



**UNECE UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



## **Workshop on Smart Sustainable City Tirana**

*Polis University, Tirana, Albania*

*26-30 September 2022*

*In person with possible online participation,*

Please use the Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89126994086?pwd=cE91VWxwZjFRT0I4K2hKR3p1KzF0UT09>

### **Introduction**

Cities possess massive resources, talent and creativity and serve as hubs for knowledge sharing, experimentation and innovation, generating new ideas, embedding these solutions locally and scaling-up successful practices. However, the fundamental role of cities in driving sustainable development interplays with big societal trends and challenges, including globalization and urbanization, geographic disparities, crises and pandemics, digital transitions, population ageing, climate change and environmental challenges, and natural and technological hazards.

Nowadays, over more than half of the world's population live in cities, which is predicted to increase to 70% by 2050, with much of this growth occurring in less developed countries. The United Nations developed the "New Urban Agenda" as a roadmap for building cities that are engines of prosperity and culturally rich centres of social interaction.

Tirana, the capital of Albania, is one of the cities that have experienced dramatic changes in the last three decades, with a culmination of transformative actions during the last decade. Its population increased more than three times. The need for resources and services among others, land, water, electricity, mobility, transport and housing has put a great pressure on the existing city infrastructure, urban tissue and historic memory of the city. Increasing density in the central area of the city has opened debates among professionals if such densities should have been planned in new areas opened in the previously outskirts of the city, but now very central to it. Planning for a long term-vision the capital needs to consider the new global trends and identify smart solutions.

### **Workshop objectives**

The workshop is aimed to support learning about the key challenges cities face in their efforts to implement global and regional agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing others; and about cities' actions to address the urban challenges at local level.



### **Expected workshop outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this workshop, it is expected that students:

- Have exercised critical thinking about and interdisciplinary approaches for the creation and implementation of smart sustainable cities' solutions
- Identified sustainability challenges for the city of Tirana, as well as possible risks, advantages and other critical aspects related to building smart sustainable cities
- Identified smart city solutions to sustainability challenges of the city of Tirana, based on best practices presented
- Engaged in the discussion with urban stakeholders about the smart solutions to sustainability challenges (representatives of the local government of Tirana and local stakeholders, including representatives of the private sector and the civil society).

### **Workshop organization**

The workshop is organized from 26 to 30 September 2022 at University of POLIS in Tirana, Albania, as part of the Tirana Architecture Weeks 2022 (Tirana, 26 September – 8 October 2022).

The workshop is organized by the Polis University Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development which hosts the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Centre of Excellence on Sustainable and Resilient Settlements; the city of Tirana; the UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division; and in cooperation with UN-Habitat.

The workshop will address two themes: first, challenges of sustainability at the city level: and second, smart sustainable solutions to urban challenges. Under the first theme, the participants will examine the key challenges urban environments face adopting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the second theme, emerging solutions in place or under development to address such challenges will be presented and discussed.

The workshop will be organized in person with possible online participation. It will include lectures and work in interdisciplinary teams where the students will work together to conceptualize solutions to address a selected challenge.

### **For more information on the workshop, please contact:**

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## Workshop programme

### 26 September 2022, Monday

#### **10:00-10:30 Opening of the workshop and workshop objectives and expected outcomes**

Prof. Besnik Aliaj, Rector of the POLIS University; and Head of the Center of Excellence for the Geneva UN Charter

Gulnara Roll, Regional Advisor, UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division

Doris Andoni, Director of Housing, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

#### **10:30-11:30 Keynote presentation**

Arbjan Mazniku, Vice Mayor of Tirana Municipality. Keynote presentation: *“Urban challenges and solutions”*.

Questions and answers

#### **11:40-13:00 Workshop 20 (WS20) Smart sustainable city Tirana**

Presentations on Tirana urban issues and programmes, including Tirana2030, the housing plan for Tirana city by representatives of the municipality of Tirana.

- Anisa Maçe – Director of Urban Planning, Municipality of Tirana. *“Tirana2030 plan and its implementation – challenges and opportunities”*.
- Stefan Çipa – General Director, National Housing Authority. *“Affordable housing – challenges and how NHA is facing them”*.
- Kejt Dhrami - Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development. *“Challenges and Opportunities of drafting Municipal Social Housing Plans – case of Tirana”*.
- Discussion with Mayors of Bulqize, Belsh, Berat, Cerrik, Devoll, Elbasan, Fier, Gramsh, Kamez, Kolonje, Korce, Librazhd, Lushnje, Maliq, Mat, Peqin, Pogradec, Roskovec, Sarande, Shkoder, Tirane, Vlore Municipalities.

#### **13:00-14:00 Lunch break**

#### **14:00-15:30 Workshop: Smart sustainable city/ smart solution for sustainable city**

- UN-Habitat activities on smart sustainable cities - *Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat.*
- UNECE smart sustainable cities profiles: the approach and case studies - *Gulnara Roll, Regional Advisor, UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division*
- Implementation of smart sustainable cities approaches in South-East Europe - *Haris Piplas, Co-Directing Urban Design, Planning and Development, Drees and Sommer, Switzerland*



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- Dr. Llazar Kumaraku – PhD IDAUP Program – Polis University Coordinator. “*Resilient cities*”.
- Dr.Ledio Allkja - Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development. “*Adaptive Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)*”

Discussion

**15:30-16:00 Break**

**16:00-18:00 Side event on housing focusing on Ukraine and surrounding countries**

Students are invited to participate.

### 27 September 2022, Tuesday

**9:00-11:30 Workshop ‘Site visit’ in Tirana to explore neighborhoods**

(Shkoza Neighborhood, ose nje zone qe rekomandon bashkia T)

**13:00-14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00-15:30 Workshop ‘Site visit’ in Tirana to explore neighborhoods.**

### 28 September 2022, Wednesday

**9:00-13:00 Workshop 25 (WS25) on emergency architecture in resilient times**

Including possible presentations from (proposals):

- **Elena Giral**, Project Manager, European Emergency Shelter and Emergency Transport and Logistics, European Commission (EC)–Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Brussels, Belgium (confirmed – pending final confirmation)
- **UN-Habitat expert** (tbc)
- **Edian Meçe**, responsible for the reconstruction, department of territorial planning, city of Tirana, Albania

**13:00-14:00 Lunch break**



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**14:00-15:30 Presentation: housing policies – case studies from the #Housing2030 Initiative**

- Gulnara Roll - Housing2030 approaches and case studies
- Brian Evans, City Urbanist, Glasgow City Council; and Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Centre of Excellence on Smart Sustainable Cities
- Video from Glasgow on housing
- Christophe Lalande, Leader, Housing, Land, Housing and Shelter, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, UN Habitat (**Confirmed**)

**Discussion**

**29 September 2022, Thursday**

- 9:00-11:30 Students' Workshop Plan developed
- 11:30-13:00 Workshop Action plan developed
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:30 Workshop (Cont.)

**30 September 2022, Friday**

- 9:00-11:30 Workshop Plan developed
- 11:30-13:00 Workshop Action plan developed
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:30 Presentations