

# WHICH WAY TO THE FUTURE?

Strategies, tools and inspiration  
for transforming cities

**4th INFORMED CITIES FORUM**

26-27 March 2015  
Rotterdam

CONFERENCE  
PROGRAMME

## DAY 1: THURSDAY, 26 MARCH

9.30 - 10.00 REGISTRATION & COFFEE

10.00 - 10.30 WELCOME SESSION

### Welcome by the City of Rotterdam & Project Representatives

Facilitation: **Ania Rok**, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
**Pex Langenberg**, Vice Mayor of the City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
**Stefan Kuhn**, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability  
**Derk Loorbach**, DRIFT

10.30 - 12.00 SESSION 1: OPENING THE TRANSITION BOX

*This session will outline transition thinking as a way to understand urban transformation and introduce new understanding of urban governance, including a different role of local government.*  
Facilitation: **Derk Loorbach**, DRIFT

10.30 - 11.00

### Interview: The story of Ghent and Living Streets

**Indra van Sande**, City of Ghent, Belgium  
**Jeroen Mercy**, City of Ghent, Belgium

11.00 - 12.00

### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### How to translate transition thinking into urban governance?

*What is transition? How to influence it? What does it mean in terms of urban governance and roles of different stakeholders?*

**Anja Wenninger**, City of Ludwigsburg, Germany  
**Nils Göransson Grunditz**, City of Stockholm, Sweden  
**Shane Waring**, Beta Projects, Dublin City Council, Ireland

12.00 - 13.30 LUNCH  
*Marketplace of ideas*



13.30 - 17.30 SESSION 2: TRANSITIONS IN PRACTICE

*This session will focus on transition initiatives and strategies used to bring diverse actors together. The second part of the session will be an exchange of experience between participants and local initiatives, taking place in various locations across Rotterdam.*

Facilitation: **Chris Roorda, DRIFT**

13.30 - 14.30

**Unusual suspects: how to bring them together?**

**Mark Snow**, Engineering University of New South Wales, Australia

**Elena Mozgovaya**, Next Network, Germany

**Egbert Fransen & Charlot Schans**, Pakhuis de Zwijger, The Netherlands

14.30 - 17.30

**Rotterdam in transition: field workshops**

[1] *GIS mapping meets transition management: Best of MUSIC*

[2] *City harbour: accelerating transitions*

[3] *Social entrepreneurship for a sustainable city*

[4] *Towards a circular city*

[5] *Carnisse: social resilience neighbourhood*

[6] *Do It Yourself, Together! Transforming the Rotterdam West district*

**Find detailed information on all field workshops on pages 5 - 7**

19.00 - 21.00 DINNER

**Schieblock** - Rotterdam's  
laboratory for urban  
development

**Address:** BAR, Schiekade 201, Rotterdam

21.00 - 22.00 OPEN EVENING

**The art of transition**

*Hosted by Tussenuur, a Rotterdam art collective, this evening will offer an opportunity to reflect, play and interact. Listen to others presenting their work, let yourself be challenged by creative perspectives, enjoy music, play table soccer or just chat, anything goes.*

*This event will take place also in **Schieblock** and will be open to conference participants and other interested people from Rotterdam.*

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, 27 MARCH

9.00 - 9.30 REGISTRATION & COFFEE  
*Marketplace of ideas*

9.30 - 10.00 OPENING  
*Impressions from the first day, featuring Wunderbaum collective*

10.00 - 13.00 SESSION 3: HOW DO WE ACCELERATE?

*This session will focus on what is needed to accelerate sustainability transitions, especially in terms of enabling mechanisms on different levels of governance.*

Facilitation: **Niki Frantzeskaki**, DRIFT

10.00 - 10.30

### **Playing with acceleration**

*A game-based session to explore the mechanisms responsible for accelerating urban sustainability transitions.*

10.30 - 11.00 COFFEE BREAK  
*Marketplace of ideas*

11.00 - 12.00

### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### **How to move beyond experiments?**

*What do we need to move beyond the status quo (in terms of social and technological innovation, legislation and funding mechanisms, mindsets, etc.)?*

*What concrete steps can we take to accelerate this process?*

**Ugo Guarnacci**, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

**Gorka Espiau**, The Young Foundation, UK

**Alexandros Filippidis**, Iliosporoi, Greece

12.00 - 13.00

### CLOSING SESSION

#### **Which way to the future?**

*An interactive session to harvest the results of our common work: how to move forward towards a sustainable urban future?*

13.00 - 14.30 FAREWELL LUNCH  
*Marketplace of ideas*

## FIELD WORKSHOPS

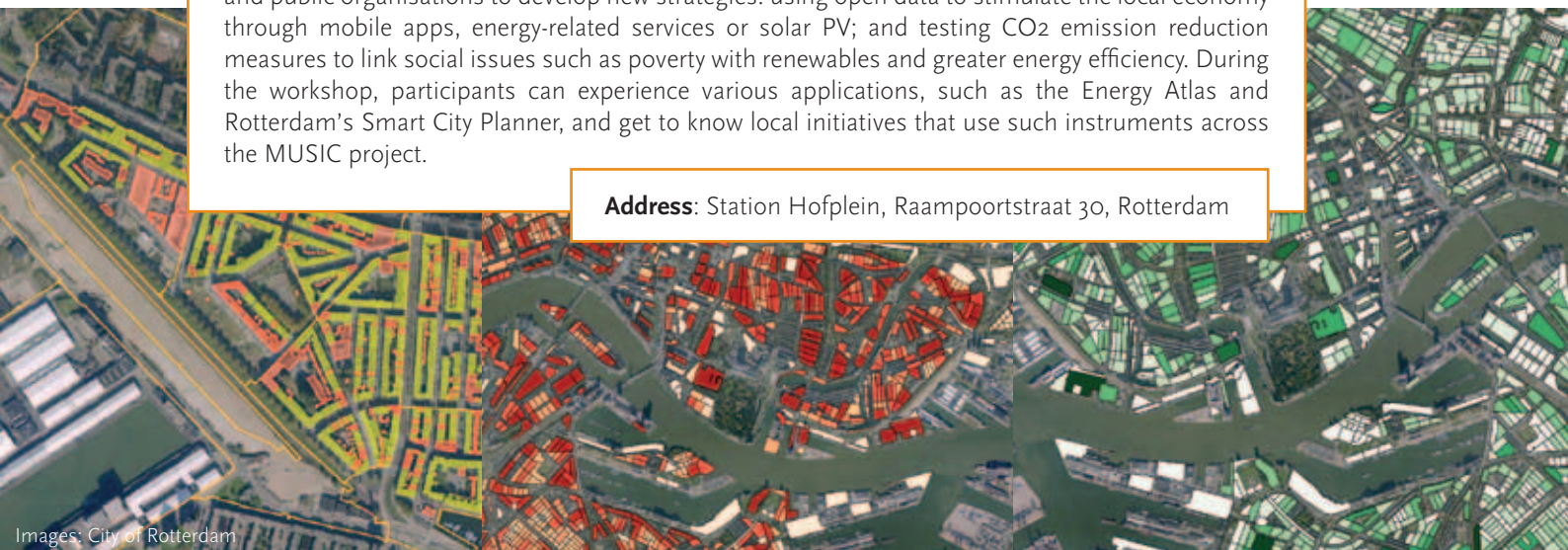
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### **GIS mapping meets transition management: Best of MUSIC**

In the MUSIC project (Mitigation in Urban Areas, Solution for Innovative Cities), cities follow a two track strategy: making information accessible through a GIS platform iGUESS and creating an interaction between the municipality and local change-agents following the principles of transition management.

In this workshop, participants will explore in detail how the two tracks meet and which lessons can be learned. GIS tools in combination with transition management can enable citizens, entrepreneurs and public organisations to develop new strategies: using open data to stimulate the local economy through mobile apps, energy-related services or solar PV; and testing CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction measures to link social issues such as poverty with renewables and greater energy efficiency. During the workshop, participants can experience various applications, such as the Energy Atlas and Rotterdam's Smart City Planner, and get to know local initiatives that use such instruments across the MUSIC project.

**Address:** Station Hofplein, Raampoortstraat 30, Rotterdam



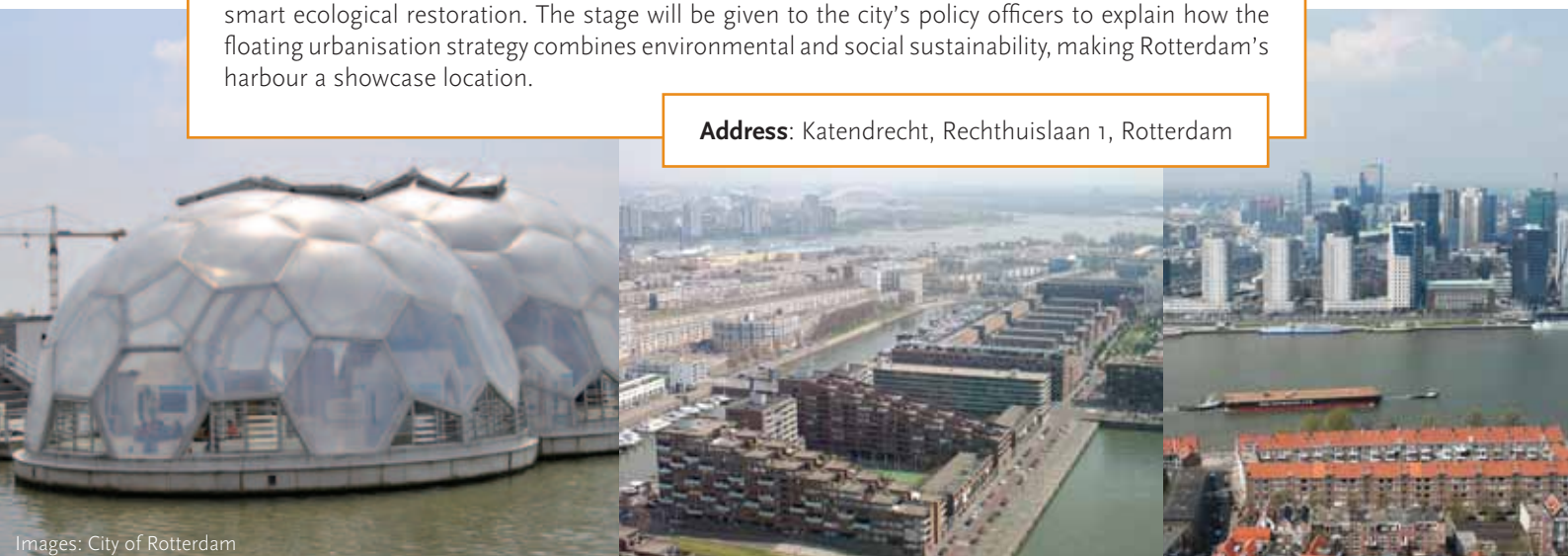
Images: City of Rotterdam

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### **City harbour: accelerating transitions**

This workshop will focus on connecting policy innovation in the short term to ambitious goals in the long term. Participants will visit three locations in the harbour that relate to the City of Rotterdam's climate adaptation policy, which connects action on climate with action on social inclusion and smart ecological restoration. The stage will be given to the city's policy officers to explain how the floating urbanisation strategy combines environmental and social sustainability, making Rotterdam's harbour a showcase location.

**Address:** Katendrecht, Rechthuislaan 1, Rotterdam



Images: City of Rotterdam

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### Social entrepreneurship for a sustainable city

A centre of commerce which has long been a home for multi-national companies, Rotterdam is now finding strength in a wave of social entrepreneurs seeking to use the strengths of private enterprise to solve sustainability challenges. For this, a business model needs to be developed which is financially self-supporting while also being ecologically and socially sustainable. In this workshop we visit RotterZwam, a social business growing edible mushrooms in a disused swimming pool to discuss how they have been able to successfully innovate and implement a sustainable business model.

**Address:** RotterZwam, Maasboulevard 100, Rotterdam



Images: RotterZwam

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### Towards a circular city

Circularity is a hot topic in Rotterdam. Companies in this industrial harbour city search how to connect material flows or even to redesign their core business; social entrepreneurs initiate ingenious projects to build upon local resources and urban planners start to map the potentials and think about the spatial requirements for a circular future. In this workshop, participants will visit SCRAP-XL, a 'supermarket' for scrapped materials in the up-and-coming ZoHo-district. We've invited Jan Jonkert (architect Superuse studios) and Tessa Vlaanderen ('business connector', Circularity Centre) and thus look at the potential developments from both an urban planning and business development perspective. Participants will discuss strategies to accelerate the transition towards a circular future together.

**Address:** Scrap XL, Zomerhofstraat 71, Rotterdam

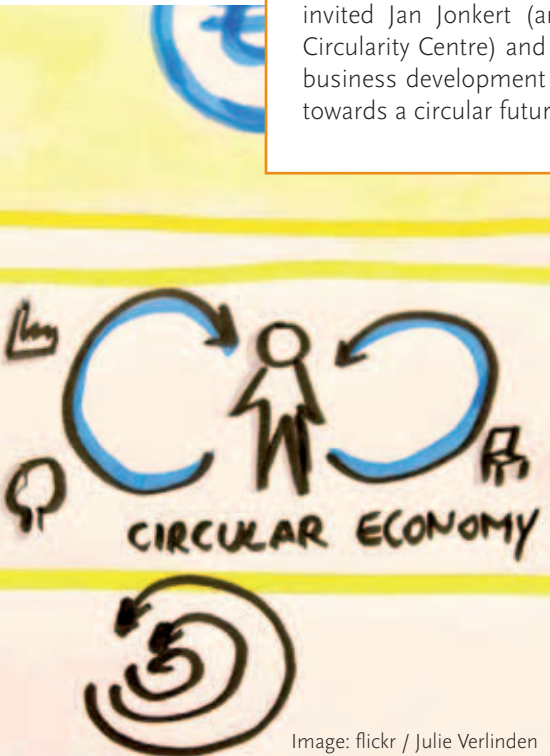


Image: flickr / Julie Verlinden

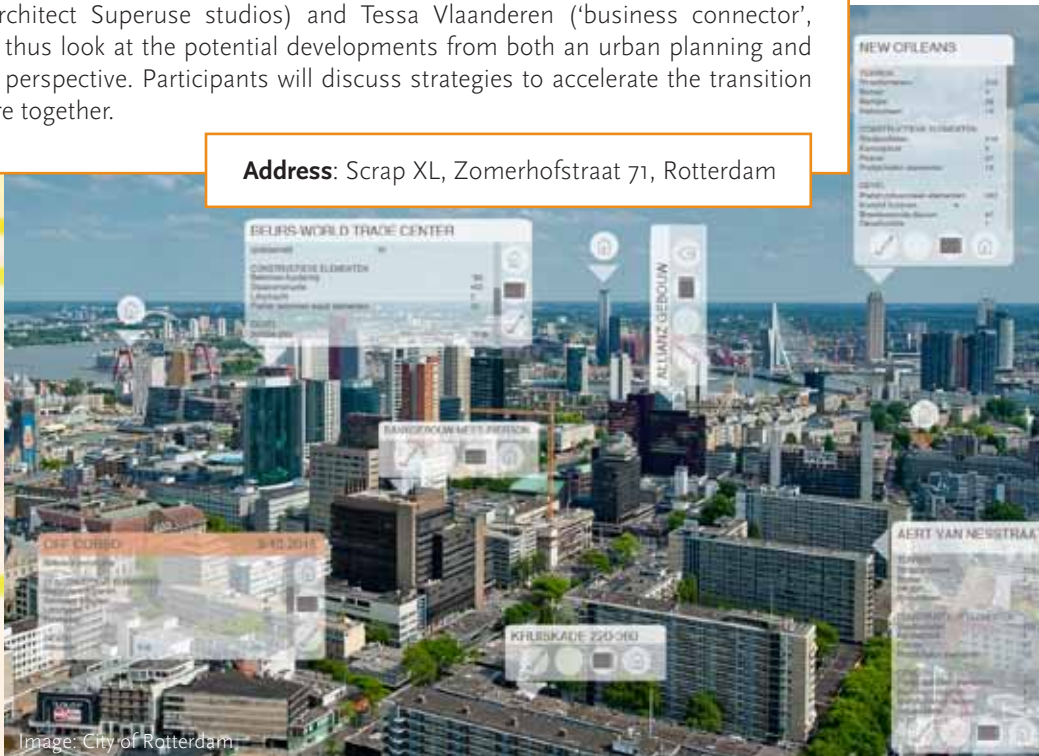


Image: City of Rotterdam

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### Carnisse: social resilience neighbourhood

This workshop highlights initiatives in the neighbourhood of Carnisse which aim to enhance the social resilience of this part of the city of Rotterdam and its residents. These initiatives take part in a collective journey that tries to influence socio-economic transitions on the local scale.

The workshop discusses innovative and integral ways to address poverty, community development, educational reform and the development of future-proof skills and capabilities. It focuses on breaking down existing structures and building up new ones.

As part of the workshop, participants will visit “sites of transition” including community gardens, neighbourhood centres and primary schools, where they will meet residents, entrepreneurs, teachers, children and gardeners who are engaged in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

**Addresses:** Carnissesingel 208, Texelsestraat 18 and Carnissedreef 292, Rotterdam



Images: City of Rotterdam

### Do It Yourself, Together! Transforming the Rotterdam West district

Urban development is becoming more small scale and spontaneous, with more opportunities for residents to influence local planning processes. However, how participative and representative democracy will combine is not yet clear. It is acknowledged that the government should change to reconnect with rapidly changing societies. Civil servants should become ‘free range’ and their objectives should move from ‘accuracy’ and ‘being the best expert’ towards ‘curiosity’, ‘being close to society’ and ‘accountability’. But how can this be achieved when local governments find it difficult to make the change?

Participants will discuss how bottom-up initiatives can shape cities and how local authorities can adapt to this reality. They will discuss this theme in the Rotterdam Impact HUB, a place with the slogan ‘where change goes to work’. As well as the experience of Rotterdam, participants will have input from the cities of Amersfoort (The Netherlands), Gdańsk (Poland) and others.

Participants will also visit the Essenburgpark, a previously uncared-for green strip next to the railway transformed by a citizens initiative into communal education and vegetable gardens. Their dream is to turn this piece of green ‘no man’s land’ into a park.

**Address:** Impact HUB, 1ste Middellandstraat 103, Rotterdam



Images: Rio Holländer

Image: flickr / Christopher Dominic



### Conference secretariat

#### ICLEI European Secretariat

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### Venue

Station Hofplein  
Raampoortstraat 30  
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Twitter:  #incities

## by the ARTS project Accelerating Transitions

Accelerating and Rescaling Transitions to Sustainability

Funded by:



Project Partners:

Stockholm Resilience Centre  
Research for Governance of Social-Ecological Systems



Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development



**I.C.L.E.I**  
Local Governments for Sustainability



Mitigation in Urban areas: Solutions for Innovative Cities

Funded by:



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