

## **Open call to young professionals:**

### **Contribution to EUROCITIES 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication - Views on the urban future: contributions from young professionals**

#### **Context**

**EUROCITIES** is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern 130 million citizens across 35 countries. Our general objective is to offer our members a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. At the same time, our activities aim at influencing and working with the EU institutions in order to respond to common issues that affect the day-to-day lives of Europeans. Our objective is to reinforce the important role that local governments should play in a multilevel governance structure.

Our network was founded in 1986. We will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 and we want this celebration to be the opportunity to generate debate on the future of cities.

The majority of the world population lives in cities, which are affected by diverse challenges. Cities must constantly innovate to respond to these challenges and they are an important testing ground for policy design and implementation.

#### **Views on the urban future - EUROCITIES 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication**

On the occasion of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are launching an open call to collect material to publish an edited volume of selected views from young professionals.

The call aims at collecting thought-provoking contributions on the future of cities, fostering a new debate on the role of cities in addressing future challenges. The ambition is also to generate new ideas, propose new scenarios, and identify problems and solutions. Participants are asked to explore the future of cities and provide inspiring ideas for cities, city leaders and European policy-makers.

What will our cities be like in the future? What will be the meaning of citizenship? How will cities meet the expectations of people? How will they face key challenges such as climate change, unemployment or poverty? These are just some of the questions we hope to answer in the publication. We want to provoke and support bold visions for the future of our cities.

#### **Eligibility**

The call is open to young professionals from different backgrounds and with different expertise. Contributors should comply with the following criteria:

- be between 25 and 35 years old in 2016
- belong to the following professional categories: researchers, journalists, architects and urbanists, opinion leaders, and novelists
- have at least three years of professional experience in their field

#### **Contributions to the edited volume**

Contributors are expected to provide a piece in the form of a short paper based on their expertise and background:

- it should be of maximum 2500 words
- it should be written in English

- it should provide unexpected and thought-provoking insights to the future of cities

For example:

- contributions from researchers could develop new concepts or ideas, unveiling new trends or research questions related to the future of our cities
- journalists could develop an opinion piece (editorial type) based on their coverage of urban issues, addressing a larger societal challenge related to the future of our cities
- contributions from architects/urbanists/urban and regional planners could provide a reflecting piece on the transformation of the urban fabric
- novelists could provide a very short story where the urban space should play a prominent role or be the main protagonist, focusing on images and scenarios about urban life in the future, dealing with both societal, spatial, environmental challenges
- activists and opinion formers, young leaders of influential organisations in the social, environmental, cultural or business sectors, could provide an opinion piece stating their position on the future of urban development in Europe

## Jury

A special jury, composed by experts in the field, will select the best contributions that will be published in the edited volume in 2016. The president of the jury will be Professor Alessandro Balducci, expert in urban planning and policies at Politecnico di Milano.

## How the call works

- Deadlines to send contributions: 1 March 2016
- Send contributions to [euocities30years@gmail.com](mailto:euocities30years@gmail.com) together with a copy of an ID document and a CV showing at least 3 years of professional experience
- Selected authors will be notified by 15 April 2016.
- Some of the selected authors will also be invited to 'EUROCITIES 2016 Milan', our annual conference that will take place on 16-18 November 2016, where they will be able to discuss their 'views on the urban future' with the current political leaders of European cities.
- Criteria for selection: the jury will define detailed criteria for the selection of proposals. The basic criteria will be the capacity to propose visionary contributions, to provide unexpected and thought-provoking insights on the future of our cities.

## Copyright

Selected authors will be free to re-publish their pieces in specialised journals, citing the EUROCITIES publication/edited volume.

Authors will retain their right to be recognised as the authors and EUROCITIES will not be responsible for the ideas and opinions expressed in the contributions.

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## For more information:

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