Ajuntament de Barcelona

UP2030

CITIES IN ACTION

Shaping just, resilient & climate neutral urban planning

JOIN US ON

3 NOVEMBER 2025

BARCELONA

Registration open
Scan the QR code!

Overview

Cities In Action brings together urban practitioners committed to turning climate ambition into real, lasting change. While cities across Europe increasingly embrace climate neutrality goals, the shift from policy adoption to meaningful implementation remains a critical hurdle, especially when resiliency and social justice are treated separately.

Drawing from the experience of 11 cities and initiatives like UP2030, this event explores how coordinated governance, stakeholder inclusion, and targeted capacity building can drive systemic urban transformation.

Through panel discussions, interactive workshops, tool demos, and keynote sessions, *Cities in Action* will showcase how integrated planning, cross-sector collaboration, and community-driven innovation can accelerate the shift toward just, resilient, and climate-neutral cities.

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Event Details

DATE   November 3, 2025

LOCATION   Recinte Modernista de Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain ([map](#))

FORMAT   Conference with keynote presentations, interactive workshops, and live tool demonstrations

COST   Free, registration required

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Your hosts

UP2030 is a Horizon Europe Project that aims to support cities in driving the socio-technical transitions required to meet their climate neutrality targets by leveraging urban planning and design. Through the lenses of justice and resilience, we have been working with 11 cities and more than 20 tool providers creating the pathways towards climate action that leaves no one behind.

The Technical Programming Office of the Barcelona City Council is the focal point for the city's 2030 Agenda, acting on localization, reporting and advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals. It plays a pivotal role in the implementation and follow-up of the *Measure of Government Climate Plan*, which promotes the integration of climate action into and across municipal policies, thus fostering a fairer, more resilient, and sustainable city. The Office is part of the Management Area for Mobility, Infrastructure and Urban Services.

Programme*

9:00 - 9:25
Welcome and opening words
From Hosts: UP2030 & City of Barcelona, and the European Commission

9:25 - 10:15
Bold visions, regular plans and limited implementation? ★
Gaps and challenges within climate planning and practices

Plenary sessions

10:15 - 10:45 **COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING (30')**

10:45 - 11:30
Systemic approaches for Climate Implementation in Cities
Through the Climate Action, Justice, and Resilience lenses

11:40 - 12:25
Urban Planning for Climate Impact
The role of EU funded projects Climaborough and Re-Value preparing cities for climate challenges

Plenary sessions

12:25 - 13:25 **LUNCH & NETWORKING (60')**

13:25 - 14:55

Belfast & Budapest	Rotterdam & Münster	Granollers & Milan	Lisbon, Thessaloniki & Rio de Janeiro	Zagreb & Istanbul

Workshops

15:05 - 15:40
Potentials of local regulation for Climate Action in Barcelona
Results from research groups

Plenary session

15:40 - 16:10 **COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING (30')**

16:10 - 17:40

Spatial Justice through Participatory Planning: Designing a Just Participatory Process ★	Digital tools supporting building decarbonization in an urban context ★	Scaling up urban climate solutions for climate neutrality ★	Data governance & Digital Planning ★

Workshops, Round Tables & Tool Demos

17:50 - 18:30
Beyond Short-Term Projects: Mobilising Cities for Long-Term Climate Action

Plenary session

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* The sessions are subject to change and only indicative in terms of expected content.

★ Details provided along the next pages

Take a sneak peek...

The full program is currently being developed, and all details will be published in the coming months.

In the meantime, discover what's already planned in the following pages!

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Double Keynote Debate

Organized by Universitat Internacional Catalunya (UIC)

Bold visions, regular plans and limited implementation?

Gaps and challenges within climate planning and practices

This high-level double keynote plenary will spotlight the persistent gap between climate planning and real-world implementation in urban climate governance.

Two prominent scholars, Dr. Diana Reckien and Dr. Vanesa Castán-Broto will each present a different facet of this divide. Framed as a debate and moderated by Dr. Lorenzo Chelleri, the session will get to the crux of this misalignment by exploring the roles of institutions, technology, and communities within climate governance. The discussion will focus on how to better align needs, plans, and actions and how justice, resilience, and carbon neutrality can be more effectively integrated into urban climate solutions.

First Keynote Speaker

Dr. Diana Reckien

Associate Professor Climate Change and Urban Inequalities, University of Twente
Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC AR6 WGII

Focus: State of the art and quality of European climate planning

Second Keynote Speaker

Prof. Vanesa Castán Broto

Professor of Climate Urbanism at The University of Sheffield

Focus: Real-world climate actions—formal and informal—how and why plans fall short

Debate Moderator

Dr. Lorenzo Chelleri

Director Int. M.Sc. Urban Resilience for Sustainability Transitions (UIC)
-Chair of the Urban Resilience Research Network (URNet)

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Workshop & tool demonstrator

Organized by TU Delft

Moderators: Design Clips, GGGI, VUB, CERTH, Institute for Urban Excellence, UCCRN Europe, Mapping for Change

Spatial Justice through Participatory Planning: Designing a Just Participatory Process

This interactive workshop invites urban planners, designers, and researchers to co-create a participatory process by linking UP2030 tools to the SJ-3A³ framework, a model that integrates a strategic planning cycle with three core dimensions of public participation (arenas, aims, actors) and spatial justice (distributive, procedural, and recognition justice).

Participants will apply the framework to design a participatory process for either real or imagined cases, aligning tools to different planning phases, from visioning to piloting, whilst reflecting on spatial justice implications.

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Photo: Jason Goodman in Unsplash

Key Objectives

- Enable participants to design participatory processes guided by strategic planning theory and grounded in spatial justice.

- Explore how participation tools align with planning phases and spatial justice dimensions.

- Collect structured feedback on strategies for participatory planning via a poster.

- Build a network to exchange and disseminate practical strategies for participatory planning.

Expected Outcomes

- Interactive poster activity to gather feedback on participatory planning strategies from the discussion and case studies.

- Participants will receive a set of tool cards featuring the participatory platforms and methods developed across the project.

- The cards are designed to support post-workshop reflection and inspire continued conversations with colleagues - offering practical ideas for embedding participation and spatial justice into urban planning practice.

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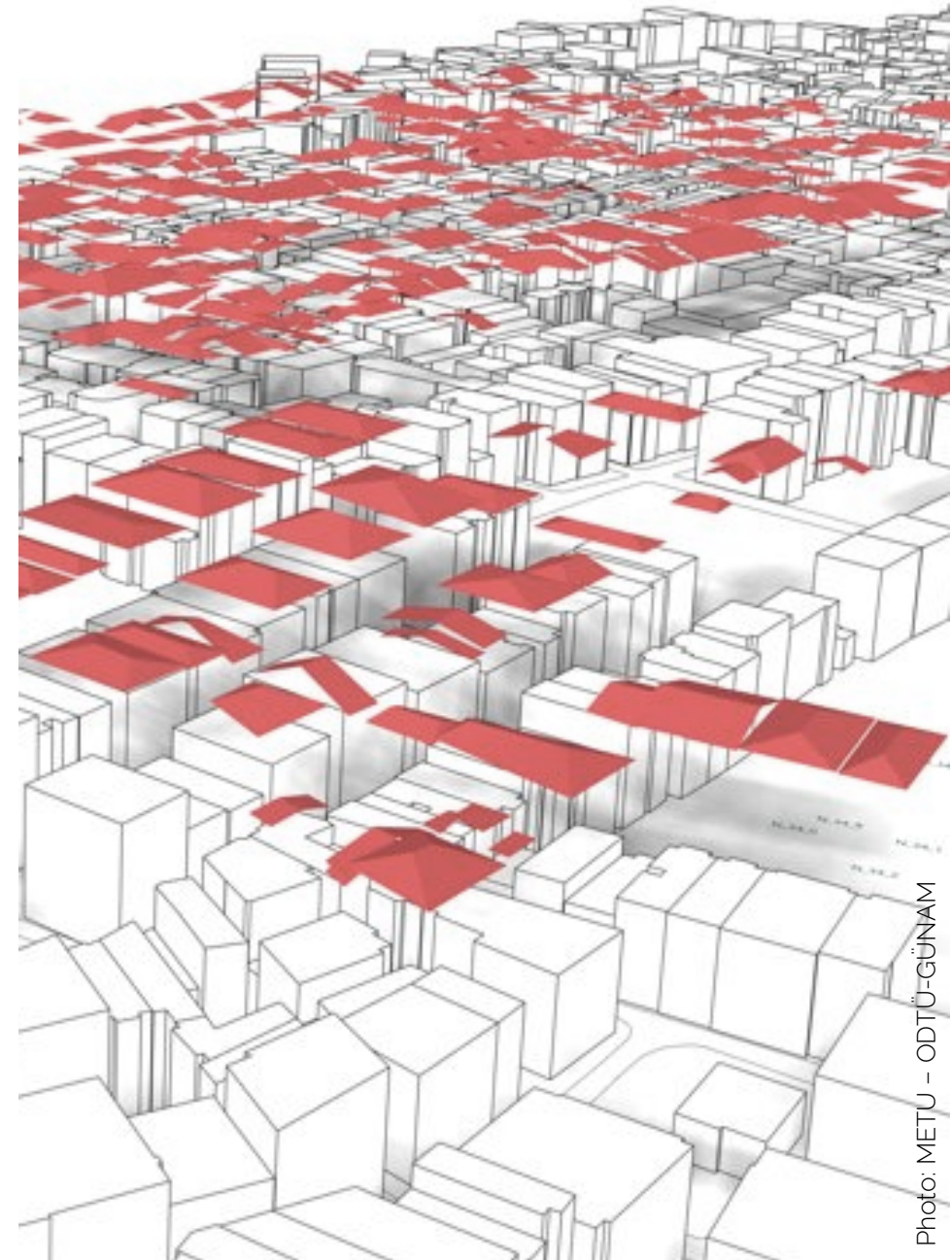
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Workshop & tool demonstrator

Organized by Middle East Technical University (METU)
& Center for Solar Energy Research & Applications (ODTÜ-GÜNAM)

Demos: METU, ODTÜ-GÜNAM, CIRCE, MAGGLIOLI, ETH Zürich

Digital tools supporting buildings decarbonization in an urban context

This session will introduce the Integrated Digital Twin—a suite of digital tools co-developed by four partners to accelerate decarbonization in the built environment. With a focus on building energy renovations from 2025 to 2050, the session will feature live demonstrations, insights from tool integration, and an open discussion on how digital and data-driven technologies can support the energy transition in buildings.

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Photo: METU – ODTÜ-GÜNAM

Key Objectives

- Demonstrate the functionalities and integration of advanced digital tools for urban decarbonization.

- Showcase the capabilities of the Integrated Digital Twin, combining building energy modeling, AI, 2D/3D visualization, and life cycle emission analysis.

- Assess energy renovation strategies through scenario-based simulations, including improvements in building envelopes, heat pump deployment, and rooftop PV integration.

- Provide decision-makers with a robust digital environment to evaluate multiple variables at the urban scale, such as long-term energy consumption, emission reductions as well as LCA and economic indicators.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of how integrated digital tools support data-driven urban decarbonization strategies.

- Practical insights into evaluating renovation scenarios using multi-dimensional indicators.

- Feedback from stakeholders on improving tool usability and integration.

Photo: METU – ODTÜ-GÜNAM

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Scaling Up Urban Climate Solutions for achieving climate neutrality

How do cities move beyond pilots to deliver scalable, climate-neutral urban solutions? This workshop presents tools, financial models, and governance strategies tested by more than 10 cities. Designed for urban planners, municipal leaders, and solution providers, it offers practical pathways to expand demonstration projects into investable, city-scale interventions.

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Photo: FORTYTWO in Unsplash

Key Objectives

- Share practical tools and frameworks for scaling urban pilots into citywide, investable solutions.

- Highlight real-world strategies from 10 UP2030 cities on governance, finance, and implementation.

- Equip city actors with methods to assess readiness, unlock funding, and overcome institutional barriers.

- Enable dialogue between cities, solution providers, and financiers on scaling challenges and opportunities.

Expected Outcomes

- Access to tools and proven approaches for scaling.

- Insights into enablers of successful upscaling—political, institutional, and financial.

- New cross-sector collaborations.

- Actionable lessons to guide planning and investment-readiness for climate-neutral cities.

Photo: FORTYTWO in Unsplash

Round table

Organized by University of Cambridge (UCAM)

With tool presentations from: Buro Happold, TSPA, UCCRN, AQUATEC, LNEC, Deltares, Links Foundation and UCAM

Data Governance and digital planning

Digital planning is increasingly central to shaping climate-neutral, just and resilient cities. This round table session brings together digital tool developers and urban practitioners to exchange insights on practical applications, technical capabilities, and real-world case studies. After a series of brief presentations, participants will engage in an open dialogue exploring how these tools can be adapted to diverse urban contexts and how collaboration can be deepened. Drawing on experiences from UP2030, the session will also reflect on lessons learned in co-developing tools with cities, offering a unique opportunity to align future efforts across projects and partnerships.

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Registration, logistics package and contact

Please scan to register!
Or click here.

You can download the logistics package **here**, or from the information tab found on the registration page.

Further information on the event will be updated through the UP2030 website

For questions, please contact:
events-up2030@iao.fraunhofer.de