



Cities Under Global Social Transformations: Embracing Change for a Greener Future

Call for sessions

Session chair

First/last name/e-mail address

Dr. Marc Gimenez-Maranges
(marc.gimenezmaranges@plus.ac.at)

Session co-chair

First/last name/email address

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste (juergen.breuste@plus.ac.at)
Assoz. Prof. Dr. Angela Hof (angela.hof@plus.ac.at)

Title of the proposed session

Water-sensitive cities - Concepts, tools and strategies for transformation

Proposed session format

- Full paper presentation
- Speed talk session
- Dialogue session

Session organization

- Hybrid (on-site and online)
- On-site only

Publication of session results

- No publication is foreseen
- A publication is conceivable
- There are concrete publications plans (please specify):

Session description

(full paper presentation and speed talk session: max. 300 words; dialogue session: max. 500 words)

Urban areas around the world increasingly face problems of flooding, drought, river pollution, limited groundwater recharge, and loss of green multifunctional spaces; to mention a few. Climate change and continuous urbanization are exacerbating this reality. This is leading to mounting calls for a shift from the prevailing pipe-based stormwater management towards a water-sensitive urban paradigm. In a water-sensitive city, diverse and flexible techniques are used for on-site stormwater management. A new connection to water is created. Communities engage in learning processes based on the outcomes of the implemented strategies, a strong love to place and a strong commitment to intergenerational equity.

A promising strategy to transition towards a water-sensitive city is the adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS are techniques that use natural processes for stormwater management. These processes include: infiltration, filtration, retention, slow conveyance, evaporation and evapotranspiration. It is argued that, if properly implemented, SuDS can provide multiple functions in cities. These include, among others, controlling flooding, mitigating water pollution, providing habitats for various species, recharging the groundwater system, and providing spaces that can be used for community activities when dry. Additionally, their implementation requires a shift in thinking and in working methods.

This session addresses the conference topics “Urban water management” and “Climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities”. It aims at discussing the transformative potential of SuDS implementation in different urban socio-ecological contexts. Examples of SuDS projects in different cities will be presented, as well as their contribution to solve water-related issues. Theoretical concepts, practical tools and strategies will be discussed to improve the transformative potential of SuDS. This can include the introduction of new technical perspectives, as well as the potential of engaging in new governance approaches, such as co-creation. The session will discuss pathways to further transitioning to a water-sensitive city.

Please submit the form to sure.istanbul2025@gmail.com