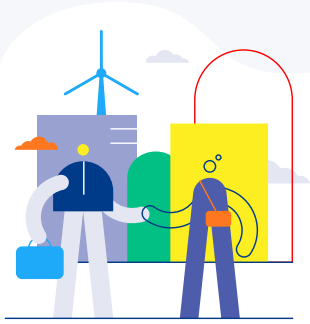


IURC at the Cities Forum 2023 in Turin. March 16th– 17th, 2023

Together for green and just cities

The 5th edition of the Cities Forum focused on the role of cities in implementing the European Green Deal and the importance of strategic approaches to address the needs for climate adaptation and environmental protection.



IURC invited participants to look at challenges from different perspectives (*Coming out of the European Box of thinking*) to find new, innovative, and inspiring solutions. In this process, we focused on positive impacts in **4 topics** related to the **European Cohesion Policy**: **1. Functional areas**, **2. The quadruple helix approach**, **3. The complementarity of funds**, and **4. Participation processes** through the experience of four of our EU cities.

1 Xavi Tiana  **Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)**

 Boston & Northern Virginia (US)

2 Elisa Limbacher  **City of Trier**

 Chennai (India)

3 Claudio Bordi  **City of Rome**

 Barranquilla (Colombia)

4 Philip Näslund  **City of Umeå**

 Kamakura (Japan)  Punta Arenas (Chile)



Bringing together key urban stakeholders at European, national, regional and local levels who are committed to a green and just future for cities.



A **delegation of IURC Latin America** with representatives of Mexico, Brazil, and Chile, as well as European counterparts, joined the close to 100 participants in an audience that included the European Commission, European Municipal Associations, and urban experts.

Coming out of the European Box: International Cooperation to inspire Sustainable Urban Transformation



1

Functional areas

Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), Spain -
Boston & Northern Virginia Regional Commission, US

Greening the metropolis

Challenges

- 636 km², 3.3 million inhabitants, 36 municipalities.
- Some of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in the EU
- 52% of the urban surface is considered green and blue infrastructure
- CC affecting the beaches (30km).
- Metropolitan government: Keep protecting and increasing green and blue infrastructure

Solutions

- Political priority.
- **Holistic vision:** Natural parks, rivers, beaches, urban parks, Agricultural park, etc.
- Green infrastructure key axis in the AMB New Urban Master Plan and other territorial plans.
- AMB Investment Plans and ERDF projects.
- Partnership with the 36 municipalities and other stakeholders.

2

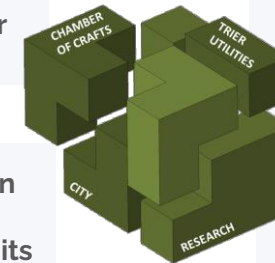
Quadruple helix approach

Trier, Germany – Chennai, India

Sustainable Urban Transformation

Trier, Germany focused on the **quadruple helix approach** in their exchanges with Chennai and the Circular Economy Campus. Starting with outstanding and modern education with the Chamber of Crafts, supported by strategic investments from Trier public utilities with the latest technologies, and a long-term partnership and Joint Research with the local universities. The way Chennai fosters strong participation of local communities and the systemic approach introduced by Trier ends up in new paths to create zero emission concepts in both campuses.

Outstanding and Modern Education with Chamber of Craft



Strategic Investment in Latest Sustainable Technologies of Trier Public Utility

Continuous Optimization and Adaptation of all Municipal Operating Units

Joint Research and Long-Term Partnership with Trier Univ. of Applied Sciences leads to Formation of Innovation Hub for Sustainable Technologies

Other contributions

The need for variable territorial scales and dimensions and the interdependencies among urban & metropolitan/territorial dimensions is also a priority for **Milan** within its cooperation with **Sao Paulo**. The functional areas are interpreted not only in "geographical" terms but as ecosystems of economical/competencies assets and actors. The importance of multi-sectoral and multi-actor processes emerges from the experiences of participatory regeneration processes in San Paolo, Brazil and Milan's approach to regeneration in Italy.



Other contributions

The **Scientific University of Ostrobotnia, Finland** and **Sapienza University in Rome, Italy** highlighted how both have been involved in the programme representing their regional and local, respectively, governments as a clear example of the added value of including the academia in the actions.

3

Complementarity of funds

ANCI Lazio & Rome, Italy – Barranquilla, Colombia
Málaga, Spain – Santiago de Cali, Colombia

Scaling up pilot actions



Regarding the impact of the **Complementarity of Funds, Rome/Anci Lazio, Italy** showed how IURC can work not only to internationalize local good practices, like the bottom-up process followed in Rome to develop urban gardens, but to transform the idea into a "seed" pilot to scale up through other programmes. Rome transformed the spontaneous occupancy of green public spaces into a solution to create a tool to fight urban sprawl, soil erosion, and climate change while increasing social inclusion. The Urban Gardens started with ENPI CBC MED, followed by a URBACT project, internationalized through IURC to Latin America where the participatory methodology was adapted in **Barranquilla, Colombia** inspiring Rome with new ways of involving citizenship. Both cities have upgraded the synergies among EU funds, implementing the IURC pilots through GenerACTOR, a project financed by the International Local Partnership.

Other contributions

The city of **Parma, Italy**, mentioned how the solutions and relations, at the local and International levels through their cooperation with **Merida, Mexico**, have an impact that goes beyond the scope of a single project. So, the synergies of EU programmes can help to bring out the needs of our cities overcoming common barriers.

Genoa, Italy, highlighted the way synergies among different EU Programmes such as Interreg Med, and Urbact have helped them to deep into the analysis of positive and negative effects of tourism in their local communities or the way they activate the participation of local stakeholders, experiences brought to IURC in their cooperation on the topic with **Mar del Plata, Argentina**.



Bottom-up processes in Rome. Community urban garden impact on 5 main benefit categories:

- **Social-cultural**
- **Environmental & climate**
- **Nutritional education**
- **Health & well-being**
- **Economic**

4

Participation processes

City of Umeå, Sweden– Kamakura, Japan
City of Umeå, Sweden– Punta Arenas (Chile)

Inclusion and Creativity



The case of **Umea, Sweeden** was also presented as an example of how international urban cooperation can also inspire new ways of **participation** and how this can be capitalized to reach climate goals.

The Kamakon, a citizen community of unconventional partnerships to propose solutions to local problems created in **Kamakura, Japan**, was brought to Umea to find climate solutions and sustainable lifestyles. The adaptation of this **social innovation participative** took to Umea, has been transformed into a long-term commitment to work with the local ecosystem supporting strategic initiatives like the 100 Cities Mission.

Other contributions

Ancona, Italy activated a participatory process regarding the topics and projects presented by associations and local entities to be part of the application dossier for Capital of Culture 2022. Some operational instruments, such as the Edicola-IAT, The new Tourism Prota or the Tourist Signs support this process. The involvement of citizens is a key element towards an identity image of Ancona with the development of a shared tourist strategy, and experiences brought to the cooperation under IURC with **Guanajuato, Mexico**.

Learnings

Long-Term commitment

Get started, adapt as you go!

Facilitate and support

Work with the local ecosystem

Value TIME

Finance implementation

