



## City Dialogue: The Commons: a new direction for public action 17 June 10.00 CET

### Concept

Cities are the place where our communities come together, allowing citizens to meet, interact and commonly shape the civic public space. By increasingly coming together to collaboratively manage common pool resources, also known as the commons, they ensure these improve the quality of life and deliver for social, economic and environmental objectives.

For the commons to work, there are many enabling conditions that need to work in tandem, primarily to ensure a collective governance of shared resources. For this to happen, the role of city administrations is key.

The Urban Commons have been particularly central to tackle the tragic realities of the pandemic, and a resurgence of their centrality has filled the public debate in the past year. In this emergency context, cities have adopted and pioneered innovative approaches to deliver and manage public goods and services. These included, for instance, the support of fragile communities and individuals via solidarity networks, but also the co-management and co-creation of flexible green and public spaces that allowed unique opportunities for interaction.

Beyond the emergency context, cities are keen to use new collaborative frameworks to fuel innovation and support the development of a sharing and circular local economy (e.g. urban gardens and repair shops) with individuals, the environment and equity at the centre. City administrations are increasingly facilitating the co-management of ecological commons such as air, waterbodies and wetlands and of civic commons such as streets and sidewalks, public spaces and public transport. For this to happen, city administrations are experimenting together with citizens and increasingly looking at ways in which digital tools can support this trend.

This city dialogue, organised in the context of the Eurocities working group on creative citizenship, is an opportunity to bring together different actors and discuss the relevance of the Commons for cities post-Covid. We will hear about the initiatives brought forward by pioneering city administrations, and discuss trends and challenges towards the establishment of this new direction for public action.

### For more information

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## Agenda overview

Date- Time	Description
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Welcome by the Chair of the WG creative citizenship</b> Bassem Asseh, Nantes 1st Deputy mayor in charge of proximity, citizen dialogue, city policy, economy and employment
10.10 – 10.40	<b>Introduction to the Commons</b> Enacting the Commons by Sylvine Bois-Choussy, project manager at la 27è Region Q&A
10.40 – 11.25	<b>Trends and Good practices from the ground</b> Ghent “Civic estate”: a European practice to share innovative approaches to co-create and manage public spaces by Eleke Langeaert and Yoko Gesels Bologna “Pacts for collaboration”: a flexible framework to empower inhabitants and take care of urban commons Wigan (Greater Manchester) (tbc): a new deal to share responsibility on public services and public spaces?
11.25 – 12.00	<b>New Paths for public action in the city</b> An open discussion with city representatives and EU stakeholders Concluding remarks by WG creative citizenship chairs

### For more information

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## Meeting of the Working Group Creative Citizenship

*(Open to Eurocities members only)*

**17 June 14.30 CET**

### Agenda overview

Date- Time	Description
14.30 – 14.40	Introductions by WG chair
14.40 – 15.15	Study on how citizen participation is dealt by city administration Update on the first phase of the research, by Munich Questions and Feedback session with members on the next steps
15.15 – 15.40	Benchmarking neighbourhood communication strategies Presentation by Ghent Discussion with members
15.40 – 16.15	Updates from relevant EU initiatives Involvement of cities in the Conference on the Future of Europe and the New European Bauhaus by Eurocities secretariat / EU Funding/ Q&A
16.15 – 16.30	Concluding remarks and next steps Exchange on digital participatory tools in preparation of next Autumn meeting on the topic

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