

Intelligent Cities Challenge

Thematic meeting on Renovation

26th January 2021

Summary Report

Thematic meeting on Renovation, January 26th, 2021

Agenda

Timing	Session & content
10:30 – 10:35	Introduction and welcome (Dana Eleftheriadou, European Commission, DG GROW)
10:35 – 10:40	Overall policy context on Renovation, Affordable Housing initiative , and the ESER call for cities (Ulla Engelmann, European Commission, DG GROW)
10:40 – 11:00	Introduction to the renovation topic and city-level examples (Giacomo Magnani & Lean Doody, Arup)
11:00 – 11:10	European Bauhaus Movement (Xavier Troussard, European Commission, JRC)
11:10 – 12:00	Examples on ICC cities' renovation projects and initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milan (Piero Pelizzaro, Chief Resilience Officer) • Lille Metropole (Christophe Bolot, Head of Lille Metropole EU Office) Q&A
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion round: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation needs • Inspiring renovation best practices • Collaboration appetite and concerns

73 participants took part in the Thematic meeting on Renovation. Followed by an introduction from Dana Eleftheriadou (European Commission), and presentations from Ulla Engelmann (European Commission), Giacomo Magnani and Lean Doody (Arup), and Xavier Troussard (European Commission), speakers from ICC cities provided insights on local renovation initiatives, respectively: Piero Pellizzaro (Milan) and Christophe Bolot (Lille Metropole).

Summary of presentations

Welcome and introduction – Dana Eleftheriadou (European Commission)

Dana Eleftheriadou welcomed the participants and introduced the Thematic meeting on Renovation. It was highlighted that renovation is a key priority in the Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC), as part of its thematic track on the Green economy and Local Green Deals. Dana explained that the objective of the meeting is to introduce the topic of renovation and the new European Bauhaus movement as well as to listen to ICC cities' experiences, practices and needs.

Presentation of Renovation policy context - Ulla Engelmann (European Commission)

Ulla Engelmann presented on the topic of renovation in the frame of the Recovery Plan for Europe. It was emphasised that the Member States have to submit national reforms and recovery programmes, therefore discussions are ongoing on what programmes will qualify. In this context, renovation can play an important role for the recovery of our economies.

The [Renovation wave](#) aims to renovate 35 million inefficient buildings by 2030, emphasising the importance of building renovation to reduce emissions and energy use. However, renovation should also take into account style and sustainability. The Renovation wave's priorities stem from energy poverty, renovation of public buildings, and decarbonisation of heating and cooling.

Ulla Engelmann presented the Affordable Housing Initiative, whose objective is to pilot the renovation of 100 social and affordable housing districts, using smart, digital and sustainable

technologies. The initiative also aims to test human-centred technologies at scale and promote social engagements and innovation to empower residents' voice. Furthermore, the application of innovations in districts can contribute to skills acquisition for workers in different industries. Cities can provide important contributions to such initiative, and there is a clear link to the ICC's priorities.

Lastly, Ulla Engelmann presented the European Social Economy Regions (ESER), a vibrant community of over 90 regional and local social economy practitioners who co-construct EU policy in social economy. It was mentioned that a [new ESER 2021 call](#) is open to newcomers until 15th February 2021. ESER 2021 will bring new thematic strands : the "ESER4Skills" strand on Proximity and Social Economy Ecosystem for Pact4Skills, and the "ESER4NEB" strand on the New European Bauhaus.

Introduction to the renovation topic and city-level examples – Giacomo Magnani & Lean Doody (Arup)

Giacomo Magnani (Arup, ICC consortium) introduced the ICC context on renovation and Arup as coordinators of the renovation Thematic Action Group (TAG). He explained the purpose of the Thematic meeting, to thereby introduce the topic of renovation and Bauhaus, to initiate an informal conversation with the ICC cities and get their views on relevant examples and pathways for collaboration.

The current challenges and needs of ICC cities within the renovation topic were briefly outlined, including energy retrofit of social housing, while preserving affordability and providing high-quality living environments, and support and development of green construction and green procurement, among others.

Giacomo Magnani provided an interpretation of what the renovation and the new Bauhaus may mean within the ICC. More precisely, three main pillars can be identified, aligned with the New European Bauhaus – sustainability, quality of experience, and inclusion – which are then translated into actionable solutions (renovation paradigms).

Three case studies that illustrate new trends in the field of renovation were presented:

- The [15-minute city](#), promoted initially by the city of Paris, aims to create neighbourhoods that provide all facilities and attractions which enable people to live locally.
- The [Champs Elysée urban garden](#) which aims to make the space "ecological, desirable and inclusive" by creating green areas and applying nature-based solutions. This initiative shows a will from the political leadership to question iconic places and explore how these can be lived by all.
- [LEMON \(Less Energy More Opportunities\)](#), a Horizon 2020 project applied in Parma and Reggio Emilia to pilot new financing tools to support energy retrofit of social housing.

European Bauhaus Movement - Xavier Troussard, Joint Research Centre

Xavier Troussard provided a presentation on the [New European Bauhaus](#) (NEB). The term was coined by the President of the European Commission and since then efforts have been made to develop such concept. The NEB goes beyond building and architecture and is rather about how we can live better together. It is a transversal project which brings together different professions and perspectives, and which should help bring the European Green Deal closer to people.

Different dimensions are combined under the NEB, namely sustainability (including circularity), aesthetics, and inclusions (accessibility and affordability).

The initiative is currently in its design phase. Delivery will concretise from 2021 and there will be a necessity for dissemination from 2022. The design phase is about exploring inspiring examples, ideas and visions, as well as challenges and needs. There will also be a prize in 2021 to reward inspirational examples.

ICC cities - examples on renovation programmes and initiatives

To facilitate the discussion of renovation needs and collaboration topics, two ICC cities – Milan and Lille Metropole – presented on respectively local renovation activities and needs.

a) Urgent actions and figures needed for a resilient city in the COVID era - Piero Pellizzaro, Milan

Piero Pellizzaro introduced the concept of resilience as key, both during an emergency and in its aftermath. The city of Milan is working to predict the post-emergency phase, and what can be learnt from this experience to increase the city's resilience in the future. Three pillars of the Recovery Plan Task Force were presented: green wayfinding, digital infrastructure, environmental transition. In particular, the latter was identified because it is a key priority of the European Commission, and also relevant to resilient and recovery funds.

One of the key measures on which the city of Milan has intervened relates to bringing back nature to the city. The following examples were provided:

- **“Piazze aperte”** (Open squares) is an initiative developed through a tactical urbanism approach. The objective is to bring back public squares at the centre of the life of neighbourhoods through spatial interventions. So far, 24 squares are being designed. The initiative aims to become a definitive solution for the city.
- **“Strade aperte”** (Open streets) is an initiative which, in light of COVID-19, aims to redefine the use of roads and public spaces. 35 km of new bike lanes have been developed as well as an extension of zone 30.
- **“From parklets to dehors”** is an initiative which was developed as an emergency measure for bars and restaurants which has become a definitive solution, with the aim of recovering part of the lost occupancy of interiors space.

The city council of Milan has also adopted, in December 2020, an Air and Climate Plan, which includes adaptation to climate change, mitigation, and air quality improvement. In addition, the Resilience Strategy for the Recovery Plan includes different goals among which are the promotion of resilient regeneration of public spaces, the implementation of green in the city, and financial instruments for urban regeneration.

b) The Lille Metropole experience of a multi-disciplinary, user-centred and design-oriented approach of a sustainable renovation momentum in the city - Christophe Bolot, Lille Metropole

Cristophe Bolot shared the city's approach to design, aimed at the improvement of the quality of life. He emphasised that there is a clear link between the city's strategy and the New European Bauhaus. As the NEB, the city's approach builds on co-creation, aesthetics, and sustainability, among others.

After being awarded the [World Design Capital 2020](#), the city launched a series of Proofs of Concepts (POCs), to receive proposals on ways to use design methodologies. More than 600 POCs were submitted and an exposition of POCs related to living environments was organised by Lille Metropole, called “La Maison POC Habiter”. For instance, the Habiter 2030 project was presented, bringing together financial and technological solutions to transform traditional townhouses.

The administration of Lille Metropole was also involved in proposing POCs. For instance, the programme [Amelio+](#) was launched, a programme providing technical and financial support to improve housing and tackle energy poverty. Additional examples include:

- DIY Concierge, developing a network of actors for services on DIY improvements.
- House Health Booklet, a guide to help people to renovate their houses.
- Affordable House Ownership, combining the steps to go through before buying a house.
- Deule Riverbanks, drawing a long-term vision for the transformation of this part of the city.

Discussion

Lean Doody (Arup, ICC consortium) animated the discussion and prompted the attendees to provide inputs via the [app.mural.co](#) application. The focus of the discussion was on topics of common interest for collaboration and on best practices.

Dana Eleftheriadou (European Commission) stressed the link between renovation and Bauhaus with the national recovery plans. Renovation is an important part of the recovery and a significant part of the budget will be provided by the EU for recovery projects.

Lean Doody (Arup) asked into how cities’ work and co-creation can contribute to shaping a design movement. Christophe Bolot (Lille Metropole) responded that for Lille the World Design Competition was the main reason attracting interest in the topic, but it is clear that there is an interest in continuing to be part of this experimentation wave and go forward with renovation. Piero Pelizzaro (Milan) added that all the initiatives that have given a framework for sustainability and resilience are useful. There are a lot of ongoing initiatives that are relevant to the Bauhaus, beyond those presented. However, when we push actions from public administrations, the market is not always ready. Therefore, there is a need to have dialogues to be aligned with the market. The speed and the collaborative approach are essential to make the new Bauhaus initiative not only a framework approach but something that can lead to transformation.

Natalia Gkiaouri (European Commission) asked Christophe Bolot how the people associated with the POC project were approached and engaged (e.g. on a voluntary basis) and if some outreach activities were put in place. Christophe Bolot (Lille Metropole) responded that many people were willing to be involved; the World Design Competition led to substantial outreach and communication which helped in gathering the main stakeholders. He added that the main positive lesson learnt from applying design to public policy is that design can be applied to any type of project.

In response to a question if and how the views of young people were taken into consideration, Christophe Bolot (Lille Metropole) explained that some of the POCs were directed to young people. Similarly, Piero Pelizzaro (Milan) mentioned that different city initiatives involved young

people but stressed that they focus more on the training of teachers, parents and professionals, as young people are often more aware of sustainability issues.

Dana Eleftheriadou (European Commission) mentioned that an increasing number of initiatives are arising to involve citizens in policy making and asked Piero Pelizzaro to provide information on such initiatives, such as the General Assembly initiative and participatory budgets. Piero Pelizzaro (Milan) explained that the city of Milan has had a participatory budget for 8 years. Every municipality government in the city has a participatory budget from the administration to be used to collect ideas and projects from the citizens. Most of these are looking at greening of the city. Milan has also launched a civic crowd funding to support social innovation businesses, which was coupled with EU funding. As regards to the General assembly, this is non-elective, and everyone can be part of it. They are currently reviewing the Climate Action Plan. However, normally the city of Milan works through a collaborative pact.

So far, 7 cities expressed interest in collaborating on energy retrofit of social housing, public buildings and built heritage, namely: Lille Metropole, Metropolitan Region of Amsterdam, Guimaraes, Porto, Bistrita, Szombathely and Alicante. In particular, Joana Restivo (Porto) mentioned that the city of Porto is interested in the interrelations between social housing and public spaces, and innovate solutions to make housing more affordable and available to all. Further to this, two cities (Gava and Diputacio de Alicante) expressed interest in green and smart construction / procurement, while Guimaraes and Bistrita flagged an interest in new local / reclaiming public space. Lastly, Lille Metropole and Szombathely both mentioned an interest in city-scale renovation.