

15th Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners

11 to 13 November 2026

National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC)

Lisbon, Portugal

Creating our futures

ECTP-CEU

European Council of Spatial Planners
Conseil européen des urbanistes



About the Biennale

The 15th Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners is set to take place!

Organised by the Associação Portuguesa de Urbanistas (APU) and the ECTP-CEU – European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil européen des urbanistes, the Biennale brings together spatial planners, researchers, policymakers, and representatives of public authorities from across Europe.

The ECTP-CEU invites spatial planners, researchers, policymakers and representatives of public authorities to submit papers and case studies for the upcoming Biennale. This edition explores “Time” as a vital dimension of space. We seek contributions that address the gap between rapid global shifts and the pace of spatial transformation.

Cities and regions have always evolved alongside cultural, social, environmental, and technological shifts. However, while the world transforms rapidly, the adaptive capacity of cities and their administration often lags behind. This Biennale examines whether cities, territories and communities can adapt in time to looming urgencies to remain the natural habitat of civilisations.

In an era of constant acceleration and on the verge of a new revolution, how do planners—traditionally the visionaries—anticipate this transformation? This event views urbanism through a temporal lens, treating time not just as a technical variable, but as a political, social, and cultural dimension that shapes how we live and imagine the urban future.



Thematic Tracks

Track 1: Time of the Process (Administrative Agility)

Planning processes are often slow and complex—this panel explores **European success stories that simplify and digitalise procedures to reduce administrative “downtime”** while maintaining transparency and quality.

- **Simplification and Digitalisation:** Strategies to make planning and management more efficient.
- **Regulatory Innovation:** Reforming planning approval and building permit processes without compromising rigour or transparency.
- **Predictable Governance:** Approaches to make administrative procedures more transparent and participatory.
- **Plan-making process:** Accelerating structure and land-use plans, as well as town planning schemes to more efficiently delivering industrial land or housing.

Track 2: Time of Execution (Construction & Circularity)

Implementation in the Right Time: Cities face growing demands for renewal, resilience, and housing—this panel will examine **best practices in construction solutions** that reduce costs and delivery time while enhancing environmental quality.

- **Industrialised Construction:** Off-site manufacturing, prefabrication, and BIM to reduce delivery times.
- **Circular Economy Timelines:** Designing for disassembly and managing the lifecycle of urban materials.
- **Urban Resilience:** Fast-tracking infrastructure for flood mitigation and heatwave adaptation.

- **Environmental Balance:** Planning green cities with nature-based solutions to reduce urban footprints while enhancing urban climate and community wellbeing through nature’s instrumental value.

Track 3: Time of People (Sovereignty & Rhythms)

As technology reshapes work and frees up human time, this panel examines **best practice in how urban design and public spaces can foster health, well-being, and social inclusion for people of all ages in cities.**

- **Chronourbanism:** Urban design that accommodates flexible work-life patterns and asynchronous societies.
- **Intergenerational Design:** Addressing the distinct needs of children and the elderly in the planning of public spaces.
- **The Right to Slowness:** Creating urban environments that promote mental health, leisure, and reflection.

Track 4: Time of New Frontiers (AI, Digital and Social Paradigms)

As AI reshapes how cities, regions and communities are conceived and perceived, this panel explores **best practices in data-driven spatial planning**, from territorial analysis to mobility forecasting, risk modelling, and the evaluation of public policy and solutions.

- **Scenario Simulation:** Using data to anticipate urban and territorial impacts and model future risks.
- **Evidence-Based Planning:** Case studies where AI assisted in policy evaluation and territorial analysis.
- **Ethics of Efficiency:** Ensuring human-centric and transparent decision-making in algorithmic urbanism.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission Guidelines

Interested contributors should submit an **Abstract (maximum 600 words)** outlining their proposed contribution. Authors should indicate whether they wish to give an **oral presentation** or **present a poster within their preferred Track**.

Case Studies: Practitioners are encouraged to submit “lessons learned” from real-world projects. These should be either implemented or in the process of implementation.

Research papers and projects that have not yet been implemented may also be submitted. However, preference will be given to case studies, with particular attention paid to submissions focused on municipal spatial planning.

Language: all submissions must be in **British English**; please refer to the BBC News style guide at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsstyleguide>.

Important Dates



How to Submit

Submit your abstract via: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/82404/submitter>

- Submissions should be made online via the **Oxford Abstracts platform**.
- Creating an account (**free of charge**) is mandatory and requires an email and password.
- All the information will be available within the user's Oxford Abstracts account, and updates will also be sent by email.

Biennale Registration

All Presenters must complete Biennale Registration before submitting their final contributions. Registration options include payment for an accepted paper submission or full registration with in-person participation at the Biennale.

Proceedings

Articles and posters with approved abstracts will be included in the Proceedings in both print and digital formats. The Biennial Proceedings will be assigned an ISBN.

Follow Final Submission Guidelines

Review and follow the guidelines for Final Submission set out in the **Submission Guidelines: Biennale Contributions 2026**.

Contacts

For more information: Associação Portuguesa de Urbanistas

 apubienal2026@gmail.com

 ectpceu-biennale2026.oa-event.com

Organisers

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THE LENS OF TIME IN SPATIAL PLANNING

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