

METREX SPRING CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI

10-12 JUNE 2026

OVERVIEW OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



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.



BAS HORSTING

Senior advisor on sustainable urban development City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Bas Horsting (1976) is a senior advisor on sustainable urban development at the City of Amsterdam. His work focuses on making Amsterdam future-proof by implementing circular economy policies such as the Amsterdam Circular Strategy. His work field ranges from advising in building designs on circular building principles (particularly biobased and carbon-based design) to addressing spatial implications of circularity in urban and regional planning. Combining a background in architecture and urban planning with an active role in international networks such as the Eurodelta Alliance, Bas collaborates with spatial designers, policymakers, and other stakeholders, aiming to drive knowledge exchange while implementing practical solutions that contribute to sustainable and regenerative cities and regions



CLAIRE BOISSET

Director of Environmental Studies, UrbaLyon, France

Claire Boisset is a geographer-urban planner with more than 20 years' experience at the LTPA, where she now the Director of Environmental Studies. She has participated in every strategic and local urban planning initiative for Lyon, contributing to both the metropolitan land-use plan and the masterplan. Her work centres on two particular themes: Linking urban planning with environmental stewardship — leading projects such as the creation and enhancement of major parks across Greater Lyon. Secondly, Foresight and innovation — designing cutting-edge methods and tools and coordinating their development. Claire is also actively engaged in the LTPA's European and international activities.



CHRISTINA SUOMI

(M.Sc. Arch) Project Director of City Aviation at the City of Helsinki

Christina Suomi represents the strategic spatial planning level where urban systems, land use and sustainable aviation mobility interests are integrated and aligned. Together with Senior Aviation Specialist Mr Jukka Keski-Jaskari (ret. FiAF, mil IP, ATCO, ATM mil / civ), she works on integrating sustainable aviation and low-altitude airspace into metropolitan planning and decision-making. Helsinki has developed a city-scale Digital Twin and immersive cave environment to support evidence-based assessment of spatial impacts, noise, operational needs and societal acceptance in urban context. Christina also actively advocates for stronger city ownership and responsibility in shaping future urban airspace at European, national, regional, metropolitan and city levels. Christina is former Vice President of METREX.



DAGMAR KEIM

Programme manager at the 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 career 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.



DANIELE ZUCHELLI

Head of the Local Economic Promotion and Development Service, Youth Policies, Economic and Social Development Area, Metropolitan City of Milan, Italy

Graduated in Public Relations in 2003, with further specialisation in journalism and public administration, including an Executive Master in Public Management for Federalism at MIP Politecnico. Since 2003, he has worked for the Metropolitan City of Milan, initially on communication and sustainable mobility projects, and for the past ten years as head of a department responsible for economic and social development, promotion, and youth policies. He has strong project management, administrative, legal, and financial skills, and works through dialogue with local stakeholders and international networks. Fluent in English, he also speaks French, Spanish, and basic Czech.



EFSTRATIOS STYLIANIDIS

Director of the Laboratory of Geoinformatics, School of Spatial Planning and Development of the Aristotle University, Greece

Efstratios research focuses on the intersection of Geospatial Sciences and ICT for the benefit of natural and built environment. He is the author of 2 theses, 3 book, 100 scientific publications in peer reviewed journals and conferences proceedings, 10 invited chapters in books as well as the editor of 5 books. He has participated in more than 60 national and mainly international research projects (H2020, FP7, Erasmus+, etc.), 10 of which as the scientific and project coordinator. He has participated in 60 national and international conferences, while in 26 he has a member of the organizing and/or scientific committee. He is a reviewer in 16 scientific journals, while he participates in the editorial board of 3 scientific journals. He holds 2 patents. In 2017, he received the European Satellite Navigation Competition 2017 award (Madrid Challenge) for the H2020 EU co-funded LARA project.



EVA PURKARTHOFER

Post-doctoral researcher at Aalto University, Finland

Eva Purkardhofer holds a master's degree in Spatial Planning from Vienna University of Technology, Austria, and a PhD from Aalto University, Finland, where she currently works as post-doctoral researcher. As of September 2026, she will join the University of Vaasa, Finland, as Associate Professor in Regional Studies. Her research interests include European spatial development and EU Cohesion Policy, strategic urban and regional planning, planning cultures and planning systems as well as the role of actors and institutions in planning. She coordinates the AESOP Thematic Group "Transboundary Planning and Governance" and acts as chief editor at the "European Journal of Spatial Development". In addition to numerous journal articles and book chapters, she has recently published the monograph "Spatial Planning and the European Union. Europeanisation from within" (Routledge, 2025).



HEIDI HUVILA

Senior sustainability specialist, City of Helsinki, Finland

Heidi Huvila works as a senior specialist aiming for sustainable urban environment in the Urban Environment Division, City of Helsinki. In her work she is developing solutions and practices from a strategic level to practical challenges concerning organization ability to manage sustainability issues. In the past 16 years, she has moved from environmental management and environmental issues to a broader perspective still maintain the ecological sustainability as foundation to sustainability.



HEIDI KOPONEN

Regional Planning Architect at the Helsinki – Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Heidi has experience in land use planning and urban development across both public and private sectors. Her special expertise includes strategic urban and regional development, zoning processes, stakeholder collaboration, and sustainable urban planning.



HEIKKI SALMIKIVI

Head of unit in strategic planning, City of Helsinki, Finland

Heikki Salmikivi is the head of Spatial Planning Unit at the City of Helsinki. His unit is responsible for city-wide strategic land use planning and master planning.



ILONA MANSIKKA

Regional planning manager, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Ilona Mansikka works as a regional planning manager and team leader in Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council. Her special expertise includes regional and strategic planning, sustainable urban development, and green transition processes. She is dedicated to sustainable development and passionate about promoting sustainable planning through the sharing of experiences.



JOHANNA LAISAARI

Deputy Mayor of Urban Environment in City of Helsinki, Finland

Johanna Laisaari is Deputy Mayor of Urban Environment in City of Helsinki. She has Master of Laws degree with court training and specialises in children's rights. Mrs. Laisaari has ten years' experience of city politics in Helsinki from different positions. Before this position, she was Deputy Mayor of Education.



JOSÉ MANUEL FERREIRA

Architect, Urban planner, Portugal

José is an architect and urban planner with experience in local and metropolitan government, focusing on urban planning, design and management. He has coordinated work on sustainable mobility planning and strategic planning governance and has contributed to several European projects in the fields of urban planning, sustainability and biodiversity. He is also an expert in planning and housing.



JUKKA KESKI-JASKARI

Senior Aviation Specialist at the City of Helsinki, Finland

Jukka is working as Senior Aviation Specialist at the City of Helsinki, within Strategic Spatial Planning and City Aviation. A former Finnish Air Force officer, military pilot and certified military/civil air traffic controller, he brings deep operational aviation expertise to Helsinki's work on sustainable aviation, UTM/U-space and low-altitude airspace integration in urban environments and systems. Together with Project Director Christina Suomi, he uses Helsinki's city-scale Digital Twin and actively advances near-future urban aviation solutions and coordination at European, national, regional, metropolitan and city level.



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).



MARCO GRIGUOLO

Councillor Milan Metropolitan City, Italy

Marco Griguolo, married to Ilaria and father of two children Edoardo Gianni and Emma Vittoria, 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.



MARTIN AARTS

Director Settingthestage, Advisor Urban Development

Martin Aarts was head of the Urban Development department in the City of Rotterdam. During that time, he was a member of Metrex.

He was responsible for the redevelopment of the city centre and for shaping the future of the city and the region. In 2019, he founded his advisory firm, Stetting-the-stage. Martin teaches at the Academy of Architecture in Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

He has written numerous articles and books, mostly about Rotterdam. His latest book is due to be published in September: 'The Transformation of Great European Cities: The Birth of a New Urban Era.'



MILIZA RYÖTI

Senior specialist, Helsinki Region Environmental Services (HSY), Finland

Miliza Ryöti is a senior specialist in housing and social sustainability. Her professional career as a civil servant began with the City of Helsinki, first as a Planning Officer and later as an Advisor to the Deputy Mayor. Since 2012, she has worked in her current position at the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority, in the unit for Regional and Environmental Information. Her PhD thesis in social geography explored the inherently political nature of visualizing spatial information, combining her long experience as a practitioner with the perspective of a researcher. Her professional goal is to build bridges between research and decision-making and to contribute to the development of evidence-based planning processes.



MARI SIIVOLA

Regional Planning Director in Helsinki Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Mari Siivola is the Regional Planning Director at the Helsinki Uusimaa Regional Council. She is an architect with more than 30 years of experience in strategic land use planning and urban development. Before joining the Regional Council, she held several planning and leadership positions in Finnish municipalities, including serving as Master Plan Manager in the City of Vantaa, where she was responsible for long-term urban and regional development planning in one of Finland's fastest-growing cities. In her current role, she leads regional planning work in the Helsinki-Uusimaa region, focusing on sustainable growth, metropolitan cooperation, and the integration of land use, mobility, and climate objectives.



NIKO SETÄLÄ

Team Manager in public transport and transport system planning, City of Helsinki, Finland

Niko Setälä works as Team Manager for the Public Transport Team of the Transport System Unit in the Urban Environment Division, City of Helsinki. Working for the city since 2014, he has been active in public transport system planning and in the planning phases and feasibility studies of tram and light rail projects, e.g. the Crown Bridges.



PETER AGH

Secretary General of METREX

Ing. Peter Ágh, PhD., Secretary General of METREX is a public-governance leader with more than twenty years of experience steering local and metropolitan administrations across Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. Besides his role in METREX, he currently advises Slovakia's Minister of Education, Science, Research and Youth on artificial intelligence, skills development, and EU funding strategy. As the founding Managing Director of ICMA Europe, Peter built the organization's European branch from the ground up, convening nine international conferences and securing funding for cross-border projects that strengthened local-governance standards across Europe. His earlier career spans city-manager roles including

the city of Bratislava, where he authored the city's Smart City Concept. He has also advised Saudi Arabia's Royal Commission for ALUla and launched the inaugural ALUla Global Cities Summit. A specialist in decentralization, smart cities, and EU project delivery, Peter holds a PhD and executive education from Harvard Kennedy School and the University of Virginia.



PETER AUSTIN

City of Oslo and NBN coordinator, Norway

Peter Austin works in the Urban Development Department, City of Oslo as Planning Advisor with responsibilities for regional collaboration. Peter has contributed to strategic analysis and planning in the Oslo region, including housing, transport, environment, climate, social issues, retail and economic development. Peter is also International Coordinator for the Urban Development sector in Oslo. He represents Oslo as co-chair in Eurocities Working Group for Metropolitan Areas where he has developed the network as a learning platform and provided policy advice to EU institutions. He has also taken part for Oslo in projects under EU programmes including URBACT, Interreg Europe, ESPON, Horizon and CERV.



PETER POL

Strategic Adviser at the 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.



PETRA STÅHL

Mayor of the City of Lohja

Petra Ståhl is Mayor of the City of Lohja. Prior to this position, she served as Mayor of the City of Hanko and, among other roles, as Director of Economic Development in the Municipality of Vihti. She has chaired the Uusimaa Green Transition Cooperation Group from 2024 to 2026.



PIA TYNYS

Sustainability Manager at the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland

Pia Tynys is Sustainability Manager at the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and leads regional climate and sustainability work. She holds an M.Sc. in Geography and has 20 years of experience in climate work, sustainable mobility and low-carbon district development. She is interested in systemic change, co-benefit solutions and ecosystem development in the sustainability transition.

Previously, she worked as Lead Climate Specialist and was responsible for preparing the Carbon Neutral Helsinki-Uusimaa 2030 Roadmap and supporting climate work in the region's municipalities.



PIERLUIGI SANNA

Deputy Metropolitan Mayor of Rome, Italy

Pierluigi Sanna was born on 4 December 1988 and has served as Deputy Metropolitan Mayor of Rome Capital City since 2021. He graduated in Humanities with a specialization in Public Administration and Training. He was first elected Mayor of Colferro in 2015 and re-elected in 2020, completing his second mandate in 2026. A member of the Metropolitan Council since 2016, he is particularly dedicated to the strategic governance of the metropolitan area and oversees policies related to territorial development, innovation, and institutional cooperation.



SANDEEP SHINGADIA

Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), Vice President at METREX, and Centre for the New Midlands Infrastructure Leadership Board Member

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.



SARA JOHNSTONE

Regional planner at Gothenburg Region, Sweden

Sarah works as a regional planner at the Gothenburg Region. She specialises in climate change mitigation, sustainable development, and the green energy transition.



TIINA BELDSINSKY

Development advisor in Union of Harju County Municipalities, Estonia

Tiina Beldsinsky works as a development advisor in Union of Harju County Municipalities. She is responsible for regional strategic development planning and cooperation with different stakeholders. She is actively engaged in international cooperation, contributing to cross-border knowledge exchange, especially in the field of innovative regional development practices.



TOMMI FRED

CEO - Helsinki Region Environmental Services (HSY)

Tommi Fred has been CEO of HSY since 2021. A Licentiate of Technology by training, he has been part of the organization since its founding in 2010, first as Head of Wastewater treatment plant and later as Division Director. Before joining HSY, he worked at Helsinki Water.



TUIJA TELÉN

Mayoress of Helsinki - Uusimaa Region

Tuija Telén has worked as the Regional Mayor of Helsinki - Uusimaa Region in Finland since November 2023. Prior to this position, she used to work in the municipality sector, for example as the Mayor of Karkkila and as the director of economic development and public relations in Tampere. Tuija Telén holds a Masters degree in electrical engineering from the Tampere University of Technology, in addition to which she has also completed the REAP-program in the Sloan School of Management, MIT, Boston.



VILLE LÄHDE

Senior researcher, BIOS Research Unit

Ville Lähde (born 1972) is a Finnish environmental researcher and non-fiction author whose work focuses on resource scarcity, environmental limits, and systemic change. He studied philosophy and environmental policy in Tampere University. His 2008 dissertation Rousseau's Rhetoric of 'Nature' handled the varied meanings of the word "nature" and its use in moral and political disputes. As a senior researcher at the interdisciplinary BIOS Research Unit, he bridges philosophical analysis and sustainability research. During his long and varied career in environmental issues, philosophy and other fields, Lähde has published circa 300 texts ranging from journal articles to book reviews, short stories and newspaper columns.



VILLE LEHMUSKOSKI

Executive Director of the Urban Environment Division of Helsinki, Finland

Executive Director of the Urban Environment Division of Helsinki, which is responsible for planning, construction and maintenance, building supervision and environmental services in city of Helsinki. Approximately 1,800 employees work in the sector under executive director Ville Lehmuskoski. Ville has a Master of Science (M.Sc., civ.eng.) in transportation engineering (1998) and EMBA (2015).