

Urban regeneration as a tool for inclusive and sustainable recovery

Report on the Expert Group Meeting

1 - 2 December 2021

Hybrid event co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the Basque Country Government
in Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), through its Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities Flagship Programme, and within the framework of the collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Government of the Basque Country, organized an **Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the role of Urban Regeneration as a tool for Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery** that was held on **December 1-2, 2021** in the Basque city of **Bilbao**. The event brought together experts and practitioners from national, regional and local governments,

research institutions, as well as private sector and civil society actors from around the world. This report summarises the proceedings of the two-day meeting, highlighting key messages, discussion points, best practices and recommendations from experts and participants. The debate focused on Urban Regeneration as an integrative process and essential instrument that city leaders, planners and policymakers, together with civil society, investors, and the private sector should consider achieving sustainable and inclusive cities, and the COVID-19 pandemic recovery.

Insights and recommendations

- Urban Regeneration represents an integrative process and essential city planning instrument that should reflect the new trends of fast-moving climate change, urban health, accelerated digital transformation, shifting notion and products of culture and increasing spatial inequality. These present challenges should also be seen as opportunities to advance, finance and build-back-better through urban regeneration initiatives.
- In the context of unprecedented government responses through fiscal stimulus packages, Urban Regeneration is being prioritised at the different scales and becomes a central tool for the execution of recovery plans.
- Inclusive and sustainable Urban Regeneration promotes a shift in the paradigm for urban life. It must consider social, economic, physical, and environmental aspects and set Environmental Social Governance (ESG) at the core of policies and operations.
- Urban Regeneration needs to be built on qualitative, reliable and comparable data and evidence.
- The integration of different governance levels, sectors, interested parties and the local community is crucial, and an investment is needed in partnerships, matchmaking, and innovation in working with different types of partners.
- Costs and investments should reflect a more holistic approach to Urban Regeneration: budget streams need to be connected and co-benefits articulated.

Urban regeneration moving forward

Participants in the EGM underlined their need and desire to work together multidisciplinary and at global level by sharing experiences, learning from each other and being part of a Reference Group, with cities, researchers and practitioners committed to the study of Urban Regeneration. This will lead to the development of global norms, principles and standards, and also support the efforts to consolidate benchmarks, data and methodologies to monitor spatial inequality and the contribution of Urban Regeneration to spatial inclusion and integration.

This collaborative effort also extends to the 11th World Urban Forum, which will take place in Katowice, Poland, in June 2022. In the future, UN-Habitat plans to promote further knowledge-sharing and international collaboration within its *Flagship Programme 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities*, and also with the development of the *Guidelines on Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration*, that will include some of the content debated on the EGM around data, impact orientation, benchmarks and methodologies, among other areas.



Expert Group Meeting participants | © UN-Habitat

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Introduction

Regeneration processes around the world are seeking to transform urban areas into more diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods and extend those positive impacts into the wider city-scale. As an integrated and inclusive process that combines physical, environmental, and socio-economic measures, Urban Regeneration has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive and effective tools that governments can adopt to promote more inclusive, resilient, safer, and sustainable cities.

It is in this context that the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on *Urban Regeneration as a tool for inclusive and sustainable recovery* gathered a diverse group of urban experts, representing different levels of governance as well as other urban actors, to exchange and compare international experiences, highlight good practices and discuss on concepts, data, methodologies and current challenges and opportunities. It also aimed at providing specific recommendations for the green and digital transition in cities, the financial packages, policy, and governance models, all of which facilitate positive regeneration processes.

The discussion revolved around current urban dynamics that force us to look at Urban Regeneration through an adjusted lens, including urban health and post-pandemic recovery, climate change adaptation and mitigation, shifting notion and products of culture, and the digital transformation. These dynamics may be perceived as challenges within the urban environment, but they also represent significant opportunities.

Regeneration processes require innovative approaches and financing, as well as complex, inclusive and sustainable policies that counteract the realities of displacement and speculation, historically associated with urban renewal strategies. Policy and governance frameworks, as well as innovative finance for Urban Regeneration were also discussed during the EGM as they continue to represent significant challenges, especially in the strained economic conditions many cities face today.

In the actual context of an increasingly urban world, the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World (July 2020) calls attention to the role of cities in addressing inequalities. Urban Regeneration has emerged as a fitting urban planning tool to ensure sustainable and inclusive city growth and enable the fulfilment of the objectives of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 in order to form inclusive settlements where the environmental values of urbanization are accessible to all citizens.

This report provides a summary of the EGM, with insights from each of the four panel sessions including key discussion points, tools, resources and recommendations from the experts, as well as the way forward and the expected outcomes of the meeting.



EGM objectives

- Share international experiences and good practices related to Urban Regeneration.
- Unpack current trends, identify opportunities, and provide specific recommendations for the green and digital transition in cities, the financial packages, policy, and governance models, facilitating positive Urban Regeneration processes.
- Identify the necessary preconditions for governments wishing to develop Urban Regeneration policies and interventions that take into account the new urban vulnerabilities and trends that have emerged after COVID-19.

Speakers

Speakers included 22 representatives of national and local governments, civil society, academia, global institutions and the private sector, from which more than half of them were women. They presented insights and case studies from Singapore, Netherlands, Spain, UK, USA, Chile, Italy, France, South Africa, Iran, Denmark and the European Commission. 12 Special guest respondents from 8 different countries were also invited to comment on the presentations and initiate the open discussion.

Participants

A total of 42 invited participants took part on the EGM, including the speakers and special guest respondents of each session, moderators from UN-Habitat and some attendees that were invited to take part in the open debate. The event was held in a hybrid format, with both face-to-face and online participation from all global regions.

There was equal participation by men and women, and also in-person and online attendance (Figure 1). Participants were representatives of various types of institutions (Figure 2), as well as from all global regions (Figure 3).

Fig 1. EGM participation by gender and attendance

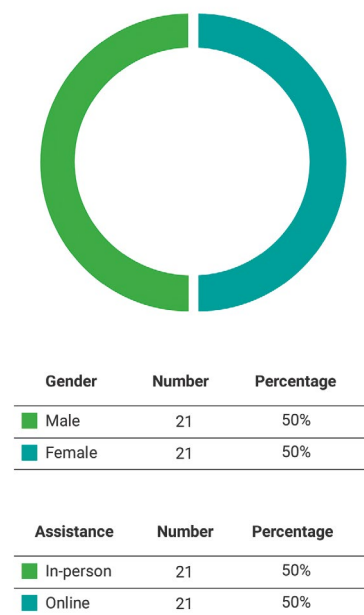


Fig 2. EGM participation by institution type

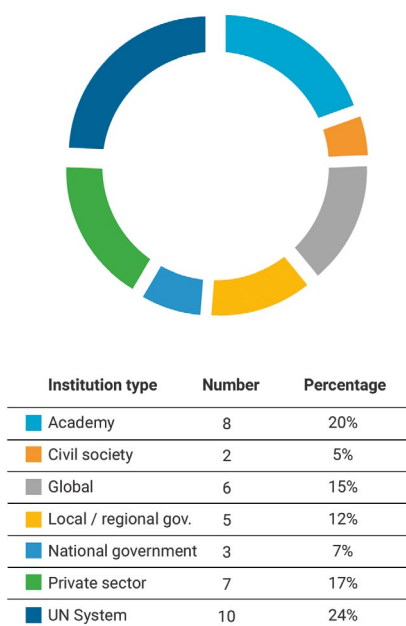
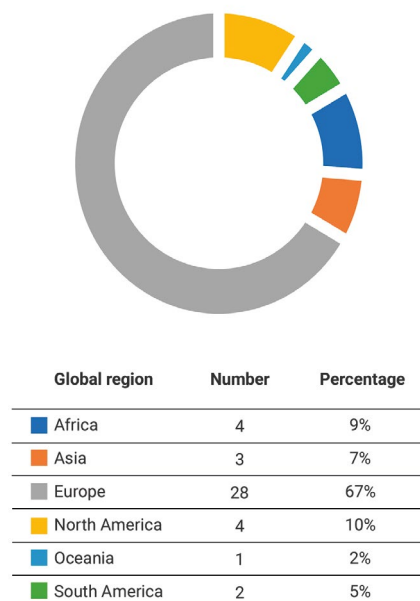


Fig 3. EGM participation by global region



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Summary of interventions

The event took place over two consecutive days in a hybrid format. It consisted on four main Sessions, besides an Inaugural Session that opened the EGM, a closing intervention on the Communiqué and Way Forward, and a final Wrap Up of the event.

The main sessions were composed of 4-6 interventions by the speakers followed by an interactive activity, and some contributions by special guest respondents that started a space for open discussion moderated by an UN-Habitat staff. The four main sessions were organised around the following topics:

Day 1

Session 1

**Rethinking Urban Regeneration:
Current Challenges**

Session 2

**Addressing Spatial Inequality: Neighbourhood-Based
Regeneration and Community Participation**

Day 2

Session 3

**Policy and Governance Frameworks for Urban
Regeneration**

Session 4

**Innovative Finance for Urban
Regeneration**

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

Day 1 | Inaugural session

Carmen Sánchez-Miranda, Head of the UN-Habitat Office in Spain, welcomed participants, and thanked the Basque Government for the substantive and financial support for the Meeting, recognising the fruitful collaboration with UN-Habitat in the past years.

She mentioned the Euskal Hiria Congress, held the previous days in Vitoria, noting the importance of local and territorial discussions to feed into the global discourse and debate on Urban Regeneration. This partnership is an example of UN-Habitat's work with regional governments with decentralized competences, in already-urbanized contexts with medium-high levels of development and income.

Ignacio de la Puerta, Counsellor of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Country, noted the Basque Urban Agenda (Bultzatu 2050) is another result of this strategic partnership between the Basque Government and UN-Habitat.

He introduced the three concepts and definitions of city interventions that the Basque Government uses:

- Rehabilitation (retrofitting), as a physical intervention on elements of a building or urban space.
- Regeneration, as a set of large scale interventions that include more disciplines.
- Renovation, as a replacement of existing elements by new ones.

He related these interventions to the migratory movements expected to happen in the near future, and the stronger need cities will have to adapt to welcome the new population on equal terms.

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch at UN-Habitat, raised key issues that have arisen from the Covid pandemic (the acceleration of the digital transformation, the loss of lives, general growing poverty and inequalities, etc.), noting that we are now at an inflexion point.

Government measures, packages and policies provide the combined possibility to emerge stronger from the pandemic while transforming economies and creating new opportunities for all. She highlighted the role of local actions and governments, which have been the ones most significantly affected by the pandemic, and the need to balance short and long term measures.

Shipra presented Urban Regeneration as a key instrument to reduce social spatial inequalities by improving the quality of life in targeted communities and areas, but also incubating, enhancing and catalysing larger economic, social and environmental benefits for the city as a whole. She reinforced the goal of the meeting, introducing the work of UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme 1 on Inclusive and Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities (in which this EGM was included) and the agency's aim to build an initiative that brings together partners to build tools, principles and priority areas for Urban Regeneration.

“ Ensuring the allocation of resources to strategic areas is key, and a balance must be found between the short and long term. Local governments have been the most affected by the needs caused by COVID.

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch UN-Habitat.

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

Day 1 | Inaugural session

Finally, Shipra mentioned the Report of the EGM and the joint Communiqué, which will capture the main findings of the discussion. She also introduced some future collaborative actions for the Flagship Programme 1: the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Urban Regeneration and a future EGM Follow-up Workshop (virtual) to discuss the development of the Guidelines for Inclusive and Sustainable of Urban Regeneration, all leading up towards the WUF 11 in June 2022.



Session 1

Rethinking Urban Regeneration: Current Challenges

Session overview

The first session presented recent experiences of Urban Regeneration focusing on the implications of the **digital transition, climate action, culture and urban health** for the planning and design of cities. At the global level, these four approaches mark new trends that shape the urban environment and the design of our future cities. The discussion focused on the role Urban Regeneration can play in shaping our post-pandemic future, but also in helping cities adapt to the new realities of the green and digital transition.

Interventions

Katja Schäfer, Inter-Regional Advisor at UN-Habitat moderated the first session. She introduced issues triggered by the pandemic in relation to the role of local governments and communities and how urban regeneration can be used to address the challenges that cities face, now exacerbated by the pandemic, and to building back better.

Oscar Carracedo

Director of Designing Resilience Global Network and Head of R&D Department of Resilience and Sustainability at SOG Design

Urban Regeneration for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Asia

Oscar Carracedo reflected on the world's population growth forecasts, both rural and urban, and the actual decline of the rate of global population growth. 60% of the places that will be urbanised by 2030 haven't been built yet, and 1 million new houses will be needed by 2050, and Urban Regeneration plays a key role in how to adapt existing urban areas as an alternative to expanding cities' boundaries.

He talked about the recent COP26, explaining CO₂ emissions data in cities, also stating the importance of Urban Regeneration to urban resilience and adaptation to climate change, especially in Asian cities where four out of five people will be affected by it.

He claimed pro-positive strategies, highlighting the concept of **regenerative urbanism**: going beyond sustainability, which is no longer enough, and **put development to work as a positive force that repairs natural and human systems**.

He concluded by listing **8 key planning principles** to inspire and discuss on:

- Reinstatement of nature.
- Decarbonize.
- Decentralize (self-sufficiency and "off-the grid living").
- Synergetic and scalable small interventions.
- Hybrid ways of living (with nature and not against it).
- Virtual technology to prevent, prepare and mitigate effects of the climate change,
- Interdependence of systems.
- Cohesion and inclusion.



Sustainable urban design is no longer enough, we should embrace the concept of regenerative urbanism and put development to work as a positive force that repairs natural and human systems.

Oscar Carracedo

Bas Boorsma

Chief Digital Officer City of Rotterdam

The New Digital Deal – Digitalisation for the Benefit of All Communities

Bas Boorsma focused on the topic of digitalisation for the benefit of all communities, and pointed out that with the new wave of technologies (new industrial revolution) **we're now becoming more networked and less centralized**, the opposite of what happened in previous industrial revolutions. This highly impacts the way we educate, learn, share and use energy, communicate between government and citizens... and the challenge within this is not about technology but about the **need to adapt to this new paradigm of digitalization and interconnection**.

Bas stressed the need to move faster to adapt to all the changes ahead in order to enjoy the new opportunities promised by the digital revolution. Education is key in order to prepare for it and mitigate some of the social problems and community issues that will arise, like those regarding social media, privacy, job loss, transport and mobility, etc.

The design of built spaces is influenced by the fact that office, school, leisure and living spaces are now more connected than ever. Recent changes on the way we perceive city centres from "places of buying" to "places of experiencing" puts pressure on all urban actors on how to correctly manage those changes. In the same way, mainstreaming of remote working should be correctly managed in order to incorporate not only the changes derived from more place and time independence while working, but also to cultivate and nurture the culture that comes with smart work. There is an increased need of spaces designed for people to meet, and in order to cope the strong social demand for those spaces, we need **agile and flexible urban surfaces and relationships between government, citizens and business**.

Finally, he shared the example of Rotterdam, where digital is core to the agenda not just in the traditional sense of "smart cities", but related to social inclusion and cohesion, education or citizen participation platforms. Covid-19 proved that digitalization is essential and it can be a force of good, embracing the new network paradigm to perform differently: smarter and greener.

Carolyn Daher

Coordinator of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative at ISGlobal and Acting Director of the International Society for Urban Health

Improving urban health through urban regeneration

Carolyn Daher framed health as a concept that is not just about being sick or not being sick, but about all the factors that influence our wellbeing, and how it therefore needs a more holistic approach to it. The challenges that we're facing in our cities are directly related to health, but the health system cannot respond to them alone: we need to **focus much more on prevention and how we can promote health at urban level** through actions that allow the health system be the last response.

She reflected on the overlap between urban planning and health, being the main domains of change of UNH's Strategic Plan 2020-2030 public health goals too. The biggest challenge is to build communities of practice and join forces to understand and use health as a driver for change. Health also includes mental health, social isolation, movement, climate change, air pollution, adequate housing etc., and cities should be prepared for all of these challenges that always affect the most to the more vulnerable population.

She commented that a **multisectoral and systemic approach is needed** to address current problems, and that all of the urban actors (designers, architects, transport planners, urban designers, engineers...) have a critical opportunity to promote and protect health. She also mentioned the need to align to political cycles, which are normally short term and don't embrace long-term strategies, and also insisted that Urban Regeneration needs to engage and empower communities.

To conclude, and as the key point of her intervention, Carolyn highlighted that the **discourse around costs and investments should change** in order to help decision makers with more clear evidence of the cost-efficiency of doing things in new ways:



When budgets are connected and co-benefits articulated, the costs of new and more comprehensive actions are not expenditures but good investments for the future.

Carolyn Daher

Gabriella Gómez-Mont.
Founder of Experimentalista

Culture and innovation as key pillars of sustainable development

The last speaker of the session was Gabriella Gómez-Mont, who explained that culture in cities should be thought not only from the perspective of institutional spaces (museums, art galleries...), but as a creative ethos that helps build cities not only for the human body but also for the human imagination. She talked about **the connections between cities, political imagination and social creativity**, and shared some experiences from her work at Mexico City, where her team reflected on the need for politics to consider how citizens imagine the future of the city.

She discussed micropolitics, door-to-door policy and **articulating the city around care**, mentioning the work she's doing in Bogotá, where many women can't access government services because of the intensity of the care burden they carry.

The aspirational model of Urban Regeneration relates to urban imaginaries: creating a vision for the future city as a playful, pedestrian, care-centred, open city. She shared examples of highways temporarily made pedestrian and cycle friendly to express that **policy needs to be translated into an experience of the city**, so that these visions of the city's future bring the community together and enter the urban imaginary. For this to happen, the main challenge is **making a shift in deep organizing principles: from a logic of economics and efficiency to one of public value, creativity and civics.**

She concluded talking about micro civics and articulating different social energies at neighbourhood level. Spatial injustice, access to public space and marginalization are some of the areas that architects and designers should work on together with communities, and for that, public spaces should be perceived and designed as civic spaces, with enough density of human interaction needed to create community.



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Interactive activity

The interactive activity of Session 1 was focused on new trends, opportunities, and challenges in Urban Regeneration, looking at measures and concrete actions for long-lasting positive outcomes. A summary with the results of the activity can be found in the annex *Interactive Activities*.

Respondents' interventions

Some comments on the presented topics were made by three special guests respondents, starting with **Nick Bailey**, Emeritus Professor of Urban Regeneration at the University of Westminster.

He summarised that Urban Regeneration embraces social, economic and environmental aspects, so almost all government activity is implied, as well as the private sector and civil society. Those countries which have been more creative and innovative in engaging all actors have been the ones more successful and effective in doing Urban Regeneration.

He also commented on **subsidiarity and the importance of the relationship between central and local governments**. National governments set frameworks and standards and provide financing to enable a stable and well-considered policy context, allowing other operators to work within that and deliver effectively. Finally, he recognized the challenge of managing information and documents on the policy context and keeping it updated and available to all urban actors.

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the Committee on Culture of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments), talked about culture, highlighting four elements connected to what was previously discussed:

- 1 The paradigm of urban development needs to be changed from a triangle (economy/social inclusion/environment), towards a square which adds **culture as an explicit dimension of sustainable development** and as an operational dimension of urban transformations. Culture is an area of conflict, power and difficulties that needs to be rights-based and to connect to the economy, environment and social inclusion needs.
- 2 The **cultural dimension of development should be operationalized**. He mentioned UCLG *Toolkit Culture 21: Actions*, which is a rights-based toolkit aimed at including the cultural dimension in urban sustainability.
- 3 Regarding the 2030 Agenda, although culture is not considered as an SDG, there is a need to explicitly connect it with all of them.
- 4 We need debate on culture and sustainable development to be bolder and more organized, and a **rights-based cultural agenda at the local, national and international level**. He described the "culture 2030 goal" movement, and criticised that culture is not considered sufficiently in the VNRs and national agendas.

“ The paradigm of urban development needs to be changed from a triangle (economy/social inclusion/environment), towards a square which adds culture as an explicit dimension of sustainable development and as an operational dimension of urban transformations.

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.

Cerin Kizhakkethottam, Programme Development Branch at UN-Habitat, was the last respondent and wrapped up by reminding that we are at the crossroads for cities, with four different intersecting crises: health crisis (not only covid-related but also in regards to food insecurities, malnutrition...), financial and economic crisis, social crisis (refugees, inequalities...), and climate crisis that goes hand by hand with the biodiversity crisis. All of them are faced at the most in cities, especially in the more vulnerable areas such as informal settlements.

In order to develop the potential for Urban Regeneration we need to look into what is the finance opportunity in those processes, and how we can **leverage Urban Regeneration into better and more ambitious climate actions**. Even though there has recently been more climate funding, less of it (only 10%) is used in adaptation and creating more resilience, and from that, only a very small percentage has gone from national government to local governments and stakeholders. She sustained that if we want to have more ambitious climate action at the local level, we also need to have a **stronger mandate for cities**.

She insisted on the need to break silos, and that national commitments for climate action are not enough, since they need to reflect the needs of the cities and specially the needs of the most vulnerable groups: cities have the potential to become a hub for accelerating climate action, for social justice and for a healthier environment.

Lastly, she briefly commented that the Glasgow Declaration has been the first time that indigenous culture and knowledge was embedded, and first time also that there was multi-level and multi-sectorial governance.



In order to develop the potential for Urban Regeneration we need to look into what is the finance opportunity in those processes, and how we can leverage Urban Regeneration into better and more ambitious climate actions.

Cerin Kizhakkethottam

Open debate for all participants

Katja Schäfer opened the debate, aiming to discuss how the covid impact that we see can affect the way we do and perceive Urban Regeneration.

Rehana Moosajee reflected on the inequalities regarding the Global South on this pandemic (vaccine access, traveling restrictions...) and the difficulties of avoiding the interests of the private sector to dictate the ways of Urban Regeneration at neighbourhood level. She also said that when moving from the global to the local we need to keep aligning what we say and what we do.

Chris Brown commented on retrofitting and the case of the UK, where the challenging target is to retrofit 7% of the built stock. He reflected that if that investment were to be focused in deprived neighbourhoods, its economic impact would be much larger.

Katja remarked the fact that retrofitting is a huge opportunity for generating a new type of employment and for community engagement in shaping their own neighbourhoods.

After that, **Laura Petrella** talked about the recent change on the idea of Urban Regeneration: from perceived as a strategy to work on and bring out the potential of cities' areas that don't perform well, to a wider understanding that vulnerable and neglected neighbourhoods can't be isolated and affect the performance of the city as a whole and some of the indicators that we looked up for "good quality of a city" should be reconsidered.

She brought to the debate the issue of scale: actions are area and neighbourhood-based, but retrofitting needs to be done at a bigger scale. So, a big challenge is to remain focused on neighbourhood-based actions to meet today's larger-scale needs.

Katja talked about upscaling to reach more people and communities and accelerate action.

Bas Boorsma also commented on scale in regards to innovation, explaining that innovation needs to be thought from the lens of replicability and scalability from the beginning. He mentioned examples like the smart cities and “death by pilots” to argue that we need less pilots and more scalable solutions, as well as a better understanding of the ecosystem by building partnerships and working with the needs of the investing community.

Rogier Van den Berg discussed the potential for climate action both as a lever for urban regeneration, and as actions that are much easier to measure and monitor than “good or bad” urban planning. City leaders need to take climate actions, close the urban services gap and create jobs, and there is a huge opportunity on working towards climate neutrality at the neighbourhood level to achieve those three goals simultaneously.

Back to the debate on scale and innovation, **Cécile Maisonneuve** recognized that the focus of innovation needs to be changed in the geography of our cities. Until now, innovation has mainly looked at city centres, but all peripheral neighbourhoods where innovation is hugely needed (both social and technical), have been left aside. If we really need to scale up solutions, we need to think from those peripheral spaces first, since due to the lack of density, innovation in the city centres is not replicable in those areas.

Cerin Kizhakkethottam reintroduced the issue of resilience and what cities need to respond to eventual crisis coming, whether climate change or other type of social crises, highlighting three main ideas:

- Costs of investing on resilience and infrastructure should be approached not only in terms of physical infrastructure, but also from the social component and what the infrastructure serves to. This poses the challenge of designing infrastructure to not only meet today’s climate issues, but also work for future urban and climate trends.
- Investing in a resilient infrastructure reduces the background risks for others to invest into cities and the needs of the communities to adapt to climate vulnerabilities. Therefore, improving cities’ resilience to reduce climate risk allows for entrepreneurship to invest, be more self-sustainable and have income-generating services.
- Investment on resilience also creates co-benefits, such as a more stable education system, bring back cultural identities and be part of disaster preparedness plans, among others.

Oscar Carracedo discussed the tendency to think on Urban Regeneration from the Western perspective of transforming the existing, and whether this idea can be globalised and applied in other regions where cities are still growing exponentially. Talking from his experience in Asia and mentioning examples like the empty cities in China, he argued that although concepts like retrofitting can be implemented globally, we still need to understand how to work with new areas and cities following the principles of Urban Regeneration also in new urban areas and not only transforming the existing ones.



Roberto San Salvador brought two ideas to the debate. The first was that proximity is a key driver and that new connectivity, both physical and digital, needs to be taken into account by thinking about ways we can use digital connectivity to improve social relations and neighbourhood partnerships. His second point was on participation, and how SDGs and the 2030 Agenda have generated an elite around those concepts, that don't usually include the general public in their discussions. He finished by pointing out that community participation should come from the community's commitment to the common challenges we all have.

Carolyn Daher reinforced the issue of participation by stating the need to provide multiple entry points for people to participate and engage, embedding the fact that people have different ways to give their voices.

She also commented on the idea of "death by pilots" brought by Bas Boorsma, that the monitoring and evaluating part of those projects and investments' outcomes are not integrated well enough. Without evidence of the projects' impacts, it can't be clearly affirmed which projects or solutions need to be implemented and replicated. She highlighted the need to standardize concepts, especially when having multi-sectorial approaches, and asked for planners to be more explicit on what they need from the health community in terms of data, research, etc.

Gabriella Gómez-Mont's comments focused on language and the city, expressing the need for a vocabulary that is not only about urban concepts but also includes the social ones. When speaking about the right to the city, it's not just about spatial justice, mobility, health,

etc. alone, but their interrelatedness, and new language is needed in order to express that complexity. She also reflected on the concept of politics of invisibility and "the majority world" by sharing examples such as the idea that informal mobility is the mobility of the majority of the population in many cities, and how changing its name may change the way we think about it.

Finally, regarding scalability from the social perspective, she remarked that social issues and approaches don't scale in the same ways as built ones.

Rogier Van den Berg looked at power structures needed to let Urban Regeneration take place and which actors can act and respond to incentives given, and how Covid-19 has been disruptive in breaking power structures that used to make impossible to make some changes.

Andoni Hidalgo pointed out that retrofitting and improving the building's conditions means not only physical changes, but also social issues that come from those changes like avoiding social isolation, health improvements, savings coming from energy efficiency, and gender equality matters.

Finally, to wrap up the debate, **Katja Schäfer** concluded that it's important to frame sustainability within different political and governance levels and their ambition, and that in order to take development forward, an enabling environment needs to be stimulated at local level. She finished by reflecting on the role that UN-Habitat can have, on creating standards or guidelines, but also on advocating for these ideas and helping to share experiences, taking knowledge to the local level and beyond the political times.



Session 2

Addressing Spatial Inequality: Neighbourhood-Based Regeneration and Community Participation

Session overview

The second session explored the role Urban Regeneration plays in reducing spatial inequality and promoting city-wide benefits. It brought to the fore the challenges, opportunities and limitations of neighbourhood changes in relation to measuring data and indicators, community involvement and displacement. Urban practitioners illustrated strategies for inclusive and dynamic neighbourhoods, presenting key findings and tools to monitor and reduce spatial inequality.

Interventions

Cecilia Andersson, Acting Chief, Planning Finance and Economy Section at UN-Habitat, moderated this session and started by sharing data from different reports from UN-Habitat and the World Resources Institute mentioning unequal access to municipal services, which has worsened during the last two decades due to poorly managed growth in cities.

She also highlighted that inequalities make cities less productive, less healthy and less resilient, and that regeneration can be a powerful tool to tackle all these issues. Finally, she introduced some of the gaps that exist regarding data gathering and analysis around spatial and environmental indicators, but especially in relation to social indicators.

Ignacio de la Puerta

Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Country

Local challenges and best practices

Ignacio de la Puerta shared the Comprehensive Urban Regeneration project in vulnerable neighbourhoods in the Basque Country, aiming to illustrate how these regeneration-related concepts are implemented on the ground. After briefly describing the context and historical background, he illustrated the situation of vulnerable neighbourhoods in the Basque region, many of which are the result of re-housing actions developed in the 1960s on the suburbs of cities such as Bilbao, and which bring with them major problems of urban segregation and vulnerability.

In 2011, an inventory of urban vulnerability revealed that more than 30% of the Basque Country was in a situation of high or very high vulnerability, even after 40 years of retrofitting and regeneration policies and investments. Among others, the main cause for this was the lack of a more holistic approach, working exclusively on physical elements (construction) without managing the relationship with the neighbours as well as working on other areas such as economy, integration, services, etc.



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Ignacio also explained the work of the Basque Government with the Urban Regeneration Service in pilot neighbourhoods, establishing solutions to both issues related to management (with the implementation of proximity centres), and also to economic development, approaching new Urban Regeneration initiatives from areas such as employment, shared self-consumption initiatives, generation of new meeting spaces and proximity centres for new activities in the neighbourhood, sustainable mobility, incorporation of culture and nature-based solutions, etc. These strategies are followed by a **governance system that includes administrations at all levels, research centres and companies, and a new model of public-private collaboration** that allows the experience of the pilot projects to be extended to the rest of the Basque Country.

Ignacio finished highlighting the importance of putting people at the centre, **identifying local problems and integrating them in a comprehensive way** in order to generate a more holistic vision of the issues to be addressed that would be impossible in a sectoral way.

Alice Siragusa

Project Coordinator at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Indicators for urban inclusion

Alice Siragusa looked at the use of funds from EU cities in sustainable urban development, sharing that 70% of cities' strategies tackle the areas of social inclusion, poverty and discrimination. She also recognized cooperation, harmonization of data and learning from best practices as some of Europe's strong points, and the **importance of measuring SDGs to develop a shared language and frame of indicators for comparability and common understanding**.



People should be put at the centre of Urban Regeneration, identifying local problems and integrating them in a comprehensive way.

Ignacio de la Puerta

Part of JRC's work has focused on indicators to measure SDGs in a harmonized way. Alice commented that although many cities have strong data managing capacity, the majority of them in the EU and other parts of the world need support on that. There has recently been a shift in monitoring towards locally produced indicators, which means that cities have been able to not only produce more indicators but also collect them.

JRC piloted this framework of indicators with 6 cities and issued a report, from which Alice presented the example of the City of Porto to show the disparity within indicators' availability and frequency of recollection.

Finally, she left some final thoughts regarding challenges and opportunities of both standard and more available indicators:

- Standard indicators available to many cities
 - Limitations: timeliness, granularity, frequency.
 - Consistent data collection can be used to identify priority areas and monitor effectiveness, but the challenge is to plan and guarantee data collection and dissemination.
- New data and techniques
 - Challenges: capacities, replicability, cost and maintenance.
 - Opportunities: when cities start looking for indicators, data and knowledge from different city departments, they usually find much more than what they thought they had.
 - Digital divide, not only within cities but among them.

Eleanor Warwick

Head of Strategic Policy and Research
at Clarion Housing Group

Mechanisms of Social Participation: Application to Urban Regeneration

Eleanor Warwick shared some of Clarion Housing Group actions related to participation, and how although CHG's work focuses on affordable housing for vulnerable residents, it also promotes employment and better quality of life. She sustained the need to know the residents in order to get them involved in urban processes, and for that, information has to be collected continuously, mainly through surveys. Residents are also part of the board and take active part in their activities, network groups, providing training, etc. She explained that data collection was maintained during the pandemic by adapting services and interaction approaches: not only transitioning to online formats, but changing certain dynamics in order to meet personal and social needs at the same time.

Eleanor showed the variety of Clarion's housing models to respond to different needs, gave an insight into its funding, and described the planning and creation of new neighbourhoods based on the idea of long-lasting, community-led processes, sharing the example of the Durand Close regeneration project that has lasted more than 20 years.

As a conclusion, regeneration is a long, slow, costly and complex process, but there's **social value gained from improved housing**, as it impacts on all other aspects of the residents' lives: jobs, income, etc., and this added value is key for decision-makers.



There's social value gained from improved housing, as it impacts on all other aspects of the residents' lives: jobs, income, etc., and this added value is key for decision-makers

Eleanor Warwick

Seema Iyer

Director of the Baltimore
Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

Measuring neighbourhood change

Seema Iyer presented the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA) and its creation based on the need to integrate the amount of electronic data from different silos produced by cities into one **comprehensive set of data for communities and a non-academic audience**. The BNIA produces a yearly "Vital signs of neighborhoods" report to track their "health" with over 100 indicators from over 50 sources: census, housing, crime, health, culture, etc.

She talked about Baltimore's population loss from the last decade comparing it to its neighbourhood cities' recent population growth, and the use of data to understand the reasons behind this. She remarked tracking of vacant and abandoned buildings as the single most important indicator of population decrease. The population change indicator is key to understand many other neighbourhood dynamics, all of them related to Urban Regeneration and all tracked by the BNIA.

Unless action is taken, declining neighbourhoods tend to maintain that decline even when some other areas of the same city may be growing, so the purpose of data is not only to gain understanding of the actual situation, but also to **predict new trends in order to prevent decline at its beginning**.

As an organization, BNIA provides an open data portal where data is accessible and relevant for all stakeholders involved in urban governance, and they lead it with the intention of avoiding the increase of inequalities and the divergence of neighbourhoods.

Lastly, she remarked the four main goals of BNIA looking to have an impact with the strategic use of data:

- Reduce or maintain vacancy below 4%.
- Increase housing diversity and affordability.
- Ensure access to and mobility within every neighbourhood.
- Measure neighbourhood connectedness to opportunity.



The purpose of data is not only to gain understanding of the actual situation, but also to predict new trends in order to prevent decline at its beginning.

Seema Iyer

Ernesto López-Morales

Associate Professor at the Department of Urban Planning, University of Chile

Mitigating Gentrification in Urban Regeneration

Ernesto López-Morales recognized that the notion of gentrification has been under constant change along the years due to an increasing number of cases of gentrification from different contexts. He shared a general definition of what we understand as gentrification processes: profit-driven urban changes that tend to occur in areas where there is huge difference between the actual land value and its potential, and which results in the displacement of low-income inhabitants.

Some markers that show displacement of people in gentrifying neighbourhoods are forced eviction and demolition, but there are also several not-so-obvious ones such as exclusionary displacement, displacement pressure or direct last-resident displacement.

Ernesto reflected on how **gentrification has both positive and negative effects, being able to emotionally distress communities but also reconstitute them and improve social relations**. In order to discuss on the dangers and potential of gentrification, he proposed five key points to reflect on:

- In whose interests is urban regeneration happening?
- 'Regeneration' for whom, against whom and who decides?
- Racial, ethnic and religious fibers of gentrification.
- Gentrification motivated by heritage protection, tourism and housing 'rentierism'.
- Regeneration should channel citizen participation and give material means to avoid displacement.

Community participation, even though needed, doesn't avoid gentrification; **material means are needed in order to avoid displacement**. Some housing policies that can help mitigate the gentrification process in potentially regenerated neighbourhoods are:

- Increase of affordable housing production.
- Grant access to land via different schemes.
- Social housing quotas and land value capture with redistributive goals.
- Foster housing cooperatives and housing building self-management schemes.
- Expropriation of part of the housing stock as an extreme measure when gentrification processes are severe and nothing else worked.

Daniela Patti
Managing Director at Eutropian

*Community-led urban regeneration
and bottom-up approaches*

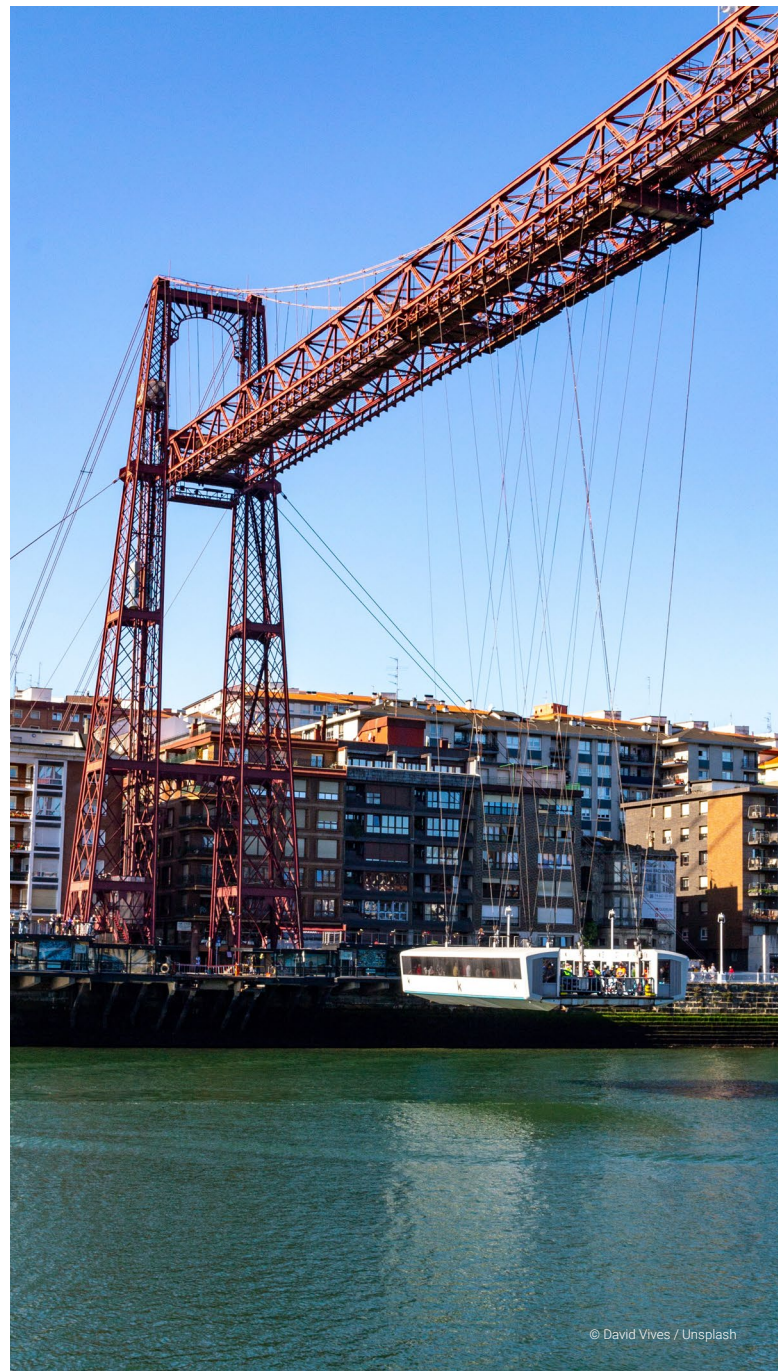
Daniela Patti made a brief introduction to the concept of Urban Justice, focusing on land ownership and how Eutropian works both on implementing community-based projects and advocacy through research and action projects.

She explained the need to **consider land and building ownership when discussing about gentrification and displacement** in Urban Regeneration projects, and shared three successful examples of projects with different ownership models:

- Homebaked in Liverpool, where a Community Land Trust worked as a result of the failure of the public policy (national and local level) after the 2008 crisis.
- ExRotaprint in Berlin, which after being in risk of eviction, adopted a Heritable Building Right model. Division between land and building ownership was key, no further speculation happened with the building and it was possible for the residents to remain.
- La Borda in Barcelona, a Housing cooperative using the Grant of Use model. It's a rare example of cooperation with the public administration: the land was leased for free for 75 years by the city of Barcelona, and during that period of time, the cooperative is the owner of the building. The project didn't work with the right to buy from the residents, but with their right to use the houses and common spaces.

To summarize, Daniela remarked three takeaways to be considered in Urban Regeneration processes in order to avoid gentrification:

- 1 Non-speculative ownership models are needed and projects that may not be mainstream but that are working also need to be shared.
- 2 Conversation should not be focused on community participation but on its empowerment.
- 3 Public administrations must share resources.



Interactive activity

The interactive activity of Session 2 was focused on entry-points for spatial inclusion and indicators for evaluation of Urban Regeneration projects. A summary with the results of the activity can be found in the annex *Interactive Activities*.

Respondents' interventions

After the presentations, three special guests respondents were invited to comment on the issues mentioned by the speakers. The first respondent was **Jon Aguirre Such**, from URBACT, who highlighted two main ideas:

- In terms of data and measuring, both **quantitative and qualitative approaches need to be combined when defining vulnerability indicators**. Data is needed for decision-making, but excess of data may lead to neglect issues that can't be measured and need interaction with the local community for inputs.
- In relation to the idea of **integration in Urban Regeneration**, URBACT distinguishes 5 dimensions of it:
 - 1 Political and sectorial integration.
 - 2 Horizontal integration, empowering citizens.
 - 3 Vertical integration, multilevel governance.
 - 4 Integrating hard and soft investments, difference between renewal and regeneration.
 - 5 Territorial integration, a neighbourhood needs to be thought from an strategical view of the city.

Inés Sanchez de Madariaga, UNESCO Chair of Gender and Equality Policies in Science, Technology and Chair of AGGI Advisory Group for Gender Inclusion, commented in respect to the gender view point in data and indicators as a very relevant dimension for data collecting, processing, use, and also for participation and overall planning.

She claimed the **lack of women and gender relations perspective in Urban Regeneration processes**, specially looking at care tasks which are often done by women and how they are made compatible with paid employment. This should impact the definition of gender indicators and general disaggregation of indicators by sex. Example of mobility of care as an umbrella indicator for daily care-related movements in the city.

She recognized women usually have less time for leisure and community activities, making it more difficult to involve them in participatory processes. Lastly, Inés discussed a **gender approach to housing affordability and design**, asking for changes in the overall housing production and real estate systems, which require political outlook and political will.



Getting women involved in participatory processes is more difficult because of their role as caregivers. This needs to be taken into account in participatory processes so that women can also provide input.

Inés Sanchez de Madariaga

Laura Petrella, Senior Programme Office UN-Habitat, was the last respondent, and speaking from the UN perspective on inequality issues, she sustained the **need for more area-based and community approaches** to deal with various issues at scale and at the same time, also exploring the cross-benefits of interventions. In relation to the complexity of neighbourhoods, she shared two main ideas:

- Thinking about Urban Regeneration as a strategy to fill the **affordable housing deficit**, there's a need to recognize how regeneration can be an alternative to urban sprawl and in which contexts: in urbanizing countries with population growth, it may be more challenging.
- Traditional community-based approaches to neighbourhood development usually incorporate economic activity and give information on transformation and influx of different activities in the area. Communities usually offer some resistance to real urban transformations, and this poses a **challenge on combining more ambitious Urban Regeneration approaches with the real needs of the community**.

Laura's final comments were on data as a strong stream of work in UN-Habitat's initiative on regeneration, and the need to better **analyse the causes of inequalities and urban decay** to see what needs to first be addressed upstream.



When thinking about Urban Regeneration as a strategy to fill the affordable housing deficit, we need to recognize how regeneration can be an alternative to urban sprawl and in which contexts: in urbanizing countries with population growth, it may be more challenging.

Laura Petrella

Open debate for all participants

Elanor Warwick opened the debate emphasizing the importance of considering the pressures of the real estate market in regeneration processes and how to get a solution that can be maintained through the whole process, taking views from different stakeholders and bridging the gap between them.

Alice Siragusa responded to the comments on the use of indicators and data, and to its disaggregation by gender. The key question is to know what is wanted from data, and this question needs to be tackled through the whole process, particularly in regards to gender. How data collection around a specific request is framed drives the obtained results, which poses a great challenge especially in areas like Urban Regeneration that involve various fields of knowledge.

Carolyn Daher reflected on inclusivity and talked about the difficulties of discussing the future of mobility when women are absent in a meaningful way in the conversation, being women and men's mobility needs different. The same can be said in regards to elderly people and children, who are not considered in the discussion of this topics.



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Following Inés Sanchez de Madariaga's comments, **Seema Iyer** pointed the need to first think about how to prevent decline, so no more resources need to be invested in Urban Regeneration. The abundance of data nowadays helps not only understand why decline happens but also when it is starting, helping to stop it with preventive measures. Data also helps understand the scale of the problem and connect the nature of the issues with the level of resources needed to address them.

Seema described how gender-based indicators are meant to show the reality of the neighbourhood, and should consequently be used to see if systems fit the need of that reality, for example in

relation to home ownership. Nevertheless, often times gender-based indicators are perceived as negative aspects of the neighbourhoods, for example single women headed households.

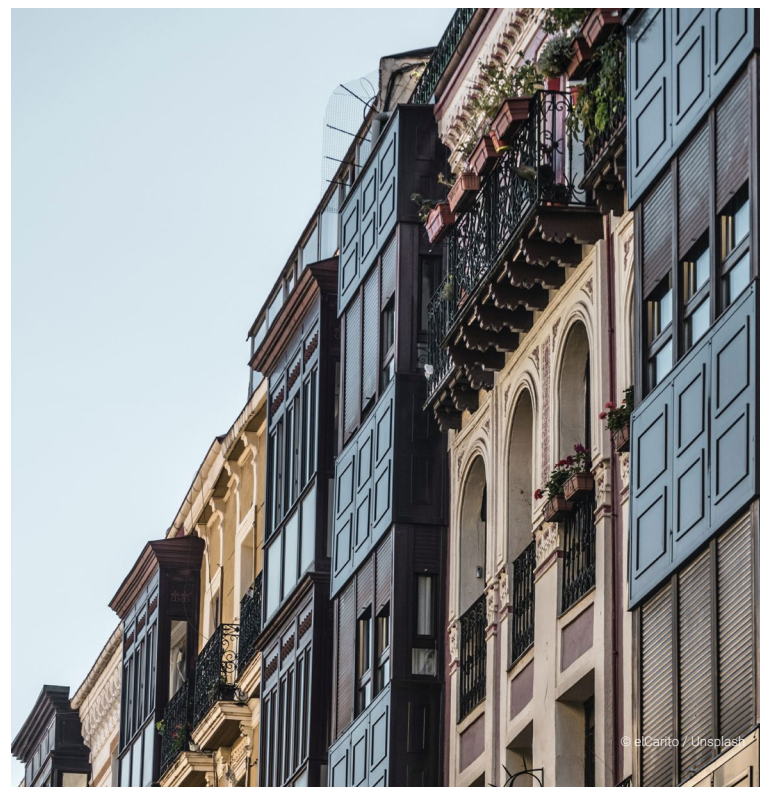
Javier Torner wrapped up the session saying that although many Urban Regeneration processes work under the previously discussed and agreed objectives, principles and tools, the social component is still behind. Also, 50% of Urban Regeneration is private-led and that is a great opportunity to involve the private sector in these shared values and outcomes.



Day 2 | Introduction

Cecilia Andersson opened Day 2 summarising some of the key messages from the previous day, highlighting:

- The importance of adopting a place-based approach, focusing on places of accumulative disadvantages.
- How Urban Regeneration can contribute to make cities more resilient to climate change, shifting from the concept of sustainable design to regenerative design.
- Communication and networking between government and citizens, and digitalisation as an essential service to facilitate social cohesion. There's a need to move from a centralized to a more networked approach.
- Health as a driver for change: rethink how cities are planned and how people move around the city from a health perspective, and adopt a multisectoral approach to the impact of design on people's health.
- Identify entry points for action, looking to motivate and invest in behaviour change by partnering and adopting multi-sectoral and multi-governance approaches.
- Think about the city from the human imagination and social creativity perspectives, with special attention to putting care at the centre when designing cities.
- Urban Regeneration processes as those embracing economy, society, nature, environment, and the transformative power of culture and identity. Also, Urban Regeneration as a driver for climate action, creating jobs and closing the gap on access to urban services.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be clearly embedded in interventions: impacts need to be measured in order to scale up practices, also considering that social issues don't scale the same way as environmental ones.
- Big challenge and opportunity on setting a common framework of indicators to work on Urban Regeneration, and on making sure that data and evidence informs policy.
- Engagement should exist through the whole process of Urban Regeneration, using tools and new ways of connecting with all citizens in a more inclusive way, building trust and knowing how the community prefers to be engaged in these processes.
- Challenge of measuring neighbourhood change, where indicators play a key role in evaluating the "city's vital signs".
- Gentrification needs to be included in the discussion on Urban Regeneration, acknowledging that it can emotionally distress communities but also help reconstitute them. Following the concept of Urban Justice, it's important to consider different frameworks for owning land and managing the built spaces as part of Urban Regeneration processes.



Session 3

Policy and Governance Frameworks for Urban Regeneration

Session overview

The third session brought together representatives from different countries in a multi-level panel discussion that focused on **how governance structures can be decisive to achieve the outcomes of Urban Regeneration**. Speakers analysed how the different structures work, looking to identify innovative solutions to promote Urban Regeneration as a key tool within many local economic plans for COVID-19 recovery.

Interventions

Gonzalo Lacurcia Abraira, Senior Consultant at UN-Habitat Office in Spain, was in charge of introducing and moderating session 3. He started by briefly commenting on the complexity of Urban Regeneration projects, which is revealed at 3 levels:

- 1 Projects and programmes are long, complex and difficult to implement.
- 2 Multisectoral approaches mean working on several areas, which leads to different institutions and governance levels needing to coordinate (horizontal and vertical coordination).
- 3 Integration of stakeholders (private sector, financing, owners, and also communities) and consensual decision-making plays a more relevant role than in other types of urban interventions.

Laura Hagemann

Policy Officer for Territorial and Urban Development of the European Commission

Integrated urban development frameworks

Laura Hagemann opened the round of presentations by making a recap on what the urban dimension of the EU policy has been in the last years, and how it has recently moved to a more strategic approach beyond policy silos, with an **increased importance of the role of urban authorities and participatory approaches**. Hand in hand to this tendency, there has been an effort to mainstream those processes in programming.

As shared lessons learnt, Laura highlighted that integrated approaches and tools take time compared to the mainstream, so simplification of procedures as well as strengthening administrative capacity, technical assistance and early preparatory measures are needed. Strategies need to be more flexible in order to be place-based, and strong national/regional policies are crucial to link these strategies to higher level of political frameworks.

She explained that the **five objectives of the Cohesion Policy of the EU** for the next programming period (2021-2027) are aligned with the principles of the New Leipzig Charter, which represents the strategic framework for urban sustainable development in the EU. These five main objectives are:

- A smarter and more competitive Europe.
- A greener and low-carbon Europe.
- A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility.
- A more social and inclusive Europe.
- A Europe closer to citizens.



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The method for implementing these strategies at the urban scale consists of five requirements:

- Definition of the targeted area.
- Integrated approach with locally coordinated interventions.
- Territorial or local strategies.
- Local or territorial bodies involved in project selection.
- Establishing partnerships at local level.

Laura presented the New European Urban Initiative, aimed at capacity building towards urban authorities implementing sustainable urban development, and shared some tools and resources such as the URBACT Toolbox or the Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (SAT4SUD) by the JRC. Finally, she briefly mentioned the New European Bauhaus initiative, which strives to create aesthetic, sustainable and inclusive places, products and ways of living by involving citizens and having an interdisciplinary look at processes, putting culture and education at the forefront of the EU Green Deal.

After Laura's intervention, **Gonzalo** remarked that the European Union should be seen not only as a funder for projects, but also as a contributor to generating and sharing knowledge and tools, while providing general frameworks for projects to be implemented.



The EU policy has recently moved to a more strategic approach beyond policy silos, with an increased importance of the role of urban authorities and participatory approaches.

Laura Hagemann

Diane Le Roux

International Cooperation Officer
at the National Agency of Urban
Regeneration of France (ANRU)

Multi-scalar urban regeneration

Diane Le Roux pointed out the **importance of effective multi-level governance**, especially in the French context with a high degree of decentralization. She described ANRU as a state agency that provides grants to local authorities to implement their Urban Regeneration projects, which are financed by a national programme (PNRU) coordinated by ANRU and jointly drafted by the municipalities.

She shared the change in approach to ANRU's projects over the years: first-generation programme was focused on physical interventions, mainly on housing and the implementation of public facilities, while second-generation programme had a more integrated approach, prioritizing neighbourhoods with serious disfunctions, integrating them into the dynamics of the metropolitan area and involving residents in the definition, implementation and evaluation of the projects. One of ANRU's actual focus is on developing protocols that make interventions easier in advance.

Institutionally, ANRU supports national and local level authorities in partnership: financing from all partnerships is gathered through ANRU, which acts as a single window for Urban Regeneration projects. **Financing acts as a lever for other public authorities**, and that financing can be used either for engineering expenses, support for real estate operations or contributions to the financial balance of development operations. Aside from that, ANRU gives assistance to local authorities through capacity building, by providing operational support and also by strengthening the professional urban regeneration network.

Diane recognized that for Urban Regeneration to be successful, both a **strong governance structure and a good project management tool are needed**. As some final key points, she highlighted the importance of strong political support and rallying partnerships, and a project management model capable of articulating different intervention tools and coordinating multiple partners to ensure coherence over the long run.



For Urban Regeneration to be successful, both a strong governance structure and a good project management tool are needed.

Diane Le Roux

Eduardo de Santiago

Technical Counsellor for Land and Urban Policies, Responsible for the Urban Vulnerability Observatory, Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda of Spain

Spanish Recovery Transformation and Resilience Plan and linkages with Urban Regeneration

Eduardo de Santiago gave some context of the Spanish case on Urban Regeneration and retrofitting. He described how the first renovation wave during the 60s and 70s was focused on building social housing and demolishing urban slums that had been created due to the industrialisation of the country and the population movement to the cities. The second wave was centred on regenerating the very degraded historic centres of the cities.

The actual Spanish housing stock is characterised by mainly homeownership in collective housing buildings of more than 4 floors, which were built between the 1960s and 1980s.

This constitutes the majority of the fabric of Spanish cities, and affects the mechanisms that can be used for retrofitting and the regeneration of these neighbourhoods. The challenge of the current third renovation wave is in respect to these dwellings, which are now deteriorated, in many cases poorly built, and there is also a lack of public space surrounding them, derived from the urbanism that was characteristic of the modern movement.

The Spanish **current renovation and regeneration challenge** is to:

- 1 Intervene in 1.8 million dwellings in poor state of conservation.
- 2 Improve accessibility, especially important in a context of ageing population and 3.4 million buildings of more than 4 storeys without lifts.
- 3 Meet the energy efficiency requirements coming from Europe through the Green Deal and the Renovation Wave.

All of this, focusing on the pockets of vulnerability in cities and the social inequality accelerated by the pandemic, with **priority neighbourhoods for intervention being previously identified at national level**.

In addition, he recognized the challenge of architectural quality, closely linked to the New European Bauhaus. He described the “superficial slum-like appearance” of part of the Spanish housing stock, built in a precarious manner and where the inhabitants have tried to improve the interior conditions by worsening the aesthetic quality from the outside.

Lastly, Eduardo discussed that in order to retrofit a total of 11 million dwellings, **a leap in scale is needed**, with a proposed rate of 300,000 dwellings per year (x10 of the current rate). This needs for public resources but also new forms of financing, such as capitalisation of energy savings, tax breaks, private financing mechanisms and loans to homeowners' associations among others. The European funding package linked to recovery funds is a significant opportunity for retrofitting and building social rental housing. But beyond financing, it is necessary to **combine legislative measures, incentives and financial instruments, and also good communication and activation of demand**.



A leap in scale is needed. It is necessary to combine legislative measures, incentives and financial instruments, and also good communication and activation of demand.

Eduardo de Santiago

Paolo Esposito
Director General of The Italian
Territorial Cohesion Agency (ACT)

*National Operational Programme for
Metropolitan and South Medium cities
and other national and regional tools*

Paolo Esposito explained the concept of Urban Regeneration promoted by the ACT agency, which works under the cohesion policy and with particular attention to the national program dedicated to metropolitan cities (NOP). The ACT approach is focused on avoiding urban sprawl, and how to **promote regenerative processes through cohesion to recover abandoned or underused urban areas fostering local potentialities**.

Local identities and cultural heritage are crucial and driving factors in this framework, to foster integrated long-term sustainable development.

The risk of gentrification was also discussed as a deepening of the social inequalities and also destruction of social and cultural local identities, which reinforces the importance of activating Urban Regeneration through collective and participatory processes, involving and empowering local stakeholders.

Paolo also talked about scale and **combining a neighbourhood approach with a more territorial vision** promoting polycentric systems with efficient infrastructure and services, and therefore avoiding non-functioning suburban areas. Focus should be on creating cohesion not only at a social level in neighbourhoods, but also as a matter of cohesion inside the nation: Urban Regeneration interventions with a metropolitan view.

Lastly, he shared ACT's Flagship initiative, the National Operational Program (NOP Metro), dedicated to 14 Italian metropolitan cities with a focus on green and social interventions for recovery and resilience, and which also includes the digital transition and innovation for the next programming period, aiming to reach a higher standard of services for the citizens.



Scale means combining a neighbourhood approach with a more territorial vision, promoting polycentric systems with efficient infrastructure and services, and therefore avoiding non-functioning suburban areas.

Paolo Esposito

Pere Picorelli

Coordinator of Urban Regeneration and Housing Programmes at Institut Català del Sòl

Programmes for Urban and Semi-urban regeneration: regional instruments

Pere Picorelli provided a regional view of different programmes and tools for Urban Regeneration, explaining how Incasol implements projects ranging from land development (for economic activity and housing), housing development, urban regeneration to heritage intervention. He talked about their two main operative programmes:

- Neighbourhood remodelling program, connected to the larger national housing renovation program. It was based on demolition and reconstruction of publicly developed social housing estate, including central (through financing), regional (through managing) and local (through planning and enabling the processes) levels of governance.
- *Programa de barris*, with a more integral approach, where the agency acted in more fields of intervention, including public space, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and gender equality among others.

Incasol connected the land value capacity of developing new land for activity to the regeneration projects through the same 100% public company, but after 2008, these two programs needed to be reinvented to new challenges regarding the collapse of the real-estate market and also the housing accessibility emergency. Land value mechanisms didn't work anymore, so Incasol moved to a more budgetary approach, scaling down and adapting a more cooperative approach as technical and project management assistance for local governments. As a general reflection, Pere expressed that **innovation is always needed** since a development model that works, may not work in the future.

Pere explained that Incasol focuses its **interventions on vulnerable areas with high density** and where gentrification doesn't happen due to the high level of vulnerability and low value of the land. He discussed on the **long-run phasing of the projects and the a-synchronicity of processes**, and how presence in the site of the intervention, social interlocution and procedures like expropriation or relocation, work when interacting with the local community.

To end his intervention, Pere highlighted the **challenge of persisting urban vulnerability**, structural poverty and need for new comprehensive frameworks, reflecting on the fact that the levels of vulnerability haven't changed much in these areas even after all the investment of the last decades.



Urban Regeneration is characterised by the long-run phasing of its projects and the a-synchronicity of its processes.

Pere Picorelli

Rehana Moosajee

Research Associate at South African Cities Network

Urban Regeneration approaches at the city level

The last speaker of the session was Rehana Moosajee, who introduced the South African Cities Network as a group of eight large metropolitan municipalities that connect to share information and experiences, and made a reflection on how **focusing too much on institutional value, policies or governance comes at an expense of societal value**. Citizens are losing trust in the capacity of the state to work with various actors and reimagine new cities.

Her main message was to “bring heart, heads and soul” to the work being done in cities. In relation to this, she shared two projects where focus was put on looking at trauma inherent in people and places, and also on community-led initiatives. Those examples highlighted that expected outcomes are often not achieved because deeper levels of trauma are not being addressed, and also that communities are capable of diagnosing their problems, crowding their own resource capacity and taking responsibility on how to change the space where they reside.



Focusing too much on institutional value, policies or governance comes at an expense of societal value. Citizens are losing trust in the capacity of the state to work with various actors and reimagine new cities.

Rehana Moosajee



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Interactive activity

The interactive activity of Session 3 was focused on Urban Regeneration in our contemporary context. A summary with the results of the activity can be found in the annex *Interactive Activities*.

Respondents' interventions

Brief interventions by the respondents started with **Kaveh Aliakbari**, from the Urban Renewal Organization of Tehran, who pointed out on three main approaches from which Urban Regeneration needs to be navigated to reach to the desired outcomes:

- Importance of scale, and neighbourhoods as the place to recover the sense of intimacy and innerness disrupted by the increased scale of the city. **Renewing neighbourhood-scale planning processes** is mandatory in order to achieve sustainable urban development and more liveable cities.
- Open relationships in governance structures and a **strong idea of proximity** are key to inclusiveness and participation as pre-requisites for sustainable regeneration at neighbourhood scale.
- Urban Regeneration aims at **changing the patterns of spatial redistribution of resources**, knowing that substantive and normative results require multiple resources and clear commitment.



Inclusivity and participation are a prerequisite for sustainable regeneration at neighbourhood level.

Kaveh Aliakbari



There is a value in informal regeneration tools that is not always taken into account: it serves to activate dialogue and generates conditions that contribute to the virtuous circle of regeneration.

Frédéric Saliez

Last comments to the presentations were made by **Frédéric Saliez**, Programme Officer at UN-Habitat Office for Europe, who remarked that despite Urban Regeneration's complexity, there seems to be consensus on what needs to be achieved, while debate remains on how to achieve it, and for that he proposed three types of actions:

- Urban Regeneration needs to be **stimulated**, it doesn't happen by accident or spontaneously and requires financial and political stimulation. The process needs to be stimulated as a virtuous circle: Urban Regeneration creates enthusiasm, that creates value, which fuels into the process and keeps escalating. The big challenge is how to start that virtuous circle of regeneration.
- Urban Regeneration needs to be **navigated**, governed with a collectively defined direction. From the top or from the bottom, but a direction is needed, and that direction needs to be kept towards processes that are long and take time. Continuity is key.
- Urban Regeneration needs to be **managed**, in the day-to-day management of the complexity. Public authorities can use of scale, speed and different tools to manage and govern urban design and Urban Regeneration. Those tools range from formal ones like finance, rules, or regulation, to informal ones such as debate activation, handbooks, toolkits and assessment tools, on-the-job training, etc., all of which contribute to create and keep running the virtuous circle of regeneration.

Open debate for all participants

Starting the open debate, **Thomas Stoll** mentioned Swedish's government programme to help communities and municipalities work for transformative innovation. The main areas of action are encouraging governments, politicians and decision-makers to move into another level of innovation and introduce participation both from the local community and all levels of governance.

Carolyn Daher commented on the relationship between political/legislative and technical levels and the effectiveness of starting at a technical level to bring about change into legislation.

She also shared an example of a successful project with the Municipality of Barcelona on an online tool for integrating health in public space planning, to illustrate that the key to that success was to spend a lot of time accurately defining the needs in order for the developed product to be tailored to the requirements.

Shipra Narang Suri added two reflections to the debate. The main one was to keep questioning whether or not projects are having an impact and how to know it precisely. Given the fact that changes in the system take time, and the impact of those changes on people's lives takes even longer, the challenge is to monitor not only the direct processes and outcomes of interventions, but also the impact on people's lives and how long it takes for that impact to happen.

Her second comment was on project selection, which relates to indicators and can be the key to connect to larger agendas: prioritizing the implementation of projects with criteria in terms of SDG impact, climate impact and inequality reduction impact. This approach affects the type of indicators that need to be monitored and leads to more integrated interventions.



We need to monitor not only the direct processes and outcomes of interventions, but also the impact on people's lives and how long it takes for that impact to happen.

Shipra Narang Suri

Gabriella Gómez-Mont brought to the debate the need to link urban practices and human rights more closely and based on more in-depth debates that can only arise by first bringing together multidisciplinary groups of people to develop a new language between them.

Her next reflection was on governance from a hybrid and more dynamic point of view, where participatory design is thought to take on life on its own. Maintaining a wider vision on governance structures needs some flexibility within it in order to address the major challenge of how to structure this dynamic hybrid kind of participation of people joining the project at different stages and with different levels of intensity.

In relation to the previously discussed disappointment that pilot projects can bring, she expressed the importance of maintaining experimental territories with continuous iterations, that allow testing and experimentation to move forward.

Rogier Van den Berg talked about global data sets and the granularity of asset level data, which allow to easily create baselines, measure impact and have yearly-updated analytics that help cities make data-based decisions, although he recognized that accuracy of socio-economic data is still challenging.

Eduardo de Santiago reflected on the need for social investment in vulnerable groups of population of deprived neighbourhoods alongside physical investment programmes. He also answered Frédéric Saliez's comment on what activates the demand for Urban Regeneration, comparing the more traditional top-down approach of national or regional programmes, with actual bottom-up strategies that involve empowering citizens to transform deprived communities into more vibrant and positive ones.

Pere Picorelli responded to Shipra's point on projects' selection criteria, sharing Incasol's priority working on poverty and deprivation that are consistent in time, and also insisting on the importance of thinking in the long-term to evaluate impact.

Diane Le Roux continued with the issue of project selection criteria, and shared the six key urban goals that ANRU prioritizes and demands to be addressed in those projects, including housing diversity, mobility of the residents, energy efficiency, and others. The larger ambition is inclusion with a long-term vision and the credibility of the residents.

Cécile Maisonneuve raised the importance of small and middle-sized cities in contrast to the recent years' focus on large metropolis. She insisted on the importance of articulating national and local level along time and over political cycles to guarantee the long-term vision.

As a last reflection, **Roberto San Salvador** remarked three main elements from the discussion:

- When vulnerability and declining persist over time even after investment on those areas, the basic social approach of the implemented projects should be re-evaluated.
- For subsidiarity and proximity to exist regarding urban governance, legal and financial resources are needed at the local level.
- The anonymous citizenship is still permanently absent in governance models, even when multi-level governance and multi-sectoral approaches are followed, and both public and private sector as well as social movements and the organized society are involved in the decision-making.

Frédéric Saliez pointed out the need for an in-between figure of private/public/communities that works in the long-term, and shared two complementary models for that:

- Special units with specific and exceptional powers that can capture land value derived from Urban Regeneration processes and reinvest that value in the process.
- Units with no power, but the power of influence, that work as "moral guardians" of the quality of the process.

He reflected on the relevance of these figures in other contexts outside of the European one, and which form these special units may take in the developing world.

Lastly, **Javier Torner** highlighted once again the importance of scale. Institutions that operate at national, regional, urban and neighbourhood level need specific operating tools and inter-institutions to be more interrelated and achieve the expected outcomes from each level.



Session overview

The final session focused on one of the biggest challenges in Urban Regeneration projects: finding funding and establishing sustainable financing mechanism. It concentrated on how to finance regeneration processes considering the new trends – the opportunities they bring as well as their impacts/resulting challenges. Participants discussed both Urban Regeneration self-sustaining strategies and public investment packages, bringing diverse perspectives from private and public sector, researchers and financial institutions.

Interventions

Javier Torner, Programme Manager Officer at UN-Habitat was in charge of moderating Session 4. He introduced the purpose of the session, which was to find new ways to mobilize and prioritize resources to finance all the Urban Regeneration projects that need to be implemented, while maintaining a clear vision around social inclusion, urban health, climate action and digitalization.

Cécile Maisonneuve

Senior Fellow at Institut Montaigne, and Advisor, Climate, Energy, & Mobility at the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI)

Innovation for funding of urban regeneration and infrastructure

Cécile Maisonneuve talked about the need to include **decarbonization of mobility systems** as a fundamental part of all Urban Regeneration processes, and the need for innovation in how to fund it.

Sharing the example of Pittsburgh's mobility goals, she expressed that a more holistic approach to mobility is needed, not just as being infrastructure, but also including ideas such as pedestrian safety, proximity to fresh food, walking accessibility to basic urban services, cost of public transportation or good maintenance of basic facilities. **Mobility was also described as a system composed of transportation but also activity and localisation**, and therefore financing mobility means finding a flow of finance for those three sub-systems.

Rethinking mobility brings new opportunities to rethink the use of public space and treat it as an asset, which nowadays is being used (under or overusing it), but not managed. Public space plays a central role in the daily life of citizens, in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, in the delivery of digital economy services and in combining the idea of urbanism of proximity and speed. All of these issues affect how to **price the positive externalities of public space in order to manage it more efficiently**.

The burden to finance new types of mobility is distributed between public sector, companies and private individuals, which makes these processes complex and long in order to get to good levels of acceptability from all parts of society. She also commented on a diagram showing different mobility policies and their ability to maximize revenue and also to reduce CO₂ emissions.



Mobility is not just transport, but a system that includes three sub-systems: activity system, location system and transport system. It is the way we live and organise our lives.

Cécile Maisonneuve

Lastly, she recognized that these mechanisms need to be adapted to each circumstance and **consider different territories**, from the city centres to the suburban areas, which is where most of the emissions coming from private transportation happen. Suburban territories also benefit from prioritizing public transport by improving the accessibility to employment opportunities and urban services for their citizens.

Rogier Van den Berg
Acting Global Director at the World Resources
Institute Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

*Leveraging private investment
in urban regeneration*

Rogier Van den Berg focused his intervention on two main ideas: **equity and climate as both drivers and outcomes for Urban Regeneration**, and **how to effectively finance these processes**.

Regarding the first one, he explained how lower access to urban services brings lower potential productivity for city transformation, and therefore **closing the urban services divide is key for transforming cities**. Following this idea, he raised the question of what does accessibility mean in terms of analytics and on an area-based approach, and stated that equity in the form of access to urban services should be a key enter point and outcome for Urban Regeneration transformations.

Since the urban sector is the biggest GHG emitter, another enter point and outcome for these transformations on cities should be climate. Working towards **carbon neutrality offers a big potential** in the creation of new and more attractive jobs, with efficiency, urban transport, solar and recycling among the biggest job creator sectors.

He also mentioned climate hazards and their effect on urban amenities, and briefly presented a portal that is being developed by the WRI to direct policy and investment into the most vulnerable and exposed amenities.

Regarding the second main idea of Rogier's presentation, how to finance these processes effectively, he talked about measures such as **sustainable infrastructure certification**, which opens opportunities to get agreement between commercial and financial sectors for benching funds that move away from fossil fuels investments.

He also introduced the concept of **catalytic funds**, where thinking about the social and economic dimensions since the early phases of the business cases is key. Therefore, having an agreed methodology between all partners is crucial to do rapid initial assessment of these issues, agreeing not only on the project bankability, but also on the way to invest in the right issues. He exemplified it with the Addis Ababa Resilience Profile Launch, where the catalytic fund is a combination of grants, guarantees and venture capital.

Rogier also recognized the need to **invest in partnerships, matchmaking and innovation** on how to work with different types of partners, and shared several examples to illustrate these ideas, such as the P4G platform, the Citi Fix Labs initiative and the Monterrey redevelopment project around the Technological Institute of Monterrey.

Lastly, he briefly mentioned that land value capture mechanisms must be seen with caution in context of emerging economies, due to issues like transparency and the difficulty of reinvesting the money back in the project.



*Closing the urban
services divide is key
for transforming cities.*

Rogier Van den Berg

Francesca Medda

Director of the Institute of Finance and Technology in the University College of London (UCL)

Innovative funding Mechanisms for brownfield urban regeneration

Francesca Medda talked about interdependency and interaction in finance and investment on Urban Regeneration projects, and expressed the need to pack together different investments to make them more attractive to investors as the only way to attract private investment.

Metrics and measuring impact and value play a fundamental role to mobilise funding with quantitative data, with the aim of **making finance reach the real economy** as well as improving the investment environment by using the same concepts and “speaking the same language”.

She briefly introduced the 3-step procedure used at the Institute of Finance and Technology to be able to “pack” investments together:

- 1 Output indicators.
- 2 Contextualization.
- 3 Interdependence.

With these three steps in mind, she explained a tool to evaluate projects based both on their financial aspects as well as their social and environmental impact. This tool helps create a portfolio combining different projects to maximize the added value of those “packages”.

As a conclusion, she stated that **diversification of the project portfolio helps decrease financial risk and attract the private sector** participation in urban investment.

Rita Justesen

Planning and Architecture Chief of By&Havn and Director of Planning and Sustainability at the City of Copenhagen

City-led urban regeneration: success factors that support urban regeneration

Rita Justesen shared the main points of the Copenhagen model mechanism, which was used by the development company Copenhagen City&Port Development (CCPD) to finance new urban developments in the area and also the metro system. As described by her, the **financing mechanism is based on the rezoning of land assets** previously transferred by the national and local government to the CCPD company, which then borrowed loans based on the increased value of those rezoned areas. That capital was then sold and leased, and used to pay for the needed constructions and service debts. The organisation is **publicly owned but privately run**, and it includes both the CCPD and the CPH Metro companies.

She described the historical process, that started in the 80s due to the decline of the industrial activity in the area, as well as the desire for the city to have a high-class public transport system. She also explained what the general vision of the project and areas of intervention were, and how sustainable urban areas were developed with masterplan competitions: using quality and sustainability aspects as key goals and factors to select the winners as well as demanding the DGNB sustainable certificate for all interventions.

To conclude, she commented on the city’s new project to meet the demand of new available land due to the continuous population and job creation growth that the city is experiencing, by creating a new 300ha island.

Chris Brown

Executive Chair and Founder of Igloo

Responsible real estate Funds

Chris Brown framed his perspective on the theme of Finance for Urban Regeneration, by sustaining that land value for development is always negative, and that this approach is the key difference between physical Urban Regeneration and property development. Basic **investment opportunity in regeneration projects** is that values are low in these areas compared to their potential. With a supportive policy framework and a prosperous economic context, those values can be increased and that increase is the investment opportunity to be found.

Money from responsible funds comes primarily from private investors looking to invest long term and at low risk, with a declared interest in investing responsibly. But **pooled funds** also bring new opportunities by combining nonaligned investors and giving each participant the level of risk and reward that they looked for initially. This kind of impact investment, which is still small but growing quickly, should have a strong focus on metrics, measuring social capital, social cohesion and wellbeing.

Among the main challenges of responsibly-funded Urban Regeneration, Chris talked about considering who benefits from this throughout the process. It is also challenging to avoid the most frequent way of investing in one particular issue, and instead have a broader range and more holistic approach to impact, which usually makes it less attractive to investors.

He shared various Urban Regeneration projects along UK, all implemented in post-industrial deprived neighbourhoods and brownfield areas, touching on issues such as affordable housing, mobility, off-grid design, the figure of the community organizer, among others.

On **how to scale up responsible funding**, he explained the English Cities Fund system, which is structured by buffering the risk-benefit ratio: the public sector takes a higher share of the risks and a smaller share of the returns that the private investors do, making it more attractive to the later.

In regards to existing **tools for the real estate industry to move towards more inclusive and sustainable urban development**, Chris described the Igloo Footprint tool, as an example of a resource designed to strategically align funds with the public sector.

He mentioned the UN Race to Zero campaign, highlighting the opportunity of retrofitting in low-value areas, and concluded by summarising that financial and impact opportunities exist, pooled funds, asymmetric risk and impact sharing have a lot of potential, and measuring and delivering social impact is critical.



As an example on how to scale responsible funding, the English Cities Fund system is structured by buffering the risk-benefit ratio: the public sector takes a higher share of the risks and a smaller share of the returns that the private investors do, making it more attractive to the later.

Chris Brown

Interactive activity

The interactive activity of Session 4 was focused on financing mechanisms and opportunities for urban regeneration. A summary with the results of the activity can be found in the annex *Interactive Activities*.

Respondents' interventions

Edoardo Croci, Professor of Economics of sustainable urban regeneration at Bocconi University emphasized some previously discussed ideas, such as the need to make a leap in the scale of intervention (from buildings to neighbourhoods and cities), consider the needs of all stakeholders, integrate the new paradigms on urban resilience derived from the Covid-19 pandemic, **emphasise more policy-oriented and private-investor visions on regeneration plans**, and the idea of generating value with a broader financial vision.

Danielle Grossenbacher, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) and Co-Chair of Business and Industry at GAP (General Assembly of Partners) was the next respondent to participate and focused on the issue of **affordable housing**. She commented on **private to public partnerships**, which the pandemic has made more urgent than ever, and on showing private investors the profit to be made in developing affordable housing.

She mentioned FIABCI's "The city we need is affordable" reports, that show successful case studies of private-public partnerships resulting in quality affordable housing, commenting on the importance of sharing examples with formulas that have already worked.

Lastly, she briefly commented issues like the mismatch between high land-development costs and the existence of empty lots in cities, the need to change policies and regulations to think in terms of high-density buildings in single-home residential areas, and the development of new building techniques to fasten construction.

Pontus Westerberg, UN-Habitat Digital Officer, remarked the idea previously mentioned by Rogier, that setting up partnerships is complex and takes a lot of resources and time.

He brought to the debate the concept of **challenge-driven innovation**, competitions and prizes, as well as mobilizing cities and reaching larger audiences of innovators through internet, networking and social communication. He explained the initiative "Climate Smart Cities Challenge" and introduced the idea of creating a competition on finance and investment in a challenge-prized way, with a focus on Urban Regeneration and climate.

Chris Wiebe, Manager at the Heritage Policy & Government Relations of the National Trust for Canada was the last respondent to intervene. He recognized the **lack of instruments on Urban Regeneration processes** for retail and other large-scale investors to invest in. He explained how in the Canadian context, with many churches closing, they're trying to create a new investment vehicle to activate social spaces in those empty buildings.

Chris also remarked the social responsibility from the Global North to retrofit and reduce energy consumption, which needs to be at the forefront of Urban Regeneration. For that, it is crucial to have carbon-avoiding data and to be able to calculate footprints and compare energy consumption of retrofit vs. new constructions.



The generation of value in Urban Regeneration projects should be approached with a broader financial perspective. We need more policy-oriented and private-investor visions on regeneration plans.

Edoardo Croci

Open debate for all participants

Chris Brown started the debate commenting on the need to attract retail investors to Urban Regeneration processes, and mentioned the Snowball Fund.

Gabriella Gómez-Mont reflected on funding mechanisms like pension funds, which seek for a long-term profit and often also touch on capacity and community building strategies. She mentioned interesting mechanisms in terms of the urban commons, where it is possible to have private gain through public goods. She also shared examples of data cooperatives that sale their data and their benefits return into community investment in the UK

Back to the idea of pilot projects, experimental territories are needed in R&D funds in regards to new construction materials, and how they can affect policy-making. She described an example in Helsinki, where a prototype timber building designed as an experiment made it possible to shift regulations around it, which later allowed for the project to be built when the funding was available, with the right policy and foundational instruments already existing.

Rogier Van den Berg discussed the role of scaling and that real estate markets can only be scaled through capital markets. A new asset class is needed for commercial investors, to take away certain risk dimensions and make more attractive the uncharted territory that now is investing in Urban Regeneration.

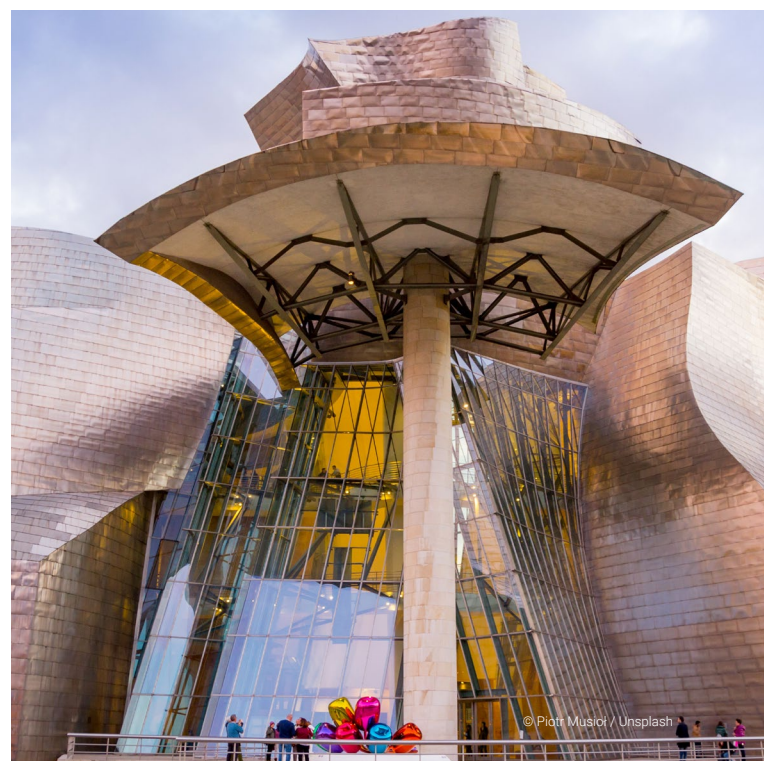
He also claimed the lack of internal incentives in banks for more complex investments, which leaves huge opportunities for national and regional development banks unexplored. A stronger policy environment is needed that requests development banks to do things differently.

Bas Boorsma took on Gabriella's comments on pension funds and the opportunity to hold because they look for lower and longer-term investment returns, and shared the example of the APG organization.

Bas also asked to identify other actors beyond real estate components for financing, specially looking at smart city infrastructure, and mentioned the mechanism of capitalizing energy savings to pay for retrofitting, which is a type of smart investing method that is usually understated.

Cécile Maisonneuve returned to the idea of congestion charges as a powerful instrument to capture money which, in order to work and be accepted by citizens, needs to be based in a "contract" between the polluter and the commuter, the suburbs and the city centre. Money from those charges should be used for public transportation alternatives, which is a long-term mechanism that needs time to be implemented correctly.

Laura Petrella mentioned the capacities that the actors have to build and sustain over time in this type of innovative interventions. Specially on developing economies, local and national governments have more difficulties on sustaining those capacities over time due to lack of political will and frameworks.



Ignacio de la Puerta raised the matter of the lack of social approaches on the debate on financing. He made a clear difference between interventions that correspond to public administrations (normally urbanisation, for which the administration needs to find its own resources to implement changes), and the cases where individuals need to assume the costs of retrofitting their buildings or homes. This second case is where the main financing problem occurs: there is a large group of almost 50% of the population whose income is “intermediate” and who don’t receive specific resources from the administration in the form of subsidies, but neither do they have access to financing from the private financial market to meet the costs of retrofitting with their own resources. Therefore, the needed investment cannot be expected from these large groups of population.

For example in the Basque Country, the estimated investment needed to achieve adequate conditions of habitability and accessibility, is of around 40,000 EUR per dwelling, which in vulnerable areas is almost three times the average annual income.

In this sense, he insisted on the importance of distinguishing when considering individuals financing their own interventions, and finding new and more flexible instruments to adapt to each citizen’s financial capacity.

As a final overview, Javier remarked three ideas from this session:

- It is essential to start by clearly defining for whom and for what purpose the discussed funding is intended.
- Alignment with the purposes of this change of paradigm is needed when considering types of financing.
- New solutions should be monitored and analysed in order to gain knowledge on what works and doesn’t work in each context.





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Closing remarks and the way forward

Shipra Narang Suri wrapped up the event by presenting the **outputs and next steps after the EGM**:

- **Full report** of the event, with all the comments and ideas discussed.
- **Communiqué** as a shorter outcome that captures the essence of the meeting, bringing together the key highlights, common ground and insights about the way forward.
- **Guidelines on Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration**, that will be developed including some of the content debated on the EGM around data and methodologies, impact orientation, benchmarks, etc.
- **Governance mechanism for UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities**, that will be launched at WUF11. The idea is to convene a large group of thinkers that will work as an advisory/working group, mobilizing knowledge, resources and platforms.

Shipra also mentioned the upcoming COP 27 in 2022, that will be focused on adaptation with a stronger focus on cities, a topic that can be crucial in the conversation around Urban Regeneration. She finished by reminding the sense of urgency, which leaves no time to duplicate work that's already been done or repeat things that haven't worked, so systematizing successful examples into more global guidelines is key to succeed.

Bas Boorsma made a short intervention to propose building a young urban innovators network to bring into the conversation young professionals that can come up with new ideas and deal creatively with the complex issues and processes that had been discussed.

Carolyné Daher added a final remark emphasising the importance of creativity and innovative mechanisms looking to reach new audiences. She stated that working on multidisciplinary teams is key when regeneration processes find difficulties in dealing with acquired rights.

Ignacio de la Puerta was in charge of closing the event. He mentioned the relationship between the Euskal Hiria Congress held on the previous days, where the subject of Urban Regeneration was approached from the subnational level, and these two days of the EGM, where a more global approach to the issue was taken.

To finalize, Ignacio thanked and acknowledged the high level of the participants, both in person and online, and encouraged the continuity of the working group.



Inequality problems at both local and global levels are similar, regardless of cultural differences, regulations, etc. and the aim of Urban Regeneration should be improving people's living conditions, enhancing social cohesion and increasing the quality of the environments in which we live and relate to each other.

Ignacio de la Puerta

Lessons learned about Urban Regeneration

- Reaffirmed New Urban Agenda commitment to regenerate urban areas through integrated and participatory approaches and to avoid spatial and socio-economic segregation and gentrification, while preserving cultural heritage and preventing and containing urban sprawl.
- Urban Regeneration comprises a comprehensive and consolidated aggregation of interdisciplinary knowledge that can contribute to equity and spatial integration, access to services and increased quality of urban life.
- Urban Regeneration needs to be built on qualitative, reliable and comparable data and evidence. Analysis, monitoring and improving are essential for urban projects supporting the continuous process of Urban Regeneration.
- Urban Regeneration involves the challenge of promoting physical and social changes while avoiding possible adverse risks such as evictions, loss of livelihoods or gentrification among others. Inclusive and continuous community engagement is crucial for sustainable Urban Regeneration processes.
- Though successful public governance mechanisms vary in their structure, a common success factor is a specifically designated entity leading Urban Regeneration in partnership with an entity responsible for the coordination and management of the process, as well as early involvement of the civil society and private sector.
- Diverse financial and impact-return opportunities exist for Urban Regeneration, and measuring and delivering social impact in each financial model is critical.

- The discourse around costs and investments should consider the holistic approach to Urban Regeneration that we need to undertake. Hence, budget streams need to be connected and co-benefits articulated.

Findings on the current context for Urban Regeneration

- There's an unparalleled opportunity in aligning the post-pandemic economic recovery with climate change measures. Climate action can become both leverage and outcome for Urban Regeneration processes in the current context.
- Understanding and articulating the co-benefits of Urban Regeneration for urban health generates a wider positive effect and could attract investment and decrease local health issues as well as vulnerability to climate change.
- Digital tools offer different entry-points to strengthen the social inclusion and sustainability of Urban Regeneration projects, and could also create more agile and flexible relationship between governments and citizens.
- Culture is a key, intrinsic element of Urban Regeneration, and as such, it is a powerful instrument that can reinforce inclusive governance and community-led regeneration.
- Integrating tools and mechanisms for continuous community engagement, and customisable and gender-sensitive participatory methods in policy and guidelines on Urban Regeneration could help decrease spatial inequality.

Findings on knowledge and instruments for Urban Regeneration

- The development of a consolidated framework to monitor social risks and impacts with a specific focus on Urban Regeneration can facilitate a more strategic use of data, both to understand the reasons behind negative urban dynamics, as well as to implement data-based decisions in policymaking.
- Incorporating mechanisms for gentrification mitigation through material means to avoid displacement and community participation could help anticipate and manage the adverse effects of gentrification, therefore stabilising communities in regenerated areas.

Partnerships and next steps

The conclusions from the event will inform and set the basis for UN-Habitat's further work on promoting Urban Regeneration globally and regionally, supporting governments and urban actors to foster inclusive, resilient and integrated processes through funding opportunities, knowledge and partnerships. UN-Habitat will:

- Develop of a **Communiqué**, which will capture the essence of the meeting, including common ground and insights about the way forward.
- Draft **UN-Habitat's Guidelines for Neighbourhood-based Planning for Urban Regeneration**, that will highlight the potential of local level actions to support and catalyse the comprehensive city-wide regeneration process.
- Establish the **Urban Regeneration Flagship Programme Reference Group**, with cities, researchers and practitioners committed to mobilise knowledge, resources and platforms related to Urban Regeneration initiatives.

Participants in the EGM underlined their need and desire to work together multidisciplinary and at global level by sharing experiences, learning from each other and being part of a Reference Group, with cities, researchers and practitioners committed to the study of Urban Regeneration. This collaborative effort also extends to the 11th World Urban Forum, which will take place in Katowice, Poland, in June 2022. This partnership will lead to:

- Develop global norms, principles and standards on Urban Regeneration.
- Support the efforts to consolidate benchmarks, data and methodologies to monitor spatial inequality and the contribution of Urban Regeneration to spatial inclusion and integration.
- Call for a sufficient funding of Urban Regeneration initiatives.
- Offer and provide UN support: UN-Habitat is the institution able to create the link between the local, national, regional and global levels of action and, along with government networks, researchers, urban practitioners and citizens will work to promote Urban Regeneration.



Concept Note

EXPERT GROUP MEETING URBAN REGENERATION AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

1-2 December 2021

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain



Urban Regeneration as a tool for an inclusive green socio-economic recovery

Regeneration processes around the world are seeking to transform urban areas into more diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods and extend those positive impacts into the wider city-scale. As an integrated and inclusive process that combines physical, environmental, and socio-economic measures, urban regeneration has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive and effective processes that governments can adopt to promote more inclusive, resilient, safer, and sustainable cities.

Urban regeneration does not only transform the physical environment but is a new paradigm for urban life in which the principles of social inclusion, resilience, compactness, community participation, and socio-economic prosperity are the starting point for co-creating the city.

Although urban regeneration practices date from at least the late 19th century, there are a number of current urban dynamics and challenges that force us to look at urban regeneration through an adjusted lens, including:

1. Covid-19 and the need for just recovery
2. Challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation
3. Digital transformation

These dynamics may be perceived as threats to the urban environment, but they also represent significant opportunities, and they have forced changes in the urban environment that a year ago would have seemed farfetched, from a surge in electric vehicles and remote work to the digitalization of services, the transformation of supply chains and the delivery industry, the reactivation of suburban areas, to mention a few.

It is in this context that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), through its Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities Flagship Programme and with the support of the Government of the Basque Country, is organising an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the role of urban regeneration in a green and just socio-economic recovery. The event will take place on **December 1-2, 2021** in the Basque city of **Bilbao**, and will bring together experts and practitioners from national, regional and local governments, research institutions, as well as private sector and civil society actors from around the world.

The context: increasingly extended, unequal and less just cities

UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2020 highlights that well-planned and managed cities, "*create value, which is the resulting set of economic, social, environmental and intangible (institutional,*

political governance, cultural and civic perception) conditions, with the potential to improve the quality of life of residents in a meaningful and tangible way."¹ Urban planning is a tool with great potential to improve the quality of life and overall prosperity of citizens, both in new urban developments and in established cities.

However, cities today remain sites of inequality. The UN Secretary-Generals' Policy Brief on Covid-19 in an Urban World (July 2020)² calls attention to the role of cities in addressing this issue. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and amplified multiple and overlapping forms of inequality, and affected the most vulnerable urban citizens. exposed to COVID-19 due to poor living and working conditions with inadequate access to food, water, sanitation and other basic services, as well as limited livelihood opportunities. Inclusive urban regeneration can help address these underlying inequalities that make particular neighbourhoods and communities vulnerable to pandemics and other urban crises.

It is estimated that by the year 2050, 68% of the world's total population will live in cities³. In the context of this rapidly urbanising world, ensuring social justice will largely depend on what happens in cities. Spatial inequalities shape and perpetuate the structural disparities of opportunities in our societies, just as strategies for social integration and improved access to basic services have the potential to generate equity.

At the same time, the World Cities reports underlines that cities are consuming land faster than their populations are growing, and this unrestrained expansion has a major impact on energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and environmental degradation⁴.

Spatial sprawl of cities is a consequence of urban population growth, and the challenge for planning is to devise mechanisms to direct or control the pace and location of this growth in order to ensure it is proportional and sustainable. Furthermore, it is essential to consider sustainable city growth management policies in the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in order to fulfil the objectives of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 and achieve accessibility to environmental benefits for all.

In this context, **urban regeneration** has emerged as a fitting urban planning tool to enable the transformation and development of cities towards more equitable and sustainable metropolises. It is a holistic process transforming already existing urban areas towards slowing

¹ World Cities Report: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization. 2020. UN-Habitat. <https://unhabitat.org/World%20Cities%20Report%202020>

² Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World. July 2020. https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/sg_policy_brief_covid_urban_world.pdf

³ <https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/10/1483282>

⁴ UN Habitat (2020). *World Cities Report 2020*.

and even reversing degradation processes through interventions with strong multistakeholder action. A response to continuous urban change, it is a dynamic process supported by multisectoral and transdisciplinary analysis and interventions that rely on broad participation of residents and other stakeholders, building on local assets and heritage, both tangible and intangible. In order to be a successful mechanism across a wide variety of contexts, urban regeneration requires a diversity of approaches, including the redevelopment of brownfields, densification and intensification strategies, the diversification of economic activities, heritage preservation and reuse, public space reactivation, and strengthening of service delivery.

As such, urban regeneration has the potential to transform socially, economically and ecologically dilapidated urban areas into dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods that value and cultivate their natural and built heritage. However, urban regeneration can also lead to gentrification, the deepening of socio-spatial inequalities, and the destruction of valuable cultural heritage in the name of modernization.

To avoid these negative consequences, urban regeneration requires innovative approaches and financing, as well as complex, inclusive and sustainable policies that counteract the realities of displacement and speculation, historically associated with urban renewal strategies. Cities around the world may have turned to urban regeneration as a process essential to achieving urban prosperity, but funding infrastructure projects and promoting transit-oriented development continue to be major challenges for municipal governments, especially in the strained economic conditions many cities face today. Hence, existing finance mechanisms will have to be reshaped to accommodate new realities.

Urban regeneration to address the challenges of the current context

UN-Habitat's Report on *Cities and Pandemics: towards a more just, green and healthy future*⁵ calls for a focus on local planning, and encourages compact, multifunctional design to counter unregulated expansion and ensure access to amenities. Urban regeneration is a key component of this effort and can work to bring back underutilised assets and redistribute opportunities, increasing urban prosperity and quality of life. Urban regeneration can also help shape environments that are more adapted to contemporary trends and reduce the impact of future shocks and stresses. This is evidenced by the role urban regeneration can play in building

⁵Cities and Pandemics: towards a more just, green and healthy future. 2020. UN-Habitat. <https://unhabitat.org/cities-and-pandemics-towards-a-more-just-green-and-healthy-future-0>

a post-pandemic future, but also in helping cities adapt to the new realities of green and digital transition.

In the wake of COVID-19, it is evident that cities face new challenges, and that though COVID-19 is foremostly a global health crisis, it has far-reaching implications for urban areas. With over 90% of confirmed cases coming from urban areas, cities have been the epicentres of COVID-19. Sustainable urbanization will be essential to the global effort to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and get the world back on track to achieve the SDGs and meet the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Regeneration strategies are also vital to addressing the **urban health** concerns highlighted by the pandemic, such as access to urgent medical care or to environmental assets such as public spaces, which work to reduce co-morbidities. Public space has been recognised as a vital urban asset for healthy urban living, and the regeneration of these spaces has likewise emerged as a key urban strategy to create a more liveable living environment and enhance urban resilience, using nature-based solutions and connecting the blue-green network with the public life.

Similarly, regeneration has emerged as one of the central components of sustainable urbanism and the urban fight against **climate change**. To sustainably accommodate the continued urban growth, it is crucial to renew declining neighbourhoods and to adapt underused spaces for new uses. Many cities' main source of emissions is linked either to inefficient building design or to poorly connected cities leading to excessive car use. As a result, New York City's Green New Deal proposal is largely centred on achieving carbon neutrality through building retrofits and solving transportation challenges by reclaiming streets for pedestrian use.

On the other hand, though the rise in **digital** work is driving certain residents away from major cities, it is also providing an opportunity for formerly disregarded areas to regain population, as residents are no longer bound by the limits of daily commutes or required to be in major economic hubs to find work. Countries including Estonia, Georgia, Barbados, and Bermuda have even developed special visas to attract people working online over the course of the pandemic, and this influx, if well planned, can be directed towards regenerating disused urban spaces. Additionally, digitalization of office work and consumption has led to the disuse of many former commercial hubs, especially in city centres, creating opportunities to adopt both new and flexible uses of existing buildings and to promote urban density, diverse activities, social inclusion, and urban vibrancy.

By taking an **integrated and holistic approach**, urban regeneration and sustainable urbanisation have the potential to be a part of the solution for current and future challenges through the creation of sustainable cities. UN-Habitat works for urban regeneration that ensures affordability, access to services and the involvement of local residents to promote local economic development.

Urban Regeneration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda

The *2030 Sustainable Development Agenda* and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11 - the urban target - calls to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". This includes improving the management of human settlements; promoting sustainable land-use planning and management; promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements; and promoting sustainable construction industry activities, all of which are connected to urban regeneration. SDG 11 makes room for urban regeneration to become part of urban transformations in order to promote inclusivity and sustainability.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) addresses urban regeneration particularly in paragraph 52 where member states *"encourage spatial development strategies that take into account, as appropriate, the need to guide urban extension, prioritizing urban renewal by planning for the provision of accessible and well-connected infrastructure and services, sustainable population densities and compact design and integration of new neighbourhoods into the urban fabric, preventing urban sprawl and marginalization"*. A direct call is made to promote planned urban extensions and infill, prioritizing regeneration of urban areas. This includes the upgrading of informal settlements, the provision of high-quality buildings and public spaces, the implementation of integrated and participatory approaches, thus preventing spatial and socioeconomic segregation and gentrification, while preserving cultural heritage and preventing urban sprawl.⁶

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2030

As part of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, *UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023* defines four interlinked domains of change (DoC) that overlap and are mutually reinforcing to promote sustainable urbanisation. The domains of change are as follows:

⁶ New Urban Agenda. Paragr. 97.

- A. Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban–rural continuum;
- B. Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
- C. Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment;
- D. Effective urban crisis prevention and response

To reduce spatial inequalities and eradicate poverty, planned urban growth must be accompanied by effective urban renewal through in situ upgrading and urban regeneration. Such efforts would also offer the benefit of preserving cultural heritage and helping to build a sense of identity and belonging in cities.

Five different flagship programmes have been defined in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023. UN Habitat Flagship Programme: ***Inclusive, Vibrant neighbourhoods and communities***, works to address spatial inequality and in this process, it identifies urban regeneration as a key component.

Flagship Programme 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities

The objective of this flagship programme is to **transform socially, economically, environmentally deprived areas and strategic locations of the city into connected, dynamic, diverse, and vibrant neighbourhoods**, and defines 3 different outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Local authorities and government undertaking urban regeneration are guided by **global best practices and monitoring frameworks** for urban regeneration, which provide an integrated and spatially based approach, mainstream human rights, recognize gendered experiences of urban deprivation, and foster inclusive and culturally sustainable economic development.
- **Outcome 2:** Enabling institutional environments are created at country and local level for sustainable and contextually appropriate urban regeneration **policies, strategies, plans, investment models, legal and financial frameworks, and inclusive governance mechanisms** that provide for the rights to participation and to an effective remedy for any breach of rights.
- **Outcome 3:** Strategic initiatives build **multi-stakeholder partnerships and community action** and demonstrate inclusive and sustainable regeneration in deprived urban areas while preserving cultural heritage and urban ecological assets.

Objectives of the EGM

The aim of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) is to **exchange and compare international experiences, highlight good practices, and identify necessary pre-conditions for governments**

seeking to develop urban regeneration policies and interventions that consider new vulnerabilities and urban trends which have emerged after COVID-19.

The event will inform and set the basis for UN-Habitat's further work on promoting urban regeneration globally and regionally, supporting governments and urban actors to foster an inclusive and integrated process through funding opportunities, knowledge, and partnerships.

Expected accomplishments of the EGM

1. Develop a **report**, capturing the key messages of each session. The report will unpack current trends, identify opportunities, and provide specific recommendations for urban regeneration to the green and digital transition in cities, the financial packages, policy, and governance models, facilitating positive regeneration processes.
2. Contribute towards drafting the **UN-Habitat's Guidelines for Neighbourhood-based Planning for Urban Regeneration** that will highlight the potential of local level actions to support and catalyse the comprehensive city-wide regeneration process, and further provide information on:
 - Processes of integrating cultural resources into neighbourhood level planning for urban regeneration
 - Benefits of small-scale community-driven projects and city-wide state-funded urban regeneration programmes
 - Entry-points for spatial equity and indicators for evaluation of neighbourhood-scale projects
 - Spatial design principles and tools that can enable more inclusive regeneration processes
 - Policy and legislative instruments that can limit gentrification in targeted areas and ensure spatial equity
3. Establish the **Urban Regeneration Flagship Programme Reference Group**, with cities, researchers and practitioners committed to the study of urban regeneration that will lead to the development of the global norms, principles, and standards.

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Programme

EXPERT GROUP MEETING URBAN REGENERATION AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

1-2 December 2021

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain



9:30-10:30 INAUGURAL SESSION

INSTITUTIONAL WELCOME

- **Carmen Sanchez Miranda (P)**, Head of UN-Habitat Office in Spain
- **Miguel de los Toyos (P)**, Deputy Minister of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government

OPENING SESSION

Shipra Narang Suri (P), Chief Urban Practices Branch UN-Habitat

Introduction: Urban regeneration as a tool for green socio-economic recovery

10:30 - 13:00 SESSION 1 | RETHINKING URBAN REGENERATION: CURRENT CHALLENGES

Katja Schäfer (P), Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat

Introduction and moderation of the session

- **Oscar Carracedo (P)**, Director Designing Resilience Global Network and Director of Resilient and Sustainable Cities Design and Planning, Research and Development Lead, SOG (**Spain/Singapore**)

Urban Regeneration for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Asia

- **Bas Boorsma (P)**, Chief Digital Officer City of Rotterdam (**Netherlands**)

The New Digital Deal – Digitalisation for the Benefit of All Communities

- **Carolyn Daher(P)**, Coordinator of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative, ISGlobal and Acting Director of the International Society for Urban Health (**USA/Spain**)

Improving urban health through urban regeneration

- **Gabriella Gómez-Mont (P)**, Experimentalista (**Mexico/Netherlands**)

Culture and innovation as key pillars of sustainable development

Coffee Break

Interactive Activity: New trends, opportunities, and challenges in urban regeneration. Measures and concrete actions for long-lasting positive outcomes

Special Guests respondents (3-5min each)

- **Nick Bailey (O)**, Emeritus Professor of Urban Regeneration at the University of Westminster **(UK)**
 - **Jordi Pascual (O)**, Coordinator, Committee on Culture of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments)
 - **Cerin Kizhakkethottam (O)**, Programme Development Branch UN-Habitat
-

Open debate: All participants

Wrap up: Moderator

14:30 – 17:00 SESSION 2 | ADDRESSING SPATIAL INEQUALITY: NEIGHBOURHOOD-BASED REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Cecilia Andersson (P), Acting Chief, Planning Finance and Economy Section UN-Habitat

Introduction and moderation of the session

- **Ignacio de la Puerta (P)**, Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Country **(Spain)**
Local challenges and best practices
 - **Alice Siragusa (P)**, Project Coordinator at the Joint Research Centre, European Commission **(EU)**
Indicators for urban inclusion
 - **Elanor Warwick (P)**, Head of Strategic Policy and Research, Clarion Housing Group **(UK)**
Mechanisms of Social Participation: Application to Urban Regeneration
 - **Seema D. Iyer (O)**, Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance—Jacob France Institute **(USA)**
Measuring neighbourhood change
 - **Ernesto López-Morales (O)**, Associate professor at the Department of Urban Planning, University of Chile **(Chile)**
Mitigating Gentrification in Urban Regeneration
 - **Daniela Patti (O)**, Managing Director at Eutropian **(Italy)**
Community-led urban regeneration and bottom-up approaches
-

Coffee Break

Interactive Activity: Entry-points for spatial inclusion. Indicators for evaluation of urban regeneration projects.

Special Guests respondents (3-5min each)

- **Jon Aguirre Such (P)**, URBACT (Spain/EU)
 - **Ines Sanchez de Madariaga (O)**, UNESCO Chair of Gender and Equality Policies in Science, Technology and AGGI Advisory Group for Gender Inclusionchair (Spain)
 - **Laura Petrella (O)**, Senior Programme Office UN-Habitat
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Open debate: All participants

Wrap up: Moderator

DAY 2: Thursday, 2 December 2021

09:30- 09:45 OPENING DAY 2

Carmen Sanchez-Miranda (P), Head of UN-Habitat Office in Spain

Key Messages from previous day

09:45 - 12:30 SESSION 3 | POLICY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS FOR URBAN REGENERATION

Gonzalo Lacurcia Abraira (P), UN-Habitat Office in Spain

Introduction and moderation of the session

- **Laura Hagemann (O)**, Policy Officer for Territorial and Urban Development (EU)

Integrated urban development frameworks

- **Diane Le Roux (O)**, International cooperation officer at the National Agency of Urban Regeneration (France)

Multi-scalar urban regeneration

- **Eduardo de Santiago (P)**, Technical Counselor for Land and Urban Policies, responsible for the Urban Vulnerability Observatory, Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda (Spain)

Spanish Recovery Transformation and Resilience Plan and linkages with urban regeneration

- **Paolo Esposito (O)**, Director General of the Italian Territorial Cohesion Agency (Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale, ACT) (Italy)

National Operational Programme for Metropolitan and South Medium cities

and other national and regional tools

- **Pere Picorelli (P)**, Coordinator of urban regeneration and housing programmes at Institut Català del Sòl (**Spain**)

Programmes for Urban and Semi-urban regeneration: regional instruments

- **Rehana Moosajee (O)**, Research Associate at South African Cities Network(**South Africa**)

Urban Regeneration approaches at the city level

Coffee Break

Interactive Activity: Urban regeneration in our contemporary context

Special Guests respondents (3-5min each)

- **Ellen Witte (O)**, Principal and Partner at SGS Economics and Planning (**Australia**)
 - **Kaveh Aliakbari (O)**, Urban Renewal Organization of Tehran (**Iran**)
 - **Frédéric Saliez (O)**, Programme Officer at UN-Habitat Office for Europe
-

Open debate: All participants

Wrap up: Moderator

14:00 - 16:30 SESSION 4 - INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR URBAN REGENERATION

Javier Torner (P), Programme Manager Officer, UN-Habitat

Introduction and moderation of the session

- **Cécile Maisonneuve (P)**, Senior Fellow, Institut Montaigne, and Advisor, Climate, Energy, & Mobility, French Institute for International Relations (IFRI) (**France**)

Innovation for funding of urban regeneration and infrastructure

- **Rogier Van den Berg (P)**, Senior Manager at the World Resources Institute (**Netherlands/USA**)

Leveraging private investment in urban regeneration

- **Francesca Medda (O)**, Director of UCL Institute of Finance and Technology (**Italy/UK**)

Innovative funding Mechanisms for brownfield urban regeneration

- **Rita Justesen (O)**, Planning and Architecture Chief By&Havn/ Director of Planning and Sustainability at the City of Copenhagen (**Denmark**)

City-led urban regeneration: success factors that support urban regeneration

process

- **Chris Brown (P)**, Executive Chair and Founder of Igloo **(UK)**

Responsible real estate Funds

Coffee Break

Coffee Break

Interactive activity: Financing mechanisms and opportunities for urban regeneration *Coffee Break*

Special Guests respondents (3-5min each)

- **Edoardo Croci (O)**, Professor of Economics of sustainable urban regeneration at Bocconi University **(Italy)**
 - **Chris Wiebe (O)**, Manager, Heritage Policy & Government Relations, National Trust for Canada **(Canada)**
 - **Danielle Grossenbacher (O)**, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), GAP Business & Industry-President/co-chair **(USA)**
 - **Pontus Westerberg (O)**, UN-Habitat Digital Officer
-

Open debate: All participants

Wrap up: Moderator

16:30 - 17:00 COMMUNIQUÉ AND WAY FORWARD

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch UN-Habitat

Moderation of the session

17:00 - 17:30 WRAP UP

- **Miguel de los Toyos**, Deputy Minister of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government
-

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Bios

**EXPERT GROUP MEETING
URBAN REGENERATION AS
A TOOL FOR INCLUSIVE
AND SUSTAINABLE
RECOVERY**

1-2 December 2021

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Carmen Sanchez Miranda, Head of UN-Habitat Office in Spain

Miguel de los Toyos, Deputy Councillor of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch UN-Habitat

Javier Torner, Programme Manager Officer, UN-Habitat

Oscar Carracedo, Director Designing Resilience Global Network and Director of Resilient and Sustainable Cities Design and Planning, Research and Development Lead, SOG

Bas Boorsma, Chief Digital Officer City of Rotterdam

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Gonzalo Lacurcia Abraira, UN-Habitat Office in Spain

Laura Hagemann, Policy Officer for Territorial and Urban Development

Diane Le Roux, International cooperation officer at the National Agency of Urban Regeneration

Eduardo de Santiago, Technical Counselor for Land and Urban Policies, responsible for the Urban Vulnerability Observatory, Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda

Paolo Esposito, Director General of the Italian Territorial Cohesion Agency (Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale, ACT)

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Frédéric Saliez, Programme Officer at UN-Habitat Office for Europe and European Institutions

Javier Torner, Programme Manager Officer, UN-Habitat

Cécile Maisonneuve, Senior Fellow, Institut Montaigne, and Advisor, Climate, Energy, & Mobility, French Institute for International Relations (IFRI)

Rogier Van den Berg, Senior Manager at the World Resources Institut

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Pontus Westerberg, UN-Habitat Digital Office

PARTICIPANTS

INSTITUTIONAL WELCOME

Carmen Sánchez-Miranda, Head of the UN-Habitat Office for Spain



Carmen is a specialist in Development, with work areas oriented to democratic governance and sustainable cities. She has a degree in Economics from the University of Salamanca, in Spain, a Master's Degree in Political Science from FLACSO in Ecuador and is Gender Studies Graduate from the University Rafael Landívar in Guatemala. She has over twenty years of experience in the fields of Development and International Cooperation, of which ten have been dedicated to programmes management in Latin America. She has worked in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), bilateral cooperation agencies such as the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development(AECID), private foundations such as the Club of Madrid, and various international consulting institutions. She currently works for the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) as Head of the UN Habitat Office in Spain.

Miguel de los Toyos, Deputy Councillor of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government



He studied Law at the University of the Basque Country and began working in 1991 in a leading law firm in Eibar. In 1995 he became a councillor in Eibar, combining his work with municipal politics until 1999, when he began to focus exclusively on municipal politics, progressively taking on responsibilities in Services, Finance, Building Works and Town Planning, and from 2003 onwards he was spokesperson for the government team. In 2008 he was appointed Mayor of Eibar, a position he has held until his current appointment as Deputy Councillor of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Government in 2021.

OPENING SESSION

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch UN-Habitat



Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a PhD in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, UK. Since 2017, she coordinates UN-Habitat's Urban practices Branch. Shipra has extensive experience in advising national and local governments, as well as private sector organisations and networks, on issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, liveability and sustainability

of cities, urban safety, women and cities, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. She is the former co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign, a platform that brings together a large array of global organisations to advocate for sustainable urbanisation, and the former Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners, a platform established to bring stakeholder voices to Habitat III and in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. She is also a former Vice-President of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

SESSION 1 | RETHINKING URBAN REGENERATION: CURRENT CHALLENGES

Moderator

Katja Schäfer, Inter-Regional Advisor, UN-Habitat



As an Architect and Urban Development Practitioner, Katja Schäfer has more than 20 years of professional experience in teaching, research, analytical and advisory services and programme administration in the fields of housing, urban development and management, institutional development and capacity building. Her wide expertise is in innovative, participatory and responsive solutions to urbanization challenges through socially and culturally acceptable, economic viable and environmentally sustainable interventions that take into consideration physical, legislative and financial aspects. She has been working with UN-Habitat for more than 15 years, in field, regional and headquarter functions. Katja has been leading Subprogramme 1 of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023 focusing on reduced poverty and spatial inequality in urban and rural communities as well as two of UN-Habitat's global flagship programmes focusing on inclusive and vibrant neighborhoods and communities as well as people-centred smart cities. In this context since January 2021, Katja Schäfer has been leading the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC Hamburg) ad interim.

Speakers

Climate Change Adaptation

Oscar Carracedo, Director Designing Resilience Global Network and Director of Resilient and Sustainable Cities Design and Planning, Research and Development Lead, SOG



Oscar Carracedo García-Villalba is an Architect, Urbanist, Educator and expert in digital transformation and business development. He is currently director of the Designing Resilience Global Network, where he develops his research and consultancy work on regenerative urban design, climate resilience, sustainability, integrated urban planning, and informal urbanism practices and processes. He is the author of numerous books and articles, and he has been invited to present as a keynote speaker in 14 countries worldwide. Oscar was also the

CEO of CSArchitects, an urban planning, urban design and architecture firm based in Barcelona, Spain. Spanning over 20 years of international professional experience, he has been responsible for more than 60 masterplans and urban-scale commissions, an extensive number of projects and consultancies in urban design, site, physical and spatial planning, over a dozen architecture and public space projects, as well as many projects with underprivileged communities.

Digital transformation

Bas Boorsma, Chief Digital Officer City of Rotterdam



Bas is a leading urban innovation and digitalization specialist & executive with 20 years of experience in the 'smart city' space. Bas serves as the CDO to the City of Rotterdam. In this capacity Bas is lead orchestrator, facilitator and ambassador to the city and its innovation ecosystem. He also serves as Professor of Practice at the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University and is also Vice President EMEA of the Cities Today Institute and serves as Chief Innovation Officer at Change= (change-is.com), a fast-growing Living as a Service company. He also serves as Member of the Board, at the Smart City Association Italy (TSCAI). Bas is the author of the well acclaimed book "A New Digital Deal". (September 2017/February 2020 (revised 2020 edition) - www.anewdigitaldeal.com). Bas served in various global and regional leadership positions at Cisco (2007-2018). From 2015 to 2018, Bas served as Cisco's Digitization lead for the Northern European region at Cisco. In this capacity he managed a series of city engagements, leading the way on Internet of Things related innovations for, with and in cities.

Urban Health and Urban Regeneration

Carolyn Daher, Coordinator of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative, ISGlobal and Acting Director of the International Society for Urban Health



Carolyn Daher, public health specialist, has over 15 years of experience connecting research with implementation to build healthier communities. Carolyn has a B.A. in Environmental Studies (Brown University), Master in Public Health (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School) and a Master in Psychosocial Intervention (University of Barcelona). She currently coordinates ISGlobal's Urban Planning, Health and Environment Initiative.

Culture and innovation as key pillars of sustainable development

Gabriella Gómez-Mont, Experimentalista



Gabriella Gómez-Mont is the former Chief Creative Officer of Mexico City, and the founder of Laboratorio para la Ciudad (2013 - 2018), the award-winning experimental arm of the Mexico City government. She now directs Experimentalista, a new type of nomadic and creative office specialized in cities – and that constantly shifts shape to accommodate high-level, transdisciplinary collaborations across the world. Besides her fascination with all things city, Gabriella is a journalist, visual artist, and director of documentary films, as well as a creative advisor to several cities, universities and companies. She has received several international recognitions for her work in different fields, such as the first prize in the Audi Urban Future Award, the Best Art Practice Award given by the Italian government, The Creative Bureaucrats Award by the German government, and the TED City 2.0 Prize, among others. She is a TED Senior Fellow, Yale World Fellow, MIT Director's Fellow, a Fabrica Alumni and a World Cities Summit Young Leader. Gabriella is also part of the international advisory committee for the Mayor of Seoul on Social Innovation, as well as NACTO's Streets for Kids, The XXII Triennale of Milan, C40's Knowledge Hub, Harvard's Mexican Cities Initiative, Canada's MaRS Lab, NYU's Gov Lab and Nesta's research on the Future of Public Imagination.

Specialguests respondents

Cerin Kizhakkethottam, Programme Development Branch at UN-Habitat



Cerin Kizhakkethottam is an environmental lawyer specialized in integrating climate change adaptation, urban resilience and sustainable development into policies, strategies and plans. Her broader experience includes mobilizing climate finance, conducting vulnerability/needs assessments, and capacity gap analyses for cities to tailor strategic climate actions as a response to greater urban resilience including infrastructure resilience. In her role as Programme Management Officer at UN-Habitat Headquarters, she is the flagship coordinator for UN-Habitat's 10-year programme on Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP) mobilizing and coordinating large scale investments for urban adaptation and resilience for the most vulnerable urban settlements. Additionally, she supports the organization's climate change portfolio management solidify coordination and knowledge exchange between HQ, Regional Offices and Country Offices. Over the past 10 years, she serviced her expertise to various clients including the United Nations, international foundations, the private sector, universities, and national and local governments across Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Nick Bailey, Emeritus Professor of Urban Regeneration at the University of Westminster



Nick Bailey has a Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning by the Oxford Brookes University and is a Master of Social Sciences by the University of Birmingham and is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. He has carried out several consultancy projects for local authorities, such as Brighton & Hove Council, and ran a customized training program on economic development and regeneration for SEEDA. From 2006 - 2008 he ran a major research project on creating and sustaining mixed tenure communities for the Joseph Rowntree that led to the publication of good practice guides for England and Scotland and other reports.

In 2011 he developed an action plan for setting up a trust to manage the Wandle Valley Regional Park in South London. In 2015 I worked on an evaluating resident involvement in the Amicus Horizon Housing Association funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture



Jordi Pascual is the founding coordinator of the Committee on culture of the world organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). He has published books, articles and reports on cultural rights, international cultural relations, culture and sustainability and the governance of culture, which have been translated to more than 20 languages. Some examples: "Cultural rights, local cultural policies and sustainable development. Looking for a coherent narrative" (Journal of Law, Social Justice and Global Development, 2018), "Culture as the

fourth pillar of sustainable development: the best is yet to come" (Economia della cultura, 2016), "Rio+20 and culture: advocating for culture at the centre of sustainability" (UCLG, 2012), "Culture and sustainable development: institutional innovation and a new cultural policy model" (UCLG – UNESCO, 2009), "On citizen participation in local cultural policy development for European cities" (European Cultural Foundation, 2007), or "Third system: arts first! Local cultural policies, third system and employment" (European Commission, 1999). Jordi has been a member of the jury of the European Capital of Culture and teaches cultural policies and management at the Open University of Catalonia.

SESSION 2 | ADDRESSING SPATIAL INEQUALITY: NEIGHBOURHOOD-BASED REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Moderator

Cecilia Andersson, Acting Chief, Planning Finance and Economy Section UN-Habitat



She is an urban and regional planner trained at the University of Stockholm, Sweden. Cecilia joined UN-Habitat in 2001 as a Human Settlements Officer with the Safer Cities Programme focusing on women and girls' safety in cities and covering Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. In 2014, she moved to the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat as the Manager of the Global Public Space Programme, where she was closely involved with Block by Block, a project which integrated the computer game Minecraft into public space planning to get community members more involved.

Speakers

Local challenges and best practices

Ignacio de la Puerta, Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda of the Basque Country



Ignacio is an architect. He has combined his activity as an independent professional with the development of positions of responsibility in the public administration as Director of the Urban Planning Area and Office of the General Plan of Eibar City Council (1994-2007) and Director of Housing, Innovation and Control of the Basque Government (2009-2013). Subsequently, he was Director of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration, until January 2021, when he became Director of Territorial Planning and Urban Agenda. This Directorate is responsible for processing land use planning instruments, promoting landscape planning and protection within the scope of land use planning instruments, processing urban planning instruments of its own competence, as well as those that develop land use planning determinations. It is also responsible for drawing up the basic official cartography of the Basque Government and coordinating the production of geographic information in the Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

Participatory mechanisms

Elanor Warwick, Head of Strategic Policy and Research, Clarion Housing Group



Elanor Warwick's career has spanned architecture, urban design, academic and operational research, aiming to shape national policy and embed good design practice. She is Head of Strategic Policy and Research for Clarion Housing Group, one of England's largest Housing Associations. Previously Head of Research at CABE, managing a diverse research programme across all sectors of the built environment and design process. Her research interests and publications cover estate regeneration, housing quality, new towns, Lifetime Neighbourhoods and measuring intangibles such as design, wellbeing and social value. She is a postgrad supervisor at UCL, Reading and Cambridge Universities, currently teaching housing to planners. Elanor is a member of the Edge, the Academy of Urbanism, an UDL Wise Friend and on the Cambridge Quality Panel. Her books and articles on defensible space and housing adaptability re-examine barriers to familiar concepts, as does investigation of POE/BPE addressing the design-performance gap.

Measuring neighbourhood change

Seema D. Iyer, Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance—Jacob France Institute



Seema D. Iyer is associate director and research assistant professor for the Jacob France Institute (JFI) in the University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business. She is a recognized expert on strategic planning in community development; recent projects include the Equity Analysis of Baltimore City's Capital Improvement Plan, the McElderry Park Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Plan, and an evaluation of Baltimore City's Vacants to Value program. Seema oversees the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance at JFI, which is also part of the Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership of sites that provide longitudinal, community-based data on demographics, housing, crime, education and sustainability. From 2016-2017, she served as a consultant to the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Information Technology on the city's Open Data program.

Indicators for urban inequality

Alice Siragusa, Project Coordinator at the Joint Research Centre, European Commission



Alice holds a PhD in Regional and Urban Planning from Sapienza University of Rome, and a Master cum laude in Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Roma Tre. She is a researcher and coordinates the project "Localising SDGs". She works at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission since 2015. In the Territorial Development Unit, she focuses on the knowledge support to urban policies and she has been co-editing and co-authoring "the Future of Cities" report (2019) and the "European Handbook for SDGs Voluntary Local Reviews" (2020). At the JRC, she had also been working on the Global Human Settlement Layer project contributing to the Human Planet 2016 and 2017 Atlases (2015-2017). She co-led the Habitat III Policy Unit 6 on Urban Spatial Strategies: Land Market and Segregation.

Preventing gentrification, promoting spatial justice

Ernesto López-Morales, Associate professor at the Department of Urban Planning, University of Chile



He has a PhD in Urban Planning from the University College London. He is a professor at the Department of Urbanism, University of Chile, in addition to being Principal Investigator in the project "Spatial capital, social complexity of the rent gap formation, and social stratification: a comparative analysis of gentrification in Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City, 2005-2017" and Associate Researcher of the COES Project - Center for Conflict and Social Cohesion Studies (2015-2019). His line of research is the historical, morphological, and political configuration of the Latin American inner city, the political economy of the processes of spatial restructuring in Chilean and Latin American cities, the emergence and trajectories of urban-based social movements, and the various forms of urban gentrification in Latin American metropolitan centres.

Community interventions and bottom-up strategies

Daniela Patti, Managing Director at Eutropian



Daniela Patti is an Italian-British architect and urban planner. She has studied in Rome, London, Porto and holds a Ph.D. in urbanism from the Technical University of Vienna. Specialised in urban regeneration and environmental planning with a particular focus on metropolitan governance and collaborative planning, her recent research and projects' interest has been on the governance of peri-urban

landscape, the revitalisation of local food markets and new economic models for community-based urban development. She is co-founder and director of Eutropian Research&Action (eutropian.org) both in Rome and Vienna, an organisation supporting collaborative planning processes between public administrations and civic groups. She worked for the Rome Municipality in 2014-15, coordinating European projects such as the URBACT “Temporary Use as a Tool for Urban Regeneration” and since 2012 she is board member of the Wonderland Platform for European Architecture (wonderland.cx), running its collaborative planning series. She was a researcher at the Central European Institute of Technology in 2010-14, managing European projects related to urban regeneration and smart development. She has been guest lecturer in the University of Roma Tre, Tor Vergata and Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Special Guests respondents:

Jon Aguirre Such, URBACT



Jon is an architect-urban planner by the Higher Technical School of Architecture of Madrid (ETSAM-UPM) with a specialty in Urbanism, Planning and the Environment. He is the co-founder of the Integral Urban Planning Office ‘Paisaje Transversal’ and has experience in some of the most prestigious offices in Spain. His fields of expertise are digital tools, urban projects, participatory processes, and urban sociology.

Laura Petrella, Senior Programme Officer UN-Habitat



Laura trained in Italy as architect and specialized in urban and territorial planning in developing countries. She has 25 years of experience initially in research and then at UN-Habitat, where she has worked on slum upgrading, has been in charge of a major programme on Safer Cities (2002-2010) and has established the City Planning Extension and Design Unit (2012). She has several publications in her name or coordinated by her, including global guidelines of UN-Habitat on urban planning, public space and slum upgrading. She has worked in project implementation and advised national and local governments on urban development South Africa, Morocco, Senegal), Latin America (particularly Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Haiti), Asia (Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, China, Philippines, India) and Europe (Italy, Serbia and planning issues in Africa (including Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Cameroon, Russia) as well as at global level.

Ines Sanchez de Madariaga, UNESCO Chair of Gender and Equality Policies in Science, Technology and Innovation and AGGI Advisory Group for Gender Inclusion for UN-Habitat (Spain)



Ines has over 30 years of professional experience, 20 of them in the field of gender equality in STEAM fields. She provides expert and strategic advice to governments at local, regional, and national levels, as well as to NGOs, intergovernmental and multilateral organizations, and private corporations, on how to promote gender equality and integrate gender dimensions in science, technology, education, city planning, service provision, and transportation. As Director of the Women and Science Unit during the Spanish Presidency of the European Union and Advisor to the European Commission, Ines was a leader in the process of integrating gender equality in European research and innovation, including negotiating the regulation of the framework program Horizon 2020. She is an advisor on gender issues to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and her research and consultancy work on gender in city planning, transport, and architecture, has been pioneering in Europe.

SESSION 3 | INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR URBAN REGENERATION

Moderator

Gonzalo Lacurcia Abreira, UN-Habitat Office in Spain



Architect from the Central University of Venezuela / MSc in Urbanism from the Technological University of Delft (Netherlands). Expert in strategic planning issues related to urban areas, urban and territorial planning, and housing. For more than 20 years, he has held various positions in the public sphere, and has developed projects with the private sector and with the third sector. Since 2016 he has worked as a senior consultant at the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), first as part of the Urban Planning and Design LAB and later in the Division of Housing and Neighbourhood Improvement (both at headquarters Central Nairobi, Kenya), joining the UN-Habitat Office in Spain in 2018. He has collaborated in urban planning and housing projects in various countries, including Venezuela, Afghanistan, Ecuador and Spain.

Speakers

Policy frameworks

Laura Hagemann, Policy Officer for Territorial and Urban Development at European Commission



Laura Hagemann-Arellano holds a degree in Political Science from the Complutense University of Madrid and a Master in International Cooperation from the University of Antwerp.

She has worked as rapporteur for ERDF Programmes in the Spain unit of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, as coordinator of territorial and urban actions. She currently holds the position of Director General for Regional and Urban Policy in DG REGIO of the European Commission.

Multi-level integration

Diane Le Roux, International cooperation officer at the National Agency of Urban Regeneration



Diane has a Master's Degree in Political Science and Government and in Urban Studies/Affairs by the Rennes Institute of Political Studies. From 2004 – 2006 she was Infrastructure and Urban Development Officer at the French Development Agency. She worked as Consultant - Management of public services, sustainable urban development at Nodalys Consulting since 2006 until she returned to the French Development Agency in 2012,

where she held various positions, as Project Manager -Urban Development, from 2016 - 2017 as Policy officer - External action of local authorities and until 2020 as responsible for the local elected representatives in the Partnerships Department, leading AFD's relations with French local authorities. She currently is International Cooperation Officer at the National Agency of Urban Regeneration.

Spanish Recovery Transformation and Resilience Plan and linkages with urban regeneration



Eduardo de Santiago, Technical Counselor for Land and Urban Policies, responsible for the Urban Vulnerability Observatory, Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda

Eduardo has a Degree and a PhD in Architecture by the Polytechnic University of Madrid. He has worked in the Ministries of Housing and Development and has participated in the drafting of several normative texts on urban planning, housing and rehabilitation, as well as in the

Energy Rehabilitation Strategy in the Building Sector in Spain (ERSESEE 2014, 2017 and 2020). He is the coordinator of the Observatory of Urban Vulnerability in Spain. At the European level, he has participated as an expert in various working groups with the European Commission, URBACT, Eurocities or within the framework of Horizon 2020 on urban policies, sustainable urban planning and rehabilitation: the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC), the Agenda Urban Development of the European Union (AUUE), the Urban Poverty Partnership of the AUUE, the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Concerted Action on Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (CA EPBD), etc. He is the representative of Spain in the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN).

National Operational Programme for Metropolitan and South Medium cities and other national and regional tools

Paolo Esposito, Director General of the Italian Territorial Cohesion Agency (Agenzia per la Coesione Territoriale, ACT)



Paolo is an experienced C-level Executive with more than 20 years of experience in Organization and General Management, Industrial Relations, Business Organization. He has served as Human Resources and Organization Director in manufacturing and service private companies, both national and multinational, and has 8 years of Public Administration experience. He worked for the Italian Government as reconstruction Director General after the 2009 L'Aquila Abruzzo Region earthquake and from 2016 -2017 gave support for Governance after the central Italy earthquake.

Programmes for Urban and Semi-urban regeneration: regional instruments

Pere Picorelli, Coordinator of urban regeneration and housing programmes at InstitutCatalà del Sòl



Pere Picorelli is a political scientist (Univerisitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona 1996-2000) and urban planner (MSc in Regional and Urban Planning Studies, London School of Economics, London, UK, 2001-2002). He works at INCASÒL - Catalan Institute for land development, where he is currently coordinator of two operative programmes, the Affordable housing programme directed to develop new social housing on the rental tenancy in areas where the rental market is unaffordable to middle-low income population, and the District remodelling programme that promotes urban regeneration of deprived areas through the rebuilding and on-site relocation of population. Pere has been working from the public and private sector on urban regeneration and public housing development, both from the policy and project perspective, for the past 15 years.

Urban Regeneration approaches at the city level

Rehana Moosajee, Research Associate at South African Cities Network



She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Wits University in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has a history of community activism – having served on a range of civic structures. Rehana was a Councillor in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality between 2000 and 2013. During her tenure as the political head of Transport she led the team that delivered Africa’s first full Bus Rapid Transport system – Rea Vaya. She has been called upon to share her learnings, insights and experiences at a variety of events – including amongst others - the International Transport Forum, the American Public Transport Association, the Eschborn Dialogues as well as the Gordon Institute of Business Science. Her current assignments traverse a diversity of content areas including eco-mobility, food systems, early childhood development, wellbeing and inclusive economies and Healing Fields. She serves as a Research Associate at the South African Cities Network and provides innovative facilitation for authentic conversation to a number of government departments, development agencies and non-profit organisations. Rehana and her microenterprise, The Barefoot Facilitator, work closely with the community of Slovo Park Informal Settlement in Johannesburg – translating some of the theoretical concepts discussed on international platforms into practice. This often demonstrates the wide gap between sweeping theoretical statements and the lived reality of effecting change. Rehana serves on the boards of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and PlayAfrica Children’s Museum.

Special Guests respondents

Ellen Witte, Principal and Partner at SGS Economics and Planning



Ellen has a Bachelor of Social Science (Geography), and a Master of International Economics and Economic Geography by the University of Utrecht. She is a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and leads climate change adaptation, mitigation, and risk services at SGS. Ellen has over 19 years of experience in consultancy. She has extensive experience in social, environmental and economic impact assessments, financial feasibility studies, cost benefit analyses and strategic assessments of facilities and land use projects. Ellen has advanced skills and experience in strategic policy advice and governance, including strategic planning, business case development and funding arrangements.

Kaveh Aliakbari, Urban Renewal Organization of Tehran



Kaveh holds a Master of Architecture by the University of Tehran and a PhD in Philosophy and Urban and Regional Planning by the Shahid Beheshti University. He started his professional career 20 years ago in the Urban Renewal Organisation of Tehran (UROT). Before 2012, worked for UROT, where he set "facilitation" as the main policy of Tehran Municipality in tackling obsolescent neighbourhoods, policy that led to the establishment of 60 facilitation offices in Tehran's deteriorated neighbourhoods. In 2012 he started his PhD education in urban and regional planning at Shahid Beheshti University (SBU). His thesis was centred on urban regeneration and its interaction with social sustainability at the neighbourhood scale. In 2018 he restarted his career in UROT as CEO and member of the board, where he has tried to introduce an integrated, holistic, and inclusive interpretation of urban regeneration in Tehran, by provision and implementation of related policies, plans, and actions.

Frédéric Saliez, Programme Officer at UN-Habitat Office for Europe and European Institutions



He is an Architect and Civil Engineer and joined UN-Habitat in 2001. His work has been notably focused on Latin American countries and the Balkans. His previous background and working experiences have enabled him to support local and national governments in policies related to urban planning, environmental protection, public spaces and cultural heritage. Throughout his career, he has been successively posted in Belgium, Portugal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Kenya, Kosovo, and Brazil.

SESSION 4 | EU URBAN REGENERATION FRAMEWORKS FOR POST-COVID RECOVERY

Moderator

Javier Torner, Programme Manager Officer, UN-Habitat



Javier Torner works since 2014 in the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat as an Urban Development Specialist and Programme Management Officer at UN-Habitat's Headquarters in Nairobi. He holds a Master in Architecture, a Master in International Business Administration and a Master in Urban Development and International Cooperation. He has over 10 years of previous experience as an architect and urban developer for Banco Santander in Spain and later as market analyst and

business developer in Germany and the United States, accomplishing projects and partnerships in the public and private sector for sustainable development and energy sectors in Canada, US, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile and Argentina.

Speakers

New institutional financing mechanisms

Cécile Maisonneuve, Senior Fellow, Institut Montaigne, and Advisor, Climate, Energy, & Mobility, French Institute for International Relations (IFRI)



Cécile Maisonneuve is Senior Fellow at the Institut Montaigne, focusing on cities, energy and environmental issues. She is also an advisor to the Climate & Energy Centre of the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI). She teaches at Sciences Po Paris and is a columnist for French weekly L'Express on the ecological transition. A lecturer to companies and international organisations, she is a director of La Française de l'Energie and a member of the SNCF's stakeholder committee. From 2015 to 2021, she chaired La Fabrique de la Cité, a think tank for innovation and urban foresight supported by the VINCI group. From 2017 to 2021, she worked with the French Energy Market regulator (CRE). A senior civil servant at the French National Assembly (1997-2007), she was head of foresight and then deputy director in charge of international public affairs at AREVA (2007-2012), before heading IFRI's Energy Centre (2013-2014). Cécile Maisonneuve graduated from École Normale Supérieure, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne, and Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris. She writes on energy, mobility, geopolitical and urban issues, and is the author of a biography of Benjamin Franklin.

Leveraging private investment

Rogier Van den Berg, Senior Manager at the World Resources Institute



Van den Berg is an architect and urban planning and urban development specialist. Since 2000 he has led private planning practices and an academic department and he most recently led UN-Habitat's Urban Lab, which he set up in 2014. He led global teams working at the intersection of infrastructure, urban planning, urban resilience, climate change adaptation, technology, recovery and reconstruction, housing and public space. Van den Berg joined WRI Ross Center as Director for Urban Development in 2020. As part of WRI's program focused on more accessible, equitable, healthy and resilient cities, Van den Berg leads global programming on strategic urban planning, land use, urban water resilience, equitable development, housing, data and finance.

Structural Funds

Francesca Medda, Director of UCL Institute of Finance and Technology



Francesca is a Professor of Applied Economics and Finance at the University College London (UCL). She is the Director of UCL Institute of Finance and Technology. Since 2012 she serves as economic adviser to the UK Ministry of Environment and Agriculture (Defra) and in 2014 at the Ministry of Finance (HM Treasury). She is Vice-President of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Her work is published in leading academic and practitioner journals. She has worked and works actively with the private and public sector including The European Investment Bank, The World Bank, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, WILLIS Re, HALCROW, and UITP.

Real estate neighbourhood scale projects: success factors that support urban regeneration process

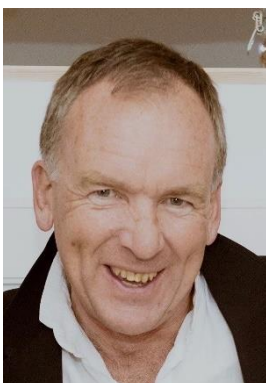
Rita Justesen, Planning and Architecture Chief By &Havn/ Director of Planning and Sustainability at the City of Copenhagen



As Director of Planning and Sustainability in Copenhagen City & Port Development Corporation, Rita Justesen sees the necessity of being part of that huge transformation of cities, which is why she focuses on the development of new urban districts that are sustainable both in the short and long run. According to Rita, some of the most pressing challenges include the growing number of people looking for a place to live, the provision of a high-class transport system, and of course the creation of dense, diverse, but most importantly liveable neighbourhoods.

Responsible real estate Funds

Chris Brown, Executive Chair and Founder of Igloo



Chris Brown founded the world's first responsible real estate fund, the igloo Regeneration Fund, in 2001. He has been an advisor to the UK Government on urban regeneration and gives evidence to the UK Parliament. He has also advised other Governments on regeneration. He is currently executive chair of igloo Regeneration, the UK's first real estate B Corps, a purpose driven development manager working with local government, financial institutions and communities to deliver

urban regeneration in deprived neighbourhoods in the UK's top 20 cities.

Special Guests respondents

Edoardo Croci, Professor of Economics of sustainable urban regeneration at Bocconi University



He is a Senior Research Fellow at GREEN (Centre for Geography, Resources, Environment, Energy and Networks) at Bocconi University, where he coordinates the "Green Economy Observatory" and the "Smart City Observatory". He is also Director of the Sustainable Urban Regeneration Lab and Professor of Practice at Bocconi, where he teaches "Carbon Markets and Carbon Management", "Transportation and Climate" and "Economics of Sustainable Urban Regeneration". He is scientific coordinator of several Horizon 2020 projects focused on urban sustainability. Member of the Management Committee

of the COST Action "Inogov - Innovations in Climate Governance: Sources, Patterns and Effects" and Supplement Member of the Management Committee of COST Action "Implementing Nature-Based Solutions for Creating a Resourceful Circular City". He is chairman of UERA – Urban European Research Alliance, member of the Thematic Group on Goal 11 (Cities) of UN - SDSN, member of the Team of specialist on policy innovation principles of UNECE. His main research area is related to design and evaluation of sustainable policy at the urban level (environment, energy, mobility, climate). He has served as Milan City Councilor for Mobility, Transport and Environment, Administrator of the Agency for the Protection of the Environment of Lombardy Region, Vice President of FEDARENE (European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agency), and Vice President of Italian Agenda 21 Coordination association.

Chris Wiebe, Manager, Heritage Policy & Government Relations, National Trust for Canada



Chris Wiebe is manager of heritage policy and government relations for the Heritage Canada Foundation (HCF), having joined in 2006. He organizes HCF's annual national conference, advocates for federal heritage incentives and legislation, and researches the connection between heritage conservation and sustainability. Chris sits on the Board of Directors at the Willowbank School for Restoration Arts in Queenston, Ontario. He holds Master of Arts degrees from Carleton University (Canadian Studies – Heritage Conservation) and the University of

Alberta (English), and he has written widely on heritage conservation and cultural issues for such magazines as Canadian Geographic and Alberta Views.

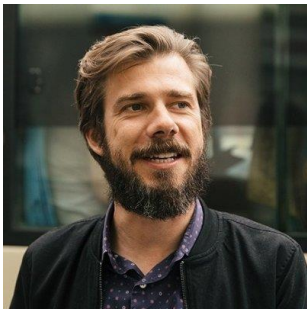
Danielle Grossenbacher, International Organizations Committee of The International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), GAP Business & Industry-President/co-chair



Danielle Grossenbacher is a Real Estate Broker selling commercial and residential properties in New York City. She was elected World President of FIABCI-The International Real Estate Federation in 2015-2016. During her term, she launched FIABCI's still ongoing World Urban Campaign « The City We Need Is Affordable ». The campaign's publications and talks featuring the latest innovative trends and solutions in affordable housing can be found on the website www.urbanthinkingtalks.com. Danielle is also currently co-chair of the Business & Industry group of the General Assembly of

Partners (GAP), which is a Civil Society Group aiming to help UN-Habitat in implementing the New Urban Agenda.

Pontus Westerberg, UN-Habitat Digital Officer



Pontus is a UN-Habitat expert on urban technology and innovation projects, public space, smart cities, open data, fundraising, partnerships, advocacy and ICT4D. With a BA in International Economics and Development, he has an MA in Global Media and Post-National Communications from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Since 2012, he has been responsible for the Block by Block program, a global program that uses Minecraft as a tool for citizen participation in urban design projects for public space. This program has implemented 100 projects in 35 countries. He recently produced a study on urban innovation in emerging economies, advised the Rwandan government on smart cities, and implemented digital technology projects in Nairobi's informal settlements. Before joining the UN, he worked in the NGO sector for 10 years.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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ETA GARRAIO SAILA

DEPARTAMENTO DE PLANIFICACIÓN
TERRITORIAL, VIVIENDA
Y TRANSPORTES

Summary of Interactive Activities

EXPERT GROUP MEETING URBAN REGENERATION AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

1-2 December 2021

Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain





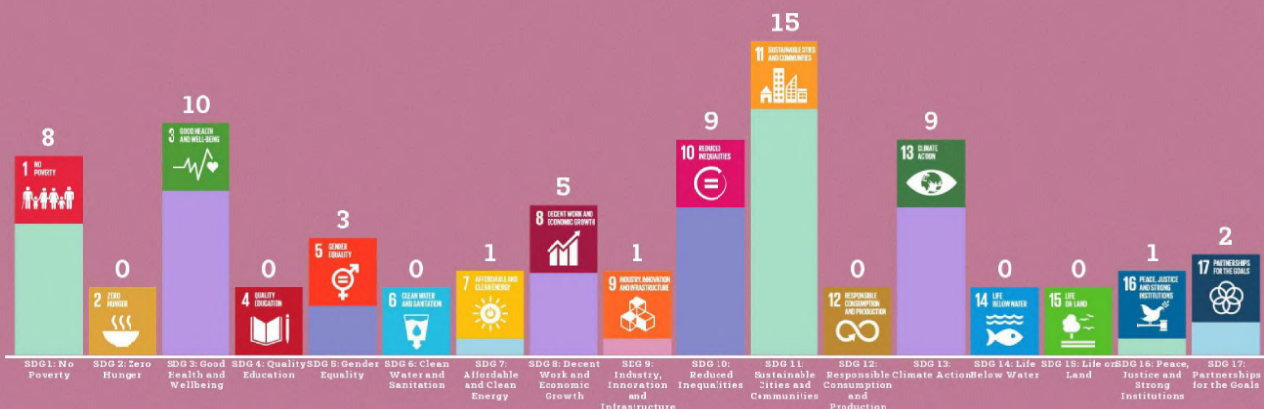
Interactive Activity Session 1

Rethinking Urban Regeneration:
Current Challenges and Opportunities

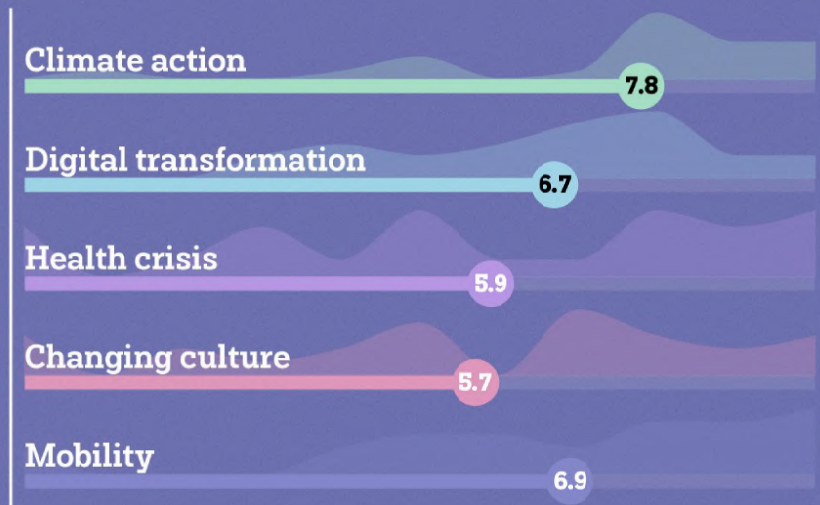
- Identify major trends
- Identify gaps
- Discover tools
- Define priorities



2. Which SDGs does *inclusive* urban regeneration processes mainly contribute to?



3. To what degree will these components play a transformative role for urban regeneration processes?



4. What other contemporary global urban trends have a major impact on urban regeneration processes?



4. What other contemporary global urban trends have a major impact on urban regeneration processes?

refugee and migration crisis, civil unrest and declining democratic processes

Regional economic competitiveness

Urba inequalities

Limited access to credit

Migration

Affordability and variable markets

rising spatial and social inequality

Islamophobia

Inequality



4. What other contemporary global urban trends have a major impact on urban regeneration processes?

Gender Equality

urban services divide

Migration Administrative and government processes Territorial links

DEmise of the Nation State?

Urban sprawl control

Vaccine Apartheid

Financial difficulties, migration, rise of individualism

energy transition

Migrant integration



4. What other contemporary global urban trends have a major impact on urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

rural-urban continuum relations

Reduction of land consumption

net-zero cities

Democratic crisis

Lack of housing accessibility

making invisible visible!

urban- rural linkages, financial and economic crisis

Political division

office space available to adaptive reuse

43



4. What other contemporary global urban trends have a major impact on urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Culture for all

Lack of tools and real integrated processes

Net positive cities

Migrations and urban diversity; reduced resources/financial space; globalization of urban investments/financialization.

ageism

geospatial analysis: vulnerability and exposure

aging

43



5. What kind of digital tools help facilitate and implement inclusive urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter



23

6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

agility

Transformation of work

demand for proximity of services

public space

Place and independent work

Active travel

active mobility

More equitable use of public space

Faith in Science

54

6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

Sense of urgency

Desynchronisation of life rhythms

Tele-commuting

Mutual aid

international scientific collaboration & open knowledge systems

social networks

Neighbourhood cohesion

More walking and cycling

Pedestrian and cycling infrastructures

54



6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

Equitable distribution of public space

Working from home

Digitalisation of small retail

nature in the city

shift to low-carbon mobility

reduced commuting. more biking and walking

Remote working

importance of public space

Recognition of the importance of informal economies

54



6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

People oriented development, mixed-use neighborhoods

Value of public space and natural space

focus on public space accessibility and distribution

Data-driven decision processes

Digital access

Active mobility

State rol in the public matter

15 minute neighbourhoods

proximity activities and facilities

54



6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

Value for the care economy

use of public space

Vibrant suburbs

soft mobility, flexible work place, rethinking of abandoned areas / building to provide wider community spaces

Public space role

novel civic spaces

nature and green

Appropriation of public space for living - sofas on the pavements

creativity

54



6. Which positive trends created by the COVID-19 pandemic in cities should stay?

Mentimeter

Community greening

Importance of PUBLIC goods

Neighbourhood social cohesion

Flexible tele working

creating jobs and access to services

greener more livable cities

Building your own city

need for mixed neighbourhoods

hybrid work

54



7. What should/could be the goals of urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Social equity

Social inclusion

Health and well-being

Respect for nature

Greener and more inclusive cities

Social capital

imaginary city leaders for action!

Inclusion

Fighting spatial inequalities

44



7. What should/could be the goals of urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Stronger bonds and social glue between citizens for a more just city

breaking silos at local interventions

Sustainability and repair

reduce carbon emissions

Social cohesion

Well being

Adaption to climate change

Reducing urban sprawl

Aspiration, daring to dream again - everybody

44



7. What should/could be the goals of urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Strong communities

Combining environmental and social issues

Wellbeing

integration of functions and services in cities

Climate mitigation

Facing the holystic approach

Indigenous knowledge systems deserve value

Poverty reduction

Equity - transformation for all

44



7. What should/could be the goals of urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Equity and justice

Integrate social economic and environmental challenges

Active ageing

Re-thinking of the urban development model

Shared visions of common futures

Integrated approach

Urban competitiveness

Transversality

urban commons

44



7. What should/could be the goals of urban regeneration processes?

Mentimeter

Systems thinking paired with local action

Giving back to nature

Urban qualities of life for all

multi-sector - multi-level - multi-stakeholder

right to the city

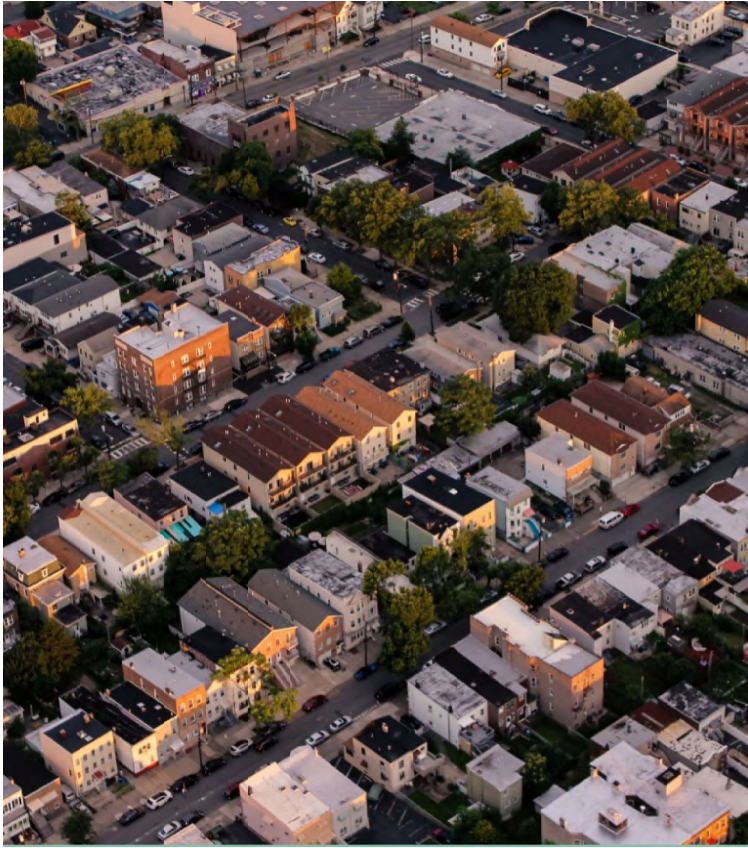
Inclusive city, neighbourhood, facility, housing,....

Fight poverty

contribute to reduce spatial inequalities through inclusivity and participatory processes

44





Interactive Activity Session 2

Addressing Spatial Inequality:
Neighbourhood-based Regeneration and
Community Participation

2. What are the **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MARKERS** that we can use to identify spatial inequality?

unemployment rate

Unemployment

Gender pay gap

Overcrowding

Unemployment

lack of amenities

Lack of social capital

access to urban services

Income distribution



2. What are the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MARKERS that we can use to identify spatial inequality?

Mentimeter

access to public infrastructure,
urban commons

Littering

housing requiring (severe)
renovation

Rent to income ratio, Price to
income ratio, rates of involuntary
segregation

unemployment

mobility access

Sexy, Gender should be added in a
few places

Vacancy

Housing ownership rates

37



2. What are the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MARKERS that we can use to identify spatial inequality?

Mentimeter

lack of social services

access to public space

Children 0-4 in schools

Wellbeing

number of children

square meters per inhabitant -
(overcrowding)

Population decline

Illiteracy

income distribution

37



2. What are the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MARKERS that we can use to identify spatial inequality?

Mentimeter

ownership ratio

High level travel time

Access to housing

vacancy

commute times for work

high-end versus low end housing

Internet access

heritage sites

Social cohesion

37



2. What are the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MARKERS that we can use to identify spatial inequality?

Mentimeter

Economic vibrancy

37



3. Which DOMAINS should we study and monitor to assess spatial inequality?



4. What are the BENEFITS of living in a socially diverse and vibrant neighbourhood?



5. What ACTIONS could limit the negative effects of gentrification in urban regeneration processes and beyond?

Mentimeter

policy

social learning

shared ownership

cross-subsidies

Diverse supply of housing

Community land ownership before regeneration process starts

policy

land trusts

inclusive governance

36



5. What ACTIONS could limit the negative effects of gentrification in urban regeneration processes and beyond?

Mentimeter

slow phase of implementation of urban regeneration projects

policy on land and rent

Limiting rents

Policy and financing mechanisms allowing existing residents to benefit from urban regeneration processes

Go from participation to empowerment

School diversity policies

cooperatives

Regulation

Deliberate diversity

36



5. What ACTIONS could limit the negative effects of gentrification in urban regeneration processes and beyond?

Mentimeter

Employment policies, participation processes

Promoting access to housing for vulnerable groups

Shared ownership

Community control over process and actors

Limited land speculation

Open minded application of past things that worked

community organizations

rootinng population

Fair and transparent housing regulations and policies

36



5. What ACTIONS could limit the negative effects of gentrification in urban regeneration processes and beyond?

Mentimeter

digital access

regulation on value extraction

Taxation

SME organizations

Open source data

Land value capture

see gentrification as an opportunity for social development and boosting communities

access to education

employment opportunities

36



6. What makes an urban regeneration process successful?

Mentimeter

wellbeing

belonging

cohesion

Integration of different policy objectives

Partnerships

Benefits accrue to original population

renewed urban DNA

rooting population

Improving well being and job opportunities for already existing residents

36



6. What makes an urban regeneration process successful?

Mentimeter

No need for regeneration in the first place! Why should areas decline at all?

Create Jobs Services Sociability

Patience persistence and deep pockets!

vibrancy

Integrated approach and citizens participation

diversity

Co-build it, explain it, consistent implementation

The public participation and empowerment

long term vision

36



6. What makes an urban regeneration process successful?

Mentimeter

creativity

shared values

Levels of vulnerability and inequality decreased & not displacement

civic life

Courage

accessability housing

urban regeneration should not be the end, but one of the outcomes of social transformations

resilient communities

Establishing urban regeneration institution

36



6. What makes an urban regeneration process successful?

Mentimeter

neighborhood pride

Having a long term strategy that enables flexibility

Co creation of places

multiscalar vision

Money

Community and citizen empowerment

accept evolution of cities... the city is a living organism

alliances of actors

Multi sectoral approach

36





Interactive Activity Session 3

Policy and Governance Frameworks for Urban Regeneration

- Discover legislative tools and mechanisms
- Identify organisational models



2. What types of organisations and stakeholders could/should lead urban regeneration processes?



4. What are the legislative challenges in the planning and implementation of inclusive urban regeneration projects?

Mentimeter

outdated legislation, more complex urban challenges

lack of flexibility

Silos

Norms not flexible

Power dynamics

Flexible frameworks

Local diversity

vision & leadership

Unintended consequences of opposing policy aims

43



4. What are the legislative challenges in the planning and implementation of inclusive urban regeneration projects?

Mentimeter

Lack of transversal impact studies

No citizen participation

Lack of capacity to draft integrated progressive laws and regulations

Focus on physical without social and cultural

Lack of Broad view

No body behind

Top down approach

Integrated frameworks

Regulators too late in the game

43



4. What are the legislative challenges in the planning and implementation of inclusive urban regeneration projects?

Mentimeter

lack of imagination

Legislator knowledge

Long time

Activating financial and management mechanisms to overcome existing barriers

Lack of SDG approach

System lack of understanding

Political and electrician cycles

Lack of good governand mechsniisms

Private-nonprofit-public consortiums

43



4. What are the legislative challenges in the planning and implementation of inclusive urban regeneration projects?

Mentimeter

Having lots of plans and most of them against each other in goals, scald etc

Policy Coherence

Information overload

lack of creative tools & appropriate legislation to make it happen

Self-government for regional and local bodies

Inclusión should be transversal

All interventions should be inclusive , accesible and affordable

43



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

Access to land

New ownership models

Decentralization

Devolution of control over money

Land value capture

Better understanding of incentives on all sides

Allow for community led initiatives that identify problems and support their solutions

Empowerment

Communicative-collaborative approaches

46



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

regulative instruments

Pooled funds to deliver projects

Land control and access

economic incentives

Children led design

link between social - economic

Shared cross sector KPIs eg Social value

empowerment

Tax incentives

46



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

Creating (temporary) special purpose governance unit

New financial models

Integration of objectives...

innovative financial schemes

Subsidy control exemptions

Stop to focus on the underserved as the center piece of the work, make it truly inclusive

Land control

youth as drivers of change

Health in all policies

46



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

Multilevel contact

Down to up planning

Decentralized and bottom up governance

involve informality within formal frameworks

Local set housing quotas not centralised ones

Food security

Tools to increase access to land, extend services to under-services areas

Participatory processes in the starting point

Experimental territories

46



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

Benchmarking

In certain contexts,
selfrehabilitation practices

"one stop shops"

Community driving the processes

Monitoring indicators

different leadership styles, time for
new approaches and not grey suits

New zoning midels

Coherence and alignment between
different levels of laws and
policies

Align climate investment with
deprivation measures

46



5. What legislative mechanisms can allow urban regeneration processes to become more inclusive and sustainable?

Mentimeter

Link design governance and
finance

46





Interactive Activity Session 4

Innovative Finance for Urban Regeneration

- Identify challenges and gaps
- Discover new financing mechanisms



2. What are the major challenges for local governments to invest in urban regeneration?

Edoardo Croci

Lack of resources

Lack of money, lack of innovation

Lack of revenue

Multifaceted nature of projects

Lack of municipal finance

own resources

Lack of the full picture on how things can get financed

lack of funds



2. What are the major challenges for local governments to invest in urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

legal restraints on land development

Manage a crosscutting budget with long term vision

Limited funds for large mandate

The real challenge is IMPACT, not investment

Lack of funding

Low capital inv capacity

Incomprehensible central government funding criteria

Lack of clear business model

Lack of management capacity

21



2. What are the major challenges for local governments to invest in urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

Not integrating co benefits

Lack of funding

Lack of ideas

21



3. What instruments and mechanisms can help mitigate financial risk for the private sector?



4. Please scale which sectors you think will attract funding opportunities for urban regeneration processes in the upcoming years.



5. What funds do you know that allocate resources for urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

Igloo

EU Funds

US Historic Preservation Tax Credits

EU cohesion funds

APG smart city fund

Pension funds

NEXT GENERATION
EUFEDERREGIONAL FUNDS

EU funds

EU/IFI, National, Private

33



5. What funds do you know that allocate resources for urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

EU cohesion

Recovery and resilience funds

Insurance companies

NextGenEU

Sistemas de actuación : mx City local
gov

EU Next-generation

Public funds from national regional
and local

Participatory budgets

Igloo

33



5. What funds do you know that allocate resources for urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

EU funds

Insurance companies, pension funds, foundations, local authority capital finance, central government grants

EU funds EU Recovery Resilience

Eu nextgenwration

Horizon Europe - cities mission

Green Municipal Fund Canada

institutional investors: pension funds

Local Participative schemes

Sustainable investment fund

33



5. What funds do you know that allocate resources for urban regeneration?

Mentimeter

Regional funds

European Investment Bank

Individual and community wide social, economic and environmental resilience

Wellbeing

Vibrant cities

Identity

33



6. What, in your opinion, should be the objective of a global urban regeneration programme?

Mentimeter

Reducing urban inequality sustainably

Cross-department coordination

Avoid Urban segregation

contribute to reduced spatial and urban inequalities

contribute to climate action and equity

Collect and share best practices

Advocate for long term value of regeneration

Healthy sustainable prosperous and equitable cities

promoting sustainable growth

29



6. What, in your opinion, should be the objective of a global urban regeneration programme?

Mentimeter

Helping to show how our local projects contribute to the global SDGs

Meeting Society's needs within the planet's limits

reducing urban inequality

Bringing urban inequality back to the core of the discussion on urban issue/planning

SDG implementation on the ground

Help build a consistent project

support transition to sustainable, resilience and digital city

Improve people's quality of life, mitigate climate change & regenerate natural values

Improve urban and social conditions

29



6. What, in your opinion, should be the objective of a global urban regeneration programme?

Mentimeter

enhance employment opportunities

Raise resources for urban regeneration in developing countries

Doughnut Economics!!

Prioritise investments

Sets the principles links to tools and indicators and facilitates localScale actions

Increase opportunities

Limit unsuccessful attempts to transfer policy /best practice./approached

Simultaneously address spatial inequality, climate action, and environmental (resource degradation/ consumption).

mitigate climate change impact on urban environment

29



6. What, in your opinion, should be the objective of a global urban regeneration programme?

Mentimeter

There should be different regional programmes addressing the different challenges like slum upgrading in the south or energy efficiency in the north

engage communities in local governance and decision-making processes

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**A better quality of life for all
in an urbanising world**

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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