

9 APRIL 2025

JOURNEY 5

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Schedule of the day

8h30		Start of the day <i>Townhall - Place du 8 septembre</i>
9h30		Departure - follow the journey referent with a green flag  - <i>Townhall</i>
10h00		Site visit: Place de la Révolution & Brossolette school
12h30		Lunch
13h30		Testimonial workshop
15h00		Coffee break
15h30		Collective intelligence workshop
17h00		Feedback session
17h30	RELAX	Free time
19h30		Gala dinner (without etiquette) Bring your badge <i>Fine Arts Museum - Place de la Révolution</i>

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

Site visit: Place de la Révolution & Brossolette school

Since 2018, AUDAB, Besançon's urban planning agency, has been developing tools to analyse and understand the phenomena of heat islands in public spaces, which have been key to raising the awareness of local decision-makers and fuelling policies to adapt to climate change.

The city of Besançon and Grand Besançon Métropole face the prospect of increasingly intense drought. In May 2023, the Plan Ô - drought urgency plan, was adopted to anticipate the effects of climate change, to speed up adaptation and take care of the residents.

The Place de la Révolution and the Brossolette school are two concrete examples of the ambitious climate adaptation policy of Besançon.



The Place de la Révolution was identified as one of the main heat islands in the area. In 2023, the city launched a major consultation with residents to make the square a lively and pleasant place to be, even in summer. The project has resulted in the planting of around 40 trees, the disconnection of 67% of the square's surface area from the wastewater network, the removal of water from almost 1,600 m² of the square, and the installation of user-friendly street furniture.

The Brossolette school was the first to have its school courtyard revegetated in Besançon. The refurbishment work was carried out through a large consultation of residents, children and teachers. This work has been implemented in the framework of the 'Plan Ecoles' that plans the complete thermal refurbishment of around fifteen schools by 2026 and the removal of waterproofing and greening of 30 smaller school courtyards.



Speakers:

- **Benjamin Gracieux**, *Director of the Spatial Transitions, Urban Planning and Project Development skills centre - AUDAB - Agence d'urbanisme de Besançon Centre Franche-Comté*
- **Geoffrey Darmencier**, *General Director of Technical Services and Director of the Ecological Transition Department, City of Besançon and Grand Besançon Métropole*
- **Samuel Lelievre**, *Director, Biodiversity and Green Spaces*
- **Jean-Emmanuel Lafarge**, *Councillor responsible for energy management and the school's management plan*

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.

Facilitator:

- **Allison Le Corre**, *Communications & EU Policy Management - Energy Cities*

Speakers:

- **Mr. Maksym Terletsy** – *Head of Lviv City Institute, UA*
- **Anne-Laure Stanislas** – *Deputy Mayor, Clermont-Ferrand, FR*
- **Jordi Mazón Bueso** – *Deputy Mayor, Viladecans, ES*

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 4 tables (1 challenge/question/concern) by table. Each table will be facilitated by a moderator.

Co-organised with



In partnership with



With the support of

