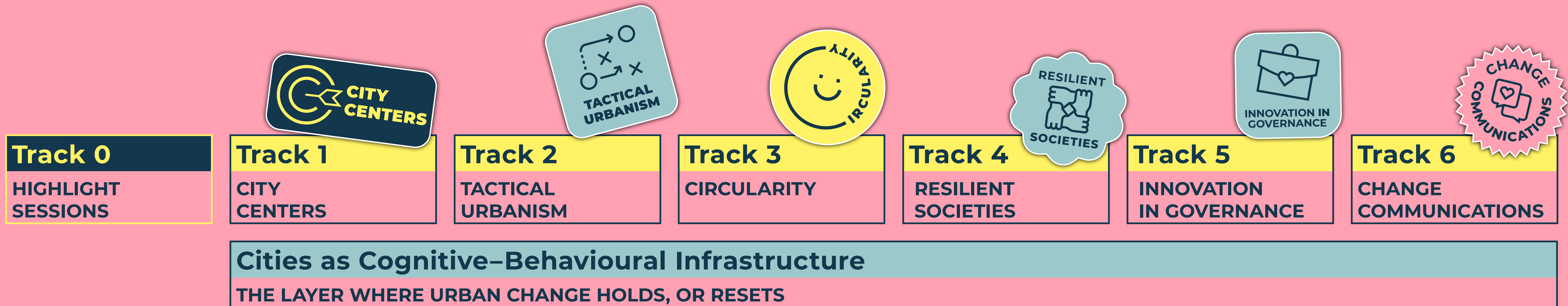
FRIDAY | MARCH 27

FIELD TRIPS

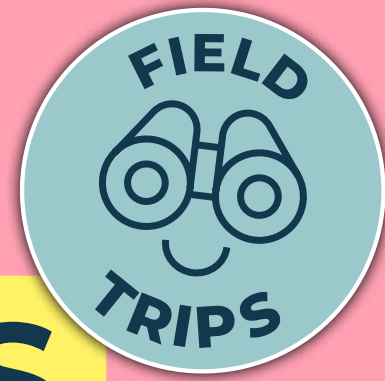


ON TRACK.

Here comes our most powerful programme yet!
Co-created with sharp minds from across the urban world and shaped by the spirit of Ljubljana itself.
These tracks are here to challenge habits, spark ideas and turn good intentions into real change.
Huge thanks to every change-maker who helped make this happen.



Our programme is a living thing. Thanks for your understanding if some details change before UF26.
The most up-to-date version, including speaker profiles, will be available in the UF26 Conference App one month before the event.
Current programme version: 11 March 2026



UF26 FIELD TRIPS

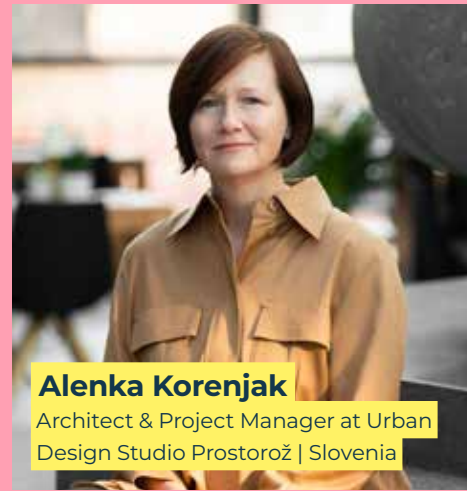
TUESDAY MARCH 24		WEDNESDAY MARCH 25		THURSDAY MARCH 26		FRIDAY MARCH 27			
D1 FT1 15.00 – 18.00 Guiding Architects: Old Town	D2 FT1 07.00 – 08.00 City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds	D3 FT1 07.00 – 08.00 City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds	D4 FT1 07.00 – 08.00 City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds	D4 FT7 09.00 – 12.00 Guiding Architects: Castle Hill & Ljubljana Castle	D4 FT13 10.00 – 12.00 Railway Station Makeover: Construction Site Tour	D4 FT19 13.00 – 15.00 Tivoli Treasures: Ljubljana's Green Heart			
D1 FT2 15.00 – 17.00 Tivoli Treasures: Ljubljana's Green Heart	D2 FT2 21.00 – 23.00 After Dark: A Feminist Mapping Walk For All Genders	D3 FT2 19.00 – 21.00 Pub Quiz: Cities Edition	D4 FT2 09.00 – 10.00 River Ride: All Aboard the Electric Woodie	D4 FT8 09.00 – 12.00 Urban Transformations: All Along the Ljubljanica River	D4 FT14 10.00 – 12.00 SUP Ljubljana: Paddle the City	D4 FT21 09.00 – 11.00 Krater Collective: Urban Wilderness			
D1 FT3 16.00 – 17.00 Rog Reborn: A Factory Gets Its Groove Back		D3 FT3 19.00 – 21.00 Ljubljana Beer Experience: Cheers to the City	D4 FT3 09.00 – 12.00 Hydro Hike: Where Water Challenges Spark Green Ideas	D4 FT9 09.00 – 11.00 Bike Tour: From Hotspots to Climate Shelters	D4 FT15 13.00 – 14.00 River Ride: All Aboard the Electric Woodie	D4 FT22 10.00 – 12.00 Youth Platform: Creative Participation			
D1 FT4 15.00 – 17.00 Railway Station Makeover: Construction Site Tour		D3 FT4 14.00 – 15.30 City Walkshop: From Public Space to Urban Stage	D4 FT4 09.00 – 10.30 Planning Mistakes: Public Space Turnarounds	D4 FT10 10.00 – 11.30 City Safari: Ljubljana Through Kids' Eyes	D4 FT16 13.00 – 16.00 Guiding Architects: Contemporary Slovenian Architecture				
D1 FT5 16.00 – 18.00 Street Justice: Reclaiming Space together			D4 FT5 09.00 – 12.00 Guiding Architects: Old Town	D4 FT11 10.00 – 13.00 Coffee Tour: The City in a Cup	D4 FT17 13.00 – 14.00 Rog Reborn: A Factory Gets Its Groove Back				
D1 FT6 19.00 – 21.00 Just Streets: Movie Night			D4 FT6 09.00 – 12.00 Guiding Architects: Plečnik & Ravnikar	D4 FT12 10.00 – 14.00 Circular Pizza Brunch	D4 FT18 13.00 – 15.00 Bike Streets: Ride Ljubljana's Cycling Streets with the Bicycle Mayor				



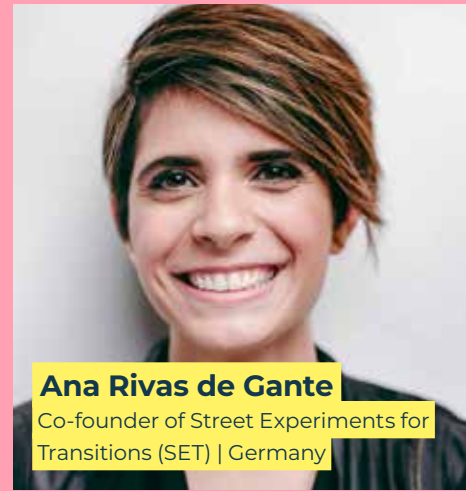
PEOPLE MAKE CITIES.



David Sim
Creative Director at Think Softer | Sweden



Alenka Korenjak
Architect & Project Manager at Urban Design Studio Prostorož | Slovenia



Ana Rivas de Gante
Co-founder of Street Experiments for Transitions (SET) | Germany



Aidan Cerar
Project Manager at IPOp | Slovenia



Anula Galewska
Co-Founder and Managing Director at Travindy & Partnership Manager at Planeterra | Poland



Astrid Arnslett
Senior communication adviser at CICERO | Norway



Benjamin Seibel
Director of CityLAB Berlin | Germany



Bruno Doedens
Land Artist & Landscape Architect at Fondation Circle4Change | The Netherlands



Catherine De Wolf
Professor at ETH Zurich | Switzerland



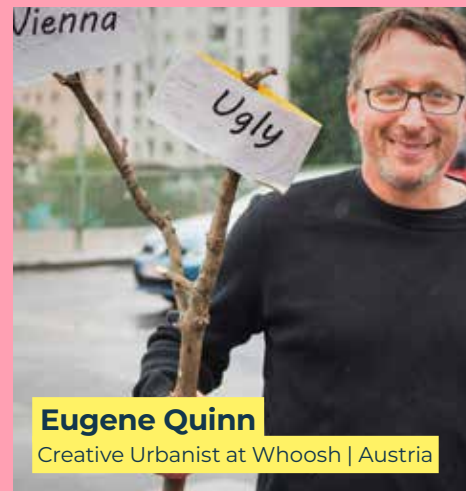
Edgar Linscheid
AI Video Creator at Sinnwerkstatt and Edgar Linscheid | Germany



Emma Cutting
Founder & CEO of Heartscapes | Australia



Heiða Hilmisdóttir
Mayor of Reykjavik | Iceland



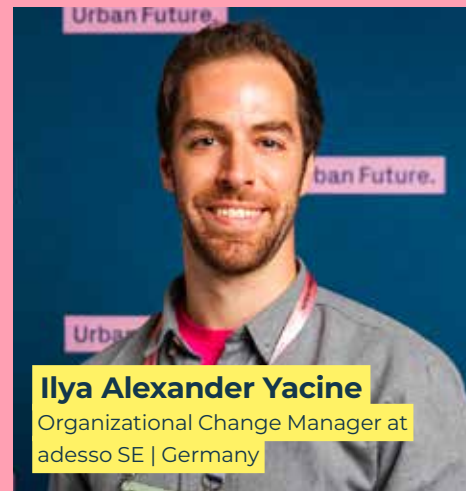
Eugene Quinn
Creative Urbanist at Whoosh | Austria



Greg Goya
Street Artist | Italy



Honorata Grzesikowska
Urban Masterplanner at Urbanitarian and Architektoniczki | Spain



Ilya Alexander Yacine
Organizational Change Manager at adesso SE | Germany



Jan Kattein
Director at Jan Kattein Architects and Lecturer at the University College London | UK



Janez Koželj
Ljubljana City Councillor | Slovenia



Jason Thorne
Chief Planner at City of Toronto | Canada



Jeni Cross
Director of Research at Colorado State University | USA



Josephine Yilan Liu
Co-Founder UFGC | Austria



Julia Hufnagel
Head of Strategy Department at Municipality of Heilbronn | Germany



Lilla Gerencsér
Head of Operations at Rév8 Zrt. | Hungary



Lior Steinberg
Urban planner & Co-founder at Humankind | The Netherlands



Mariana Marmelada
PhD Researcher at the University of Strathclyde | UK



Markus Zilker
Architect at Habitat 2030 and einszueins architektur | Austria



Nicholas Marchesi
Co Founder of Orange Sky and A Curious Tractor | Australia



Michael Shank
Director of Programs at Albert Einstein Institution | USA



Michiel Van Driessche
Partner at Felixx Landscape Architects & Planners and city architect of Groningen | The Netherlands



Mike Lydon
Principal and Co-Founder of Street Plans | USA



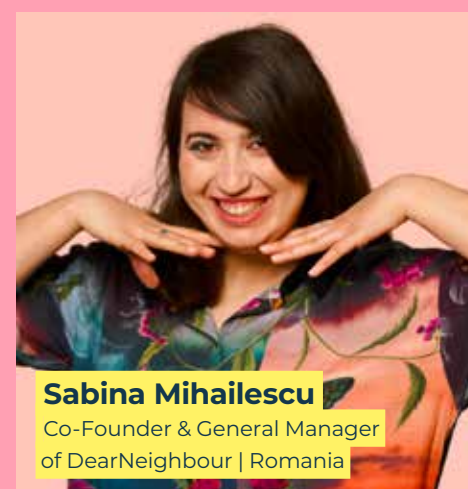
Nourhan Bassam
Founder & CEO of The Gendered City | The Netherlands



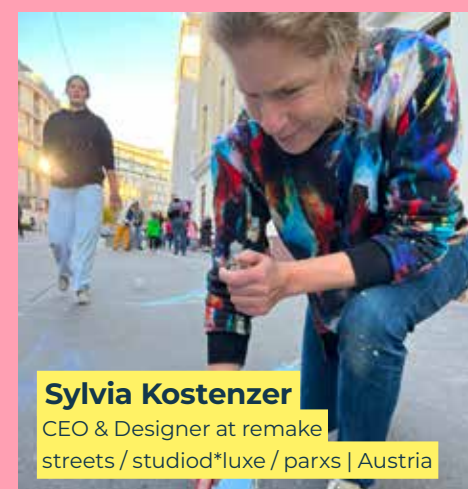
Ricardo Rio
Economist and Former Mayor of Braga | Portugal



Inmaculada Sanchez-Cervera
General Coordinator at the Madrid City Council | Spain



Sabina Mihailescu
Co-Founder & General Manager of DearNeighbour | Romania



Sylvia Kostenzer
CEO & Designer at remake streets / studiod'luxe / parxs | Austria



Tamlyn Shimizu
Global Partnerships and Communications Lead & Podcast Host at BABLE Smart Cities | Germany



Adetayo Manuwa
CFounder of One Community Project | Germany



Victor Neustetter
Leadership and Management Expert in the Office of the Executive at WienIT | Austria



Matija Kovač
Mayor of Celje | Slovenia

Full speaker lineup here.

SESSIONS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS – STANDOUT SESSIONS

0.1. March 25, 2026
09.30 – 10.30

LJUBLJANA

Opening Ceremony

Let the fun begin!

Kick-off Urban Future 2026 with bold ideas, unexpected voices, and the people reshaping cities from within.

- Emma Cutting**
Founder & CEO of Heartscapes Inc | Australia
- Greg Goya**
Artist | Italy
- David Sim**
Creative Director at Think Softer | Sweden
- Gerald Babel-Sutter**
CEO & Co-founder of Urban Future. | Austria
- Zoran Janković**
Mayor of Ljubljana | Slovenia
- Adetayo Manuwa**
Founder of One Community Project | Germany
- Mariana Marmelada**
PhD Researcher at the University of Strathclyde | UK
- Rok Žnidaršič**
Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana | Slovenia

0.2. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

LJUBLJANA

Annoying Politicians

No progress without friction!

When passionate people are actively making their cities a better place, everybody is happy, right? Well, it depends! What if these change-makers don't follow the rules and don't do things the way they are supposed to be done? They might annoy bureaucrats. But what if they add a large group of followers to the mix, or media skills, or worse: a network of passionate supporters? Then our change-makers might even annoy politicians. Join us in the quest to help CityChangers be more effective in annoying our leaders.

- Michael Shank (Facilitator)**
Director of Programs at Albert Einstein Institution | USA
- Perle Laouenan-Catchpole (Facilitator)**
Moderator at Masters in Moderation | The Netherlands
- Emma Cutting**
Founder & CEO of Heartscapes Inc | Australia
- Nourhan Bassam**
Founder & CEO of The Gendered City | The Netherlands
- Eugene Quinn**
Creative Urbanist at Whoosh | Austria
- Lilla Gerencsér**
Head of Operations at Rév8 Zrt. | Hungary
- Matija Kovač**
Mayor at the City of Celje | Slovenia
- Mike Lydon**
Principal and Co-Founder of Street Plans | USA

0.3. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LJUBLJANA

This Changes Everything

How cities can harness AI for positive change

AI is quietly rewriting job descriptions, business models and maybe even your city's paperwork. This session zooms out to look at the big shifts AI is triggering in the economy and society, then zooms back in to ask: what does this actually mean for cities? Yes, there are risks – but there's also a flipside, from smoother admin processes to smarter, more circular construction systems. Through real-world examples, we explore how cities can stop worrying about AI taking over and start using it to get things done.

- Michael Shank (Facilitator)**
Director of Programs at Albert Einstein Institution | USA
- Benjamin Seibel**
Director of CityLAB Berlin | Germany
- Catherine De Wolf**
Professor at ETH Zurich | Switzerland
- Jonas Hiller**
Research and Project Manager at Toni Piëch Foundation | Switzerland

0.4. March 26, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

LJUBLJANA

Cities Fuckup Show

Spilling it all out for you!

Failure is the best teacher. Join this unapologetic UF26 highlight session where three CityChangers share their biggest flops – and what they learned from them.

- Dejan Stojanović (Facilitator)**
Founder at FuckUpNights | Austria
- Krista Kampus**
CEO of BalticTalks | Estonia
- Anton Nikitin**
Chief Sustainability Officer at the City of Vilnius | Lithuania
- Honorata Grzesikowska**
Urban Masterplanner at Urbanitarian and Architektoniczki | Spain

With support from the Austrian Cultural Forum Ljubljana

avstrijski kulturni forum^{lj}

CITIES AS COGNITIVE-BEHAVIOURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The layer where change becomes normal, or reset

Most “urban problems” aren’t problems. They’re feedback. When projects reset, uptake stalls, or enforcement fills the gap, the city is reporting what it is still making normal.

This mini-track names the missing layer: cognitive-behavioural infrastructure - the hidden “user interface” that decides what people do without being told. Ignore it and you get the Socially Expensive City: technically functional, permanently costly to live in and to run. See it, and the “soft” outcomes stop being vibe and start showing up as performance and cost.

Expect a lens shift you can’t unsee.

5.5.

March 26, 2026
09.00 – 12.30

STUTTGART

Every Project Has Two Layers

The visible one we design - and the hidden one that decides what people actually do

Award-winning plazas can sit empty. “Successful” streets can revert the moment cones and staff disappear. This session makes the hidden layer visible through sharp cases: what the place makes easy/safe/normal, and where it leaks. Expect to recognise what’s happening on the ground before you moralise “the public”.

5.5.1.

March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LISBON

Re-pricing the ‘Soft’ City

Why the cognitive layer is a core performance variable, not “vibe”

If trust, uptake, and everyday safety are “soft”, why do they show up as hard costs? Complaints, enforcement hours, reactivation cycles, redesign, political heat - the friction tax. This session reframes the cognitive layer as an operating-model issue shaped upstream (success criteria, standards, procurement, handover, routines) - revealing why projects look good on launch and become liabilities after.

ALL ABOUT SLOVENIA

Slovenia is a European leader for the sustainable transformation and is making it real: from national strategy and bold innovators, to what actually works in cities.

UF26 features two unique partner events focusing on the hands-on experience of **Slovenian Mission Cities (Wednesday)** and **Slovenia’s innovation ecosystem and its path towards sustainability (Thursday)**.

5.7. March 25, 2026
09.00 – 12.30

HELSINGBORG

Slovenia’s Path to Climate Neutrality

An event, hosted by
NET ZERO CITIES  Funded by the European Union

Strengthening alignment between national frameworks and city-level implementation

This national peer learning event brings together representatives of cities, national authorities and EU Mission stakeholders to reflect on the alignment between policy frameworks and on-the-ground implementation of climate neutrality actions. Through focused policy inputs, city perspectives and structured dialogue, the event aims to identify key support gaps, strengthen coordination mechanisms and define concrete next steps for advancing climate neutrality at the local level in Slovenia. In Slovenian only.

A closed-door event

5.6. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 12.30

LISBON

Making the transformation happen

An event, hosted by



Meet the Slovenian shapers and transformers as they share real experiences and solutions already put into practice. This interactive session focuses on what is already possible and what works on the ground, not just on paper. It brings together innovators, municipalities, and key stakeholders to exchange insights, learn from each other, and spark new collaborations.

Slovenian Wood Innovation Showcase – From Forest to Future Cities

Presenting real transformation stories from the Slovenian ecosystem. The session features companies that have completed circular or sustainability transformation, as well as providers of urban solutions in energy, mobility, digital twins, GIS, renewable energy and green infrastructure. The focus is on practical implementation, cross-sector cooperation and scalable models.

High-Tech as the Strategic Conductor of Smart Cities Designed for People and Their Future

This session highlights innovation in digital twins, smart mobility, energy optimisation and data-driven urban infrastructure management. The discussion focuses on cooperation between municipalities and companies and the scaling potential of solutions in international markets.

Materials of the Future - Biogenic Composites, Hemp in Construction, and New Solutions for Urban Building

This panel explores the role of next-generation, low-impact materials in accelerating the transition toward sustainable and resilient cities. Focusing on biogenic composites, hemp-based construction applications, and other emerging urban building solutions, the discussion highlights how these materials can reduce carbon footprints, enhance circularity, and improve long-term adaptability of the built environment. Through case studies and practical examples, speakers will examine technological innovations, regulatory opportunities, and barriers to mainstream adoption. The session emphasises real-world implementation and the potential for scaling these approaches across different urban contexts.

CITIES DEEP TALKS

Cities Deep Talks are intimate, interactive sessions of up to 90 minutes that bring together a small circle of urban enthusiasts to explore one real transformation project behind the scenes. It's not a speech or a panel, but an honest conversation about what truly happened - what worked, what failed, and what was learned.

Places are limited to 10 and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

CDT.1. March 25, 2026
14:00-15:30

LAGOON

Community Knows Best - Finding Out the Hard Way

City of Ghent, Belgium

Want to hear the uncut story behind a community-led district revitalization? Join this city deep talk on Ghent's Ledeborg Leeft. Expect practical tools, tough trade-offs, and the mistakes they'd rather not repeat. Bring your sharpest questions for the director's cut of Ghent's award-winning urban renewal approach.

Nele Vanhooren
Communication Manager for Ghent's Urban Renewal Method | Belgium
Debbie De Spiegeleire
Programme Manager for the Neighbourhood of Ledeborg | Belgium



CDT.2. March 26, 2026
09:00-10:30

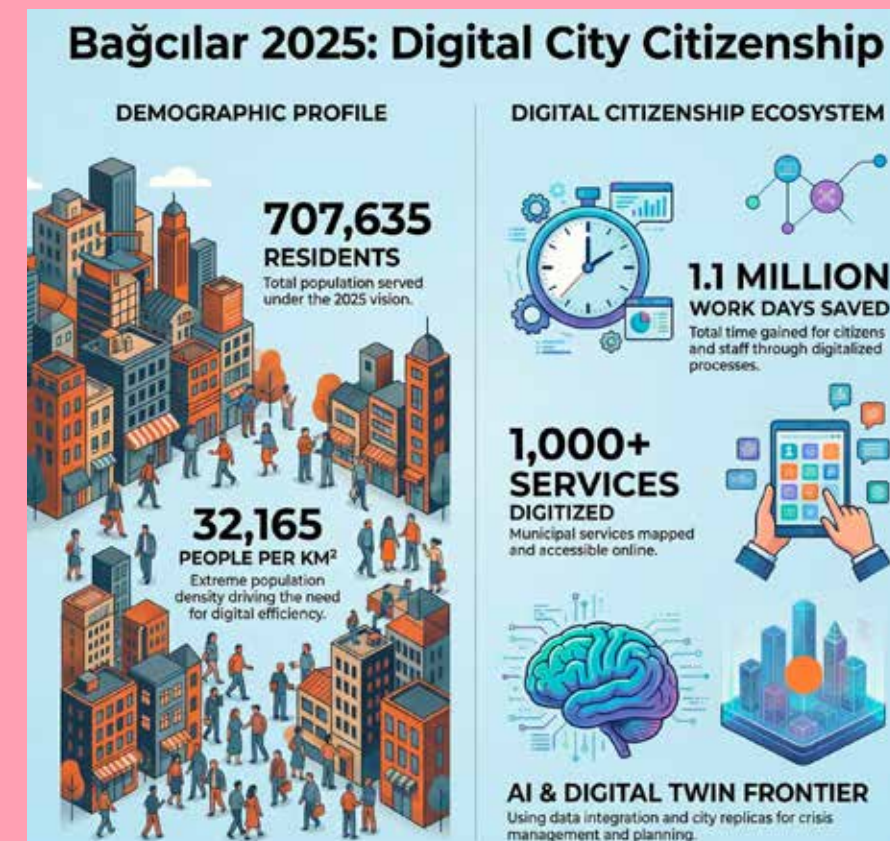
LAGOON

Streaming Your City as If It Was an App

Bağcılar Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey

Imagine city services working as smoothly as your favourite music app. Welcome to Istanbul's Digital Citizen 360° - a transformation from paper-pushing bureaucracy to a data-driven, service-oriented administration. If you care about digital inclusion and smart public services, join this deep-dive conversation with fellow service design enthusiasts.

Cüneyt Yılmaz
Information Technology Director at the Bağcılar Municipality, Istanbul | Turkey



CDT.3. March 25, 2026
11:00-12:30

LAGOON

Patience Pays: Brownfield Development Unpacked

City of Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

Brownfields are like a box of chocolates - you never quite know what you're going to get. Join this masterclass in brownfield "bubble management" by the Belgian city of Sint-Niklaas, where the municipality took the lead and showed real staying power to turn a long-standing urban blight into a thriving urban asset.

Carl Hanssens
Vice mayor for Urban Development at Sint-Niklaas | Belgium



CITIES DEEP TALKS

CDT.4. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

LAGOON

A Bus Load of Problems - and Lessons

City of Istanbul, Turkey

Istanbul's Metrobus moved millions - sometimes to tears. From political pressure and budget squeezes to design missteps (wrong-sided doors!) and supplier failures, this is a candid story of bold moves and hard landings. Join in because epic failures deliver the best lessons.

M. Cemil Arslan
Secretary General at the Marmara Municipalities Union | Turkey



CDT.5. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LAGOON

Who Knew AI Was About Citizen Engagement!

City of Heilbronn, Germany

Everybody is betting on AI to deliver - and Heilbronn, the European Green Capital of 2027, is all in. With plans to become an international hub for artificial intelligence, the project promises 5,000+ jobs and over 80 global players. But you can't build the future without the neighbours. Facing controversy over environment, transport, and housing, the city hit reset - and turned the debate into a rethink of how it engages its citizens.

Frieder Hartung
Participation Expert at Intersectoral School of Governance Baden Württemberg | Germany



CDT.6. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

LAGOON

Happy Cities - Powered by Space Technologies

The European Space Agency (ESA)

What makes cities happy places? Beyond infrastructure and technology, we need urban environments that improve wellbeing, sustainability and quality of life. Space technologies help cities understand how citizens use urban spaces and how to design healthier, greener and more liveable communities. Join us to explore how satellite data and space-enabled services can support the development of happy cities, and find out about ESA's Business Applications and Space Solutions funding opportunities.

Nick Appleyard
Head of Applications and Solutions Department, ESA
Bahaaeddin Alhaddad
Applications Engineer, ESA
Kavitha Muthu
Space Applications Engineer, ESA



CDT.7. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

STONE

A Walking Forest to Change Your City

City of Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

If you've ever dreamed of starting your own Walking Forest (BOSK) in your municipality, join this inspiring deep talk with Bruno Doedens. He will explain how the idea works, how to get started, and what to consider when turning your vision into a community project. If you want to green your city in a creative and bold way, this session will give you inspiration and practical tips to make it happen. You're warmly invited to join and grow something beautiful together.

Bruno Doedens
Land Artist of BOSK, The Netherlands



CDT.8. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

STONE

Rebuilding from Chaos - and Make It Human

City of Hatay, Turkey

How can cities rebuild faster, fairer, and more safely after disasters while strengthening long-term resilience? This deep talk by Humane Urbanism introduces the reconstruction and revitalisation of Hatay, Türkiye after the 2023 earthquakes, and highlights a "listening first" approach that combines community engagement, design excellence, and flexibility. Join this exclusive exchange and explore collaboration opportunities for more human-centred, resilient cities worldwide.

Leyla van der Waarde
Collaboration Manager at Humane Urbanism Foundation and Co-Founder of the Architectural Recovery Team





**TRACK
AND SESSION
DETAILS**

Track 1

CITY CENTERS

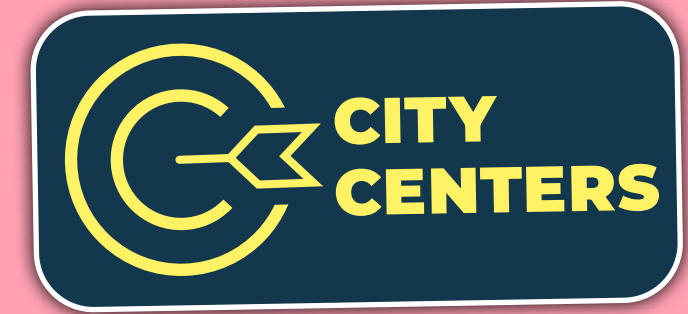


City centers are critical neighborhoods. They thrive, decline, decay, and undergo transformation – and everything that happens there – mobility, retail, tourism, housing – is subject to heightened public scrutiny. Seen as indicators of a city’s overall health, city centers are typically prioritized over other areas.

This track will take a closer look at how city centers influence all aspects of urban development, how bold transformations can reshape entire cities, and how they themselves are affected by regional dynamics.



Track 1 SESSION DETAILS



1.1. March 25, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

ROTTERDAM

Centers of Attention

Are we too obsessed with prime locations?

Hardly a day goes by without news of shops closing in prime locations. The media response is predictable, as are the reactions from those who always know better. Public consultations and stakeholder meetings are called for help, yet they often feel like fighting an already lost battle. And maybe we're simply too obsessed with these top locations? Join this session to learn why city centers rise, fall, and shift, what new roles they can play in daily urban life, and which levers you can actually pull. Discover how to adapt to changing trends and economies – because the city centers we once knew are not coming back.

Sophie Chick (Facilitator)

Vice President, ESG Programmes at ULI Europe | UK

Jeni Cross

Director of Research at the Colorado State University | USA

Xavier Matilla

Urban Planner and Urban Strategies consultant at Xavier Matilla and Architect-Urbanist | Spain

Carlo Castelli

Founder and Director of Urban Purpose | UK

1.1.1. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

LISBON

New Life for Historic Centers

How to organize for old town revival

Old buildings are what make cities charming – and great for postcards – but cities don't want their historic centres to turn into open-air museums. This session looks at how to give old places a fresh role by reusing and upgrading historic center without losing its character. From smart renovations to adding new functions, it explores how cities organize - the governance models, partnerships, and policy tools - for keeping the energy alive in historic areas.

Gretel Schaj (Facilitator)

Urban Innovation and Governance Expert - Iberia Lead at BABLE Smart Cities | Spain

Ricardo Ferreira da Silva

Manager at Porto Vivo Urban Rehabilitation Society | Portugal

Andro Mänd

Chief architect at the Tallinn Urban Planning Department | Estonia

1.2. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

STUTTGART

Building Cities of Many Centres

How to build strong and connected centres and neighbourhoods

Regions and cities grow by strengthening several lively centres rather than relying on just one. "Polycentricity" may sound like a planning idea, but in reality it's a major change management challenge. Building multiple strong centres and neighbourhoods - the 15-mins-city - requires reshaping how political units collaborate, govern, and share power – and it succeeds only through alignment, trust, and coordinated action. This session explores why polycentric visions so often stall, and how to build the collaborative spirit needed to turn visions into strategies and strategies into connected centres and vibrant neighbourhoods. Join in to discuss what it takes to shift from one centre to many.

Jeni Cross (Facilitator)

Director of Research at the Colorado State University | USA

Inmaculada Sanchez-Cervera

General Coordinator at the Madrid City Council | Spain

Signe Pērkone

Senior project leader and Architect at the City Development Department, Municipality of Riga | Latvia

Augustas Makrickas

Advisor to the chief architect at the Vilnius city municipality | Lithuania

Samo Turel

Mayor of Municipality of Nova Gorica | Slovenia

Rudolfo Ziberna

Mayor of Municipality of Gorizia | Italy

1.3. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

STUTTGART

Mission: Activation

Thinking differently about vacancies

Empty ground floors, high streets, and shopping centres are silent killers of urban life. Analyses and reports on declining spaces are legion. While creating pedestrian zones has boosted many locations, others still seem impossible to bring back to life. In this session, we look beyond the visible symptoms and explore the thinking behind successful activation: identity and narrative, values and governance, and the experimentation and risk-taking needed to revive high streets and bring ground floors back into action. Sit back and get inspired!

Pim Isaacs (Facilitator)

Consultant for Social Impact & Urban Transitions at Kickstad B.V. | The Netherlands

Carolyn Meyer (Facilitator)

Urban Strategist at Dietrich Untertrifaller Architects | Austria

Augustas Makrickas

Advisor to the chief architect at the Vilnius city municipality | Lithuania

Jan Kattein

Director at Jan Kattein Architects and Lecturer at the University College London | UK

Kristina Gergert

Project Management at Endboss | Germany

Stefan Polzer

Head of Urban, Transport, and Landscape Development at the City of Wittenberg | Germany

1.3.1. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

STUTTGART

Who's in Charge?

Organizing for city management

No one "owns" the city center. So who leads its transformation – and how do coalitions of business, culture, and citizens drive change? Around the world, centers are managed in very different ways. Some are led by public agencies, others by private groups or partnerships that mix both. This interactive session takes a closer look at what's happening internationally: who's in charge, how it works, and what lessons can be learned. Through short, lively case stories, expert conversations, and hands-on tools, we'll compare what's working – and what's not – in city center management. You'll come away with fresh ideas, honest insights, and practical lessons you can use in your own city.

Sophie May (Facilitator)

Strategy Consultant for Urban Development at Stadtmanufaktur | Germany

Alexander Stähle

CEO of Placetoplan | Sweden

Kim Graham

Founder & CEO of KG&A Strategy and Communications | Canada

Petar Drakul

City Center Commissioner & Head of FutuRaum at the City of Mannheim | Germany



Track 1 SESSION DETAILS

1.4.

March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

OSLO

Renovation Over Construction

You can't build your way out of the housing crisis

Cities across Europe want to build, build, build more housing – but will that really fix the affordability problem? In busy city centres, land is scarce, prices are sky-high, and construction costs keep rising, making new building harder every year. This session asks a simple question: what if we used what we already have better? With millions of homes sitting empty while others are overcrowded, renovating and reusing buildings could be faster, cheaper, and greener – if we can make the numbers work. We'll explore how renovations can create more inclusive city centres, look at creative models that keep communities in place, and ask how cities can make renovation good for people and financially viable.

Gyorgy Sumeghy (Facilitator)

Associate Director at Habitat for Humanity International | Slovakia

Dali Malnoury

Project Manager at Community Land Trust Brussels | Belgium

Ricardo Rio

Economist and the former mayor of Braga | Portugal

Signe Ravn Fosgaard

Director at Green Finance Institute Denmark | Denmark

Sofie Verstraete

Chief Development Officer at Re.Vive | Belgium

Saška Rihtaršič

Vice President District Energy at Danfoss | Slovenia

Laudes ———

— Foundation

1.4.1.

March 26, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

ŁÓDŹ

Affordable Housing Game

Experience the trade-offs of housing policy firsthand – a playful session with serious lessons.

Step into a fast-moving city simulation where policy choices, taxes, and incentives instantly change property values and housing outcomes. Play the role of a city decision-maker, make bold (or terrible) choices, and see what happens when the market reacts. It's messy, surprising, and a fun way to understand why affordable housing is harder than it looks.

Mariana Marmalda (Facilitator)

PhD Researcher at the University of Strathclyde | UK

1.4.2.

March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LISBON

Making it Stack Up

Housing that's good for people, planet, and (yes) profit

Affordable, low-carbon housing should be a win-win – so what's holding us back? This workshop is for anyone working on housing who wants to challenge business as usual and turn pilot projects into practical, scalable models. Building on work by C40 Cities, ULI Europe and The Shift, we explore new delivery pathways, financing approaches and partnership models that support affordable, sustainable housing across diverse urban contexts. Rather than one-off fixes, the focus is on unlocking housing solutions that meet social needs, cut emissions and deliver viable returns.

Dan Daley (Facilitator)

Clean Construction C40 Cities | UK

Mar Jimenez

Comissioner for European Affairs at the Barcelona City Council | Spain

Sophie Chick

Vice President, ESG Programmes at ULI Europe | UK

Cécile Faraud

Head of Clean Construction at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group | USA

1.5.

March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

ŁÓDŹ

“Tourists Go Home”

How to distribute tourists instead

Overtourism kills what people come to see. Tourists typically concentrate on a few central streets or attractions, changing their character, retail mix, public transport pressures, and eventually the availability of housing. The beneficiaries are few – and definitely not the majority of residents. With the Airbnb law applying fully from May 2026, it's time to unpack the dynamics of touristification. How can we distribute visitors more evenly across space and time, and how can we create places that work for both tourists and residents? Learn how to spread visitors smarter – and make tourism work for residents again.

Anula Galewska (Facilitator)

Co-Founder and Managing Director at Travindy & Partnership Manager at Planeterra | Poland

Hector Coronel

Director of Tourism at the Madrid City Council | Spain

Christian Kogler

Business Manager at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology | Austria

Katharina Höftberger

Team Lead Urban Development at Urban Innovation Vienna | Austria

Petra Stuček

CEO of Ljubljana Tourism | Slovenia

1.6.

March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

VIENNA

Building Trust in Brownfield Redevelopment

Turning contested spaces into new, lively urban centers

Brownfield sites are often the most contested spaces in our cities, yet they hold incredible potential - so how can we turn these “difficult” areas into thriving urban hubs? This is not a typical keynote or panel: after short inputs from four experts, we'll move into interactive discussions where you can dive into your own challenges, from local resistance to regulatory hurdles or mobilising social energy. Come with your questions and leave with practical, actionable insights you can apply right away.

Kathrin Obernhumer (Facilitator)

Community, Culture & Innovation at Tabakfabrik Linz | Austria

Jan Kattein

Director at Jan Kattein Architects and Lecturer at the University College London | UK

Bruno Doedens

Land Artist & Landscape Architect at Foundation Circle4Change | The Netherlands

Renata Zamida

General Manager at Center Rog Creative Hub | Slovenia

With support from the Austrian Cultural Forum Ljubljana

avstrijski kulturni forum^{lj}

Track 1

SESSION DETAILS

1.7.

March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

VIENNA

The Power of Towns and Smaller Cities

From vacancy and brain drain to visibility and inclusive growth

Filling vacancies, fighting brain drain, reducing car dependency - many challenges seem especially tough for towns and small cities. Yet most Europeans live in these cities, and they play a key role in shaping sustainable urban futures. In this highly interactive session, representatives share how they tackle these issues and turn constraints into strengths - and invite you to exchange ideas and solutions your town and city can contribute.

Eugene Quinn (Facilitator)

Creative Urbanist at Whoosh | Austria

Tanja Tamse

Expert Associate, Department for Development, Projects and Economy at the Municipality of Celje | Slovenia

Jasmina Steiner

Administrative Officer at the City of Lienz, Department of location development, economy & marketing | Austria

Ingrid Scharf

Deputy Head of the Environment, Energy and Water Management Department at the Municipality of Tulln | Austria

Dietmar Weber

Head of the Department for Urban Development and Urban Design at the City of Böblingen | Germany

Verena Brandt

Advisor in the Mayor's Office at the City of Eisenstadt | Austria



Track 2

TACTICAL URBANISM

For the past 15 years, this term has been associated with the temporary modification of public spaces, new approaches to experimentation, and an increasingly bottom-up model of urban regeneration.

It is time for Urban Future to reflect, with experts from around the world, on how temporary interventions have shaped cities, the profession of urban planners, and their relationships with citizens.



Track 2 SESSION DETAILS



2.1. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

OSLO

Initiating Change with Tactical Urbanism

How to go from pop-up to pilot to permanent

Tactical interventions are like urban fireworks – quick, bold, low-cost moves that shake things up and get people talking. In this session, we'll discover how these small, temporary experiments have transformed streets, pushed planners to think differently, and changed the way citizens and city halls team up. Let's dive into how short-term action can spark long-term, city-shaping change.

- Miriam Staley (Facilitator)**
CEO and Founder of Leading Minds Worldwide | UK
- Mike Lydon**
Principal and Co-Founder of Street Plans | USA
- Ana Rivas de Gante**
Co-founder of Street Experiments for Transitions (SET) | Germany
- Ethan Kent**
Executive Director at PlacemakingX | USA

2.2. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

STUTTGART

Hacking the Urban Masterplan

How to plan for spontaneity and adaptability

If there's one thing tactical urbanism has revealed, it's how outdated planning can become when it lacks adaptability and spontaneity. But isn't that also the point of planning - to provide stability and rules for peaceful cohabitation? Tactical approaches are clearly pushing planning to become more flexible and community-focused. This session puts the spotlight on master planning to explore what a more "unplanned" planning could look like in practice: which tools are available, where conflicts of objectives arise, and how to strike the right balance.

- Honorata Grzesikowska (Facilitator)**
Urban Masterplanner at Urbanitarian and Architektoniczki | Spain
- Jason Thorne**
Chief Planner at the City of Toronto | Canada
- José María Sánchez Laforet**
Deputy Director of the New Madrid Masterplan at the Madrid City Council | Spain
- Keshet Rosenblum**
Associate & Creative Director at HQ Architects | Israel
- Kristi Grišakov**
Head of Planning and Architecture Services at the City of Tallinn | Estonia

2.2.1. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

GRAZ

Drag, Drop, and Redesign the City

Testing city ideas in real time

This workshop lets you plan a neighbourhood with your hands – and see the results instantly. Participants move physical pieces like trees, benches, bike lanes, and green space on a printed map, while a digital model updates in real time. You can immediately see what changes when you add shade, remove parking, or shift space for people. The playful setup makes it easy for everyone – experts and non-experts alike – to explore ideas together and test "what if?" scenarios for more comfortable, liveable neighbourhoods.

- Elena Stefanich (Facilitator)**
Research engineer at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology | Austria
- Theresa Fink (Facilitator)**
Business Manager at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology | Austria



2.3. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

ROTTERDAM

Strictly Temporarily? Placemaking after COVID

How emergency measures become urban lessons

COVID turned cities into testing grounds for rapid change. Across the world, emergency bike lanes, open-streets programmes, outdoor classrooms, micro-parks, and "streateries" showed how fast tactical urbanism can deliver safer mobility, social connection, and mental well-being. At the same time, placemaking efforts revealed new needs around equity, accessibility, and community healing – especially in neighbourhoods hardest hit by the pandemic. So how do we manage places that must remain adaptable? Who curates them? Who really "owns" them?

- Eugene Quinn (Facilitator)**
Creative Urbanist at Whoosh | Austria
- Lilla Gerencsér**
Head of Operations at Rév8 Zrt. | Hungary
- Jan Kattein**
Director at Jan Kattein Architects and Lecturer at the University College London | UK
- Alenka Korenjak**
Architect & Project manager at Urban Design Studio Prostorož | Slovenia
- Andreas Baur**
Head of the Office for Citizen Participation and Communication at the City of Vienna | Austria

2.4. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

VIENNA

Everything That Might Go Wrong

How to keep your experiment alive

Urban experiments and living labs are exciting – until they break down. Even strong projects can fail when expectations clash, communication falters, or participation goes wrong, causing hard-won support to disappear fast. In this session, we'll examine real failures, unpack what went wrong, and explore what could have changed the outcome. The focus is on building understanding, sustaining support, and keeping your project alive without starting from scratch.

- Danae Pantelide (Facilitator)**
Project Manager at ENoLL | Cyprus
- Gabriella Esposito**
Researcher & Project Manager at Green Growth Generation
- Yousra Sidqi**
Research group leader at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts | Switzerland
- Glykeria Myrovali**
Researcher at the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas / Hellenic Institute of Transport | Greece



Track 2

SESSION DETAILS

2.5. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

ŁÓDŹ

Tactical Urbanist Essential Skills

Vital know-how for your next project

Learn how to build and grow strong networks, manage competencies and expectations, collaborate with volunteers, handle internal conflicts, secure (and handle) funding, maintain quality, and set practical rules for experimentation – all while keeping your tactical urbanism project on track and impactful.

Sylvia Kostenzer (Facilitator)
CEO & Designer at remake streets / studiod*lux / parxs | Austria

Erik Czejka (Facilitator)
Founder of Zuko - Reclaim the Streets | Austria

Track 3

CIRCULARITY



We grew up in a take–use–throw-away economy: build, demolish, dump; buy cheap, burn it; waste food over a printed date. It's a well-oiled system - for some - with costs pushed far from those who profit. But it won't last. The circular economy isn't a trend; it's a break from waste and business as usual.

This track shows how also you can get started; it explores the right strategy for your city; it celebrates winning initiatives in the build environment and presents creative ideas to engage citizens into circular change.





Track 3 SESSION DETAILS

3.1. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

ŁÓDŹ

Start with What You've Got

Leadership for (circular) change

Circularity often starts with material flow diagrams and challenges that feel almost insurmountable. This session takes a different starting point. Yes, it's also about circularity - but the "how" requires leadership and, above all, the courage to take the first steps, even when the path isn't fully clear. We focus on those first steps - the scrappy ones, the brave ones, the "let's just try it" moments. Through real examples, we explore what worked, what broke, and what happens when momentum stalls. No theory. No glossy slogans. Just practical moves showing that change starts where you are - not where you wish you were.

Perle Laouenan-Catchpole (Facilitator)
Moderator at Masters in Moderation | Netherlands

Markus Zilker
Architect at Habitat 2030 and einszueins architektur | Austria

Nicholas Marchesi
Co Founder of A Curious Tractor and Orange Sky | Australia

Anna De Matos
CEO of Circular Library Network | Iceland

3.2. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

ŁÓDŹ

S, M, or L? Circular Strategies That Fit Your Size

How to get project scale right

Across Europe, cities are trying to figure out which circular ideas truly work at their scale. Some start small, using the materials already around them; others experiment with new bio-based resources and bigger regional loops. As these efforts grow, each place discovers that scale changes everything - what succeeds in a neighbourhood may fail citywide, and what thrives in a region may never reach a small community. In this session, we follow these stories of trial and error to understand when cities can lead the transition and how circularity can become real, relevant, and fair even in smaller or less affluent places.

Mikkel Andreas Thomassen (Facilitator)
CEO of Smith Innovation | Denmark

Jose Luis Cifuentes Sastre
Innovation, Promotion and Information Manager at the Madrid City Council | Spain

Lea Korva
Expert associate at the Department of Environmental Protection at the City of Ljubljana | Slovenia

Irene Garcia
Built Environment Lead at Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance | Germany

Simone Kongsbak
Partner at Smith Innovation | Denmark

3.3. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

ŁÓDŹ

Building with Wood

Building better with timber

Wood is one of the most promising materials for a circular built environment - renewable, reusable, and deeply rooted in European building traditions. This session explores how increased use of wood can transform both new construction and the existing building stock through renovation, upgrading, and adaptive reuse. With a focus on green public procurement, the session highlights how cities can use policy, design guidelines, and procurement power to unlock the full circular potential of timber.

Paul Bostanjoglo (Facilitator)
Network lead for Built by Nature Germany at Bauhaus Earth | Germany

Karlheinz Boiger
CEO & Architect at Hohensinn Architektur ZT | Austria

Lara Drnovšek
Advisor at the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy | Slovenia

Sophia Pibal
Research Engineer for Circular Economy and BIM at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology | Austria

Kirsten Haggart
Associate Director of Architecture and Research at Waugh Thistleton Architect | UK

3.4. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

HELSINGBORG

Don't Get Wasted

Creative ways to engage citizens for circularity

Do you ever feel that the resources in your city are not used to their full potential? Circularity is the answer! Join us for a creative workshop, where you'll learn how to engage citizens to become more circular. You will learn how circularity can solve problems in your city using concrete examples.

Max Nettleau (Facilitator)
Project Management at Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Schleswig-Holstein | Germany

Oona Tikkaaja (Facilitator)
Senior Lecturer at Humak University of Applied Sciences | Finland

3.5. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

GRAZ

Meet Circular Inventors

How to bring circular construction ideas to market

Discover breakthrough projects proving that secondary materials and circular construction are ready for the mainstream. After a quick look at how circular markets mature and how clients and industry can accelerate change together, join a fast-paced "meet-the-inventors" session. You'll meet the six winners of the latest Call for Action supported by the Circular Buildings Coalition, to explore the ideas and tools shaping the future of circular construction.

Mikkel Andreas Thomassen (Facilitator)
CEO of Smith Innovation | Denmark

Martin Joos
City Engineer, Head of Public Works Department at the City of Winterthur | Switzerland

Track 3

SESSION DETAILS

3.6.

March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

GRAZ

Managing Systemic Change in the Built Environment

Training session

What does it take to drive systemic change in the built environment? We look at practical challenges: keeping good ideas alive under pressure, working with different professions, taking action without getting stuck in research, planning when the future is unclear, and bringing often-overlooked perspectives into decision-making. Case studies on biobased construction, social housing, SME innovation, and Circular Construction Hubs show what works – and what doesn't. We finish with small-group discussions to turn these lessons into concrete approaches for bottom-up change.

Mikkel Andreas Thomassen (Facilitator)

CEO of Smith Innovation | Denmark

Simone Kongsbak (Facilitator)

Partner at Smith Innovation | Denmark

Track 4

RESILIENT SOCIETIES



Resilience is the guiding principle of the 21st century. It means more than coping with change, adapting to climate impacts, or reacting to sudden shocks - those are just the basics. True resilience is about taking the future into our own hands.

This track explores how individuals, communities, and cities move beyond outdated models to become not only adaptive, but also more connected and democratic societies that thrive amid disruption. Because it is in cities that change begins.





Track 4 SESSION DETAILS

4.1. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

ROTTERDAM

Overwhelmed & Empowered

Resilience means taking the future into our hands: this is how!

The world feels unstable. The daily news is full of crisis, conflict and confusion – it can feel like madness. “Resilience” is the word everyone uses, but what does it really mean beyond coping with chaos? Are we stuck watching events unfold, or can we shape what comes next? This session starts with the big picture and then looks at what resilience looks like in real life – individually, in communities, for institutions. Because resilience is not just about coping; it’s about standing up and creating those goosebump moments when we realise we are stronger than the storm.

Perle Laouenan-Catchpole (Facilitator)

Moderator at Masters in Moderation | Netherlands

Friedel Goetz

Community Pastor | Germany

Roxana Dela Fiamor

Global Policy Lead at U.S. Green Building Council | Belgium

With support from the Austrian Cultural Forum Ljubljana

avstrijski kulturni forum^{nl}

4.2. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

OSLO

Defending Democracy

Building antibodies against hate, polarization and repression

Why should anyone care about democracy if it only feels like a theory debated by experts on opinion pages? This interactive session starts from a different place: everyday life in cities and the worrying rise of extremism. It explores how urban transformation can help build trust, dialogue, and stronger relationships between people – as an antidote to hate and polarization. You will work with simple, practical ideas and leave with new connections and a clearer sense of how cities can remain open even under pressure.

Michael Shank (Facilitator)

Director of Programs at Albert Einstein Institution | USA

André Sobczak

General Secretary at Eurocities | Belgium

Giulia Barnhisel

Head of Policy & Partnerships at European Community Land

Trust Network | Belgium

Pedro Duarte

Mayor of Porto | Portugal

4.2.1. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

ROTTERDAM

Engines of Resilience

How neighbourhoods and communities grow strong

When something goes wrong, some communities help each other quickly, while other neighbourhoods feel lost. Often, the difference is simple: people know each other, trust each other, and know how to act together. This session shows how local projects can build strong neighbourhoods through shared activities, community events, and volunteer work. It looks at how cities and civil society can work together to support local leaders, bring people together, and help neighbours be ready to support each other in an emergency.

Sabina Mihailescu

Co-Founder & General Manager of DearNeighbour | Romania

Jan Kattein

Director at Jan Kattein Architects and Lecturer at the University College London | UK

Nicholas Marchesi

Co Founder of A Curious Tractor and Orange Sky| Australia

4.2.2. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

HELSINGBORG

Resilience for CityChangers

Staying sane while transforming cities

Driving change is tough - especially when you're caught between competing interests, pressure, and pushback. In this session, CityChangers share how they stay resilient and clear-headed while transforming their cities. You're invited to bring a real, pressing challenge and tap into the collective intelligence of the group to explore next steps and possible directions. Come as you are - but ready to take an active role.

Daniel Fusca

Manager and Public Consultation at the City of Toronto & Lecturer at the University of Toronto | Canada

Katharina Schätz

Strategist for Changemaking and Resilience | Germany

4.2.3. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

GRAZ

Resilient Cities Serious Game

Learning resilience through play

What if cities learned how to become more resilient through play? In this interactive workshop, participants use a serious game to explore real challenges together. People take on different roles – including people, nature, animals, and future generations—to see how decisions affect the city as a whole. The game helps everyone understand how nature-based solutions can strengthen resilience and support climate adaptation. Through simple exercises and shared learning, participants discover small, practical steps that can grow into long-term, resilient change for cities.

Michiel Van Driessche (Facilitator)

Partner at Felixx Landscape Architects & Planners and city architect of Groningen | The Netherlands

Track 4 SESSION DETAILS

4.3. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

LJUBLJANA

We Love Trees

How to green the city strategically

On a hot summer day, trees are more than just green – they give shade, cool the air, soak up rain, and create places for people and nature to thrive. “Blue-green infrastructure” may sound fancy, but it simply means using nature to make cities more resilient. These spaces don’t grow by accident – they need vision, political support, and good planning. In this session, we’ll explore how to make people want more green, and how to turn that desire into real action to grow and protect urban nature in a smart, long-term way.

Miriam Staley (Facilitator)

CEO and Founder of Leading Minds Worldwide | UK

Bruno Doedens

Land Artist & Landscape Architect at Fondation Circle4Change | the Netherlands

Michiel Van Driessche

Partner at Felixx Landscape Architects & Planners and city architect of Groningen | The Netherlands

Tanja Tötzer

Thematic Coordinator at AIT Austrian Institute of Technology | Austria

Heinrich Strößenreuther

Serial NGO-Founder and CEO at BaumEntscheid e.V.

4.4. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

HELSINGBORG

Make It a Business Case

Proving sustainability’s value with evidence and metrics

Cities are no longer asking whether sustainability matters – the challenge is proving its value. This session shows how cities can build a credible business case by quantifying avoided losses, reduced risks, and measurable benefits from nature-based solutions, energy savings, and food and health impacts. Participants will gain practical ways to communicate the value of sustainability to decision-makers, investors, and partners.

Nina Mia Čikeš (Facilitator)

Expert Governance Innovation at ICLEI Europe | Germany

Andro Pavuna

Head of the Department for mobility, infrastructure, municipal governance at the City of Zagreb | Croatia

Derviš Hadžimuhamedović

Project Manager at the City of Sarajevo | Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tanja Senekovič

Sectoral Secretary at Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor | Slovenia

Seona Candy

Senior researcher at Demos Helsinki | Finland

Ruud Schuthof

Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe | Germany



4.4.1. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

HELSINGBORG

Funding Urban Innovation

How cities pay for innovative projects

Cities are full of good ideas – but turning them into reality requires funding. This interactive session focuses on the concrete funding strategies that help cities unlock money for climate action, sustainable mobility, and digital innovation projects. Bring your project, learn from fellow innovators, and explore how to move from ambition to implementation by accessing the right funding sources, partnerships, and financing pathways.

Alexander Schmidt (Facilitator)

Founder & CEO of BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

Haris Piplas

Co-Director Urban Design, Planning & Development at Drees & Sommer | Switzerland

4.5. March 25, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

ŁÓDŹ

Fix It Before It Cracks

How to prepare building stock for earthquakes

South Eastern Europe is a high-risk region for earthquakes. This session explores how cities can strengthen existing buildings before the ground starts shaking. It looks at how preventive renovation works in practice – from construction and technical solutions to the human side of the challenge, especially engaging building owners. Because the real challenge is often not engineering, but convincing people to invest in safety they may never personally experience. Expect practical insights, real-world examples, and a strong case for acting early instead of repairing later.

Saša Galonja (Facilitator)

Head of Division at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning | Slovenia

Marko Polič

Prof. dr. at the University of Ljubljana | Slovenia

Samo Gostič

Head of laboratory at Building and Civil Engineering Institute ZRMK | Slovenia

Simon Frumen

Energy Manager | Slovenia

Track 5

INNOVATION IN GOVERNANCE



Cities are no longer seen as just administrators – they're active agents of change: people expect them to better their lives.

This track explores how municipalities reinvent systems, services, and roles to meet rising expectations and deliver better urban futures.



Track 5 SESSION DETAILS



5.1. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

ROTTERDAM

Change Must Come from the Top

Using power without losing the job

If you try to change how a city makes decisions, you step into risky territory – and if it goes wrong, it can even cost you your job. In this session, you hear from city leaders who use their official roles to push change and handle conflicts and resistance along the way. What is their vision for their city? How do they breathe life into it? And why is it still worth shaking the system? Take a front-row seat and hear honest stories from mayors who make institutions move.

- Miriam Staley (Facilitator)**
CEO and Founder of Leading Minds Worldwide | UK
- Conradin Cramer**
President of the Government at the Präsidialdepartement Basel-Stadt | Switzerland
- Matija Kovač**
Mayor at the City of Celje | Slovenia
- Heiða Hilmisdóttir**
Mayor of Reykjavik | Iceland

5.2. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

ŁÓDŹ

When the Cameras Are Gone

How leaders drive change - everyday

When the cameras are gone, the real work fun begins. Transformation doesn't happen through big announcements - it happens in daily routines and in the countless small and big decisions made inside city hall. It depends on people driving change at every level, from civil servants and team leaders to project managers and department heads. This session explores how to build a true culture of collaboration that enables cities to change. Lesson one: to truly transform a city, you first have to transform yourself as a leader.

- Perle Laouenan-Catchpole (Facilitator)**
Moderator at Masters in Moderation | Netherlands
- Aleksandra Sztuka-Tulińska**
Deputy Director of the Environment Management Division at the City of Łódź | Poland
- Benjamin Seibel**
Director of CityLAB Berlin | Germany
- Victor Neustetter**
Leadership & Management Expert in the Office of the Executive at WienIT | Austria
- Gregor Deleja**
Director of municipal administration at the Municipality of Celje | Slovenia

5.2.1. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

OSLO

Participation Beyond the Usual Suspects

Embedding engagement across the city

There are many examples of participation – some „best practice“, some „terrible practice“. But one thing is clear: not involving people is not an option. The real question is how to make engagement and co-creation a normal part of how cities work, instead of using them only when needed. In this session, we will hear from cities that are building a culture of co-creation, and from trusted intermediaries – the people who connect cities and citizens – about where current approaches are not working well. Through practical examples and honest reflection, we will explore what it takes to truly embed democratic innovation.

- Perle Laouenan-Catchpole (Facilitator)**
Moderator at Masters in Moderation | Netherlands
- Johannes Lutter**
Head of International Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at UIV Urban Innovation Vienna | Austria
- Aidan Cerar**
Project Manager at IPoP | Slovenia
- Veronika Bylicki**
City Transformations Lead at Demos Helsinki | UK

5.2.2. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

HELSINGBORG

Service Design in Action

How to design better public services

Service design helps cities develop public projects that actually work for people. In this session, practitioners share concrete examples from digital and urban projects where service design tools were used to understand needs, involve users, and test solutions early. Join in to see how these methods support participation and acceptance of change – and try out a simple exercise to explore how service design can be applied in their own daily work.

- Niklas Kossow (Facilitator)**
Smart City & Government Innovation Lead at CityLAB Berlin | Germany
- Lisa Schmechel (Facilitator)**
Project Manager at CityLAB Berlin | Germany
- Yannick Müller**
Strategic Partnerships at CityLAB Berlin | Germany
- Monika Tominšek**
Advisor to the Mayor of Celje and Head of Development, Projects and Economy Office | Slovenia

5.2.3. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

VIENNA

How we initiated private energy retrofits by the thousands

Workshop for city managers

People want lower energy bills – not solar panels. They want confidence, control, and simplicity – not complexity, paperwork, and risk. So why aren't more people saying yes to clean energy? This hands-on workshop explores how behavioural insights can unlock large-scale adoption of residential energy retrofits. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at how real-life behavioural barriers are identified, and how these insights translate into action. The session wraps up with a live Q&A and audience-led reflection, where city leaders will hear real experiences from the field and explore how to apply these lessons in their own local context.

- Cas Bijlholt (Facilitator)**
CEO and co-founder of iChoosr, Amsterdam | The Netherlands
- Thomas Day**
Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme at the Essex County Council | UK

Track 5 SESSION DETAILS

5.3. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

VIENNA

Swiping Right on Unlikely Partners

How to collaborate with partners across sectors

Urban actors often limit the partners they collaborate with to the usual suspects within their comfort zone or sector. Quite a few cities limit who they choose to partner with. The aim of this session is to widen the limits of who you view as potential partners. Listen to amazing stories about urban collaborations and learn how to facilitate them yourself.

Tamlyn Shimizu (Facilitator)
Global Partnerships and Communications Lead & Podcast Host at BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

Thomas Day
Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme at the Essex County Council | UK

Renata Pollini
Head of Nature, Circularity & Sustainable Construction at Holcim | Switzerland

Loredana Scuto
Senior Programme Officer - Urban at International Union for Conservation of Nature | Germany

Matthias Wechsler
Senior Consultant at Arup | Germany

Allan Pilgaard-Jensen
Managing Director at ProjectZero | Denmark

5.3.1. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

GRAZ

Collective Leadership Workshop

Experience self-organization

Imagine a city where no one is fully in charge – and yet things somehow start to move. Sounds familiar? In this playful, hands-on workshop, participants step into the roles that make up an urban ecosystem and experience how cities change through self-organization and collective leadership. By moving, mapping and co-creating together, small groups tackle real urban challenges, stumble, adapt and discover new ways forward. Along the way, abstract ideas turn into lived experience – with practical insights participants can take back to their own cities and projects.

Ilya Alexander Yacine (Facilitator)
Organizational Change Manager at adesso SE | Germany

Viola Ketelsen (Facilitator)
Project and Change Manager at adesso business consulting | Germany

Julia Hufnagel
Head of strategy department at the Municipality of Heilbronn | Germany

5.4. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

VIENNA

Cities Setting Up for Change

Examples of innovative climate governance

Cities are epicentres for economic, societal and cultural change, where global trends and policies materialise at the local level. As a result, city administrations must continuously anticipate, respond to and adapt to these dynamics, while rethinking how they operate and positioning themselves for future challenges. This interactive session draws on innovative governance structures and practical examples to explore how cities can engage stakeholders and create the institutional space needed to implement effective climate governance at the local level. It will address key challenges, highlight emerging approaches, and identify pathways to ensure that cities are equipped not only to cope with, but also to capitalise on, the transformations ahead.

Maximilian Jäger (Facilitator)
Senior Expert Urban Mobility at AustriaTech | Austria

Andrea Prutsch
Coordinator Climate Action Plan - Focus on Engagement and Communication at the City of Graz | Austria

Stefan Guggenberger
Project Manager at the City of Klagenfurt | Austria

Gerald Aigner
Climate Coordinator at the City of Villach



5.5. March 26, 2026
09.00 – 10.30

STUTTGART

Every Project Has Two Layers

The visible one we design - and the hidden one that decides what people actually do

Why does a €10M award-winning plaza stay empty while a three-chair pilot overflows? Why does a “successful” street revert the moment cones and staff disappear, or one project turn into mixed signals on the ground? Every project has two layers: what you build, and what the place makes easy, awkward, safe, or worth repeating – and most success or failure happens in the second. We make that layer visible and governable through cases from public space, mobility, governance, and fast-growing contexts, so projects don’t depend on luck after handover.

Josephine Yilan Liu (Facilitator)
Co-founder of Urban Future (UFGC) | Austria

Carlo Castelli (Facilitator)
Founder and Director of Urban Purpose | UK

Ethan Kent
Executive Director at PlacemakingX | USA

Sylvia Kostenzer
CEO & Designer at remake streets / studiod*lux / parxs | Austria

Honorata Grzesikowska
Urban Masterplanner at Urbanitarian and Architektoniczki | Spain

Transformative-Cities.com

5.5.1. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LISBON

Re-pricing the ‘Soft’ City

Why the cognitive layer is a core performance variable, not “vibe”

What if empty bike lanes, angry town halls, and “uncooperative” shopkeepers aren’t problems to fix, but signals that success was mis-specified from the start? This session moves upstream to the rules leaders actually control: what counts as success, when to scale, what to protect during the handover window, and what must be true before replication. You’ll leave with a small set of decision rules so change becomes the default, not a permanent campaign – stop pushing change uphill and start reshaping the slope.

Josephine Yilan Liu (Facilitator)
Co-founder of Urban Future (UFGC) | Austria

Carlo Castelli (Facilitator)
Founder and Director of Urban Purpose | UK

Ethan Kent
Executive Director at PlacemakingX | USA

Heinrich Strößenreuther
Serial NGO-Founder and CEO at BaumEntscheid | Germany

Daisy Narayanan
Director of Public Realm and Inclusive Design at The Crown Estate | UK

Jason Thorne
Chief Planner at the City of Toronto | Canada

Transformative-Cities.com

Track 5

SESSION DETAILS

5.8. March 26, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

LISBON

Sink or Swim: Welcome to the Urban Shark Tank

Find replicable solutions that will work in your city

Join us for the "Urban Shark Tank", where a panel of urban 'sharks' will listen to creative pitches from a public/private duo who have successfully implemented a project in their city. The sharks, made up of diverse experts in the field of urban innovation, will offer valuable advice and insights on how to replicate this project in other cities, making it scalable and impactful. Don't miss out on the chance to witness first-hand the creativity and ingenuity of urban visionaries, while getting the chance to vote for your favourite pitch and try your hand in our rotating seat at the panel. Do we have a deal?

Tamlyn Shimizu (Facilitator)

Global Partnerships and Communications Lead & Podcast Host at BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

Alexander Schmidt (Facilitator)

Founder & CEO of BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

Victor Neustetter

Leadership & Management at City of Vienna's WienIT | Austria

João Dinis

Climate Action Director at the City of Cascais | Portugal

Michael Mischke

Ecosystem Designer and Transformation Scout at Urban Impact Agency | Germany

Track 6

CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS



Good comms inspire.
Bad ones bore.
Ugly ones distract.
We'll celebrate the best, roast the worst,
and expose the rest. This track looks at
how communication shapes – or sabotages –
sustainability in the age of bubbles,
noise and AI.



Supported by





Track 6 SESSION DETAILS

6.1. March 25, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

ROTTERDAM

The Truth Is

Your facts don't change anything – now, what to do instead

The hard truth? Facts don't change behaviour – and louder, sharper, or more dramatic messaging doesn't either. It often turns people off, or even against you. People are busy living their lives, and that's exactly where real change begins. Making change normal takes know-how, an understanding of how we behave, and a lot of hard work – not more drumming of facts or becoming more shrill. This session explores that layer underneath: how to shift habits and move from action to action until change becomes the new normal – and people wonder how they ever thought differently.

Miriam Staley (Facilitator)

CEO and Founder of Leading Minds Worldwide | UK

Anja Floetenmeyer-Woltmann

Systems Accelerator, Consultant and Strategist | Germany

Josephine Yilan Liu

Co-founder of Urban Future (UFGC) | Austria

Simone Quargnal

Market Manager at IKEA | Slovenia

6.1.1. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

LISBON

Climate Communication for Cities

How to speak to different audiences

A city has a climate goal – but one message won't reach everyone. What speaks to residents may not work for businesses or political leaders. Effective climate communication is not just a story, but a system. In this interactive session, we explore practical tools to adapt one core climate message for different audiences – from neighbourhood groups to companies and city teams. The focus is on how clear, targeted communication builds trust, shared understanding, and the joint action cities need to make change happen.

Tamlyn Shimizu (Facilitator)

Global Partnerships and Communications Lead & Podcast Host at BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

Host at BABLE Smart Cities | Germany

João Dinis

Climate Action Director at the City of Cascais | Portugal

Astrid Arnslett

Senior communication adviser at CICERO | Norway

6.1.2. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

OSLO

Flip the Script on Streets

How to change perspective

In this session, we start where street problems really live: the late bus, the broken sidewalk, the crossing nobody wants to use. We look at simple ways to talk about streets so people actually get it – and care. If an eight-year-old can't move around safely, something's wrong, but saying "it should be better" isn't enough. No expert talk, no blaming, just clear stories about fairness, access, and everyday life – and better ways to talk about streets that work for everyone.

Eugene Quinn (Facilitator)

Creative Urbanist at Whoosh | Austria

Elisabeth Meze (Facilitator)

Project Lead JUST STREETS at Urban Future | Austria

Heinrich Strößenreuther

Serial NGO-Founder and CEO at BaumEntscheid e.V.

Sabina Cioboata

Research Fellow in Urban Studies at the University of Westminster | UK

Giulia Melis

Program Manager City Climate & Environment at LINKS Foundation | Italy



6.1.3. March 25, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

VIENNA

Mobility Justice



Workshop: From big words to real action

What does "mobility justice" actually mean in everyday life? In this workshop, we move past big words and look at real situations on real streets. Who can get around easily – and who can't? Who feels safe, and who doesn't? This hands-on workshop gives cities simple tools to make mobility fairer in practice. We talk about how to work with different groups, how to explain change without blaming people, and what usually goes wrong but rarely gets said out loud. Expect honest examples, practical ideas, and space to learn from mistakes.

Elisabeth Meze (Facilitator)

Project Lead JUST STREETS at Urban Future | Austria

Safaa Charafi (Facilitator)

Founder of Urban Inclusion | Belgium



6.1.4. March 25, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

GRAZ

What's on the Plate?

Impactful food policy for European cities hosted by World Resources Institute

Every sector has its department – transport, water, spatial planning. But where do you turn if you want to change the way we eat? Food goes beyond procurement; it's about influencing restaurants, takeaways, and supermarkets. Tackling this challenge requires strategy and strong connections. If you've been invited, join this session to connect with fellow food enthusiasts and the WRI as we explore how to break down barriers and make healthy, sustainable, and affordable food the new norm!



Track 6 SESSION DETAILS

6.2. March 26, 2026
11.00 – 12.30

OSLO

AI for Impact Communication

Boosting impact with AI

Many of use AI on a daily basis; to ask quick questions, to write smoother emails, or to draft punchy conference session texts. This is all rookie stuff. Join this session to take the next step. This session starts by helping you understand what is changing, why it matters, and what it means for your daily work. It then shows examples of how AI supports CityChangers in their quest for more sustainable cities. Get inspired to improve your AI skills. The focus is on clear examples, simple steps, and ideas you can use right away.

Michael Shank (Facilitator)

Director of Programs at Albert Einstein Institution | USA

Edgar Linscheid

AI Video Creator at Sinnwerkstatt and Edgar Linscheid | Germany

Anja Floetenmeyer-Woltmann

Systems Accelerator, Consultant and Strategist | Germany

Lior Steinberg

Urban planner & Co-founder at Humankind | The Netherlands

6.3. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

LJUBLJANA

Women Changing Cities

When women lead, cities thrive

As cities face growing pressure, women around the world are leading people-first change as mayors, planners, policymakers, and advocates. From reclaiming streets to reimagining mobility and creating safer, more inclusive public spaces, they are reshaping urban life through collaboration, communication, and courage rather than command and control. This session highlights real stories and practical insights on how women are redefining leadership - because when cities are built with women in mind, and when women lead, cities thrive for everyone.

Miriam Staley (Facilitator)

CEO and Founder of Leading Minds Worldwide | UK

Heiða Hilmissdóttir

Mayor of Reykjavik | Iceland

Nourhan Bassam

Founder & CEO of The Gendered City | The Netherlands

Ricarda Goetz-Preisner

Ricarda Goetz-Preisner Officer for Basic Research at the the City of Vienna Department for Women | Austria

6.4. March 26, 2026
14.00 – 15.30

STUTT GART

Built Environment Strategic Communications

Closed-door workshop by the Laudes Foundation

This workshop explores how strategic communication and storytelling can help the built environment sector make change clearer, stronger, and more effective. Bringing together civil society and industry voices, it focuses on how to frame and share messages that support fair and sustainable outcomes.

Laudes ———
— Foundation

6.5. March 26, 2026
16.00 – 17.30

GRAZ

Why Is This Working!

How arts step in where words fail us

Art can explain climate better than a hundred reports and a thousand words. It will save you lot's of campaign money, too. This session is all about that. We look at how cities use art and playful ideas to get people to notice and care about climate topics. First, creative ideas are pitched to a city – short, bold, and sometimes wild. The audience gets to ask questions and vote. Then, a real local challenge is brought into the room and participants work together to come up with ideas to address it. Expect strange ideas, quick thinking, laughs, and real inspiration on how art can help cities 'talk' about climate when words fall short.

Kassia Rudd (Facilitator)

Senior Expert, Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions at ICLEI Europe | Germany

Fiona de Bell

Initiator at Cascoland | The Netherlands

Liljana Jankovič Grobelšek

Research Counsellor, Phd at Urbanistični inštitut RS | Slovenia

Bettina Wilk

Director of Projects at The Nature of Cities Europe | Ireland

Ana Mitic-Radulovic

Founder of Centre for Experiments in Urban Studies - CEUS | Serbia

Adam Langer

Director and Dramaturge at Sladovna Pisek | Czech Republic



Field Trips

LJUBLJANA IS THE STAGE.

Small-group field trips take you straight into Ljubljana's boldest sustainability projects.

From SUPs and bike tours to walks in Plečnik's footsteps, expect real places, real people and real city life.

New this year: Field Trips start on Tuesday, with most running on Friday and extra options on Wednesday and Thursday.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D1 FT1 March 24, 2026 | 15.00 – 18.00

Guiding Architects: Old Town



Old Ljubljana offers an exceptionally rich, dense, and picturesque historic town center, shaped by prehistoric, Roman, medieval, and modern urban layers. In recent decades, traffic has gradually almost completely disappeared from this area, allowing its unique spatial character and atmosphere to fully emerge.

On this guided walk, we will explore the city on foot, winding through the historic core and along the Ljubljanica River, discovering Ljubljana's most distinctive urban ambiances—from landmark buildings and lively squares to intimate streets and green parks. With a relaxed yet in-depth approach, the walk reveals hidden stories and insights into the city's layered history. Along the way, we will also encounter inspiring examples of contemporary architecture, including renovations, new developments, and innovative programs that enrich the city's historic fabric and create a vibrant dialogue between the old and the new.



D1 FT2 March 24, 2026 | 15.00 – 17.00

Tivoli Treasures: Ljubljana's Green Heart



Take a relaxed stroll from Ljubljana's main square straight into Tivoli Park, the city's biggest and most beloved green escape. Along the way, your guide will point out local gems like the opera, museums and churches before you slip under the trees. Meet the city's fluffiest residents at Tičistan, then wander past Cekin Mansion, Tivoli Mansion and the iconic Jakopič Promenade. Wrap up in the rose garden, home to Ljubljana's very own rose. It's the perfect mix of nature, stories and city charm all in one easy walk.



D1 FT3 March 24, 2026 | 16.00 – 17.00

Rog Reborn: A Factory Gets Its Groove Back



Step into the story of a building that has shaped Ljubljana for more than a century. Built in the late 19th century as a leather goods factory and expanded in the 1920s, it later became home to the Rog bicycle brand.

Today, the former factory is Center Rog, a lively creative campus with 9,000 m² of studios and shared workshops. On this tour, you will walk the old factory floor, explore nine active labs and see how heritage architecture now hosts metalwork, ceramics, culinary experimentation, digital fabrication and more. Discover how Ljubljana transformed this industrial site into a community space for makers, designers and innovators. See how the city preserved its character, opened it to the public and turned Rog into a place where ideas, skills and creative energy flow.



D1 FT4 March 24, 2026 | 15.00 – 17.00

Railway Station Makeover: Construction Site Tour



Step inside one of Ljubljana's biggest infrastructure upgrades: the new railway station. This 19,000 m² project is designed as a modern bridge above the existing tracks, seamlessly linking to the historic 1849 station below. On this tour, you'll walk the new overpass, covered platforms, extended underpass, and refreshed station spaces. You'll also see how rainwater systems, new trees, and climate-friendly design help reduce noise, emissions, and heat.

A firsthand look at how smart engineering, heritage, and sustainability come together to shape a future-ready transport hub.



D1 FT5 March 24, 2026 | 16.00 – 18.00

Street Justice: Reclaiming Space together



Experience a city street through the lens of justice. How inclusive is it today, and what would it take to make it truly people-centred? Together with local and international experts, you will explore mobility, public life, parking, pedestrian zones and active ground floors – connecting infrastructure with social life. This participatory walk invites you to question assumptions, spark fresh ideas and imagine streets that work for everyone.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D1 FT6 March 24, 2026 | 19.00 – 21.00

Just Streets: Movie Night



Join an evening where film meets urban change. International short films set the stage for lively discussions on people-first streets and real-world transformation. After the screenings, stay for a relaxed get-together with fellow city makers – free pizza included. Because good ideas travel better when shared.



D2 FT1 March 25, 2026 | 07.00 – 08.00

City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds

Lace up your sneakers and join our fun run! This easy 5-kilometre jog winds through the old centre and into leafy Tivoli Park, with a friendly guide highlighting the city's coolest sights along the way. Expect a relaxed pace, lighthearted mini-stops and plenty of fresh air.

In about an hour, you'll get a boost of exercise, stories and city charm. Isn't this the most joyful way to wake up in Ljubljana?



D2 FT2 March 25, 2026 | 21.00 – 23.00

After Dark: A Feminist Mapping Walk For All Genders



Drawing on the methodology of Mapping the Nights by Nourhan Bassam, this walk invites participants to experience Ljubljana after dark through the lenses of emotion, embodiment, and positionality. Feminist research on the night has traditionally centred women's experiences, revealing how fear, vigilance, exclusion, and resilience shape nocturnal mobility. To imagine an urban future that is genuinely inclusive, however, men must also enter this emotional landscape—not as observers, but as active participants.

During the walk, men will take part in the process of emotional mapping, paying attention to moments of comfort and discomfort, awareness and oblivion, presence and power. By reflecting on their own spatial privileges, blind spots, and embodied responses to the night, men contribute to a deeper, shared understanding of safety, care, visibility, and belonging after dark. Through this collective methodology, feminist night-making expands beyond a single-gender narrative into a collaborative urban practice—one in which all genders are accountable, attentive, and actively involved in shaping a more equitable night-time city.



D3 FT1 March 26, 2026 | 07.00 – 08.00

City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds



Lace up your sneakers and join our fun run! This easy 5-kilometre jog winds through the old centre and into leafy Tivoli Park, with a friendly guide highlighting the city's coolest sights along the way. Expect a relaxed pace, lighthearted mini-stops and plenty of fresh air. In about an hour, you'll get a boost of exercise, stories and city charm. Isn't this the most joyful way to wake up in Ljubljana?



D3 FT2 March 26, 2026 | 19.00 – 21.00

Pub Quiz: Cities Edition



Get ready for a high-energy pub quiz on cities, where fun and knowledge collide in an epic, team-based showdown! Put your brain to the test on urban innovation, design, and the future of cities, all while meeting new people and making some serious connections. With trivia rounds, wild networking challenges, and Urban Future-themed prizes on the line, this isn't our average quiz – it's a game-changer. Come alone and join a team, or bring a gang with you ;-)



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D3 FT3 March 26, 2026 | 19.00 – 21.00

Ljubljana Beer Experience: Cheers to the City



Love beer? This tour is your happy place. Taste your way through Ljubljana with eight brews from five local makers, including a stop at the much-loved Tektonik brewery. Along the way, you'll visit three great spots, sample six unique beers and enjoy snacks that pair perfectly. Your guide will sprinkle in fun stories from Ljubljana's long brewing tradition and today's buzzing craft scene. It's a tasty, easygoing way to get to know the city one sip at a time.



D3 FT4 March 26, 2026 | 14.00 – 15.30

City Walkshop: From Public Space to Urban Stage

Every place in the city has its own "code" – shaped by its use, atmosphere, location, and social life. On this tour, we explore urban spaces using creative, structured methods to uncover their character and create simple profiles. Along the way, we discover which events, audiences, and times suit each place best, turning ordinary spaces into locations full of character. This hands-on tour shows how to read and use the city's spaces for smart, creative event planning.



D4 FT1 March 27, 2026 | 07.00 – 08.00

City Run: A Sightseeing Jog for Early Birds

Lace up your sneakers and join our fun run! This easy 5-kilometre jog winds through the old centre and into leafy Tivoli Park, with a friendly guide highlighting the city's coolest sights along the way. Expect a relaxed pace, lighthearted mini-stops and plenty of fresh air.

In about an hour, you'll get a boost of exercise, stories and city charm. Isn't this the most joyful way to wake up in Ljubljana?



D4 FT2 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 10.00

River Ride: All Aboard the Electric Woodie



See Ljubljana from its most magical angle - the water! Hop onto the city's only electric wooden boat, handcrafted in Slovenia, and glide down the Ljubljanica for a slow, scenic cruise. It's a super relaxed way to explore the old town, take in hidden details you'd never spot on foot, and enjoy the city's charm from a whole new perspective. Just sit back, breathe in the fresh air and let the river do the rest.



D4 FT3 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 12.00

Hydro Hike: Where Water Challenges Spark Green Ideas



Come along as we dive into Ljubljana's rivers and green infrastructure. We'll explore how the Ljubljanica shapes the city centre, blending flood protection with lively public spaces, then follow the Gradaščica to see how the city's connection to its rivers gradually fades.

Along the way, you'll imagine what swimming in the Ljubljanica could look like. We'll stop at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering to see rain gardens that turn stormwater into a smart, sustainable feature, and finish at the Tivoli swimming pool, where a detention-infiltration field tames runoff and lets it seep naturally into the soil.

A fun, easy walk showing how Ljubljana transforms water challenges into creative, green solutions.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D4 FT4 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 10.30

Planning Mistakes: Public Space Turnarounds



Our field visit will take us through a selection of recently redesigned public spaces in the heart of Ljubljana. Many of these areas may seem to meet contemporary urban standards at first glance, yet a closer look reveals subtle shortcomings—and opportunities for thoughtful improvement. Along the way, we'll also explore several standout examples that not only excel in their function but also showcase what truly successful public-space design can achieve.



D4 FT5 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 12.00

Guiding Architects: Old Town



Old Ljubljana offers an exceptionally rich, dense, and picturesque historic town center, shaped by prehistoric, Roman, medieval, and modern urban layers. In recent decades, traffic has gradually almost completely disappeared from this area, allowing its unique spatial character and atmosphere to fully emerge.

On this guided walk, we will explore the city on foot, winding through the historic core and along the Ljubljanica River, discovering Ljubljana's most distinctive urban ambiances—from landmark buildings and lively squares to intimate streets and green parks. With a relaxed yet in-depth approach, the walk reveals hidden stories and insights into the city's layered history. Along the way, we will also encounter inspiring examples of contemporary architecture, including renovations, new developments, and innovative programs that enrich the city's historic fabric and create a vibrant dialogue between the old and the new.



D4 FT6 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 12.00

Guiding Architects: Plečnik & Ravnikar



Witness the extraordinary story of a master architect, Jože Plečnik, and his best student, Edvard Ravnikar! The Slovenian capital is often referred to as "Plečnik's Ljubljana" because he was considered a brilliant creator throughout the 20th century with his original yet classic architectural language. His opus is mostly protected as UNESCO World Heritage.

Meanwhile Ravnikar, known and also perceived as the "Slovenian Aalto," followed him faithfully for a long time. After working with Le Corbusier, he internalized and refined both influences, creating the most important works of the second half of the 20th century in Ljubljana. We will walk among their buildings and spaces and talk about the time, society and relationships in both halves of the 20th century.

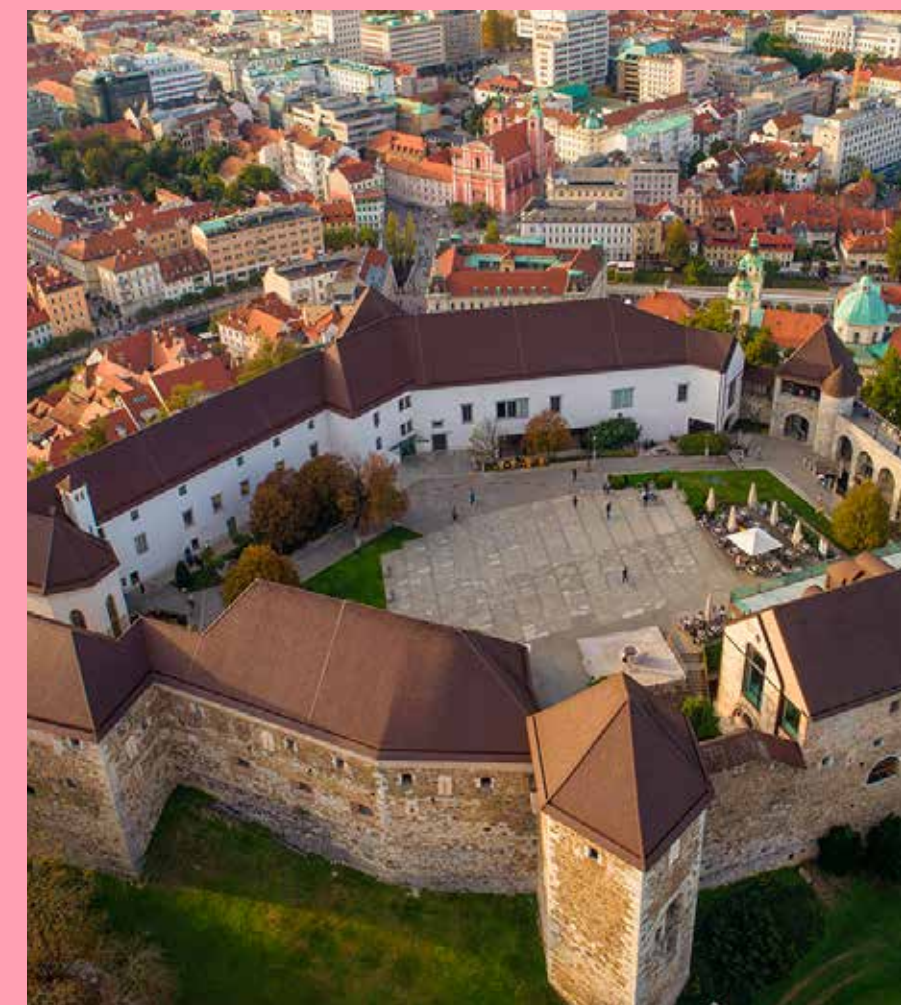


D4 FT7 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 12.00

Guiding Architects: Castle Hill & Ljubljana Castle

Since prehistoric times, Castle Hill in Ljubljana has been a faithful witness to the city's urban and social history. Today, the mighty medieval castle above the city is a lively cultural venue, hiding museums, galleries, boutiques, and top-notch restaurants behind its walls.

Above all, under the baton of the Ambient group, its image has undergone a thorough and fascinating transformation over the past half-century. From a forgotten "ugly duckling," it has become an example of comprehensive, bold architectural renovation and the most visited tourist attraction in the country.



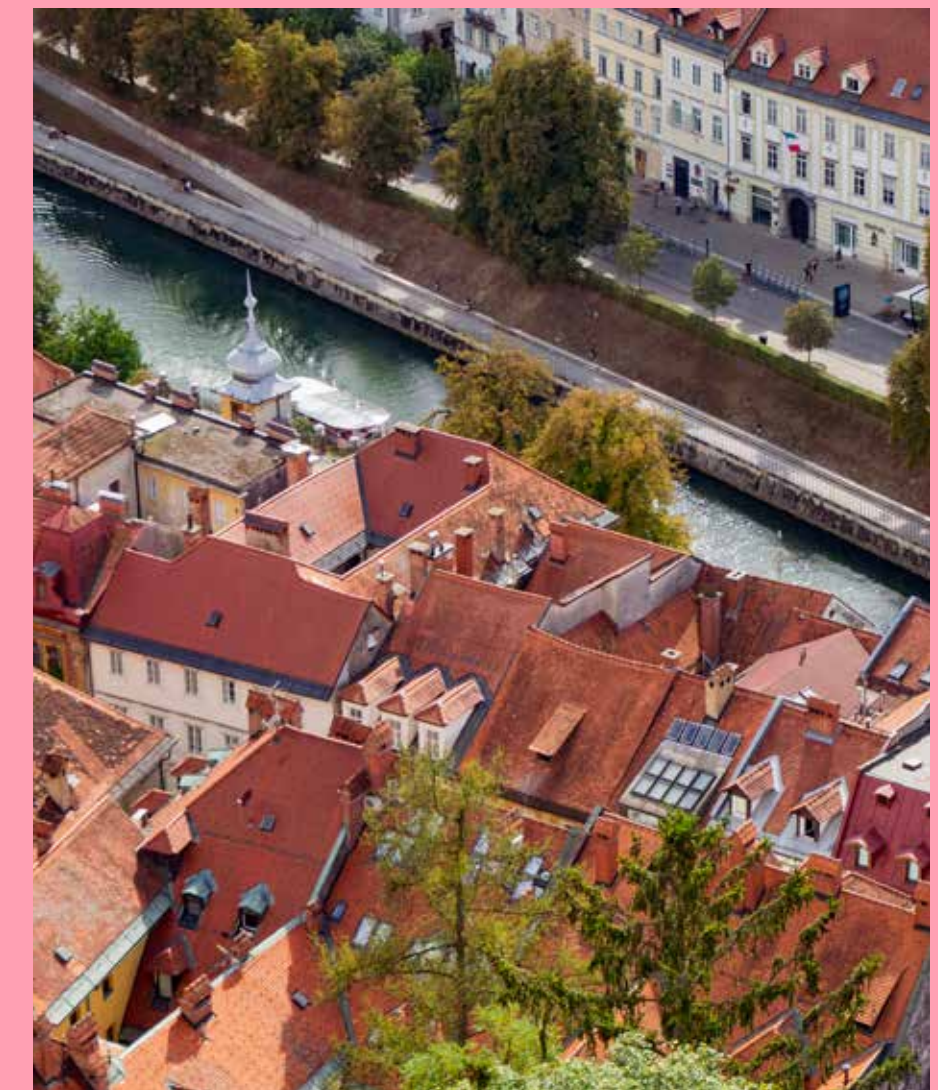
D4 FT8 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 12.00

Urban Transformations: All Along the Ljubljanica River



Take a guided walk along the Ljubljanica to see how the river corridor is transforming. Starting at Prešeren Square, you'll move past Plečnik's famous riverside market, continue to the renewed Rog Center, and finish in Slovenia's largest hospital district.

Along the way, we'll explore how architecture, mobility, and public space shape the riverfront, from celebrated designs to forgotten corners and hotly debated developments. A sharp look at how cities evolve, one stretch at a time.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D4 FT9 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 11.00

Bike Tour: From Hotspots to Climate Shelters



Although Ljubljana is one of the greenest and rainiest capitals in Europe, last summer brought the city's longest heatwave - highlighting the growing impact of extreme temperatures. On this bike tour, we will explore a range of outdoor and indoor spaces that residents already use as informal climate shelters, offering relief during periods of weather.

Along the route, we will discuss how Ljubljana can better respond to extreme heat through long-term climate adaptation strategies, drawing on real-world examples from across the city. Bicycles are provided, and we will do our best to supply a sufficient number of helmets; however, participants are welcome to bring their own.



D4 FT10 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 11.30

City Safari: Ljubljana Through Kids' Eyes



Grab your map, choose your colour, and jump into a playful urban safari. In 90 minutes, you'll explore Ljubljana's historic centre through the eyes of everyone from curious toddlers to independent teens. At each stop, you get a new colour-coded Youth Persona Card that shifts your perspective and helps you notice how different age groups learn, play, hang out and move through the city.

Guided by friendly facilitators, you'll use simple tools to capture what feels inviting, what works and where challenges pop up. You'll wrap up by reflecting together on how cities can welcome all generations – and rediscover Ljubljana with the wonder of a child.



D4 FT11 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 13.00

Coffee Tour: The City in a Cup



Join local coffee expert Lev Volodarsky for a three-hour journey through Ljubljana's signature café spots. You'll taste your way through Pražarna, Mala Pražarna and Črno Zrno, hearing the stories of the roasters, baristas and owners who shape the city's coffee culture.

Between cups, wander Ljubljana's charming streets, discovering architecture, hidden corners and great tips for sightseeing, dinner or late-night drinks. By the end, you'll have sampled outstanding coffee – and felt the heart and soul of the city's vibrant café scene.



D4 FT12 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 14.00

Circular Pizza Brunch



In this hands-on workshop, participants will discover how to transform local surplus and leftover ingredients into delicious, creative pizzas. Along the way, the session introduces good practices in food waste reduction, regional value creation, and key principles of the circular economy—proving that sustainability can be both practical and tasty. Vegan-friendly.



D4 FT13 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 12.00

Railway Station Makeover: Construction Site Tour

Step inside one of Ljubljana's biggest infrastructure upgrades: the new railway station. This 19,000 m² project is designed as a modern bridge above the existing tracks, seamlessly linking to the historic 1849 station below. On this tour, you'll walk the new overpass, covered platforms, extended underpass, and refreshed station spaces. You'll also see how rainwater systems, new trees, and climate-friendly design help reduce noise, emissions, and heat.

A firsthand look at how smart engineering, heritage, and sustainability come together to shape a future-ready transport hub.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

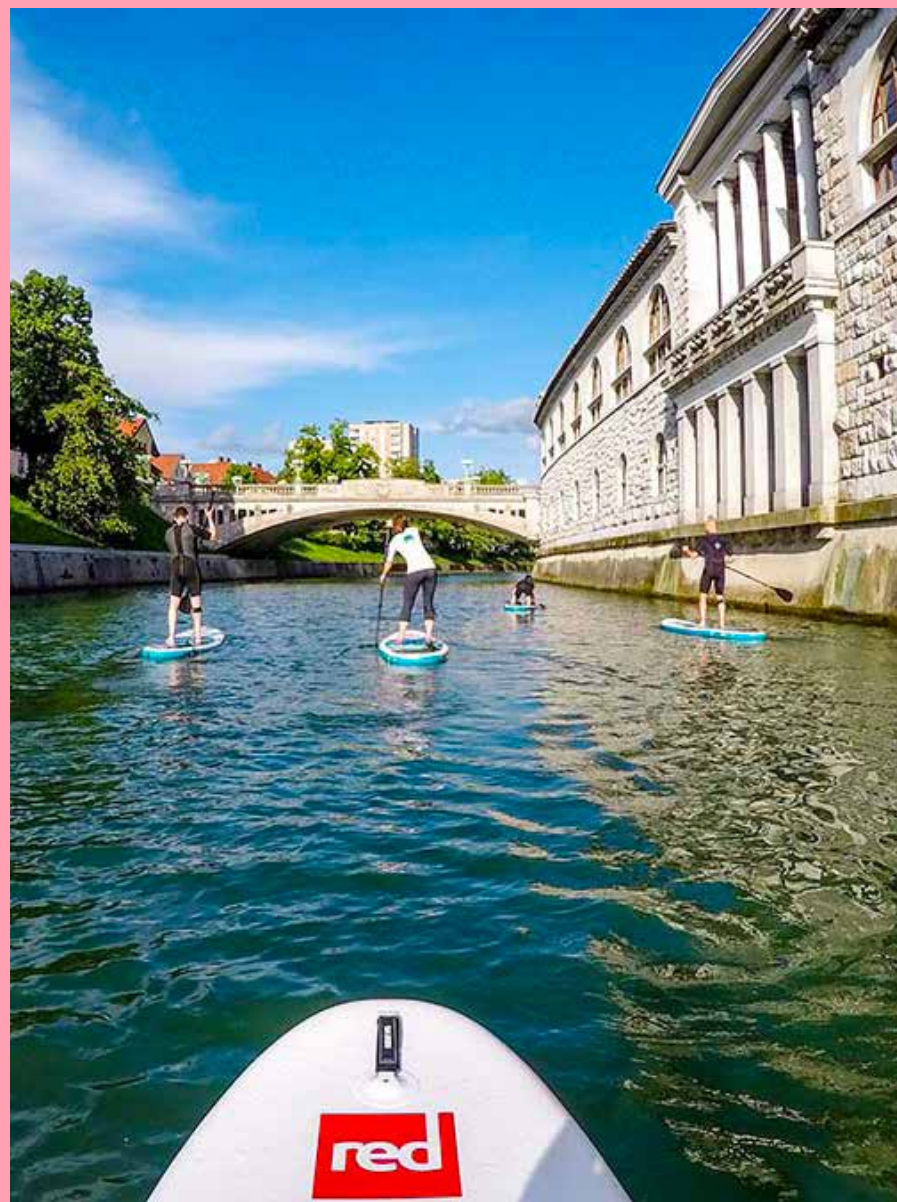
D4 FT14 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 12.00

SUP Ljubljana: Paddle the City



"Experience Ljubljana from a totally new angle, on a stand-up paddleboard. You'll start with a quick ASI-certified intro that gets you ready for a smooth city-center paddle. Then glide down the Ljubljanica with a pro guide who keeps things playful while teaching SUP basics.

Along the way, photos capture your best moments on the water. SUP is a fun, full-body workout that suits almost everyone – the perfect blend of fitness, fresh air and sightseeing."



D4 FT15 March 27, 2026 | 13.00 – 14.00

River Ride: All Aboard the Electric Woodie



See Ljubljana from its most magical angle - the water! Hop onto the city's only electric wooden boat, handcrafted in Slovenia, and glide down the Ljubljanica for a slow, scenic cruise.

It's a super relaxed way to explore the old town, take in hidden details you'd never spot on foot, and enjoy the city's charm from a whole new perspective. Just sit back, breathe in the fresh air and let the river do the rest.



D4 FT16 March 27, 2026 | 13.00 – 16.00

Guiding Architects: Contemporary Slovenian Architecture



Although small, Slovenia is home to a remarkable number of outstanding contemporary architects and architectural studios that emerged from the distinctive and recognizable "Ljubljana School of Architecture," shaped by Plečnik, Vurnik, Ravnikar, Mihevc, and others.

On a walking tour through the city, we will encounter some of their most notable works, distinguished by conceptual strength, overall coherence, and attention to detail. These projects range from residential and cultural buildings to bridges and open-space designs, from public buildings to infrastructure. The works were created by internationally renowned architects and studios, including (following the itinerary): Atelier Arhitekti, Ambient, Boris Podrecca, Gregorič Dekleva, BAX Studio, Scapelab, Bevk Perovič, OFIS, and Sadar+Vuga, with references to Plečnik and Ravnikar along the way.



D4 FT17 March 27, 2026 | 13.00 – 14.00

Rog Reborn: A Factory Gets Its Groove Back



Step into the story of a building that has shaped Ljubljana for more than a century. Built in the late 19th century as a leather goods factory and expanded in the 1920s, it later became home to the Rog bicycle brand.

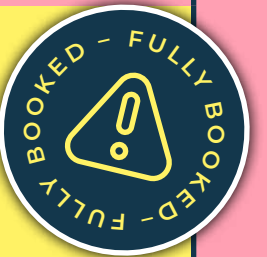
Today, the former factory is Center Rog, a lively creative campus with 9,000 m² of studios and shared workshops. On this tour, you will walk the old factory floor, explore nine active labs and see how heritage architecture now hosts metalwork, ceramics, culinary experimentation, digital fabrication and more.

Discover how Ljubljana transformed this industrial site into a community space for makers, designers and innovators. See how the city preserved its character, opened it to the public and turned Rog into a place where ideas, skills and creative energy flow.



D4 FT18 March 27, 2026 | 13.00 – 15.00

Bike Streets: Ride Ljubljana's Cycling Streets with the Bicycle Mayor



Ljubljana's flat terrain is perfect for cycling, but the quality of its bike network still ranges from inviting to intimidating, especially on the city's edges. Ride with the Bicycle Mayor of Ljubljana along Dunajska cesta, one of the city's longest corridors, all the way to Črnuče - home of a legendary doughnut stop.

This field trip gives you a firsthand look at both great and challenging sections of the route, showing where the city is making progress on safety and connectivity and where hurdles remain. You'll explore existing fixes, talk through persistent gaps, and consider the potential of new parallel bike streets on the return journey. A practical, eye-opening ride for planners, policymakers, and cycling advocates working to build a more welcoming, seamless bike network. Bicycles are provided. We will do our best to provide a sufficient number of helmets as well; but you are welcome to bring your own.



Field Trips LJUBLJANA AWAITS!

D4 FT19 March 27, 2026 | 13.00 – 15.00

Tivoli Treasures: Ljubljana's Green Heart



Take a relaxed stroll from Ljubljana's main square straight into Tivoli Park, the city's biggest and most beloved green escape. Along the way, your guide will point out local gems like the opera, museums and churches before you slip under the trees.

Meet the city's fluffiest residents at Tičistan, then wander past Cekin Mansion, Tivoli Mansion and the iconic Jakopič Promenade. Wrap up in the rose garden, home to Ljubljana's very own rose. It's the perfect mix of nature, stories and city charm all in one easy walk.



D4 FT21 March 27, 2026 | 09.00 – 11.00

Krater Collective: Urban Wilderness

Step into Krater, a vibrant experimental site where urbanism meets biodiversity, material innovation and artistic intervention. Guided by a special map, each team will follow a unique path through projects such as Forbidden Vernaculars, Feral Palace and Crafting Biodiversity. Encounter multispecies habitats, community economies and new models for 21st-century city-making. At the end, the most inspired discoveries will be celebrated. Expect curiosity, connection and a touch of friendly competition.



D4 FT22 March 27, 2026 | 10.00 – 12.00

Youth Platform: Creative Participation

Discover BAZA, Ljubljana's central youth hub and a bold city investment in young people as co-creators of urban life. Located in the renovated Palace Cukrarna, this 2,000 m², four-floor centre welcomes young people aged 15–29 and is operated by the public institute Mladi zmaji (Young Dragons).



WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS

VENUE

Urban Future 2026 takes place in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 24 to 27 March 2026. The first and the last day is dedicated to Field Trips across the city, days two and three are packed with sessions and workshops.

[Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre](#)
Dunajska cesta 18, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

WHERE TO STAY

Looking for a great place to stay?

We have secured special hotel deals and reserved room contingents exclusively for UF26 attendees.

Ljubljana fills up fast, so booking early is a very good idea.

Q&A ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Got questions? We have got answers.

Head to our [FAQ section](#) for everything you need to know.



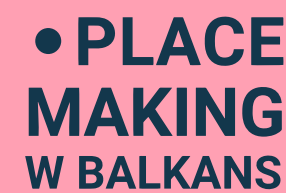
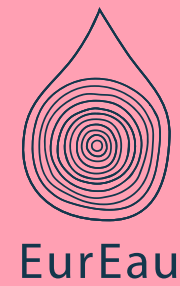
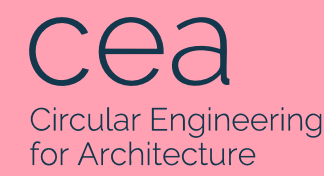
PREMIUM PARTNERS



LOCAL PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



CONNECT WITH THE CITYCHANGERS AT THE LOUNGE EXPO

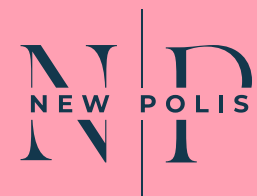
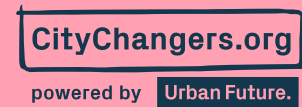


STORYTELLERS

We've got you covered!

Accreditation is open.
One click and you are in.

Looking to talk with bold speakers or the partners driving urban change? Curious about a media partnership? Let's make it happen.



URBCAST

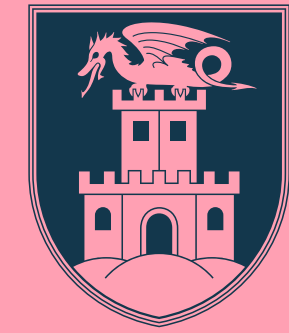


Plot Twist placemaking



Urban Future.

Ljubljana 26



City of
Ljubljana



**SEE YOU IN
LOVELY LJUBLJANA!**

Let's connect!

in

