

JOURNEY 5

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Topic

Urban ecosystems are very sensitive to global warming: heat islands, rainwater runoff on highly artificial soils, degraded air quality, and more. These effects threaten the vital functions of urban areas, by destroying infrastructures and networks. How can local players anticipate and adapt?

Keywords: adaptation - health - vulnerability - urban resilience - risks - sponge city

9h45-12h30 Site visit: Place de la Révolution & Brossolette school

Completely refurbished in 2005, the Place de la Révolution has become almost entirely mineral. This characteristic has become problematic in the face of increasingly high summer temperatures, making the square one of the main heat islands in the area. Providing shade, installing new street furniture, enhancing the facades of historic buildings... By planting trees in the Place de la Révolution, it will be possible to combine public use with environmental challenges.

The aim is to make the Place de la Révolution a living space for everyone, whatever the weather or the events planned. All of this is being done in consultation with all the residents of Besançon and those involved in the square's activities.



The Brossolette school was the first to have its school courtyard revegetated in Besançon. The refurbishment work was carried out with the help of local residents, children and teachers. A part of the courtyard is now accessible to local residents outside school hours. The space has been completely revegetated and redefined using 100% permeable materials, and large planters have been installed that can be used for educational purposes with children. In total, 30 smaller school courtyards are to be renovated and refurbished in this way.

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9 APRIL 2025

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12h30-14h00 *Lunch***14h - 15h** **Testimonial workshop: Communities at the heart of resilience: people-driven solutions to cope with heat waves**

Heat waves pose an existential threat to communities worldwide, disproportionately impacting vulnerable and marginalised populations. Transforming urban spaces into cooler and healthier environments calls for a mix of solutions, from planting trees and embracing new technologies to reviving time-tested practices and strengthening social ties.

This session focuses on low-tech, community-led solutions to extreme heat. Empowering communities through robust social infrastructure, mutual assistance, and widespread awareness is critical to saving lives and ensuring wellbeing in cities in the face of extreme heat. With stories from Europe and beyond, drawing in part on the Covenant of Mayors' most recent "Cities Hit Refresh" campaign, we'll explore out-of-the-box, cost-effective ways cities are building resilience to one of today's most pressing challenges.

15h00 - 15h30 *Coffee break***15h30 - 17h30** **Hold up - a collective intelligence workshop**

The session will aim at using collective intelligence from all participants to address challenges or difficulties met by some cities in developing and implementing their projects. The workshop will use the "Hold up" methodology which is based on co-development when participants help each other solve a problem with the help of facilitators.

The group of participants will split into 3 to 5 tables and, according to the "Hold up" methodology, each table will include 1 city who presents their challenges/problems to the other participants using the following steps: presentation, clarification round, formalization of a request, round of consultation and summary. The topics will be proposed by participants.

Please note that this sheet is provisional; the sheet with more technical details will be provided at the end of March.

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