

METREX AUTUMN CONFERENCE Bucharest 2024

October 23-25

SPEAKERS' OVERVIEW



Adrian FOGHIS, Secretary of State, Ministry of Transport, Romania

Adrian George FOGHIS' tenure as Secretary of State with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Romania started in February 2021- a right expected outcome of his 9 years of extensive experience in infrastructure projects as general manager of his natal Oradea country's Metropolitan Area, and later of the national Romanian Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations. Adrian George FOGHIS holds a BA in political science and sociology, as well as in management and economics. His portfolio comprises, amongst many others, the international experience within the position of Programme Manager for the VATI JTS Romania Hungary Cross Border Cooperation Programme. As Secretary of State within the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, FOGHIS currently coordinates the road transportation domain, and covered in the past the the domains of aviation, railway and health infrastructure.



Agnès THOUVENOT, First Deputy Mayor of Villeurbanne

First Deputy Mayor of Villeurbanne since 2020, Agnès is in charge for ecological transition, urban planning and housing. In the previous mandate, between 2014 and 2020, she was appointed delegate for health, employment and integration, social and solidarity economy, actions against discrimination and gender equality. She is also President of UrbaLyon.



Alexandre SANTACREU, Secretary-General European Metropolitan Transport Association (EMTA)

Alexandre has 15 years of experience developing policies for urban mobility. At the OECD's International Transport Forum, he federated a network of nearly 50 cities towards the exchange of data and best practices for sustainable mobility and road safety. He is known for orchestrating international research on micro-mobility, active travel, big data and artificial intelligence. Alexandre graduated with a Master of Science in Transport from Imperial College London, and in Civil Engineering from the University of Lyon.



Alfredo CORBALAN, Urban Planning Agency of the Brussels-Capital Region, perspective.brussels

Coordinator of the unit in charge of European, international and interregional affairs, Alfredo is involved in several European and international urban development networks (European Commission, Metropolis, Metrex, EUROCITIES, EMA...). During the 1st semester 2024, he has been coordinating the Belgian EU Presidency team in urban matters. Alfredo has developed and implemented different European and local projects related to territorial development and metropolitan cooperation. He has also a practical knowledge of European funded projects, programs (ERDF, URBACT, INTERREG, ESPON, UIA...) and regulations. Alfredo has a master's degree in public administration and law from Sciences-Po Aix-en-Provence in France and a Master's Degree in European Policies from the Institute for European Studies in Brussels.



Alpo Tani, Climate Mitigation Specialist, City of Helsinki

Alpo Tani is working as a climate change mitigation specialist for the city of Helsinki with themes ranging from impact assessments to proactive planning of green transition on the sector of the built environment.

Ana-Maria Mitroi-Ciobica, JASPERS



Bogdan Suditu, coordinator of the Department of Urban Planning and Urban Mobility within the Bucharest Metropolitan Area (ADIZMB)

Bogdan Suditu is coordinator of the Department of Urban Planning and Urban Mobility within the Bucharest Metropolitan Area (ADIZMB), but also President of the Technical Commission for Urban Planning of the City Hall of Bucharest and teacher at the University of Bucharest. With a French-Romanian education (PhD of the University of Bucharest and the University of Angers-France, 2006; diplomat of the ENA, Strasbourg, 2010) and with the central administration experience (2006-2013) and local (2021-2024), Bogdan Suditu is a permanent supporter of governance and sustainable urban planning and metropolitan.



Charles WEMPLE, Director of the Houston regional Council association and an expert in foresighting

Chuck Wemple is the Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he oversees all programs and services including transportation planning, community and economic development, public safety, and workforce development. He has extensive experience in addressing infrastructure, housing, and economic recovery needs following natural disasters. Chuck previously led a consortium of local governments, nonprofits, and citizens to develop the region's first holistic plan for a vibrant and sustainable future. Chuck is the Chair of the Executive Directors' Council for the National Association of Regional Councils.

Claire BOISSET, Urbalyon



Claudia PAMFIL, Architect, urban planner, expert participatory processes
Department of Urban Planning and Mobility of ADIZMB
Vice-president of Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners (APUR)

Within ADIZMB, Claudia coordinates a team providing technical assistance to initiate and monitor complex urban plans, spatial development strategies, urban regeneration processes, urban audits and GIS urban data base / urban metropolitan observatory, citizens information and consultations with stakeholders. She has experience in international and national projects proposals and management, technical assistance and training on issues related with good governance, capacity building, organization management, urban and regional development, civil society involvement, participatory planning, etc., including stakeholders and experts' engagement for Romanian Urban Policy.

Constantin MITACHE, Director of the Romanian Association of Municipalities



Corina CRETU, former EU Commissioner

Corina Cretu has a long experience as a Member of the European Parliament. Political expert and commentator, she entered the European Parliament as Observer in 2005. During the last mandate (2019-2024) she was a member of the Committee on Budgetary Control as well as of the Committee on Regional Development and member of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Between 2014-2019 she was **European Commissioner for Regional policy**.



Dagmar KEIM, City of Amsterdam, projectleader Interreg ASSET group (SURE Eurodelta)

Dagmar is programme manager 'innovation by global collaboration' at the department of urban planning. Born in the US, raised in Aachen (Germany), educated as landscape architect in the Netherlands and Italy, Dagmar started her professional Carriere in leading urban planning and landscape architecture firms in California (US) and the Netherlands. About 17 years ago she made the shift to government agencies, where she worked as spatial designer and project leader on local, provincial and national level in different spatial ateliers. The last 8 years she started coordinating the European work within the spatial planning department. She is currently chairing the Eurodelta secretary which is hosted by the City of Amsterdam, a collaboration of cities, regions and the academic field within the Rhine-Meuse Delta.



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.



Geanina SUDITU, Director of Development, The Bucharest-Ilfov Public Transport Intercommunity Development Association (TPBI)

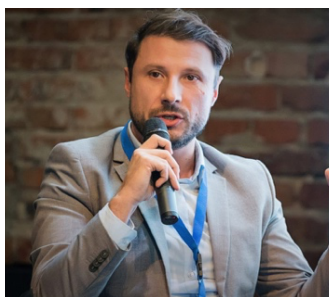
Over 30 years of experience in sustainable development in public transport and metropolitan mobility field: 24 years within a private company as expert and coordinator in various projects for public transport and mobility, covering all aspects from mobility planning to institutional and contractual organization at the national, IDAs or city level. 6 years in the Bucharest Ilfov public transport authority (T.P.B.I. – Bucharest Ilfov Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport) participating in diverse activities: coordination of Bucharest Ilfov SUMP implementation, participating in elaboration of public transport service contractual procedures, individual projects preparation and development of new strategic concepts. Now, as Director of Development Department contribute to the long-term development of public transport and coordinates the preparation of projects, working with all localities and Bucharest sectors. Strong cooperation at international, national and regional level assure a better connection with the EU and national policies

and implementation of good practices and innovation at the strategic and project level.



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.



Grațian MIHAILESCU, UrbanizeHub

Grațian has a national and international experience of over 17 years in the field of development, communication, public policy and innovation. He studied and worked in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Serbia and the USA, being a fellow of the European Commission, collaborating with organizations such as the World Bank, European Commission. He has a Phd in urban governance and is the founder of UrbanizeHub, an innovation lab for smart and sustainable cities. UrbanizeHub organize events, launches reports and studies and offers consultancy for sustainable development and innovation. Since 2022 Grațian is Board Member of the European Commission Mission, 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities.



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.



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.



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).

Deputy Mayor of Wrocław. 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.



Jean-Marie HALLEUX, professor at the University of Liège

Jean-Marie Halleux is professor at the University of Liege. His teaching and research interests are in the relationships between economic geography, urban economy and spatial planning.



Jeroen RIJSDIJK, Arcadis

Jeroen is a principal consultant with over 30 years of experience. Working for cities, developers and investors on urban resilience and the impact of climate change on our built urban environment.



Johan van ZOEST, Eindhoven University of Technology, NL

Johan van Zoest has been teaching at the Faculty of Building Sciences at the Eindhoven University of Technology for 24 years. His courses include city diagnosis and strategy making in today's complex world and designing for a sustainable future, in which students learn to contribute to big challenges by targeted local action. The latter course was recently elected first runner up in a university-wide competition in sustainability education. Johan also works as a general strategist for the city of Amsterdam, where he is involved in European-to-regional issues. He is a biologist by training and started out as an urban ecologist.



John Austin STOKES, Executive Director of the Concho Valley Council of Governments (CVCOG) and NADO representative

CVCOG serves a 14-county region and provides transportation, early childhood development, solid waste, aging and disability, emergency communications, and economic development services. During his decade at the helm, John Austin has overseen national and state recognized projects such as an indoor 911 mapping pilot project for more efficient emergency responses and the successful attainment of funding for a public-private partnership for commercial aviation training. He is currently engaged in infrastructure development for datacenter to meet the growing global artificial intelligence community's needs. John Austin works to foster mutually beneficial relationships between regional councils and the Economic Development Administration in the United States (EDA). As the only federal government agency focused exclusively on economic development, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration plays a critical role in facilitating regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation.



Karol WASILEWSKI, Foresight Advisor at 4CF, The Futures Literacy Company

Karol previously worked at the Polish Institute of International Affairs as the head of the Middle East program. He was also editor of the Yearbook of Polish Foreign Policy. His research interests include issues related to the future of international order and security, new trends in international relations and foreign policy analysis. Some of Karol's previous clients include UNFCCC, UNEP, ENISA, EMCDDA, Ministry of Funds and Regional Development.



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.



Liviu BĂILEȘTEANU, Director at Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration

Liviu Bailesteanu is working in the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration from Romania since 2008. In 2017 he became director of the policy and strategy unit, being responsible, among others, with the informal cooperation for territorial cohesion and urban matters. Mr Liviu Bailesteanu has coordinated, at the technical level, the EU Urban Agenda partnerships - Jobs&Skills in local economy partnership/Greening cities; the first National Urban Policy, adopted by the Romanian Government in 2022, the Law for Metropolitan Areas, adopted by the Parliament in 2022, and contributed to the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience dedicated for local authorities. Also, Mr Bailesteanu is coordinating the activities for the EUSDR Priority Area no. 3 Tourism & Culture and People to people contacts. Born in 1981 in Bucharest, Romania, he graduated at the Faculty of Urbanism with a Master in Spatial Planning and Regional Development from the Ion Mincu University.

Liviu IANĂȘI, Doctor in urban planning Ion Mincu University of Architecture



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).



Marcel Ionescu HEROIU, Senior Urban Development Specialist, World Bank Group

Marcel Ionescu-Heroiu works as Senior Urban Development Specialist in the World Bank office in Vienna, Austria. Marcel received his undergraduate degree in Economics from Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Development from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA. Some of the key areas Marcel has worked on include: urban and regional development policy and competitiveness; the management of EU Operational Programmes; project prioritization; local and regional governance; sustainable development and climate change; urban regeneration and brownfields redevelopment. Marcel has led or contributed to projects in: Romania, Poland, Turkey, Slovakia, Czechia, Greece, the US, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Georgia, Azerbaidjan, Croatia, and Hungary.



Marco GRIGUOLO, Councillor Città Metropolitana di Milano

Marco Griguolo, 36, married to Ilaria and father of two children Edoardo Gianni and Emma Vittoria. He is a lawyer mainly working on wealth management immigration and corporate criminal law. He is Councillor for the Metropolitan City of Milan with responsibility for mobility and local public transport. Marco is also a Councillor in the City of Segrate, little town near Milano and President of the Anti-Mafia Commission in Città metropolitana di Milano.



Marcos ROS, MEP

Marcos Ros Sempere, is a Member of the European Parliament for the Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) since February 2020. He has been a member of the committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Culture and Education (CULT) and Regional Development (REGI), where he is spokesperson of the S&D group since 2022. In the CULT committee, he has been co-rapporteur of the initiative report on the new European Bauhaus, an initiative that brings together interdisciplinary solutions in urban planning with measures such as the decarbonization of buildings to integrate the ecological transition into the life of EU citizens. At the beginning of the 10th Parliamentary term he was re-elected S&D Coordinator in the Committee on Regional Development at the European Parliament. Before his responsibility as a Member of the European Parliament, Ros Sempere worked eleven years as a professor of Urban Planning at the School of Architecture of Cartagena. He holds a doctorate in architecture, specializing in urban planning and has extensive experience in the rehabilitation of architectural heritage.



Mariana FAVER, Province of South Holland

Mariana Faver graduated in 2005 as an architect and urbanist from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She worked for two years as head of the public construction and urbanism department of the municipality of Miracema-RJ in Brazil. In 2007 she moved to the Netherlands and in 2009 she graduated from the European Postgraduate Masters in Urbanism at the TU Delft. After finishing the course, she worked as a designer, researcher and project manager at the Deltametropolis Association until 2019. Since then, Mariana works as a spatial explorer and advisor for the Province of South-Holland. She focusses on the development of spatial policies and strategies based on data-driven solutions.



Marius CRISTEA, Urban Development Consultant – World Bank

Marius holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in sustainable regional development at "Babeş-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca. Phd in Economic Geography, following a research internship at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. He is also certified as project manager, trainer, expert in communication and absorption of non-reimbursable funds. He is a consultant to the European Commission (DG Regio) for New European Bauhaus and regional development. He is also working with the World Bank, private companies, various university and NGOs as an expert in field of local and regional development, climate neutrality and urban renewal. Member of the Romanian Register of Urban Planners since 2021.



Masha SMIRNOVA, Head of Governance at Eurocities

Masha Smirnova works on the role of cities in EU policy-making, territorial cohesion, public engagement, and inclusive growth. She also leads on the role of cities in EU enlargement and on capacity-building projects with Ukrainian cities. Prior to this role, she led Eurocities' engagement and advocacy on the European Green Deal and a fair transition to climate neutrality. Before joining Eurocities, Masha led civil society initiatives to promote social and environmental justice and address health inequalities with several Brussels-based NGOs. Before relocating to Belgium in 2015, Masha worked as a research consultant on collaborative digital health projects in Bonn, Germany, and as a project consultant on sustainable water resource management. Masha holds a Master's degree in Health Management from IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria, and a Master's degree in International Politics from the University of Manchester, UK.



Mihai PRECUP, Secretary of State at the Prime Minister's Office, President of the Interministerial Council for the Implementation of State Aid Policy, Romania

Highly qualified banker, holding a PhD from the Sorbonne University in Paris, and specializing in investment funds. Brings extensive experience to the role of Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Office, a position currently held.

Nicușor DAN, Mayor of Bucharest



Ovidiu CÎMPEAN, State Secretary - Ministry of Investments and European Projects

Ovidiu Cîmpean is a State Secretary at the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE), where he holds a pivotal role in managing the EEA and Norway Grants. Coordinator of M100 - Mirror Mission Cities Hub Romania, a national hub designed as a support platform for the Romanian cities in their transformation processes towards smart and climate-neutral cities by 2030. With over 15 years of experience, Ovidiu has been the development director at Cluj-Napoca Municipality, being in charge with European funded projects.

He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and European Studies from Babeș-Bolyai University, providing a solid academic background for his career.



Peter POL, City of The Hague, NL

Dr. Peter M.J. Pol is an experienced Strategic Adviser with a demonstrated history of working in urban planning in Europe and in urban academic education and research. Skilled in Urban Economic Development, Governance and Urban Planning. Peter is an expert on large scale urban developments related to sustainability, economics and mobility. He works for the City of The Hague and cooperates with other large cities in The Netherlands. Peter has a background in urban economics and was involved in numerous international comparative urban studies. He wrote a dissertation on 'A Renaissance of Stations, Railways and Cities, Economic Effects, Development Strategies and Organisational Issues of European High-Speed-Train Stations' at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Peter is member of the Managing Committee of the Metrex, a network of about fifty European Metropolitan Regions. He works on spatial economic topics in the SURE Eurodelta, a network of metropolitan regions in the Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt delta.



Rafael AMORIM, Secretary General, CIM Cávado, PT

Since November 2020, Rafael is the First Secretary of the Intermunicipal Executive Secretariat responsible for the CIM Cávado General Management and activities' program. Between 2019-2020 he has been responsible of the Legal advice unit providing legal support to the Portuguese Audit Authority in auditing institutions of the public administrative sector, including local authorities, similar entities and other forms of autonomous territorial organizations. Between 2010 and 2019 he has worked at the Northern Regional Coordination and Development Commission providing legal advice to the Managing Authority, Technical Secretariats, Contracting Support Unit, Intermediate Bodies and Sub-regional Support Unit, Intermediate Bodies and Sub-Regional Structures in the analysis of compliance the applicable legal norms, namely in matters related to public markets, competition public markets, competition, gender equality. Between 2007-2010 he was Head of the President's Support Office in Gondomar Municipality.



Sabina REICHERT, Deputy Director of URBASOFIA

Sabina is an urban planner specialized in metropolitan development, Deputy Director of Urbasofia and ISOCARP Board Member. With a PhD in instruments for sustainable integrated planning in multi-level metropolitan contexts, Sabina's focus is on bridging development and policy gaps, more recently pertaining to support for the twin transition and net-zero land take objectives.



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.



Sebastian BURDUJA, Romanian Minister of Energy

Ph.D. Sebastian-Ioan Burduja is the Romanian Minister of Energy, appointed in June 2023. He has previously served as the Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, between May 2022 and June 2023. Since December 2020 he has been elected to the Romanian Parliament and is also the President of the Sector 1 branch of the National Liberal Party. Before starting his political career, he acted as the Founding President of the League of Romanian Students Abroad (LSRS), now the largest Romanian non-profit network in the world, and the co-founder of the CAESAR Foundation, a think tank connecting 500 top Romanian and international policy experts. Previously, he served as a Regional Development Specialist for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., focusing on Europe and Central Asia.

Mr. Burduja has also worked for Dalberg Global Development Advisors, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, McKinsey & Co., and the National Endowment for Democracy. He graduated from the Stanford University as member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society with a major in Politics and sub-specializations in Economy and Sociology. Mr. Burduja holds a PhD in Economics and International Affairs from the Romanian Academy of Economic Studies, with the "Summa Cum Laude" qualification.



Sébastien ROLLAND, Urbalyon, FR

Sébastien Rolland is a town planner and urban designer at the Lyon Urban Planning Agency (Urbalyon). From 2010 to 2020, he has been the project manager of “Inter-Scot”, a public partnership that aims to coordinate policies and actions of 13 masterplans within the Lyon Metropolitan Area (3.2 million inhabitants). To further develop and implement a Polycentric Metropolitan Vision, he worked closely with elected officials and directors of local authorities on the development of territorial projects. Since 2020 he leads the international department of Urbalyon coordinating more than ten technical programs seeking to foster city to city cooperations. Sebastien is also active in European networks such as METREX, of which he is a member of the Managing Committee, and Eurocities.



Simone JUNG, Verband Region Stuttgart, DE

Simone Jung is the Coordinator of European Affairs at Verband Region Stuttgart. She holds a diploma in Spatial Planning and an M.A. in European Public Administration. Her professional experience includes local authorities in Germany as well as service providers in European and cross-border cooperation.



Sylvain CHAPU, Toulouse Metropolitan Area, FR

Urban planner, Sylvain has been supporting local authorities in their territorial projects for more than 15 years. He also works on issues linked to land. He created Play-ZAN®, a serious game based on the topic of ‘no net land take’.



Vera MARIN, President, ATU Association for Urban Transition

Vera MARIN, Architect, urban planner, advocate and specialist for the design and implementation of participatory processes. President of ATU - Association for Urban Transition and Good Governance Department coordinator and Vice-president of De-a Arhitectura Association. She is also Lecturer and Researcher in Urban Planning and Territorial Development Department - UAUIM - Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning. Vera is currently involved with an action-research project entitled CoNECT - Collective Networks for Everyday Community Resilience and Ecological Transition, coordinating the Living Lab in Bucharest that is exploring - through the Urboteca Fellowship program - the resources and the potential for mediation that should be leading to more community cohesion and civic engagement for participatory processes in relation to New European Bauhaus principles.



Wojciech DESKA, Senior Urban Specialist, European Investment Bank

Wojciech has almost 30 years' experience in public sector infrastructure and utilities with comprehensive background across infrastructure financing, corporate banking, private equity and international development banking. Experienced in originating, developing, structuring, negotiating and executing large scale and complex transactions in particular in urban regeneration, public transport, water, affordable housing and solid waste sectors. Project manager and investment expert in numerous local and international advisory and consulting assignments supporting project preparation, public financing and structuring infrastructure projects. For the past 17 years EIB officer responsible for lending operations, project appraisals and advisory assignments. At present involved in the review of the applications of the 100-climate neutral and smart cities and their investment plans in particular, as part of JASPERS. Formerly senior positions in public sector at Citibank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and private consulting.



Xavi TIANA, Coordinator of the General Manager Office, Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, EMA Network

Since November 2023 working as Coordinator of the General Manager Office in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. From January 2014 till October 2023 Head of International Relations of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. From November 2015 until July 2019 Secretary General of MedCities, network of more than 80 cities and metropolitan areas in the Mediterranean region. From 1998 to 2008 and 2011 to 2013 worked at the Provincial Government of Barcelona as Head of the European Cooperation Office. From 2008 to 2011, Director of the Office of the President at the Public Audit Office of Catalonia. Postgraduate Diploma in local government (University of

Barcelona), a Master's in European Studies and a Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations (Autonomous University of Barcelona). Experience working for various international and national organizations as trainer and expert (European Commission, OECD, European Institute of Public Administration, Turkish Government, etc.).