

Planning for people

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City mayors from across Europe meet today in Genoa for the first day of the 2011 EUROCIITIES annual conference. Mayors will discuss how, by 'planning for people', we can create liveable cities that foster social cohesion.

Around 350 participants, nearly 100 of them city mayors or senior politicians, are expected to attend EUROCIITIES 2011 Genoa, which runs until 5 November.

Celebrated architect-planner, Renzo Piano, will deliver a keynote address tomorrow, drawing on his own experiences of leading urban regeneration projects in Genoa. This session will be broadcast live via webstream, including speeches from the mayors of Copenhagen and Genoa, and a panel debate with the mayors of Antwerp, Barcelona, Genoa, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Warsaw.

EUROCIITIES president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, shared his views:

"Cities are about people as much as they are about places. Every city faces the challenge of modernising its infrastructure, buildings and public spaces in ways that preserve and promote liveability. There is no better way to meet the needs of citizens than by involving them in the planning process."

This year marks EUROCIITIES' 25th anniversary. In celebration, the network published a book of city photos by young people. These will be exhibited during the conference and an awards ceremony will also take place.

Genoa's mayor, Marta Vincenzi, said:

"We are delighted to host the EUROCIITIES annual conference as the network celebrates its 25th anniversary. Genoa has much to contribute on 'planning for people'. As a port city on the frontline of southern Mediterranean migration, urban regeneration projects have played a crucial role in creating a liveable city that meets the needs of its citizens."

During a private political session, mayors will debate the issue of managing migration flows. Also in the programme are speednetworking sessions, workshops, a gala dinner and the annual EUROCIITIES awards ceremony.

EUROCIITIES 2011 Genoa promises a fascinating look at how cities are tackling common urban challenges through regeneration with a social dimension.

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Note to editors

- EUROCIITIES 2011 Genoa - planning for people, www.eurocities2011.eu
- EUROCIITIES 2011 Genoa live webstream, www.liveeurocities2011.eu
- EUROCIITIES is the network of major European cities, www.eurocities.eu