

# ACT NOW

MAYORS' CONFERENCE

8-10 MAY 2022  
STUTTART/GERMANY



**PARTICIPATION  
FACTORY +++**



**Urban Future.**



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# FOREWORDS



**Alexandra Sussmann,**  
Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs and  
Integration, Stuttgart, Germany

## LOCAL ALLIANCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Cities need to develop targeted solutions to long-term global changes such as climate change and digitalisation. They need to react quickly to current challenges, including receiving and supporting refugees, in particular since 2015, and currently for those fleeing Ukraine. This calls for close cooperation with government agencies, but also with civil society initiatives. Stuttgart has implemented successful collaborations which contribute to socially-minded, inclusive, democratic, and sustainable urban development. The ACT NOW Mayors' Network is a good platform for exchanges on best practice. We look forward to new impulses emerging from the international cooperation at this year's conference in Stuttgart.



**Patricia Kahane,**  
Founder, Innovation in Politics Institute

## COMING TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS

The war in Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the entire world. The suffering of those on the ground and those forced to flee their homes touches us deeply. Beyond Europe, the impact of the war in the field of food products like wheat, grains and sunflower oil will be enormous for countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Every one of us commits to the responsibility to show solidarity with our European neighbours and with all those affected by war, taking whatever action we can to help.

Cities in Europe and beyond are already welcoming refugees from Ukraine into their communities. This vast logistical undertaking means not only arranging for accommodation, but also placing children in schools, and ensuring new arrivals get the support they need. This Mayors' conference brings local leaders together to discuss these needs, to find new solutions and establish cross-border co-operation. It stands for shared values, democracy, peace, and international support. Thank you for being part of it.





**Mathis Dippon,**  
Programme Manager, ACT NOW

## **GLOBAL CRISES REQUIRE LOCAL LEADERSHIP**

Climate change, the pandemic, rising populism, and now the war in Ukraine. The global crises of our times can seem too complex and immense to tackle. Yet contradictory though it may appear, it is local communities that are best placed to confront them effectively. It is at the local level that participatory innovation happens, showing citizens how sustainable, tangible change can make all of our lives better.

This doesn't happen by itself. It calls for committed individuals to lead the way, taking risks and advancing agendas for transformative action. Leaders who build broad coalitions and develop convincing narratives, implementing smart, sustainable and context-sensitive practices.

The ACT NOW Mayors' Conference is a place for just such leaders. It offers expertise, new perspectives, and ideas, as well as a supportive community and knowledge transfer to inspire them to make a difference back home. Sharing our experiences leaves us better equipped to meet the global challenges ahead – at the local level, together. We hope the conference will help you to prepare for transformative action in your community.



## **A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

### **NETWORKING**

Connect with an international and vibrant community of like-minded and value-driven local change-makers.

### **INSPIRATION**

Learn from renowned experts and those working in the field about cutting-edge policies in Europe and MENA on a wide range of topics.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Learn new skills and tools to help you be a better change-maker.

### **REENERGEISE**

Be part of an uplifting and positive community who are facing similar challenges and working for the same cause.

# FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS



**Remigijus Šimašius**  
Mayor of Vilnius,  
Lithuania



**Alexandra Sußmann**  
Deputy Mayor for Social  
Affairs and Integration,  
City of Stuttgart, Germany



**Leoluca Orlando**  
Mayor of Palermo,  
Italy



**Jinnih Beels**  
Vice Mayor of  
Education and Youth,  
Antwerp, Belgium



**Umberto Costantini**  
Mayor of Spilamberto,  
Italy



**Carla Nunes Semedo**  
Executive Councillor of  
Cascais, Portugal



**George Antoun**  
Host of the ACT NOW  
Mayors' Network,  
Lebanon



**Dirk Neubauer**  
Mayor of Augustusburg,  
Germany



**Katarzyna  
Gruszecka-Spychala**  
Deputy Mayor of  
Gdynia, Poland



**José Manuel Ribeiro**  
Mayor of Valongo,  
Portugal



**Matthias Weber**  
Strategic Designer,  
Urban Change  
Academy, Germany



**Marc Serra**  
Councilor for Citizenship,  
Participation and Global  
Justice of Barcelona, Spain



**Vaida Aleknavičienė**  
Deputy Mayor of  
Joniskis, Lithuania



**Piotr Borawski**  
Deputy Mayor of  
Gdansk, Poland



**Marie Wutzler**  
Design Thinking Expert,  
Innovation in Politics  
Institute, Germany



**Christoph Meineke**  
Expert in Digital Leader-  
ship for Local Politics  
and Government,  
Germany



**Isabella Conti**  
Mayor of San Lazzaro  
di Savena, Italy



**Wojciech Bakun**  
Mayor of Przemyśla,  
Poland



**Yehia Daher**  
Mayor of Qaraoun,  
Lebanon



**Eleni Zervoudaki**  
Deputy Mayor of  
Chania, Greece



**Katya Petrikevich**  
Public Participation  
and Civic Tech Expert,  
Participation Factory,  
Czech Republic



**Tjark Bartels**  
Expert in Local  
Government  
Innovation, Germany



**Urban Strandberg**  
Managing  
Director, International  
Youth Think Tank,  
Sweden

# FORMATS

## PANELS

Hear from leading Mayors and local government experts from around Europe to spark new ideas and learn about interesting trends to help you bring about local innovation across economy, climate, democracy and society.

## BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGE

Learn how to adapt cutting-edge policies and projects from our extensive best practice database in your local context.

## FIRESIDE CHATS

Sit down with well-known leaders on the forefront of local innovation to have more in-depth conversations.

## FIELD TRIPS

Our host city Stuttgart is home to a wide range of local innovation, providing all of us with an ideal learning opportunity. Participants can choose from among a range of different topics and visit related lighthouse projects. You will gain first-hand insight into local challenges and best practices to inspire you for projects in your hometown.

## LOCAL LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

Examine real-world scenarios and expand your knowledge to enable self-directed learning for your local challenges.

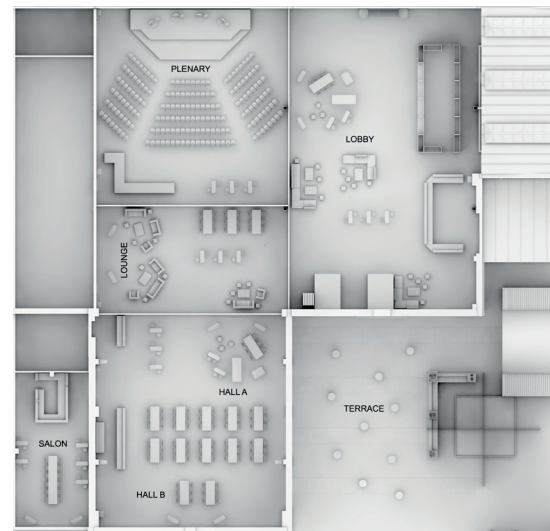
## CO-CREATION SESSIONS

Have your say on how future projects and advocacy should look: your expertise is the conference's greatest asset!

## INNOVATOR PITCHES

Participants from last year's „Local Lab“ have the opportunity to present their projects on stage, benefitting from the immense expertise of fellow local leaders. Learn about the projects, and share your input with like-minded innovators.

# VENUE



**CONFERENCE VENUE**  
Wagenhallen Stuttgart  
Innerer Nordbahnhof 1  
70191 Stuttgart

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN STUTTGART

Stuttgart has a well-developed public transport system with good access to all parts of the city. We recommend either buying your tickets (single or day tickets) online or at a ticket center, e.g. at the train station.

### WIFI AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Name: WH Guests  
Passwort: guests@kleinerraum

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

European Emergency Number: 112  
Police: 110  
Taxi: +49 711 5510000 or  
+49 176 88142597  
ACT NOW team: +43 670 2086889

### COVID-19 SAFETY STRATEGY

We will check your COVID-19 certificates upon arrival in the registration area. You will need to prove that you are either fully vaccinated or recently recovered, or alternatively show a valid negative test result.

### IMAGE RIGHTS

We take photos and videos during the conference, which will be used for marketing purposes in future. Please approach the photographers / videographers and the conference team if you do not want your image to be used.

### PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Our photographer gives you the option of having a portrait photo taken during the conference. Please approach him directly if you would like a photo. The photos will be available for download after the conference.





# CORE THEMES

## MAYORS FOR MAYORS: WE STAND WITH UKRAINE

The war on Ukraine calls on us all to show solidarity and support for our European neighbours. We invite Ukrainian mayors to share their situation and needs, and tell us how we can help. Participating mayors will have the opportunity to express their solidarity and offer concrete assistance to their Ukrainian colleagues. Moreover, as Ukrainian refugees continue to arrive in cities across Europe, we reflect on learnings from previous refugee movements.



## ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Local economies, high streets and city centres have all suffered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local leaders need to find new ways to regenerate their regional and local economies. We will show you how to implement such processes and best practices from around Europe to create agile, sustainable and digital solutions.



## CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate crisis is one of the greatest threats to our society. Municipalities are confronted with huge responsibilities to reduce carbon emissions, adapt citizens' habits and provide protection from changing weather conditions. Together we will find ways to make your communities more resilient and better prepared for the effects of climate change.

## DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS








The rise of populism and illiberal democracies poses a major threat to democracy around the world. Yet local communities have proven to be important strongholds, increasing democratic resilience and empowerment. The conference will give participants insights into promising new participative approaches to make democracy more inclusive, responsive and powerful.



## SOCIAL COHESION








The pandemic has brought to the forefront a series of tensions and divisions endangering our peaceful coexistence. Mayors and other local leaders are under immense pressure, and are also subjected to hate speech and other forms of antagonism. We will highlight ways to counteract polarisation, regulate conflicts and build cohesive communities.

# SUNDAY, 8 MAY 2022

TIME <small>*TIMES IN CET</small>	AGENDA
1:00 pm	Arrival at the Venue & Registration
2:00 pm	<b>Opening Ceremony:</b> Greetings & Ukrainian mayors share their situation and needs <i>Plenary</i>
2:45 pm	<b>Panel:</b> Local responses to the war in Ukraine <i>Plenary</i> 
3:30 pm	Coffee Break
4:00 pm	<div> <b>Workshop Sessions</b> </div> <div> <div> <b>Best Practice Exchange:</b> Supporting vulnerable groups <i>Lobby</i>   </div> <div> <b>Fireside Chat:</b> The reception of refugees - how to accommodate refugees <i>Lounge</i>  </div> <div> <b>Local Leadership Training:</b> Local leadership in the digital age <i>Salon</i> </div> <div> <b>Co-Creation Session:</b> POLIS - Connecting Political Professionals <i>Hall A</i>  </div> <div> <b>Co-Creation Session:</b> Engagement Global - Learnings from the Middle East programme <i>Hall B</i>  </div> </div>
5:00 pm	Coffee Break
5:30 pm	<b>Panel:</b> Discovering the potential of local economies <i>Plenary</i> 
6:30 pm	<b>Aperitivo &amp; Networking</b> <i>Terrace</i>
7:30 pm	<b>Dinner</b> <i>Hall A &amp; B</i>



# MONDAY, 9 MAY 2022

TIME *TIMES IN CET	AGENDA					
9:00 am	Arrival at the Venue					
9:30 am	Panel: Local leadership for climate action <i>Plenary</i> 					
10:30 am	Coffee Break					
11:00 am	Workshop Sessions	<b>Best Practice Exchange:</b> Communities for climate action  <i>Lobby</i> 	<b>Fireside Chat:</b> Young mayors - how to lead at a young age  <i>Lounge</i> 	<b>Local Leadership Training:</b> Marie Wutzler: A design sprint for the city hall - the Local Lab methodology  <i>Salon</i>	<b>Best Practice Exchange:</b> Making rural economies attractive  <i>Hall A</i> 	<b>Local Leadership Training:</b> Using Data for better decision making  <i>Hall B</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch					
1:00 pm	Panel: Can technology save local democracy? <i>Plenary</i> 					
2:00 pm	Coffee Break					
2:30 pm	Workshop Sessions	<b>Best Practice Exchange:</b> State-of-the-art local participation  <i>Lobby</i> 	<b>Fireside Chat:</b> Youth participation in MENA communities - how can mayors and young people collaborate successfully  <i>Lounge</i> 	<b>Local Leadership Training:</b> Stay healthy in local leadership - handle public pressure  <i>Salon</i>	Youth Taking Lead for Empowerment and Democracy Innovation  <i>Hall A</i> 	<b>Local Leadership Training:</b> Urban Creativity Now! Creating the post-Covid city  <i>Hall B</i>
4:00 pm	Closing Ceremony					
6:00 pm	Evening Reception at Stuttgart City Hall with Alexandra Sußmann / Mayors only					

**PLEASE NOTE** that we ask the participants to make their own transport arrangements to the locations of the field trips. There is the possibility to join a group starting from the Mercure Hotel Stuttgart City Center (see times below), or alternatively, you make your own way to the starting point. All locations are easily accessible via public transport. Please make sure to arrive at the locations on time, otherwise you will not be able to attend.

## Rethinking the industrial estate: Agriculture meets manufacturing

**Duration:** 9:00 - 11:30 am  
**Location:** Marktplatz 1,  
70734 Fellbach

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 8:30 am



## Rethinking global development - implement SDGs

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Charlottenplatz 17,  
70173 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:30 am



## Holistic social infrastructure

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Kegelenstraße 21,  
70372 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:25 am



## Boosting youth employment

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Jägerstraße 14,  
70174 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:30 am



## A digital platform to involve Stuttgart's citizens

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Katharinenstraße 21D,  
70182 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:20 am



## Making integration work

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Charlottenplatz 17,  
70173 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:30 am



## The future of living - an inclusive and sustainable quartier

**Duration:** 9:30 - 12:30 am  
**Location:** Fleiner Straße 9,  
70437 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 8:45 am



## A space to incubate innovative ideas

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Quellenstraße 7a,  
70376 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:15 am



## Modern waste treatment

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Voltastraße 45,  
70376 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:10 am



## Welcoming refugees

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Breitscheidstraße 2F,  
70174 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:30 am



## Urban climate change adaptation

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Eugensplatz,  
70182 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 9:25 am



## Implementing big infrastructure projects

**Duration:** 9:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Platform 16 at  
Stuttgart's main station

**Departure from:** Mercure Hotel  
**Departure at:** 8:30 am



## Virtual participation in city planning

**Duration:** 10:00 - 12:00 am  
**Location:** Nobelstr. 12,  
70569 Stuttgart

**Departure from:** Wagenhalle (Shuttle)  
**Departure at:** 9:20 am



# PROGRAMMES OF

# INNOVATION IN POLITICS INSTITUTE

Get to know the variety of programmes of the Innovation in Politics Institute and explore how you can connect/contribute to them.

## ACT NOW MAYORS' NETWORK

This community connects innovative and value-driven local leaders from locations in the Middle East through to Northern Europe.

*"Most municipalities are facing similar challenges, local leaders can learn a lot from each other on how to solve them. Therefore our activities foster hands-on mutual support and best practice exchange to bring about concrete local action."*

Mathis Dippon, Programme Manager

The ACT NOW Mayors' Network is always open for local leaders who share our principles and are committed to driving local action. A variety of benefits are waiting for you: Invitations to conferences, field trips and webinars for learning and exchange; access to international best practices and support for realising innovative projects.

Find out more:



## ACT NOW LOCAL LABS

The Local Labs are designed to unlock local potential and create tangible solutions. Drawing on innovative methods, like design sprints and hackathons, this effective participatory process allows participating communities to develop a solution for a pressing local challenge.

INNOVATIVE using a 'Design Thinking' process to lead to creative and bold solutions.

INCLUSIVE by inviting people from different backgrounds and communities to take part in their own language and experience self-efficacy.

IMPACT DRIVEN as all projects connect to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals while also being sensitive to the local context.

SUSTAINABLE our live-streamed conference removes the need to travel and reduces the carbon footprint as well as COVID-19 risks.

*"The crises of our times call for a new way of local problem-solving and policy making. We've developed this new methodology to achieve tangible change in communities in a creative but structured way. Now is the time for collaboration and bringing people together."*

Marie Wutzler, Project Manager

We are always happy to collaborate with organisations, networks, institutions, local councils, governments, and communities on specific challenges you're facing.

If you are interested in a tailored programme to kickstart local action in your community or in your network:



## EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF DEMOCRACY

The European Capital of Democracy Initiative is building a strong network of cities that will foster participation and change our world for the better. We are working together with citizens, politicians, and institutions all over Europe to celebrate, to strengthen and to secure our democratic future.

*"Fighting for democracy means fighting for peace. Cities are at the forefront of this struggle. The annual European Capital of Democracy will be a platform for constructive discourse and concrete examples how we can develop democracy in the 21st century."*

Helfried Carl, Managing Partner

Cities located within a Council of Europe member state and with a population of over 100,000, can apply to become the first ever European Capital of Democracy. You can also become part of the 10,000 strong Citizens' Jury who select the European Capital of Democracy.

Visit the website for more information on how to apply:



## INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

The annual Innovation in Politics Awards recognise creative politicians from across Europe who have the courage to break new ground to find bold solutions to today's challenges. A citizens' jury of over 1,000 Europeans evaluates the projects to determine the finalists and winners in the Awards' nine categories.

In autumn 2022, we will open for submissions for the next round. Sign up here for updates:



*"To some people, it seems as if innovation and politics don't go well together. But at the Innovation in Politics Awards, we can see politicians proving otherwise. With hundreds of projects submitted each year, politicians are trying to find new ways of approaching policies and politics – for the wellbeing of all citizens. We have seen that these politicians are more successful because they increase trust and confidence in democracy."*

Edward Strasser, CEO

## POLIS

In these troubling times, meaningful exchange with our peers from around the globe is more important than ever – especially for political professionals. Yet the sheer volume of different channels available can make it hard to focus on the connections that really matter. The ones that are indispensable to the work we do to strengthen our communities, and our democracies.

***„In the fight for democracy we will need weapons of mass connection. With POLIS, we are creating a next-generation network that is a haven for political professionals and will change the way you (net)work, connect and exchange know-how.“***

Josef Lentsch, Managing Partner

Learn more about POLIS and help to build it:



## DEMOCRACY TECHNOLOGIES

The use of Democracy Technologies is rapidly growing, as more and more political professionals are improving participation of citizens – with participatory budgeting, online voting and online deliberation. On [democracy-technologies.org](http://democracy-technologies.org) we are building a resource centre all about Democracy Technologies, so that both providers and the political world can exchange best practice and find the most suitable partners.

***“Democracy Technologies are on the rise. Together with political professionals and technology developers around the world, we are creating a room for exchange, know-how transfer and best practice. Join us by providing information about your projects and your tools, so that others can draw inspiration from your experiences.“***

Edward Strasser, Managing Partner

Get in touch:



# ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Innovation in Politics Institute is an international organisation that identifies, develops and applies innovation in politics - with the aim of strengthening democracy in Europe and beyond. Our mission is to support those individuals in politics who have the courage to break new ground, are creative and achieve better results - across political and geographical boundaries - to make democratic politics more successful. We develop long-term programmes with a positive impact on politics and society, such as awards for modern political work, training and networking opportunities for policy professionals, and platforms for the exchange of democratic practice. The Institute has offices in Berlin as well as Vienna and operates representative offices in another 19 countries.





# LET'S CONNECT!

## Join us to continue the conference's conversations on social media.

We will be posting live throughout the event. Please follow, share and post your own photos, videos and experiences on social media using the hashtag **#MayorsConf22** **#ACTNOWLocal**. Look out for your own posts on our channels!

 @actnowlocal

 @actnowlocal

 @actnowlocal

 ACT NOW

 Innovation in Politics Institute

### Scan this QR-Code:



To take you to our Google Drive folder. Here you will find suggested social media posts and photos from the conference.

If you use these photos on social media, please use this credit: Calvin Leander

***We can't wait to hear from you!***

