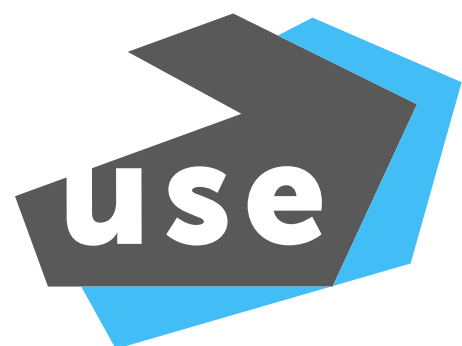


April 10, 2025
2-4 pm (CET)

Digital **Citymakers'** **Summit**

**Urban Collaborations:
Local Actions, Global Impact**

hosted by



urban
sustainability
exchange

Program

April 10, 2025
2-4 pm (CET)

2:00 pm Welcome

Representative of the Berlin Senate Chancellery

2:15 pm Panel Discussion

Urban Collaborations: Local Actions, Global Impact

What are the success factors of international urban exchange? What are the main challenges? What are successful examples and formats for urban collaborations aimed at global solutions? How can local urban policy making benefit the most of international knowledge exchange?

Panelists

Jordi Vaquer,
Secretary General of Metropolis,
Barcelona

Santiago García Vence
Head of Cabinet and responsible
for bilateral relations, City of
Buenos Aires

Julia Lopez Ventura
European Regional Director,
C40 Cities

Moderator

Rainer Seider
Head of the „International Affairs“
Division, Berlin Senate Chancellery

3:00 pm Parallel Network Sessions: Fields of Collaborations

Learn about inspiring projects, initiatives and knowledge resources and meet key actors in the field of sustainable urban development from around the globe!

Session A: hosted by **Metropolis**

Session B: hosted by **C40**

Session C: hosted by **World Habitat**

Session D: hosted by **Eurocities**

Session E: hosted by **UCLG Committee on Culture**

3:45 pm Summary & Closing Remarks

Summary of the networking sessions

**More information and
registration at**

**[use.metropolis.org/
digitalcitymakerssummit](https://use.metropolis.org/digitalcitymakerssummit)**

Panel Discussion

Urban Collaborations: Local Actions, Global Impact

What are the success factors of international urban exchange?

What are the main challenges? What are successful examples and formats for urban collaborations aimed at global solutions? How can local urban policy making benefit the most of international knowledge exchange?

Three international experts who each represent a different format and level of urban cooperation and therefore bring different perspectives to the table discuss these questions with moderator Rainer Seider, Head of the „International Affairs“ Department of the Berlin Senate Chancellery, who himself has around 30 years of professional experience in various areas of international cooperation between cities, especially Berlin.

Moderator



Head of Unit International Affairs,
Berlin Senate Chancellery

Rainer Seider

Rainer Seider has been serving as head of the Unit for International Affairs and as Deputy Head of Protocol for the Governing Mayor of Berlin since July 2022. Before he was heading the Unit for International Cooperation at the Senate Department for Economics, Energy, and Public Enterprises responsible for International Economic Policy, Development Policy, and European Affairs (Internal Market, State Aid) for twelve years. He holds the two German law degrees (Staatsexamina) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Sciences. Rainer Seider is an international bridge-builder for Berlin with a focus on startups.

Panelists



Secretary General, Metropolis

Jordi Vaquer

Jordi Vaquer is the Secretary General of Metropolis since May 2022. Previously, he worked as Regional Director for Europe and as Director for Global Foresight and Analysis at the Open Society Foundations, a global philanthropic organization working on human rights, civil liberties and democratic practice. Before that, he was the director of the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, one of Southern Europe's leading international relations think tanks. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, he teaches in a Master in International Relations at the Barcelona Institute for International Studies, and often offers commentary about international affairs in media and public events.



Bilateral relations, City of Buenos Aires

Santiago García Vence

Santiago García Vence is an international policy analyst and lawyer with a multidisciplinary academic background, having studied at the University of Buenos Aires, Sciences Po Paris, New York University, and the London School of Economics and Political Science. With over a decade of experience in the public sector and civil society organizations, he specializes in international relations, global governance, and public affairs. He has held prestigious fellowships, including at The Hague Academy of International Law (2018), UBA-INT (2019), and the Chevening Fellowship (2021).



European Regional Director, C40 Cities

Júlia López Ventura

Júlia López Ventura is the Regional Director for Europe at C40 Cities, a position she has held since 2015. With two decades of experience in urban innovation, sustainability, and climate diplomacy, she works closely with political leaders to develop science-based programs that strengthen the role of European cities in global climate action. Prior to joining C40, she spent ten years at the City of Barcelona, her hometown, fostering international collaboration and urban policy innovation. An experienced team leader and skilled communicator, Júlia is committed to building trust-based partnerships with local governments and international organizations. She is also dedicated to education and regularly teaches on climate crisis and city diplomacy at leading universities worldwide.



Network Sessions

Sessions & Speakers

The following **5 network sessions** further explore innovative urban solutions to global challenges. Hosted by partners of the use platform – Metropolis, C40, World Habitat, UCLG Committee on Culture and Eurocities – the network sessions present practical examples and successful programmes. The sessions also offer opportunities for **exchange with international experts in the field of sustainable development.**

[use.metropolis.org/
digitalcitymakerssummit](https://use.metropolis.org/digitalcitymakerssummit)

Session A

metropolis ●

Sustainable Mobility for Inclusive Cities: Integrating Gender Perspectives in Sustainable Transport Policies

hosted by Metropolis

As cities transition toward **sustainable urban mobility**, ensuring inclusivity remains a key challenge. This session presents a real case study from an EU-funded international city-to-city cooperation project implemented in Bogotá, aimed at advancing sustainable transport with a threefold objective: improving air quality, promoting gender inclusivity, and fostering economic opportunities. With women as the primary beneficiaries, the project addresses mobility challenges through targeted policies and specific strategies that enhance safety, accessibility, and citizenship participation. The session will **highlight main challenges, key achievements, lessons learned, and replicable strategies that other cities can adopt to foster equitable and sustainable mobility solutions.**

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Programms Officer, Metropolis

Daniel Pelufo

Daniel Pelufo Pascual is Programs Officer at Metropolis, World Association of Major Cities, where he oversees the technical coordination of the AVANTIA EU-funded program. He holds a degree in Law, a Master's in International Development Cooperation, and a postgraduate degree in General Management of Non-Profit Organizations. With extensive experience in international development and humanitarian relief across MENA, Africa, and Latin America, he is committed to advancing urban programs that address climate justice, social inequality, and resilience.

Session B

From Planning to Action: Implementing Climate Budgeting for Effective City Governance

hosted by C40

For the past decade, cities have been developing climate action plans (CAPs) aligned with the collective goal of halving emissions by 2030 and achieving equitable, net-zero and climate-resilient cities by 2050. With 2030 approaching, the challenge is shifting from planning to implementation. This session, hosted by C40, explores **how and why cities should adopt climate budgeting as a governance system to deliver the ambitious climate action goals set out in their CAPs, with top tips to get started.**

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Head of Climate Budgeting, C40

Catrin Robertsen

Catrin Robertsen is Head of Climate Budgeting at C40, leading a program that helps cities integrate climate targets into governance and financial planning. Before joining C40, she was a lead technical advisor at the Climate Agency of the City of Oslo, where she played a key role in developing the city's climate budget. She previously worked at the Norwegian Environment Agency on national emissions inventories and impact assessments. Catrin holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and a Master's in Economics, specializing in development and natural resource economics, from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.



Senior Manager of Climate Budgeting, C40

Astrid Johanne
Svensson

Astrid Johanne Svensson is Senior Manager of Climate Budgeting at C40, a program designed to help cities operationalize their climate targets. She is seconded from the City of Oslo, where she worked at the Urban Environment Agency, overseeing the implementation of the city's Strategy for Reduced and Sustainable Consumption. In this role, she led an inter-municipal consultation group and collaborated with researchers to develop climate impact indicators. She has also worked on circular economy projects, international development, and humanitarian initiatives. Astrid holds a Master's in International Environmental Studies from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

Session C



Mainstreaming and Institutionalising Community-Led Housing: A Pathway to Inclusive Cities

hosted by World Habitat

As housing financialization drives unaffordability, **community-led housing (CLH) models are proving to be a powerful solution for securing long-term affordability and inclusion.** However, mainstreaming and institutionalizing these models remains a challenge due to policy gaps and limited access to finance, land, and resources. This session explores **how existing policy levers can be harnessed to mainstream community-led housing and how CLH movements have successfully institutionalised their operations to embed lasting power and resilience.**

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Programme Manager, World Habitat

Abigail Stoltzfus

Abigail Stoltzfus is the Programme Manager for the World Habitat Awards, where she oversees the Awards process and manages key partnerships and initiatives on affordable housing, carbon reduction, community-led housing, and land rights. She holds an MSc in International Security from Sciences Po, where she conducted a six-month field study on the development of the informal waste sector in Iraq, deepening her expertise in urban planning and housing issues. Prior to joining World Habitat, she worked at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), focusing on governance, anti-corruption advocacy, and post-conflict economic livelihoods.



Head of Strategy and Development,
European Community Land Trust Network

Laura Parker-Tong

Laura Parker-Tong is Head of Strategy and Development at the European Community Land Trust Network, working to advance community ownership of land and housing across Europe. Previously, she led the Local Growth Funding team at the UK Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, designing large-scale funding programs to address regional economic disparities. She also worked on COVID-19 social distancing policy. Before that, she was an economic analyst at Ernst & Young, where she qualified as a Chartered Accountant. With experience across private, public, and non-profit sectors, she specializes in local economic development, urbanism, and housing.

Session D

Cities in Transition: Local Strategies for Demographic Change

hosted by Eurocities



Demographic shifts are reshaping European cities, bringing both challenges and opportunities. Ensuring accessible housing, intergenerational fairness, and inclusive public services is key to fostering social cohesion, yet cities often face limited resources and fragmented governance.

This session explores how local governments can respond proactively to demographic change. Through case studies from **Porto** and **Vantaa**, participants will learn about innovative approaches to supporting aging populations and empowering youth. Porto's **Age-Friendly City Action Plan** focuses on active and healthy aging through collaboration and research-driven strategies, while Vantaa's **Liito House** and **Ohjaamo One-Stop Guidance Centre** provide integrated services to support young people in education, employment, and daily life.

The discussion will highlight key challenges, successful strategies, and scalable solutions that cities can adopt to build inclusive, resilient communities.

www.eurocities.eu

with



Senior Advisor on Social Affairs,
International Office Amsterdam

Niels Tubbing

Niels Tubbing is a senior advisor on Social Affairs at the International Office of the City of Amsterdam, specializing in migration and integration. Active in this field since 2009, he has led European projects and spoken at international conferences. Since 2020, he has chaired the Eurocities Working Group for Migration & Integration and coordinates the Urban Agenda Partnership for the Inclusion of Migrants & Refugees. He holds a BA in Media & Culture and English Language & Culture, as well as an MA in Film & Philosophy.



Program Director, City of Vantaa

Hannu Rusama

Hannu Rusama is Program Director at the City of Vantaa, where she leads the city's efforts to prevent segregation. Before taking on this role, she served as Director of Youth and Community Services, focusing on social inclusion and community engagement.



Head of the Division for Social Development
and Innovation, Municipality of Porto

Hugo Tavares

Hugo Tavares is Head of the Division for Social Development and Innovation at the Municipality of Porto, where he leads initiatives focused on the senior population and social innovation through the CIS – Porto Social Innovation Center. With over 18 years of experience at the Institute of Social Security, he has held leadership roles in social development, human resources, and the management of social care facilities. He holds a degree in Management, a postgraduate qualification in Financial Economics and Service Evaluation, and executive training in Public Administration. Hugo has been actively involved in shaping public policies for vulnerable populations, including homeless individuals, migrants, and at-risk youth.

Session E



Heritage, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

hosted by UCLG Committee on Culture

Cultural policies and programmes recognise the importance of **cultural heritage as a key element of climate change and sustainable development strategies**, alongside diversity and creativity. There is also a growing awareness of the impact of climate change from a local perspective. What are the current approaches to heritage and climate resilient development **from a local perspective**? Are there **innovative case studies** at city level?

with

Marta Llobet Franquesa

Program Manager, Focal Point for Culture
UCLG World Secretariat Barcelona

Andrew Potts (tbc.)

Adviser to Europa Nostra and
the European Heritage Hub

www.uclg.org/en