

13. LJUBLJANA FORUM 2023



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FUTURES OF CITIES

SUSTAINABLE – SMART – INCLUSIVE – RESILIENT

**CLIMATE NEUTRAL
& SMART CITIES BY 2030**



Synthesis Report

Conference

October 5th - 6th 2023 • Ljubljana Castle, Slovenia



Ljubljana Agreement 2021 for next generation of European cities

As a purpose driven event Ljubljana Forum's aim is also to influence the policy making arena from the bottom-up perspective. A very successful example of having influence in 2021 is Ljubljana Forum's impact on Urban Agenda for European Union, which was reinforced by Ljubljana Agreement during Slovenian EU Presidency in November 2021. Through Urban Forum, which derived from Ljubljana Forum, we influenced the EU Presidency event on next generation of European cities. Urban Forum is a Slovenian multi-stakeholders platform for addressing city challenges composed by Slovenian City Municipalities, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Go Foresight - GFS Institute.

New phase for European cities under the umbrella of the Urban Agenda for the European Union.

EU policies and legislation have a considerable impact on the development of European cities. How cities operate has an impact on the successful implementation of EU policies. As much as 70 percent of all measures to deliver EU policy goals are implemented at local level. During the Slovenian Presidency to the European Union in November 2021, EU Ministers responsible for Urban Matters adopted the

Ljubljana Agreement and its Multiannual Working Programme. The meeting was also attended by the European Commissioner for Regional Policy and representatives from the European Parliament (EP), Committee of the Regions (CoR), European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Investment Bank (EIB), Eurocities and Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), as well as Norway and Switzerland and several observers.

The EU Urban Agenda, established in 2016, is aimed at improving the quality of life in cities in partnerships with different stakeholders. The Ljubljana Agreement aimed at the removing barriers that cities face in the fields of regulation, funding and knowledge. It contains the fourteen thematic areas of cooperation and adds four new topics during the Slovenian EU Presidency: **"Urban Greening", "Sustainable Tourism", "Food" and "Cities of Equality"**.

More about Urban Agenda for the European Union:



https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/brochure/multiannual_working_programme_uae_2022_2026.pdf

Conference



Synthesis report on
FUTURES OF CITIES

SUSTAINABLE - SMART - INCLUSIVE - RESILIENT

CLIMATE NEUTRAL
& SMART CITIES BY 2030

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Introduction

The 2023 Ljubljana Forum, focusing on the future of urban living, delved into the theme of "Climate Neutral & Smart Cities by 2030." It gathered a myriad of stakeholders including city leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and academia to forge a collective vision for sustainable, smart, and resilient urban futures. Among the highlighted discussions was the transformation of Barcelona through the "Superblock" model, a pioneering urban mobility initiative that reimagines the cityscape to enhance livability, reduce pollution, and foster community spaces.

Moreover, the forum emphasized the pivotal role of financial mechanisms in urban development, with a special focus on the support provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB's financing strategies have been instrumental in fostering sustainable urban projects, emphasizing the critical nature of investment in green and digital transitions. Through its financial instruments, the EIB facilitates the implementation of innovative solutions and infrastructural advancements that align with the EU's climate neutrality goals.

The discussions at the forum encapsulated a range of topics, from smart city technologies and sustainable infrastructure to inclusivity in urban planning. The Barcelona example served as an inspirational model, showcasing how urban areas can be reengineered for the betterment of community life and environmental sustainability. Concurrently, the EIB's role underscored the necessity of robust financial frameworks to actualize the vision of future-ready cities. By integrating financial support with innovative urban planning, the forum charted a course toward cities that are not only technologically advanced and environmentally friendly but also inclusive and adaptable to the needs of their inhabitants.

Blaž Golob

Chairman of Ljubljana Forum



Zoran Janković

Mayor of the City of Ljubljana



Aleksandar Šapić

Mayor of the City of Belgrade



Marko Filipović

Mayor of the City of Rijeka



Blaž Golob
Chairman of Ljubljana Forum



Anja Margetić

Vice Mayor of the City of Sarajevo



Dominic Weiss

Director of Urban Innovation Vienna



Lidija Globevnik

President of Water Association of Slovenia



Rok Žnidaršič

Vice Mayor Chief Architect of the City of Ljubljana



About Ljubljana Forum 2023



Chairman of Ljubljana Forum **Mr. Blaž Golob**

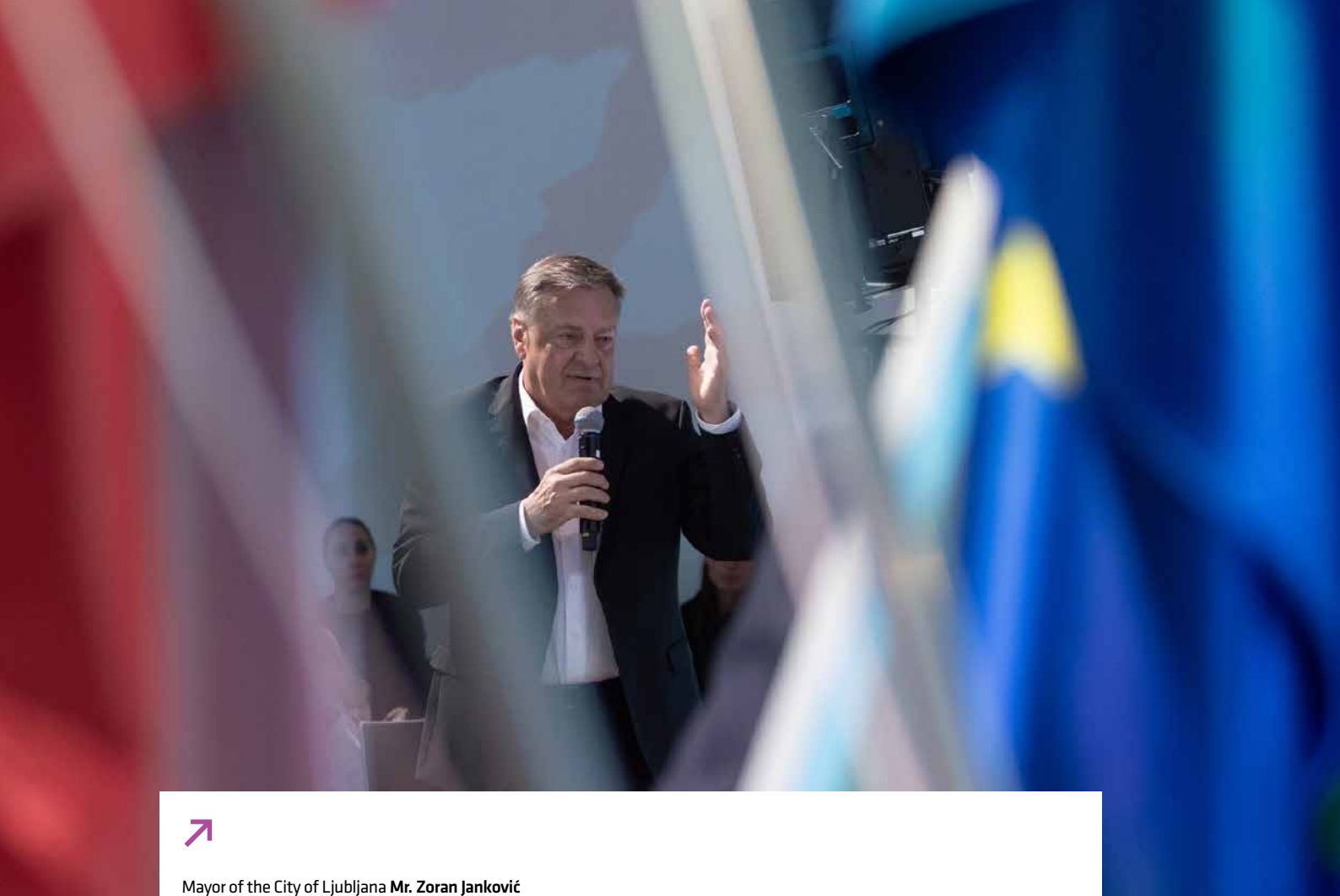
On 5th and 6th October 2023, the 13th Ljubljana Forum took place in Ljubljana. The theme of this year's Forum was **Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030**.

Organizers and partners of Ljubljana Forum 2023

- AAMI Corporation
- Antiq Palace
- City of Ljubljana
- ELES
- European Investment Bank
- Foresight Europe Network
- GoForeSight Institute
- Ljubljana Castle
- Sigfox Slovenia by Heliot Europe
- Slovenian Railways
- T2
- TIA Summit

Participating cities

- City of Ljubljana
- City of Beograd
- City of Budapest
- City of Sarajevo
- City of Vienna
- City of Rijeka



Mayor of the City of Ljubljana **Mr. Zoran Janković**

Ljubljana Forum is an annual gathering that combines knowledge and experience of city governance and defines **key areas, visions, and strategies of the future development** of cities.

The aim of Ljubljana Forum is to promote opportunities for future development of cities and metropolitan areas of the Southeast European region.

The objective of Ljubljana Forum is to **offer a framework for cooperation, networking, and learning among various stakeholders:** political decision-makers, city leaders and city administration, investors, businesses, civil society, researchers, academics, and students.

The objective of Ljubljana Forum is to empower this network of stakeholders to create prosperous future of cities through **researching, developing, and implementing the best practices of urban development.**

City Leaders at Ljubljana Forum 2023



Zoran Janković
Mayor of the City of
Ljubljana

Dominic Weiss
Director of Urban
Innovation Vienna



Aleksandar Šapić
Mayor of the City of
Belgrade

Janos Kendernay
Director of city
diplomacy Budapest



Marko Filipović
Mayor of the City of
Rijeka

Zdravko Jelušić
City Counselor of the
City of Novi Sad



Anja Margetić
Vice Mayor of the
City of Sarajevo

Rok Žnidaršič
Vice Mayor Chief
Architect of the City
of Ljubljana



Boštjan Koritnik
Vice Mayor of the
City of Ljubljana

Speakers of Ljubljana Forum 2023



Blaž Golob
Chairman, Ljubljana
Forum



Simon Savšek
Head of European
Investment Bank Group
Office in Slovenia



Xavier Matilla
Architect – urban planner
Barcelona



Lidija Globevnik
President of Water
Association of Slovenia



Evald Kranjčević
Managing Director, ELES -
Envirodual



Gašper Žerovnik
Head of Digital
Transformations
department, T-2



**Marjana Senčar
Srdič**
Head of R&D Department
A1

Luka Brulc
Sales manager, Heliot
Europe



Mateja Matajič
Slovenian Railways



Andreas Hrdlička
COO, Command



Mauricio Sardi
CEO, EVTech4U



Klemen Furlan
CEO, GoGiro



Bart Stegeman
Slovenian Orchestrator
– Circular Economy
and Value Chains
Transformation



Petra Šeme
Energy Manager, City of
Ljubljana



**Marko Peterlin**

Director, IPoP - Inštitut za politike prostora / Institute for Spatial Policies

**Vida Groznik**

Assistant Professor; CEO & Co-founder of NEUS

**Pourya Salehi**

Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

**Jan Künne**

Digital Nomad, EDG, USA/ Germany

**Tim Taylor**

Korimaco project

**Tihomir Divjak**

Senior Consultant, GFS Institute

**Sindhuja Sampath**

Digital Public Infrastructure and Open networks with Beckn for smart city solutions

Ravi Prakas

Addressing energy, circular economy, smart city management with Open protocols

**Tina Štrukelj**

Co-founder & CEO, Infinite Pure Solutions

**Tomaž Lanišek**

Smart City & Development Manager, City of Kranj

**Mauricio Sardi**

CEO, EVTech4U

**Vlatka Berlan Vlahek**

Energy Cities, Insula Bit Consultant

**Miha Murn**

Painter - President AAMI Corporation



Moderators of Ljubljana Forum 2023

**Daniela Bervar
Kotolenko**
CEO, Edutrain



Jan Künne
Digital Nomad EDG USA/
Germany



Igor Žula
President of Logistic
Association of Slovenia



Jose Jacob Kayil
President TIA Summit
Bangalore India



Miroslav Polzer
Founder & CEO, IAAI
GloCha / Empowering /
Climate Action



Bjarke Kovshoj
"EIT Climate-KIC" EU
project



About the agenda

Thursday, 5th October 2023

Place of venue: **Ljubljana Castle**

Session I: **Cities for the futures**

Moderator: Mr. Jan Künne, Digital Nomad EDG USA/Germany

Time	Session	Speaker
9.45 - 10.45	Redefining cities for the future – from concept to practice	Mr. Rok Žnidaršič, Vice Mayor Chief Architect of the City of Ljubljana
	Vienna as a Climate neutral City by 2040 – 100 projects	Mr. Dominick Weiss, Director of Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH
	Wellbeing & resilient cities – management of water	Ms. Lidija Globevnik, Phd, President of Water Association of Slovenia

Session II: **Round table of Mayors - Cities in 2030 Challenges & City Projects**

(City leaders's perspective)

Moderator: Ms. Daniela Bervar Kotolenko, CEO, Edutrain, & Mr. Blaž Golob, Chairman of Ljubljana Forum

11.15 - 12.30	Ljubljana / Zoran Janković - Mayor, Belgrade / Aleksandar Šapic – Mayor, Rijeka / Marko Filipovic – Mayor, Sarajevo / Anja Margetic – Vice Mayor, Vienna / Dominic Weiss - Director of Urban Innovation, Budapest / Janos Kendernay – Director of city diplomacy, Novi Sad / Zdravko Jelusič – City Council
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Session III A: **Industry solutions for cities**

Moderator: Mr. Igor Žula, President of Logistic Association of Slovenia

14.00 - 15.15	ELES - Envirodual	Mr. Evald Kranjčević, Managing Director
	T-2	Mr. Gašper Žerovnik, Head of Digital Transformations department
	A1	Ms. Marjana Sencar Srdic, Head of R&D Department A1
	HeliotEurope	Mr. Luka Brulc, Sales manager
	Aplast	Ms. Eva Pecovnik, Sales manager

Session III B: **Industry solutions for cities**

Moderator: Mr. Jose Jacob Kayil, President TIA Summit Bangalore India

15.15 - 16.15	Slovenian Railways	Ms. Mateja Matajic, Slovenian Railways
	Command	Mr. Andreas Hrdlicka, COO, Command
	EVTech4U	Mr. Mauricio Sardi, CEO, EVTech4U
	GoGiro	Mr. Klemen Furlan, CEO, GoGiro

20.00 **Ljubljana Forum Reception & Award Ceremony – Antiq Palace Hotel**

Friday, 6th of October 2023

Place of venue: **Ljubljana Castle**

Session IV: **Financial Instruments & Knowledge for Cities**

Moderator: Mr. Miroslav Polzer, Founder & CEO IAAI GloCha / Empowering / Climate Action

Time	Session	Speaker
9.15 - 10.30	Green & digital transition for cities – support of European Investment Bank	Ms. Petra Šeme, Energy Manager, City of Ljubljana
	How to address rising uncertainties in urban planning? Foresight, participation and tactical urbanism	Mr. Marko Peterlin, director, IPoP - Inštitut za politike prostora / Institute for Spatial Policies
	The City of Wellbeing – the role of AI for development of cities	Dr. Vida Groznik, Assistant Professor; CEO & Co-founder of NEUS
	Expanded Climate and Innovation Agenda for Cities and Regions	Mr. Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Session V: **Presentation of 6 city projects / initiatives**

Moderator: Mr. Jose Jacob Kayil, President TIA Summit Bangalore India

10.30 - 11.30	City project 1	Mr. Jan Künne, Canton of Basel towards CO2 Neutrality
	City project 2	Mr. Tim Taylor, Korimaco project
	City project 3	Mr. Tihomir Divjak & Mr. Fred Uduma, Africa project
	City project 4	Ms. Sindhuja Sampath, Digital Public Infrastructure and Open networks with Beckn for smart city solutions
	City project 5	Mr. Ravi Prakas, Addressing energy, circular economy, smart city management with Open protocols
	City project 6	Ms. Tina Štrukelj, From strategy to measurement for success

EU CLIMATE - KIC project: »Bridging the Gap: From Ideation to Implementation - Creating Successful City and Scale-up Partnerships«

Moderator: Mr. Bjarke Kovshoj, "EIT Climate-KIC" EU project

12:00 - 13:30	Mr. Tomaž Lanišek, Smart City & Development Manager, City of Kranj, Mr. Mauricio Sardi, CEO, EVTech4U, Ms. Vlatka Berlan Vlahek, Energy Cities, Insula Bit Consultant
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13.30 **Concluding remarks & Announcement of the 2024 Ljubljana Forum**

Keynote speech

A City Redefined – Superilla (Superblock)



Mr. Xavier Matilla, Architect – urban planner Barcelona

Challenges of cities in 2023

The cities around the world are right now facing the same challenges. The stakeholders participating in the Forum are concerned and are working on how to improve the future of the cities. The future is uncertain, and the predictions are rather catastrophic. We know that we need to provide positive visions for the cities by co-creating the better future and making real changes in order to transform the narrative. It is not an individual challenge for the cities but rather a collective one where the cities shall be committed to work together, exchange knowledge and learn from each other in order to achieve the common goal. One way to improve the cities is addressing the matter of public space in our cities. The cities are formed in a car-based design model - the car mobility has occupied more than 50% of cities surface and it must be reformed in order to improve the environmental conditions.

Transformation of the city of Barcelona. How did we make it possible? The superblock new urban mobility model is simple yet powerful - transformation of a car mobility model into a more efficient, less polluting and less space-occupying model that aims to promote walking, biking and public transport while achieving more quality space for social activities and increased greener areas. The approach is to showcase that the cities can provide the environmental conditions and offer solutions to improve the water cycle management, decrease the temperatures and merge the private and public realms.

Session I:

Cities for the Futures



The Superblock promotes cultural and social changes as well. In order for it to be successful, it is imperative for the stakeholders to be transparent, offer an open dialogue to encourage the exchange of different opinions and provide data to show that the anticipated changes are essential to provide improvements such as reducing the air pollution in the area. An important improvement is the increase of social activities as well.

Once the new and improved environmental and social structure is established, it is moved to a new urban green mobility model, not only improving the structure of the neighborhoods but also connecting them; in order to improve the conditions, a palette of measures may be implemented - from introduction of bike lanes to transformation of the biggest avenues in the city, increase of the green areas, change of pavement in order to decrease the temperature, introduction of new solutions for water drainage in order to strengthen the local economy. In 2 years after the project, the number of cars has been reduced by 15.000 cars a day. Focus of the project right now is the most problematic one in order to create a systemic transformation and improvement of the surrounding areas of the schools in the city.

Session I:

Cities for the Futures



Mr. Rok Žnidaršič, Vice Mayor Chief Architect of the City of Ljubljana

Redefining cities for the future - from concept to practice

The notion of resilient and smart city is deeply ingrained in Ljubljana's history, stemming from the legacy of visionary architects who possessed a remarkable understanding of public spaces and green systems. This heritage is exemplified by Jožef Plečnik human-centered urban design.

Today, Ljubljana continues to build on this tradition. Instead of starting from scratch, the city focuses on enhancing its existing structures through both minor and major interventions. It envisions a transformation of the city from within, involving the redesign of streets, squares and urban areas.

A key aspect of this transformation is the development and maintenance of various forms of public transport to facilitate residents. These structural changes have not only altered people's behavior but have also fostered a new sense of community, urban vitality, social activities and events.

The ongoing narrative revolves around connecting the city with its green surroundings. This includes architectural site restorations, the revitalization of river embankments in neglected areas, the integration of urban gardening and so on. These efforts aim to cultivate sustainable living practices among the citizens.

Session I:

Cities for the Futures



Mr. Dominic Weiss, Director of Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH

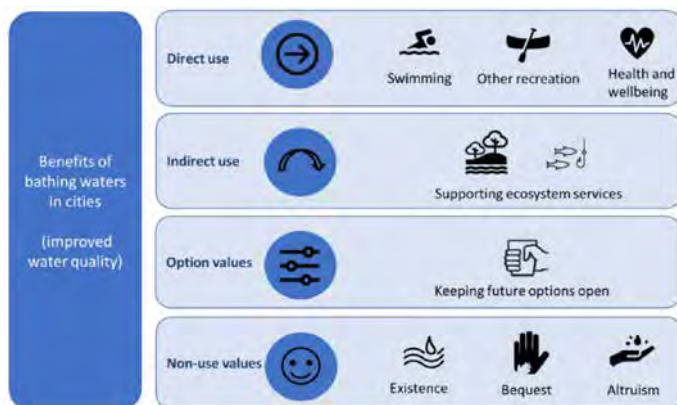
Vienna as a climate neutral city by 2040 - 100 projects

The recognition of the challenges faced by cities like Vienna in becoming climate-neutral and an emphasis on the need for adaptation, cooperation and innovation to address the climate crisis effectively is imperative. Despite strong disappointment over the unlikelihood of achieving climate neutrality by 2030, the speaker addresses the causes and strategies to efficiently fight the matter. The main challenge seems to be a lack of human resources rather than financial constraints. The climate crisis has the global nature so individual cities' efforts to become CO2 neutral might not be sufficient to address the problem. The cities need to adapt to the present conditions and become resilient in order to face the modern issues, emphasizing the role of global warming and establish the strategies to overcome the crisis.

Vienna, along Ljubljana, Rijeka and Barcelona, that sees this crisis as the business opportunity, is highly developed city where city servants should invest money and be able to work with the private sector to provide the expertise needed for change. Governance processes, workforce limitations and budget constraints are identified as critical hurdles in the journey toward climate neutrality. The speaker emphasizes the importance of systematic changes and improvements needed such as exploring energy alternatives such as district heating, installment of heat pumps and the transition to renewable gas, while also advocating for international cooperation to import renewable energy.

Session I:

Cities for the Futures



Wellbeing and resilient cities - management of water

Effective water management in cities plays a crucial role in enhancing urban well-being and resilience of the cities. Water management principles aimed at promoting wellbeing and resilience hinge on distinguishing between natural and engineered water cycles. Working with natural processes in built environment is the challenge in itself - balancing the benefits and threats of engineered water cycles for cities is paramount. The overarching principle is to



Ms. Lidija Globevnik, President of Water Association of Slovenia

maximize the advantages while minimizing the risks.

The benefits of water management extend beyond basic utilities; they support recreation, natural parks and various urban amenities. The management of stormwater runoff and floods remains a continuous challenge, especially when the urban landscape prohibits infiltration. To combat this, cities need more permeable areas, such as green areas with mature trees, open water areas, infiltration shafts and pools, streams and ditches not put into closed and covered channel networks, et cetera. Sewer systems, for example, pose also a significant political challenge, demanding collaboration and knowledge sharing to mitigate floods and pollution effectively. Finally, the direct and indirect benefits of bathing in natural waters within urban areas are presented, and the speaker encourages Ljubljana leaders to **include bathing water management in its urban planning**, as it crucially contributes to the general public's well-being and urban development.

Session II:

Round Table of Mayors Cities in 2030 Challenges and City Projects (City's leader's perspective)



City leaders at Ljubljana Forum 2023 with the Mayor of Ljubljana **Mr. Zoran Janković**

Belgrade

Belgrade's most pressing challenge lies in its public transport system, as its vast urban areas demand efficient and eco-friendly solutions to combat pollution. While some positive steps, such as the usage of gas and electricity instead of fossil fuels, have been taken, more work remains. Notably, a shift from private to city-centered public transport management has simplified ticketing, lowered the costs and built trust among residents.

This transition phase paves the way for the ultimate goal - the introduction of a metro system. After years of development, Belgrade is now approaching a realistic timeline, with the first metro line anticipated by 2028 and the second to follow two years later.



Mr. Aleksandar Šapić, Mayor of Belgrade



Round Table of Mayors

Cities in 2030 Challenges and City Projects (City's leader's perspective)



**Mr. Marko
Filipović**, Mayor
of Rijeka

Rijeka

Rijeka, like many cities, faces the challenge of becoming more innovative and smarter in a world that isn't always aligned with that goal. Inflation and global uncertainties have cast a shadow over city budgets, yet, history has shown that we've overcome difficulties like wars, financial crises and pandemics before.

City leaders are under immense pressure to tackle these issues by implementing effective measures. While the EU is a great place to live, it can be challenging from a global business perspective due to its complex laws, regulations and restrictions. As the way to tackle the issue at hand, the mayor emphasizes the importance of strong interconnectivity among the European cities.



**Ms. Anja
Margetić**,
Vice Mayor of
Sarajevo

Sarajevo

Sarajevo shares common challenges with many other cities, the main one being the citizens' commitment to the change. Post-covid, there's a growing demand for more open, recreational areas, parks and urban mobility. However, Bosnia's complex governmental structures and budget limitations present obstacles to implementing these measures efficiently.

The long-overdue reconstruction of the city's train and tram system is imperative, especially in the face of severe winter air pollution. Progress is being made and urban mobility is improving slowly.



**Mr. Dominic
Weiss**, Director
of urban
innovation
Vienna

Vienna

Vienna faces distinctive challenges, as all country's regulations vary and the national legislature is missing, preventing the measures to be implemented. The issue of increased car traffic, driven by daily commuters in Vienna, poses a significant problem. However, the solution should have needed a broader, state-level approach.

One challenge lies in garnering public acceptance for the considerable investments made as well. To address these issues, modernizing the city's structure is crucial; innovations in management and organizational reshaping, alongside process automation, can significantly help. Encouraging an innovation culture can make it easier to allocate tax funds for further impactful solutions.

Round Table of Mayors

Cities in 2030 Challenges and City Projects (City's leader's perspective)

Budapest

Budapest, with its vast population, faces the challenge of deciding and implementation of projects, a task that often requires a plan of national and EU-level acceptance. Financing these initiatives, them being on municipality level, is a key aspect. The pursuit of energy efficiency is another concern, with only 1% of energy used harnessed from solar sources. Mobility poses a distinctive challenge as well, not because of finance and politics but rather the habits of the citizens. The citizens shall be encouraged to opt for healthier and more sustainable transportation over cars - for example, initiatives like restricting private cars from crossing certain areas, especially the inner-city circle, show promise. The solution lies in creating faster, more enjoyable, reliable and comfortable modes of public transportation. This approach not only enhances mobility but also aims to provide citizens with a sustainable living environment.



Mr. Janos Kendernay,
Director of
city diplomacy
Budapest



Novi Sad

The overarching challenge for the city of Novi Sad lies in the means to combat climate change - especially the implementation of the measures. We recognise the pressing need for action. A vivid example is the aftermath of strong winds and floods in Novi Sad, which necessitated over 7000 interventions by the city services. It's clear that it is imperative to learn from those who possess the knowledge of the natural forces at play. The city counselor of Novi Sad sees the action as our collective responsibility to prepare and ensure that our cities remain livable for the increasing urban population despite the climate changes.

In the past nine months, they've engaged in discussions to explore the potential of transforming the city of Novi Sad into a smart city.



Mr. Zdravko Jelušić, city
council Novi Sad



Ljubljana

The main challenges that Ljubljana is facing are fighting the emissions, creating an efficient action plan for green transformation and transition regarding the public and private - even though the city government has done plenty in the previous years to raise the quality of living for its citizens, there's still a lot of space for improvements. To drive meaningful change within the public sector, it is essential to inspire the public servants, who gravitate towards a status quo, to aspire for greater achievements and provide the necessary motivation and incentives for them to embrace new challenges and strive for excellence.



Mr. Boštjan Koritnik,
Vice Mayor of
Ljubljana





Award Ceremony



Beethoven's "Ode to Joy", endorsed the award ceremony.

The 2023 Ljubljana Forum Award went to Mr. Xavier Matilla, Architect - urban planner Barcelona.

The superblock - Superilla concept of new urban mobility model is a good example of powerful - transformation of city to gain more quality space for social activities and increased greener areas. As a city architect of Barcelona, Mr. Matilla contributed to the realization of innovative concept into practice. Today Superilla model is shared worldwide as a good practice case of modern urbanism.



Mr. Ivan Stanič, President of the Award Committee - City of Ljubljana with **Mr. Xavier Matilla**, Barcelona and **Mr. Blaž Golob**, Chairman of Ljubljana Forum



Mr. Xavier Matilla, Architect - urban planner Barcelona being introduced as the Ljubljana Forum 2023 award winner

Mr. Xavier Matilla, the architect and urban planner from Barcelona, received the Ljubljana Forum Award 2023 for his significant contributions to urban design, particularly through the "Superblock" (Superilla) model in Barcelona. This innovative urban planning concept reconfigures city blocks into clusters that prioritize pedestrian spaces, reduce vehicular traffic, and enhance green areas, thereby significantly improving the quality of urban life.

Matilla's work on the Superblock model exemplifies forward-thinking in urban sustainability and design. It demonstrates a successful integration of mobility, public space, and local life, turning streets into vibrant, communal areas that foster social interaction, reduce pollution, and promote a healthier urban environment. This approach aligns closely with the goals of the Ljubljana Forum, which emphasizes sustainable, smart, and inclusive urban development.

The award recognizes Matilla's leadership and creativity in reimagining urban spaces, as well as the tangible impact of his work on Barcelona's transformation towards a more liveable, environmentally friendly, and people-centered city. His contributions serve as an inspiring example for cities worldwide, showcasing how innovative urban planning can effectively address contemporary challenges and improve citizens' quality of life.

Session III:

Industry solutions for cities



The concept of smart cities has been an intriguing topic for some time, but progress has been slow. We face similar challenges when discussing green logistics and the idea of green transformation. However, we witnessed good practices that shed light on what a smart city truly is.

Innovative approaches in the transformation of heating systems



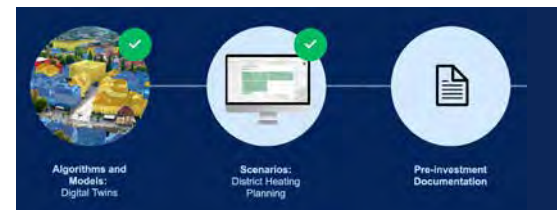
**Mr. Evald
Kranjčević,**
Managing
Director
Envirodual

Energy systems are in a period of significant transition. It is necessary to streamline energy consumption and reduce our reliance on imported energy and at the same time optimize and relieve the electricity infrastructure. Part of the solution is the transformation of existing and introduction of new district heating systems of various sizes, according to the KODO concept developed by the ELES company, using sustainable energy sources, and enabling switching between different energy sources. Using advanced modelling, ELES created scenarios for district heating systems that represent the most suitable solutions in terms of technological, environmental, economic and

Session III:

Industry solutions for cities

time feasibility. Combination of exact analytical as well as machine learning algorithms and models we use in planning are based on data processing, data aggregation, advanced digitization, optimization, and system management based on historical near-real-time data. An important element in the planning of solutions is the energy-climate atlas (EPA). EPA serves as a valuable tool for energy planning, offering technical and economic scenario simulations. In specific locations, further expertise will identify efficient district heating solutions based on renewable energy sources. The joint optimization of the electric power networks and district heating systems will also result in cost reduction for the development of the electric power networks.



T-2

In the quest for urban resilience and sustainability, the T-2 Smart Cities and Communities platform emerges as a collaborative force driving the transition towards climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. The narrative underscores the urgency of addressing climate change, governance hurdles, and resource strains, positioning the T-2 platform as a conduit for empowering cities with novel services, robust governance, and energy efficiency renaissance. T-2 journey began by acknowledging various issues and visualizing potential solutions, which gradually evolved over time. Cities around the world face similar challenges, including traffic congestion, public transportation, smart parking, traffic safety and weather-related concerns. While many solutions have addressed these challenges individually, there hasn't been a comprehensive approach to tackle these issues collectively. Their goal is to leverage existing advanced solutions available in the market and integrate all data available into a smart integration platform. Importantly, they are not replacing any existing advanced solutions but rather merging them for a more cohesive approach.



Mr. Gašper Žerovnik,
Head of Digital
Transformations
Department T - 2



Session III:

Industry solutions for cities

A1



Ms. Marjana Senčar Srdić,
Head of R&D
Department
at A1

Every day, approximately 1 million mobile devices in the A1 Slovenia network connect to more than 1,300 base stations. With the Invenium Mobility Insights solution, A1 turns data into insights and provide answers, whether it is the utilization of the road network, the efficiency of public transport, the economic valuation of business locations and tourist destinations or even the attractiveness of individual city districts. With the help of specially developed algorithmic models, powerful Big Data technologies and artificial intelligence, human movement flows are visible and understandable - completely anonymized and in accordance with the strictest data protection guidelines.

Vialytics software, for example, automatically assesses the conditions of the road infrastructure and plans effective measures based on current data. The applied analytical system enables the monitoring and analysis of the condition and the determination of the necessary measures on roads to increase their traffic efficiency and safety. The technology powered by artificial intelligence can also offer insights into daily visitor numbers on tourist sites, aids in disaster simulations and benefits future investment and infrastructure decisions by making predictions based on real data.



Session III:

Industry solutions for cities

IoT solutions for key city services

The connectivity facilitates communication with networks and management systems, empowering end users to take cost-effective action. Their primary focus is data-driven waste management, contributing to green transformation and optimization. Heliot has so far successfully implemented its Sensoneo technology in various projects and cities. The comprehensive solution represents an efficient and smart approach to waste collection and disposal. What sets these waste bins apart is their efficiency. APLAST's bins alone would have served as waste containers with separation functionality. However, their collaboration with Heliot and Sensoneo results in a significant reduction in CO2 emissions, that is achieved by optimizing waste collection processes, reducing the frequency of waste removal due to the bins' larger capacity, and implementing sensors that monitor waste levels. As a result, waste trucks arrive precisely when the bin is full, reducing unnecessary trips and promoting efficient waste collection practices.



Mr. Luka Brulc,
Sales Manager
at Heliot Europe
- Slovenia



ECOdip
Underground waste collection containers

- adapted to human needs - lid height 1,1m, accessible for all
- Immense resistance to mechanical damages and environmental factors
- long life span and durability
- 100% recyclable

Slovenian Railways



Ms. Mateja Matajič, PhD,
Senior Transport
Development
Expert at
Slovenian
Railways

In order to contribute to the sustainability of Slovenian cities, Slovenian Railways is making substantial improvements to enhance passenger services, including the recent purchase of 51 new diesel and electric motor units, with high-speed trains as the ultimate goal. They've been collaborating with public and private sector partners to provide additional amenities like bicycle parking, automated ticket machines, mobile apps and last-mile services. Slovenian Railway's future plans include expanding their last-mile services in collaboration with other providers, offering e-bikes and e-scooters, creating even more sustainable and environmentally friendly options for their users.



Creating safe and efficient cities



Mr. Dennis Krijgsman, COO
Commend

Commend believes that the power of voice is often overlooked. They are constantly developing the products and services to inform, help, protect and improve the various aspects - from assisting the city staff with repetitive tasks, to enhancing inclusiveness with voice-to-text features to improve communication for people with disabilities.

Their solutions also focus on quicker incident response times and the collection of data to enhance the quality of life in cities, meeting citizens' needs. Additionally, from a sustainability perspective, they advocate using existing devices as multi-sensors, making smart decisions on device durability.



Sustainable mobility: financial and environmental benefits

Implementation of sustainable technologies is nothing new; we have been adapting to renewable sources, saving energy and making smarter decisions on its use for years, for instance, with electric vehicle charging. There has never been a better time to invest in this field; not only does it have a positive impact on the environment. When investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure in partnership with knowledgeable field experts like EVtech4U, yields can be as high as 25% per annum and the cost saving up to 80%. Not to even mention the immeasurable further savings in terms of managing climate risk and tackling public health issues. Cities do not need millions of EV chargers everywhere: what we need are the right chargers in the right places, aiming to increase the utilization and therefore increase the number of investors in our smart, green cities.



Mr. Mauricio Sardi, CEO
EVTech4U



EVtech4U

**Sustainable Mobility:
Financial and Environmental Benefits**

October 2023

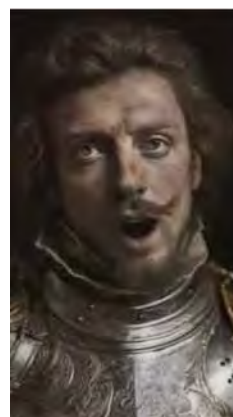
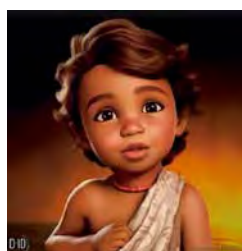
Mauricio Sardi
Investments Lawyer and Consultant

GoGiro

Achieving sustainable tourism is a crucial goal, and GoGiro is actively using AI to make this a reality. They focus on digitizing Slovenia's cultural history and creating unique, tailored and appealing experiences for tourists through AI guides that speak multiple languages. One of their joint projects with the city of Rijeka revolves around UNESCO heritage sites. GoGiro created AI models, mimicking the inhabitants, who used to populate Ljubljansko barje, to narrate the tourists when exploring the area. GoGiro is also working on extending their AI solutions to Ljubljana ZOO, addressing the issue of language barriers by using AI characters to tell the stories about the various animals in multiple languages, ensuring all visitors can fully enjoy the experience. Their aim is to make Slovenia's rich cultural heritage accessible to everyone through AI technology. The tools used empower providers to personalize the tourist experience.



Mr. Klemen Furlan, CEO
GoGiro



A man in a dark blue suit and white shirt is speaking at a podium on a stage. He is gesturing with his left hand. A large screen is visible to the left of the podium. The background is a textured wall with blue lighting on the right side.

Introduction of Slovenian City Platform - “EIT Climate-KIC” EU Project



Mr. Bart Stegeman, Slovenian Orchestrator - Circular Economy and Value Chains Transformation

Within the European Cities Mission framework, the government is tasked with establishing a national innovation and collaboration platform.

This platform serves to aid cities in their systematic transformation towards climate neutrality by 2030. Notably, this initiative aligns with the European Commission's request for Member states to create such platforms to support the Mission's implementation.

The platform's primary beneficiaries are cities participating in the Cities Mission and others committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2030. It also extends certain services to smaller cities. The platform will foster multi-stakeholder collaboration among cities for the collaboration of cities on the path toward climate neutrality.



Participants of Ljubljana Forum during the coffee break at the futures of cities exhibition hall.

The services provided can be grouped in different categories:

1. Supporting cities in their journey towards climate neutrality through training, capacity building, assistance with local innovation platforms, and the creation of climate contracts. It will also facilitate connections between cities within the Mission.
2. Acting as an incubator for multi-city transformative projects that encourage knowledge exchange and scaling initiatives in areas like urban energy retrofitting, nature-based solutions, circular economy, and sustainable mobility.
3. Encouraging citizen participation and activation through art and culture used as tools to facilitate the participation of citizens.
4. Assisting cities in structuring climate investment plans with input from actors from the financial field, promoting innovative public-private financing models and sustainable impact investment.
5. Providing strategic communication services to highlight cities' progress, engage the media and create narratives around climate transformation efforts.
6. Implementing an evaluation and monitoring system to track cities' progress in reducing emissions and other benefits in line with their commitments.



Mr. Thanh – Tam Le & Ms. Mélissa Campagno (G.A.C.) "EIT Climate-KIC" EU project

The EU project HE PROTECT addresses crucial challenges in environmental and urban resilience, focusing on safeguarding European cities and habitats against the increasing threats posed by climate change, including floods, fires, and other environmental hazards.

Introduction:

Key Points of the EU HE PROTECT project:

Climate Resilience: The project is designed to enhance the resilience of urban and natural areas against climate-induced threats, focusing on creating adaptable and robust infrastructures and ecosystems.

Innovative Solutions: HE PROTECT employs cutting-edge technologies and methodologies to monitor, analyze, and respond to environmental risks, ensuring timely and effective interventions.

Community Engagement: Central to the project is the involvement of local communities, ensuring that resilience-building measures are inclusive and address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different regions.



Mr. Thanh-Tam Le, EIT Climate KIC EU project

Cross-sectoral Collaboration: The initiative fosters collaboration across various sectors and disciplines, bringing together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to develop holistic and sustainable resilience strategies.

Knowledge Sharing: HE PROTECT emphasizes the dissemination of best practices, lessons learned, and research findings to build a shared understanding and capacity for climate resilience across Europe.

By addressing these key areas, HE PROTECT aims to contribute significantly to the EU's agenda for a greener, more sustainable, and resilient future, ensuring that communities are better prepared to face and adapt to the challenges posed by a changing climate.

Session IV:

Financial Instruments and Knowledge for Cities

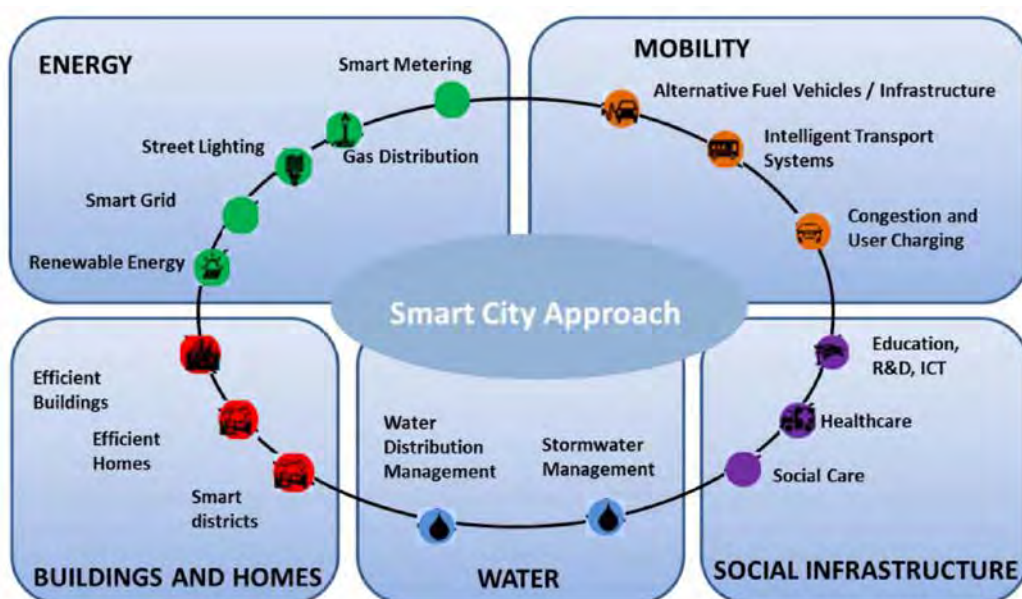
Innovative approaches in the transformation of heating systems



Mr. Simon Savšek,
European
Investment
bank - Head of
EIB Group Office
in Slovenia

The speaker from the European Investment Bank explains the structure of their financing - 85 to 90% of all EIB yearly financing goes to EU projects, encompassing various sectors, from SMEs to infrastructure. Their focus is on promoting sustainability and supporting climate goals, as they were among the first banks to cease financing fossil fuel projects. Smart cities and regions are top priority for the EIB. They recognize that the infrastructure and innovation are interlinked and aim to establish structural support for both state and city-level projects, focusing on sectors like digitalization, skills, SMEs and climate measures, with climate investment continuing to make up around 50% of their portfolio. Challenges in municipalities on a regional level are tied to water and waste management, compounded by low climate change mitigation funding. In Slovenia, the possibilities for funding are further limited to smaller municipalities. Despite these challenges, the EIB currently offers advisory services for 15 Slovenian projects to both corporations and government-level. The EIB evaluation process for the projects consists of three crucial aspects: risk evaluation, high added value and the decarbonization criterion.

They also created The Invest EU advisory hub that acts as a single-entry point for project promoters and intermediaries seeking advisory support, capacity building and technical assistance in relation to centrally managed EU investment funds.



Session IV:

Financial Instruments and Knowledge for Cities

EU Mission 100 Cities: Energy communities for implementation of goals

The public-private partnership concept is the installation of photovoltaic systems on 51 public buildings by the private partners. The public partner purchases the energy from the private partners at a rate generally more competitive than the market price. What makes this project exceptional are its advantages:

- 1. Community integration:** 47 out of 51 solar power plants will be connected into one large community, uniting public buildings.
- 2. Special method for subsidies:** through a competitive dialogue, they have designed a method that provides benefits for public partners in case of obtaining subsidies, an excellent way to adapt the project to changes considering various subsidies that are not defined yet.
- 3. Electricity price for shortages:** linking the electricity price for shortages to the price of the selected supplier ensures transparency and price stability in the project.
- 4. Transfer of risks to the private partner:** the private partner is responsible for managing various uncertainties, which increases the project's reliability.
- 5. Management and maintenance:** the private partner's duty for managing and maintaining solar power plants means that they are responsible for the smooth operation of the system throughout the 17 year-long concession period.

The speaker also mentions the retrofitting of the public buildings in the City of Ljubljana. The first public private investment was signed in 2017 and it was so successful that they decided to continue with that model where most of the funds are private partner funds, with some coming from EU cohesion funds and a small portion coming from Municipality of Ljubljana funds.



Ms. Petra Šeme,
Energy Manager,
City of Ljubljana



How to address rising uncertainties in urban planning? Foresight, participation and tactical urbanism



Mr. Marko Peterlin,
Director, IPoP
- Inštitut za
politike prostora
/ Institute for
Spatial Policies

Urban planning emerged from the need to anticipate the future, to timely provide the infrastructure for future needs of rapidly changing cities. Urban planning is thus a tool to address the chaos that the future brings. But the future never happens as planned. In the rapidly changing world of multiple crises the need for some anchors became urgent again. But how to plan with uncertainty? In the last few decades, when the need for urban planning was not so evident, it developed tools to address the fluid conditions it worked with. They encompass both sides of the vision-action dichotomy and offer a useful toolbox to lean upon.

Cities, much like houses, consist of various components evolving at different paces. The fundamental layers remain relatively stable over the centuries. Others undergo constant changes. When these layers operate independently, a balance is maintained. However, if they clash or interfere with one another, we encounter issues, and the urban plan may not unfold as intended. Today, urban planning emphasizes the need for anchoring and stability more than in the decades before. It is crucial to incorporate scenario planning, although it's not as widely utilized as it should be. It enables cities to adapt their development as they progress and provides alternative futures based on different premises and criteria, offering flexibility in shaping the city's evolution.

Participative planning approaches are very important for making solid ground for more stable layers of the city: it enables the establishing of common ground, provides better solutions to complex problems, it also shares the responsibility among the wider range of stakeholders, and ultimately builds trust. Recent practices in Ljubljana include workshops, discussions, public debates and active engagement with the public to gather feedback.

Ultimately, tactical urbanism is another valuable concept, involving the testing of temporary solutions that can later become permanent in an economical and flexible manner. This approach also encourages interaction and engagement among the people who inhabit the city.

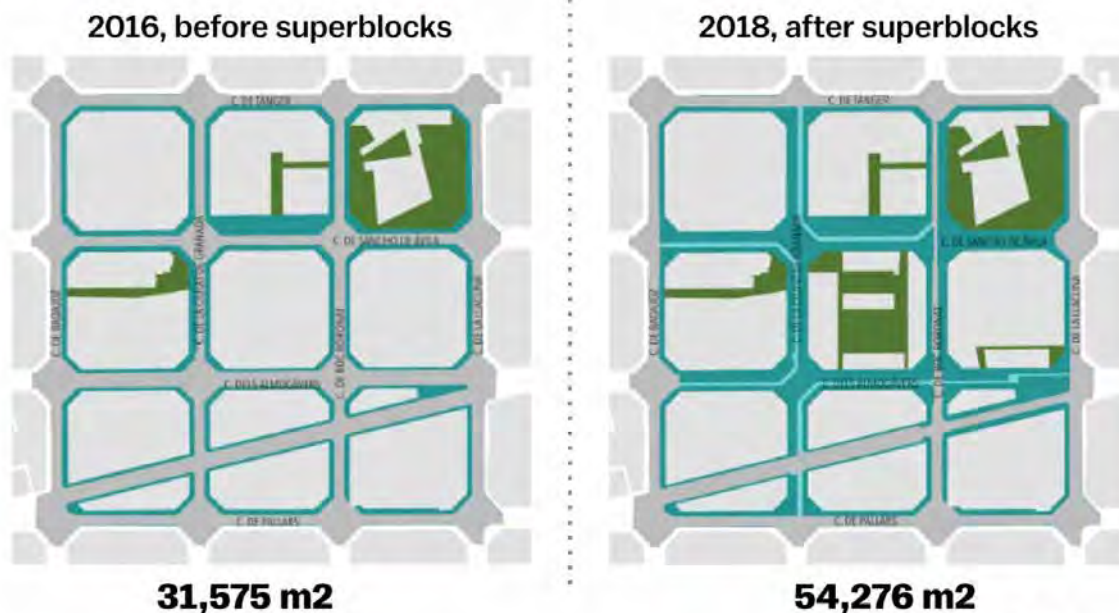


Public spaces for citizen use

Green spaces

Pedestrians

Pedestrians and vehicles



Source: BCNUEJ

Vox

The city of wellbeing - the role of AI for development of cities

The speaker explores the topic of "City of Wellbeing," where the integration of Artificial Intelligence reshapes the landscape of healthcare services. By using AI, it is possible to craft a healthcare ecosystem that prioritizes accessibility, personalization, and proactive wellbeing. Urbanization has led to increased healthcare challenges, for example the struggle to provide timely and effective care to the urban population. AI powered healthcare can improve patient outcomes, reduce costs, and enhance overall well-being of urban populations.

In the City of Wellbeing, AI redefines telemedicine, offering residents an interactive experience with virtual health assistants powered by natural language processing. Seamless access to medical advice, virtual consultations, and medication reminders becomes a reality, enhancing healthcare accessibility. Additionally, wearable technologies integrated into the urban fabric facilitate continuous health monitoring, enabling real-time feedback for early health issue detection.

Beyond individual health, the city employs AI in environmental monitoring to create a healthier living environment. Air and water quality sensors, driven by AI algorithms, ensure rapid responses to pollution incidents, promoting community-wide health.



Ms. Vida Groznik, PhD,
Assistant
Professor; CEO
& Co-founder of
NEUS



Personalized medicine is an approach that tailors medical treatment to the individual characteristics of each patient, based on their individual needs and medical history; by considering all that, it is possible to better predict the most effective treatments and minimise the risk of adverse reactions. Furthermore, predictive analytics powered by AI transform disease prevention strategies. By analyzing vast datasets, healthcare professionals can anticipate outbreaks, enabling targeted preventive measures and optimizing resource allocation.



Future of AI-Enabled Urban Wellbeing

AI has the potential to transform urban healthcare and improve the wellbeing of urban populations. As AI technology continues to evolve, healthcare providers need to embrace innovation and work towards creating a more equitable and accessible healthcare system.

Expanded Climate and Innovation Agenda for cities and regions



Mr. Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

This work centers on expanding our existing climate and innovation agendas, given the array of opportunities and intricate challenges unfolding in the 21st century. The rapid population growth is stretching our planet's limits and resources. Additionally, population mobility, driven by factors like conflicts and wars, adds further pressure to an already strained system.

Yet, we find ourselves in a technological era that can offer unique solutions. Our current public systems were designed decades ago and are ill-equipped to meet today's complex needs. That's where an expanded climate and innovation agenda comes into play. Majority of the approaches are focused on sectors - mostly, they are focusing on how we can reduce something rather than providing solutions or avoiding. We are aware that that is not the right

trajectory in order to limit global warming. The scale of change we need is exponential. To achieve this, we must embrace core principles such as human needs centered approach, leveraging the technology, radical collaboration with different actors across the globe and solution export.

Conventional approaches often address only the surface level, resulting in a narrow climate innovation agenda. For genuine change, an iceberg approach that delves deeper into mindset shifts and structural system changes is needed.

To aid cities in this transformative journey, the speaker's company has developed tools like AI-powered scanning of city strategies to help. Another tool involves city and regional strategy development and benchmarking to help less environmentally friendly cities ascent the sustainability ladder.

Opportunities & Challenges of the 21st Century



5 city projects / initiatives



Mr. Jan Kunne,
Digital Nomad
EDG USA/
Germany

Canton of Basel towards CO2 neutrality

The Canton of Basel has voted to become CO2 neutral by 2037. To achieve this, they needed a comprehensive and realistic approach involving citizens, decision makers and investors. Their solution is the urban digital twin, a tool that closely resembles reality by the way it looks, feels and responds, and analyzes historical data, real-time information and projects future scenarios. It's a democratizing tool, giving people access and connecting data sources, while ensuring data security.

Based on the goals and action plan, they see clearly that they can achieve CO2 neutrality by 2037, through providing scenarios, making it available to the people, joining in and discussing together about solutions. The digital twin not only reflects the past but also processes real-time data, and it allows for the development, assessment and adaptation of future scenarios using this data. The digital twin is designed in a way that makes reality easily experimental, analyzable and adaptable.

The underlying reason for this is scalability, speed and security provided by the quantum computer power of uptown Basel. They aim to provide citizens, decision makers and investors with realistic insight into the developments and their consequences.

Korimaco Project

Transformative Investment in Climate Action



Mr. Tim Taylor,
Korimaco project

This talk covers the economic case for more radical climate action in Slovenia and SE Europe. Continuing with the same approaches of the past decade, which have been proven ineffective, is the least desirable option. The main challenge lies in how communities can effectively orchestrate, fund, strategize, and execute substantial transformations.

For example, analysis of one scenario shows almost 300% social returns on €10 billions of investment to reduce Slovenia's emissions by over 40% by 2030, generating more than 10.000 jobs for a decade. But this analysis also shows how business-as-usual won't deliver this aggregate social value.

A new strategic approach will be essential to cover the breadth of action needed, capture the full suite of benefits, and solve current disconnects between who benefits and who is expected to invest. Transformative finance

mechanisms will be essential to such an approach - to deploy capital at the speed and scale needed, while maximizing social benefits that do not directly generate profits. City and region scales and establish transformative investment mechanisms. Transformative investment is an area where urban communities can take significant leadership and make real progress

Africa Project

The speaker takes part in International SDG expert's task force group "Lake Chad region alliance". They have introduced a philanthropic proposal known as the "Africa eLearning eHealth Satellite Project", which comes with a detailed action plan.

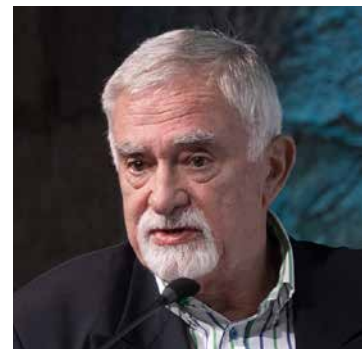
The primary challenge they are addressing is the global dilemma of being trapped between illiteracy and the age of artificial intelligence. Currently, more than 78 million children around the world are deprived of an education. In Nigeria, the situation is particularly dire, with 10.2 million out-of-school children, 60% of whom are girls, and 31% of the population being illiterate.

Their proposed solution revolves around a project which leverages satellite internet connectivity to bring education to the youth of Nigeria. At the core of this initiative are the digital classroom units, serving as the central component of the entire system. They recognize that digital learning has evolved into a versatile and multifaceted objective.

This approach aims to achieve several goals, including improving literacy, offering lifelong learning and skill acquisition opportunities to all generations, promoting health and gender education, supporting entrepreneurship and startup endeavors and viewing education and pedagogy as a viable business solution. The next steps in this endeavor involve local preparations and coordination within Nigeria and obtaining the green light to implement the pilot project.



**Mr. Tihomir
Divjak**, Senior
Consultant GFS
Institute



Digital Public Infrastructure and Open Networks with Beckn for Smart City Solutions



Ms. Sindhuja Sampath,
Digital Public Infrastructure and Open networks with Beckn for smart city solutions

The speaker, representing the Foundation for Interoperability in Digital Economy, is focusing on the concept of digital public infrastructure, specifically the Beckn Protocol. They are emphasizing the need for a digital infrastructure to meet core societal needs. Society's rapid digital transformation presents both opportunities and challenges. They believe that fostering transformative, inclusive and equitable growth at scale, driven by both public and private innovation, is crucial. Their perspective sees this not only as a solution for issues like smart cities, climate action, and mobility but also to address broader societal challenges and encourage behavioral changes. They acknowledge that tackling complex problems requires an equally sophisticated response, which may not solely come from the government but could also include private sector actors. They created a new, Digital Public Infrastructure approach that consists of a set of technology building blocks powered by interoperable open standards, operated under a set of enabling rules, having open, transparent, participatory governance to drive innovation, inclusion, and competition at scale.

The Beckn Protocol and digital public infrastructure have been successfully applied around the world, with the speaker emphasizing the successful appliance in India to implement digital identity systems, payment interfaces and open networks for mobility - all of that using the same principles. Such thinking can also be applied to energy efficiency and green energy related issues.

Addressing Energy, Circular Economy, Smart City Management with Open Protocols



Mr. Ravi Prakas,
Addressing energy, circular economy, smart city management with Open protocols

What if we could establish an open, inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and adaptive ecosystem that encourages exponential innovation on a broad scale, and does so at low cost? This is the idea behind the Beckn Protocol discussed. It acts as a universal language, allowing diverse systems to communicate effectively, similar to the common framework employed by platforms such as Uber or Amazon. When applied, the Beckn protocol has the power to transform isolated ecosystems into open networks, resembling how the internet or GSM networks function today. This transformation can be applied and used for a wide array of purposes, including waste management, electric vehicle charging, water management, manufacturing services and smart cities. To create this, let's start using a free and open-source toolset created by the Beckn community to build the Digital Public Infrastructure for discovery and fulfillment.

Measurement for Sustainable Success

In the world today, we are inundated with terms like sustainability, green transition, climate neutrality etc. This presentation posits a strategic return to fundamental principles, advocating for heightened awareness, reliance on credible measurements and findings, and the adoption of proven and justified solutions through collaborative efforts.

When it comes to companies and municipalities, we often have lofty ideals about sustainability, decarbonization, and climate neutrality. However, we tend to overlook the critical step of clearly defining what we aim to achieve and start setting goals.

Secondly, the question of how to achieve it, arises. Many companies operate on the principle that what you can measure, you can manage. This involves not just the measurements but rather calculations with established standards. Let's take the net-zero city challenge as an example: emissions are created mainly in urban areas where more than 75% of all people live. The impact of that is therefore everybody's business. The way to tackle it is by helping everybody to measure their impact and educate them to raise awareness. Finally, we should never underestimate the power of one person because companies and municipalities are ultimately composed of individuals coming together.



Ms. Tina Štrukelj, Co-founder & CEO
Infinite Pure Solutions





Ms. Vlatka Berlan Vlahek, Energy Cities, **Mr. Tomaž Lanišek**, Smart city & development manager, Kranj, **Mr. Mauricio Sardi**, EVTech4U. Moderator: **Mr. Bjarke Kovshoj**, "EIT Climate-KIC" EU project.

Scale up & Cities project EU climate

KIC project

The theme of the panel is discussion between city representative, scaleup representative and the net zero city advisor on what it takes for us to reach the goals that we set for ourselves and implement the solutions developed.

Mr. Mauricio Sardi, a scale-up representative, sees the municipalities as the framework for business. They enable different stakeholders to provide meaningful solutions for a carbon neutral economy and educate their citizens.

The main obstacle hindering us from transitioning to implementation, instead of merely testing, is the lack of time. The public sector is often juggling numerous projects simultaneously. Drawing from their experience as a scale-up, they have learned that project documentation should be as concise as possible and building trust and taking prompt action are crucial. If these steps are not taken, companies may withdraw from the public sector due to the perception that the likelihood of implementing their solutions is lower than in the private sector, where ideas are more readily put into practice.



Mr. Mauricio Sardi, CEO, EVTech4U



Mr. Tomaž Lanišek opened the speech by presenting the city of Kranj's innovative efforts to provide an inviting environment for start-ups, students, companies and others by investing money into a co-working space Kovačnica, cooperating with the private sector and encouraging their citizens to aspire for more.

He sees the lack of trust between the public and private sector as the main obstacle in order to reach the goals and implement the solutions. Secondly, the change of mindset is challenging as well, the citizens must internalize the need for green transformation.



Mr. Tomaž Lanišek, Smart City & Development Manager, City of Kranj



Ms. Vlatka Berlan Vlahek is a climate net-zero advisor, supervising the three Slovenian cities in Net Zero City Program - Kranj, Ljubljana and Velenje. She is discussing the importance of collaboration between the stakeholders to reach the goals.

The primary challenge that they have been facing in the process of joining the program is the constant battle with deadlines. When they embarked on this journey a year ago, she was genuinely excited; however, after 2 missed deadlines, the cities themselves came to the realization that their internal resources were not enough due to numerous ongoing projects.



Ms. Vlatka Berlan Vlahek, Energy Cities, Insula Bit Consultant



Conclusions of 2023 Ljubljana Forum



Mr. Jan Kunne, EDG USA/Germany, **Mr. Ivan Stanič**, City of Ljubljana, **Mr. Blaž Golob**, Ljubljana Forum, **Ms. Melissa Campagno**, HE protect project, **Mr. Jose Jacob Kayil**, TIA Summit Bangalore, **Mr. Bjarke Kovshoj**, EIT Climate KIC Project

The 2023 Ljubljana Forum, focusing on the pivotal theme of "Climate Neutral & Smart Cities by 2030," provided profound insights and forward-thinking strategies for urban development. Here are five foresight futures conclusions drawn from the discussions and deliberations at the forum:

I. Adoption of Integrative Urban Models:

The Barcelona "Superblock" initiative showcased at the forum is expected to set a benchmark for cities worldwide, emphasizing pedestrian-friendly spaces, reduced vehicular traffic, and enhanced community interaction. This model highlights a shift towards integrative urban planning, where the focus is on creating cohesive, sustainable, and people centered urban spaces.

II. Enhanced Financial Strategies for Sustainability:

The forum highlighted the European Investment Bank's pivotal role in urban development, demonstrating a future where financial instruments are increasingly tailored to support sustainable urban projects. Future cities will likely benefit from more sophisticated, green-oriented financial mechanisms, facilitating a broader adoption of sustainable infrastructure and technologies.



III. Digital Transformation as a Keystone:

The forum underscored the crucial role of digitalization in future urban development. Cities are anticipated to increasingly embed smart technologies for efficient resource management, enhanced civic engagement, and better service delivery, thereby transitioning towards fully integrated smart urban ecosystems.

IV. Climate Neutrality as a Central Urban Agenda:

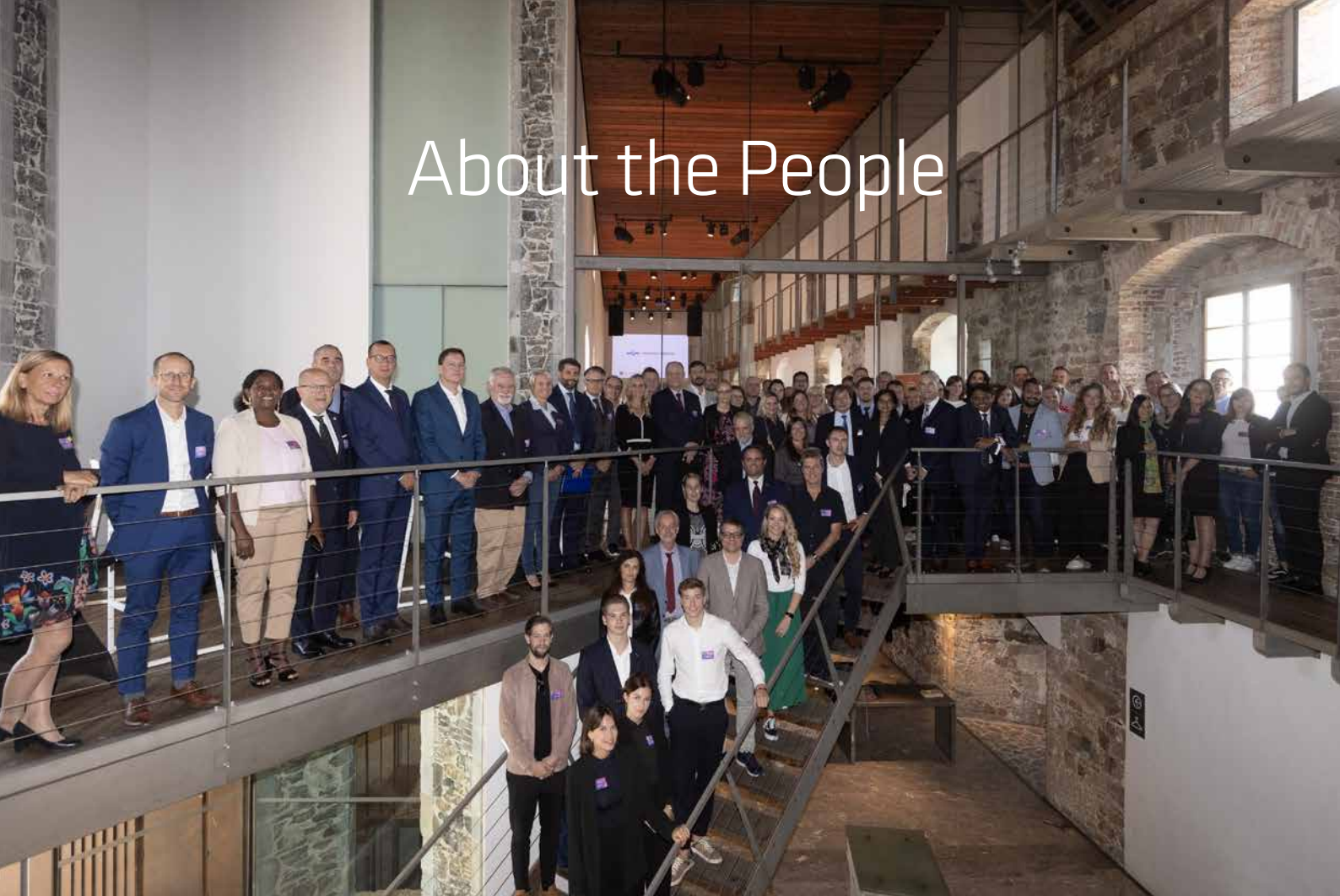
The discussions at the Ljubljana Forum reinforced the imperative of climate-neutral cities. Future urban planning will likely be dominated by strategies aimed at reducing carbon footprints, incorporating renewable energy sources, and implementing green mobility solutions, all underpinned by strong political will and stakeholder collaboration.

V. Inclusivity and Resilience in Urban Design:

The forum highlighted the importance of designing cities that are inclusive and resilient to future challenges, including climate change, technological disruptions, and social inequalities. Urban futures are envisioned to be more adaptive, with infrastructures and systems designed to be flexible and responsive to citizens' evolving needs and global sustainability goals.

These conclusions from the 2023 Ljubljana Forum provide a glimpse into the potential trajectories of urban development, emphasizing a holistic approach to building cities that are sustainable, smart, inclusive, and resilient.

About the People



City Leaders

Mr. Zoran Janković, Mayor of Ljubljana
Mr. Boštjan Koritnik, Vice Mayor of Ljubljana
Mr. Aleksandar Šapić, Mayor of Belgrade
Mr. Marko Filipović, Mayor of Rijeka
Ms. Anja Margetić, Vice Mayor of Sarajevo
Mr. Dominic Weiss, Director of Urban Innovation Vienna
Mr. Janos Kendernay, Director of City Diplomacy Budapest
Mr. Zdravko Jelušić, City Council Novi Sad

Speakers and Moderators

Mr. Blaž Golob, Chairman, Ljubljana Forum
Mr. Simon Savšek, Head of EIB Group Office in Slovenia, European Investment Bank
Ms. Daniela Bervar Kotolenko, CEO, Edutrain
Mr. Xavier Matilla, Architect, Urban planner Barcelona
Mr. Jan Künne, Senior Consultant, Enterprise Development Group
Mr. Rok Žnidaršič, Vice Mayor & Chief Architect, City of Ljubljana
Mr. Dominic Weiss, Director of Urban Innovation, City of Vienna
Ms. Lidija Globevnik, President of Water Association of Slovenia
Mr. Igor Žula, President of Logistic Association of Slovenia
Mr. Evald Kranjčević, Managing Director, ELES - Envirodual
Mr. Gašper Žerovnik, Head of Digital Transformations department, T-2
Ms. Marjana Senčar Srdič, Head of R&D Department, A1
Mr. Luka Brulc, Sales Manager, HeliotEurope
Ms. Eva Pečovnik, Sales Manager, Aplast
Mr. Jose Jacob Kayil, President, TIA Summit Bangalore India
Ms. Mateja Matajič, Slovenian Railways
Mr. Andreas Hrdlička, COO, Command
Mr. Mauricio Sardi, CEO, EVTech4U
Mr. Klemen Furlan, CEO, GoGiro

Mr. Bart Stegeman, Slovenian Orchestrator, EIT Climate-KIC
Mr. Thanh - Tam Le, EIT Climate-KIC
Ms. Mélissa Campagno, Governments and EU Innovation Consultant, G.A.C. Group
Mr. Miroslav Polzer, Founder & CEO, IAAI GloCha
Ms. Petra Šeme, Energy Manager, City of Ljubljana
Mr. Marko Peterlin, director, Institute for Spatial Policies
Ms. Vida Groznik, Assistant Professor, CEO & Co-founder, NEUS
Mr. Pourya Salehi, Head of Urban Research, Innovation and Development Team ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Mr. Tim Taylor, Korimaco Project
Mr. Tihomir Divjak, Founder & CEO, A.eL.eH.S.P
Mr. Fred Uduma, Slovenia-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sindhuja Sampath, Head of Architecture and Technology Ecosystem, FIDE
Mr. Ravi Prakas
Ms. Tina Štrukelj, CEO & Co-Founder, Pure Solutions
Mr. Bjarke Kovshoj, Climate-KIC
Mr. Tomaž Lanišek, Smart City & Development Manager, City of Kranj
Ms. Vlatka Verlan Vlahek, Insula Bit Consultant, Energy Cities

Participants

Mr. Simon Ferjuc, Tetida d.o.o.
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Občan v središču pametnega mesta



T2

Naša Pametna mesta združuje pametne informacijske in merilne sisteme, obstoječe občinske informacijske sisteme, našo spletno platformo ter mobilno in IPTV aplikacijo za meščane v enotni ekosistem.

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PLATFORMA ZA
INTERAKCIJO Z OBČANI

MESTO PRIHODNOSTI DANES



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