



## Spring News and Updates!

Dear all,

Following our constructive and engaging General Assembly on March 19th, we want to share some news, insights and forthcoming events. Spread the word!



### A historic moment for the future of market culture in Latvia

The replication event "Tirgus kultūra un sadarbība Rīgas reģionā" (ENG – Market culture and cooperation in the Riga region) took place in **Sigulda** on **21st February**.

The event was inspiring, brought together market representatives, local producers, and experts to discuss the future of market culture and collaboration in the region and provided a great opportunity to explore best practices from Āgenskalna Tirgus, understand how the IN-HABIT project supports market development, and hear from Sigulda's and Mālpils' market about their experience.

More info on our social media [here](#) and [here](#) in local language!

### COMING SOON

#### Policymakers Breakfast, Riga & Cordoba

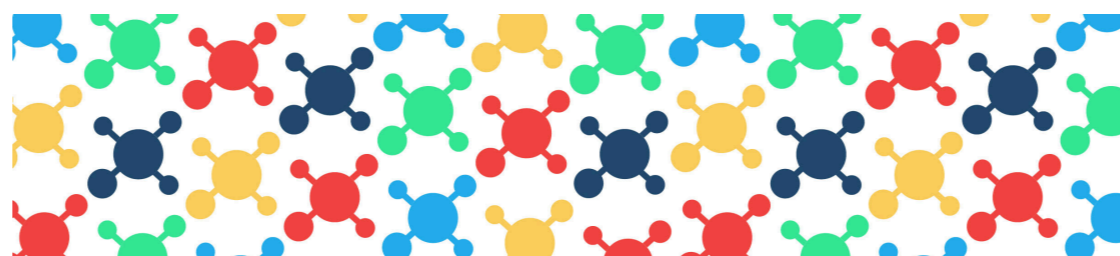
Our policymakers breakfast events continue, stay tuned for the upcoming one in Riga and Cordoba in local languages!



### Transformative Researches & Findings

**Between Participatory Approaches and Politics, Promoting Social Innovation in Smart Cities: Building a Hum-Animal Smart City in Lucca**  
The paper explores how participatory approaches and **social innovation** can shape smart cities through **human-animal interactions**, focusing on **Lucca**. It introduces the concept of a "**Hum-Animal Smart City**," promoting **pet-friendly infrastructures** and inclusive **urban planning**. **Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs)** were key to co-designing solutions like **Animal Lines**, blending citizen input with institutional support. The study highlights the importance of **aligning participatory methods** with **public administration** for **effective, inclusive urban transformation**.

[Discover more](#)



### Key events and open calls

#### Application for 2027 European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Award

Apply by April 15th

The European Commission has launched the competition for the highly prestigious [2027 European Green Capital \(EGCA 2027\)](#) and the [European Green Leaf \(EGLA 2027\) Awards](#). European cities and towns committed to sustainability are encouraged to apply. The winner of the Green Capital Award will receive €600,000 and up to two cities will receive €200,000 each as Green Leaf winners. The financial prize contributes to supporting the winning cities in implementing initiatives and measures to enhance their environmental performance and reach out to citizens, especially during their winning year.

[Learn more](#)

#### UPRUN Conference

March 27-28, Skopje

A two-day conference that brings together city enthusiasts, urban planners, policymakers, academics, and community leaders to shape the future of our cities. "The Future is Resilient: Transformative Change through Civic Engagement" is dedicated to exploring how urban planning and community-driven initiatives can enhance the social resilience of neighborhoods across Europe and beyond.

[Learn more](#)

#### Networking event for Europe's circular innovators and investors

March 27, 9:00-10:30, online

The networking session is designed to connect European circular businesses, experts, and investors in an engaging, dynamic format. By bringing together circular start-ups, experts and investors from across the EU, aims to strengthen collaborations and drive forward investment into circular innovations.

[Learn more](#)

#### NBS Education Summit 2025

March 27, 2025, online

The high-level Nature-Based Solutions Education Summit aims to bridge science, policy, and practice by presenting key findings from NBS EduWORLD and other NBS education projects to the public, EU policymakers, and Ministries of Education. Its focus is on supporting nature-based solutions (NBS) education through policy, with a special emphasis on just transitions.

[Learn more](#)

#### EU Enlargement: Cultural Heritage as a Key Resource for Cities & Civil

The Forum will address heritage's role in social inclusion, education, and economic growth. Cities, civil society organisations, and policymakers will share best practices, discuss the digital and environmental dimensions of heritage, and explore its role in the EU enlargement agenda.

[Learn more](#)

#### European Urban Resilience Forum

June 25-27, Rotterdam

Organised by ICLEI and the [European Environment Agency](#) (EEA), EURESFO acts as a unique exchange platform that brings together city representatives, experts, and stakeholders from local and regional institutions to discuss strategies, initiatives, and actions related to climate change adaptation, disaster management, and the cultivation of urban resilience. This year's focus is on accelerating resilience action.

[Learn more](#)

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