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the Speakers!

Kick-off

Future-proof Cities & Regions – What a New Leipzig Charter Wants to Contribute

September 3rd 2020 // 9h30 - 12h30
**Tilman Buchholz, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community**

Tilman Buchholz is Deputy Head of the Unit “Urban Development Policy” at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. In this function, his focal points are the National Urban Development Policy with its different formats and projects, European affairs in urban development including the Urban Agenda for the EU as well as the European Structural Funds. On behalf of the Ministry he is member of the “Urban Development Group” in the framework of the informal cooperation of the EU Member States on urban development issues. He is the German representative in the URBACT Monitoring Committee and in the Assembly of the European Urban Knowledge Network. He has been closely involved in the preparatory process on national and European level regarding the New Leipzig Charter and the Informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig in November 2020.

**Claudia Baranzelli, PhD, Researcher at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission**

Claudia Baranzelli is part of Joint Research Centre Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission. Investigating predominantly land use dynamics of European areas, she is an expert in modelling, assessment tools applied to urban and regional contexts, GIS systems and other spatial analysis tools. Her main focus in doing so is closely tied to her interest in environmental issues, natural resources, sustainability connected to engineering and planning. At the Green Week 2012 titled “The Water Challenge: Every Drop Counts”, she spoke about the link between land-use, water availability respectively energy provision and to which degree water management can lead to sustainability.
PROF. DR. HAB. ANNA GEPPERT, UNIVERSITY PARIS-SORBONNE

Prof. Dr. hab. Anna Geppert is a professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Sorbonne University (Paris, France). Through her research, she is predominantly interested in European spatial planning, while connecting planning paradigms to European policies and strategies. She published articles such as “The EU Urban Agenda: Why, How and for Whom?” or “Polycentricity: Can we make it happen? From a concept to its implementation”. Speaking French, Polish, English, Swedish, Italian and Russian, one of her interests lays also in comparative spatial planning, investigating heritage, cross-border planning, governance approaches. Past President of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP, 2016-2018), she is actively engaged in shaping the discipline of planning itself.

MICHAEL GROSCHEK, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR HOUSING, URBAN & SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

Michael Groschek is the President of the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development since 2018. Before, he was Minister for Construction, Housing and Urban Development in the German Federal State of Nordrhein-Westfalen. In that period, he advocated for stronger welfare states and cities that are more autonomous in order to combat the increasing gap between social stratospheres. Accordingly, a better and digital infrastructure together with a stronger emphasis on the competences of mayors or in general successful municipalities would gate the way to a fair, shared and future-proof society.
**DR. NIKLAS MAAK, BOOK AUTHOR AND WRITER FOR THE F.A.Z. FEUILLETON**

Niklas Maak studied in Hamburg and Paris history of arts, philosophy and architecture and now lives in Berlin. Since 2001, he works for the German Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), while from time to time lecturing at Frankfurt am Main and Harvard. For his work, he received many prices, amongst the Henri-Nannen-Preis 2012 or the HBS-Kritikerpreis in 2017. He also writes books, such as “Living Complex: From Zombie City to the New Communal” or his most recent work: “Technophoria”. Being appreciated for his critical thrust and mind, he thematises for instance how architecture mirrors society or how housing would need to be organized to be liveable, sustainable and affordable. In this term, Niklas Maak combines knowledge and insights from architecture, sociology, philosophy and history, sometimes demanding, sometimes wakening, and certainly inspiring.

**DR. MARGIT NOLL, CHAIR OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF JPI URBAN EUROPE**

Dr. Margit Noll is Chair of the Management Board of Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI), a transnational research and innovation program focusing on sustainable urban development. Her main tasks relate to the joint implementation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, implementing measures, international outreach and stakeholder involvement all over Europe. By doing so, she is interested in designing challenge-driven research and innovation programmes to transform European innovation systems and support urban transformation through science-policy cooperation. With more than 20 years of experience, she will give valuable insights into strategic and managerial implications with respect to cities’ future challenges.
DOROTHEA PALENBERG, MANAGING PARTNER, BLUE! ADVANCING EUROPEAN PROJECTS (MODERATOR)

Dorothea Palenberg, leading manager of the department “European Cooperation” at blue!, advises public and private entities at 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 urban challenges and strategies to cope with them.

WOLFGANG TÉUBNER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT OF ICLEI

Wolfgang Teubner is for more than a decade part of ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), a global network comprising about 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. ICLEIs’ ambitious goal is to influence policy making towards low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Through 20 years of professional experience in the field of sustainable local development, he is for instance interested in issues related to sustainable urban transportation or climate adaption, participated in the drafting of the Aalborg Charter as well as working on the Local Agenda 21.
**Volker Vogel, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community**

Since 2002, Volkmar Vogel is part of the German Federal Parliament and more recently became the Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of Interior, Building and Community. Starting his career at the global industrial player Carl Zeiss Jena, he soon became politically active in the federal state of Thuringia. Even now being situated in Berlin, did not make him lose connection to his home region: he is for instance socially-engaged in an association strengthening neighbourly contacts. In his function as State Secretary he represents the political agenda in plenums and committees of the German Federal Ministry of Interior, Building and Community – the same department that was in charge in drafting the New Leipzig Charter that will be adopted in November 2020.

**Prof. Dr. Silke Weidner, Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus - Senftenberg**

Silke Weidner studied spatial and environmental planning at Technical University Kaiserlautern. She is mainly interested in sustainable and integrated urban development and published in 2018 about the effect of E-Commerce on urban areas, explaining how closely economic change is tied to the transformation of inner cities respectively what local communities could do about it. Besides, she carried out research for public institutions on all levels, for instance analysis the potential of the former mining area around the Lausitz, was part of revisioning the Urban Agenda, or key advisor of the German Government in preparation of the New Leipzig Charter 2020 in co-operation with the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial development as well as the European Urban Knowledge Network.