

Dear Member Cities of the UBC,

As part of the UBC Brussels' Antenna striving to connect UBC member cities with European stakeholders and increase involvement in dialogues with various stakeholders across Europe and wider, we are pleased to invite you to participate in this year's European Week of Regions and Cities. The sessions are in the form of workshops and participatory labs based on the exchange of knowledge and good practices.

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual event during which cities and regions collaborate, network and showcase their problems, job-creating ideas, growth capacity, and good practices implementation of European Union cohesion policy. This approach ensures the involvement and recognition of Cities and Regions in EU policy-making. This is an event where a cross-sectoral community of practitioners is formed, gathering local, regional, national and European decision-makers and experts, business stakeholders, Civil Sector Organizations and others, to make sure all voices are heard. In the 2019 edition, we reached a record high of more than 9000 participants and more than 330 sessions, which shows the event's relevance and potential as a platform for political communication concerning the development of EU cohesion policy.

The European Week of Regions and Cities 2020 will consist of 475 sessions in 3 main themes: Green Europe, Cohesion and Cooperation and Empowering Citizens. We have researched which of the sessions coincide with UBC Member Cities main identified priorities:

- *Urban Agenda for EU*
- *Cohesion Policies beyond 2020*
- *Climate Change and Sustainable Development*

How to register?

Please sign in with the EU Login. When signing-in you will be required to use a two-factor authentication. Please follow this guide https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/set-eu-login-two-factor-authentication_en to set up a Two-Factor Authentication with your mobile number in your EU Login account. It will not be possible to register to sessions scheduled at the same time.

Below you can review a list of sessions that you might be interested including the official description and a link for full information about the session and its partners.

Green Europe

1. New ways forward for cities and regions in line with EGD

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1571_en

The session aims to explain and demonstrate how cities, regions and associations can positively contribute to the objectives enshrined in the European Green Deal (EGD) and how they can help to achieve the goals of energy transition. Good examples such as Energy Strategies, Carbon Neutral roadmaps, etc. will be debated.

2. How can regions enable the Green Deal?

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1322_en

This workshop's partners will be highlighting local/regional experiences and best practices, sharing their approaches to tackling issues faced in the implementation of their strategies and projects on energy efficiency, contributing to reducing emissions and outlining how these actions help implement European policy objectives.

3. Greening cities and regions more quickly: LIFE funding & integrated projects

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1641_en

Participatory Lab - world café, ideas labs aims to present and discuss the so-called LIFE integrated projects as a very effective tool for coordinating funding and accelerating the implementation of multiple kinds of environmental plans and strategies. The session will present several examples of successes achieved and challenges faced by beneficiaries, enabling interaction among the speakers and the audience, and providing valuable tips for preparing a good application.

4. Reboot your city in a circular way

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1435_en

This workshop will provide an overview of cities and regions' investment in the circular economic system and how it made them more resilient during the crisis from cities, entrepreneurs and citizens' initiatives' points of view.

5. Towards climate-resilient cities and regions

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1086_en

The workshop which is to be opened by the Committee of the Regions with speakers from the European Environment Agency and the Covenant of Mayors will present the status quo of sub-national adaptation to climate change in Europe and will offer the floor for discussion on the role of regions in securing a climate-resilient future. Lessons will be drawn from the Interreg Italy-Croatia Adriadapt project with a closing debate with the audience.

6. Cities and regions in green transition

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1614_en

The workshop will be divided into two blocks. The focus of the first block will be setting long term strategies, financing ambitious climate initiatives and implementing environmental policies. In the second bloc, concrete projects from leading European cities will be presented. Each of the blocks will be followed by a Q&A session, allowing the audience to join the discussion.

7. How can regions and cities deliver the European Green Deal?

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1573_en

This workshop will bring together regional stakeholders and EU officials to discuss the challenges and the solutions to be found to achieve a greener future, in the light of the Green Deal and EU budget for 2021-2027. The panelists will share strategies, good practice, and solutions as regards how regions and cities can deliver the European Green Deal at the regional and local level.

8. Developing pathways for the circular economy

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1320_en

The session will explore success factors and solutions for existing barriers of European practitioners while discussing regional governance and the circular economy. After presenting a regional perspective, case studies and projects, a closing interaction part divided in online to for discussing the projects in-depth with the project members as well as Q&A will round up this participatory lab.

9. Smart Specialisation 4 Blue Growth Cooperation

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1397_en

The workshop will consider the JRC/DG MARE 2020 Annual Report of the EU Blue Economy, focusing on innovation as an opportunity for thematic interregional cooperation through joint regional and corporate efforts in the emerging blue growth sectors, and discuss the role of quadruple-helix stakeholders in regional and macro-regional collaboration on innovation.

10. Climate Neutral and Circular Food Production

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1203_en

Representatives from the EC will introduce in this session the EU goals and policy frameworks such as the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy followed by a presentation of the H2020 DECISIVE project (Urban Bio-Waste Management). Conversation in three groups with participants from different EU Member States focusing on CO2 neutral food chain, Zero food waste and Alternative sources of protein will be conducted before closing remarks.

11. Financing climate actions in cities

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1425_en

In this workshop, the European City Facility joins forces with the Covenant of Mayors and the H2020 PROSPECT project to discuss the implementation of financing schemes for climate & energy at the local and regional level.

12. Launching event of the Green City Accord

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1035_en

The partners Eurocities, European Commission, European Committee of the Regions - ENVE Commission will present The Green City Accord (currently in preparation) that will mobilize cities to engage in more ambitious action towards fulfilling the requirements of the EU's environment acquis and will also support the delivery of the European Green Deal's environment ambition. The Accord will in the first phase engage a community of cities willing to undertake further commitments to improving air and water quality, waste management, noise pollution and to enhance the protection of their green areas.

13. Green Cities by Co-Design

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1574_en

This workshop will present methods for effective engagement strategies that will highlight how smart technology and citizen engagement are being used across

Europe to co-design green cities. A range of local authorities and a research institution will showcase innovative initiatives to implement green cities, using research, innovation, good governance and the power of engaging in better and deeper collaboration with local citizens.

14. The role of the SDGs in the crisis recovery

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1276_en

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Eurocities, European Committee of the Regions-Commission for Economic Policy, PLATFORMA, and Regions4 Sustainable Development will show how cities and regions implement SDGs in a post-pandemic Europe and beyond, and call the EU not to delay their implementation.

15. Social Innovation for Energy Transitions

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1363_en

Participatory Lab will enable participants to learn about social innovation in energy transitions. This lab will offer a chance to discover new tools and processes for accelerating the energy transition, rooted in the experience of cities participating in three EU-funded projects (SONNET, TOMORROW and UrbanA).

Cohesion and Cooperation

1 Cohesion Policy rebuilding EU solidarity

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1439_en

This session aims to explain what Cohesion Policy is and the recent changes introduced by the EU Commission, as well as the different funds and mechanisms at the disposal of Member States. It will also look at the Multiannual Financial Framework, the future of EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020 and many other European initiatives which aim to support territories with geographic challenges, the urban agenda for the EU, or the recently presented Just Transition Fund.

2 Citizens' Dialogue

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1651_en

Citizens' Dialogues are public debates between European Commissioners and moderators. During this event questions about EU policies will be answered.

3 A Handbook to boost your urban strategy

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1370_en

The workshop will present the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies recently published by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. The workshop will also include an introduction by DG REGIO on the urban dimension of cohesion policy in the next programming period as well as analytical insights on urban strategies developed in 2014-2020, inspirational examples from city authorities and practical tools presently available to policymakers.

4 Best practices and funding opportunities

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1156_en

The goal of the Participatory Lab with networking closing part will be to explore youth policies for the development of creative and innovative attitudes of young people through activities such as: needs diagnosis, undertaking activities that build a sense of agency among young people, shaping social, civic and democratic attitudes and activation of young people through participation in various forms of social and civic life.

5 COVID-19 and Future Cohesion Policy: the role of local authorities

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1587_en

In this session, Brno, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Espon Egtc, Euroregion-North West City Region, Lisbon Metropolitan area, Lyon Metropolitan Authority, Metropolitan City of Turin, Municipality of Sintra will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, which has given rise to new challenges and present the emergency measures taken locally, and the support provided by the European Union through Cohesion Policy.

6 Building a long-term vision for rural areas

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1391_en

The workshop will be moderated by the European Network for Rural Development with the participation of rural stakeholders and Commission staff. The main objective of the event will be to have an exchange of views and a debate with participants. The outcome will be used as a contribution to the

Communication on a Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas planned for the first half of 2021.

7 International urban cooperation

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1069_en

This workshop will examine the results of this cooperation regarding added value for public authorities and the private sector. It will also reflect on the effects of external shocks like the coronavirus crisis on cities in areas like public health and economic recovery, highlighting the added value of international cooperation. Panel Session 1: Smart City & Digital Transition: China (Guangzhou) - India (Panaji-GOA) - EU (Barcelona, Spain); Panel Session 2: Green Deal Circular Economy & Energy Transition: Japan (Koriyama) - EU (Rome, Italy) - China (Chengdu).

8 Regional innovation

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1067_en

The workshop will present the recent EU-China joint study on regional innovation policies, which has explored best practices on both sides and identified potential opportunities for European regions and cities to cooperate with their Chinese counterparts. It will also present the final results and lessons learnt from two EU-funded projects on regional innovation policies.

9 Digital services for Sustainable and Smart cities: Join, Boost, Sustain Declaration & Living-in.eu movement

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1212_en

The Living-in.eu movement and declaration signed by 70+ EU cities and communities with the ambition to digitally transform cities are the topic of this workshop which aims to share innovative solutions for a Cooperative and Green Europe, discuss how to accelerate the scaling up of urban digital platforms and engage other regions, cities and communities in the Living-in.eu community.

10 Smart city solutions in turbulent times

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1412_en

The workshop will concentrate on how to make cities more self-sufficient, resilient and safe for their inhabitants and how national governments can help. Representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development, the non-governmental platform Urban Resilience Hub and the Association of Towns and Municipalities will discuss these topics and share examples of best practices for future urban

development in turbulent times (e.g. the climate, the economy, technology and crises).

11 Sustainable urbanization and land-use

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1382_en

This session regards a discussion between scientists and policymakers on how to use the findings from the ESPON SUPER project (sustainable urbanization and land use) to make better policy decisions. Learning from other regions' experiences will be the focus of this session.

12 International urban cooperation

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1635_en

This workshop will examine the results of this cooperation regarding added value for public authorities and the private sector. It will also reflect on the effects of external shocks like the coronavirus crisis on cities in areas like public health and economic recovery, highlighting the added value of international cooperation. Session 1. Green Deal: Mobility & Digital Transition. LAC (Buenos Aires, Argentina) - NA (San Diego, USA) - EU (Turin, Italy); Session 2. Green Deal: Circular Economy & Energy Transition. NA (Edmonton, Canada) - LAC (Barranquilla, Colombia) - EU (Bologna, Italy).

13 Smart Specialization Strategies for SDGs

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1131_en

European Commission - JRC, European Committee of the Regions will show how EU and non-EU countries, regions and cities have aligned their S3s with the SDGs and how they are using the methodology to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. The workshop will focus on presenting cases where smart specialization strategies have been successfully implemented, specifically their contribution to sustainable innovation.

14 Location Intelligence4Cities and Regions

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1514_en

Participatory Lab will showcase opportunities that location intelligence can offer to regional and city administration and allowing a better understanding of the challenges they are facing and the ideas they are proposing. Story 1: Use of location intelligence in energy efficiency where practices could be shared between the regions and cities as well as at EU level; Story 2: Data ecosystems

(integrating public and private sector data to create a multi-purpose city-data ecosystem) supporting better services for businesses and citizens in regions and cities.

15 Data-driven analysis of urbanization

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1521_en

The attendees will learn how to use data to visualize and analyze urbanization in cities and their commuting area. More specifically, the workshop will focus on: the GHSL Urban Centre Database that describes more than 10 000 urban centers around the globe with historical data; the GHSL Global Functional Urban Areas that estimates the extent of Metropolitan Areas around all Urban Centre using a people-based definition covering the entire world and using grid cells as spatial building blocks instead of a local administrative unit; and the ESPON Functional areas tool which enables the disaggregation (estimate) of NUTS level data for different functional areas using a “dasymeric mapping” method.

16 Urban resilience after COVID crisis

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1213_en

The City of Nice, Eurocities, European Commission, European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), WHO Regional Office for Europe will present the initiatives launched during the crisis. The session will be rounded up with a debate focusing on lessons learnt by cities, cooperation needs, and how EU-funded programmes can support long-term local responses and innovation.

17 Leader/CLLD: How rural innovation can contribute to territorial and social cohesion?

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1120_en

This workshop will present good practices in different European countries in terms of innovation and experimental initiatives in rural areas to strengthen territorial and social cohesion and to exchange on future opportunities and future possibilities for innovation in rural areas. With speakers from 7 different European countries, including MEPs in the European Parliament, members of the European LEADER networks and members of the European Committee of the Regions, this workshop is aimed at all LEADERS and rural stakeholders.

Empowering citizens

1 Metropolitan cities and European funds to tackle Covid-19 emergency

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1593_en

The workshop opens with an overview of the new European Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027), with relevant experts that will guide participants through the new EU programming period, explaining priorities and opportunities. Three focus speeches will open the debate around the three main challenges cities are called upon to face: social, digital and green.

2 ICT for migrant inclusion in the EU

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1552_en

The aim of the Q&A is to engage people in a fruitful discussion on the NADINE system and how it allows public authorities and guidance professionals to offer a personalized service to migrants based on real needs and the opportunities available to them.

3 Older persons as local agents of change

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1020_en

This session will be an opportunity to discuss strategies, experiences and good practices developed by local authorities to empower and involve older persons who are not only service beneficiaries but also critical agents of change.

4 Digital skills for citizens' empowerment

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1140_en

The objective of the workshop is to advocate for public and private partnership models, where both government authorities and industry partners and employers co-invest to develop a relevant digital skill set and match it with local market demand for digital talent. EU and government-funded initiatives that target unemployed people with different educational backgrounds (STEM degrees vs. low education levels), current workers in the manufacturing industry, as well as new hires requiring relevant industry and job-ready skills will be presented.

5 Digital Masterclasses: Engaging citizens online

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1461_en

The workshop is part of the "Digital Masterclasses" series, aiming to provide CoR members and alternates with digital skills to better connect with citizens and their voters online. This workshop will explore the best practices of employing digital communication to not only inform, but also engage citizens online.

6 Small towns fighting long-term decline

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1581_en

The mayors of small towns will share their experience of creating a forum to coordinate civil-society-led action (model of the NGO Platform) and tackling vacancies in centrally located retail premises through short-term, low-risk lease arrangements (the Pop-up Shop model). These practices were shared between eight small towns in the URBACT-sponsored Re-growCity network (<https://urbact.eu/re-growcity>). The mayor of Altena, Dr. Hollstein, will provide an insight into the strategic re-envisioning process that led to a cross-cutting strategy to reverse 30 years of continuous decline. The mayor of Melgaço, Manoel Batista, will present details on their pop-up shop initiative, which gained national attention in Portugal. The mayor of Idrija, Tomaz Venceli, and the project manager from Manresa in Spain, Sonia Spjol, will share their experiences of developing NGO platforms in their towns.

7 Do people with a migrant background benefit from EU funds?

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1513_en

The workshop will involve national, regional and local authorities which have developed coordinated methods that have proven to have a tangible impact on integration. By also bringing together funding authorities of ERDF, ESF and AMIF, the workshop will help to identify remaining obstacles at EU and national level.

8 Citizen engagement and regional policies

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1121_en

The workshop will encourage Europe's regions to experiment with different economic models and show a data approach to collective intelligence which is the magic dust that can propel regional cohesion if people are enabled to act, not just talk. Agenda: (1) discuss the challenges of citizen engagement; (2) discuss the role of data for and about collective intelligence; (3) present some experiences; and (4) discuss a possible future where different regions might pursue different models, rather than trying to converge on a dominant one (The call is part of the Science Fiction Economics Project).

9 No lockdown for e-democracy

https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1335_en

The main part of the session will be dedicated to discussing the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and how to adapt digital democracy policies and practices to make democracies more resilient in times of crisis. This session aims to contribute to the conversation about the promises and challenges of e-democracy during the COVID-19 response and highlighting some e-democracy best practices of EU funded projects. In the introductory part, stakeholders will share with the audience the best practices of EU-funded projects related to how digital technologies can empower citizens to take part in the European democratic debate.