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EMPOWERING OUR CITIES TO ACT – WHAT EU-POLICIES ARE NEEDED

SEPTEMBER 18TH 2020 // 9H45 - 12H30
DOROTHEA PALENBERG, MANAGING PARTNER, BLUE! ADVANCING EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Dorothea Palenberg, leading manager of the department “European Cooperation” at blue!, advises public and private entities on all levels when it comes to the development of EU-funded projects. Throughout the last 25 years she guided more than 300 clients, amongst companies, academia, national, regional and local public entities, successfully through funding processes, simultaneously enabling her to become a knowledgeable expert in the former. Being familiar with the complexity of European funding schemes and its supra-national organizational structure, equips her with valuable insights, ultimately moderating the kick-off event, “Future Proof Cities & Regions”, and the final session, “Empowering Cities to Act – What EU Policies are Needed”, in a refreshing yet enthralling way. Beyond, being born and raised abroad, she is fluent in four European languages, feeling comfortable in an international environment, discussing different urban challenges and strategies to cope with them.

INPUT STATEMENTS

DR. SUSANNE LOTTERMOSER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AT THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, BUILDING AND COMMUNITY

Dr. Susanne Lottermoser is Deputy Director-General for “Urban Development” at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. Prior to her current appointment, she has held several positions in the Federal Ministry of Environment. From 2005 to 2014 she headed the Directorate “Strategic and Economic Aspects of Environmental Policy”. She has also worked in the field of “International Cooperation, Environment...
and Development” and as Head of the Minister’s Office. Dr. Lottermoser has a law degree and doctorate at Würzburg University.

**WENKE CHRISTOPH, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, CITY OF BERLIN**

Wenke Christoph is a geographer with extensive experience in housing policies and urban development. Her specific areas of interest are urban movements and actors in Europe, the financialisation of housing and ‘solidaritycities’ in Europe. She spent many years working in the centre for international dialogue of the *Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung*, among others, as head of the Regional Office for Southeast Europe in Belgrade. In August 2020, Wenke Christoph was appointed Permanent Secretary for Housing in her home town of Berlin.

**NORMUNDS POPENS, DEPUTY-GENERAL FOR REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY AT THE EU COMMISSION**

Normunds Popens started his career in a very different field, namely as an engineer-chemists in microbiology. However, soon his interest shifted towards international relations, which was accompanied by different occupations for instance as Deputy Director of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations or later as the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the EU. Since 2011, he is Deputy Director-General for Implementation at DG REGIO. Additionally, he is related to the Commissions Urban Innovative Actions, while advocating for sustainable cities of tomorrow.
EDDY ADAMS, URBACT PROGRAMME EXPERT / AE CONSULT

Eddy Adams is an urban policy expert with specific interest in governance, innovation and labour markets. He is also an experienced event facilitator. As Programme Level Expert for URBACT, Eddy has led the City Lab series linked to the Leipzig Charter. He is co-moderator of the EU’s online UDN programme, running through November 2020 and is also the UIA Expert for Rotterdam and Milan.

MARCELLINE BONNEAU, URBACT PROGRAMME EXPERT / RESILIA SOLUTIONS

Taking sustainability as a baseline and adopted paradigm, Marcelline Bonneau (Resilia Solutions) provides research, analytical and experimentation services to support societal transition. Leadership, governance, urban planning, integrated approaches, empowerment are some of the transversal approaches she investigates. By combining theory and practice, she is working with public authorities and local initiatives. She is focusing especially on the interactions between stakeholders via co-creation towards a more resilient society. She is URBACT Programme Expert as well as expert to UIA projects (for Antwerp & Lille) and the Community Manager for the REGIO Communities of Practitioners. She has published on paper and online and makes podcasts, videos, webinars, workshops and conferences.

NILS SCHEFFLER, URBACT LEAD EXPERT / URBAN EXPERT

Nils Scheffler is registered urban planner in the Berlin Chamber of Architects and DGNB auditor for sustainable urban quarters. In 2003 he founded the office Urban Expert. He advises and supports public and private institutions in the field of integrated and sustainable urban development from the local to the EU level (e.g. URBACT, EUROCITIES, GIZ, UIA).
The participation of relevant stakeholders – be it professionals, citizens or third sector organisations – is always an essential part of the realisation of his missions. His main clients are municipalities, with whom he works in the field of socially deprived neighbourhoods, urban poverty, cultural heritage and climate protection.

KEY NOTE

PETER SIMON, FORMER MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

One can hardly imagine a bio that better displays expertise in multi-level governance than Peter Simon’s. He developed and led the EU department of the City of Mannheim, managed EU funded projects, implemented EU regulation and represented the local level’s interests at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. Further, on behalf of Germany’s central municipal associations he worked at the Federal Foreign Office on the “Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe”.

Before he was Member of the European Parliament from 2009-2019, Peter Simon also established and led a public private partnership for business development on regional level in Rhine/Neckar. As MEP he was vice president of the URBAN intergroup as well as vice-chair of the ECON committee.

EMPOWERING CITIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

NUALA MORGAN, HEAD OF UNIT CAPITALISATION & COMMUNICATION, URBACT PROGRAMME

Nuala joined URBACT in February 2017 as Head of Unit for Capitalisation and Communication. She is responsible for developing and implementing the programme’s capitalisation strategy, as well as coordinating the work of the Cap’ & Com’ team. Graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with an honours
degree in Business and Politics, Nuala has always had a European outlook. An Erasmus year in Strasbourg, France, saw her involved in the launch of cafebabel.com, the online European magazine and for whom she later worked as Communication & Project manager. Before moving to URBACT, Nuala was responsible for communication at Interreg Europe and Interreg IVC, also dedicated to exchange and learning across Europe.

POLITICAL PANEL DEBATE

**MART GRISEL, DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN URBAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK**
(Moderator)

Mart Grisel is a highly experienced urban professional working at the interface between policy, practice and research at the European and wider global level. He has more than 15 years experience in European knowledge exchange and cooperation with EU member states and European Commission and a long track record in policy-oriented research commissioned by various Presidencies of the Council of the EU. In addition to a strong involvement in the establishment of the European urban agenda, Mart has been closely involved in the organization of the dialogue process for the renewal of the Leipzig Charter and its writing process on behalf of the German Government. He will enrich the panel debate as an experienced moderator with an extensive background knowledge.

**KIERAN MCCARTHY, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF REGIONS / CITY COUNCILLOR CORK CITY SOUTH-EAST**

Kieran McCarthy holds a PhD in Geography on the River Lee Valley, Ireland and the importance of preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the same. Throughout his whole career, he never lost sight of his home town – Cork in the South of Ireland. He initiated multiple community building programs.
varying from educational formats to his dedication in heritage preservation. Since 2009 he is an independent City Councillor for Cork City and since the last decade, he is part of the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Through the latter, he advocates for the importance of small cities within the EU and the EU Urban Agenda, while being interested in social matters such as education, science and innovation in cities, youth, sport and socio-cultural effects of the Internet of Things.

**EMMANUEL MOULIN, HEAD OF SECRETARIAT, URBACT PROGRAMME**

Since 2012 Emmanuel Moulin is leading URBACT, a European Territorial Cooperation Programme dedicated to the promotion of sustainable urban development through exchange and learning between cities. In this position he contributes actively to the European dialogue on urban issues and he is a core participant to the Urban Agenda for the EU. With post-graduate diplomas in Engineering as well as in Town and Country Planning, he has been working during the last 40 years from local to national and European levels on urban development in France and Germany.

**GUSTAV HEMMING, ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF STOCKHOLM REGION / REPRESENTATIVE OF METREX**

Gustav Hemming is the Vice President of the regional executive board in Stockholm. Mr. Hemming has a special responsibility for regional development, infrastructure, growth, housing, archipelago matters and maritime public transport.
LANFRANCO DE FRANCO, VICE PRESIDENT OF EUROTOWNS / DEPUTY MAYOR FOR HOUSING AND PARTICIPATION OF REGGIO EMILIA

Lanfranco Di Franco holds a Master Degree of Law and is an Administrative Officer. He is experienced in political and strategical coordination both on local and regional level, which makes him an excellent advocate at Eurotowns as well as on our political panel for the cooperation of medium sized cities and the needs for this.