1.0 Foreword – The city we need

We live in the urban century. Cities are hotspots of economic inequalities, social unrest and environmental damage. But they are also the cradle of innovation, experimentation, collective action and social change by virtue of their density and dynamism.

Cities are places continuously in the making, with a quick rates of material and social turnover that requires good governance for addressing multiple challenges. However, the ethical dimensions of the urban have been often overlooked. Beyond the many adjectives currently in use for qualifying the city (e.g., sustainable, smart, resilient, green, creative, etc.), the ethical cities agenda provides the opportunity to critically assess of existing discourses and to bring back into the centre of the debate key issues of social justice and environmental sustainability. It epitomises the need for a turn in the current directions driving global urban development. The ‘city we need’ is a claim for safer, healthier, more socially inclusive, affordable, equitable, economically vibrant cities.

Stemming from the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme, the ethical city is RMIT University’s contribution to undergoing dialogues on global urban futures. Following on from the Urban Thinkers Campus organised in Melbourne in February 2016, RMIT Europe is delighted to present this report summarising the Ethical Cities: Urban Innovation Forum held in Barcelona on 6 July 2016. With this event, RMIT Europe further advances the ethical cities agenda in the run-up to the October 2016 HABITAT III conference in Quito, Ecuador. This document is also informing the European Reference Framework for Age-Friendly Neighbourhoods, of which RMIT supports.

We hope that you will find this report timely and insightful, and look forward to collaborating with you in the quest for better, more ethical cities.

Dr Marta Fernández
Executive Director
RMIT Europe
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1. Background

Cities are the result of a complex interplay of places, people and power, which shapes and is shaped by dynamics of technologies, materials, and social and cultural phenomena. Given these practical realities that cities face, what ethical frameworks guide city-shaping actions and how can they enhance urban life for all?

Inspired by the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and associated dialogues around both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (a UN-Habitat III initiative), RMIT University presents the ethical city as an urgent objective. This initiative calls for an environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable city that utilises transparent, accountable, respectful, democratic and inclusive mechanisms of engagement.

RMIT Europe has introduced the ethical city for the first time in Europe with the Ethical Cities: Urban Innovation Forum in Barcelona on 6 July 2016.

The forum brought together 70 European Union, national and local stakeholders for an open discussion about key urban challenges and the up-scaling and replication of innovative, plausible solutions that pass the test of practicality.

Key recommendations from the forum will feed into UN-Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in October 2016 in Quito and the European Commission Reference Framework for Active Ageing.
The 10 principles of the UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact encourages companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

**Human Rights**

**Principle 1.** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2.** make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses

**Labour**

**Principle 3.** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4.** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

**Principle 5.** the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6.** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

**Environment**

**Principle 7.** Businesses should support for a precautionary approach to environmental challenges:

**Principle 8.** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9.** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

**Anti-corruption**

**Principle 10.** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

“Ethical Cities: Urban Innovation Forum”

“Cities need to prepare for ageing populations - with innovative solutions.”

Peter Wintlev-Jentsen

European Commission

“The world’s urban transformation is unstoppable”

Maita Fernández

UN-Habitat

“More than 75% of the EU’s current housing stock does not meet criteria for ‘age-friendliness’ in terms of general accessibility and inclusive design.”

Ian Spero

Agile Aging Alliance
Inequalities in the urban age

Cities are growing. As we shift towards a 70% global urbanisation rate by 2050, our cities will need to accommodate over 3 billion more people. At the same time, we are witnessing the impacts of climate change, population change, and rapid economic change.

Why should we think about the city in the same breath as the word ‘ethical’? Cities are becoming more unequal and self-segregating. The young, vulnerable, poor, elderly and disadvantaged are becoming poorer, more segregated, and effectively banished to under-serviced parts of the city that end up further disadvantaging them. Inequality is an endemic and worsening crisis.

Cities that fail to build ethical futures, social inclusion and citizen engagement become less attractive, less sustainable and more vulnerable to the negative effects of shocks and mega-trends over time. They will become dysfunctional and anti-social as individual citizens begin to prioritise their narrow short-term interests over those of their community.

A critique of mainstream agendas

There is a growing trend in labelling our cities as liveable, healthy, sustainable, smart, and so on.

Smart cities are technologically driven, holding out a hope for a tech-led prosperity for all. Yet, technology is not neutral, nor is it ubiquitous, benevolent, or universal. However, most smart city discussion is silent on the matter of power, and seeks to de-identify and de-attribute power; it is silent on the matter of who gets what from the smart city and who decides who gets what.

Similarly, resilient cities agendas are typically dominated by the idea of infrastructure that will allow cities to function when extreme climate events or other shocks hit. They are once again silent on the fact that certain groups have little access to the best of city infrastructure already.

Unless these agendas start with key priorities – like ensuring universal access to urban services or decent affordable housing – they risk becoming simply transparent fig leaves attempting to conceal the problems of cities instead of being part of the solution.

The need for an ethical turn

The reason to argue for yet another cities tag is that ethical cities can serve as a way to counter regressive city trends, to focus on the real issues and then work on smart, sustainable solutions from there. There is a need to refocus our efforts on key aspects of the urban crisis.

In the ethical city, justice, care and inclusion – for women, for minorities, for migrants, and for the disadvantaged – are logically centre stage. It is through the social inclusion of these vulnerable groups that we can work towards enhancing city resilience. It follows that addressing inequality and social inclusion is a prerequisite for all efforts towards sustainable, smart or resilient cities. But it is also possible to argue that accountability, engagement and respect must also be central.

The ethical city is, in many ways, a logical next step for human progress in the urban age. As we increasingly live closer together we need shared ethics and a focus on care that will become common ground when our individual interests collide.
3. Barcelona: An ethical city?
Josep Maria Montaner, City of Barcelona

Barcelona became a signatory city of the UN Global Compact – Cities Programme in February 2011. The second largest city of Spain, Barcelona’s key urban features are its high density, booming tourist industry, and significant reputational and lifestyle value.

Decisions adopted by the local administration headed by former civil society leader and anti-eviction activist Ada Colau since June 2015 are in line with the principles of the ethical cities. A main aim of the local council is to get beyond the ‘exhausted’ 1992 Olympics model to bring about a more balanced urban fabric articulated around the protection of human rights.

The local administration is currently working on addressing four key challenges identified as priorities.

1) Sustainable mobility – to reduce the city’s air and noise pollution levels through coordinated measures such as the introduction of ‘superblocks’, the introduction of pedestrian streets, the construction of more cycling lanes and the reorganisation of bus lines.

2) Affordable housing – to deal with the inheritance of thousands of evicted households resulting from the poor governance of the housing sector by the Spanish central government. Barcelona has a large rental market (30% of all dwellings) but only 1.5% are protected social tenancies.

3) Decent working conditions – the city council has the goal of taming the tourist industry excesses in the labour market and to diversify Barcelona as a tourist destination. It is also working on the re-industrialisation of the city and in the promotion of social and cooperative economies.

4) Energy – priority is given to supporting the thermal retrofit of residential buildings in deprived areas such as the neighbourhoods around Besòs river.
Greening Barcelona’s Eixample

The egalitarian, hygienist principles inherited in the urbanism of Ildefons Cerdà’s Eixample are the starting point for the recovery of public green spaces in the illes or inner yards of square residential blocks. The primary purpose of this intervention is to guarantee a minimum of one courtyard for every 9 blocks, or one in a 200-metre radius. Since 1987, 40 of these public spaces have re-opened. Many of them taken the name of prominent women in the local and national history.

The strict grid pattern of Barcelona’s Eixample also serves for the reorganisation and rationalization of public bus lines following an orthogonal network. The plan is that any person will be less than 300 metres from a bus stop at any time, and to reduce average waiting times to five minutes anywhere in the city. In addition, 200 additional kilometres of new cycling lanes will be introduced.

Superblocks - Re-making the city grid

One of the priorities of the new local administration is the ‘pacification’ (i.e., reduction of traffic intensity) of Barcelona’s inner city districts where air pollution and noise generated by motor vehicles hinder the quality of life of residents. With this aim, the planning is under way for supermançanes or ‘superblocks’—mini neighbourhoods around which traffic will flow, and where inner spaces will be re-purposed for winning the streets back for residents.

These 400 x 400 metre units containing 9 residential blocks are home to between 5,000 and 6,000 people on average. Inside each superblock motorised traffic and car parking area will be minimised, and preference will be given to public spaces and pedestrians. Car, scooter, lorry and bus traffic will be restricted to roads in the superblock perimeters, and they will only be allowed in the inner streets if they are residents, emergency services or delivering to local businesses, and at a greatly reduced speed.
The right to adequate housing is regarded as a fundamental requisite for a decent life. Yet the functioning of the real estate and financial sectors make it difficult – when not impossible – for a portion of the population to access affordable housing. A wide array of governance models and policy instruments have been devised and implemented for decades in an effort to prevent unwanted residential mobility and precariousness. In Spain, housing price and house ownership issues have become central elements of the EU-wide economic crisis since 2008, with large cities like Madrid and Barcelona turning into spaces of struggle and resistance to forced evictions following households’ default on mortgages.

Within this topic we explored key issues surrounding the affordability of adequate housing in a variety of contexts and locations, and assessed policy responses with a special focus on innovative financing and home ownership approaches.

Key questions for discussion

How can access to housing be effectively fulfilled as a human right?

- What key obstacles are preventing universal access to affordable housing?
- What actors need to be involved in the provision of affordable housing?
- What innovative financing or tenure approaches can be put forward?
4.1 Ethical cities and the right to housing

Housing is a resource that can provide a sense of security, well being, health and social stability. Housing is also a stepping stone to education, recreation and employment opportunities.

How this resource is allocated reflects government, market and civil society processes influencing social equity. How secure our housing is influences opportunities for social development and emancipation.

Access to affordable home ownership is however declining.

Overheated housing markets and indebtedness are a threat to both living standards and economic stability. Youth access to housing is declining and intergenerational inequality is rising. Cities are also becoming more spatially segregated and polarised as housing markets are pushing workers far from their jobs, increasing transport and environmental costs.

Governments do have a role in influencing capital flows, shaping circuits of savings and patterns of investment including housing, acting sometimes as direct investor.

Spain is the EU Member State with the largest number of recorded evictions – half a million households have lost their homes since 2008, an average of 189 evictions per day. Often families are left on their own as emergency or temporary housing is not provided by the state.

The Platform for People Affected by Mortgages (PAH) fights for the right to housing as recognised in article 47 of the Spanish Constitution. Public collective action organised by PAH has given voice to affected and concerned citizens, organised solidarity and resistance networks and effectively stopped evictions through protest meetings. PAH has also ‘rehoused’ over 3,500 evicted citizens – one thousand people more than the Spanish state.

A landmark achievement of PAH is successfully pushing through a citizen’s legislative initiative to address Catalonia’s housing and energy poverty ‘emergencies’. Law 24/2015 on evictions and energy poverty was unanimous approved by all political parties of the Catalan Parliament in July 2015. It contains innovative measures to protect citizens from evictions and outstanding mortgage debt.

“The housing problem is intrinsic to capitalism.”
Zaida Muxi
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

“Housing is integral to social welfare, economic development and the achievement of environmental objectives. It contributes to liveable cities, productivity and sustainability.”
Julie Lawson
RMIT University

“There are 3.5 million empty homes in Spain”
Carlos Macías
Platform for People Affected by Mortgages (PAH)
4.2 Long-term affordable housing for vulnerable groups

Workshop discussion group #1 - Affordable housing and innovation

Challenges

- Household income not coping with real estate prices
- No protection for tenants in rental markets
- Socio-spatial polarisation at neighbourhood and urban scales: attractive vs. shrinking areas
- Pressures from tourism
- Lack of capacity of governments at different administrative scales.
- No data for evidence-based accountability

Opportunities

- Use of empty units for affordable social housing
- Upgrade and renovation of the existing housing stock
- Development of non-commercial ethical banking
- Strengthening of civil society organisations and non-for-profit business models like housing associations

Recommendations

- Reorganised financial flows with mechanisms to channel money where is needed, e.g., purchase of empty flats from banks. The housing and financial sector need regulation.
- Long-term institutional investment supports the development of a social housing stock to be allocated with non-market criteria.
- Private management groups, cooperatives, public bodies, limited profit housing associations and intermediaries as key actors need to be involved.
- Advocate for new models that aim at stable, affordable ownership and tenancy frameworks that ensure long-term access to decent housing to all households including those from vulnerable groups.
- Emphasise outcomes rather than inputs; prioritise the maintenance and upgrade of the quality of the housing stock.
5. Topic #2. Urban energy transitions

The urban as a scale and as a process is at the core of the transition to low-carbon futures. Cities are key spaces for global population and energy consumption trends, and therefore local energy transitions are imperative for achieving long-term global mitigation goals and to avoid dangerous climate change. To complicate things further, existing and emerging energy-related inequalities and vulnerabilities require the de-carbonisation of urban economies to be accomplished while ensuring the provision of adequate levels of energy services for all.

With this topic we aimed to identify key obstacles in achieving low-carbon, socially just urban energy systems, and to evaluate innovative solutions ranging from technical and behavioural interventions to transformative scenarios in which the fundamentals of energy provision and consumption are re-examined.

Key questions for discussion

How can environmentally sustainable energy provision be made affordable for all citizens?

- Who are the winners and losers of the transition to low-carbon cities?
- What are the impacts on disadvantaged, disengaged, vulnerable consumers?
- How can new technologies and business energy supply models that ensure the provision of sustainable energy for all?
5.1 Unfair transitions?

Energy transitions towards sustainability are driven by the need to reduce the environmental impact of energy supply and consumption, namely greenhouse gas emissions.

According to UN Habitat, cities consume about 75% of global primary energy and are responsible for 80% of the world’s total greenhouse gases emissions when indirect emissions generated by urban inhabitants are included. This makes cities hotspots of the energy transition.

However, it is feared that disadvantaged social segments may be ‘left behind’ or even penalised by this transformation.

In Spain, several million households are suffering from energy poverty. This number has increased significantly since the onset of the crisis in 2008.

The Alliance Against Energy Poverty (APE) is a grassroots, citizen-led initiative supporting households at risk of forced disconnection from utility networks. Founded in 2014, APE raises awareness, puts pressure on utility companies and public administration, give voice to vulnerable households, and facilitate networks of citizen solidarity and resistance.

APE claims that the access to natural gas, electricity and water is intrinsic to the right to decent housing as established by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Private utilities like Agbar, Gas Natural and Endesa in Catalonia have the responsibility to guarantee their supply as they make large profits out of the provision of basic household services.

New business models are being tested by organisations like Som Energia – Spain’s and first renewable energy cooperative. Following up on successfully functioning models in Northern European, it supplies over 35,000 households with locally-generated, 100% renewable, sustainable electricity while giving them the opportunity to play a part in transforming the country’s energy system.

The membership of Som Energia is largely constituted by middle class households but the cooperative is sensitive to energy poverty. It offers solidarity funds to support vulnerable households, does not apply any profit margin on the fixed costs of electricity and is signing agreements with municipalities to avoid the disconnection of vulnerable households.

“The energy transition needs to be an urban transition if it aspires to have any real impact on the global scale.”
Sergio Tirado
RMIT Europe

“People don’t pay their energy bills because they can’t. Not because they don’t want to.”
María Campuzano
Alliance Against Energy Poverty (APE)

“There’s a need, across all citizens, to help towards building a new energy model.”
Yaiza Blanch
Som Energia
5.2 Urban communities in energy and social transition

Workshop discussion group #2 – Urban energy transitions

Challenges

• Energy understood as a marketable commodity and not as a basic service for households
• Excess generation capacity held in the hands of the private companies in the Spanish electricity sector
• Complex, inadequate regulation and lack of transparency and information
• Lack of understanding of technological and financial aspects
• Rigidity and resistance to change of key actors

Opportunities

• Development of more transparent, democratic and de-centralised domestic energy provision system
• Decreased energy imports and enhanced energy security
• Re-municipalisation of the energy infrastructure
• Urban regeneration
• Social change

Recommendations

• Bring forward new models that empower and seek to primarily benefit consumers/citizens, especially the most vulnerable sub-groups.
• Emphasise the urgency of neighbourhood-level interventions. Start with a mapping exercise to identify the vulnerable districts (e.g., Nou Barris in Barcelona), followed by the creation of a network of ‘socio-energy’ auditors. They will guide household-level interventions with their expertise, will offer training and educational materials, and co-create solutions together with citizens.
• Develop a financing model of its own, with solidarity funding to be provided for households with restricted access to credit.
• Action needs to be led by local authorities and civil society, and should involve non-conventional financial institutions, local companies and flagship city organisations like Barcelona FC.
6. Topic #3. Public spaces and inclusion

Public spaces open to citizens of all ages and status are of paramount importance for liveable and inclusive cities. They are designed and socially-constructed settings that foster social interaction and play. Inclusive public spaces provide urban dwellers in our ageing cities with the possibility of being active and participating in society. Flawed design that results in access and use restrictions to physically disadvantaged groups like the elderly or disabled, as well as contested forms of ownership such as privately owned public spaces (POPS) are examples of obstacles and tensions preventing urban public spaces being truly inclusive.

Main aims of topic were the identification of shortcomings in the architecture and management of public spaces, and of innovative design and governance solutions to eliminate barriers and enhance access, participation and inclusion.

Key questions for discussion

How can urban spaces be made more accessible and inclusive for disadvantaged groups like the elder?

• What main shortcomings can be identified in the architecture and management of urban public spaces?

• What specific challenges exist for guaranteeing the access of the elderly to public spaces in the context of ageing urban societies?

• Which innovative design and governance approaches are available for creating of more inclusive public spaces?
6.1 Designing for inclusion and public participation

Senior people are excluded in many spaces of everyday life.

The borough of Stockport in Greater Manchester (UK) has been working for years in a better integration of the elderly in the city life. A project is successfully tapping into the experience of ex-carers with deceased partners or relatives affected by dementia for providing peer support to currently active carers.

The local website ‘My Care, My Choice’ uses elderly-friendly large font sizes and lets beneficiaries decide how and where to spend their pensioners’ allowance in local services. It has significantly improved the satisfaction of users.

However, technology is often frowned upon - it is seen as a limit rather that as instrument to enhance access to new services and realities. But technology can also be a platform for bottom up participatory processes.

In Madrid, new models of online citizen participation in local decision-making are being applied by the local authorities following three approaches:

1) **Participatory budgeting** – 60 million Euro will be invested based on the results of a public online consultation that has demonstrated the solidarity of citizens with their fellows. Some of most voted proposals are the provision of homes for abused or homeless people or patients with Alzheimer.

2) **Participatory renovation of Plaza de España** – this emblematic public space of the city centre will be refurbished following the results of a 27,000 citizen survey.

3) **‘Decide Madrid’** – an online tool that allows any person to put up a proposal that if voted by at least 2% of the city residents will be considered for its realisation.

In the private sphere, the technology of smart and age-friendly housing allows shifting care to the home – a preferred living space for the elders. These solutions are expected to create a new European and global market of new services ultimately contributing to more growth and jobs.

“People with dementia are the most excluded. In Stockport we are asking ex-carers to offer peer support to those who are new to this condition. They have so much to give.”

Andy Bleaden
City of Stockport

“New models of direct, individual citizen participation without intermediaries are being tested in Madrid.”

Gregorio Planchuelo
City of Madrid

“Day to day users of our cities are the ones who know better about their needs and what the city needs.”

Mathilde Marengo
Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia
6.2 User-centered tools for quality of life enhancement through The Internet of Things

**Workshop discussion group #3 – Public spaces and inclusion**

**Challenges**

- Growing concerns about how European societies are coping with their increasingly aging populations
- Demographic trends expected to increase health care and other age-related costs borne by the public sector
- Digital gap and data privacy issues enhanced by age and social class differences
- Resistance to change
- Designer disconnected from final users

**Opportunities**

- Increased life expectancy with better quality of life for the elders
- More age-friendly, inclusive societies result in enhanced well being for seniors and decreased burden for public services
- Development of new products and services
- User-centred design of products and services

**Recommendations**

- Explore possibilities the The Internet of Things (IoT) opens up for the design and deployment of information technology-intensive solutions placed at the intersection between citizen needs and (bio) data.
- Build solutions upon principles of user centricity and user needs for products and services to be friendly and intuitive. Couple them with strictly regulated data protection frameworks that ensure users’ ownership of data.
- Forster lively public debates in parallel to the development of solutions for communicating and main-streaming IoT-based solutions.
- Utilise this approach to open markets of new, better targeted services intended to reinvigorate economies while fostering quality of life.
6.3 Tools, technologies, practices and policies for flexible, open and inclusive participatory urban design

Workshop discussion group #3 – Public spaces and inclusion

**Challenges**

- Demographic changes and implications on well-being
- Privatisation and commercialisation of public spaces
- Disruption of value chains
- Ecological footprint
- Lack of interoperability of IoT standards
- Short-sightedness of responses

**Opportunities**

- Meaningful access to otherwise hidden urban data/information
- Potential contribution of open/big data
- Reuse/re-purposing of obsolete spaces
- Increased awareness for sustainability
- Direct democracy
- Flexibility, customisation and co-creation

**Recommendations**

- Prioritise open and inclusive design as a guiding methodological principle for addressing urban issues.
- Emphasised co-creation as well as open democratic, flexible, customised, responsive design approaches.
- Advocates a meaningful use of big/open data for enabling the access to otherwise hidden (yet available) information.
- Envision the development of a design culture based on self-managed initiatives and ingenuity, e.g., an Instagram of design.
- Consider several layers and scales in this approach – from the digital to the global, with the city at the centre of action.
7. Conclusions and key recommendations

The Ethical Cities: Urban Innovation Forum enabled a fruitful dialogue among academic, industry, civil society and public administration stakeholders on the nature of and responses to current urban challenges. Taking the local context of Barcelona as a starting point for many discussions, participants identified a number of key social and environmental issues that map onto pre-existing and emerging inequalities. They also expressed mixed views about the potential and the risks of deploying information technologies for addressing the matters that concern the citizenship.

Panel and workshop sessions highlighted the need to bring together stakeholders holding different priorities and perspectives. The need for consensus and concerted action did not preclude, however, the acknowledgement of pervasive conflict between private versus public interests across multiple layers of the city.

Three main conclusions are drawn from the Urban Innovation Forum:

- The ethical city is an emerging framework that questions technology- and infrastructure-driven urban agendas such as the smart and resilient city.
- Technological capacity and innovation need to be directed towards addressing the multiple challenges of an increasingly urbanised world for the promotion of social justice and environmental sustainability.
- Significant opportunities exist to enhance the well-being and advance the inclusion of Europe’s ageing populations.

In this light, key recommendations stemming from the Forum are:

- To re-examine current directions in city governance so that addressing structural drivers of inequalities and vulnerabilities becomes a true priority in urban design, planning and policy-making;
- To re-asses the provision of essential goods and services such as housing, energy or public spaces in order to make market-based allocation mechanisms compatible with adequate levels of access for all citizens, especially for the disadvantaged;
- To refine the much favoured open participatory design approaches by overcoming obstacles such as the difficulty to involve excluded, disengaged individuals and communities.
About the organisers

RMIT University

RMIT is a global university of technology, design and enterprise, and one of the world’s top 100 universities in art and design, architecture and engineering. RMIT enjoys a reputation for excellence in professional and vocational education and outcome-oriented research.

RMIT Europe

RMIT Europe serves as the European hub of RMIT, with a mission to expand the University’s global reputation. The focus for RMIT Europe is on delivering research impact through collaboration and enhancing global experiences for students.

UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme

The UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme focuses on providing national and local governments with tools for measuring and increasing resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.

UN Global Compact - Cities Programme

The Cities Programme is the urban component of the United Nations Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate responsibility initiative. The UN Global Compact – Cities Programme recognises that cities have the potential to make enormous strides in creating sustainable societies, where economic, ecological, political and cultural issues are integrated and advanced.

Neighbourhoods of the Future

Neighbourhoods of the Future is a pan-European roadshow led by the European Commission that takes a fresh look at innovating smarter new build and retrofit home and urban environments, with a view to empowering an ageing population to live healthier, more meaningful, connected lives with dignity and autonomy.

Agile Ageing Alliance

The Agile Ageing Alliance focuses on the creative interface between healthcare, technology, learning and social engagement as a means of empowering older adults.
List of speakers

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Representative
Som Energia

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