



How to design green cities with citizens? Insights from BiodiverCities

Final policy event of the BiodiverCities project
Hosted by the European Committee of the Regions

8 September 2022, 9:00 – 13:15
rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 (registration is mandatory)

The final policy event of the [BiodiverCities](#) project aims to present highlights, lessons learnt and the local impact achieved throughout **citizen engagement processes run in ten cities across Europe in 2021-2022**. It is an opportunity to discuss policy needs and other enabling conditions to ensure that citizens are engaged in the co-creation of urban green infrastructure and by extension to other fields of land use planning. The meeting will bring together practitioners and city officials involved in BiodiverCities in dialogue with policymakers of EU institutions and Member States.

BiodiverCities is a pilot project funded by the EU at the request of the European Parliament, run by the Joint Research Centre in collaboration with Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission. It is part of the portfolio of projects of the Commission's [Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy](#).

The project sits within the political context of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the latest [COM \(2022\) 404 final CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE Putting Vision into Concrete Action](#). BiodiverCities can also provide knowledge and know-how of direct interest to EU Missions for [Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities](#), [Adaptation to Climate Change](#) and [Soil](#).

Programme

08:20-8:45 Arrival at the European Committee of the Regions
Grab a coffee/tea!

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introduction to the BiodiverCities project.
Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy.

9:10-9:25 Setting the scene: The broader EU wide citizen engagement vision – putting BiodiverCities in context

Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President, European Commission (TBC)

9:25-10:25 Conversation n°1 **“Politics is local!”** How to engage citizens on key environmental challenges of our times at the local level?

Moderator

Bert Kuby, Head of Unit, European Committee of the Regions

Panellists

Medea Ferrigno, Presidio partecipativo del Patto di Fiume Simeto [Regalbuto, Italy]

Samo Peter Medved, Deputy Major, Municipality of Maribor [Slovenia]

Ashley North, Councillor for Climate, Mobility and Finance, Municipality of Leiden [Netherlands]

Discussant

Johannes Klumpers, Senior Expert, Horizon Europe Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

Intermezzo: story telling with Milo Manica, Gruppo Insubrico di Ornitologia e LIPU Varese [10 minutes]

10:35-10:55 Coffee break

10:55-11:55 Conversation n°2 Changing the ways institutions work. How to mainstream citizen engagement in public institutions?

Moderator

Stefan Appel, Head of Unit, DG REGIO.E1

Panellists

Joan Riera, Municipality of Palma de Mallorca [Spain]

Rute Neves, Municipality of Valongo [Portugal] (TBC)

Franca Marsh, Palma Nana [Palermo, Italy]

Ieva Misiune, University of Vilnius [Lithuania]

Discussant

Ann-Karin Holmen, Associate professor, University of Stavanger [Norway]

Intermezzo: story telling with Karin Pierce, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle [10 minutes]

12:05-12:35 **Improbable** civic spaces: reappropriating public spaces for citizen engagement – a toolkit

Moderator

Suzanna Matvejevic, European Committee of the Regions

Told by

Ilona Kish, Public Libraries Network 2030, **Pedro Pinho**, University of Lisbon [Portugal] and **Danica Lacarac**, National Green Roof Association of Serbia [Novi Sad, Serbia]

12:35-12:45 Summary by **Benjamin Caspar**, Policy Officer, DG ENV.

Moderator: Marialuisa Tamborra, JRC.D3.

12:45-13:15 Closing remarks by **Kata Tüttö**, Chair of ENVE Commission, European Committee of the Regions (TBC) and **Sirpa Pietikäinen**, Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

Moderator: Patrick Child, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Environment, Manager of the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

13:15 Onwards – Reception in Atrium 5

19:00 Dinner (self-paid)