



Training Event, 19/10, 8:00-11:00am, at R5

“Eastern European Urban Transformation“

You are warmly invited to join us for this special training event to share experiences in managing urban transformation and interact with other policymakers responsible for urban policy and city-level urban practitioners.

We are pleased to announce that **Mr. Gunther Adler**, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and **Dr. Vitali Klitschko**, Mayor of the City of Kiev, Ukraine will participate in this event.

As the audience of this event you can expect to explore opportunities to associate urban transformation processes influenced by different legacies shaping their individual condition and local capacities with global challenges to promote resilient and sustainable cities.

The first input through a keynote speech will be delivered by **Dr. Oliver Weigel**, Head of the Urban Development Division at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. He will speak about the effectiveness and elaboration of integrated and strategic urban development policies.

The interesting panel will discuss integrated urban development approaches and enabling framework conditions in cities in Romania, Ukraine and Eastern Germany:

- **Mr. Eugen Pănescu**, founding Partner of the Romanian-German office of Planwerk, City of Cluj, Romania
- **Mr. Werner Spec**, Lord Mayor, City of Ludwigsburg, Germany
- **Mr. Rudolf Gräf**, Integrated and Climate-proof Urban Development, Chernivtsi City Council, Ukraine
- **Prof. Bernhard Müller**, Director of the Leibnitz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development and Professor at the Technical University of Dresden.

Based on common challenges, the event intends to provide for building cooperation among policymakers and urban practitioners and to identify replicable implementation-oriented planning tools to urban transformation in its multiple forms on city-wide as well as on neighbourhood level.

We are looking forward to inspiring discussions and your participation!

Background information:

Transformation processes of a city can be linked to a range of causes and corresponding approaches. With the beginning of the 1990s, Ukrainian cities transformed after independence from the Soviet Union and East German cities faced radical transformation after reunification. Likewise, in Romania, the transition towards democracy took place, following the 1989 Romanian Revolution. While the conditions leading to city transformation varied among the three countries, the effects on cities and their citizens were strikingly similar: in short time, they had to adapt to new social forms and adopt new urban governance systems. The collapse of these authoritarian systems required a new emphasis on the citizens and provided for integrated, inclusive urban development with a new socio-political role.

But not only a country's political past shapes urban transformation. Cities are subject to an array of economic, social and environmental challenges. Today, global challenges like climate change, urbanisation, migration or scarce resources exacerbate the need for a sustainable approach to urban development. Finding institutional models to manage urban transformation is key to shaping resilient cities. But how can cities incorporate global challenges like climate change in their local needs and ensure a human-centred urban development?

Whether it is the "inherited" built environment, social inequality or economic transformation; cities need to consider both past legacy and current global challenges. The past has shaped their individual condition and local capacities, but the current global challenges such as climate change are similar across countries and continents. Cities across the globe need to approach them comprehensively to provide for a resilient and liveable future. Successful urban transformation requires holistic strategies and coordinated action by all actors and institutions involved in the urban development process in line with the principles of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities in order to create truly integrated and multi-functional cities. Cities around the world must not focus on individual policy aspects but instead bring together and negotiate between multiple interests in order to be fit for the future.

How is the event related to the New Urban Agenda and its implementation?

The training event will illustrate effective implementation of integrated urban development approaches with a focus on cities in a transformation context. It will provide examples of how enabling policy frameworks at the national, sub-national, and local levels require effective means of implementation in order to truly foster sustainable urban development.

By comparing experiences of urban practitioners from East Germany, Romania and Ukraine, the relevance of multilevel-governance will be assessed as well as the benefits of an integrated approach at the local level as opposed to a sector-driven development attitude.

While the focus of this event lays with circumstances caused by socio-political transformation processes, the lessons learnt are relevant for all other cities, too. A key takeaway is that cities around the world must not focus on individual policy aspects but instead bring together and negotiate between multiple interests in order to be fit for the future. This training will guide decision-makers and practitioners on how to jointly put an integrated urban development approach at the core for developing a resilient and sustainable city.

Organisers:

- German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH