



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

JRC Participation in the World Urban Forum (WUF11) 26-30 June 2022 – Katowice, Poland

Summary report

Contributors and participants

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BACKGROUND

Organized and convened every two years by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Urban Forum has become the foremost international gathering for exchanging views and experiences on sustainable urbanization in all its ramifications. The inclusive nature of the Forum, combined with high-level participation, makes it a unique United Nations conference and the premier international gathering on urban issues.

The last WUF “*Transforming our cities for a better urban future*” took place in Katowice in June 2022 and gathered over **17.000 participants (including 6,200 connected remotely)** from **155 countries**, among them more than **100 Ministers and Deputy Ministers**. More than 500 of parallel events took place (selected among 1,000 applications). Fifty-two per cent of speakers in the main programme sessions were women. The [Declared Actions of the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum \(WUF11\)](#) were introduced at the event’s closing ceremony on 30 June, the culmination of five days of debate and discussion in Katowice, Poland. Announced by H.E Madame Martha Delgado, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Declared Actions will carry the sustainable development agenda forward to the next World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt in January 2024, and beyond.

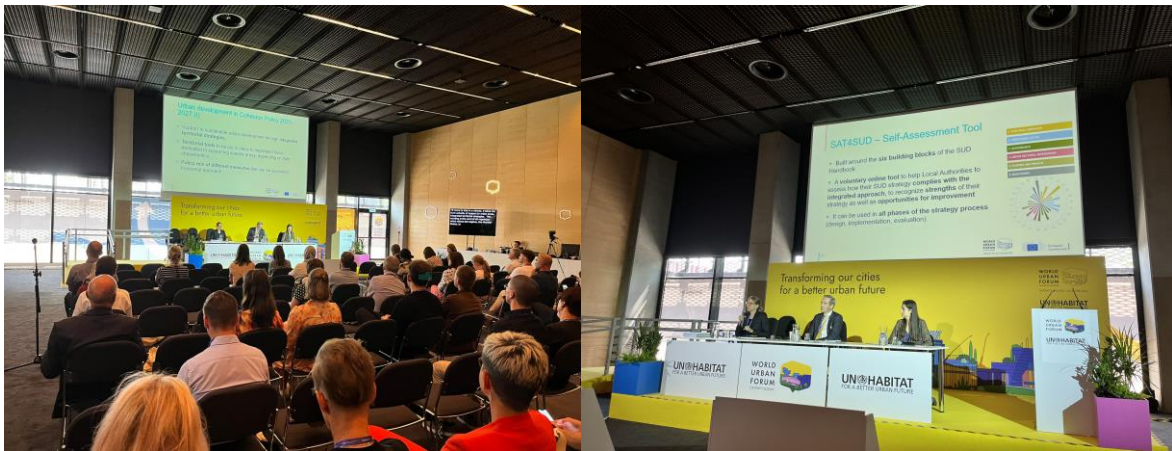
Three JRC Directorates contributed to the organization of seven events and sessions, including 3 training sessions.

VOICES FROM CITIES EVENT: Sustainable urban development support in the EU – frameworks, practices and tools co-organised by JRC.B3 and REGIO.003

The event saw the participation of representatives from the local authorities of Lille Metropolis and Rome. Colleagues from DG REGIO gave an overview of the Cohesion Policy support to sustainable urban development through the period 2021-2027. Carlotta Fioretti (JRC.B3) gave a presentation aimed at showcasing tools and methodologies developed by JRC in the framework of the URBADEV project to support cities and metro areas to design and implement their strategies. She focused on the [Handbook of Sustainable urban Development Strategies](#) and the six building blocks of the integrated and place-based approach to urban development. Lille and Rome presented their experience in 2014-2020 and their perspectives for the new programming period. Closing reflections were given by Camilla Perrone from the University of Venice and Laura Liger. The session was well attended, and several questions raised about the opportunities of funding of the new programming period also beyond member states.

Speakers (67% women, 33% men):

- Mr. Thomas De Béthune, Team Leader for Urban policy, European Commission DG REGIO
- Ms. Carlotta Fioretti, Project leader in the Territorial development unit, European Commission JRC
- Ms. Claudia Capecchi, Head of the European affairs division, Metropole of Lille
- Mr. Rafaele Barbato, Director for EU funds, Roma Capitale
- Ms. Camilla Perrone, Professor in the department of Architecture, University of Florence
- Laura Liger, Project officer, European Commission DG REGIO



SDG in ACTION EVENT: How do European cities tackle inclusiveness? co-organised by ITC, University of Twente and JRC.B.3

Whilst many cities and regions have engaged with processes of local implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is considerable variation in how, and to what extent, communities have tackled the principle of 'Leave No One Behind'. Differences emerge in several dimensions and they translate in distinct operationalizations of this principle which deserves to be highlighted to account for the specific outlook of each city and region. The discussion focused on:

- The challenges in the design and implementation of local policies for marginalized and vulnerable groups (e.g., measurement issues, invisibility, multi-dimensional vulnerability)
- Effective measures to monitor homelessness and informal settlements in European cities with presentation from Paola Proietti anticipating the findings from the newly report: [Homelessness in EU cities and towns before and during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).
- Geospatial data and Earth Observation data to support SDG monitoring, in particular SDG 11.1.1 (informal settlements and slums), commonly not reported in European cities.
- City experiences, including the “Leaving No One Behind” in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), that shown that VLRs can have a large benefit to proactively addressing topics of inclusion and poverty alleviation.

Speakers (83% women, 17% men):

Ms. Monika Kuffer, Senior Researcher, ITC, University of Twente

Ms. Paola Proietti, Project Officer, JRC-EC

Ms. Daria Denti, Researcher, Gran Sasso Science Institute/London School of Economics

Ms Sanna Mari Huikuri, Development Manager, City of Tampere

Mr. Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, JRC-EC

Ms Alice Siragusa, Team Leader, European Commission - Joint Research Centre



TRAINING EVENT: Envisaging urban futures with JRC Open Data and Tools jointly organised by B.3 and E.1

The training offers the basic knowledge to analyse human settlements and the process of urbanisation with geospatial data and information systems. The event aims to transfer competences for data-driven monitoring of urban development with two free information systems (dataset and tools) produced by the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC): the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL) and the Urban Data Platform Plus (UDP+). Participants learnt how to browse resources and uses of software to monitor urbanisation trends and other urban phenomena across the globe, as well as the progresses towards the achievement of the SDGs at the local.

Speakers (38% women, 63% men):

Mr. Lewis Dijkstra, Head of the Economic Analysis Sector, European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy

Mr Thomas Kemper, Team Leader, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Ms Alice Siragusa, Team Leader, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Mr Michele Melchiorri, Project Officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Ms Paola Proietti, Project officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Ms. Katarzyna Goch, ARHS SA GIS Analyst

Mr Iraklis Stamos, Project Officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Mr Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, European Commission - Joint Research Centre



URBAN LIBRARY EVENT: Launch of second edition of the European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews organised by JRC.B.3

The event focused on the launch of the second edition of the "[European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews](#)" published by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission.

The European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews – 2022 edition provides policy makers, urban practitioners and experts with a consolidated method and examples of indicators that European local and regional governments can use to monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are processes that encompass both the monitoring and the analysis of the achievements with respect to the SDGs at local level.

The 2022 edition builds on the first one published in 2020 and it includes an updated analysis of the VLRS published globally and in Europe, their evolution over time and space in terms of use, main characteristics, and building blocks. The European Handbook includes detailed and updated information on 72 indicators and related data sources, which enable cities to measure their progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event included an extensive presentation of the publication and an open discussion with selected stakeholders among international organizations and experts.

Speakers (71% women, 29% men):

- Mr. Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit, European Commission
- Ms. Paola Proietti, Project Officer, European Commission
- Ms Gulnara Roll, Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Ms. Iraklis Stamos, Project officer, European Commission
- Ms. Agata Krause, Consultant, UN ESCWA and UN Habitat
- Ms. Norliza Hashim, CEO, Urbanice Malaysia
- Ms Alice Siragusa, Team Leader, European Commission - Joint Research Centre



TRAINING EVENT: The Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements - Supporting Evidence-based policy-making for Equitable Urban Futures co-organised by JRC.E1, ITC, NASA, CIESIN, IGIK, KTH

Within this training, we showcased and provided hands-on experiences on SDG 11 and New Urban Agenda (NUA) indicator applications using Earth Observation data and EO-based products available via the Toolkit (<https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org>). The Toolkit provides ready-to-use data products that are addressing major urban challenges on housing, open spaces, urbanization and public transport. Furthermore, the Toolkit collects user stories and showcases the role of EO for urban-related indicators, supporting evidence-based policies for sustainable urban development in the context of the SDGs and the NUA. The Training will illustrate how EO data can support local and national governments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), community groups and other urban actors in addressing reporting needs and guiding policy actions. In this context, during the training, we showcase the potential of EO-based data to support activities of government users, NGOs and community groups as well as to combine community data with EO data. For example, to support responsible climate adaptation, local dialogue must be supported by high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data at the local level, taking into account the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For this purpose, we will illustrate on some example datasets within the Toolkit how relevant local data can be generated in the form of hands-on exercises and group discussion on the role of such data for evidence-based policymaking on increasing equity in urban spaces. The event was very well attended by several stakeholder groups (including academia, NGOs, policy makers and institutional participants).

Speakers (40% women, 60% men):

- Ms. Monika Kuffer, ITC, University of Twente
- Mr. Patryk Grzybowski, IGIK, Institute of Geodesy and Cartography
- Ms. Argyro Kavvada, NASA
- Mr. Thomas Kemper, JRC-EC
- Mr. Michele Melchiorri, JRC-EC
- Mr. Dennis Mwaniki, UN-Habitat
- Ms. Yifang Ban, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology
- Ms. Nale Mudau, SANSA
- Mr. Peter Elias, UNILAG, University of Lagos
- Mr. Rafael Monge Vargas, MINAE, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica



TRAINING EVENT: Global Covenant of Mayors - understanding how to plan for energy access, develop synergies and financing climate action
co-organised by JRC.C.2 and Global Covenant of Mayors

The training focused on crosscutting themes determinant for shaping the future of the city: how the urban environment and the life of citizens are influenced by energy access and poverty, what are the financing opportunities for pursuing urban sustainability and equality, and improving air quality in urban areas in line with many priorities. The training adopted a mixed approach, alternating theoretical frameworks with interactive activities. Participants in groups had the opportunities to share their experience and engage in the designed activities through which testing and improving their skills on co-benefits and trade-offs of mitigation actions and air quality, on most relevant energy access and poverty aspects for their communities and on financing mechanism for urban projects. From the received feedback, the training was overall useful and appreciated by participants who confirmed to have increased their knowledge on the topics.

Speakers (40% women, 60% men):

- Mr. Andrew Deacon, Co-Managing Director, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)
- Mr. Paolo Bertoldi, Project Leader CoM, European Commission - Joint Research Centre
- Mr. Enrico Pisoni, Scientific officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre
- Ms. Valentina Palermo, Scientific officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre
- Ms. Ilyana Arnaudova, Senior Climate Finance Expert, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



NETWORKING EVENT: Novel data for a better urban future – ensuring data continuity with the Global Human Settlement Layer coorganised by JRC.E1

This event hosted the launch of the new GHSL data release 2.0. The sustainability, resilience, and capacity to adapt human settlements to urban futures is essential for our society. Decision makers from the city to the international level use it to take decisions and shape urban futures. Geospatial information on human settlements helps making progress towards the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the climate agreements. Detailed and updated information on population, building stocks and settlement classification by Degree of Urbanisation produced by the Global Human Settlement Layer GHSL project at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre supports various applications across disaster risk management, sustainable development, urbanisation, environment, and sustainability. GHSL provides analysis ready geospatial data to derive human settlement statistics. When GHSL data were released at Habitat III, it pioneered in the offer of free and open global information on human settlements making information integration, harmonisation and redistribution spatially and temporally consistent.

Human settlements will experience the effects of a changing climate, so data driven urban management (planning and governance) can help mitigating forecasted impacts and develop resilient urban futures. The GHSL 2.0 supports this with an improved spatial resolution, thanks to the use of the European Copernicus Sentinel satellites. The new data improve the thematic mapping of built-up surfaces separating residential from non-residential surfaces extending the temporal coverage, from 1975 to 2020 and projections to 2025 and 2030. To ensure that information is constantly updated and accurate, the Copernicus Programme will ensure an operational production of GHSL human settlement data for the future.

Speakers (29% women, 71% men):

- Mr. Thomas Kemper, Project Leader GHSL, European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- Ms Alice Siragusa, Team Leader, European Commission - Joint Research Centre
- Mr. Robert Ndugwa, Head of Data and Analytics Section, UN-Habitat
- Mr. Michele Melchiorri, Project Officer Copernicus GHSL, European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- Mrs. Katarzyna Goch, GIS Analyst, ARHS Developments SA
- Mr. Lewis Dijkstra, Head of the Economic Analysis Sector, European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy
- Mr. Paolo Veneri, Economist, OECD



EXHIBITION

Within the frame of the WUF11, as in the previous sessions, an exhibition space was dedicated to host stands from a variety of stakeholders.

WUF's attendees in an interactive way and to have a space for small meetings/gatherings.

The exhibition presents different tools developed by the JRC to support policy makers, city leaders, practitioners, researchers and local communities in building local policies and actions to achieve more sustainable urban futures.

The exhibition booth was the only EC stand and will showcase projects from Units 01, B3, C2, and E1. JRC units also organised mini sessions on:

- Degree of Urbanisation: the method to define urban and rural areas for statistical comparison
- Urban Data Platform Plus
- SDG 7- Energy generation in cities and energy efficiency in the built environment
- Global Covenant of Mayors – Assisting cities in their Climate Action plan development. The guidebooks for India and Malaysia
- STRAT-Board, the interactive mapping tool for urban and territorial development strategies
- Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development strategies
- European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews 2022 Edition
- Geographical and sectoral sources of air pollution in EU cities: the 2021 PM2.5 Atlas

Figure 1 - The ED of Un-HABTAT Ms. Sharif visiting the JRC Stand





PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS AND SESSIONS

- **New Publications on Malaysia and India** - Organised by Joint Research Centre at the Global Covenant of Mayors Booth (Valentina Palermo and Paolo Bertoldi)
- **Intermediate Cities Towards Net-Zero: Accelerating Ambitious Climate Action In Small & Medium Sized Municipalities Committed to the GCoM Across The Americas** Organised by GCoM Americas Covenant of Mayors Booth Hybrid – Livestream link (Valentina Palermo and Paolo Bertoldi)
- **Partnerships For Accelerated City Climate Action: Updates From GCoM's Innovate4Cities Initiative** - Organised by GCoM Secretariat at the Global Covenant of Mayors Booth (Valentina Palermo and Paolo Bertoldi)
- **Implementing the Harmonized Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) as an SDG-NUA and VLR monitoring tool** organised by UN-HABITAT (Alice Siragusa)
- **People-Centred Smart Cities Breakfast** organised by UN-HABITAT (Alice Siragusa)
- **ASEAN and its cities as drivers of sustainable development: An assessment of urbanisation in ASEAN** organised by UN-HABITAT (Alice Siragusa)
- Press conference on the launch of UN Habitat flagship report **World Cities Report 2022** to which JRC and Regio contributed chapter 2 (Thomas Kemper, Michele Melchiorri)



