

Conference Urban Transformation 2025

Connecting Urban Sustainability Labs

October 15th to 17th, 2025,
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

In this learning conference, we aim to connect urban labs that actively work on transformative topics, whether they have achieved success or encountered valuable setbacks. By sharing documented experiences, challenges, and breakthroughs, we foster an open exchange to accelerate urban sustainability together.

To this end, we would like to share experiences along several thematic lines and draw on insights from the corresponding disciplines to inform our work in the labs.

CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTION

Climate change is increasingly manifesting in urban areas through the formation of urban heat islands, heavy rainfall, and air pollution. The focus is on how urban climate observations and data analysis can contribute to climate change adaptation and support decision-making and transformation in this challenging area.

MOBILITY AND URBAN SPACE

The transformation of the transport sector is central to achieving national climate protection targets. Fields of action can be alternative transport systems, sustainable forms of mobility, and the effects of digitalisation on urban space. Contributions to real-world laboratories and autonomous driving are particularly welcome here.

WATER AND URBAN ECOLOGY

Urban ecosystems are at the centre of a sustainable urban climate. Research on blue and green infrastructures, urban ecology, urban climate research and the integration of water and energy supply is promoted to utilise urban ecology for future urban design.

RESOURCES, BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

Resource-conserving construction is crucial for climate protection and sustainable resource use, as the construction sector is a significant contributor to global emissions.

Topics such as Building Lifecycle Management, Sustainable Construction, Re-Use and Digital Design and Fabrication are intended to make key contributions here.

ENERGY AND DIGITALIZATION

The transformation of urban energy systems and digitalisation are vital for sustainable cities. Research contributions on renewable energy systems, smart cities and the psychological, economic and governance aspects of energy supply and use are relevant here.

URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

Successful sustainable urban development requires innovative forms of governance and planning as well as the involvement of civil society. Contributions to governance formats, planning strategies, participatory processes and interdisciplinary approaches are exciting.

STADTLABOR

Schulungsa



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 2025

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
10.00 – 12.00	EXCURSION TO SELECTED AREAS IN KARLSRUHE Quartier Zukunft – Labor Stadt (District Future – Urban Lab) RoofKIT How do we live? Now / in the future / together / in the city MobiLab – Participation Laboratory in a Tiny House	meeting point: entrance bldg. 11.40
11.30 – 12.30	REGISTRATION, COME TOGETHER & COFFEE	KIT-Building 11.40
12.30	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Welcome by Thomas Hirth, Vice President KIT Transfer and International Affairs Introduction by the Organizers	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Lecture Hall (Room 103)
13.00 – 14.00	KEYNOTE „REAL-WORLD LABS FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION“ Uwe Schneidewind, Lord Mayor of the City of Wuppertal	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)
14.00 – 15.00	PLENARY 1 – DISCOVERING URBAN SUSTAINABILITY LABS WORLDWIDE Miji Africa Living Lab, Nairobi Quartier Zukunft – Labor Stadt (District Future – Urban Lab), Karlsruhe Zone Atelier Environnementale Urbaine (ZAEU), Strasbourg ACI Medellín Lab / EDU, Medellín	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)
15.15 – 17.30	PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSION A – Discussing the Pressing Issues of Urban Transformation WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 1) 15.15 – 16.15 COFFEEBREAK 16.15 – 16.30 WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 2) 16.30 – 17.30 Workshop Session A Topics:	KIT-Building 11.40
15.15 – 17.30	A01 – Lab in Discussion: Miji Africa Living Lab, Nairobi Christer Adelaide Anditi (Miji Africa Living Lab), Peris Wairimu Njoroge (The Technical University of Kenya) Miji Africa is a pioneering living lab that supports the innovation ecosystem by co-creating development solutions with low-income, underserved and marginalised communities to promote equitable and inclusive livelihood transformation. Innovative solutions should be guided by pragmatic, holistic, and climate-conscious approaches to mitigate urban poverty, enhance livelihoods, and increase community resilience in Urban Africa—further insights, reflections, and exchange.	
15.15 – 17.30	A02 – Lab in Discussion: Quartier Zukunft – Labor Stadt (District Future – Urban Lab), Karlsruhe Oliver Parodi, Pia Laborgne (Karlsruhe Transformation Centre, KIT) Quartier Zukunft – Labor Stadt (District Future – Urban Lab) is a real-world lab run by	

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the Karlsruhe Transformation Centre at KIT aims to collaboratively develop, test, and research sustainable solutions for urban living in a long-term, participatory process. In the lab, residents, researchers, city administration and local stakeholders work together to foster a 'Culture of Sustainability' and transform Karlsruhe's district Oststadt into a livable and sustainable urban environment. Following a holistic approach, the focus is on energy transition, climate protection, sustainable mobility, social participation, and personal sustainability. Further insights, reflections, and exchange.

15.15 – 17.30

A03 – Lab in Discussion: Zone Atelier Environnementale Urbaine (ZAEU) (Urban Environmental Workshop Zone), Strasbourg

Nadège Blond (University of Strasbourg)

The Zone Atelier Environnementale Urbaine (ZAEU) is an interdisciplinary research initiative based in Strasbourg, France, focusing on urban socio-ecosystems. ZAEU's research addresses six key themes: food and waste, water and sustainability, energy and air quality, mobility and health, urban nature, and land use. By integrating scientific research with practical urban management, ZAEU aims to develop solutions that promote ecological, economic, and social sustainability in urban environments—further insights, reflections, and exchange.

15.15 – 17.30

A04 – Lab in Discussion: ACI Medellín Lab / EDU, Medellín

Julián Esteban Gómez Carjaval (ACI Medellín), Christian Alejandro Salas Domingues (ACI Medellín)

Medellín Lab is an innovative knowledge exchange program developed by ACI Medellín, the city's Agency for Cooperation and Investment. It positions Medellín as a "living laboratory" where public officials, urban planners, and international experts can explore firsthand the city's transformative approaches to urban development, governance, and social inclusion. Through immersive experiences—including site visits, academic sessions, and co-creation workshops—participants engage directly with Medellín's integrated urban strategies, gaining further insights, reflections, and opportunities for exchange.

15.15 – 17.30

A05 – Accelerating Climate-neutrality through Co-creational Pilot Projects

Louisa Bahl, Felix Schapitz (Reutlingen University)

How The living lab Klima-RT-LAB is jointly developing ways to institutionalize climate neutrality by 2040 in the city of Reutlingen, Germany. We strive for transferable solutions in four real-life experiments: energy, buildings, mobility and workplace behavior. We invite you to our workshop to discuss two hot topics: First, wastewater heat as an opportunity for heat pumps? From rivers, treatment plants and sewers to system integration and societal acceptance. And second, how can employees be motivated to adopt climate-friendly behavior? Shared experiences from climate protection campaigns and workshops with executives.

15.15 – 17.30

A06 – Governance in and for the Anthropocene: Building Post-Growth Cities through Co-Creation

Franziska Ehnert, Vanessa Kügler (Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development)

What governance frameworks and civic practices can support transformative change toward sustainable, post-growth cities? This workshop examines how cities can transition beyond growth-driven models to achieve sustainability within planetary boundaries. Discover how the City Lab promotes civic engagement, co-creation among citizens, government, and businesses, and facilitates holistic urban transformation through innovative governance and transition intermediaries.

15.15 – 17.30

A07 – Decarbonising and Smart Cities Integration

Leire Balzategui Urrutia, Iñigo Bilbao Ubillos (Mobility Lab Vitoria-Gasteiz)

How can data-driven collaboration accelerate the transition to low-emission, inclusive urban mobility? Explore how the Mobility Lab in Vitoria-Gasteiz is transforming urban transport through a regulatory sandbox and a certified data space. This workshop focuses on decarbonising mobility, smart city integration, and inclusive planning. Learn how public-private collaboration and real-world testing environments drive innovation in sustainable, low-emission, and accessible urban mobility.

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15.15 – 17.30

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A08 – Resilient Regenerative Urban Economies

Svenja Bickert-Appleby, Verena Hermelingmeier (bonnvivir GmbH)

How can we build resilient and regenerative local economies that help face urgent challenges such as climate change, geopolitical crises and resource scarcities? This workshop invites participants to engage in a co-design session, using the Maarwerk Lab in Bonn as a living case study for building regenerative urban economies. Situated in Bonn-Beuel's industrial zone, Maarwerk is an emerging project that explores circular urban production, local value creation, and new types of cooperation. Building on this case and embarking on a rapid design journey, participants will develop design principles for regenerative urban spaces.

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15.15 – 17.30

A09 – Connecting People

Hannes Wender (FH Osnabrück)

How can universities become catalysts for region-wide sustainability through inclusive, citizen-driven collaboration? This workshop introduces the Lantern Project, a collaborative initiative that brings together university staff, students, local government, and civil society to drive regional sustainability transformation. Through shared visioning, task orchestration, and inclusive dialogue, the lab addresses diverse understandings of sustainability, promotes just futures, and builds on both institutional commitment and grassroots motivation.

15.15 – 17.30

A10 – Co-Creation and Co-Strategy for Innovative Mobility Solutions

Maria Konstantinidou (Hellenic Institute of Transport)

How can cities co-design smarter, greener and more inclusive mobility systems that are transferable and scalable? Through structured dialogue and shared learning, participants will collaboratively reflect on how participatory approaches can leverage citizen-centric innovation to advance sustainable urban mobility strategies and improve urban mobility systems. Thessaloniki's Smart Mobility Living Lab experience will serve as a starting point for broader discussion, offering insights into how cities can co-design mobility solutions that can be adapted and scaled in different urban contexts.

15.15 – 17.30

A12 – Social Aspects of Sustainability

Markus Mailer (University of Innsbruck)

How can we promote sustainable and inclusive mobility through behavioural change, accessibility, and livable urban design? This workshop focuses on promoting sustainable mobility behaviour, especially active modes like walking and cycling. Learn how the Centre for Mobility Change (CMC) supports inclusive access to jobs and services, climate-adapted street design, and social equity in transport. Through targeted knowledge and co-creative strategies, the lab assists stakeholders in developing and implementing effective, people-centred mobility solutions.

15.15 – 17.30

A 13 – Healthy Cities, Urban Health and One Health

Richard Beecroft (Karlsruhe Transformation Centre, KIT)

Health is a fundamental human right and a core goal of the SDGs. But how can health be promoted in a future urban context? Which new socio-technical and socio-ecological systems can and should evolve to create synergies between health and other sustainability goals? Could a vision of "One Health", which integrates the well-being of humans, animals, and the environment, guide such transitions? And which of the evolving concepts can and should be tested in real-world labs?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 2025

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
17.30 – 18.30	COFFEE & CONTACTS	KIT-Building 11.40
18.30 –19.30	KEYNOTE IN DIALOGUE Maria Vassilakou, Wien (Vienna Solutions, Vienna) Hannes Rockenbauch, Stuttgart (Linke SÖS Plus, Stuttgart) Moderated by: Barbara Engel, Markus Neppl	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Lecture Hall (HS09)
19.30 – 22.00	Get together & Dinner in Tulla-Halle Fingerfood + Drinks	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 2025

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
9.00 – 9.15	WELCOME and INTRODUCTION	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Lecture hall (Room 103)
9.15 – 10.30	PLENARY 2 – DISCOVERING URBAN SUSTAINABILITY LABS WORLDWIDE Grüne Stadt der Zukunft (Green City of the Future), München IZS – Interdisciplinary Centre for Transformative Urban Regeneration, Görlitz Community Schloss Tempelhof (Ecovillage), Kreßberg CLIMAS, Vilnius National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), Mexico City	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)
10.45 – 13.00	PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSION B – Discussing the Pressing Issues of Urban Transformation WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 1) 10.45 – 11.45 COFFEEBREAK 11.45 – 12.00 WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 2) 12.00 – 13.00 Workshop Session B Topics:	KIT-Building 11.40
10.45 – 13.00	B01 – Lab in Discussion: Grüne Stadt der Zukunft (Green City of the Future), München Eva-Maria Moseler (Green City of the Future) Grüne Stadt der Zukunft, an interdisciplinary research initiative focusing on Munich, explored practical solutions for climate adaptation in urban neighbourhoods, addressing challenges like heatwaves and heavy rainfall. Key topics encompass building and urban design, planning integration, neighbourhood development, community engagement, and awareness-raising. These resources aim to facilitate the creation of climate-resilient, green urban spaces—offering further insights, reflections, and opportunities for exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	B02 – Lab in Discussion: IZS– Interdisciplinary Centre for Transformative Urban Regeneration, Görlitz Annica Kögler (IZS), Stefanie Röbler (IZS), Ritu George Kaliaden, RobertKnippschild IZS is a joint research and transfer facility of the Leibniz Institute for Ecological Urban and Regional Development Dresden (IOER) and the International Institute for Hygiene and Infectious Diseases (IHI) Zittau of TU Dresden. Established in 2014, the centre focuses on transformation processes in towns and neighbourhoods with limited transformative capacities, as well as in regions affected by structural change. IZS pursues a transdisciplinary approach, in which the identification of research needs, the production of knowledge, the pilot application of new solutions, as well as reflection and further development, take place in close collaboration with stakeholders in urban and regional development. The German-Polish twin city of Görlitz/Zgorzelec and its hinterland serves as a real-world laboratory. Current experiments are being initiated and monitored by the IZS, which fosters immigration based on provisional residency and local climate neutrality.	

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10.45 – 13.00	B03 – Labs in Discussion: Community Schloss Tempelhof (Ecovillage), Kreßberg Stefanie Raysz Schloss Tempelhof is a grassroots democratic living community located in Southern Germany. It integrates regenerative living, sustainable housing, experimental buildings, alternative education, social and technical experimentation and forward-thinking social systems. Its holistic concept embodies a culture of co-creation, self-responsibility, and ecological awareness. Sustainability is a guiding principle for every aspect of life—offering further insights, reflections, and opportunities for exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	B04 – Lab in Discussion: CLIMAS , Vilnius Gintarė Gulevičiūtė (Vilnius University, Department of Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues) The Vilnius Living Lab, situated in the Naujamiestis district, is a dynamic, community-driven research environment undergoing a creative transformation of former industrial spaces. Engaging residents, businesses, and cultural entities, it co-creates experimental projects for urban innovation. With a focus on climate change mitigation, its participatory nature positions it as a model for testing and replicating methods across Vilnius, facilitating further insights, reflections, and exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	B05 – Lab in Discussion: National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), Mexico City Yosune Miquelajáuregui Graf (LANCIS), Carolina Guadalupe Cruz Nunez (LANCIS) The National Laboratory of Sustainability Sciences is constituted as a node for the generation, integration and synthesis of knowledge. Through innovation in transdisciplinary research, teaching, and fostering stakeholder engagement, they promote technological development as well as the co-creation and translation of knowledge. In the laboratory, various disciplines are combined, including biology, geography, scientific computing, environmental sciences, and engineering, among others, fostering further insights, reflections, and exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	B07 – Neighbourhood Energy Transition Carla Wüller, Katharina Schmidt (RWTH Aachen University) How can districts accelerate the shift to climate-neutral energy? SmartQuart tests innovative energy technologies across three districts, focusing on intelligent energy exchange, decentralised sector coupling (including mobility, heat, and power), and local optimisation. This workshop explores how the SmartQuart Hub connects producers and consumers to manage energy flows efficiently, replace fossil fuels, and foster public acceptance—advancing Germany's and Europe's climate goals through real-world, citizen-driven transformation.	
10.45 – 13.00	B08 – Inclusive urban transformation. Creating NEBourhoods together Michael Droß, Jana Köstler (Munich University of Applied Sciences) How can co-creation with local stakeholders and other actors shape urban development? Part of the New European Bauhaus Lighthouse project in Munich-	

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	Neuperlach was ten mini-labs that tackled diverse sustainability challenges - from renewable energy and circular office buildings to inclusive mobility, community farming, and youth cultural spaces. After an introduction, participants work in small groups on the challenges of integrating stakeholders from civil society and other sectors.	
10.45 – 13.00	B09 – Inclusive Urban Development Theodora Psoma, Pantelis Iliadis, Panagiota Fabrikanou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) How can cities design mobility and public space so that blind and partially sighted citizens experience full, independent access to urban life? This workshop examines how cities can be designed to be more inclusive and educational. At the heart of our research practice, we bring together travellers, transportation staff, tour guides, and university students to co-design open cultural spaces, treating them as linguistic contact zones. Focusing on safe mobility for blind and partially blind individuals, equal access to cultural and educational environments, and the preservation of local identity, the lab reimagines urban areas as living and accessible learning ecosystems – spaces that foster connection, equity, and cultural continuity.	
10.45 – 13.00	B10 – Social Innovation Christian Peer (Technical University Vienna) How can social innovation drive sustainable urban development by transforming lifestyles, governance, and empowering inclusive change? This workshop explores how social innovation can drive sustainable urban transformation. Discover how shifting lifestyles, governance, and practices can address pressing societal challenges. The Future Lab focuses on building transformation capacities, fostering inclusive participation, and empowering pioneers of change—ensuring no one is left behind.	
10.45 – 13.00	B11 – Experimenting for Sustainability Envisioning Rur:ban Futures. Creating Inclusive Spaces with Tasty Tables of Utopias Daniela Pastoors, Rebecca Froese (Centre for Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research (ZIN), University of Münster) How can marginalized communities be actively engaged in socio-ecological transformation? How can researchers create envisioning spaces that foster sustainability in rural-urban areas? We invite discussion on interactive and creative formats—such as shared food preparation and consumption, artistic and embodied practices—that spark imaginative thinking about desirable futures. Drawing from a real-world laboratory in northwest Germany, we explore “Tables of Utopias” as a central element of our thematic ‘Future Building Blocks’. These events support the local sustainability strategy by offering citizens a “taste” of possible futures and empowering them to co-create them.	
10.45 – 13.00	B12 – Grassroots urbanization – for sustainable urbanism in Africa Zegeye Cherenet Mamot (Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development, Addis Ababa) The workshop addresses the burgeoning needs of urban production in Africa at the grassroots level through and by the grassroots themselves. Instead of infrastructure-led, top-down, city-centric, and capital-intensive urbanisation models, grassroots urbanisation claims that community-driven, smaller but networked urban aggregates established primarily on local resources have a better chance of achieving just and sustainable socio-spatial outcomes in Africa.	
10.45 – 13.00	B13 – Securing Liveability of Cities and Increasing Disaster Preparedness Marco Elischer (City of Worms) How can cities adapt to climate extremes while fostering inclusive, democratic, and civil society-driven transformation? This workshop examines how the city of Worms is adapting to climate extremes by engaging civil society and welfare organisations. Discover how the city’s heat network, overseen by the climate adaptation unit, promotes collaboration across departments and with researchers to implement innovative solutions, such as heat action plans and shadow routing. The lab demonstrates how inclusive, cross-sectoral approaches can enhance urban resilience, especially in under-resourced municipalities.	

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13.00 – 14.00	Get together Fingerfood + Drinks	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)
14.00 – 16.00	YOUNG RESEARCHERS FORUM From Science to Urban Transformation Lightning Talks and Comments Young Researcher Forum (6 parallel sessions) YA_01 - Energy and Digitalization Stefan Bindreiter - Sustainable transformation - Energy and Digitalization Amando Reber, Barbara Smetschka - Co-Creating Urban Energy Transition with Living Labs and Urban Digital Twins Jonas Klingbiel - The Role of Living Labs for Urban Energy Transformation: Insights from SmartQuart and TransUrban.NRW Panagiotis Gkirmipas - Estimating emission rates from multiple road traffic sources in urban environments Julian Bansen - Social Networks of the Mobility Transition – The Role of Local Actor Networks in Urban Mobility Transformations Tristan Emich, Tobias Kropp - The Smart Readiness Indicator as an opportunity to decarbonise the German and EU building stock YA_02 - Urban Governance and Planning Maria Eleni Bountola - Digital Societies and Urban Governance: Adapting global innovations in Greece Stefan Bösch - Advancing spatial literacy in real-world labs Hendrik Weiner - From Exploratory Teaching Projects to Urban Living Labs - Bottom-up Research Spaces for a New Public-Civic Collaboration Pia Laborgne, Volker Stelzer - Activating Citizens through Innovation Communities for Inclusive Urban Transformations Annica Kögler - How the set-up of an Urban Transition Lab influences experimentation - a case analysis of the TRUST project Susanne Ober - Experimenting with cities – Real-world labs and experiments as tools for urban transformation YA_03 - Ressource, Building and Construction Markus Szaguhn - Experimenting for Change: Potential of Employees of Municipal Energy Suppliers as Local Change Agents in Urban Sustainability Transformations Ilirjana Haxhiaj, Jeta Bejtullahu - Reconstructing Durres: Governance, Sustainability, and Livability in Post-Earthquake Urban Transformation Elke Widmann - Insulating the future - The fiber that binds energy efficiency and recycling Hanna Bonekämper - Economic Viability of Urban Vertical Farming. Literature Review & Case Study Ammon Budde, Nina Pawlicki, Sina Jansen - Unlocking the Transformative Potential of Real-World Laboratories in the Construction Sector Ekaterina Gladkova - A Living Lab Experiment in a Mass Housing Estate in Tbilisi YA_04 - Climate Protection and Adaption Jayati Chawla - Examining Race and Class Disparities in Surface Urban Heat in Australia: Towards Environmental Justice in Urban Planning Chandana Bhasi - Repurposing Urban Parking Space to Green Space for Heat Stress Adaptation: Case studies of Stuttgart, Germany and Bhopal, India Svea Krikau - Predicting heat-related risk using multi-source remote sensing data on a regional scale Julia Fuchs - Diurnal patterns and drivers of urban fog in Milan Laura Müller - Urban Infrastructures under Climate Pressure – Exploring Benefits of Transformation Concepts for Long-term Change Anna Caroline Aigner - Experimental participation platforms as learning arenas for transformative climate governance: Insights from Vienna and Zurich	KIT-Building 11.40

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YA_05 - Mobility and Urban Space

Haixiao Pan - Bridging home care services and female migrant laborers by electrical two-wheels

Clara Aulich - Exploring the potential of mobility hubs to enhance intermodal private transport choices - A stated choice approach in the surroundings of Karlsruhe

Ann-Sophie Voss - Intermodality and Urban Mobility: User Acceptance and Spatial Planning Implications for Autonomous Ridepooling in Hamburg

Andrea Reindl - Promoting ridesharing in urban areas through accompanying advertising measures and Incentives: A case study of the City of Ried, Austria

Narek Mirzoyan - Diesel Bans and Urban Air Quality: A Causal Study of NO2 Emissions in Germany Using Synthetic Control

YA_06 - Water and Urban Ecology

Marufa Sultana - Exploring synergies of urban greening for wildlife in cities

Denise Böhnke - Transformative Governance through Embedded Scientific Collaboration

Angélica Betancourth Arias - Advances in urban flood damage assessment: understanding floodwater transferring from street into property (INSIDE project)

SaeBom Song - Towards a Smart Circular Urban Future? Analysis of Water Management Visions in Amsterdam and Busan

Arend van der Kam, Emily Suchy, Josefine Siebenand, Martin Prominski - Changeability for transformation: a strategy for urban landscapes in the Anthropocene

Niku Khaleghi - The Role of Organic Street Networks in Sustainable Urban Mobility

16.00 – 17.00

POSTER SESSION AND NETWORKING

Market of Opportunities

KIT-Building 11.40

Tulla Exhibition hall (Room 003)

17.00 – 18.00

GET TOGETHER

Fingerfood + Drinks

KIT-Building 11.40

Tulla Exhibition hall (Room 003)

18.00

Departure

19.00 – end

PANEL DISCUSSION: 13 Questions – Debate Culture on the Field of Play Topic: Autonomous Public Transport – Lifesaver or Liability?

Organized by Science Week-Team

Tollhaus, Alter Schlachthof 35,
76131 Karlsruhe

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2025

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
9.00 – 9.30	WELCOME and INTRODUCTION	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla lecture hall (Room 103)
9.30 – 10.30	PLENARY 3 - DISCOVERING URBAN SUSTAINABLE LABS WORLDWIDE Living Lab Herk and Mombeek, Brussels StadtManufaktur, Berlin aspern.mobil LAB, Vienna City as a Living Laboratory (CALL), New York	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla exhibition hall (Room 003)
10.45 – 13.00	PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSION C – Discussing the pressing issues of urban transformation WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 1) 10.45 – 11.45 COFFEEBREAK 11.45 – 12.00 WORKSHOP SESSION (Round 2) 12.00 – 13.00 Workshop Session C Topics:	KIT-Building 11.40
10.45 – 13.00	C01 – Lab in Discussion: Living Lab Herk & Mombeek, Brussels Bram Vandemoortel (Architecture Workroom Brussels) Since 2023, Architecture Workroom Brussels has been managing a living lab in the Herk and Mombeek valley. How can we maximise water retention in the landscape to prevent drought and flooding? How can we achieve this not only in the streams and surrounding nature, but also in the villages, fields, forests and meadows? The devastating floods of 2021 highlighted the valley's vulnerability. Accelerating the implementation of the required sponge measures was vital—further insights, reflections, and exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	C02 – Lab in Discussion: StadtManufaktur (Urban Manufacturing), Berlin Anja Steglich (StadtManufaktur, TU Berlin) StadtManufaktur Berlin, the real-world laboratory platform of the Technische Universität Berlin, facilitates collaboration between researchers and partners from politics, business, culture, and civil society to develop innovative solutions for urban challenges. The focus areas include climate adaptation, social cooperation, sustainable mobility concepts, and the transformation towards a circular city—offering further insights, reflections, and opportunities for exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	C03 – Lab in Discussion: aspern.mobil LAB, Vienna Jakob Holzer, Martin Berger (Research Unit of Transportation System Planning, TU Vienna) The aspern.mobil LAB is an urban mobility laboratory located in Vienna's Seestadt Aspern district. It serves as a collaborative innovation space where residents, researchers, municipal authorities, and businesses work together to develop and test sustainable urban mobility solutions. The lab focuses on areas such as active mobility, shared mobility services, and first- and last-mile logistics, aiming to assess their spatial, economic, ecological, and social benefits—further insights, reflections, and exchange.	

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10.45 – 13.00	C04 – Lab in Discussion: City as a Living Laboratory (CALL), New York Olivia Georgia, Aaron Asis (City as a Living Laboratory (CALL)) City as Living Laboratory (CALL) is a New York-based organisation that unites artists, scientists, and urban residents to collaboratively address pressing environmental challenges, focusing on climate, equity, and health. By fostering interdisciplinary partnerships, CALL aims to transform complex ecological issues into personal experiences that inspire community action. CALL's mission is to harness the combined power of art and science to deepen the understanding of critical environmental concerns within local communities, thereby motivating sustainable solutions—further insights, reflections, and exchange.	
10.45 – 13.00	C05 – 1x1 der Energiewende im Quartier EnBW Innovation (DE) Stefanie Jelinek (EnBW Innovation, Head of Urban Infrastructure) Im Workshop „1x1 der Energiewende“ geht es darum, die Grundlagen einer zukunftsfähigen Energieversorgung in Quartieren verständlich zu machen. Anhand konkreter Beispiele zeigt Jelinek Stefanie, wie die Energiewende auf lokaler Ebene gelingt – mit Fokus auf Innovation, Skalierbarkeit und praktischen Learnings aus acht Jahren Umsetzung. Die Teilnehmenden erhalten Einblicke in typische Herausforderungen, Erfolgsfaktoren und Best Practices für klimaneutrale Quartierslösungen. Ziel ist es, ein praxisnahes Verständnis für die Umsetzung nachhaltiger Energieprojekte zu vermitteln.	
10.45 – 13.00	C06 – New Learning and Action Spaces: Interfaces between City and University Hendrik Weiner (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, Faculty of Urban Management) How can bottom-up learning spaces foster democratic, inclusive, and sustainable urban development? This workshop presents a bottom-up approach to urban transformation through university teaching and civic engagement. It explores how open and inclusive spaces can foster sustainability, democratic participation, and anti-discrimination. By bridging academia and local communities, the lab creates new opportunities for dialogue, experience, and action in urban development.	
10.45 – 13.00	C07 – Urban Water Bodies An EUCOR – The European Campus Joint Event Karl M. Wantzen, Yixin Cao (Institut Terre et Environnement de Strasbourg) Water is essential for life. However, the management of urban aquatic life-spaces (hydrosystems) presents a significant challenge. How can human needs and ecological requirements be harmonised? How can we increase biodiversity and ecosystem functions without creating risks for humans (e.g., through water-borne diseases, or beavers felling urban greenery)? The Urban Human-River Encounter Site approach provides key elements for discussion. In the workshop, we will elaborate on an axiology that helps balance the opportunities and risks in the context of redesign, restoration, or de novo creation of urban water bodies, considering human well-being, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Urban planning is based upon values of different societal groups. Informed decision-making, especially when long-term practices need to be changed, is another challenge to be addressed. The workshop will be done in a two steps: followed by an open discussion to identify the perspectives and thematics of the participants, we will work on a specific example to produce and discuss practical suggestions.	
10.45 – 13.00	C09 – Mobility Transformations in suburban and rural areas Alexandra Anderluh (St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences) How can regional mobility labs support sustainable transport across urban, suburban and rural areas? AmWy.mobility focuses on reducing car dependency and improving sustainable transportation for people and freight in southwest Lower Austria. This workshop emphasises the importance of integrating urban, suburban, and rural planning, avoiding freight-related design failures, and shifting mindsets to reduce traffic, emissions, and congestion across regional networks.	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 2025

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
10.45 – 13.00	<p>C10 – Making Cities Ready for AI. The Role of Digital Innovation for Overcoming Multiple Crises</p> <p>Martin Memmel (German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence)</p> <p>can cities become AI-ready and make use of digital technologies in the face of complex, overlapping crises? This workshop examines how the smart city Living Lab in Kaiserslautern addresses the interconnected ecological, economic, social, and democratic challenges of our time. Learn how DFKI and partners use AI and digital tools to support sustainable urban development, support transparent decision-making, and accelerate transformation processes in cities.</p>	
10.45 – 13.00	<p>C13 – Social justice & access: Homing, Place Making and Well-being in the Urban Green Transition</p> <p>Georgia Alexandri (Karlsruhe Transformation Centre, KIT)</p> <p>Ensuring equal access to resources and services, including those for vulnerable groups, is crucial for achieving equitable urban development. In this workshop, we will explore how different social groups' access to information, energy, and resources shapes experiences of place (un)making and homing within the urban green transition, and how diverse understandings of comfort and well-being influence who feels truly "at home" in emerging sustainable urban spaces.</p>	

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13.00 – 13.30	CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE Outlook and Conclusion Fingerfood + Drinks	KIT-Building 11.40 Tulla Exhibition Hall (Room 003)
14.00 – 16.00	EXCURSION TO SELECTED AREAS IN KARLSRUHE Quartier Zukunft – Labor Stadt (District Future – Urban Lab) How do we live? Now / in the future / together / in the city MobiLab – Participation Laboratory in a Tiny House	meeting point: entrance bldg. 11.40