

under the sponsorship of

invite to a conference supporting

RESEARCH ALLIANCES FOR CLIMATE-NEUTRAL, SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES

ROME, 26-28 FEBRUARY 2025

Location: CNR NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL Headquarter
PIAZZALE ALDO MORO, 7 - **ROME**

26th and 27th open to the public.

28th UERA members only

[On line registration](#)

[CALL FOR PAPERS Day 2](#)

It is with great pleasure that Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis of the National Research Council (CNR-IMAA), Italian National Agency for the New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Development (ENEA), and Urban Europe Research Alliance (UERA) welcome you to the conference on Research Alliances for Climate-Neutral, Sustainable and Equitable Urban Communities.

In an era dominated by climate change, social inequality, and urban transitions, innovative and collaborative responses are more urgent than ever. These challenges demand technological solutions and diverse perspectives to create sustainable futures. The issues are global, transcending borders, and require integrated approaches addressing economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

Our mission is to explore how cross-disciplinary, cross-sector, and transnational collaborations can transform urban and vulnerable communities into resilient, sustainable spaces. Prioritizing climate neutrality, social inclusion, and equity, we aim to develop models balancing economic growth, environmental stewardship, and human well-being. This approach emphasizes local knowledge, cultural sensitivity, and grassroots initiatives while amplifying marginalized voices and addressing systemic inequities.

This event convenes experts from academia, government, industry, and civil society to foster interdisciplinary exchanges and strategize actionable solutions. Through workshops, panels, and case studies, participants will examine successful sustainability models, explore emerging technologies, and identify opportunities to scale localized solutions. Topics include circular economies, regenerative agriculture, smart cities, and renewable energy integration, offering practical insights to inspire new research and partnerships.

More than a conference, this gathering spark ongoing dialogues and partnerships. Together, we will craft a roadmap for a sustainable, equitable future, turning shared challenges into opportunities for a healthier planet and society.

We look forward to the inspiring conversations and breakthroughs that will emerge from our discussions!

Scientific Committee:

Paola Clerici Maestosi (ENEA), Roberta Chiarini (ENEA), Carmelina Cosmi (CNR), Enza Lissandrello (AAU)

Organizational Board: Monica Proto (CNR-IMAA), Michela Pirro (ENEA)

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Agenda day 1: 26th February

MARCONI ROOM

SESSION 1 09:00-11:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Research Alliances for Climate-Neutral, Inclusive, and Equitable Urban/Rural Communities

- Francesco PETRACCHINI (CNR Head of the Department of Earth System Sciences and Environmental Technologies)
- Stefano PIZZUTI (Head of ENEA TERIN-ICER)
- Enza LISSANDRELLO (Aalborg University and Urban Europe Research Alliance UERA Coordinator)

09:30-13:00

SESSION 1 Overview on climate neutrality: European emerging new directions

Moderator: Paola CLERICI MAESTOSI (ENEA Researcher, Driving Urban Transition Partnership PED Pathway vice-chair)

09:30-09:45 Providing an overview of European emerging directions on climate neutrality is important because it ensures that the discussions and collaborations are informed by the latest developments in policy, innovation, and funding. It enables participants to strategically align their efforts with Europe's pioneering goals for a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-neutral future.

09:45-10:00 Mission 100 CNC (Carlo Alberto Nucci, UniBO)

10:00-10:15 Mission Innovation UTM Urban Transitions Mission and UTM Centre (Elli Tzatzanis-Stepanovic, FFG) on line

10:15-10:30 EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change (TBC)

10:30-10:45 Net Zero City Platform (Francesca Rizzo, POLIMI)

10:45-11:00 Covenant of Mayors, (Valentina Palermo, JRC)

11:00-11:15 Coffee break ROOM LAGUNA

11:15-11:30 Partnership CET (Rachele Nocera, MUR)

11:30-11:45 Partnership DUT (Orsolya Küttel, FFG)

11:45-12:00 Partnership SBEP (Margherita Cappelletto, MUR)

12:00-12:15 European Urban Initiative (Daniela Patti, Eutropian) (TBC)

12:15-12:30 CapaCITIES (Elena Simion, UEFSCDI)

12:30-12:45 NEC Platform (Daniela Luise, Agenda21)

12:45-13:00 Wrap up and conclusion Paola CLERICI MAESTOSI

13:00-14:00 Lunch ROOM LAGUNA

OPENING AFTERNOON SESSIONS MARCONI ROOM

14:00-14:20 KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Overview on climate issue in Rome City Climate Contract (Edoardo ZANCHINI, Comune di Roma, Direttore Ufficio Clima) (TBC)

SESSIONS A MARCONI ROOM 14:20-19:00



Building Capacities for the Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission

14:20-15:30

SESSION A1 National platforms (showing the variety of situations in the CapaCITIES core countries) and Capacities Ambassadors

Moderator: Gudrun Haindlmaier (AIT)

14:20-14:30 Introduction (Gudrun Haindlmaier, AIT)

14:30-14:40 Presentation of national platforms in Sweden, Spain, Romania and Austria

14:40-15:10 Discussion: Lessons learned, success factors and aligning with the Cities Mission:

Viable Cities, Sweden (Maria Tengvard, Viable Cities)

CitiES2030, Spain (Julio Lumbreras, CitiES2030)

M100, Romania (Elena Simion, UEFSCDI)

XXX, Austria (Simon Schneider, Technikum-Wien) (TBC)

15:10-15:15 Q&A

15:15-15:30 Ambassador Concept within CapaCITIES (Monica Salvia, CNR)

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15:30-17:00

SESSION A2 Ambassadors Workshop: inspiring actions within the EU Climate Pact and good practices in Italy

Moderators: **Luciana Favaro e Gianni Tartari** (EUcliPA – European Climate Pact)

15:30-15:45 The European Climate Pact (Leonardo Di Filippo, Team leader - DG Clima) on-line

15:45-16:00 The EU Climate Pact in Italy – (Cecilia Trenti & Maria Guerrieri, Climate Alliance IT) on-line

16:00-16:15 From an informal community to an association: Learning from the experience of the Italian Ambassadors. (G. Tartari, EUcliPA)

16:15-16:30 Engaging citizens in a SECAP/CCC lab: the case of Padova (Luciana Favaro, EUcliPA)

16:30-16:45 FIRENZE PER IL CLIMA, an institutionalized experience of citizen engagement on climate and environmental policies – Dario Marmo, LAMA)

16:45-17:00 The Milan Citizens' Climate Assembly: participating in the ecological transition (Christina Paci, Comune di Milano) on-line

17:00-18:30

SESSION A3 Ambassadors Workshop: interactive section for a shared pathway

Moderators: **Monica Salvia e Filomena Pietrapertosa** (CNR)

17:00-17:30 Alignment Exercise

17:30-18:00 Looking for fundings opportunities

18:00-18:30 A joint Action Plan 2025-2027

SESSION B LIBRARY ROOM 14:20-18:30

14:20-16:00

SESSION B1 Urban Europe Research Alliance: Thematic Working Groups Activities

16:00-18:30

SESSION B2 DUT Partnership: Thriving Urban Areas in 2040: Navigating Crises and Uncertainty

PLENARY SESSION MARCONI ROOM

18:30-19:00

JOINT WRAP UP AND CONCLUSION

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Agenda Day 2: 27th February

Sustainable and Climate-Neutral Cities for Inclusive and Equitable Urban Futures-Urban Europe Research Alliance CONFERENCE 2025

The Day 2 will be dedicated to the UERA Conference 2025. Scientific presentations are aimed at clarifying innovative approaches and at the nexus of climate neutrality, sustainability, and social equity in urban settings. Submissions may take the form of theoretical frameworks, empirical case studies, or visionary proposals aimed at exploring urban sustainability paradigms.

Authors wishing to submit a paper or a work in progress must prepare an abstract in English, ranging from 200 to 300 words. Abstracts are welcome to advance new planning and governance perspectives and strategies for Europe's city-regions, generating a debate on challenges and opportunities in the context of Sustainable and Climate-Neutral Cities for Inclusive and Equitable Urban Futures promoting potential pathways for EU's spatial policy by scrutinizing critical aspects. UERA Conference 2025 will provide a forum for partnership and consolidation of collaboration for future Urban Europe Research Alliances and policies. All submissions will undergo a review process by the Scientific Committee.

Abstracts must articulate their connection to the conference themes, delineating the rationale, objectives, methodologies employed, and validation through relevant case studies (if applicable). Additionally, key findings and conclusions should be clearly stated. Authors are required to indicate their preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster). It is mandatory for at least one author to be present in person during the presentation.

Deadlines for abstracts:

Submission of abstracts deadline: 3rd February 2025

Notification of acceptance by mail: 10th February 2025

MARCONI ROOM

SESSION 1 09:00-11:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Moderator: **Enza Lissandrello** (Aalborg University and Urban Europe Research Alliance UERA Coordinator)

- Edoardo Croci (Bocconi University, UERA Chair)
- Giulia Monteleone (Department of Energy Technologies and Renewable Sources, Head of Department TERIN: the activities of TERIN Department for Climate-neutral and equitable communities)
- Elisabetta Salvatori (Department for Sustainability, Circularity and Climate Adaptation, Head of Section Integrated and Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Regeneration (SSPT-NATURB))
- Carmelina Cosmi (CNR-IMAA)

Keynote speakers and selected papers - 09:40 - 11:00

Moderator: **Roberta Chiarini** (ENEA)

- 09:40-10:00 Sonia Giovinnazzi (ENEA and EERA Joint Programme on Smart Cities Coordinator)
- 10:00-10:20 Melissa Sessa (CNR-IRPI)
- 10:20-10:40 Jessica Simmons and Matteo Scarfé
- 10:40-11:00 Selected papers

11:00-11:15 Coffee break and Informal Exchange Break - Video and Publications Area - Laguna Room

SESSION 2 11:15- 13:00

Keynote speakers and selected papers

Moderator: **Pia Laborgne** (KIT)

- 11:15-11:35 Rachel Aldred (University of Westminster) on line
- 11:35-11:55 Francesco Scorza (University of Basilicata)
- 11:55-12:45 Selected papers
- 12:45-13:00 Q&A

13:00-14:00 Lunch - Laguna Room

SESSION 3 14:00 - 15:30

Keynote speakers and selected papers

Moderator: **Stephen Venn** (Lodz University)

- 14:00-14:20 Sonja Gantioler (EURAC Research Center)
- 14:20-14:40 Ursula Eicker (Concordia University)
- 14:40-15:00 Selected papers
- 15:00-15:30 Q&A

15:30-15:45 Coffee break and Informal Exchange Break -Video and Publications Area - Laguna Room

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SESSION 4 16:00 -17:30

UERA Panel Session - Selected papers and Posters

Moderator: Carmelina Cosmi (CNR-IMAA)

16:00-17:00 Selected papers

17:00-17:30 Short Discussion Session

SESSION 5 17:30 -18:00

OPEN Discussion, COST Action Proposal, Wrap up & Conclusive Remarks

Moderator: Enza Lissandrello

Building new orientative futures – Key questions

Agenda Day 3: 28th February

UERA General Assembly (Restricted to UERA Members)

MARCONI ROOM

PLENARY SESSION 09:00-13:00

NEW UERA FUTURE VISION CONSIDERING THE OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE.

09:00-10:30 Presentation of working group activities and future overview

10:30-10:45 - Coffee break and Informal Exchange Break – Video and Publications Area – Laguna Room

10:45-13:00 Discussion on given topic:

- Action points
- New Editorial initiatives
- Call for Papers deadlines
- Presentation of new members
- Election of new members
- Voting for the UERA Chair position
- Cost Action
- Common Case Studies

13:00-14:00 – Lunch and Farewell