



Cities and circular economy

From urban practices and policies to new cooperation opportunities for cities

Thursday, October 19th 2017, 9.00–15.30

Salon uporabnih umetnosti, Maribor, Slovenia

Join us at the conference **Cities and circular economy** that aims to highlight the potential of cities for the transition to a circular economy. Experts and practitioners from all over Europe will introduce us to the new urban practices contributing to the transition of cities to a circular economy and emphasizing the role of citizens and communities.

The afternoon will be dedicated to the **URBACT** programme. We will get to know the **Slovenian Good practice cities – Kranj and Ljubljana** and look into the new **URBACT** call for transfer networks.

Circular economy is grounded on a notion that the value of products, materials, and resources should be maintained for as long as possible while on the other hand the amount of waste should be reduced to a minimum. Economic, environmental, and social costs of extraction, production, and disposal of resources are taken into consideration. The transition towards a circular economy has an impact on several policy areas and is a **trans-sectoral notion that should be promoted from all levels of government**.

Contemporary cities are prime actors in transition towards a circular economy. **New practices** with a significant contribution to diminishment of our ecological footprint **are being developed in the cities**, which **can accelerate the transition using urban policy mechanisms**. The fact that more than a half of the world population resides in urban settlements and that the share is on the increase makes cities most important players in the process of this transformation. Nonetheless, cities are **logical units for closed circles** considering the management of resources.

Transition towards a circular economy cannot be reduced to the question of technological progress as it calls for **social innovation** just as much (if not even more) as for high-tech solutions. Innovative solutions and new patterns of organisation and sharing, founded on new types of cooperation between urban decision and policy makers, citizens, and other stakeholders **are crucial to make cities more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive**. And that makes the **role of urban governance so important** for the transition towards a circular economy.

REGISTER [HERE](#) and join representatives from national institutions, regional, and local administrations, experts, NGOs, practitioners, and researchers from academic and research institutions at the conference. **Attendance is free of charge. Register soon as the seating is limited.**

[MORE INFORMATION](#) on the conference.

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia, IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies and Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia are the organisers of the conference.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 9.45	Welcome and introduction Dr. Andrej Fištravec , Mayor of the City of Maribor Tadej Slapnik , Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia Barbara Radovan , Director General, Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing Directorate, The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
9.45 – 10.15	Transition to a circular economy and cities: Partnership for green economy in Slovenia activities Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie MSc. , Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Partnership for Green Economy in Slovenia
10.15 – 11.00	ESPON Territorial Futures: An introduction to circular economy and its territorial dimension Dr. Kai Böhme , Spatial Foresight
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.15	Circular flows of resources: how is civic society building up alternative models for our cities? Dr. Daniela Patti , Eutropian
12.15 – 13.00	The Wasted City: Approaches to Circular City Making Francesca Miazzo, M.Sc. , M.Sc., co-founder and managing director of CITIES Foundation
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 14.00	Circular economy good practice: Maribor Igor Kos , City of Maribor
14.00 – 14.15	URBACT good practice: Community building and neighbourhood renewal Sanja Kožman , City of Kranj
14.15 – 14.30	URBACT good practice: Bee path Maruška Markovčič , City of Ljubljana (tbc)
14.30 – 15.30	Transition to a circular economy with the support of URBACT Kristijan Radojčić , URBACT Secretariat

The conference is organised within the project *Support for implementation of urban policies and the URBACT programme* and supported by the URBACT programme.