

## Session 4A - Inclusive planning process: linking informal to formal

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

Scientific Day - Theme 4. Engaging Citizens for Healthy Cities

Presentation type Oral

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Inclusive planning approaches aim at supporting active citizenship by generating capacity for collective action and taking responsibility for the future. They provide the ground for a continuous open dialogue of authorities, planning professionals and citizens – all of them entering the process with their diverse culture, knowledge, and expectations. Building mutual trust and encouraging the creative potential of all the participants are two key success factors for inclusive planning. The planning and governance of the urban environment are however complex processes, which require specific expert knowledge and policy-related decision-making with established strict formal rules and procedures – sometimes time-consuming or seemingly bureaucratic. Citizens not being fully aware of all the formal requirements rationale is among the major challenges in establishing a working partnership on the ground.

The session is expected to provide a meeting space for all the key actors and beneficiaries in the planning process, which is expected to contribute to the exchange of points of view and ideas as an important part of the capacity-building for inclusive planning.

The session will build upon a dialogue between scientific and empirical knowledge about concepts, approaches, and procedures in the urban planning process under varying context. The empiric research has identified numerous challenges at the border area between informal and formal action for urban regeneration. Some open questions need to be addressed: How to identify and address conflicts of interest? How to manage the variety of expectations on different sides? How to synchronize the time frames of activities? How to acknowledge and reward volunteering?

**Target audience:** researchers, urban practitioners and decision-makers, representatives of citizens' organizations, city administration, etc.

A broad variety of **contributions** are welcome - scientific papers, case studies, policy briefs, storytelling, etc.

**Topics** to be addressed comprise:

Building trust, capacity for dialogue and a common language among urban experts, city administration and local communities;

Introducing innovative approaches and instruments to enhance the sensitivity of the formal planning process to the dynamics and variety of local needs and demands.

Ways to encourage and reward citizens' volunteering in different stages of the inclusive planning process