

UNECE Green Economy Seminar

Building the cities we want

27 November 2012, 10:00-18:00

Room VIII, A-Building, 3rd floor, Palais des Nations

Languages: English, Russian and French with simultaneous translation

The Rio+20 UN Sustainable Development Conference outlined the importance of a “*holistic approach to urban development and human settlements [and] an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements*”. Sustainable urban development cannot be achieved by an individual sector alone. In contrast: to be successful, it requires interlinkages and synergies between sectors and programmes. As the work of UNECE covers all urban sectors, this event provides the opportunity to exchange and identify these interlinkages within UNECE activities.

This UNECE Green Economy seminar will present current and future trends and challenges in European cities. It will provide the platform for a shared discussion on how to respond to these economic, social and environmental challenges in order to achieve sustainable urban development in the wider European region.

The seminar consists of two thematic panels and a final session. During the final session, conclusions and recommendations from the thematic panel discussions will be drawn with the aim to identify potential joint activities for intersectoral cooperation in UNECE on sustainable urban development.

The two thematic panels will focus on:

I – Energy, transport and technologies in cities

In increasingly networked societies, innovation in information and communication technology could lead to improved energy efficiency, reduced resource consumption and, overall, better managed urban areas. This panel examines potentials and experiences of so-called smart cities. It also explores the transport and environment related dimension of sustainable urbanization.

II – Ageing and accessibility in cities

Looking at current and future demographic trends in the wider European region, this panel will emphasize the changing needs of an ageing society and how this development will impact on housing demand and accessibility of urban infrastructures.

Speakers include experts from governments, academia and private sector as well as staff members of UNECE and its UN partner organizations. The seminar will take place during the UNECE Sustainable Energy Week and back to back with meetings of the UNECE Sustainable Energy Committee.

For more information, please contact Ms. Maike Christiansen at maike.christiansen@unece.org

Agenda

10:00 – 10:15	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Chair - <i>Elena Szolgayova</i>, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management • Opening Remarks – <i>Andrey Vasilyev</i>, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary
10:15 – 11:45	<p>Panel One. Energy, environment, transport and technologies in cities</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Scott Foster</i>, Director UNECE Sustainable Energy Division</p> <p><i>Key note presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ger Baron</i>, Programme Manager Amsterdam Smart City, City of Amsterdam <i>Transforming to a Smart City: the case of Amsterdam</i> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Michael Keane</i>, Senior Partner, K2S Advisors • <i>Jennifer Layke</i>, Executive Director, Institute for Building Efficiency, Johnson Controls <p>Questions and answers, discussion</p>
11:45 – 12:00	<p>Coffee break</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Panel One. Energy, environment, transport and technologies in cities - continues</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Eva Molnar</i>, Director, UNECE Transport Division</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brinda Wachs</i>, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE, THE PEP secretariat <i>Green and Health-friendly urban mobility: The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)</i> • <i>Svetlana Ristic</i>, Chief of the Housing Department, Ministry of Construction and Urbanism of the Republic of Serbia • <i>Tamara Rukhadze</i>, Head of Department, Spatial Planning and Construction Policy, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia <i>Sustainable Urban Development Issues in Georgia</i> • <i>Nikolai Bobylev</i>, Marie Curie Research Fellow, University of Birmingham, Associate Professor, St.Petersburg State University, Russia <i>Governance of Urban Physical Infrastructure in the face of Global Change Challenges</i> <p>Questions and answers, discussion</p>
13:00 – 15:00	<p>Lunch break</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Panel Two. Ageing and accessibility in cities</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Andres Vikat</i>, Chief, Chief of Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE Statistical Division</p>

	<p><i>Key note presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pierre-Marie Chapon</i>, Université Lyon 3, Icade <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vivane Brunne</i>, UNECE Population Unit • <i>Lisa Warth</i>, WHO Global Network on Age-friendly Cities and Communities <p>Questions and answers, discussion</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Panel Three. Conclusions and exploring joint activities on sustainable urban development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report and conclusions from the facilitators of the two panels • Identification of potential areas of joint activities across UNECE sub-programmes
17:30-17:50	Questions and discussion
17:50-18:00	Wrap-up and closing by Chair