

## **Session 4C - Active involvement of children and youth in the co-creation and decision-making processes involved in nature-based solutions for the advancement of sustainable urban development**

14:30 - 16:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 4. Engaging Citizens for Healthy Cities

Presentation type Oral

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Participatory processes contribute to the design of urban spaces based on the understanding of user experience and by enabling alternative or customized solutions. Children and youth benefit from participatory processes by being provided with the opportunity to build a sense of place and belonging, community responsibility, active cooperation, and creativity. However, they are often constrained by the expectations of adults, which isolate them from community participation and social activities. Despite advances in the legal and normative sphere, the realization of the right to participation in relation to children faces significant challenges in order to move from the availability to listen to their voices towards sharing power and responsibility in decision-making. The influence of adultcentrism includes children being seen merely as "the future" and yet not fully capable of making choices and decisions that affect their lives, which also results in silencing and legitimizing rights violations such as those based on age group, gender, race, ethnicity, functional diversity and sexual orientation. Such perspectives do not recognize the gradual autonomy of children – the progressive acquisition of competences inherent to this phase of life. A child-friendly city is committed to an ongoing process of implementing the rights of children and adolescents. In this context, participation is an opportunity to break with adultcentrism and establish horizontal relations of dialogue and intergenerational learning. This session is dedicated to debating the engagement of children in participatory processes for nature-based adaptation. Children can contribute inspirational content about nature and connecting to the local neighbourhood, transforming this knowledge into ideas for change as well as creating compelling messages to fellow citizens of all ages. The methodology proposed for this session is to present practical experiences in a diversity of formats, which will contribute evidence pathways related to the successful engagement of children and youth in the co-creation of nature-based solutions in order to advance sustainable urban development. Three papers will be selected for presentation during the session as well as a paper with URBiNAT workshop results. Topics may address, but are not limited to:

- a) childhood specificities in participatory processes;
- b) intergenerational learning;
- c) legal mechanisms and public policies to guarantee the participation of children;
- d) ethical issues involving children e) design and planning in schools;
- f) engaging children as part of the achievement of the right to the city.