Between Smart & Green
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Did you enjoy the magical place between Smart & Green?

WELCOME ADDRESS

In the morning, we welcomed Alexander Schmidt - CEO/Founder of BABLE Smart Cities and Roel Klei - Project Leader of GreenQuays and for the Municipality of Breda to the stage to welcome the guests.

Alexander Schmidt spoke about urbanism and the changes that have recently happened in Stuttgart. "*From the city of street races to the city I walk with my daughter without fear.*"

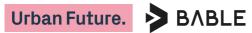Roel Klei spoke about central challenges in Breda:

"*The challenge we faced are that in this part of the city we were struggling with unsustainable urbanisation, degradation of urban ecosystems and lack of resilience to climate change.*"

Alexander Schmidt
CEO/Founder
BABLE Smart Cities

Roel Klei
Project Leader
Municipality of Breda

GREENQUAYS ROUND TABLE

Birgit Georgi, UIA Expert, moderated a round table discussion, giving context and insights into the GreenQuays project.

Roel Klei, Project Leader at GreenQuays: *"Nature-inclusive quays would not have been possible without the UIA grant, simply because otherwise it wouldn't have been possible to bring together all the necessary knowledge."*
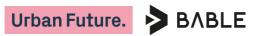
Joost Barendrecht, Biodiversity Expert, Natuurplein de Baronie: *"Bringing nature deep into the city has benefits for biodiversity, but also for people living, working and staying there."*

Willem de Brouwer, Project Leader City Engineers, Municipality of Breda and Koen Mulder, Masonry Expert at TU Delft spoke about the wall design and how they designed panels hanging in front of conventional quay walls.

Ton van Beek, Programme Initiator at BLASt, spoke about how citizen engagement played a crucial role in the success of the project.
"Its not just about nature it's about functionality".
"The power of imagination and design is a truly a long process."

From left to right:
*Georgi, Willem de Brouwer, Ton van Beek, Koen Mulder,
Roel Klei & Joost Barendrecht*

NIQ OF TIME: World Café

Nikita Shetty, UK & Ireland Lead at BABLE Smart Cities, opened the session to work interactively on key topics that contributed to the success of the GreenQuays project. Five groups were formed:

1. Impact of EU Funding and Innovative Partnerships on Project Development with *Veerle Hemerik, Project Manager, GreenQuays*

The biggest challenges lie with the capacity of the municipality, getting the right stakeholders involved, writing a good proposal, and scaling the project after the funding runs out. Some pieces of advice are to involve a company from the beginning with writing. Also, writing the capacity needed into your budget from the beginning. It is imperative to develop a good relationship with the funding advisor as well and ..."be patient!"

Nikita Shetty
UKI Lead
BABLE Smart Cities

2. Nature Inclusive Quays - The Technology Behind It with *Koen Mulder & Willem de Brouwer*

The central question that the facilitators answered was 'How can we implement this in our own city?' Many specifics are based around the existing infrastructure in the city. The data and results of this project will be needed to justify the 10-15% cost increase. On building walls, it is also possible to copy the results but evaluation of multiple other ways (e.g. green facades) are needed to determine the best fit.

3. Increasing Biodiversity in Cities with *Joost Barendrecht and Roel Klei*

"Nature works in cycles and a very long term; we are involved in a 3-year project but that's not the way nature works".
To increase biodiversity in cities, it is needed to provide a solution, but more importantly to monitor it and change with feedback. To get investment for these type of solutions, providing clear benefits is absolutely needed. Overall, we need to think of balance when thinking about biodiversity. An example of this is that is how sometimes adding greenery can also attract mosquitos, but thinking about why there are fewer birds in the cities to counteract the mosquitos is crucial.

Urban Future.   ▶ BABLE   GREEN QUAYS   EUROPEAN UNION European Regional Development Fund   UIA URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS   Gemeente Breda

4. Engaging Actively with Citizens with *Tom van Beek and Birgit Georgi*

We know that inclusiveness is key. *But what does that look like?*
We must involve the younger people. We must go to their place, talk the language and involve them in everything, see what fits best. We need to build trust and people inherently do not trust the government. So, it is important in a project like this involve a local trusted partner to lead this and provide a safe space for people to clarify their problems.
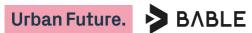
4. Accessing EU Funding with *Philipp Riegebauer and Alexander Schmidt*

"There is always funding for you".
To access EU funding, you first have to start the search, with external expert support. There are many different fundings available, but each with different complexities and different targets. There are structural funds, Horizon, national funding and more. It is also important to involve local university partners.

Participants in the NIQ of Time workshop got the opportunity to engage in two of the topics of their choosing

Between Smart & Green
KEY TAKEAWAYS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote speakers **Jan Kohlmeyer**, Head of Climate Protection Department at the City of Stuttgart, Germany, and **Sophie Mok**, Nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation at the Climate Innovation Fund in Stuttgart, Germany, highlighted the City Council's resolution to achieve climate neutrality by 2035.

A roadmap consisting of 13 central measures was developed, emphasizing the need for all relevant technologies and just implementation. The Stuttgart Climate Innovation Fund, Europe's largest municipal climate innovation fund with a budget of 13 million euros, selects projects through the Stuttgart Climate Innovation Council. Additionally, The Nature Conservancy contributes an extra 3 million euros for innovative nature-based solutions. It's worth noting that Stuttgart is expected to be Germany's hottest city due to its geographical features.

Jan Kohlmeyer has been head of the climate protection department since 2020

Sophie Mok works at the Nature Conservancy and is working on greening innovation projects

Next up, **Bas Boorsma**, the former CDO of Rotterdam, and now founder of Urban Innovators Inc. took the stage for what he calls '10 minutes of fun'. He outlined 5 key messages:

1. Crafting a shared language
2. Citizen engagement (and be honest)
3. Agile collaboration across stakeholders
4. Education
5. Intergenerational & interdisciplinary leadership

Bas Boorsma is also a Professor of Practice at Thunderbird School of Management, and author of A New Digital Deal

Urban Future. ▶ BABLE GREEN QUAYS EUROPEAN UNION European Regional Development Fund UIA URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS Gemeente Breda

Finally, **Fabienne Hoelzel**, Professor State Academy of Fine Arts in Stuttgart, Founder-Director Fabulous Urban, came onto stage to also remind us of the non-European perspective and to inspire us to think of cities that are fairly shared.

Fabienne challenged the audience to decolonise urban planning, which is also a project she is working on in Lagos, Nigeria. She shared ongoing research related to local water supply in Lagos and emphasised the importance of placing people first before big urban development projects. She advocated for co-productive processes in urban planning, implementation and urban service delivery.

Fabienne Hoelzel is a Swiss architect and urban planner, speaking around the world and advocating for a non-European centric approach
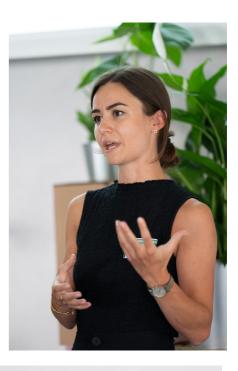
SOLUTION ROOMS

BABLE Smart Cities' DACH Lead, Nina Steinhäuser, opened the floor after more networking to explain 'Solution Rooms', hosted by three city representatives who brought key challenges with them for discussion.

In addition, the Global Mobility Call - an international conference on sustainable mobility to be held in Madrid in October, was introduced.

Nina Steinhäuser *(left) with **Marta Margarit** (right), representing the Global Mobility Call*
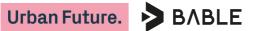

Participants and partners of the Solution Rooms

1. The City of Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany with *Montserrat Miramontes, Transport & Mobility Manager*

Challenge: How can the city of Fürstenfeldbruck tackle the challenge of long planning and implementation cycles and nevertheless implement step by step sustainable mobility solutions in the city? Sub-challenges included limited financial resources and staff, conflicts over space allocation, and establishing mobility hubs. The participating partners were Anna Brusius from E-Mobil BW, Nadine Wehking from MAHLE chargeBIG GmbH, and Marta Margarit from Global Mobility Call.

Solutions: Initially, the discussion focused on e-mobility due to the expertise of two partners. The city gained insights from MAHLE's use case in Lorch, another partner city. However, other topics were also explored. Funding and staffing proved to be a significant challenge for implementing sustainable mobility solutions, leading to a brain drain to nearby Munich. Three main approaches were proposed to address Fürstenfeldbruck's issues. First, embracing digitalization and automating processes to save time. Second, seeking partnerships with companies and organizations for support. Third, engaging citizens to understand their desired solutions. Additionally, changing people's behavior, as excessive and unnecessary movement contributes to the challenge, was suggested but acknowledged as a difficult task.

One participant suggested: *"Don't try to find the big solution for the next 30 years, small steps are the most important part."*

Montserrat Miramontes challenged the participants with a central challenge to her every day work at the City of Fürstenfeldbruck
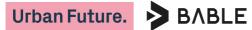
2. The Municipality of Breda, the Netherlands with *Veerle Hemerik, Project Manager of GreenQuays*

Challenge: How can the GreenQuays project upscale their solution within the city from the current pilot?

Solutions: The learnings of the GreenQuays project can be transferred and extended to other parts of the river in Breda. The partners and participants in the sessions addressed providing new ways of assessing a cost-benefit analysis. This is important as providing a reliable cost-benefit analysis can secure impact without funding. A holistic approach is important to also account for external effects of nature based solutions. It was therefore noted that more measurements should be done monitoring the impact on health, life quality, CO2 savings, biodiversity and more. It was also suggested that urban farming projects could connect this initiative to a broader scope, inducing local confidence and support.

*The GreenQuays project partners tackled a challenge brought up
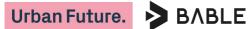in the previous sessions together about how to scale-up*

3. The City of Munich, Germany with *Alexander Lang, Head of Climate Neutral City and Smart City*

Challenge: How can Munich as a municipality reconcile its own time targets for climate neutrality with the legal plans and framework conditions of the federal government and implement them in the municipal sub-areas such as mobility, heat supply and buildings? The background is that Munich as city has the goal be climate neutral by 2030 in the administration, 2035 city-wide, the whole state of Bavaria in 2040 and Germany as a country by 2050. However, there are different specifications what climate neutrality comprises and Munich needs to define its own role and what can actually be implemented at the city level. Plus they need to ensure that the city is not losing its "functionality".

Solutions: The first round brainstormed on governance structures such as adding roles with new powers, emphasised the importance of cost/benefit analyses, and reiterated the need for better and more impactful communicating of victories. There were also discussions around affordability and many Use Cases given from around the world by partners. In the second session, Alexander Lang brought up their concepts for financing specific districts in Munich which spurred a lively discussion around a different way to approach this process. A possibly solution was to bypass the concept altogether, focusing directly on the impact and instead contract based on the goal agreed upon.

Alexander Lang brought back to Munich a new way of flipping the previously implemented concepts for districts in Munich

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

What better way to close out this engaging event than with a new partnership announcement and signing?

Three organisations - The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF), the Eindhoven International Project Office (EIPO), and BABLE Smart Cities - announced a partnership agreement aimed at fostering Smart City innovation and collaboration in key territories around the world.

Above, left to right: Peter Portheine, Co-founder & Director, EIPO; Alexander Schmidt, Founder and CEO, BABLE Smart Cities; Lou Zacharilla, Co-Founder, ICF; and Joost Helms, Co-founder & Director, EIPO

"By joining forces, the Intelligent Community Forum, the Eindhoven International Project Office and BABLE aim to accelerate the deployment of Intelligent Community solutions that improve the quality of life for citizens worldwide," said Lou Zacharilla, Co-Founder of the Intelligent Community Forum.

Discover GreenQuays

Discover BABLE

Contact People:

Tamlyn Shimizu
tamlyn@bable-smartcities.eu
BABLE Smart Cities

Veerle Hemerik
v.hemerik@breda.nl
Municipality of Breda