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European Conference Renaturing Cities: Systemic Urban Governance for Social Cohesion

Milan, 1-2 December, 2014

Under the auspices of the





The European Conference on "Renaturing Cities: Systemic Urban Governance for Social Cohesion" is jointly organized by the European Commission – Directorate General for Research and Innovation -, the Municipality of Milan and the Scientific Committee for Milan EXPO 2015, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The theme of this conference complements the one identified for the European Conference "Renaturing Cities: Addressing Environmental Challenges and the Effects of Economic Crisis Through Nature-Based Solutions", held in Brussels on 13-14 May 2014 under the auspices of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The main aim of the Conference is to inspire Research and Innovation policies on sustainable urban development by bringing together scientists, policy makers, the business sector and representatives of the civil society.

The conference will focus on multilevel governance for urban and peri-urban areas and highlight the relation between supranational, national and sub-national scales, as well as the interplay of actors within these scales. In this respect, there is a need to pay more strategic attention to the complex interaction between the territory, economy, sovereignty and citizenship. Therefore, new instruments of urban governance based on a strong public-private partnership will be explored in order to facilitate the interplay between policy-making, market-driven actions and grassroots initiatives.

The Agenda of the Conference is structured in order to allow a fruitful exchange of experiences among different stakeholders on the link between renaturing cities, social cohesion, resilience, health and wellbeing both in urban and peri-urban areas.

In the context of Milan EXPO 2015, the conference will serve as showcase to demonstrate how Europe is leading the process of renaturing cities and how this European expertise could be up-taken at the international level.

The language of the Conference is English and Ania Rok, ICLEI, and two urban bloggers from the FP7 project ARTS (Accelerating and Rescaling Transition to Sustainability) will be responsible for twittering and blogging during the conference.



Agenda

Monday, 1st December 2014

9:00 Registration

<p>Plenary Session "Renaturing Cities: Research and Innovation Policy Priorities for Systemic Urban Governance"</p> <p>Chair: Ugo Guarnacci, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission</p> <p>The point of departure for this session is the common assumption that cities have to increasingly rely on systemic governance, advanced planning capacities and effective management to address complex and interrelated economic, social and environmental challenges. Therefore, the aim of this session is to discuss what R&I actions are needed in the field of sustainable urban development in order to steer appropriate governance structures and mechanisms able to link urban and peri-urban areas while promoting economic growth, social cohesion and environmental sustainability.</p>	
10:00 - 10:15	Franco D'Alfonso , Town Councillor for Commerce, Productive activities, Tourism and Territorial Marketing, City of Milan
10:15 – 10:30	Maurizio Martina , Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (tbc)
10:30 – 10:45	Kurt Vandenberghe , Director Climate Action and Resource Efficiency, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission.
10:45 – 11:00	Luisa Collina , Scientific Committee for EXPO 2015
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Paola Clerici-Maestosi , Vice Chair of the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe
11:45 – 12:00	Alessandro Balducci , Vice-Rector of the Politecnico di Milano
12:00 – 12:15	Indy Johar , Senior Innovation Associate, The Young Foundation
12:15 – 12:30	Stefano Boeri , Politecnico di Milano
12:30 – 13:00	<p><i>Discussion</i></p> <p>Main discussant: Jürgen P. Kropp, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</p>

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break



SESSION 1 "Innovating Cities with Nature for Economic Profitability and Social Cohesion"

Chair: **Guy Duke**, Director, The Environment Bank

The aim of this session is to present how European cities and city regions are adopting nature-based solutions in order to improve urban socio-ecological and economic functioning while developing innovative business and financing models. In addition, the two parallel world café discussions will offer the opportunity to debate both the role of 'civic universities' and civil society in innovating cities with nature as well as to investigate regulatory bottlenecks and market obstacles to be overcome while using nature-based solutions at city level.

14:00 – 14:20	Niki Frantzeskaki , Dutch Research Institute for Transitions, Erasmus University <i>Governance for urban sustainability: What it takes to bring nature back to the city? Lessons from Rotterdam</i>	
14:20 -14:40	Brigitte Mouligneau , Flemish Government <i>Flanders in Action</i>	
14:40– 15:00	Nadja Kabisch , Institute of Geography, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, <i>Berlin: A thriving city embraces its green spaces</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	Q&A Session	
<i>Break: Participants will be divided into two groups for the parallel discussions</i>		
15:45 – 16:45	World Café Discussion 1 - Topic: The Role of 'Civic Universities' and civil society in Innovating Cities with Nature Main presentation to introduce the topic by: Ulrika K. Stigsdotter , University of Copenhagen <i>Healthy therapy urban gardens and the value of applied research for health promotion: Lessons from Copenhagen</i>	World Café Discussion 2 - Topic: Regulatory bottlenecks and Market Obstacles to be addressed while Innovating Cities with Nature Main presentation to introduce the topic by: Paris Sansoglou , European Dredging Association <i>Obstacles in building waterborne infrastructures with Nature</i>
	Moderator: Ania Rok , ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	Moderator: Luc Bourdeau , Secretary-General European Construction Technology Platform and Member of the EERA JP on Smart Cities

16:45 – 17:00 Closing of the first day by **Birgit de Boissezon**, Head of Unit "Sustainable Management of Natural Resources", DG Research & Innovation, European Commission.



Tuesday, 2nd December 2014

SESSION 2 "Renaturing Cities for Healthier, Happier and Safer Societies"

Chair: **Nikolaos P. Nikolaidis**, Deputy Rector of Finance, Planning & Development Technical University of Crete

The aim of this session is to show the positive effects of nature-based solutions for improving human health, enhancing wellbeing and making cities a safer place to live in, taking into consideration both intra- and inter-generational justice. Therefore, the session will also focus on the link between renaturing cities and the decline in healthcare and security spending.

09:30 – 09:35	Trailer "Wild Thing Project" by David Bond <i>Reconnecting Children with Nature</i>
09:35 – 09:55	Ricardo García-Mira , Social and Environmental Psychology, University of A. Coruña <i>Transforming cities: the quest for sustainable lifestyle, urban innovation and safer communities</i>
09:55 – 10:15	Ophelie Durand , AGE Platform Europe <i>AFE-INNOVNET: developing age-friendly environments to make European cities better places to age actively and healthily</i>
10:15 – 10:35	Giampaolo Nuvolati , University Milano Bicocca <i>Quality of life and urban sustainability in Milan and its neighbourhoods</i>
10:35 – 10:50	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:50 – 11:10	Denia Koloktsa , European Cool Roof Council <i>Solutions and Countermeasures to Urban Heat Islands in European Cities: The role of Cool Materials and Nature-Based Solutions</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Scira Menoni , Politecnico di Milano & Adriana Galderisi , University of Naples Federico II <i>The interface between social, natural, built environments in cities: towards new frontiers of disaster risk reduction</i>
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Discussion</i> Main discussants: Jürgen Frick , University of Stuttgart Michele Penza , Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable (ENEA)



12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

SESSION 3 "Social Innovation for a Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Development"

Chair: **Mart Grisel**, Director, European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)

The aim of this session is to highlight the importance of citizen engagement and creativity for promoting the adoption of nature-based solutions at the local level. Social innovation will thus be analysed as a key factor for innovating cities with nature, since it creates a sense of ownership and commitment needed to foster participative environments where citizens, businesses and the public sector are willing to contribute and cooperate.

13:00 – 13:20	Elena Mozgovaya , NextHamburg <i>Crowdsourcing My Smart Neighbourhood</i>
13:20 – 13:40	Lucia Scopelliti , Municipality of Milan <i>FabriQ: incubator for social innovation of the Municipality of Milan</i>
13:40 – 14:00	Jesper Steenberg , Head of innovation, City of Copenhagen <i>Sharing Copenhagen: Using partnerships to engage children and youth actively in the green city transition</i>
14:00 – 14:20	Stefano Marrone , Nucco Brain Studio & Book on a Tree <i>Innovating through new citizens: children's cities</i>
14:20 – 15:00	<i>Discussion</i> Main discussants: Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch , University of Copenhagen Fabio Sgaragli , Social Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship Unit, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini

15:00 – 15:30 Concluding remarks by **Maria Yeroyanni**, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission.

15:30 – 17:30 Side event by the FP7 Project ARTS on "How much information is enough? Mapping transition initiatives to sustainability"