

15th Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners

11–13 NOVEMBER 2026

THE LENS OF TIME IN SPATIAL PLANNING

Lisbon, Portugal

Organised by the [Associação Portuguesa de Urbanistas \(APU\)](#) and the [European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil européen des urbanistes \(ECTP-CEU\)](#), this Biennale, **taking place in Lisbon from 11 to 13 November 2026**, will bring together spatial planners, researchers, policymakers and representatives of public authorities from across Europe.

The Lens of Time in Spatial Planning

This edition explores "Time" as a vital dimension of space.

Cities and regions have always evolved alongside cultural, social, environmental, and technological shifts. However, while the world transforms rapidly, the adaptive capacity of cities and their administration often lags behind. This Biennale examines whether cities, territories and communities can adapt in time to looming urgencies to remain the natural habitat of civilizations.

In an era of constant acceleration and on the verge of a new revolution, how do planners, traditionally the visionaries, anticipate this transformation? This event views urbanism through a temporal lens, treating time not just as a technical variable, but as a political, social, and cultural dimension that shapes how we live and imagine the urban future.



FOUR DIMENSIONS OF TIME

TIME OF PROCESS

Agility in Planning and Administration

How can planning and administrative processes become more responsive to changing needs and urgent challenges?

TIME OF EXECUTION

Construction & Circularity

How can we rethink the time of construction, transformation, reuse and the circular management of resources?

TIME OF PEOPLE

Sovereignty & Rhythms

How do different rhythms, needs and forms of participation influence the way we plan and experience places?

TIME OF NEW FRONTIERS

AI, Digital & Social Paradigms

How are new technologies and social transformations changing the way we understand, design and manage territories?

FOUR VOICES SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CITIES AND PLANNING

The Biennale brings together four keynote speakers offering different perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing spatial planning today.



Track 1 Time of the Process

Jaan Saar

Operational Lead for the LDT CitiVERSE EDIC and the EU-funded BUILD project. A leading expert in digital transformation and construction innovation, he is recognised for his work in developing Estonia's national digital twin and BIM-based e-construction platform.



Track 2 Time of Execution

Kees Christiaanse

An architect, urban planner and internationally recognised thinker on the future of cities, Kees Christiaanse has shaped the European and global urban agenda through his work on strategic planning, urban regeneration, and the transformation of complex territories.



Track 3 Time of People

Henriette Vamberg

Managing Director in Copenhagen, Henriette leads a portfolio focused on city transformation work at Gehl, where she has been a member since the founding in 2000. Her work is deeply rooted in Jan Gehl's methodology, focusing on evolving urban design strategies through diverse global projects.



Track 4 Time of New Frontiers

Wei Yang

Former President of the Royal Town Planning Institute and founder of the Digital and Task Force for Planning, Wei Yang is an international planner and urban designer, widely known for advocating the digital transformation of spatial planning while maintaining a strong focus on place-based development and public value.

VISIT THE BIENNALE WEBSITE

3-Day Programme

The Biennale will examine whether cities, territories and communities can adapt in time to the urgencies ahead, and how planners, traditionally the visionaries of the future, can anticipate and respond to a new era of constant acceleration and technological transformation.

The Biennale offers three days of discussions, presentations, knowledge exchange and networking with professionals working across spatial planning, urbanism and territorial development.

Provisional Programme	
Day 1 - 11th November	Day 3 - 13th November
14:30 Technical Tours (<i>more information soon</i>)	08:00 Registration
Day 2 - 12th November	09:00 Book launch
08:00 Registration	09:30 Plenary Session Keynote Lecture TIME OF PEOPLE Henriette Vamberg Session Moderator Cristina Cavaco
09:00 Open Ceremony	10:30 Coffee Break
09:30 Plenary Session Keynote Lecture TIME OF PROCESS Jann Saar Session Moderator João Cabral	11:00 Parallel Sessions - TIME OF PEOPLE
10:30 Coffee Break	13:00 Lunch
11:00 Parallel Sessions - TIME OF PROCESS	14:00 Poster Session
13:00 Lunch	14:30 Parallel Sessions - TIME OF NEW FRONTIERS
14:00 Poster Session	16:30 Coffee Break
14:30 Parallel Sessions - TIME OF EXECUTION	17:00 Plenary Session Keynote Lecture TIME OF NEW FRONTIERS Wei Yang Obe Session Moderator Miguel Castro Neto
16:30 Coffee Break	18:00 Conclusions and Closing Session
17:00 Plenary Session Keynote Lecture TIME OF EXECUTION Kees Christiaanse Session Moderator João Teixeira	

EARLY BIRD TICKETS

Secure a place at the 15th Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners.

Until **30 September**, participants can take advantage of the Early Bird registration rates and join three days of discussions, knowledge exchange and networking in Lisbon.

A range of registration categories is available, including

ECTP-CEU Members

Non-Members

Students/PhD Candidates.

EARLY BIRD RATES AVAILABLE ONLY UNTIL 14 SEPTEMBER

BUY YOUR TICKETS

BIENNALE TICKETS

All tickets grant access to both days of the Biennale and include coffee breaks and lunch throughout the event

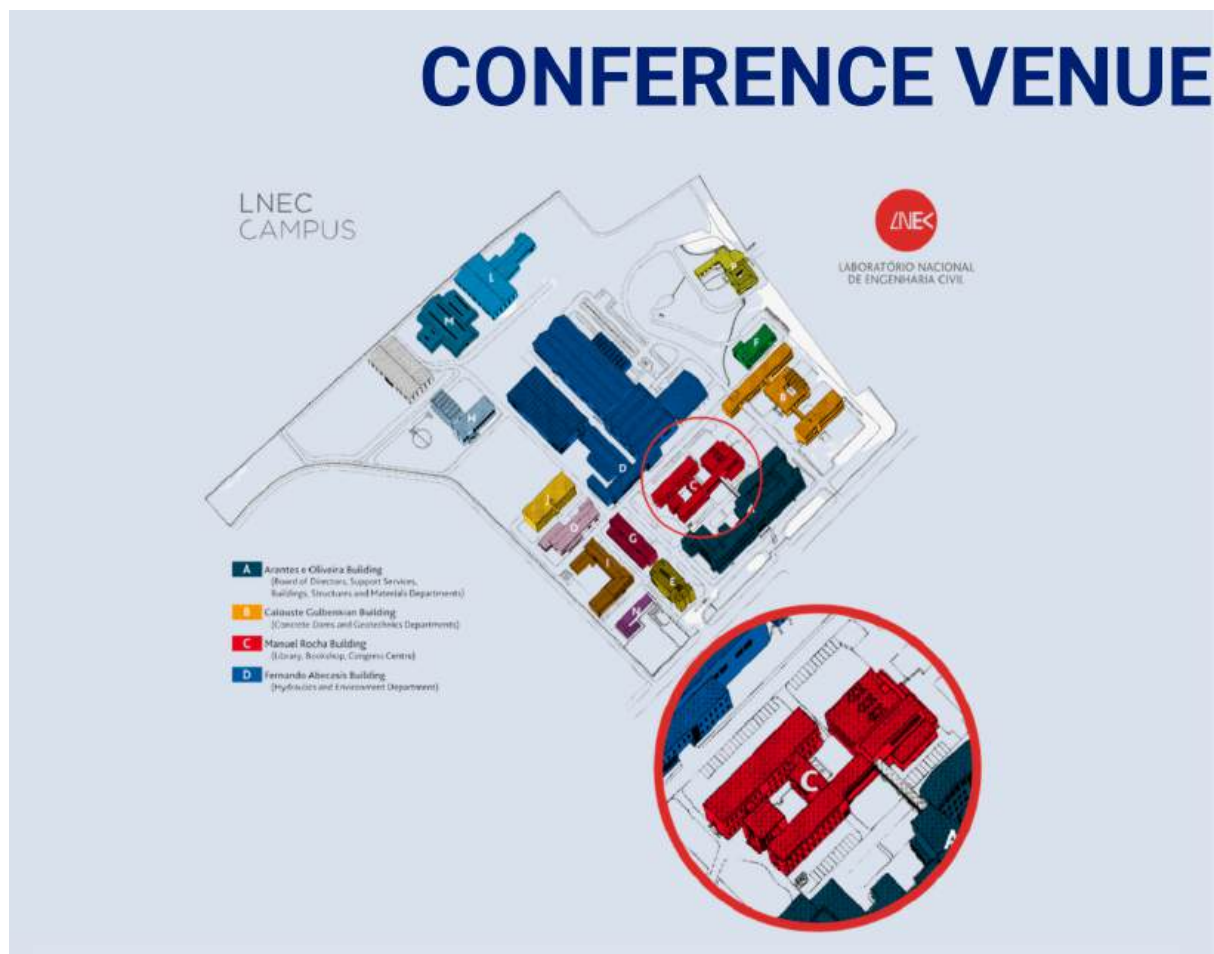
ECTP MEMBERS EARLY BIRD Rate available until 30 September 2026.	€150
ECTP MEMBERS Rate after 30 September 2026	€180
BIENNALE TICKET EARLY BIRD Non members of ECTP-CEU. Rate available until 30 September 2026.	€200
BIENNALE TICKET Non members of ECTP-CEU. Rate after 30 September 2026	€250
STUDENTS/PHD CANDIDATES Must provide proof of enrolment or student status by email.	€75

VENUE

LNEC – Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil, Lisbon

The 15th European Biennial of Towns and Town Planners will take place at the Manuel Rocha Congress Centre, within the campus of Portugal's National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC) in Lisbon.

Located in Alvalade, one of Portugal's most significant examples of the garden city movement and a landmark of Lisbon's modern urban development, the LNEC campus brings together scientific excellence and architectural heritage. Founded in 1946, LNEC has, from its inception, combined research and experimentation in the service of society. The campus, classified as a Monument of Public Interest since 2012, includes several notable examples of Portuguese modernist architecture. The campus provides a distinctive setting for a European event dedicated to discussing the future of cities, territories and urban development.



We very much look forward to welcoming you and your networks to Lisbon in November.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

The Biennale is a meeting point for the European spatial planning community – and we would like to reach as many professionals, researchers and organisations as possible.

Share the event with your network.

Include it in your newsletter or event calendar.

Follow and share our social media updates.

Join us in Lisbon this November.

Organised by

Associação Portuguesa de Urbanistas (APU)

**European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil européen des urbanistes
(ECTP-CEU)**

Lisbon · 11–13 November 2026

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