



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE
UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK
AT 6:00 PM ON
14 OCTOBER 2025
UCM627**

Please note:

Opinions expressed or statements made by participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

By attending a Council Meeting via audio-visual link those present will be recorded or their image captured. When participating in the meeting, consent is automatically given for those participating to be recorded and have images captured.

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and I pay respect to their elders past and present.

If there are other Elders present I would also like to acknowledge them.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors may raise any formal acknowledgements that need to be made at this time, including congratulatory or condolences.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Speakers

An opportunity for members of the public to speak to an item on the agenda will be made available by necessary means. To participate, members of the public must have registered before 12noon on the day of the Council meeting.

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

6. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 6.1

14 October 2025

Regional City Strategy & Transition

MAYOR'S ATTENDANCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAM, BARCELONA, SPAIN

PURPOSE

To provide background information on the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) European Union - Asia and Australasia and to consider the opportunity for the Mayor, as Council's One Gippsland representative, to participate in the Global Thematic Networking Workshops (Workshops) to be held at the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) 2025 in Barcelona, Spain.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The IURC is a European Union (EU) program promoting multi-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, building partnerships between EU and non-EU cities.
- The objectives of the program are the dissemination of best practices, concrete action plans, and long-term partnerships and subnational diplomacy.
- Attending the SCEWC and participating in the Global Thematic Networking Workshops will facilitate meeting EU representatives and determine which region or regions Gippsland can collaborate with, based on the IURC thematic themes. The details of the Workshops can be found in Attachment 1.
- The themes of the IURC program are Industrial Modernisation, Agri-Food, Clean Energy, and Blue Economy. Three of these themes are directly relevant to Gippsland - Industrial Modernisation, Agri-Food and Clean Energy, with Clean Energy and Industrial Modernisation more specific to Latrobe City.
- Prior to attending the Workshops it will be necessary for Gippsland to determine which theme to focus on, the specific project area/s, how Gippsland's involvement will be coordinated across the participating councils (South Gippsland Shire Council, Wellington Shire Council and Latrobe City Council), and the preferred outcomes to ensure the maximum benefit from attending the Workshops in Barcelona.
- Travel, accommodation and conference costs related to the Workshops will be covered by the program organisers.

- There will be other expenses incurred during the trip that are not covered by program organisers including incidentals, travel to the airport, parking, accommodation costs outside of the Workshop dates, additional meals which would need to be covered under Council's Support and Expenses Policy, and therefore a cost to Council. It is anticipated that the cost to Council will be approximately \$750 to \$1,000.
- Councillors undertaking international travel in relation to Council business require Council approval prior to the event.
- As per the Council Support and Expenses Policy, a written report will need to be provided by the Mayor to Council on the outcomes of the trip which could include the proposed thematic focus, the project focus area, a list of potential regions for Gippsland to match and work with, feedback on the sessions attended, meetings attended.
- As a part of the IURC program, One Gippsland has the opportunity to participate and to send two representatives to attend the Global Thematic Networking Workshops to be held during the SCEWC 2025 in Barcelona, Spain.
- As Chair of One Gippsland, Cr Nathan Hersey has nominated to attend as a One Gippsland representative for the region with the second Gippsland attendee proposed to be the Mayor, Cr Harriman.
- At the One Gippsland September 2025 Board Meeting, One Gippsland members supported involvement on a provisional basis, entering discussions in good faith, with a six-month review to occur. One condition includes that there is no cost to One Gippsland members (councils) to participate.
- The Mayor attending the Workshops presents an opportunity to learn how other regions globally have managed the challenges faced by Latrobe City and the opportunity to directly engage with other program representatives.
- After balancing the advantages of attending the conference against the relatively small outlay of funding, it is Officers' opinion that the trip represents an opportunity to understand more about the program and the potential benefits that could exist from participation on an ongoing basis.
- Council's ongoing participation will be reviewed based on Officer and Councillor time, the alignment to the Council Plan, and the value of participating in the program to the Latrobe City community.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. approves the Mayor Councillor Dale Harriman to attend the Smart City Expo World Congress, in Barcelona, Spain from 4th to 6th of November 2025 inclusive, to participate in the International Urban and Regional Cooperation Workshops;**
- 2. approves the Mayor's travel on the 3rd and 7th November 2025 in view of the location and travel requirements to Barcelona, Spain;**
- 3. notes that all travel, accommodation and conference costs associated with the Workshops are to be paid by the International Urban and Regional Cooperation program;**
- 4. approves expenses related to attending and participating in the Workshops, not covered by the International Urban and Regional Cooperation program organisers, related to items 1 to 2 above, in accordance with the Council Support and Expenses Policy; and**
- 5. notes the Mayor will provide a written report on the outcomes to Council in line with Council's Support and Expenses Policy.**

BACKGROUND

The IURC is a program of the European Union (EU) promoting multi-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, building partnerships between EU and non-EU cities.

The IURC is implemented in the Americas, China, Asia, and Australasia, with a central coordination service in Brussels, the EU capital.

The IURC EU-Asia and Australasia project operates in Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, India, and Malaysia.

Activities to be implemented include geographic and thematic partnerships, training, advanced cooperation visits, networking events, and thematic reports. Activities started in September 2025 and will continue for two years.

One Gippsland

One Gippsland was approached by the IURC to lead the Gippsland participation in the program. At its September 2025 Board Meeting, One Gippsland members supported involvement on a provisional basis, entering discussions in good faith, with a six-month review to occur. One condition includes that there is no cost to One Gippsland members (Councils) to participate.

The IURC program is consistent with One Gippsland's position to encourage new industry and investment in the region.

Since August 2025, One Gippsland members have participated in several events and discussions through the IURC program, including an online international launch, in-person Australian launch (hosted by Melbourne City Council), introductory presentations and several online meetings.

ANALYSIS

The SCEWC describes itself to be the world's biggest and most influential event on urban innovation. The IURC workshop/s will convene up to 138 participating cities and regions from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Australasia. The event aims to support cities and regions to initiate pilot project activities.

Gippsland is one of only three regions in Australia that has been selected to be involved, which is an opportunity to participate, share and learn about innovation, challenges and opportunities.

The IURC program promotes the following outcomes for participating regions:

Dissemination of Best Practices: Publications on best practices in regional development will be developed and disseminated throughout the project. These publications will serve as valuable resources for both AA and EU pilot cities/regions, promoting knowledge sharing and informing future initiatives.

Concrete Action Plans: The project will facilitate the creation of concrete and operational cooperation action plans (U-RCAPs) between AA and EU pilot cities/regions. These action plans will identify potential joint pilot projects between relevant stakeholders in the selected regions that are economically viable and address shared priorities.

Long-Term Partnerships and subnational diplomacy (decentralised cooperation): By fostering collaboration, the project will support the establishment of long-term partnerships between AA and EU cities/regions. These partnerships, formalised through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) Letters of Intent (LoIs) or Twinning Agreements, are expected to extend beyond the project timeframe, ensuring lasting collaboration.

The IURC program is focused on four themes for regional partnerships and have identified a number of examples of potential working projects:

Agri Food

Regional value-chains, bioeconomy, smart packaging, circular and zero waste approaches, quality infrastructure systems and policies, environmental sustainability, traceability, innovation governance for agri-food SMEs, access to new markets, product development.

Clean Energy

Just and inclusive transition, sustainable approaches to regional innovation for energy transition, regional energy strategies and governance, smart grids, bioenergy, transformation to clean energies, energy communities, hydrogen.

Industrial Modernisation

Just and inclusive transition of industries, sustainable approaches to regional innovation for Manufacturing and Industrial production, digital transformation, industry 4.0, skills for industry, entrepreneurship and innovation hubs, sustainable industrial policies, circular and resource-efficient approaches.

Blue economy

Blue Biotechnology and Bioresources, Resilient Coastal Communities and Businesses, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Marine Renewable Energies, Transitioning Blue Economy Sectors (Ports and maritime transport), Management of Sea Uses, Digital Twins of the Ocean.

Gippsland will focus on the three key areas of Agri-Food, Industrial Modernisation and Clean Energy. Officers will collaborate with both South Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council on the specific opportunities for Gippsland and will continue to attend the IURC online working sessions with the regions and cities involved in the program to progress Gippsland's interests in the program, understand other regional and city projects and opportunities and build Council's knowledge base.

IURC invitation

As a part of the IURC program, One Gippsland has the opportunity to participate and to send two representatives to attend the Global Thematic Networking Workshops to be held during the SCEWC 2025 in Barcelona, Spain.

The Chair of One Gippsland, Cr Nathan Hersey has nominated to attend as a One Gippsland representative for the region with the second Gippsland attendee proposed to be Cr Harriman.

Travel and accommodation costs related to the event will be covered through the program. This includes:

- accommodation in Barcelona for three nights from Monday 3 November to Thursday 6 November 2025;
- air travel expenses for return economy flights from an Australian City to Barcelona Airport;
- access to the Expo and World Congress and IURC-organised activities;
- lunch meals during day 1 and day 2 activities, and an evening IURC reception on day 1; and
- selected transport expenses within Barcelona, including bus for site visits on day 3 and potentially transportation to the IURC reception night.

There will be other expenses incurred during the trip that are not covered by the list outlined above. It is estimated that these expenses will be approximately \$750 to \$1,000.

The Mayor attending the workshops presents an opportunity to learn how other regions globally have managed the challenges faced by Latrobe City and the opportunity to directly engage with other program representatives.

Council's ongoing participation in the program will be reviewed based on Officer and Councillor time, the alignment to the Council Plan, and the value of participating in the program to Latrobe City community. A future report will be presented to Council for consideration.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
FINANCIAL Cost and time for Council to participate in the program and alignment to the Council Plan Objectives	Medium Possible x Likely	Clear objectives and outcomes to be defined and agreed. Review ongoing participation by assessing Officer and Councillor time commitments, alignment to the Council Plan objectives and the tangible outcomes of the program by February 2026.
STRATEGIC Council not being involved in a program that has a focus on clean energy, industrial modernisation and the opportunity to learn from other regions that have experienced similar challenges to Latrobe City. Other Gippsland councils representing Latrobe City's interests, resulting in Latrobe City's specific challenges and opportunities not being progressed. The community perception of the Mayor undertaking international travel with unknown benefits to Latrobe City	Medium Possible x Moderate Medium Possible x Moderate High Likely x Moderate	Participation in the program to represent Council. Setting clear objectives and projects outcomes. Ongoing reporting as to the deliverables. Assess Council's participation by February 2026. See risk treatment above. Clear communications to the community on the objectives of Latrobe City's involvement in the program and the tangible results.

CONSULTATION

IURC has engaged with Council through One Gippsland.

Austrade indicated its interest in One Gippsland's attendance and has also offered its support while at the event.

COMMUNICATION

Appropriate communications will be prepared and distributed in relation to the Council's participation in the IRUC program. A future report will be presented to Council on the outcomes of the trip and the proposed next steps.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has not been conducted as this matter does not involve a program, service or policy with a significant and direct impact on the community.

Social

Participation at the SCEWC provides the opportunity to promote Latrobe City, our region and the programs we are delivering to support the community.

Cultural

Nil.

Health

Nil.

Environmental

Nil.

Economic

Nil.

Financial

Travel and accommodation costs related to the Workshops will be covered through the program organisers.

There will be other expenses incurred during the trip that will need to be covered under Council's Support and Expenses Policy. This includes travel outside the Workshop dates, parking, incidentals and additional meals and is expected to total approximately \$750 to \$1,000.

Attachments

1. IURC Global Thematic Networking Workshop Guide

6.1

Mayor's Attendance at the International Urban and Regional Cooperation Program, Barcelona, Spain

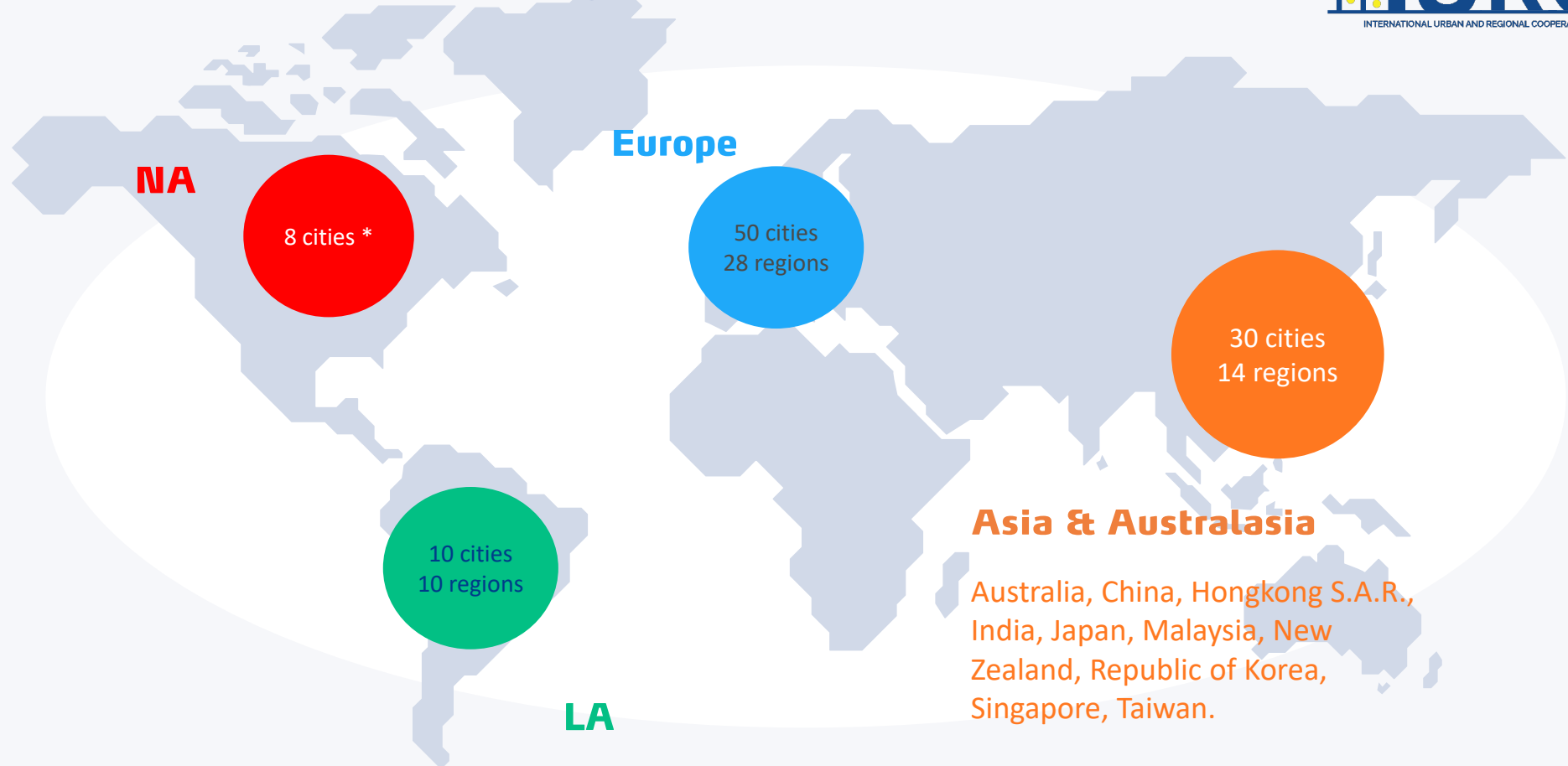
1	IURC Global Thematic Networking Workshop Guide	15
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As of 02 October 2025



IURC II (2025-2027): Regional Chapters



(*) until end 2025, then EUCG NA with 16 EU, 8 US and 8 CAN cities/regions

IURC Global Thematic Networking Workshop @ SCEWC 2025



SMARTCITY

EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

4 - 6 NOVEMBER 2025

BARCELONA



Barcelona, 4-6 November 2025 – SCEWC

- **Global event:** Around 150 delegates from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia & Australasia.
- **Biggest stage:** Held during the Smart City Expo World Congress 2025, the world's most influential urban innovation event.
- **Communities of Practice:** Consolidation of thematic cluster work launched in September 2025.
- **Pilot projects:** Support for cities and regions to plan targeted visits in 2026 to implement pilot projects.
- **Institutional visibility:** IURC as Institutional Partner of SCEWC.

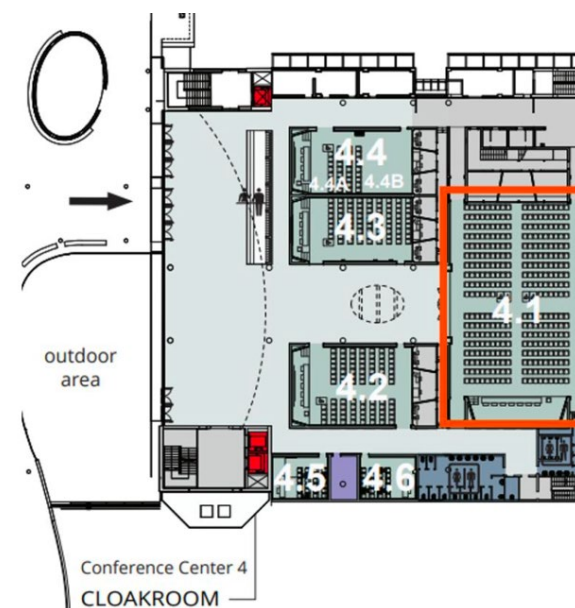
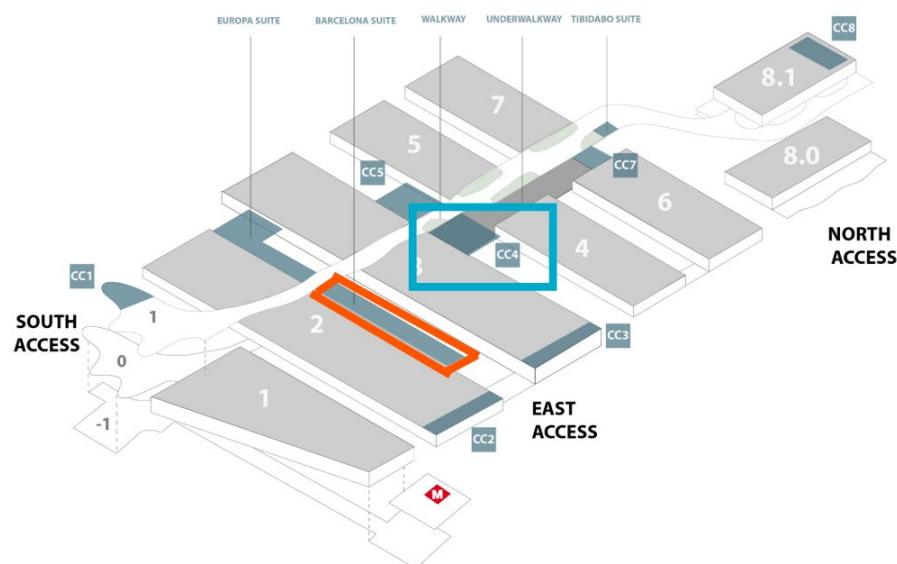
Locations



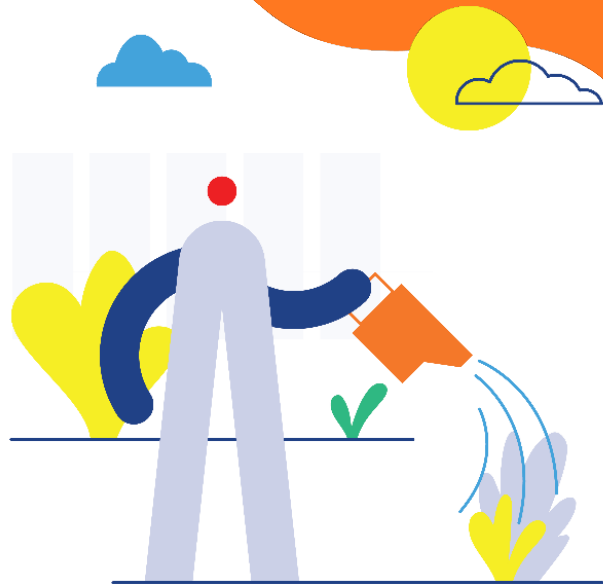
Day 1 - Tuesday 4 November 2025 - Overview

Location 1: Conference Center CC4, Rooms 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, on 2nd floor between Hall 3 and 4.

Here the bulk of the activities will take place including, the opening plenary in room 4.1. with about 250 delegates, as well as the 11 cluster thematic break out sessions on Day 1 (4th Nov) and the closing plenary on Day 2 (5th Nov) in rooms 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4.



DAY 1



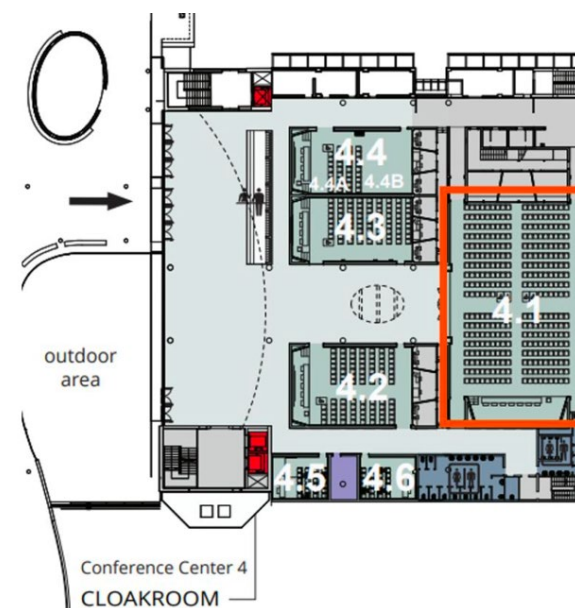
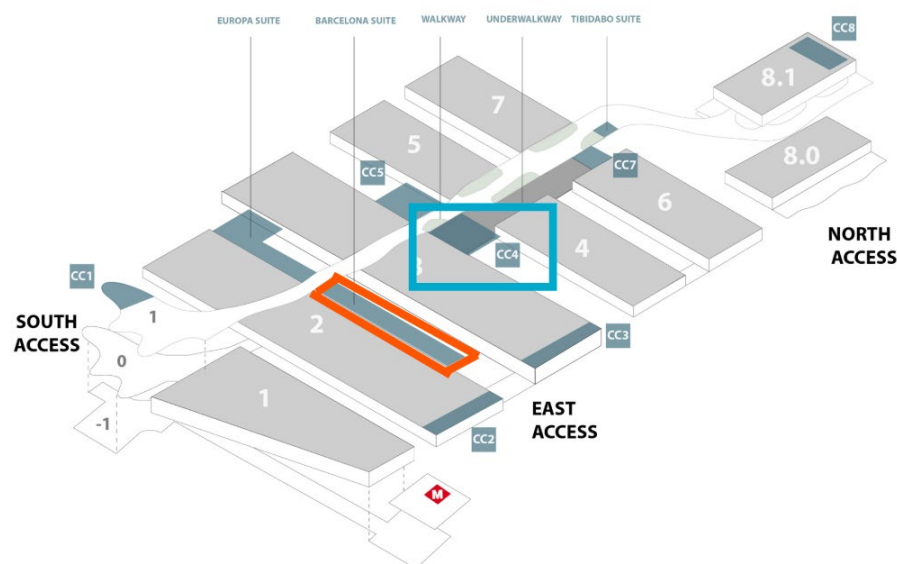
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Locations



Day 1 - Tuesday 4 November 2025 - Opening

Renderings of CC4 Room 4.1. Plenaries for Opening and Closing Sessions

Capacity : 324 people



IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda



Day 1 - Tuesday 4 November 2025 - Overview

Main Event Venue: Fira Barcelona Gran Via Venue.

Full Day at the Expo Site:

- **09:30 - 11:30 Opening plenary** (Mandatory participation for IURC delegates. Open session for SCEWC visitors previous registration).
 - Gran Via Venue Conference Center **CC4, Room 4.1**
 - EU Commission, Selected City Speakers, TED Talk, Panel Discussion.
 - 170 to 350 delegates.
 - Live Streaming of the Event – for Singapore, NZ and Australia.
 - Coffee & light pastries will be served.
- **11:30 - 18:00 Thematic breakout sessions** (closed IURC sessions, mandatory participation in selected meetings).
 - Gran Via Venue Conference Center **CC4, Rooms 4.2, 4.3, 4.4**
 - Participating cities and regions will be divided in 11 thematic clusters each for 90 minutes in 3 rooms
 - Selected presentations from cities/regions followed by discussion moderated by cluster managers in order to identify priority projects. Setup c.a. 45 persons per room (option to do theater approx. 80).

IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda



Day 1 - Tuesday 4 November 2025 – Detailed Thematic Clusters

Main Event Venue: Fira Barcelona Gran Via Venue.

Room 4.2

Productive, smart and connected

11:30 – 13:00 Mobility & Transport (C2C)
13:00 – 14:30 Strategic Sectors (C2C)
15:00 – 16:30 Urban Innovation (C2C)
16:30 – 18:00 Agri-food (R2R)

Room 4.3

Green and Clean

11:30 – 13:00 Clean Energy (R2R)
13:00 – 14:30 Blue Economy (R2R)
15:00 – 16:30 Circular Economy (C2C)
16:30 – 18:00 Climate Adaptation (C2C)

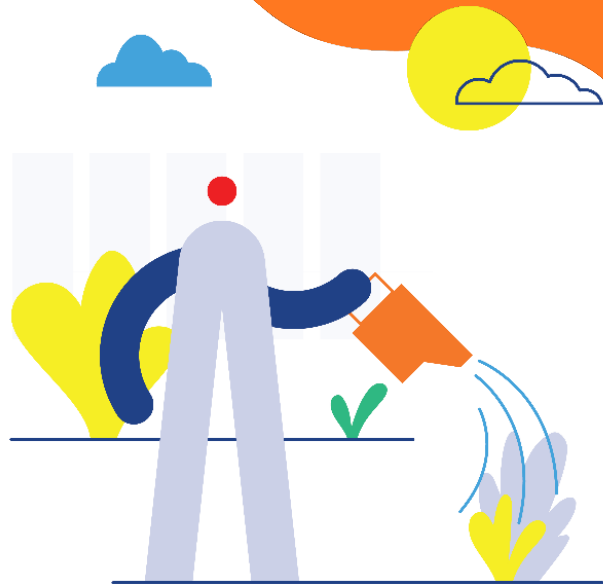
Room 4.4

Just and Inclusive

11:30 – 13:00 Urban Regeneration (C2C)
13:00 – 14:30 Affordable Housing (C2C)
15:00 – 16:30 Industrial Modernisation (R2R)
16:30 – 18:00 Civic Participation (C2C)

- 12:00 - 14:00 Lunch served on the high tables outside the meeting rooms
- 18:00 – 19:00 Move from Fira Barcelona to IURC Reception Location (buses provided; meeting at entrance of Fira)
- 19:00 – 21:00 IURC **Project Reception hosted by Catalanian Regional Government** (location TBC) [Palacio de Pedralbes](#), [Oval room of National Museum of Catalonia](#), or the Tinell Hall of Royal Mayor Palace of Barcelona
- 21:00 (return to hotel, buses provided by IURC)

DAY 2



IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda

Day 2 - Wednesday 5 November 2025



Main Event Venue: Fira Barcelona Gran Via Venue.

- **9:00 – 14:00 Targeted pilot action meetings** between cities and regions to discuss projects. Closed IURC sessions (lunch will be served from 12:00 on the high tables outside the meeting rooms)
 - 3 separate rooms will be provided for up to 8 persons. 45 mins slots:
 - Total of **21 meeting slots**, located at **Barcelona Meeting Rooms** (between Halls 1 and 2, 2nd floor).
 - Meetings will be also possible at the **EU Joint Projects Pavilion** and matchmaking meeting area
 - IURC delegates cities and regions to pre-book the space during the online clusters sessions and during day 1.
 - After or before the meetings, delegates may visit the Smart City Expo.
- **Lunch will not be offered, but vouchers will be given to be used at any of the food outlets across the event area (TBC)**
- **11:30 – 13:00 Parallel Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings**
 - The IURC subnational diplomacy support to EU cities and regions – **Room TBC**

IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda

Day 2 - Wednesday 5 November 2025



Main Event Venue: Fira Barcelona Gran Via Venue.

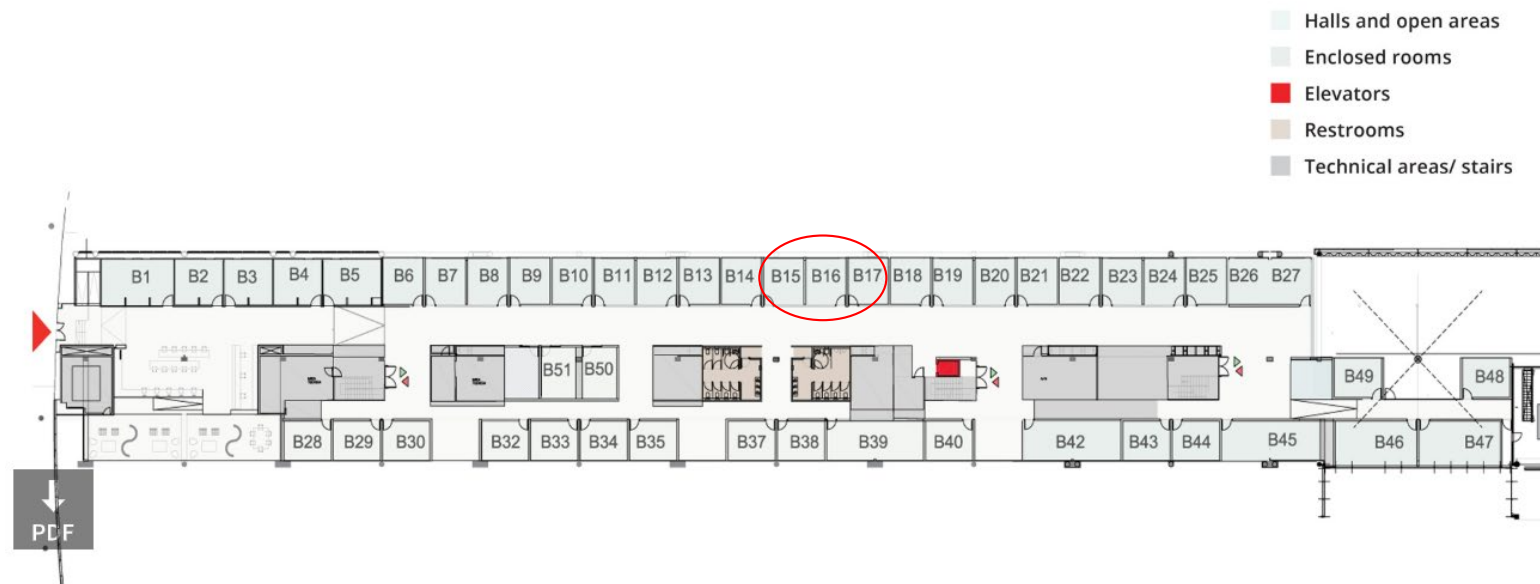
- **15:00 - 16:30 Thematic Network Meetings (Mandatory participation).**
 - **Conference Center CC4, Rooms 4.1-4.4 (TBC)**
 - Discussion of the 3 thematic networks (productive/green/inclusive)
 - Review Communities of Practice
- **16:30 - 17:30 Closing Plenary (Mandatory participation)- In Room 4.1**
 - Presentation of results of thematic networks by Rapporteur to present.
 - Way Forward and Closing by the EU (FPI/REGIO) and the IURC Project Team
- **18:00 – 19:00 Smart City Award Ceremony**
 - At the Smart City Expo Congress site in the Expo Hall (exact location TBC).
- **19:00 – 21:00 Smart City Expo Evening**
 - Evening for all delegates offered by Smart City Expo. Return to hotel with shuttle at 21:00.

Locations



Day 2 - Wednesday 5 November 2025 09:00 – 14:00

Location 2: Barcelona Suites. The Barcelona suites B15, B16, B17 have been reserved from 9:00 – 14:00. They will host targeted group meetings (max 8 people) between the cities and the regions. **Pre-booking** - see slide 10. The suites are located on the **2nd floor**, between Hall 2 and Hall 3. They are accessible by taking the escalators in either hall.



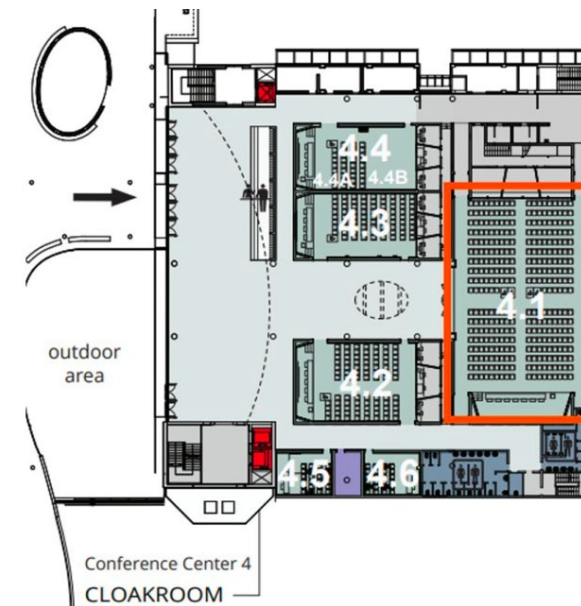
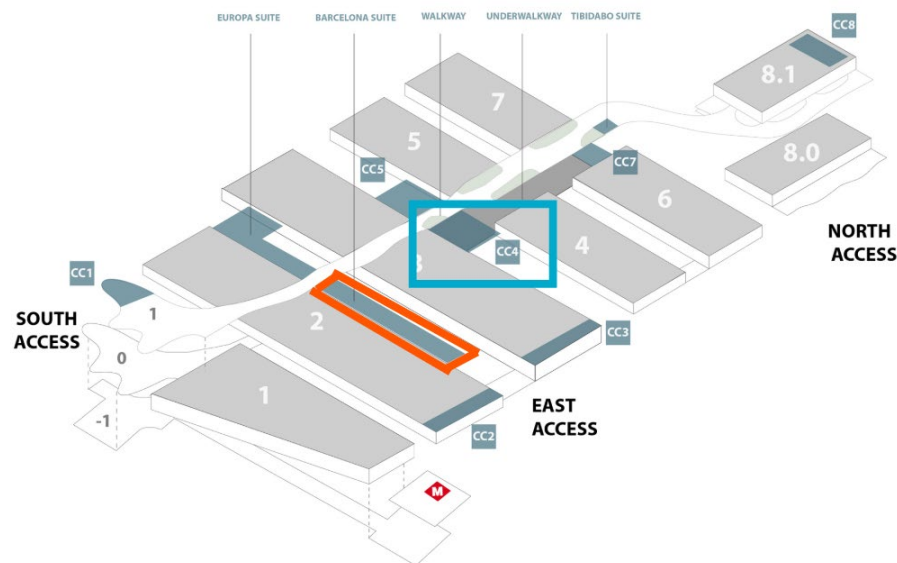
Locations



Day 2 – Wednesday 5 November 2025 - Overview 15:00 – 16:30

Location 1: Conference Center CC4, Rooms 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, on 2nd floor between Hall 3 and 4.

Here the bulk of the activities will take place including, the opening plenary in room 4.1. with about 250 delegates, as well as the 11 cluster thematic break out sessions on Day 1 (4th Nov) and the closing plenary on Day 2 (5th Nov) in rooms 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4.



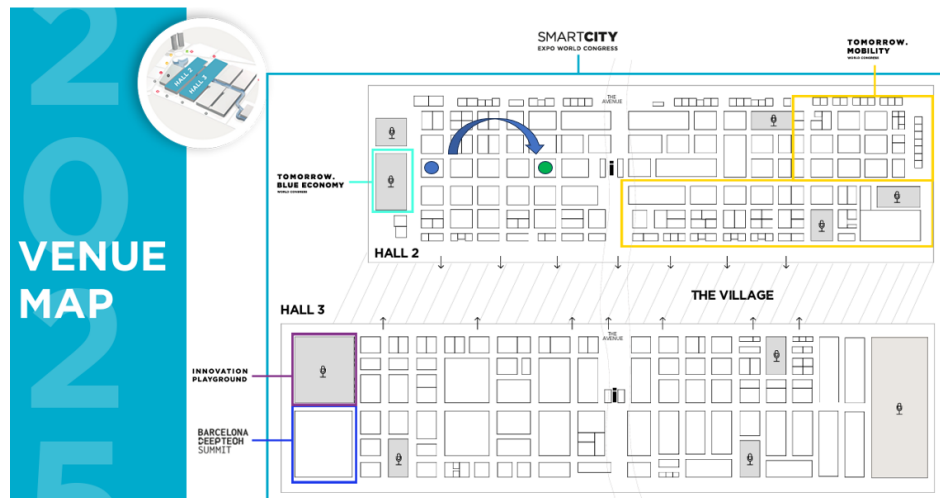
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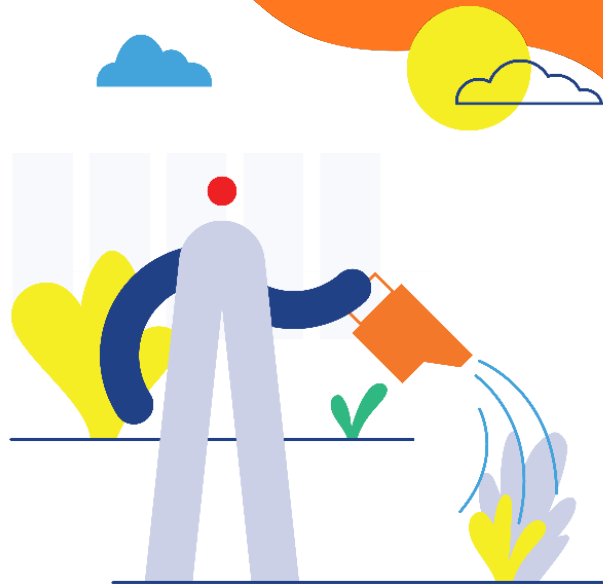
EU Joint Projects Pavilion and matchmaking meeting area

Below the main Expo Venue floor plan, with all the booths and pavilions represented. The EU Joint Projects Pavilion is near the middle of **HALL 2** where the green dot is.

150 m2 out of which IURC joint with GCOM (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy) will have approx. 36m2 dedicated space for delegates meetings (including several tables and cahiers).



DAY 3



IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda



Day 3 - Thursday 6 November 2025

Study Visit Tour

- 9:00 – 14:00 **Site visits to three sites depending on the thematic network**
 - Network 1 Smart: UPC / Barcelona Supercomputing Center BSC / I2CAT (Urban Living Lab) **50 PAX**
 - Network 2 Green (and Blue): Agropolis UPC / IRTA and Metro Area Barcelona water regeneration station Gavà-Viladecans – **50 PAX**
 - Network 3 Just: Port of Barcelona / Hydrogen / Startup Ecosystem / Blue Eco / Port Boat Visit **50 PAX**
- Transportation arranged by IURC. Departure to and return from hotel

IURC Global Thematic Networking - Agenda



Summary

Date	Flight	Hotel	Food	Logistics
Monday 3 Nov 2025 Arrival Day - no activities	Return Economy flight ticket – business class not permissible. City official can upgrade using own funds	(Check-in after 3pm)	Dinner (TBC)	Accommodation in BCN sponsored (City officials self-arrange transport from airport to hotel)
Tuesday 4 Nov 2025 Day 1 of Thematic Networking (Delegate Pass)		Provided	B + L (Evening Reception)	Accommodation in BCN sponsored (City officials self-arrange transport from hotel-Expo-hotel) Evening Reception, will include some food.
Wednesday 5 Nov 2025 Day 2 of Thematic Networking (Delegate Pass)		Provided	B + L Dinner (TBC)	Accommodation in BCN sponsored (City officials self-arrange transport from hotel-Expo-hotel)
Thursday 6 Nov 2025 Site visits and departure		Provided (check-out 8am)	B (L TBC)	-No accommodation provided -Bus sponsored by IURC for site visits (City officials self-arrange transport from hotel to airport)