

Citizen Engagement Webinar

Sitting in public space – how is your city doing?

Thursday 13 October 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm; Online (Microsoft Teams meeting)

General Event Outline

Webinar	Sitting in public space – how is your city doing? <i>Engaging with citizens on the design and placement of public seating</i>
Organiser	EIT Urban Mobility City Club, in collaboration with EPFL – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne
Date	Thursday, 13 October 2022
Time	2:00 pm – 3:15 pm (CET)
Location	Microsoft Teams meeting (link provided in this document)

Detail Event Outline

Sitting in public space – how is your city doing?

Engaging with citizens on the design and placement of public seating

Public seating is an often overlooked, yet surprisingly crucial, cornerstone of any public space strategy. Well-placed and well-designed seating allows people stay, linger, and activate public spaces. Benches make public spaces more inclusive, encouraging and facilitating active mobility. But how much do we actually know about citizen needs and preferences when it comes to public seating? And how well equipped are cities and public agencies to meet those expectations?

This webinar aims at sharing lessons learned on enhancing city liveability by improving the quality of public seating – specifically through engaging with citizens on their needs and preferences. A panel of experts will present the methods and key findings of three citizen engagement projects: CITIZEN BENCH (co-funded by EIT Urban Mobility in 2021, and tested in Munich, Germany), Summer Streets (Munich, Germany), and Grätzloase (Vienna, Austria); and discuss the expectations of citizens on public seating, along with challenges, best practises, and solutions that were identified in meeting those expectations.

Time	Presentations
2.00 – 2.05 pm	Welcome and introduction - Àngel López, City of Barcelona and Chair of City Club
15 min each	Mrs. Renate Albrecher , urban sociologist at EPFL, Lausanne (Switzerland) , and lead of the Citizen Bench (2021) and SEATING (2022) projects co-funded by EIT Urban Mobility, will address the different roles of public benches for supporting active mobility, but also for encouraging social and individual well-being in cities. She will describe the common problematic of the differences observed between citizens needs and cities' decision-making process and criteria for their public benches. With this objective, she will present the web-app Hogga.me (developed during the EIT Urban Mobility co-funded



	project Citizen Bench), which allows cities to better understand the variety of local needs and preferences for public seating.
	Dr. Robert Braun , <i>Associated professor, Senior Researcher on Science, Technology and Social Transformation at the Institute of advanced studies, Vienna (Austria)</i> , will present the pilot project of the web-app Hogga.me in Munich (Germany), including the approach, the reactions of participants, as well as some results of this low-threshold citizen engagement method for public seating.
	Mr. Heinz Grünberger , <i>Architect, Urban Planner and Head of the Department of Public Space Design, Art on the Building Site, Munich (Germany)</i> , will present Munich's Summer Streets. Originally a response to COVID in order to free some streets from cars during summer months, its success made it an annual measure. Summer Streets aims to increase the quality of sojourn in public space by replacing motorized traffic with varied seating devices and plants. After consultation with citizens, some temporary installations get permanent.
	Mrs. Eva Braxenthaler , <i>Project Leader Grätzloase, Verein Lokale Agenda 21, Vienna (Austria)</i> , will introduce the successful project " Grätzloase ": a direct and effective citizen engagement project that allows citizens every summer to create and maintain terraces with seating and greenery for their neighbourhoods in public space.
3.05 - 3.15 pm	Q&A and conclusions

In order to prepare the Webinar and contribute to the SEATING project, co-funded by EIT Urban Mobility this year, we would appreciate if participants could fill in the following survey before the 10th of October: <https://bench.limesurvey.net/149192>.

Login instructions

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More information and contact details

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