

## **Session 3A - Whose right to the city?: functional diversity and the co-creation of nature-based solutions for an inclusive public space**

09:30 - 11:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 3. Transforming Governance for Innovative Cities

Presentation type Oral

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The engagement of citizens and other stakeholders in urban regeneration processes is a consequence of the acknowledgement that development of the urban space is more than a task for local administrations alone, but is in fact a broad social phenomenon in which those actors introduce inputs and appropriations to form complex combinations of urban configurations and identities. As a matter of social justice, the planning of citizen engagement must address the challenges and cultures related to the implementation of participation in an urban governance context, as well as in the universe of stakeholders, including their diversity and specificities. To allow citizens to make full use of their potential as participants and contributors to their territory, the promoters of participatory processes need to be alert to the specificities, requirements and limitations experienced by the various segments of citizens. In this sense, recognition of specificities and inclusion are not a matter of number of participants, but of balanced diversity, the valuing of specificities and the empowering of corresponding inputs. The social model of disability postulates the notion that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Those barriers can be architectonic, social or attitudinal, resulting in unequal access to public spaces and services, leading to social exclusion. Involving these actors as protagonists in the discussions on urban regeneration processes is fundamental, given their position as future users, to ensure that the principle of accessibility is upheld. This includes, for example, conditions that facilitate mobility, as well as equal rights to the environmental, social, and economic benefits of solutions that make use of ecosystem services and nature. This session focuses on debating the inclusion of people with disabilities in participatory and decision making processes, in particular in relation to inclusive urban regeneration utilizing nature-based solutions. Topics may address, but are not limited to: identifying discrimination based on functional diversity, including an intersectional approach; identifying the role of capitalism in the exclusion of people with disabilities from urban spaces; measures to accommodate functional diversity that allow full inclusion in participatory processes; debating the role of inclusive urban spaces in combating the social barriers most often faced by these individuals as “barriers to doing”, “barriers to being” and “barriers to speaking”; inclusive design and planning of public urban spaces.