

URBEGO

YOUNG-PLANNING-PROFESSIONALS-PLATFORM



at **WORLD URBAN FORUM 7**

THE MISSING PIECE IN URBAN GOVERNANCE
CREATING CITIES FOR LIFE TOGETHER WITH THE YOUNG GENERATIONS
URBEGO SIDE EVENT AT WORLD URBAN FORUM 7, MEDELLIN (COL)

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in the Yellow Pavilion Room 14 at 12.00-13.00

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PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: **Ramon Marrades**, economist (ES)

Panelists:

Giulia Maci, urban planner (IT)

Simona Dobrescu, economist (RO)

Juan Carlos Aristizabal, architect (COL)

SEARCHING FOR A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INDEX

Internationally it is recognized that sustainable development can only be achieved when citizens, governments, organized civil society and the private sector work together towards common goals.

Urbego believes that in the light of the recent events in the Arab States, Turkey, Brazil, India, Romania and other parts of the world the missing link in the governance process across the world is the young generation of urban dwellers. Urbego is working on developing an index of young generation's involvement in urban governance and is collecting case studies all across the globe.

The methodology is being developed in collaboration with universities across the world and aims at improving our understanding of civic, political and economic participation as well as discrepancies between expectations from the various actors involved and their potential consequences. Recent events covered by the international media have shown that these discrepancies can potentially lead to important upheavals by young people that often find it the only way to voice their discontent to their elected representatives.

Urbego believes that by bringing to the table municipalities across the world that have been facing the pressure of young generations together with other municipalities that have already managed to establish good communication and gain the trust of their young citizens will encourage leaders of urban centres to share knowledge and bring back home new ideas to act on.

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The event will launch the overall research project and present a summary of the main findings from the Valencia(Spain) and Medellin(Colombia) case studies.

The first part of the event will illustrate methods in action and introduce the debate on how participatory programmes and policy can be customized to meet local needs. Wider questions that will be addressed relate to the concept of city for life for the young, what makes young people feel part of/ disconnected from their urban communities, what is the added value of young people's involvement and how can urban leaders encourage the young to invest hope and energy in their urban future

The organizers invite contributions and participants representing city municipalities, NGOs, research and academic institutions as well as private sector representatives from all over the world to share their experience and engage themselves in laying the foundation for a city-to-city approach on the issue.

The next participating cities will also be announced and interested contributors are kindly invited to join the discussion and subsequent research.

ABOUT URBEGO

Urbego is a multidisciplinary platform of young, motivated and highly skilled professionals from all around the globe. Urbego wants to provide rapid responses for specific challenges in cities by applying an in situ approach collaborating with local partners, ranging from civil society representatives to research institutions and decision makers.

Urbego's members have a wide range of expertise, going from urban governance, planning, economics, architecture and culture to communication and engagement. Through workshops, these skills are combined with local knowledge from citizens, students and decision makers to find the best solution for the individual case.



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