

MERGING THE SPLIT: CONVERTING SPACES INTO PLACES

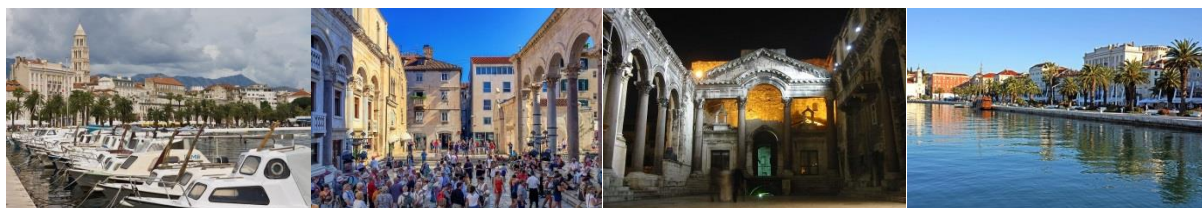
International conference on integrated urban development and placemaking

SPLIT, 25-26 April, 2019 **(Save the date!)**

Main venue: Dom mladih (*Multimedia culture centre*), Ulica slobode 28, Split, Croatia

+ field trips and on-site workshops on locations in Split, Solin, Šibenik and Zadar

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



CONFERENCE VISION:

The event is hosted by City of Split and organized by the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia and other partner organisations with the aim to be a conference for and about cities.

Contemporary cities are facing the economic pressure to utilize their resources as additional sources of public revenues. This leads to the risk of public space commercialization which is followed by additional negative side-effects for urban life (gentrification, loss of the commons, environmental issues and the like), jeopardizing one of the main city functions: to be a common place in which inhabitants fulfill their social, cultural and other citizen needs. **The contradiction between economic demands and social needs results in the emergence of a split that is becoming a real challenge for today's urban communities.** The goal of the conference is to explore the existing possibilities and tools to merge this urban split through strengthening participatory and integrated approach in shaping public places and urban development.

Cities are prosperous and vital as long as they have active and engaged citizens. Citizens who care about their city, and how it functions, also care about public space and quality of life in their cities. First citizen is usually the City Mayor, followed by citizens who work in city administration and citizens who are urban professionals (architects, urban planners, traffic engineers and others) but citizens are all other people who live in city and want to be engaged in creating public space. This conference is for all of them.

Conference aims to gather 250 participants (among them nearly 60 creators or contributors to programme) that will include representatives of the relevant Croatian ministries, agencies and cities, local and foreign urban experts and professionals, students, activists from civil sector organizations and citizens' associations with others who consider themselves placemakers or are interested in making their cities a better place for living.



CONFERENCE GOALS:

- **Involve interested participants in creating public space** and familiarize them with available sustainable urban development practices and methodologies (results and examples of good practices)
- **Transfer the knowledge and share experience** among city professionals and experts
- **Motivate participants of the conference to engage in participatory processes** in creating public spaces
- **Demonstrate methodology of involving the public** in local stakeholders' groups to participate in the creation of public space through concrete field activities
- **Discuss current issues and problems in creating public space** and encourage public debate and engagement of the public in their resolution, **with raising citizens awareness about the public space** as their own resource and their right to be involved in public space creation
- **Emphasize the value and importance of public space as an irreversible resource**
- Enable space for **strengthening European Placemaking Network**



MAIN THEMES OF THE PROGRAMME:

- **Public participation in the process of creating public space**
Methods of inclusion, methods of work, process stages, results, documentation and monitoring using URBACT and placemaking methodologies;
- **Touristification and Post-Tourism**
What kind of programs, practices and models of co-creation can reaffirm the public space in cities that have undergone touristification and gentrification processes;
- **Public spaces along the coast**
Current trends and issues related to public space along the coast and challenges of preserving it for public usage;
- **Cultural heritage as public space**
Methods and ways of transforming cultural heritage into active public spaces, problems and challenges, examples of good practice;
- **Regeneration and redevelopment of city areas;**
- **Liveliness of Small Towns**
What are the problems and challenges of small towns and how can they be solved in order to make towns more lively and vital for their citizens? How can redevelopment of neglected urban area transform the city? Methods and examples of good practices are to be shown
- **Public Space and Urban Mobility;**
What is the link between public spaces and urban mobility? What methods and tools can we utilize in improving urban mobility with special attention to public transportation walkability and accessibility?
- **Finances and participatory budgeting for Urban development;**
How to budget and finance city development and public projects and make them participatory and citizen oriented. What are the challenges in introducing participatory budgeting for urban development? What are the possibilities of crowdfunding for urban development projects?
- **Children and young people in creating public space**
How to create public space in regard to the needs of children and youth and how to involve them in placemaking, how to create and implement methodologies within educational institutions;



CONFERENCE FORMAT AND PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

Working language of conference is English with translation of certain parts of the program to Croatian.

The conference will consist of plenary part (day 1) and interactive workshops and panels held in main venue (day 1&2) and on-site workshops (day 2) and tactical urbanism activities that will be held on sites in Cities of Split, Solin, Šibenik and Zadar.

Your proposal may follow the following formats:

- **A) Be part of a Workshop** – present a case, story, example of good practice or your work that is relevant/in tune to main themes of conference (duration 15-20 minutes) as a part of one workshop. Be prepared to be connected to other contributors and moderator of workshop for mutual development, preparation and implementation of workshop. Workshop format includes presentation and working parts (active work with cca 30-50 participants of workshop on proposed themes).
- **B) Be part of a Panel** – present a case, story, example of good practice or your work that is relevant/in tune to main themes of conference (duration 15-20 minutes) as a part of one panel. Be prepared to be connected to other contributors and moderator of panel for joined development, preparation and implementation of panel. Panel format includes presentation part and discussion part (including Q&A from cca 30-50 participants of panel on proposed themes).
- **C) Propose Workshop** – present a case, story, example of good practice or your work that is relevant/in tune to main themes of conference in workshop block (duration 120 minutes). Workshop is conducted by moderator and up to 4 contributors/presenters. Workshop format includes presentation part and working part (active work with cca 30-50 participants of workshop on proposed themes).
- **D) Propose Panel** – present a case, story, example of good practice or your work that is relevant/in tune to main themes of conference in panel block (duration 120 minutes). Panel is conducted by moderator and up to 4 contributors/presenters. Panel format includes presentation part and discussion part (including Q&A from cca 30-50 participants of panel on proposed themes).



Please note that conference has a strong preference for workshops and panels of combined contributors from various cities in Croatia, Europe and elsewhere that are going to be connected on similar themes and subjects and challenged to conduct workshop/panels collaborating as a team. That is in tune with main conference goals, vision and limitation on number of slots for each focus area. In addition to that, the collaborative approach will help in strengthening European (and broader) ties between placemakers/contributors.

Please send your proposal (one or more) and state chosen format (A,B,C or D) as a .pdf file of maximum 2 A4 pages (maximum 1000 words) to Marko Ercegović at marko@udrug-gradova.hr. Each proposal should contain info on chosen topic/theme, methodology (in case of proposed workshop), expected goals or outcomes, and a CV or short biography of contributor(s).

The Call for Proposals closes on November 20, 2018 at 23:59 pm CET.

We will contact you 2 weeks after the deadline for submission with the feedback on your proposal.

Please note that there is no financial compensation for selected proposals, while travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the organiser on case by case basis.