



From responding to adapting and transforming EU cities

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Abstract

Since the beginning of the 21st century, we have been living in the 'urban century', characterised by a rise in the number of cities and mega-cities and a structural population increase in most cities, to the detriment of rural areas. Thus, scholars and practitioners in the field of urban development are searching for innovative approaches to manage cities and create truly "livable spaces" (Evans 2002; Nijkamp & Kourtit 2013; Kourtit et al. 2020). Sustainability, which has gained even greater relevance in the context of the European Green Deal (EGD), stands as a central pillar of urban livability, driving efforts for urban transformation and governance to create more environmentally friendly and resilient cities (Rzeszewski & Kotus 2013). Furthermore, sustainability (EC 2019). The main challenge is that the current urban systems are marked by various stressors and potential vulnerabilities. First, the continuing urban growth is expected to bring ongoing challenges such as job creation, food security, service provision, green space management, and waste handling, influenced by complex socio-economic and political dynamics. Therefore, policy solutions should align with local realities to foster sustainable urban transformation, capitalize on agglomeration economies, and reduce associated negative effects (Zhang 2016). Second, the anticipated increases in hazards resulting from climate change and other global environmental shifts have driven policy attention toward enhancing urban resilience. In their resilience, livability and sustainability, calling for a 'responsive city' and participatory governance (Bănică et al 2020). Consequently, there is a pressing need for new urban development and governance patterns that integrate resilience approaches and the transformative capacity of cities, aligning them with the

goals of sustainability, livability, and digitalization (Banica et.al, 2020; Nijkamp et.al, 2021).

The panel is open, but not limited, to:

- studies discussing the complex challenges faced by the Urban World
- studies assessing urban vulnerabilities and transformative capacities in the face of asymmetrical shocks
- studies on urban adaptive critical infrastructure
- research on designing digital tools and citizen-based living labs to enhance evidence-based decision-making
- studies on urban wellbeing and community engagement
- papers on safe and healthy post-pandemic cities
- studies on how to foster environmental and digital transition in cities.

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