

Braillard Compass Brussels

Future-proofing *cities*

Projects, evidence and pathways from the NEB Lab “Sustainable and Inclusive Neighbourhoods”



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01

Executive *summary*

On 11 June 2026, in the framework of the New European Bauhaus Festival in Brussels, Brailard and the partners of the NEB Lab *Sustainable and Inclusive Neighbourhoods* convened the second session of the **Brailard Compass**, an itinerant series of high-level dialogues on the ecological transition of cities launched in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2026.

This second edition brought around one common table architects and urbanists from all over Europe, namely the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB), the city network ICLEI, three EU innovation projects (Blueprint, CitySync, Commit2Green), and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, climate science, together with the worlds of finance and insurance.

The day's question — **how do we future-proof Europe's cities and neighbourhoods?** — produced three converging strings of thought.

- First, mainstream modern architecture seems insufficient as a future-proof concept: buildings that survive only on air conditioning heat their cities by several degrees and export a highly misleading model worldwide. The answer lies in sufficiency, low-tech comfort and lessons drawn from the building cultures of the Global South, codified in the SHIFT Principles of Success and now being considered as resilience factors for real-estate finance.

- Second, adaptation should be considered an essential project strand rather than a response to exceptional events — and never as an admission of failed mitigation. François Gemenne's keynote reframed adaptation as the guarantee of Europe's real competitive advantage: the quality of life in its cities.
- Third, the transition will scale only when sustainability aligns with the financial question. From DGNB's risk-factor work with the German banking sector to the asset-value argument for private renovation investment in owner-occupied housing markets such as Belgium, the closing debate returned repeatedly to the pivotal role of the financial system — banks, insurers, valuers and developers.

Alongside these three lines of debate, the session offered professionals a concrete toolbox: twenty-three digital participation instruments piloted by the Blueprint project, the 15-minute-city field evidence of CitySync, the nature-based-solution strategies of Commit2Green in eight European cities, and the strategic-foresight method Brailard weathered over two international consultations for Greater Geneva and for Greater Luxembourg. This report develops each contribution in brief.



02

The Brailard Compass, from Davos to *Brussels*

The prominent Swiss architect, urbanist and politician Maurice Brailard (1879–1965) viewed and worked for the city and canton of Geneva holistically. His legacy inspired his son, architect Pierre Brailard, to create the Fondation Brailard Architectes in Geneva in 1987. Operating under the **Brailard** umbrella, this non-profit organisation of public utility pursues its research and cultural programme, *The Eco-Century Project®*, by assembling a multidisciplinary, international network of experts—from academia and engineering to the humanities, economy, and business—through the **Brailard Compass**: a series of meetings bringing together cross-sector stakeholders engaged in Ecological Transition by Design. In today's troubled waters, setting the course is not only about prosperity and well-being; it is about safeguarding our humanist and ecological values, collectively, with the broadest possible range of decision-makers.

In a timely manner, the inaugural Compass took place in Davos on 22 January 2026, while global geopolitics was in full disarray. Under the title *Strategic Foresight for Cities*, gathering some thirty leaders — from ETH Zurich, EPFL and University of Geneva, to Lombard Odier, the Liechtenstein Institute for Strategic Development, the European Commission and the Novo Nordisk Foundation — around the foresight agenda.

→ **Brussels: a Compass for Europe's neighbourhoods**

Brussels marks a deliberate change of scale and audience. Whereas Davos looked at cities “summit-down” — global capital, macro-disruptions, foresight doctrines — the Brussels gathering descends to the **neighbourhood scale**, where the transition is currently being designed, negotiated and backed. Three features defined this edition.

1 European anchoring. Held as a satellite event of the New European Bauhaus Festival (9–13 June 2026), the session operated inside the EU policy ecosystem: the NEB Compass and Toolbox introduced by the Commission's JRC, Horizon Europe projects, and above all the NEB Lab *Sustainable and Inclusive Neighbourhoods* — co-led by Drees & Sommer and BABLE Smart Cities with DGNB, CPEA and the Fondation Brailard Architectes — whose motto is “where funding meets needs”: supporting cities and regions in securing financing for neighbourhood transformation, through matchmaking between projects and stakeholders.

2 A coalition of practice. The gathering brought together, as co-authors of the discussion, a wide range of vantage points: city and regional authorities (the City of

Sarajevo, the City of Brussels, the Brussels-Capital Region and Bruxelles Environnement), the European Commission, green-building certification (DGNB and the Belgian Green Building Council), city networks and innovation accelerators (ICLEI, BABLE, Connected Places Catapult, RISE / Viable Cities), architecture and urban-design practices (MVRDV, Urban Architects, FAI, LWS), and research institutions (RIBA, the Norwegian School of Economics) — alongside the EU projects Blueprint, CitySync and Commit2Green and climate scientist François Gemenne (IPCC).

- 3 **A working method.** Short, evidence-based interventions followed by open debate, aimed at triggering commitments: joining the NEB Lab, applying to the Blueprint Learning Accelerator, contributing to the risk-factor work under way with the banking sector.





03

Rethinking *architecture* for a hotter world

The DGNB agenda

“Modern architecture is not a future-proof concept. What we build can only survive with air conditioning — and air conditioning heats the city itself by three to four degrees.”

Dr Christine Lemaitre, CEO, German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB); Chair, CPEA

→ DGNB in brief

Founded in 2007, the DGNB is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation and Europe’s biggest network for sustainable building: more than 2,800 member organisations spanning the entire value chain, from the single architect to construction companies and banks; over 11,000 certification awards in more than 30 countries; and a training academy that has qualified over 15,000 experts in more than 50 countries. Its certification system — covering districts, new buildings, renovations, interiors and buildings in use — is conceived not as “a sticker by the door” but as a planning and optimisation tool: life-cycle based, holistic (environmental, economic and sociocultural in equal measure), performance-oriented, and anchored in EU standards and legislation. Beyond its members, DGNB runs outreach initiatives, including a municipality network of 113 participating cities and communes offering what Christine Lemaitre calls a “safe space” where city

officers can ask the questions they would not dare ask at conferences, learn from peers and “cease reinventing the wheel”.

→ The diagnosis: from misleading images to failing buildings

Christine Lemaitre’s core argument calls for disciplinary honesty. Engineering culture — “because we can” — has produced buildings that ignore the question of sufficiency: concrete pumped in any temperature, glass towers identical from Berlin to the tropics, projects celebrated by the media precisely because they are new and big. To corroborate this, she set up a series of exhibits. The famous vegetated luxury hotel in Singapore: thermal imaging shows the greenery cooling the courtyard while the façades overheat — the ensemble works only because the building is fully air-conditioned, its enormous, embodied emissions serving just a

handful of guests. The black-metal-façade residential tower with planted balconies, photogenic because green reads brighter against black — a façade on which, during the summer months, “you could fry an egg”. These images travel: in China, entire districts have been modelled on such icons. Meanwhile, fundamentals shift: in Germany, days requiring heating have fallen by half while days requiring cooling have doubled in four years — yet public debate remains fixated on heating systems, and the air-conditioning industry enjoys a parallel growth without limits. To frame the trajectory, Christine Lemaître showed a world map of city climate analogues drawn from ETH Zurich research: in one category, cities whose 2050 climate already exists somewhere else on Earth; in the other, cities heading for conditions no major city experiences today. Her slide put figures on the shift — Berlin moving from an annual mean of 9.65°C in 2019 to a projected 11.63°C in 2050, Jakarta from 27.62°C to 29.33°C. The underlying study (Bastin et al., PLOS ONE, 2019) analysed 520 cities and found that 77% of those will come to resemble another existing city, while 22% will face unprecedented climate patterns; northern-hemisphere cities “shift” southwards by roughly 1,000 km on average.

Her conclusion borrows Cedric Price’s aphorism: *“Technology is the answer — but what was the question?”* Greening the city is good, but it is not a sufficient solution to such a complex problem; without changing the architecture itself, greenery will prove just a decoration on a failing model.

→ **SHIFT: ten principles, learned from the Global South**

Launched at the Architecture Biennale in Vienna, the SHIFT movement gathers architects and designers around a conviction: Europe has much to learn from countries with long cultures of building for heat—shading, airflow control, density, and local, natural materials such as clay. Its ten Principles of Success (v1.0) are intended as design-stage orientations:

- **Breathing architecture** — natural airflow and ventilation for healthy, energy-sufficient indoor environments without mechanical systems.
- **Regional and reclaimed materials** — local or recycled low-carbon materials, supporting local economies.
- **Circularity** — design for disassembly and closed loops.
- **Appropriate comfort inside and outside** — passive strategies (orientation, shading, ventilation, materials) allowing individual adaptation.
- **Multimodal mobility** — priority to walking, cycling, transit and sharing; minimal underground parking.

- **Robustness and longevity** — durable materials, adaptable layouts, low maintenance.
- **Adaptive buildings** — buildings prone to various uses over time, including housing.
- **Sufficiency and consistency** — clean energy generation and storage, sufficiency in energy and space use.
- **Positive impact on humans and nature** — air quality, biodiversity, microclimate.
- **Primacy of public space** — designing buildings from the outside in.

→ **From principles to bank risk factors**

The novelty in Brussels is translating these principles into the language of finance. Under the heading of one of her slides — “follow the money, or money doesn’t follow risks” — a year-old initiative now gathers around twenty of the roughly two hundred German banks active in real-estate financing. Together they have converted the SHIFT principles into **risk factors for lending and valuation**, among them: the performance gap of over- or under-engineered energy systems; excessive glazing (a maximum window-to-wall ratio of 50% for commercial buildings and 30% for housing, with operation possible without air conditioning in an extended comfort range); critical mechanical equipment placed in flood-prone basements; combustion heating technologies facing the EPBD’s zero-on-site-emission requirement; over-equipped, over-digitalised buildings; indoor-air contamination (TVOC); short-lived construction; missing on-site photovoltaics; and car-dependent life patterns. A joint publication carrying the banks’ logos is in final review, and from autumn 2026 DGNB will train Germany’s property valuers — the professionals who decide what a building is worth — on these factors. The strategy is based on the principles of acupuncture: find the pressure points where the value chain actually changes its behaviour. The next frontier, she noted, is risks due to biodiversity loss.



04

Adaptation doesn't mean *defeat*

François Gemenne's keynote

"As long as we treat extreme events as exceptional, we will not invest in adaptation. Indeed, they are becoming structural."

Prof. François Gemenne, HEC Paris; FNRS, University of Liège; lead author, IPCC AR6

François Gemenne opened his talk with a three-century flashback. On 1 November 1755 — All Saints' Day — an earthquake, followed by a tsunami and fire, destroyed Lisbon. To a population asking why God had struck the pious city rather than Paris or London, some Enlightenment figures answered otherwise. Voltaire and the philosophers argued that the disaster's toll was a matter of urban design: no evacuation routes, buildings built too close, foundations dug too shallow. Based on that guidance, the Marquis de Pombal rebuilt the city. Thus, the Lisbon we enjoy today is the successful outcome of that reconstruction, and it stands as early proof that cities can be redesigned to be less vulnerable, however scandalous the idea might have seemed to the Church at the time. European cities have transformed themselves repeatedly since (e.g. Haussmann's Paris has little to do with the medieval city) and climate change now demands an urban revolution of comparable ambition.

A radio host had asked him that very morning: if Paris's future climate is Madrid's, what exactly is wrong with that — is Madrid not a lovely city? François Gemenne's answer structures the argument: Spain is a very nice country, but people there do not live as Parisians do — their cities are built differently, organised differently. If climate change is not to become a disaster for European cities, the cities themselves must transform.

Two psychological barriers are preventing this. The first barrier is the framing of extremes as *exceptional*: every heatwave is reported as extraordinary, and what is extraordinary is, by definition, not supposed to happen again — so nobody invests in preparing for it. Extreme events must be understood as structural, ordinary features of the new climate. The second barrier is the suspicion, widespread among climate advocates, that adaptation weakens the case for mitigation — as if people needed to suffer to stay convinced. François Gemenne rejected this flatly: on one hand, people have no

reason to suffer from climate impacts; on the other hand, adaptation and decarbonisation are complementary projects, not rival ones.

His closing argument turned to his familiar domain, geopolitics. Against the narrative of a declining Europe — losing industry to China, AI to the United States — the social-media countertrend of “Euro-maximalism” celebrates what Europe actually offers: time for oneself, beauty, health, cities

worth living in. Quality of life is Europe’s competitive edge, and it is precisely what climate change attacks. Making cities thrive in a changing climate is therefore both a climate strategy (e.g. dense urban life is far easier to decarbonise than sprawl) and an economic one: if cities do not adapt, people will abandon them. “We can continue to lead a good life in cities, under the condition that cities adapt to the changing climate conditions.”





05

Blueprint

23 digital tools for participatory renovation

“We combine cutting-edge technology with citizen participation to turn buildings and neighbourhoods into living, climate-neutral ecosystems.”

Daniel Botha, ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability

The EU-funded Blueprint project addresses a familiar failure point: renovation programmes designed without the people who must live with them. Its answer is a portfolio of **23 digital participatory tools**, demonstrated and corroborated across regulatory, climatic and social contexts in five pilot countries — Ireland, France, Hungary, Greece and Italy — all aligned with NEB principles. The tools fall into three families.

→ Simulation and visualisation

The **Immersive Scenario Simulator** (ISVT), built on agent-based models and Unity, lets stakeholders test renovation scenarios as “players” — including from the perspective of vulnerable users such as the elderly or visually impaired; each run produces a report and collects citizen feedback. An **AI-driven design generator** produces realistic images of renovation options for buildings and public spaces, making projects communicable to non-experts. A microclimate and heat-risk simulator takes a simple 3D model of the neighbourhood (LOD2) and returns near-real-time maps of

temperature and thermal comfort, revealing the cooling effect of green infrastructure at the design stage; and a life-cycle analysis tool gives rapid feedback on the embodied-carbon consequences of design alternatives — answering, for instance, what a black metal façade does to thermal comfort before it is built.

→ Engagement and gamification

A **gamified co-design app** lets participants apply catalogued solutions to a public space and see the impact, while collecting preference data. **Minecraft-based participatory design** uses the familiar open-world game — with facilitators from schools, planning and community organisations — to lower entry barriers for young people. **ABUDScope** couples a physical Lego model with a digital shadow, so workshop participants can move pieces and visualise consequences; the **Collaborative Design Platform** does the same at table scale with a touch-screen interface integrating physical models. More experimental, the **Contemplative Landscape**

Model scores landscapes on seven dimensions validated against neurophysiological measures of mental well-being. To avoid merely declarative results, participants' responses to green-space scenarios are literally measured.

→ **Modelling and decision support**

SustainACT maps any project to the UN SDGs, the EU Green Deal and NEB values for impact communication. **Songlines** converts natural-language input — survey answers, comments, transcripts — into geospatial data, giving planners a map of the residents' testimonials. Mobility simulation (SUMO) and urban analytics complete the set.

→ **Deep dive: Budapest's 18th district**

The Hungarian pilot shows the toolbox at work across three scales. The district, on Budapest's south-eastern edge near the airport road, is suburban and garden-like but fragmented by heavy transit corridors: inefficient infrastructures, disconnected neighbourhoods, few "third places". **At building scale**, the municipality owns a currently empty 1920s–30s structure of some 400 m² with fragmented ground floor plus basement and patio, consuming around 256 kWh/m², known as the Pálma building. This is set to become a youth-oriented community hub through an energy-efficient, nature-based renovation, co-designed with students (grades 7–12), the cultural-centre operator, NGOs and facilitators, using Minecraft co-design, the gamified interface and the immersive simulator. "Solarpunk-inspired" programming aims to replace climate anxiety with a climate-positive imaginary. **At neighbourhood scale**, Üllői Road — a 15 km commuter artery well served by tram and bus but hostile to pedestrians, cyclists and street life — is to be revitalised into a pedestrian-friendly, climate-resilient corridor, confronting the conflicting interests of current commuters and prospective users with XR planning, Songlines, microclimate analytics, mobility simulation and AI visualisation. **At district scale**, a network of inclusive third places — community points without consumption obligation — will be located using the participatory toolset.

→ **The Learning Accelerator — and a lesson from the room**

From autumn 2026, the **Blueprint Learning Accelerator** opens to cities beyond the pilots: mentoring for NEB-aligned renovation projects, training on the integrated tools, peer learning, funded site visits and EU-level visibility (blueprintproject.eu → Open calls). The Brussels Compass added a practitioner's nuance the project team welcomed: for many take-away cases, *the simple act of visualising options matters more than intensive engagement* — and the strongest interest in the room went to the tools that turn surveys and narratives into spatial data.



06

CitySync

The proximity city put to the test

“A blueprint for orchestrating your own 15-minute-neighbourhood transformation.”

CitySync — “The Guide for a Just City”, presented by Breogan Sanchez (BABLE Smart Cities)

CitySync — *Synchronizing Urban Mobility and Communities for Liveable Neighbourhoods* — tests the 15–30-minute-city principle in three deliberately contrasting settings, to establish what “proximity” requires beyond the slogan.

MicroVille 112, Greater Reims (France). A former military air base being transformed into a climate-neutral Microcity® by 2030: a community-driven living lab, aligned with NEB principles, co-designing and testing a 15–30-minute microcity that combines public transit, bicycles and light electric vehicles.

Gebze city centre, Kocaeli (Türkiye). The proximity approach tailored to a peripheral transit-hub city with heavy industrial and commercial activity — including co-creation of “Safe School Road” initiatives, where walkability is above all children’s safety.

Bromma Airport, Stockholm (Sweden) — theoretical demonstration. Applying the proximity method to the future planning of a decommissioned airfield: a mobility hub for last-mile logistics, re-use of existing buildings, and identification of the interventions that would make Bromma a future 15-minute city.

The project’s main published outcome is *The Guide for a Just City*, a blueprint for orchestrating a 15-minute-neighbourhood transformation. In Brussels, Breogan Sanchez ran the diagnostic exercise live, asking the room to rank what makes people avoid or choose a walking route: sidewalk width, traffic volume and speed, noise, smell, presence of trees and shade, lighting, slopes. The point is of methodological importance, since walkability is not a term describing potential through a bundle of measurable, improvable parameters, and communities can engage on each one of them.



07

Commit2Green

Nature-based solutions at three scales

“From macro to micro scale — the city, the district, the specific intervention: green measures must connect across all three.”

Dr Haris Piplas, Director Integrated Urban Solutions, Drees & Sommer

Commit2Green (C2G) is a Horizon Europe innovation project running 2025–2029 with 25 partners and a budget of some €11.9 million (Swiss participation funded by SERI). It partners with eight pilot cities — Vejle, Warsaw, Mannheim, Sarajevo, Thessaloniki, Barcelona, The Hague and Milan — to shift nature-based solutions (NbS) from isolated gestures into systemic, cross-scale strategies embedded in urban planning frameworks. Its operating principles: an **ecosystem-services logic** matching supply (existing environmental performance) with demand (community-identified needs such as heat risk, lack of green access, social exclusion); integration of **blue, green and grey infrastructure** into connected, high-performance networks; and **participation** as a core design method, rather than a communication afterthought. Drees & Sommer coordinates the work package on urban renaturation visions: spatial analysis at neighbourhood and district level, NbS implementation strategies for all eight cities, a toolbox of measures for green-blue infrastructure at city scale, and stakeholder workshops along the process.

→ Mannheim: greening the inner city

Mannheim’s pilot connects three scales: property-level greening interventions; an integrated district master plan promoting de-sealing and connecting green spaces; and a citywide strategy for greening roofs, façades, and public and private spaces. Targets include 100 new inner-city trees, 10 green roofs and 5 green façades, with citizen participation throughout — supported by climate-risk analysis (Deltares/DRESO), an integrated NbS district master plan, AI greening visualisations and a city greening network.

→ Barcelona: the periphery first

In the Els Camps Blancs neighbourhood, C2G enhances a streambed as the anchor of an NbS management strategy for peripheral areas. It links metropolitan planning and mobility strategies to public-space improvement in socially and climatically disadvantaged neighbourhoods, turning agricultural heritage and biodiversity into sheer assets.

→ Sarajevo: the hardest case

The segment that most resonated with the room concerned Sarajevo — in Haris Pipilas's words, one of the most challenging urban contexts in Europe: erosion and landslide risk on the hillsides, war-damaged fabric, extensive informal housing, degraded watercourses and demanding cultural heritage. The C2G approach works from the city scale — reconnecting the site to the wider green infrastructure of the periphery — down to concrete measures: a flood-prevention strategy, urban runoff and speed control, de-sealing, and the activation of neglected land, developed with the city government, local offices and international partners. The underlying message for professionals: replication logic matters more than the pilot itself — building local capacity so that cities can carry solutions into the next funding programme, rather than treating each project as a unique case.





08

Strategic *foresight* before planning

The Brailard method

“Decarbonisation has metrics — tonnes per year. Resilience proves itself only in the crash test. We must navigate with both, and turning them into our Compass.”

Dr Panos Mantziaras, Director, Fondation Brailard Architectes

Panos Mantziaras's starting point is disciplinary: the design disciplines have moved through successive scales — the house (oikos), the city (polis), the nineteenth-century metropolis, the city-territory — and each scalar leap changed the complexity of the task. The next scale is the planet in transition, roughly 2000–2100: from a non-sustainable present to a sustainable future. At that scale, under uncertainty about climate, economy, demography and migration, **planning alone no longer works**, for planning presupposes a settled baseline. Strategic foresight should then come first: a set of tools, processes and mindsets for decision-making under uncertainty — scenario building (exploring coherent futures without predicting one), horizon scanning (detecting weak signals before they become irreversible trends), STEEP analysis, backcasting from a target such as zero carbon, and crisis simulation. Foresight opens the funnel of possible futures, desirable or not; accountable choice narrows it; only then does design thinking converge. His emblem is the

portolan chart of sixteenth-century navigators: maps drawn mile by mile by adventurers who risked the journey — unfinished, albeit corrected year after year — a stark difference from a sealed execution plan.

→ Three consultations, one learning curve

Greater Paris (2008–2010) — the pioneering case, and in some sense a tough lesson: conducted too much like a planning exercise, too early. **Greater Geneva (2018–2020)** — seven foresight visions for the cross-border region to 2050, built on equity, biodiversity and climate resilience across four fields (energy, mobility, nature, society), delivered upstream of territorial transition policies. **Luxembourg in Transition (2020–2022)** — the change of scale to a cross-border functional region, and the decisive innovation: a new generation of verifiable metrics, comparing technology-driven, degrowth and deep-ecology trajectories and translating them

into sequences of policies, opportunities and emergencies. Without combining qualitative with quantitative thought, Panos Mantziaras warned, transition risks becoming business as usual. Thus, each consultation becomes a living lab: tailor-made, interdisciplinary, with a critical mass of participants, full engagement of politics and administration, guaranteed design autonomy — and, above all, transferable.

→ **From foresight to the street: Geneva's pipeline**

The method now feeds an implementation pipeline in Geneva. For the Praille–Acacias–Vernets district, a decarbonisation-and-resilience trajectory from today's footprint of roughly 13 tCO₂eq per inhabitant per year towards about 1 tCO₂eq by 2050, steered through pilot, demonstrator and experimental projects. **Urban Oases 2.0** creates a new generation of cool public places combining aeraulic design, underground networks (GeniLac), scientific measurement and the study of uses — climate justice built into public space. The **Festival 1000 Trees** mobilises tactical urbanism for the canton's target of 30% tree-shaded area by 2070 — 150,000 trees in fifteen years — moving from ideation (European 2025) through prototyping (Festival 2027) to development (from 2028

onwards). Annual **Transition Workshops** hinge strategy to small-scale action through situated recommendation booklets — recent editions: ecological densities on the airport's southern façade (2023), the city of Versoix at +4°C (2024), climate adaptation of Geneva's Augustins sector (2025) — with particular attention to fragile bodies: heat, fatigue, mobility, isolation. The research horizon is **ecological density**: combining density and biodiversity indices, treating the urban landscape not as a collection of objects but as a field of three-dimensional lines that divide or connect species — the new aesthetic, functional and material frontier of architecture.





09

Who *pays*?

The finance debate

This financial thread is where the Compass now travels. The next Brailard Compass will convene in London on 14 January 2027 — Europe's foremost financial centre — to take this question further: how the instruments of banking, insurance and investment can move from brakes on urban

adaptation to its engines. What began in Davos as strategic foresight, and continued in Brussels as neighbourhood practice, will in London be measured against the discipline of capital.



10

What professionals should take *away*

→ Architects and urbanists

Design from the SHIFT principles at concept stage, not as certification afterthought: breathing buildings, maximum window-to-wall ratios, reclaimed and regional materials, passive comfort both inside and outside, responsibility for the public space and the building shapes affecting the urban commons. Learn from the constructive cultures of the Global South instead of bequeathing the glass tower once more. And develop participation tools — from immersive simulators to Minecraft — as design instruments that socially de-risk projects ahead of the construction phase.

→ Public decision-makers

Budget adaptation as a structural, recurring line, to mitigate post-disaster repair. Implement foresight before planning: open scenarios (including uncomfortable ones), narrow down the spectrum, opt accountably, then plan; the Geneva pipeline (foresight → consultations → transition workshops → pilot projects) proves to be a replicable model. Join peer-learning structures — the DGNB municipality network, the Blueprint Learning Accelerator, the NEB Lab — rather than reinventing remotely; and use tools that convert citizen voice into spatial data to give participation efficiency.

→ Investors, banks and insurers

Climate risk is already repricing real estate: over-glazed façades, flood-exposed ground floors, combustion heating, over-teched buildings and car-dependent locations are tomorrow's stranded assets. Consequently, engage with the DGNB risk-factor framework before regulations force the issue; anticipate biodiversity as the next risk class; and recognise renovation of owner-occupied stock as an asset-protection stream, rather than a subsidy-sustained market. As insurability becomes the de facto standard for adaptation, accurate risk pricing becomes a winning strategy.

→ Get involved

- **NEB Lab “Sustainable and Inclusive Neighbourhoods”** — join as project owner or network partner: alex@bable-smartcities.eu · haris.piplas@dreso.com
- **Blueprint Learning Accelerator** — open calls from autumn 2026: blueprintproject.eu · daniel.botha@iclei.org
- **CitySync / The Guide for a Just City** — breogan@bable-smartcities.eu
- **Commit2Green** — commit2green.eu · haris.piplas@dreso.com
- **DGNB risk factors & SHIFT** — c.lemaitre@dgnb.de



Save the date

The next Brillard Compass *London*, 14 January 2027

Taking the financial thread further: how banking, insurance and investment can become engines of urban adaptation. From Davos foresight to Brussels neighbourhoods to the discipline of capital.