

## Call for Papers

### **Future Urban Sustainability: Lessons learnt from the SDGs and perspectives for a post-2030 agenda. Workshop, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Vienna + online**

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda, with its Sustainable Development Goals, plays a key role in urban sustainability. Cities around the world are using the SDGs as a framework to implement more sustainable forms of urban development. However, the SDGs have been critiqued for contradictions and trade-offs between different targets, lack of transformative potential, the difficulty of measuring implementation, their reliance on voluntary action, and their continued demand for economic growth, even in countries of the global North (e.g. Kaika, 2017).

Recent research has highlighted that the SDGs have had largely discursive effects, with limited transformative impact. However, there is evidence that the SDGs have changed public budgets and financial allocation mechanisms, that coalitions across local governments, civil society organisations, the private sector and academia have fostered the localisation of SDGs and that new forms of data management and sustainability indicators have emerged in some cities (Biermann et al., 2022; Koch et al., 2023; Valencia et al., 2019).

Currently, many cities are working on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. They have created new and innovative forms of governance arrangements, while also being confronted with structural problems as well as a lack of political will (Krellenberg et al., 2019, Hickmann et al., 2024). Based on existing experiences in cities as well as networks of cities, this workshop takes a critical stance on the local implementation of the SDGs from the perspectives of diverse urban actors. It seeks contributions on lessons learned, persistent challenges as well as indications for the future design of global sustainability agendas from an urban perspective. In this way, we aim to contribute to ongoing debates on accelerating SDG implementation over the coming five years as well as the post-2030 agenda.

We welcome research papers that address issues such as the usefulness of global policy agendas for promoting local sustainability in general and in specific contexts, the limitations and transformative potentials of sustainability indicators and monitoring systems, accountability in urban development and planning, the roles of transdisciplinary alliances within and between cities and whether and how innovations in governance or digitalization can support the 2030 Agenda and its successor. We encourage contributions from different geographical backgrounds and theoretical approaches, as well as case studies and comparative work.

The workshop consists of presentations and discussions, as well as a public event with local stakeholders on July 8th. The public event will discuss local perspectives on the acceleration of SDGs and the sustainability agenda beyond 2030 and will feature panellists from Statistics Austria, the Center for Public Administration Research (KDZ), Global Responsibility (AG Globale Verantwortung), the City of Vienna and LA21 – Sustainability Network North Rhine-Westphalia.

The workshop is free of charge and takes place in a hybrid format. The workshop has limited budget for supporting participants with travel costs. Please indicate in your abstract submission if you plan to participate online and/or if your institution does not cover your travel expenses.

The papers presented at the workshop and the results of the workshop discussions may be published in the supporting special issue of the journal *Urban Planning*. *Urban Planning* (ISSN: 2183-7635) is an international, peer-reviewed open access journal of urban studies aimed at advancing understandings and ideas of humankind's habitats — villages, towns, cities, megacities — in order to promote progress and quality of life. (IF: 1.8; Citescore 3.2). Link to the special issue:

<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/urbanplanning/pages/view/nextissues#FutureUrbanSustainability>

**Abstracts (approx. 200 words and a short biography of the presenters) for the Vienna Workshop should be sent to the organising team by 24 May 2024.**

### Organizers

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### References

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