

Session 2B - Urban plans for more inclusive and healthier cities: innovative municipal strategies and partnerships

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Scientific Day - Theme 2. Innovating Public Space for Inclusive Cities

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The first public interventions in housing in the early 20th century stemmed from the general concern with public health that arose as a result of the mass migration to the urban centres in the wake of industrialization. State housing provision increased as the welfare state was established after the economic recession. Mass construction of public housing took place all over Europe when the need for reconstruction was combined with the housing deficit of the pre-war years. Many of the housing estates that were built, as with others built during the following decades, were located where land was available to enable urgent construction. This land was often in peripheral areas of the city, and agricultural and industrial in nature, with low urban density. By and large, these areas were urbanized in a manner that was less than stimulating, and became in many cases degraded and problematic. With their high population levels combined with socio-economic deprivation, these areas commonly had low levels of connectivity to the city and an uncertain future. Nowadays, cities are rethinking their urban plans in order to reconnect the urban structure that is often fragmented in terms of physical continuity, social integration and environmental quality. To mitigate this effect, new and innovative urban strategies are being developed with a national or international approach, created by networks of cities aiming to develop common methodologies, solutions and practices. These networks are receiving crucial financial investment to support research and innovative solutions that are aligned with the most up to date paradigms and agendas of sustainability and inclusion. Within this perspective, we welcome design practices, reports or policy briefs developed by means of regional, national or international cooperation and partnership between cities, focusing on the following topics: a) urban plans for a more inclusive, sustainable and healthy public space; b) participatory process methodologies and tools for an inclusive public space; c) co-creation and co-governance of nature-based solutions (NBS) for spatial planning.