

METREX AUTUMN CONFERENCE IN GIPUZKOA

5-7 NOVEMBER 2025

OVERVIEW OF SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND RAPPORTEURS



AZAHARA DOMÍNGUEZ URTIZBEREA

Deputy for Mobility, Tourism and Land Use Planning,
Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, Spain

Born in Irun in 1990, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a specialization in the analysis and management of social problems from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Communication in Leioa. She also holds a Master's degree in Teacher Training for Compulsory Secondary Education, Baccalaureate, Vocational Training, and Language Teaching, specializing in Career Guidance and Employment, from the International University of Valencia. She served as Director of the Technical Office of the Spanish Government Delegation in the Basque Country under Jesús Loza and Denis Itxaso from 2018 to 2023 and as a councilor in the Berrobi City Council from 2019 to 2023. She is currently the Provincial Deputy for Mobility, Tourism, and Territorial Planning of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.



ALPO TANI

Climate Mitigation Specialist, City of Helsinki, Finland

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.



CRISTINA LABORDA ALBOLEA

Mayoress of Irun, Spain

Cristina Laborda Albolea holds a double degree in History and in Humanities and Business from the University of Deusto, graduating with highest honors. At 19, she began her political career in the Irun City Council, holding various positions of responsibility. She has served as a member of the Basque Parliament and, since 2023, has been the first female mayor of Irun.



DAGMAR KEIM

City of Amsterdam, EuroDelta Expert group coordinator, The Netherlands

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.



DANIEL RĂDULESCU

Bucharest Metropolitan Area

Daniel Rădulescu, I am a GIS Expert at the Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB) and a PhD student in Geography at the Faculty of Geography (University of Bucharest). My work focuses on: territorial analysis, interpretation, and mapping of Bucharest Municipality and Ilfov County, using various datasets and data sources.



DARIO PARRAVICINI

Director of economic and social development Department in the Metropolitan City of Milan, Italy

Director of economic and social development Department in the Metropolitan City of Milan

The department deals with the promotion of economic development and social cohesion measures for the whole metropolitan area composed by 133 municipalities. It includes programming and planning interventions about public transport for passengers as well as freight transports. Within the department policies about tourism and territorial marketing are carried out with the involvement of various regional and local institutions. The main objectives of the Department's activity are: facilitating the cohesion between rural and urban areas and making MCM a more liveable attractive territory for people, investors and tourists.



DIETMAR SCHULMEISTER

Public affairs advisor, Germany

Dietmar is specialised in energy and transformation topics at the Rhineland Metropolitan Region. He represents the region's interests in EU, federal, and state politics, helping to stabilize and strengthen the region as a center of business and innovation beyond 2045. With over ten years of experience in public affairs and project management, he combines strategic planning skills with a clear focus on implementation. In addition to his professional activities, Dietmar Schulmeister is involved in political education, anti-racism work, and German-Ukrainian economic relations - always with the aim of building bridges between business, politics, and society.



ERIK PASVEER

City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Erik Pasveer is an urban planner and has been working on various positions in research, education, planning, design and policy making. In the past 20 years he has been working as a senior expert and manager for local governments in The Netherlands, currently for the city of Amsterdam



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.



JĀNIS UŠČA

City of Riga, Latvia

Jānis Ušča is a strategic urban planner with over a decade of experience in sustainable urban and regional development. He leads sectoral policy planning at Riga City Council, focusing on public space and greening strategies. Jānis has managed EU projects, contributed to national spatial plans and represented Riga in European metropolitan networks. He holds degrees in environmental science and spatial development planning.



JOSÉ ANTONIO SANTANO CLAVERO

Secretary of State for Transport and Sustainable Mobility,
Spain

José Antonio Santano (Irun, 1965) holds a law degree from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). He served as mayor of Irun from 2002 to 2023 and currently holds the position of Secretary of State for Transport and Sustainable Mobility. Throughout his career, he has held other positions of responsibility in the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council, EUDEL (Association of Municipalities of Elche), and the FEMP (Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces), where he chaired the Transport, Sustainable Mobility, and Safety Committee.



JOSÉ IGNACIO ASENSIO BAZTERRA

First Deputy General and Provincial Deputy for Sustainability of Gipuzkoa and Secretary General of the PSE-EE of Gipuzkoa, Spain

Born in Tolosa (1966), he holds a degree in Economics. He also has two master's degrees: one in Business Management and another in Public Finance. He served as Deputy for the Environment and Waterworks from 2015 to 2023, and since 2023 has been Deputy for Sustainability and First Deputy General. He is also President of the Gipuzkoa Climate Change Foundation, Naturklima, and President of the Gipuzkoa Waste Consortium.



LAURA PAPALEO

Unit Coordinator, Europe Office, Metropolitan City of Genova, 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 and Metro Governance & Strategies EG coordinator, 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).



MARIANA FAVER

Province of South Holland and Mapping METREX EG coordinator, The Netherlands

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.

MARIKKA MANNINEN

Helsinki Uusimaa Regional Council and Climate Challenge EG coordinator, Finland



PETER AUSTIN

City of Oslo, and NBN coordinator, Norway

Peter Austin is an environmental planner (MA). After qualifying in Nottingham and working in Middlesbrough, Peter has worked in urban and regional studies and planning in Norway since 1989. He has worked as International and Regional Advisor for Urban Development in the City of Oslo since 2007. Peter has been involved with METREX since it started (1996), joining together with Akershus County in 2013, as well as being co-chair and founding member of the EUROCITIES Working Group for Metropolitan Areas (est. 2010).



PETER POL

City of The Hague and EconoMETREX2.0 EG coordinator, The Netherlands

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.



SANDEEP SHINGADIA

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration at Transport for West Midlands, and 'From Roads to Streets' EG coordinator, 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.



SÉBASTIEN ROLLAND

Urbalyon and Foresighting EG coordinator

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. Sébastien 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

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.



Soňa Raszková

City of Brno, Czech Republic and referent for MECOG-CE Interreg project

Has experience working in both regional and city administration, including five years in the Strategic Department of the City of Brno. During this time, contributed to city strategy development, strategic project management, and the implementation of the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) instrument within the Brno Metropolitan Area (Functional Urban Area), while also fostering metropolitan cooperation. Currently serves as the Head of the Subdivision focusing on strengthening metropolitan cooperation via actions delivered through MECOG-CE project. Holds a Master's degree in Regional Economics from Masaryk University in Brno.



SUSANA GARCÍA CHUECA

Minister of Sustainable Mobility of the Basque Government

Born in San Sebastián in 1969, she graduated in Political Science and Sociology from the Complutense University of Madrid in 1992. She served as spokesperson for the Socialist group in the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council from 2016 to 2024. In October 1999, she assumed her first institutional responsibility in the San Sebastián City Council as Councilor for Social Welfare and Equality. In June 2003, she joined the Provincial Council as a representative. In 2010, she was appointed Councilor for Finance in the San Sebastián City Council. Currently, she is the Minister of Sustainable Mobility of the Basque Government