



Workshop: Smart, Green and Social: The Future of Urban Districts

Hosted by: **Ir. Milena Ivkovic**, MSc Arch, DreSo International

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### **Workshop Abstract**

European cities are urbanizing rapidly. After 2 turbulent years of world-wide pandemic, the cities are facing new realities: on one side it has become increasingly important for city-dwellers to live better and healthier lives, and on the other side, cities are under pressure to preserve nature and adapt to climate change without losing the momentum and chances for economic development.

The Smart, Green and Social: The Future of Urban Districts workshop will take a close look at the potentials urban districts (neighbourhoods, quarters, areas, “favourite parts of town”) have in the process of linking functional green, smart adaptation through technology and providing for the social and well-being needs of the citizens. The workshop will inspire and tackle elements for the plausible scenario’s for the transformation of the existing urban neighbourhoods and planning of the new ones for the Year 2040, using integrated way of thinking to come up with sustainable solutions.

### **Workshop Mainframe**

Total duration: 90’

The Workshop will consist of 2 parts: 2 x ca 40 minutes, with a short break in between.

The aim of the workshop is to brainstorm and define the outlines of the “urban district of the future” which suits the environmental as well as economic and societal changes.

1<sup>st</sup> part: Mind-opening session with a series of “what if” questions, to open and prepare for the dialogue in the second part

2<sup>nd</sup> part: Making a list of “takeaways” and priorities for the workshop participants to be further discussed on the second round of the workshop in June 2022. The results of this second round will be presented to the wider public at the DreSo Rebuild Europe closure event in London in sept. 2022.

### **Workshop Playbook**

**1<sup>st</sup> part: setting the workshop scene with “what if” questions:**

- 1.1** 15' introductory presentation on the "state-of-the-art" of urban district development in 3 major EU cities. What are the main challenges these cities face? How did they develop in the past, how did they re-invent themselves in times of crisis? What are the ideas and approaches they used to re-develop urban districts? Which values have been used to create successful districts, which tools? What are the main challenges these EU cities are facing and will face in the coming 20 years, and what are the leading policies? (e.g. "15 minute city", "circular city", "social and inclusive city", "sponge city", etc) What will be the needs of the "new citizens" in the 2040?

The presentation will use the findings of SwissLife/Frauenhofer research papers and data, and input from Stefanie Luetekke and Milena Ivkovic.

Tentative "what if" questions, grouped in clusters

The questions will be filled with additional ones coming from the SL/F research

### **SMART**

1/ If urban centers are not going to be dominated by retail and office function, what do we want them to be? (what other functions can come in their place to keep centers/cities attractive)

2/ What if the houses of the future will not be occupied for more than 6 months? (considering new, multi-local, "home away from home" way of life)

3/ What if the future urban districts need to be fully energy-independent? (meaning they will need to cover for all their energy needs locally, in the district itself)

### **GREEN**

1/ What if we need to plan districts only for shared mobility, without private ownership of the cars?

2/ What if in the future urban districts rooftops are going to be intensified in it's use? (need to be used as public spaces /shared urban farming spaces)?

3/ What if the future urban districts need to be have at least 25% open water / green space?

### **SOCIAL**

1/ What if the future housing typology will consist only of 50m<sup>2</sup> of living space? (and the rest of the needs will be in shared space, or covered by an off-site, online service?)

2/ What if we "shared space/shared rent" model takes over from the traditional "one landlord rent model"?

3/ What if at least 30% of social housing needs to be realized in each urban district?

4/ What if the future urban district needs to have all the social services within 15' walking distance?

- 1.2** Focused work of the audience to react and write down their "ideas" and answers to these 10 questions. The audience works in three groups / clusters.

10' break

**2<sup>nd</sup> part – Plenary presentation of the focused work and selecting the top 3 “what ifs” in a crossdialogue between the participants and solution framework definition**

35' Presentation of the answers that have been produced by the group. Each group shortly presents it's findings, and other 2 groups give comments or asking questions. Moderator(s) note down the important findings and solution directions for each cluster.

5' Joint “voting” for the top three possible solutions in each cluster. These top 3 solutions will be taken further for the deep dive in the second workshop in June.