



SIDE EVENT PROPOSED: THE QUALITY OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URBAN AGENDA

DATE: March 27th 2022

VENUE: Instituto Cervantes. New York. (211 E 49th St, New York, NY 10017)

FORMAT: Face-to-face. The session will be recorded.

WEB LINK/ACCESS TO RECORDING: www.aue.gob.es

REGISTRATION FORM LINK: bit.ly/ArchitectureHLM

CONCEPT NOTE

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) approved by the UUN USA in 2016 highlights that urbanization has been one of the most significant trends shaping the built environment in the 20th and 21st centuries and that rapid urbanization is testing traditional planning and management tools. Numerous key aspects emerge that must be considered by any kind of urban policy and at any level: energy efficiency, environmental protection, the specific needs of children, young people, women and the elderly, as well as the most vulnerable groups, adequate provision of public services, with particular relevance to collective transport, the ecology of the landscape and green infrastructures and, of course, housing.

The built environment constitutes the fundamental substratum in which life develops, whether it is located in a purely urban context or in a rural environment and, of course, it is at the center of the elements to be taken into account to guarantee a true sustainability. Within this framework, architecture is also gaining special relevance. This is demonstrated by the European Commission when it calls for, through the New European Bauhaus, a deep reflection among all the stakeholders on how to transform our way of living together. A transformation that must be sustainable and inclusive and that must contribute to the fulfillment of the highest environmental interests.

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URBAN AGENDA

Just as the NUA is conceived as a strategic instrument designed to facilitate its implementation, in the context of the AUE architecture is a valuable tool for combining the broad strategic vision that characterizes it with tangible changes on the ground. Changes that improve our daily lives and that people can see and enjoy in buildings, homes and public spaces. It is about claiming new lifestyles that combine sustainability and quality design, that require less carbon, that generate less CO2 emissions and that are inclusive and affordable for all.

Architecture allows art and culture to be combined with science and innovation, all with a holistic approach that must pursue sustainable and innovative solutions, but



also accessible, affordable and enriching for all citizens. And this, put in connection with the design of the cities and urban environments themselves, means carrying out interdisciplinary and participatory approaches that reinforce the role of communities, industries, innovative people and creative minds, on a national or regional scale (if speaks of regulations, to give an example), as a local. The connection, therefore, with the umbrella offered by the strategic objectives demanded by the Urban Agendas is very close.

The Side Event that is proposed to be organized within the framework of the United Nations High Level Meeting offers an important opportunity to show the interdisciplinary work of multiple actors to give life to the ideal of sustainability in construction, housing and built environments, as well as the transforming power of architecture in the processes of urban regeneration and dignifying degraded environments, improving the quality of life of its inhabitants.

During the event, the following issues will be specifically discussed:

- How do each of the speakers address the specific theme of this side event?
- To what extent should reforms in this area be preceded by specific regulations and financing tools that support them?
- What elements of interest has the pandemic shown and what kind of reforms would be necessary to improve the quality of life in the built environment and in homes? What are the main demands of society?
- How does collaboration with other countries and between multidisciplinary actors allow the identification of instruments, good practices and appropriate procedures?
- What rol plays the housing policies in the proposed objectives?
- What improvements are essential in urban environments? To what extent can architecture be a valid instrument to achieve such improvements?