

AGENDA

14 FEBRUARY | DAY 1

09:00 – 09:30 Arrival and Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Welcoming session

- **Lejla Sadiku**, Team Leader for Innovation, UNDP Europe and Central Asia
- **Martin Polónyi**, Director General, International Relations Section at Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic

10:00 – 11:00 Systemic Approaches for Urban Transformation

The session explores the imperative for radical urban change in the face of unprecedented challenges, focusing on insights, emerging trends, and collaborative efforts emerging from innovative urban transformation work in Europe.

Panel Discussion:

- **Hana Arnold**, Policy Analyst, Institute for Environmental Policy, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
- **Nikhil Chaudhary**, Strategic Learning & Impact Lead, EIT Climate-KIC
- **Zuzana Šefčík Aschenbrennerová**, Head of Innovation and Digital Services, City of Bratislava

Moderator: Sanja Bojanic, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP North Macedonia

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:15 Urban Focus: Green and Sustainable Cities

The session will feature a series of lightning talks on the imperative of green and sustainable urban development, showcasing the experiences of cities in Slovakia, Montenegro and Kazakhstan in creating environmentally conscious and resilient urban spaces.

Lightning Talks:

- **Alojz Vlčko**, Head of the City Office, City Prievidza
- **Nataša Marković**, Independent Advisor, Office of Municipal Manager, Municipality of Pljevlja
- **Zhanar Gabdullina**, Deputy CEO, Almaty Development Center

Moderator: Aleksandra Kiković, Portfolio Team Leader, Inclusive and Green Growth, UNDP Montenegro

12:15 – 13:00 Urban Focus: Liveable and Vibrant Cities

The session will feature a series of lightning talks on the impact of urban transformation on the wellbeing of residents and the attractiveness of cities for growth, touching upon key factors such as sustainability, inclusivity, and the importance of innovation in fostering sustainable change.

Lightning Talks:

- **Julia Martínez Barbero**, Developmental Evaluation Coordinator, Agirre Lehendakaria Center
- **Ruben Khachatryan**, Director, Instepanavan Development Foundation
- **Xhezide Vlashi**, Landscape Architect, Municipality of Pristina

Moderator: Yaera Chung, Portfolio Learning Lead, UNDP Europe and Central Asia

Systems change for cities
in Europe & Central Asia

13:00 – 14:00 Networking Lunch

14:00 – 14:45 Urban Focus: Innovation Ecosystems

The panel discussion will focus on how to create urban environments that foster innovative ideas and cross-disciplinary interactions, and in particular engaging with entrepreneurs and the wider innovation ecosystem for inspiring collaborative solutions for urban challenges.

Panel discussion:

- **Lazar Kuchera**, Associate, Department for International Cooperation, Municipality of Skopje
- **Lenka Hlinkova**, CIO and Co-founder, Female Algorithm
- **Marianna Szarková**, CEO, Campus Cowork & Co-founder, StartupPeak

Moderator: Petra Dzurovcinova, Digital Transformation Advisor, Slovak Union of Cities

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 17:00 Workshop | Anti-fragility by design: Urban Transformation Programs That Endure

Urban transformation requires complex multi-year multi-activity programs, the success of which is dependent on a number of supporting factors supplied consistently over time. In this workshop we will use our different experiences to surface what are the critical needs for such programs and what are the main obstacles for providing sustained support to them. We will brainstorm possible ways in which we can overcome these obstacles to strengthen our transformation programs' ability to survive, thrive, and bounce back when context changes.

Led by Mariela Atanassova, Strategic Innovation Designer, Chora Design.

17:00 Closing remarks

18:00 – 21:00 Joint dinner at Restaurant Kolkovňa

15 FEBRUARY | DAY 2

09:30 – 10:00 Welcoming session: Reflections from Day 1

10:00 – 11:00 Financing Urban Transitions Towards Green, Resilient and Inclusive Cities

The session will focus on exploring the opportunities and challenges around financing urban transitions and transformation, as mobilizing sustainable finance is essential for promoting the transitions towards greener, more resilient and inclusive societies and economies.

Keynotes speeches

- **Fakri Karim**, Senior Advisor, UN Capital Development Fund
- **Zuzana Kaparová**, Head of the EIB Group Office in Slovakia, European Investment Bank
- Fireside chat with **Alban Zogaj**, Deputy Mayor of Pristina

Moderator: Lejla Sadiku, Team Leader for Innovation, UNDP Europe and Central Asia

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30 Financial Instruments for Cities

The session will showcase and explore innovative financial instruments and mechanisms that cities can employ for urban transformation. The speakers will dive into digital, green, participatory, and blockchain-enabled tools for the further design, implementation and financing of CEF portfolio options.

Panel discussion:

- **Alexander Wiese**, Senior Innovative Urban Financing Expert, UNDP
- **Marcel Simoner**, Head of Digitalization, Urban Innovation Vienna
- **Natália Nováková**, Public Participation Officer, Municipality of Trnava
- **Tomislav Mamić**, Founder, Municipal Quadratic Funding Initiative

Moderator: Louise Skärvall, Accelerator Lead, UNDP Europe and Central Asia

12:30 – 13:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Digital Urbanism

Exploring the technology's challenges and opportunities brought for on future cities. The session covers earth observation's role in urban planning and presents a generative AI use case for urban design, emphasizing citizen engagement and innovative solutions in Skopje and Pristina.

Panel discussion:

- **Arlinda Rushaj Sadiku**, Technical Lead, Urban Shifts, UNDP Kosovo*
- **Igor Izotov**, Head of Exploration, Acceleration Labs, UNDP North Macedonia
- **Michal Brichta**, Director, Slovak Space Office – Industry Branch, Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency

Moderator: Lukáš Polesňák, IT architect, City of Bratislava

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00 – 17:00 Urban Futures Workshop

Through scenario analysis and group reflections, participants will explore the implications of the identified drivers and signals of change. This workshop will lead participants to identify strategic innovation areas, focusing on key challenges of urban development.

Lead: UNDP Slovak Transformation Fund team.

17:00 – 17:15 Closing Session and Key Takeaways
