

METREX SPRING CONFERENCE Brussels 2024

May 15-16

SPEAKERS' OVERVIEW



Aileen Bouclé, AICP, TPO Executive Director/NARC, Florida, USA

Mrs Bouclé is the executive Director for the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). She is a nationally recognized leader promoting innovative, collaborative, and solution-oriented approaches for the largest and most complex metropolitan region in the state of Florida. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental and Urban Systems, with a specialty in transportation planning, as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration from Florida International University.



Alexander Wandl, Associate professor at TU Delft, The Netherlands

Mr. Wandl is head of the Section of Environmental Technology and Design of the Department of Urbanism at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at Delft University of Technology. He is a member of Circular Built Environment Hub, TU Delft's Think Tank, for the circularity transition from the material scale to the region. His research and teaching focus on the spatial dimension of the circularity transitions of cities and regions, specifically emphasising the sustainability challenges of the development of dispersed urban areas and peri-urbanisation processes in Europe.



Antoine de Borman, General Director at perspective.brussels, Belgium

Antoine de Borman has been CEO of Perspective since June 2021. He has worked in various ministerial cabinets in the fields of employment, social and economic affairs. For the past 10 years, he has been involved in territorial development tools and strategies.



Emiel Reiding, Secretary-Director Metropolitan Region Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Emiel Reiding is the Secretary-Director of the Metropolitan Region Amsterdam since august 2020. Prior to this position he served in various leadership roles at the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment.



Eric Corijn, Professor in Urban Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels

Eric Corijn is Zoologist, Cultural Philosopher, Sociologist, Sculptor and Author. Founder of COSMOPOLIS, Centre for Urban Research, (VUB) and Co-founder Brussels Studies Institute and Brussels Academy. Member Regional Development Commission Brussels Capital Region, Member Jury Urban Renovation Flanders, Director Policy & Research Global Parliament of Mayors, Member Board ZinnekeParade and Halles de Schaerbeek. Author of more than 350 publications.



Filipe Ferreira Metropolitan Secretary at Lisbon Metropolitan Area-AML, Portugal

PhD in Public Administration – Administration and Public Policies from ISCSP - Lisbon University, Filipe is Invited Auxiliary Professor at ISCSP-Lisbon University and collaborative researcher at Centre for Public Administration and Public Policies (CAPP), a research unit of the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of Lisbon University (ISCSP-ULisboa). Its main areas of interest are territorial planning, EU funding, territorial instruments management, economic development, international relations, and public procurement. Co-coordinator of the AML 2030 Regional Strategy and AML Metropolitan Plan, his current task is the implementation of 2030 EU funding period. He is also coordinating AML Food Transition Strategy and the Urban Agenda Greening Cities Partnership.



Frenk Bekkers, Strategist at Province South Holland, The Netherlands.

Frenk Bekkers programs, organizes and guides strategic policy explorations at the Province of South Holland. On behalf of this province, he participates in METREX and its network group SURE Eurodelta.



Gianina Panatau, General Director at Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB), Romania

After many years in the Association as coordinator of the Legal Department, where she was responsible for overseeing and managing all the legal affairs of the organisation, she was appointed as the Association's Deputy Director General, in 2022. In that capacity, she worked closely with all departments, offering steadfast support to both the teams and the institution. She ensured the Association's effective performance, overseeing the day-to-day management and activities, preparing long-term strategies, and monitoring the overall performance. She is currently leading a team of 60 professionals, having full responsibility for them, providing vision, leadership and strategic direction.



Henk Bouwman, METREX Secretary General

Henk Bouwman is Secretary-General of METREX and, in this role, he has positioned METREX at the centre of debate on the metropolitan dimension in the major European agglomerations and EU institutions. As an urbanist, Bouwman has specialised on studying the impact of (high-speed) rail infrastructure and operations on city-regions and developing ways to better benefit from the huge investments and the opportunities the new infrastructure connections may bring.



Idoia Postigo, General Director Bilbao Metropoli 30, Spain

Idoia Postigo has 30 years of international experience in urban planning strategies. Almost since the creation of the Association for the Revitalization of Metropolitan Bilbao (Bilbao Metropoli-30) in 1991, she has been responsible, among other actions, of promoting and disseminating the Revitalisation Plan of Metropolitan Bilbao and the strategic actions included in it. Her job has contributed to place the Association as reference point for the main actors responsible for the urban development of the metropolis, especially public institutions, and citizenship.



Ilona Mansikka, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Mrs. Mansikka is a Regional Planning Manager. Dedicated to sustainable development and passionate about promoting sustainable planning through the sharing of experiences. She has been coordinator and active member of the Metrex Climate Expert Group.



Ioana Ivanov, senior urban and regional development expert, METREX Bernd Steinacher Fellow

Ioana Ivanov has an extensive experience in providing technical and advisory services across sectors, territorial and policy scales. Currently leading the Territorial Development Plan for Brasov Metropolitan Area and the participation of Brasov in the Urban Agenda for the EU, Ioana holds an MA in Urbanism, and pursues a Ph.D. in Economics.



Iván Tosics, Director of the Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest, Hungary

Born in Budapest in 1952) is one of the principals of Metropolitan Research Institute. He is mathematician and sociologist (PhD) and research fellow with long experience in urban sociology, strategic development, housing policy and EU regional policy issues. He teaches at the University of Pécs, Department of Political Studies, Doctoral School. He is Vice Chair of the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR), Board member of the European Urban Research Association (EURA). He is the Policy Editor of the journal 'Urban Research and Practice', member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the 'Journal of Housing and the Built Environment'.



Jakub Mazur, President of METREX

Jakub Mazur has over 20 years of corporate and business experience. His areas of expertise are IT, e-commerce, energy, advertisement, marketing, brand strategies and construction sector. He is co-author of the success of the European Capital of Culture 2016 in Wrocław (mid-2015 to March 2017). First Deputy Mayor of Wrocław (since 2018), supervising the Department of City Development and Strategy and as a representative for international affairs. Responsible for the creation and implementation of strategic studies for the city, agglomeration, region in the 2050 perspective. In charge of urban planning and land use plans, architecture, construction administration, city aesthetics, monument preservation, economic development, geodesy and land cadastre, sustainable development, blue/green policies, energy.



Jaromír Hainc, Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR), Czech Republic

Jaromír Hainc is the Head of the Department of City Development at the Prague Institute of Planning & Development. He is an authorized architect, urban planner, and tutor at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture.



Laura Papaleo, Unit Coordinator, Europe Office, Genoa Città Metropolitana, Italy

Laura Papaleo, European Project Development Expert, PhD in Computer Science, skilled in Digital Strategy and Digital Transformation.



Łukasz Medeksza, Deputy Director of the Strategy and City Development Department Municipality of Wrocław, Poland

Coordinator of the Social Foresight Wrocław 2036/2056 (in the framework of the European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016), Chief editor of the publications "Strategies for the City of the Future". Member of the Council of The Society of Polish Town-Planners (since 2018). Active member of the Metrex Management Committee. Among other things, culturologist. Łukasz has also worked for the Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia (2010-2016). Previously, he had worked for the local and regional media (2000-2010).



Maciej Fijałkowski, Director Office of European Funds and Development Policy, City of Warsaw, Poland

Main responsibilities include planning and monitoring of investments, obtaining ESIF for investment projects and cooperation within the territory of the metropolitan area.



Oliver G. Gilbert III, Vice Chairman of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC), Florida, USA

Prior to his current role, Chairman Gilbert served in many leadership positions including as Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens, President of the African American Mayors Association, and Chairman of the Miami-Dade TPO. Born and raised in Miami Gardens, Chairman Gilbert is a staunch advocate for the residents of District and all of Miami-Dade County, which he so proudly calls home. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Upon graduating, he attended the University of Miami School of Law where he graduated with honors and is licensed to practice law throughout the State of Florida.



Peter Defranceschi, Director of the Brussels Office of ICLEI, Belgium

ICLEI is an international and European organisation of large and small cities and regions committed to integrated sustainable development. Peter Defranceschi also leads ICLEI's Global CityFood Program. Peter is Italian and a lawyer by training.



Luděk Sýkora, Professor of Social Geography and Regional Development, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Luděk Sýkora focuses on urban transformations, metropolitan cooperation, segregation, immigrant integration, urban and housing policies.



Roger Vickerman, Emeritus Professor of European Economics, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Roger Vickerman is also visiting Professor and Chair of the Transport Strategy Centre, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Imperial College London.



Sandeep Shingadia, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration at Transport for West Midlands, United Kingdom

Sandeep Shingadia has over 26 years' experience in the transport sector. He is responsible for leading the development of strategic partnerships at regional, national and international levels to facilitate the development of integrated transport programmes ready for delivery.



Tundé Adefioye, Coach, Dramaturg, Essayist, Lecturer, Independent Researcher

Tundé is a Nigerian-American based in Belgium. Tundé co-founded the youth platform Urban Woorden in Leuven (BG) and was awarded the Prize for Cultural Education by the Flemish Government. Tundé has done dramaturgy for projects including Malcolm X and (Not) My Paradise. In recent years, Tundé has been delivering lectures and speeches, among others at the 2018 IETM plenary meeting in Portugal, at the Wales Arts International's conference, at the European Theatre Convention meeting in Dresden. Additionally, he is a lecturer of Cultural Criticism and US Popular (Black) Visual Culture at St Lucas Antwerp Art college.



Valeria Fedeli, PhD in Planning and Public Policies at IUAV and Full professor in Planning and Urban policies and vice-coordinator of the PhD program in Urban Planning, Policy and Design at Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Her research interests deal with processes of regional urbanization and related governance challenges, innovation of policies and actors, strategic planning, inter-municipal cooperation, and national and EU urban policy and agenda. She is currently the coordinator of the "MUR Progetti di Eccellenza" Project 2023-2027 Territorial Fragility and of the "Competence Center for Anti-fragile Territories" at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.