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Activity report

**UNDERSTANDING
AND GOVERNING
CITIES & REGIONS**



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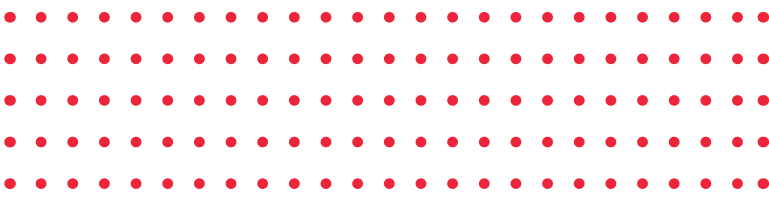
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**Ilaria MILAZZO
and Tommaso VITALE**
*Executive Director and
Dean of the Urban School*

EDITORIAL

As 2025 draws to a close, we set down an account of what the Urban School of Sciences Po has pursued this year, and of the openings offered to students, scholars and practitioners. We also marked ten years since the Urban School was established by Brigitte Fouilland (founding Executive Director) and Patrick Le Galès (founding Dean), under the guidance of Jean-Marc Offner, chair of the prefiguration committee.

In 2025, at the Urban School, growth went hand in hand with reform. We delved further into difficult questions of urban development and the quality of habitat. Our teaching and research addressed the economic penetration of organised crime in cities and neighbourhoods; the prevention of violence; and the planning and governance of local welfare systems—protection, care, and the reduction of poverty. We also took on sustainable, intermodal mobility, where policy

coordination, multilevel governance and territorial planning are necessarily interwoven. We reopened the black box of structural unemployment, generational inequalities, precarious work, and shifting expectations of life. We consolidated our dialogue with hydrology, environmental sciences, and civil engineering, to move further into the operational realities of climate mitigation and adaptation.

In parallel, we invested in training that strengthens not only analytical and project skills, but also the quieter competences without which action stalls: listening, negotiating, and alliance-building in fragmented environments.

These developments rest on careful attention to labour-market needs, sustained exchange with institutional and corporate partners, and continuous co-production among students, alumni and faculty.

We want our classrooms to remain porous: open to professionals who return to study, and to alumni who test ideas in the field.

Looking to 2026, we will focus on European territorial policies and the place assigned to cities in the ecological transition and the housing crisis, in a continuous dialogue with urban and regional policies in other parts of the world; on renewed modelling of urbanisation, local development and peri-urban specificities through data and visualisation; on integrated crisis-management skills across social, infrastructural and environmental dimensions; and on artificial intelligence, as it becomes embedded in everyday services and systems and opens new possibilities for immersive inquiry into urban governance. Throughout, we remain faithful to our roots: an education directed by research, for understanding and governing cities and regions—now and in 2026.



Jean-Marc Offner

President of the Strategic Council of the Urban School, Founding Member and Former Director of the Bordeaux Aquitaine Urban Planning Agency

The planet is urban, and France has not really grasped the scale of the issue. We must therefore shake up the frameworks for public action, mobilise the social sciences to do so, and develop new professional cultures. This is essentially the message I delivered 10 years ago, at the official inauguration of Sciences Po's new Urban School on 24 September 2015.

Would we still be saying the same thing today? After a pandemic that has raised new questions about the habitability of our surroundings, after the increasingly harmful effects of climate change, after unprecedented geopolitical upheavals that have shaken alliances and global logistics?

Happy globalisation is no longer in vogue, but megacities are strengthening their networks. In Europe, the housing crisis is causing social injustice to explode, while the financialisation of real estate is relentlessly strengthening its grip on urban change.

Soil quality is on the European agenda, but agriculture remains *terra incognita* for spatial planning. An exaggerated localism sometimes *wants to forget what lies beyond the city walls*, despite ever-productive territorial interdependencies. Mobility issues remain overdetermined by industrial policies as our lifestyles change. The urban planning toolbox retains its immutable label of "compact and dense city", thus hindering the development of alternative territorial models.

In a decade, the world has changed. Problems remain or are getting worse. How could the initial ambitions of the Urban School not still be relevant, when the post-city¹ is here, and there will be no room for manoeuvre for public action if this world is not understood?

Since its inception, the Urban School has also defended a demanding intellectual conviction: not to dissociate reflections on the life of institutions, the interplay of interests and powers, the content of public policies and their implementation, and steering by instruments.

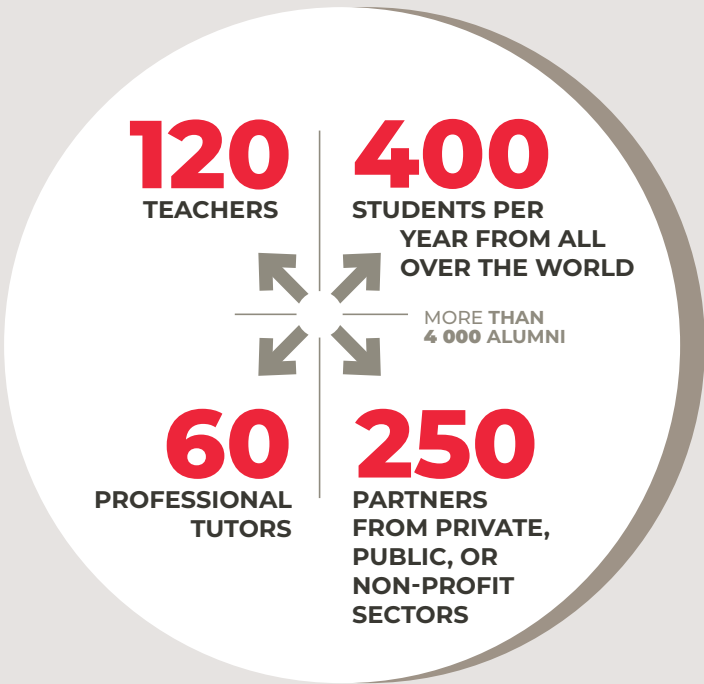
This approach to training and research is even more valuable in these times of failing territorial governance: political bodies uncomfortable with the essential tasks of coordinating different levels, instruments and methods that are slow to adapt to new challenges, legislative and regulatory production without evaluation, confusion in the division of labour between elected officials and technicians, public consultation practices that undermine the legitimacy of decision-making, etc.

This personal view is undoubtedly too pessimistic. All of this deserves debate. With its Alumni, researchers, teachers, students, and partners, the Urban School has contributed to these necessary scientific, professional, and civic exchanges. With its already rich experience, it can and must strengthen its position, asserting itself as a recognised leader and influential player in urban societies seeking guidance.

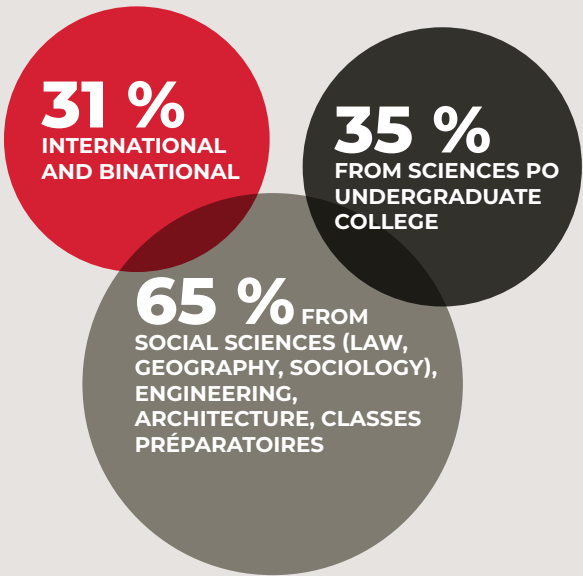
¹ Pierre Veltz, *After the City: Challenges of Global Urbanisation*, Seuil, 2025.



KEY FIGURES

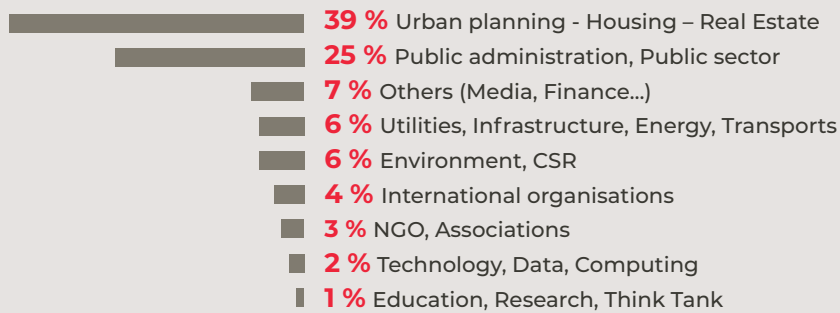


A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS FOR AN ENRICHING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

98 % OF STUDENTS FOUND A JOB BEFORE GRADUATING OR WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION



THE URBAN SCHOOL TEAM

LEADERSHIP

Tommaso VITALE

Dean

Ilaria MILAZZO

Executive Director

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Sandrine BOISARD

Financial and Legal Officer

Saskia WALLIG

Communication and Event Manager

Clairelou LECUREUR

TIERED Project Manager

MASTER REGIONAL AND URBAN STRATEGY (STU)

Olivier BORRAZ

Academic Director

Camillo GORLERI

Academic Advisors

Jérôme MICHEL

Béatrice SUSANA-DELPECH

Academic Assistants

MASTER URBAN GOVERNANCE

*Policy and Planning, Governing
the Large Metropolis Track (GLM)*

Sukriti ISSAR

Academic Director

Cyriel PELLETIER

Academic Advisor

Antoine TISSERANT

Academic Assistant

*Governing Ecological Transitions
in Cities Track (GETIC)*

Xavier TIMBEAU

Academic Director

Cyriel PELLETIER

Academic Advisor

Beatrice SUSANA-DELPECH

Antoine TISSERANT

Academic Assistants

MASTER IN URBAN PLANNING

Marco CREMASCHI

Academic Director

Bertrand VALLET

Academic Advisor

Jérôme MICHEL

Academic Assistant

Gabriel FELTRAN

*In charge of the professional
dissertation*

Laurent FOURCHARD

In charge of the Research Track

MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC COUNCIL

Jean-Marc OFFNER, President of the Strategic Council of the Urban School, Founding Member and Former Director of the Agence d'urbanisme de Bordeaux Aquitaine

Tommaso VITALE, Dean of the Urban School

Ilaria MILAZZO, Executive Director of the Urban School

Gaëlle ANDRO, Deputy General Director of Economy, Employment, and Innovation, Laval Agglomération

Benjamin CADRANEL, CEO and General Administrator of citydev.brussels

Sébastien CHAMBE, Deputy General Director for Urban Planning and Mobility of the Métropole de Lyon

Christophe CHEVALLIER, International development manager, AREP

Joan CLOS, former Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Secretary General of the Habitat III Conference from 2010 to 2018

Emmanuelle COSSE, President of L'Union sociale pour l'habitat

Aude DEBREIL, President of the board of Grand Paris Habitat

Karima DELLI, County concilor of the region Hauts-de-France, Former Member of the European Parliament, President of the Transport and Tourism Commission

Geneviève FERONE CREUZET, Co-founder and Partner, Prophil

Nicolas FERRAND, Director of ORANO's Aval du futur25 programme, former CEO of SOLIDEO

Brigitte FOUILLAND, Founding Member of the Urban School of Sciences Po, Executive Director of the School from 2015 to 2019

Audrey GUIRAL-NAEPELS, Deputy Head of Urban Development, Planning, and Housing Department, AFD

Lamia KAMAL CHAOUI, Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities

Mathieu KLEIN, Mayor of Nancy, President of the Métropole du Grand Nancy

Olivier LANDEL, General Director of AFL (Agence France Locale-Société Territoriale)

Philippe LAURENT, Mayor of Sceaux, Vice-President of the Association des maires de France

Cécile LECLAIR, General Director of Avise

David MANGIN, Architect and Urban Planner, Winner of the 2008 Grand Prix de l'urbanisme

François-Antoine MARIANI, Deputy General Director of Urban Policy - ANCT

Uli PAETZEL, President of the Board of Directors of the Emschergenossenschaft Water Management Association

Stefania PARIGI, Housing Director, Adoma, CDC Habitat Group

Géraldine PFIELGER, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policies at the University of Geneva

Edouard PHILIPPE, Mayor of Le Havre, Former Prime Minister

Antoine PICON, Professor of History of Architecture and Technology at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

Jean-Luc POIDEVIN, Expert, Former Director of Cities and Projects at Nexity

Benoît QUIGNON, Expert Consultant, Former General Director of SNCF Immobilier

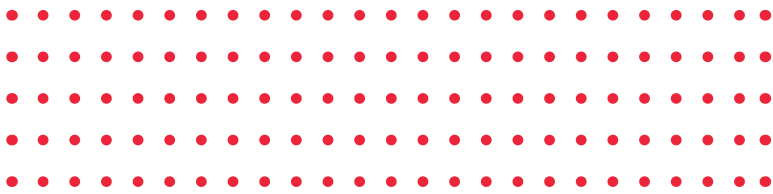
Michèle RAUNET, Associate Notary at Chevreux Notaire

Aurélien ROUSSEAU, Deputy of the 7th constituency of Yvelines, Former Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister

Cristina TAJANI, Sénatrice, République Italienne

Sébastien TREYER, Director of the Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDR)

Pierre VELTZ, President of the Scientific Council of IHEDATE, Winner of the 2017 Grand Prix de l'urbanisme



TEACHING FACULTY

The Urban School's teaching community comprises over 140 French and international academics and practitioners:

- **Research professors in economics political science, sociology, urban planning, history, geography, etc.**, come from Sciences Po's, as well as from other French and international universities.
- **Practitioners working in all fields of urban affairs in France, Europe, and internationally:** policy advisors, planners, managers of companies, consultancies, associations, think tanks and international organisations, entrepreneurs, etc.

OUR AFFILIATED PROFESSORS

Jérôme BARATIER

Director of the Nantes Urban Planning Agency

Isabelle BARAUD-SERFATY

Founder of UBICITY, consulting agency in the urban economy

Frédéric GILLI

Director of the Grand Public Agency

Patricia PELLOUX

Deputy director of APUR (Atelier parisien d'urbanisme)

Jean-Marc OFFNER

President of the Strategic Council of the Urban Schol, Founding Member and Former Director of the Agence d'urbanisme de Bordeaux Aquitaine

Nicolas PORTIER

Independent consultant

Champaka RAJAGOPAL

Urban Planner and independent researcher in urban policy, planning and governance



OUR FACULTY

Manisha ANANTHARAMAN,
Assistant Professor, CSO

Anne-Laure BEAUSSIER,
CNRS Junior Professor, CSO

Olivier BORRAZ,
CNRS Research Professor, CSO

Beatriz BOTERO ARCILA,
Assistant Professor, Law School Research Center

Pierre CHARBONNIER,
CNRS Junior Professor, CEE

Pierre-Philippe COMBES,
CNRS Research Professor, Department of Economics

Bruno COUSIN,
Associate Professor, CEE

Marco CREMASCHI,
Professor, CEE

Joost DE MOOR,
Assistant Professor, CEE

Laurent FOURCHARD,
Professor, CERI

Gabriel FELTRAN,
CNRS Research Professor, CEE

Christophe JAFFRELOT,
CNRS Research Professor, CERI

Charlotte HALPERN,
Junior Research Professor, CEE

Sukriti ISSAR,
Associate Professor, CRIS

Julie KLEIN,
Professor, Law School Research Center

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Marco OBERTI,
Professor, CRIS

Giacomo PARRINELLO,
Associate Professor, Center for History

Ankit SIKARWAR,
Assistant Professor, CRIS

Eric VERDEIL,
Professor, CERI

Tommaso VITALE,
Professor, CEE, Dean of the Urban School

CITIES ARE BACK IN TOWN RESEARCH SEMINARS

The Cities are Back in Town programme is the research seminar of the lecturers and research teachers in the Urban School of Sciences Po.

It brings together both junior and senior scholars from all Sciences Po's research centres, as well as alumni, affiliated professionals and researchers from universities across the globe. Cities are Back in Town convenes more than 20 faculty members, 30 PhD and postdoc researchers, and many more associate researchers.

The programme approaches urban research through different lenses, including political science, sociology, geography, history, economics, urban planning, and law. It is committed to conducting and promoting cutting-edge research on pivotal processes in cities and regions worldwide.

Cities are Back in Town organises two seminars a month. It has become a significant forum for debating and disseminating urban research in France and worldwide. The seminar series is open to students, alumni, partners, and colleagues in all institutions worldwide.

The seminars delve into various topics, such as urban inequalities and segregation, governance and urban policies, conflicts and activism, urban ecological transitions, and digital transformations in cities, among others. We would like to warmly thank Eva Bossuyt and Oskar Steiner for organizing the seminars and for their remarkable dedication and commitment throughout the year.

MEMBERS

CEE

Faculty: Bruno Cousin, Marco Cremaschi, Gabriel Feltran, Charlotte Halpern, Patrick Le Galès, Federico Varese, Tommaso Vitale

PhD researchers: Simon Audebert, Eva Bossuyt, Thalia Creac'h, Soazig Dollet, Marcela Alonso Ferreira, Anna Pereti, Oskar Steiner, Marta Tramezzani, Luca Venga

Post-doc researchers: Carlo Colombo, Antoine Guironnet, Cassandre Rey-Thibault, Roberto Rodriguez, Federica Rotondo

Associate researchers: Alvaro Artigas, Antoine Courmont, Joost de Moor, Francesco Findeisen, Pierre Wokuri

CERI

Faculty: Elena Butti, Laurent Fourchard, Laurent Gayer, Thomas Lacroix, Jean-Louis Rocca, Hélène Thiollet, Eric Verdeil

PhD researchers: Joel Ansah, Fatoumata Diallo, Hugo d'Assenza-David, Grégoire Ramé, Petra Samaha, Dan Sanaren, Rouba Wehbe

Associate researchers: Agnès Bastin, Alix Chaplain, Côme Salvaire, Laurie Servières

CHSP

Faculty: Giacomo Parrinello

CSO

Faculty: Manisha Anantharaman, Anne-Laure Beaussier, Olivier Borraz, Étienne Nouguez

PhD researchers: Jean Ecobichon, Rémi Guillem, Laure Guimbail

Associate researchers: Brigitte Fouilland, Charles Reveillère

CRIS

Faculty: Sukriti Issar, Marco Oberti, Edmond Préteceille, Ankit Sikarwar

PhD researchers: Audrey Chamboredon, Lise Lecuyer, Ying Liu, Eulalie Saisset

Associate researcher: Laura Silva

LAW SCHOOL

Faculty: Beatriz Botero Arcila

OFCE

Faculty: Eloi Laurent, Pierre Madec, Xavier Timbeau

URBAN SCHOOL

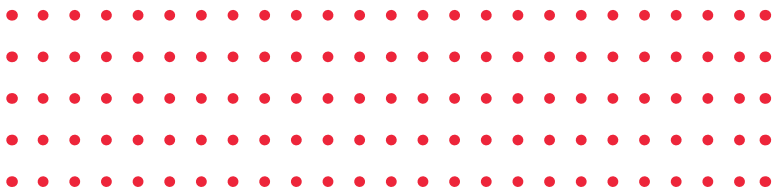
Post-doc researchers: Francesca Ferlicca

OTHER AFFILIATIONS, SENIOR SCHOLARS

Thomas Aguilera (Sciences Po Rennes), Alberta Andreotti (Milano Bicocca), Francesca Artioli (Ecole d'Urbanisme de Paris), Christine Barwick (Centre Marc Bloch - Berlin), Clément Boisseuil (APUR Paris), Julie-Anne Boudreau (INRS/ UNAM), Luigi Burrioni (University of Florence), Adalberto Moreira Cardoso (IESP - State University of Rio de Janeiro), Anne-Cécile Caseau (INJEP), François Bonnet (Pacte Grenoble), François Cusin (Université Paris Dauphine), Agnès Deboulet (Université Paris 8), Claire Colomb (UCL), Claire Dupuy (UCLouvain), Renaud Epstein (Sciences Po Saint-Germain-en-Laye), Adrian Favell (University of Leeds), Deborah Fromm (LSE), Dominique Lorrain (LATTS Paris), Alan Mabin (University of the Witwatersrand/ Wits), Jacques De Maillard (CESDIP), Anahi Alviso Marino (École des Ponts ParisTech), Nathan Marom (IDC), Eduardo Marques (CEM - University of São Paulo), Irène Mboumoua (Urban School), Enzo Mingione (University of Milano-Bicocca), Niccolò Morelli (University of Genoa), Stijn Oosterlynck (University of Antwerp), Marie Piganiol (Université Paris Dauphine), Myrtille Picaud (LATTS Paris), Julie Pollard (Université de Lausanne), Jonathan Pratschke (University of Naples), Mike Raco (UCL), Quentin Ramond (COES, Universidad Católica de Chile), Clément Rivière (Université de Lille), Nikolaj Schultz (Aarhus School of Architecture), Michael Storper (UCLA / LSE), Vicente Ugalde (Colmex), Pieter Uyttenhove (Ghent University), Céline Vacchiani-Marcuzzo (Université de Reims Champagne), Vincent Viguié (CIRED), Mathieu Zagrodski (CESDIP)

OTHER AFFILIATIONS, JUNIOR SCHOLARS

Maël Alonzo (Paris 8), Hillary Birch (York University), Franco Bonomi Bezzo (University of Milan), Cristina Burini (Università di Milano-Bicocca), Rocio Calzado (Ecole des Ponts Paris-Tech), Borys Cieslak (GSSI), Lorena Figueiredo (University of Bergen), Matteo Del Fabbro (Politecnico di Milano), Marco Del Fiore (Politecnico di Torino), Samuel Gagnon-Smith (University of British Columbia), Josefina Hintz (Technical University Berlin), Nina Lopez-Uroz (EUI), Lorenzo Mascioli (EUI), Alice Razon (Urban School), Hugo Ribadeau Dumas (EHESS), Anna Rio (Milano Bicocca), Sara Vallerani (University of Genova), Alexandra Van Milink (ADEME), Maxime Vincent (University of Lausanne), Enikő Zöller (DFG)



OUR PROGRAMMES

The Urban School's Master's programmes prepare students for strategic roles in Local Governance, Policies and Urban Planning.

MASTER IN REGIONAL AND URBAN STRATEGY

TRAIN THE NEW LOCAL POLICY MAKERS

- ✓ Focus on strategic and operational positions in public policies and planning
- ✓ Comprehensive vision of contemporary urban issues: mobility, health, social welfare, housing etc.
- ✓ Flexible curriculum: internship, apprenticeship, elective courses

MASTER IN URBAN PLANNING

SHAPE & MANAGE THE URBAN SPACES OF THE FUTURE

- ✓ Full spectrum of urban planning, from design to implementation
- ✓ Understanding socio-economic challenges with advanced training in urban and spatial thinking
- ✓ Developing skills in strategic analysis for complex environments and fostering collaboration

EXECUTIVE MASTER

MASTER OF REGIONAL GOVERNANCE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MASTER IN URBAN GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND PLANNING

GOVERNING URBAN AND REGIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS ON A GLOBAL SCALE

One of two tracks to choose from:

GOVERNING THE LARGE METROPOLIS (GLM)

- ✓ Comprehensive training in governance of fast growing metropolitan areas
- ✓ Focus on infrastructure, mobility, water, electricity, health, and social services
- ✓ Regional studies (Africa, China, Latin America, Middle East, North America, South Asia, South-East Asia) and sectorial courses

GOVERNING ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS IN CITIES (GETIC)

- ✓ Advanced training in urban environmental policies
- ✓ In-depth understanding of the role of cities and regions in climate adaptation and mitigation
- ✓ Focus on European cities and northern regions

DUAL DEGREES

- ✓ Master in Urban Policy with the London School of Economics (London, United Kingdom)
- ✓ Master in Global and Comparative Urban Planning and Governance with the Urban Planning Department at UCLA (Los Angeles, United States)
- ✓ Master in Management of International and Public Affairs with Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)
- ✓ Master in Global Urban Development with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai, India)
- ✓ Master's Degree in African and Southern Urban Studies with The African Center for Cities (UCT, South Africa)

THE URBAN SCHOOL LAB

At the Urban School, the co-production of public knowledge by students and faculty is a core academic principle. We believe that students learn best when actively contributing to knowledge that serves cities, territories, and their key stakeholders. Created in 2021, the Urban School Lab embodies this approach by enhancing student-led projects and positioning the School as a platform for critical dialogue on how professional practices can better integrate ecological and social transitions.

STUDY TRIPS

FIELDWORK AS A CENTRAL LEARNING TOOL

As part of each Masters' programme, study trips are designed to explore economic, social, environmental and cultural challenges of a particular region. These expeditions offer opportunities to:

- ✓ Meet local government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society representatives
- ✓ Discover innovative urban projects, public policies, and infrastructure in action

THE URBAN SCHOOL LAB

BUILDING A SPACE FOR SHARED PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

Founded in 2021, the Lab of the Urban School is designed to:

- ✓ Highlight the work of our students and enhance professional debate on urban and regional issues
- ✓ Focus on addressing ecological, digital and social transitions
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration among students, faculty, researchers, and external partners both in France and internationally
- ✓ Explore emerging topics through innovative approaches

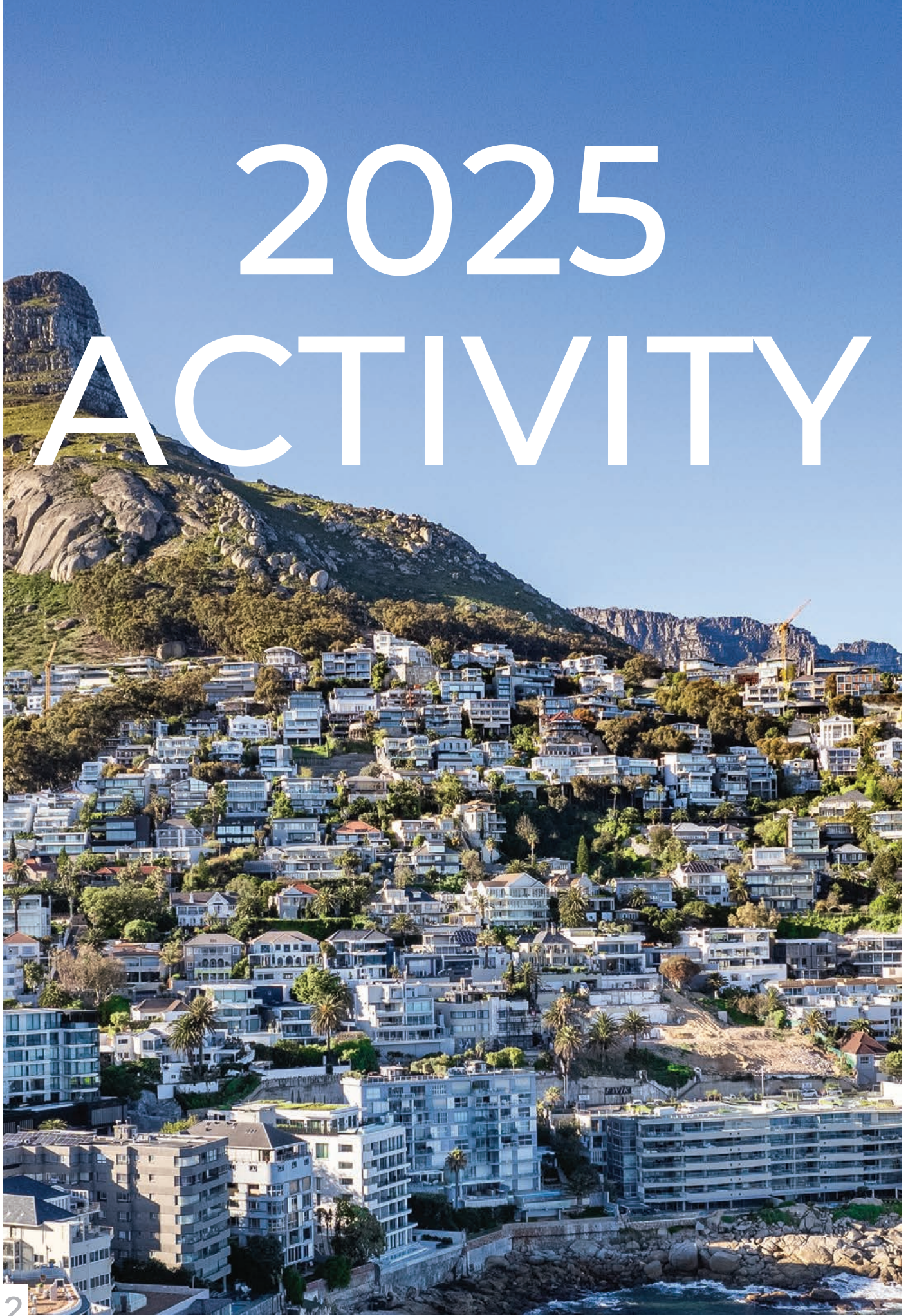
THE GROUP PROJECTS

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR FUTURE URBAN PROFESSIONALS

Over 9 months, teams of 4-5 students tackle real issues provided by public, private, or non-profit organizations, under the supervision of an expert tutor. Through this experience, students develop critical skills in:

- ✓ Designing, implementing, and evaluating public policies
- ✓ Managing complex urban and regional projects
- ✓ Supporting transitions (demographic, ecological, digital, etc.)
- ✓ Facilitating citizen engagement

2025 ACTIVITY



“RESHAPING CITIES”: A WORLD TOUR OF URBAN PLANNING ALUMNI



Clément Maucourt, an Urban Planning master’s programme graduate (class of 2024), picked an unusual path after receiving his diploma: traveling and meeting up with former students of the master’s programme, who are now urban professionals living all over the world. Through this project now known as “Reshaping Cities,” over the course of a year, Clément explored new territories, urban practices, career paths—with tons of opportunities to understand better how to “make the city” elsewhere. In this interview, he reflected on the beginnings of his project, his most meaningful encounters, and his subsequent destinations.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF YOUR TRAVELS? WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO UNDERSTAND OR TRANSMIT THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

I hope to offer a more sensible, more accessible approach to urbanism by shining light on the life stories of urban planners. I want to understand how their career paths, doubts, and convictions influence how they interact with the city. [...] Through my podcast “A World Tour of Our Cities” (“un tour du monde de nos villes”), travel journals written on the road, photojournalism, and vlogging, I’m trying to humanize urbanism, to liven it up and to anchor it in the voices of the “doers” who reinvent it.

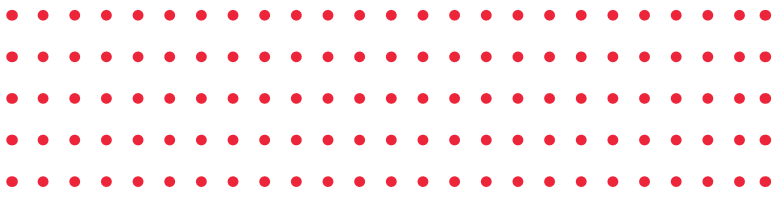


Follow Clément’s next adventures:
<https://reshapingcitiesinitiative.com/>

HAS THIS PROJECT CHANGED YOUR WAY OF SEEING THE CITY AND YOUR OWN PROFESSION?

Yes, absolutely. This project taught me to listen. Beyond territories, I learned to see those who design, live in, and redesign these spaces. It taught me that the city is an incredible multi-

city of practices, ambitions, scales, decisions... and constraints. This project reinforced my belief that urban models cannot be exported: it is necessary to first understand, situate, and act in the local context. [...] I’m learning to recount the testimonies of those engaged in the transitions of our cities. Everywhere, the same questions crop up—but the responses must always be localized, mindful, and singular.



A NEW DUAL DEGREE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

The Urban School and the African Center for Cities of the University of Cape Town are launching a new dual master's degree programme to begin in January 2027. The dual master's draws on synergies between the two universities in cutting-edge interdisciplinary training in urban governance and urban policy. It provides students with the enriching experience and on-the-ground training in two dynamic global cities.



The Master in African and Southern Urban Studies offers a unique opportunity to engage critically with the dynamics of urbanisation from the perspective of the Global South, with a strong focus on research. The programme combines rigorous academic training and applied learning in Cape Town and Paris — two urban laboratories facing complex development challenges.

The programme provides advanced interdisciplinary training in Southern urban theory and everyday urban life. Drawing on grounded, context-rich research and the vibrant intellectual environment of both institutions, students are placed at the intersection of theory, policy, and practice. They also have the opportunity to pursue fieldwork, internships, or capstone projects during their time in Cape Town and Paris.

The Dual Master's degree in African and Southern Urban Studies is the first dual degree between Sciences Po and the African continent. Signed during the Vice-Chancellor of UCT's visit to Sciences Po, this agreement aims to train experts capable of addressing global challenges in governance, public policy and sustainable urban development.

For more than fifteen years, Sciences Po has made Africa a central pillar of its international development. Today, it is the French university that sends the most students to study in Africa and one of the European universities with the most active university partnerships on the continent. It also welcomes nearly 700 students from 46 African countries within its student community.

A CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATION SEMINAR FOR EUROPEAN STUDENTS

As part of CIVICA - the European University of Social Sciences. The Urban School organised the second edition of an Honours Seminar on “Negotiation Skills for Public Policy: Climate Change and Environmental Transition” under the guidance of Dr. Francesco Marchi and CIVICA's team.



GUEST SPEAKERS :

- Alexandra SOMBTHAY – VP AKUO Energy
- Pasquale CAPIZZI, Associate Director | Leader, Resilience and Climate Adaptation | Europe, ARUP (Milan)
- Joana VEIRA DA SILVA – Former coordinator and negotiator for the Climate Change

“The CIVICA seminar was an enriching experience, combining theory and practice. The final simulation I co-moderated enabled me to develop my mediation and active listening skills, essential tools for negotiating in complex multilateral contexts. [...] As well as the lessons, the exchanges with students from partner universities were invaluable, all in a friendly atmosphere”.

Marion, GETIC master's student

At the end of January 2025, over 40 students from the Governing Ecological Transitions in Cities Track and our European partner network at Bocconi University, Hertie School, IE University and the SGH Warsaw School of Economics met at Sciences Po.

The seminar aims to encourage the meeting between practice and research, as well as to help students develop new capabilities that enable a better understanding on how different organizational or governance structures affect policy-making dynamics.

Another goal of the seminar is to support the professional integration of master's students. It will focus on negotiation, mediation, and dispute-resolution mechanisms, all of which constitute a set of strategic skills in cities and regions notably useful for students who will take up careers as managers, city administrators, civil servants, diplomats, and policymakers.



CIVICA
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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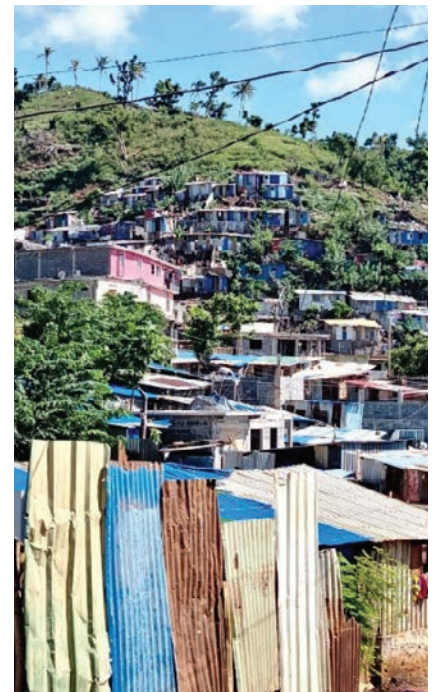
RECONSTRUCTION OF MAYOTTE: TRANSITION AND HOUSING

A GROUP PROJECT INHERITED FROM THE AESOP CONGRESS

The Urban School sought to contribute indirectly to Mayotte's reconstruction efforts following tropical cyclone Chido's devastating impact on the island in December 2024. For the first time, the School launched a group project without going through a call for proposals.



Over a six-month period, four students from the master's programme in Governing the Large Metropolis, supervised by urban architect Amalle Gualleze and in collaboration with local stakeholders, proposed a comparative analysis to identify relevant and practical courses of action for those responsible for reconstruction. This group project represented a unique opportunity for Urban School students to engage in a action-research approach and contribute, at their own level, to reflections on Mayotte's future.



In 2024, the Center of European Studies and Comparative Politics hosted at Sciences Po, together with the Urban School, the 36th AESOP Congress (AESOP is the Association of European Schools of Planning). The success of this event, which attracted 1,200 participants becoming the largest scientific event ever organized at Sciences Po, allowed us to support a group project under the supervision of researchers from the CEE.

The reconstruction of Mayotte must be an opportunity to rethink models of local development by integrating principles of durability, resilience, and social equality. The challenges facing Mayotte—precarious housing, exposure to natural hazards, management of limited resources, and, at times, fragmented or unstable governance—are echoed in other regions of the world, particularly in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

The concept of action-research is based on a collaborative approach between students, faculty, researchers, and field professionals. It aims to produce knowledge that public and private decision-makers can directly use to respond to contemporary urban challenges, particularly those concerning ecological and social transitions. These projects help inform strategic decisions, support public policies, or provide concrete solutions for organisations through a methodology rooted in field research and social science methods.



ACTION-RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

At the heart of the Urban School's mission is the pedagogical principle of **co-producing public knowledge between students and faculty—knowledge that is shared, actionable, and applicable to professionals.** Through its Lab, the School develops action-research projects around six main themes:

- Economic development of cities and regions
- Informality, drugs, and security
- Cities, housing, and real estate
- The peri-urban fabric
- Nature in the city
- Cities, IA and digital transitions



FOCUS ON ONE NEW ACTION-RESEARCH PROJET LEAD BY NICOLAS PORTIER WITH THE INSTITUT POUR LA RECHERCHE (CAISSE DES DÉPÔTS)

The Urban School seeks to further develop its scope of action in teaching and research devoted to recent changes in territorial economic strategies, shaped by energy and ecological transitions.

This ambition is embedded in a particularly dense policy context, marked by the recent renewal of regional economic strategies (second generation of the SRDE-II), revisions of the SRADDET, contractual policies (new Contrats de plan État-Région), territorial projects (Contrats de réussite de la transition écologique), and reindustrialisation and decarbonisation programmes (Territoires d'industrie, France 2030, Pacte vert européen).

Within this framework, the research project entitled “*La territorialisation de la planification écologique*”, coordinated with the Institut pour la Recherche de la Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, addresses this

scientific and pedagogical ambition through a dual objective:

- To analyse the modalities through which ecological planning — and in particular the French energy-climate strategy — is being implemented across French regions and regions ;
- To assess the socio-economic effects of these transitions, focusing on changes in public procurement, neo-industrial investments, and transformations in employment.

The research is structured as a programme of studies based on qualitative surveys conducted with representatives of the State (ministries, decentralised services, agencies), local public decision-makers (elected officials and senior staff of local authorities), and socio-economic actors. The aim is to identify territorial challenges, conflicts of use, investment and financing needs, stakeholder negotiations, solutions developed to address conflicts, and emerging local innovations.

This research programme has resulted in three reports, all available in open access.

PERI-URBAN AREAS: A NEW RESEARCH- ACTION AXES

Long overlooked by urban professionals, peri-urban areas—the spaces between cities and the countryside—are nevertheless home to a growing proportion of the French population. Today, driven by land-use efficiency objectives, they are no longer seen merely as symbols of urban sprawl but as areas ripe for development. The Urban School has made them a priority area for action-oriented research, viewing peri-urban areas as strategic spaces for ecological transition and the implementation of public development policies.

Groundbreaking work on the renewal of city entrances, in partnership with the Federation of EPL Elected Officials

In partnership with the *Fédération des élus des EPL*, a group of students from the master's in urban planning worked on a central question: how can we equip and support local authorities in the redevelopment of city entrances today? Often reduced to fringes to be transformed, these spaces nevertheless constitute strategic land reserves, capable of responding to the challenges of land sobriety, economic relocation, and ecological transition.

After a state-of-the-art review aimed at defining and historicising the concept of city entrances, the analysis was structured around four levers: land, mobility, habitability, and functional diversity. Case studies in France and Geneva informed the discussion.

Four prospective scenarios for 2050 were finally developed: secondary polarity, multimodal hub, renatured and de-densified entrance, or productive belt. This work will be continued in 2026 with two new collective projects.

Thinking about and embodying peri-urban areas with the Fnau

How are public territorial policies embodied in peri-urban residential areas?

This is the question posed by the National Federation of Urban Planning Agencies (Fnau) to the Territorial and Urban Strategy Master's programme, as part of its cycle of reflection on "The new designs of peri-urban areas" (2024-2025).

The students proposed an analysis combining the definition and debate of peri-urban areas, a retrospective of public policies, and a field survey.

Their work shows both the diversity of these areas and the convergence of their challenges. Long the product of policies oscillating between indirect encouragement and *laissez-faire*, they are now the subject of growing tensions and a possible return to the political agenda. Above all, the survey enabled the "embodiment" of these spaces by giving voice to their inhabitants and users.

An immersive approach with the Metropolis of Lyon

At the same time, an experiment conducted with the Lyon Metropolis questioned the representations and trajectories of suburban development.

Through immersion in three municipalities in eastern Lyon—Meyzieu, Corbas, and Mions—the students analysed the tensions between densification, land pressures, and social acceptability. This long-term project resulted in the production of a film combining the perspectives of residents, elected officials, and researchers, which will now serve as a basis for dialogue within the Metropolis and with its partners in the months and years to come.

DEVELOPING A NEW RESEARCH AXIS

INFORMALITY, DRUGS, AND SECURITY

This initiative is carried out through a new partnership with a national public authority, supporting an interdisciplinary approach to the study of illicit drug supply and urban dynamics in European port cities. The project is developed in partnership with the French Interministerial Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA).



The French Interministerial Mission for the Fight against Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA), under the French Prime Minister's authority, coordinates the Government's efforts to fight against drugs and addictive behaviours. Its research mission, led by sociologist David Weinberger, focuses on illicit drug markets and transnational crime.

In 2025, the Urban School of Sciences Po launched a collaborative partnership with MILDECA to address urban challenges associated with illegal drug trafficking. The programme aimed to foster dialogue between the academic world and decision-makers. The first edition consisted in six seminars bringing together international experts and stakeholders from different fields: sociology, public health, customs, police and legal officers.

The programme was conducted under the scientific supervision of Gabriel Feltran (CNRS – Sciences Po, CEE) and David Weinberger, Project and research officer (MILDECA).

Alongside this initiative, four students from the Governing the Large Metropolis master's carried out research on European ports in the transnational cocaine value chain, as part of a Capstone project.

The students investigated how semi-wholesale cocaine trafficking operates through major European ports, focusing on Hamburg, Valencia, and Algeciras, and asked how this middle layer of the supply chain connects global flows with local urban impacts.

The study rejects simplistic binary interpretations that portray organized crime as external to the state or violence as its necessary correlate, arguing instead for a continuum of legal-illegal interactions that reshape governance.

Soutenu
par le



GOUVERNEMENT

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

MILDECA

Mission interministérielle
de lutte contre les drogues
et les conduites addictives



TRANSFORMING TERRITORIES - LESSONS FROM THE LAB N°2 DECARBONIZING MOBILITY

In October 2024, The Lab of the Urban School published a new collection dedicated to contemporary urban and territorial challenges.

Entitled *Transforming Territories – Lessons from the Lab*, this initiative highlights the group projects led by our students, in collaboration with experts and professionals. It fosters public debate and offers concrete solutions to current ecological and social challenges. Each issue focuses on a specific topic gathering the key findings from students collective work.

The second issue published in October 2025 showcases the results of four student projects focusing on mobility decarbonization. These projects examine the initiatives and strategies already in place, thanks to local and European efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of air pollution. Challenges remain, notably in terms of governance, urban planning, and financing. This report proposes concrete courses of action to meet these challenges and achieve decarbonization, such as the introduction of relevant indicators for users or incentives for electric vehicles.

This collection is part of Sciences Po's TIERED (Transforming Interdisciplinary Education and Research for Evolving Democracies) project, which seeks to address ongoing environmental and digital transformations that democratic systems are facing.

NATURE IN THE CITY: ANNUAL EVENT 2025

On 10–11 December 2025, the Urban School of Sciences Po hosted the second edition of its annual conference as part of the Nature in the City project, funded by the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation and led by Francesca Ferlicca, Rachel L. Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow at the Urban School.



This year's edition focused on the theme "Urban Nature at the Margins: Contested Climate Adaptation Governance in Urban Informality," bringing together over 40 leading scholars and practitioners from Europe, Africa, Latin America and North America. Across five panel sessions, researchers presented their recent work, followed by engaging discussions. To further enrich the academic exchanges, the conference programme also included an art exhibition curated by La Maison des Arts et de la Création, as well as a site visit to a regeneration project in Porte de Bagnolet, hosted by the Ville de Paris.

The final roundtable "From Research to Action - Translating Urban Nature Knowledge into Equitable Climate Policy" highlighted the urgent need to rethink urban nature governance from the margins, centring informality, justice, and lived experience as essential components of equitable climate adaptation.

Ebou CEESAY
Conference Assistant for
Nature in the City and
student at the Urban School



HIGH- LIGHTS AND EVENTS





TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

2015-2025

2025 marked a particularly significant milestone in the history of the Urban School, which celebrated its tenth anniversary. On September 4th, the School was delighted to invite all its Alumni who graduated between 2015 and 2025 to the Sciences Po Saint-Thomas campus.



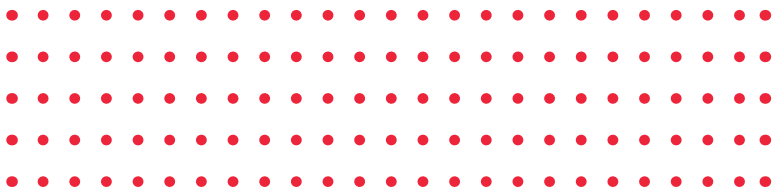
This anniversary evening, filled with music and conviviality, brought together several generations of former students who came to share a festive moment, reconnect with some of their teachers, rediscover the places that shaped their education, and revive shared memories.

This anniversary was also an opportunity to highlight the vitality and strength of the Urban School Alumni network, which has been structured and reinforced over the years. The Sciences Po Urba and IN SITU associations play a central role in this, animating the community, pro-

moting professional and intellectual debates, and actively contributing to the School's reputation. The recent renewal of IN SITU, carried out with energy and creativity, fully illustrates this collective dynamic.

Beyond the celebration, this gathering confirmed the Urban School's ability to bring together a close-knit community of students, Alumni, teachers and partners, which is one of its main strengths and assets, and an essential foundation for supporting its projects and ambitions over the ten years to come.





WELCOME WEEK 2025

AT THE URBAN SCHOOL

From August 26th to 29th, Welcome Week was held, a key event for welcoming students to Sciences Po campus before classes began. This custom-made allows them to discover the School, meet their future classmates, and participate in various activities, including field visits, workshops, presentations of the Lab and last year's collective projects, and the inaugural conference.

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

This year, the Urban School had the honour of welcoming **Anacláudia Rossbach**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Drawing on more than 20 years of international experience, she addressed one of today's most pressing challenges: the global housing crisis. From her work in Brazil and Latin America to her leadership at the World Bank, Cities Alliance, the Lincoln Institute, and now UN-Habitat, Anacláudia Rossbach has consistently advanced innovative, inclusive, and sustainable urban solutions.



EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP TO DATA VISUALISATION

The aim was to introduce them to the fundamentals of visual data representation, an essential tool for analysing and understanding urban dynamics. Divided into groups, students worked with data sets provided by the French Economic Observatory (OFCE) and used various software programmes to produce a series of representations of the city of Marseille.

This workshop enabled students to deepen their mastery of certain software and data analysis methods, as well as to recognize the value of data

visualisation as a tool for sparking debate and asking the right questions, rather than a means of providing definitive answers to complex problems.

This class was designed in partnership with the OFCE and Medialab and with the support of the TIERED (Transforming Interdisciplinary Education and Research for Evolving Democracies) project.

FIELD VISITS

The students visited various sites to discover an area or project related to their master's degree, accompanied by urban professionals.

THE GRANDE COCO PROJECT (BELLEVILLE, 20TH ARRONDISSEMENT)

The Grande Coco project, winner of the 2017 call for projects, "Inventons la métropole du Grand Paris," is located in a former embroidered flower factory. The site is dedicated to the transformation of the city and brings together a variety of activities: distribution of Restos du Cœur meals, co-working offices, a research centre on the transformation of the city, four shared apartments, a cultural canteen, a rooftop nursery, etc.



THE VAUGIRARD RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

Since 1910, the Vaugirard railway workshops have been home to maintenance activities for metro line 12, on a 2.3-hectare site. The modernisation programme led by the RATP group and its real estate subsidiaries, RATP Real Estate and RATP Habitat, aims to transform this industrial site into a new Parisian neighbourhood combining activities, housing and public facilities.

The presentation and tour were organised by the AME (Equipment Maintenance Workshop) team as part of the partnership between the Urban School and the Fondation RATP.



THE PARC PRINCESSE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN LE VÉSINET

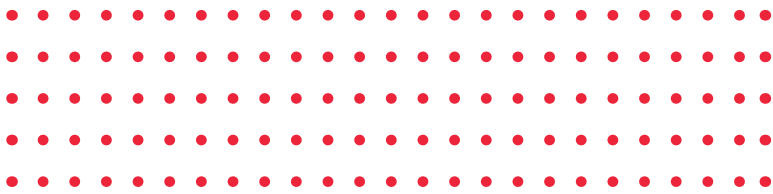
Located in the Yvelines department, Parc Princesse is one of the last vacant spaces in the commune of Le Vésinet, a park city protected for its landscape and architectural heritage. Designed with the site's historical identity in mind, the project led by the city, Grand Paris Aménagement and Agence TER (Grand Prix de

l'Urbanisme 2018) has given rise to an eco-neighbourhood inaugurated in 2023.

Spanning 18.3 hectares, it offers more than 450 housing units, 30% of which are social housing, a residence for the elderly and a residential facility for people with disabilities. The project prioritises landscape and environmental quality: 470 trees have been preserved, more than 1,000 have been planted, a sixth lake has been created, and large public spaces (65% of the site) promote soft mobility and biodiversity.

FULL PROGRAMME OF THE FIELD VISITS:

- Porte de La Chapelle (Paris 18th arrondissement)
- Plaine Commune (Seine-Saint-Denis, 93)
- ZAC des Groues in Nanterre/La Défense (92)
- La Grande Coco project, Bellevilles (Paris 20th arrondissement)
- RATP/Vaugirard Workshops
- Parc Princesse neighbourhood (Vésinet, Yvelines)
- Saint-Denis town centre
- PAPREC recycling plant
- Géomarne geothermal plant
- Wesh Grow (urban farm)
- La Caverne (urban agriculture)



URBAN SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS

A LOOK BACK AT 6 MAJOR EVENTS OF 2025

For the third academic year, the Urban School has renewed its weekly events programme. The “Wednesdays of the Urban School” is a time for dialogue on major issues affecting our cities and regions, to stimulate public debate and foster links among our communities: students, teachers, researchers, partners, and alumni.



European Integration in the City

As part of the conference *EU law and the city: Untangling a co-constitutive relationship*, chaired by Sciences Po’s Dr. Carlo Colombo, this roundtable allowed local and European policymakers to examine and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing cities while 75% of European citizens call cities home. The discussion explored the evolution of the relationship between Europe and its cities, especially in the era of innovative solutions and transformative policies.

Gender and Urban Commons

This roundtable discussion examined the manifestation of gender inequalities amid city creation, and the potential of rethinking urban commons to promote more inclusive and equitable spaces. Interdisciplinary conversations, international case studies and feedback shone light onto these pertinent questions of gender dynamics in city planning. The discussion brought together political scientist Maxime Forrest, visiting faculty in Gender Studies Shivani Gupta of the National University in Singapore, and associate director of Arup - Cities, Planning and Design Sara Candiracci.



The Future of the Train in France in an Era of Competition



The Urban School and the Mouvements association welcomed Christophe Fanichet, President and General Director of SNCF Voyageurs, to discuss the changes that competition will bring to the French railways. With the end of SNCF Voyageurs’ monopoly beginning in 2020, the organization must now reorient its public land management policies in a way that moves the railroad in France, and in Europe, into the future.

Cities and War



This seminar explored how war is reshaping the fabric of contemporary cities across the globe. Bringing together Sciences Po colleagues and members of the IJRR editorial board, the panel delved into the socio-spatial logistics of warfare, colonial and racial legacies, and the new alliances of states, private actors, and illicit networks of violence. Panelists also reflected on ethical and methodological challenges of researching urban life in contexts of war.



The Great Together

As part of the 5th annual Close Up Festival, the Urban School and ENSA Paris-Est organized film screenings followed by conversations with the directors, both Sciences Po alumni. The short film, *The Great Together*, follows the story of modernist apartment complexes in Vienna, Rome, Belgrade and Toulouse, originally at the heart of postwar European reconstruction to meet the needs of a continental housing crisis. This film was created with the support of Docar, a documentary collective organization that highlights urban stories.

+4°C: How to House the France of Tomorrow?

Sciences Po welcomed nearly 350 participants to debate the future of housing and land management policies, as well as the transformations of housing needs, in France. This colloquium comes as the scenario envisaging a global temperature increase of over 4°C between now and 2100 could upset modes of living and how we devise public actions in our country. This symposium also launched the research programme, “Besoins en logements à l’heure de la transition écologique” (BEL), with the help of the Union sociale pour l’habitat, the PUCA and several other housing and urban development partners.



3RD LAND TRANSITION FORUM ON SOIL GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE



On April 10th, 2025, three European legislative bodies reached an accord on a new European directive on soil observation. Following this directive, the 3rd Forum on Land Transition was held on May 15, 2025, at Sciences Po, organized by the Institut de la Transition Foncière, the Sciences Po Institute for Environmental Transitions, and the Urban School.

This forum brought together researchers and influential actors at local, national and key stakeholders, in particular through the round table discussion, “Governing Living Soils: Toward a Land New Deal?”.

Participants in the forum included leaders of local, national, and European organizations focused on bringing soil health to the forefront of legislative reflections on ecology. As an essential component to many other issues regarding climate change and the ecological transition, understanding how soils are handled in public policies is a major question to be raised. A considerable source of tension in these policies is the implementation of norms and laws created in Brussels or Paris on (and in) the ground.

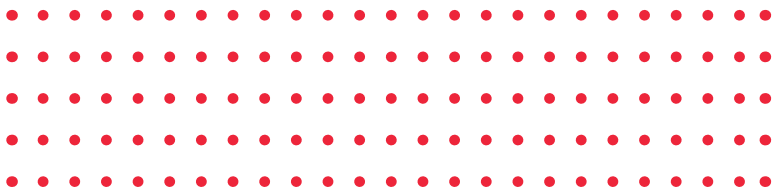
On the local level, Laurence Fortin L’Hour, vice president of the Brittany Regional Council on Territory, Economy and Habitat, evoked the necessity of including farmers in conversation with local representatives. Over 12 days of conferences in Brittany, local stakeholders developed objective criteria for regional land distribution in

compliance with the Net-Zero Artificialization (ZAN, Zéro Artificialisation Nette) law. On the national level, Alain Brauman, president of the French Association for the Study of Soils (AFES, Association française pour l’étude des sols), offered observations on the crucial role of soils in every aspect of ecological and economic life, from their instrumentalization in food production to their impact on geochemical and biological dynamics such as the regulation of CO₂. He and Julie Marsaud, Appeals Expert at WWF France, agree that soils rarely figure at the forefront of environmental directives, and this new directive allows for better visualization of a previously overlooked environmental issue.

On the European level, Pascal Canfin, European deputy and coordinator of the Environment, Public Health, and Food Security Commission, alongside Mirco Barbero, head of soil protection and sustainable land management at the European Commission’s General Direction of the Environment, both focused on the significance of this directive in establishing common sets

of indicators and terminology across European member states. Since research of this scale has never before been conducted on a supranational level in Europe, they noted that the directive relies on national data shared from multiple member states, including Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The directive also reflects the common problems linked to soil that Europe faces, including soil preservation, biodiversity, and soil artificialization.

On the global level, Agnès Hallosserie, Director of the biodiversity programme at the Institute of Durable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), emphasized this directive’s innovative qualities. Contrary to the sporadic presence of soils in three United Nations conventions on climate, biodiversity, and desertification, this European directive is the first political document to put soil at the center, and serves as a model to follow on a greater scale.



A RETROSPECTIVE OF THE URBAN LAB DAY 2025



On June 10th, the Urban School organised its third Urban Lab Day, a significant moment in student academic life, focusing on group projects carried out throughout the year. These projects, which are central to the Urban School's teaching methods, enable students to work in groups on a real-world issue proposed by an association or a public or private organisation. Students improve their skills to design, implement, or evaluate public policies; develop urban projects; or support major transitions taking place in cities and regions.

A PLENARY SESSION ON DECARBONISING MOBILITY

The day began with a plenary session on mobility decarbonization, in coordination with the publication of the second issue of *Lessons from the Lab*, based on the results of the students' group projects.

The growing awareness of the effects of air pollution has led to the introduction of strategies and initiatives at both national and European

levels. However, many challenges remain if we are to achieve our decarbonization objectives and limit climate change, including governance, urban planning, and funding. The students proposed several concrete courses of action to meet these challenges and shared the results of their capstone projects.



A CONVERSATION ON URBAN DENSIFICATION

The Urban Lab Day also provided an opportunity for a cross-disciplinary dialogue between a local elected representative, Vincent Provost, Deputy Mayor of Romainville, and Jérôme Baratier, professor affiliated with the Urban School, on a central question in contemporary debates on urban planning: How densely should cities be built?

Many urban areas are under increasing pressure to densify for environmental, social, and economic reasons. The "Zero Net Artificialisation" agenda has reinforced this imperative. While there are many arguments in favour of densification, several limitations also exist: adverse effects on quality of life and the environment; infrastructure and public service saturation; gentrification and social exclusion; loss of biodiversity and environmental impacts; and urban congestion, among others.

This conversation enabled us to explore the conceptual, operational, and political issues associated with the transformation of urban areas, using the case study of the town of Romainville.

The rich discussion was informed by both on-the-ground realities and research findings, which opened avenues for reflection on more sustainable urban forms.

AT THE HEART OF THE DAY: THE WORKSHOPS

More than 40 group projects were presented throughout the day across 23 themed workshops, with cross-presentations of two or three projects.

The themes covered reflect current major urban issues, such as:

- Sustainable and post-carbon mobility
- Land, agriculture and industry
- Ecological, energy and digital transitions
- Urban densification, housing and neighbourhood renewal
- Citizen participation and social justice
- Health and regional cooperation
- Peri-urban, festive and inclusive practices
- Adapting to climate change and nature in the city

SERIOUS GAME: IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD

One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of a serious game developed by a group of students from the Master in Urban Planning (Justine Griffart, Honoré Getas, Florence Foucher, Nolwenn Ahee) as part of their group projet with CDC Habitat. Entitled *Quartier Prospectif de la Ville*, this cooperative game invited participants to slip into the shoes of a social landlord, confronting societal, environmental, and economic changes in a neighbourhood through 2050.

Amid unforeseen events and strategic trade-offs, the players had to maintain—or even improve—the well-being of residents, assessed across five dimensions: mobility, employment, social connections, housing, and the living environment. Their serious game represents an original, interactive format for exploring the future challenges of urban renewal.

STUDY TRIP



OVERVIEW OF OUR STUDY TRIPS

Each year, our students go on study trips to learn about the area's economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues and meet local stakeholders. The students discover the sites in their context and under the angle of a specific theme in connection with the master's teaching with the goal of writing a public report.

STUDY TRIP TO ROTTERDAM: RESILIENCE AT THE HEART OF THE PORT CITY

The 2025 learning expedition for the Urban and Regional Strategies (STU) master's degree took place in Rotterdam, the second largest city in the Netherlands, and the 'maritime capital of Europe'. With its exceptional location on the Rhine delta up to the mouth of the Nieuwe Maas, the city has an inseparable historical and economic link with its port.



Largely destroyed by German bombing in 1940 in order to force the country to capitulate, Rotterdam was rebuilt according to a resolutely modern vision, breaking with the traditional image of Dutch cities. Today, it stands out as a laboratory of contemporary architecture. Over the decades, port activity has shifted downstream, giving rise to major land reclamation projects. In addition, industrial port activity has had a profound impact on migratory dynamics, contributing significantly to the

emergence of Rotterdam as the most multicultural city in the Netherlands.

Today, the relationship between the city and its port is being tested by new challenges that we need to address. In the country's most densely populated region, land and environmental pressures have increased tenfold, exacerbating an unprecedented housing crisis. The risks associated with the proximity of the sea are generating new uncertainties due to rising sea levels and soil salinisation. The city is tackling these issues head-on and aims to become a model of a resilient city.

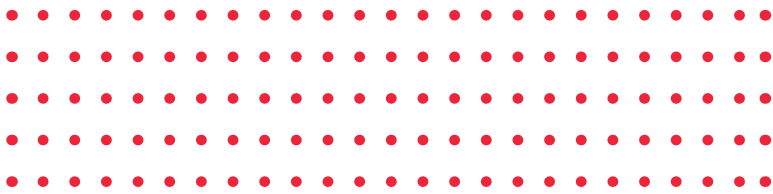
The aim of the trip was to analyse the issues and challenges of managing this port city amid contemporary upheavals. The trip and our meetings with local actors allowed us to observe the methods of collaboration and the latent points of friction between various stakeholders in the urban fabric and governance.

We express our gratitude to David DODMAN for generously welcoming us at HIS, Eveline BRONSDIJK for her guidance and Cassandre REY-THIBAUT, who helped us put together this programme with Pauline EMILE-GEAY.

From rooftop biodiversity strategies to long-term visions for sustainable housing, and from historical reflections to cutting-edge water management systems, the programme examined how different sectors align around the shared ambition of building a resilient, inclusive and future-ready city.

EXCERPTS OF THE PROGRAMME:

- David DODMAN (Director, IHS, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- Eveline BRONSDIJK (Advisor, Multifunctional Rooftop Programme – City of Rotterdam)
- Ben PLUIJMERS (Chairman of European Federation for Living (EFL))
- Joost NIEUWENHUIJZEN (Executive Director of EFL)
- Samy OUAHSINE (Conseiller développement durable, Ambassade de France aux Pays-Bas)
- Frank VAN OORT (Professor of Strategy Economics, Erasmus University)
- Paul Rabé (Lead Specialist in Urban Land Governance, IHS)
- Mirjam SCHOKKER (Manager, Rotterdam Central Station – NS Station)
- Bart WIGGERS (Technical Project Manager – ProRail)
- Joni REIJVEN (Programme Manager on Biodiversity – City of Rotterdam)
- Wouter VANSTIPHOUT (Architectural historian – Independent School for the City)
- Salina HASSELL-TEEUW, Steffie JANSSEN, Peter Paul LIPPINKHOF (Havensteder – Social Housing Operator)



EXPLORING NAIROBI: A HUB OF URBAN CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

40 students from the Urban School’s Governing the Large Metropolis Master’s programme embarked on a study trip to Nairobi, Kenya.

“I’ve never had a learning experience of such breadth about any other city, and it lasted a mere six days. In that time, not only did we delve deep into the governance and dynamics of housing, transportation, agriculture, parks, construction, banking, international aid, environmental conservation, manufacturing, and more, we personally met a great many people who play major roles in these areas.”

Gilad Havrahami, GLM student



Nairobi position as a confluence of highways leading to the East African port of Mombasa, as well as its status as one of Africa’s fastest growing cities, makes it a valuable case study for understanding the dynamics of urban growth in the Global South.

Students visited informal settlements such as Kibera and Kahawa Soweto, and met with representatives of the East Africa branch of Agence française de développement (AFD).

They learned about initiatives such as the Green Alley Park Project, the Urban Fabric Initiative, and the Kaa Sober project, urban development programmes designed to face socio-economic challenges via community-led management.

Through meetings discussing the history of urban planning and the challenges of urban governance in Nairobi, students explored issues related to urban innovations and policies, community action, litigation and connections between city and national politics.



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

- Meeting at the United Nations Office in Nairobi with UN-Habitat and UN Environment Programme
- Visit to Uhuru Park with Maurice Kavai, Deputy Director at Nairobi City County, Climate and Air Quality
- Meeting with Elizabeth WATHUTI, Kenyan Environment & Climate Activist, founder of the Green Generation Initiative, a member of the Green Belt Movement, Wangari Maathai Scholarship recipient for her commitment to environmental conservation, 100 Most Influential Young African by the Africa Youth Awards
- Meeting with Grace MUNGUTI, Manager and Chief Financial Officer, and Everlyne OTIENO, Urban Development Specialist, with European Investment Bank - C40 CITIES, a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world’s leading cities united to confront the climate crisis
- Visit of Kounkuey Design Initiative – KDI with the Director of AFD and the French Ambassador in Kenya.
- Talk with Joseph NGUTHIRU, founder of HyaPak Ecotech Limited (Hyapak), a start-up transforming the water hyacinth plant into biodegradable alternatives to single-use plastic at the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute

MARSEILLE'S PUBLIC SPACES: COUNTERING RISK WITH AMBITION

Students of the Urban Planning (Cycle d'urbanisme) master's programme at the Urban School embarked on their learning expedition to Marseille from June 11th to 14th, 2025. In visiting France's second largest port city, students met with local public and associative partners to examine current issues facing Marseille's public spaces.

Marseille's status as the "city of 100 towns" marks its urban fragmentation, where poverty and inequality are accentuated by lack of public transportation and impacted by the city's constraining geography. As a car-reliant city in search of walkability, city management efforts are complicated by tensions between two different administrative bodies: the city and the metropolitan area, which share and vie for control of public land management.

Students learned about historical solutions to problems faced by Marseille's public spaces by touring the apartments of the Cité Radieuse. Designed by the architect Le Corbusier and constructed with measure-

ments based on the average height of an adult man, the purpose of the Cité Radieuse was to meet families' needs without exceeding them and to easily replicate housing in the context of postwar reconstruction efforts. During this expedition, students also compared Marseille and Alger, another Mediterranean port city reconstructed under French influence after the Second World War.

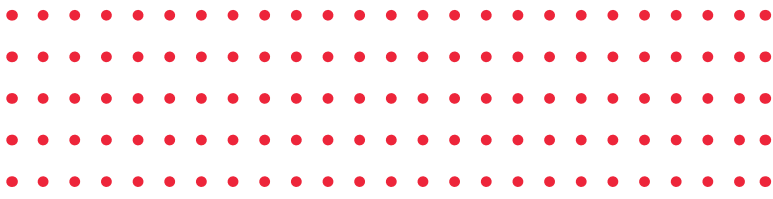
During this voyage, students examined possible solutions to the problems facing Marseille, including improving socialized housing for the most vulnerable, the pertinence of public-private partnerships, and the expansion of public transportation via the lengthening of the

tramway in both the northern and southern ends of the city, as well as an RER project to better link Marseille with its periphery. Overall, this study trip allowed students in the Urban Planning Master's programme to better conceptualize the modern issues facing big cities.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

- Meeting with Didier JAU, mayor of the 4th and 5th arrondissements, and Candice Mercier, Manager of Mission Aménagement et Projets d'Espaces Publics
- Meeting with Franck CARO, General Director of SPLA-IN Aix Marseille Provence
- Exchange with Aurélie COUSI, General Director of Établissement Public d'Aménagement Euroméditerranée, and Adam SAVIN, Urban and Prospective Markets Researcher, and tour of Operation Euroméditerranée 2
- Tour of SPLA-IN intervention sites
- Tour of la Cité Radieuse by co-founders of Kolektiv Cité Radieuse, Maxime FOREST, associate professor at Sciences Po and consultant in service and public policy design, and Laura SERRA, graduate of the Institut Français de la Mode et du Design
- Exchange on Alger and Marseille with architect, urbanist and director Anys MERHOUM from the Ateliers d'Alger Association
- Tour of the Great Maritime Port of Marseille, including the Marseille Port Center led by Anastasia TOUATI, Director of the Marseille Fos Port Heritage Promotion and Innovation organization, and with Catherine NAVARRO of Port Events Service
- Meeting with Vincent TINET, Chief of Mobility at Agence d'urbanisme de l'agglomération marseillaise and Thierry COULANGE, Chief of Infrastructure and Supply Development Feasibility Study Services at La Métropole





TRANSITION TO SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: THE RESTRUCTURING OF URBAN GOVERNANCE IN MALMÖ

The Executive Master's in Territorial Governance and Urban Development went on a learning expedition to Malmö from 8 to 11 October 2025.



Like other European cities affected by deindustrialisation, such as Bilbao and Manchester, Malmö has had to redefine its development trajectories. Sweden's entry into the European Union in 1995 and the opening of the Öresund Bridge in 2001 were major catalysts for the implementation of a renewed urban governance model, supported by the Social Democratic majority and enhanced dialogue with the State. This momentum led to the adoption of ambitious policies to boost the city's appeal, positioning Malmö as a benchmark for sustainable urban development. The development of new neighbourhoods on brownfield sites and various sectoral programmes has notably supported the growth of renewable energies, improved water management, and

enhanced the quality of the housing stock.

Thirty years later, this model is showing its political, economic, and social limitations, prompting the city to explore more inclusive approaches that combine social and ecological objectives. Three levers are driving this change: stronger local roots, strategies to influence national debates on the 'Swedish model', and the practical implementation of social sustainability through affordable housing production, public space redevelopment, and integrated tools that combine urban renewal, resident participation, and quality of life. This reorientation is driven by strong political will, while the low level of private-sector involvement raises questions about the ability to sustain social innovation.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PROGRAMME

- Öresund Metro Project, presented by Mr. Per WISENBORN, Engineer and Traffic Planner, Department of Streets, Parks and Real Estate (Mobility Unit), City of Malmö.
- Urban development in Malmö and current challenges (housing, social stratification and segregation), analysed by Prof. Martin GRANDER, Associate Professor in Urban Studies, Institute for Urban Research, Malmö University.
- Migration trends and challenges in Malmö (education, diversity, housing and the labour market), discussed by Prof. Sayaka OSANAMI TÖRNGREN, Associate Professor and Senior Researcher, and Dr. Henrik EMILSSON, Associate Senior Lecturer, Malmö University, at the Malmö Institute for Migration Studies.
- Implementing green transition policy objectives across policy areas, explored through the Öresund Metro Project by Mr. Per WISENBORN, Engineer and Traffic Planner, Department of Streets, Parks and Real Estate, City of Malmö.
- Climate change management, cloudburst issues and nature-based solutions, presented by Ms. Linda NILSSON, Engineer and Coordinator for Stormwater and Cloudburst Issues, Department of Streets, Parks and Real Estate, City of Malmö.
- Local development initiatives in Lindängen, presented during a site visit by Mr. Jörgen ANDERSSON, Local Development Manager, City of Malmö, in Lindängen.
- Designing the city's climate strategy and ensuring delivery across policy sectors, illustrated through land use, real estate and urban development by Ms. Camille PLOUJOUX, Head of Section for Urban Development and Real Estate, Department of Streets, Parks and Real Estate, City of Malmö.
- The Malmö Commitment (ICLEI) and the Social Sustainability Commission, presented by Ms. Brigitta OHLSSON, Head of Unit for External Relations and Coordination, Department of City Board, City of Malmö.

STUDY TRIP TO BILBAO:

EXPLORING URBAN AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS

In February 2025, students from the Governing Ecological Transitions in Cities (GETIC) Master's programme were in Bilbao for their annual study trip, diving into the city's remarkable transformation and innovative urban development approach.



The Basque Country is one of Spain's most prosperous and dynamic regions, with strong industrial clusters and a commitment to sustainable growth. Bilbao symbolises successful urban regeneration, with the Guggenheim Museum at its heart, which has attracted over 20 million visitors since 1997.

The trip aimed to study how the necessary ecological transformations are conceived, planned and governed in cities that have already undergone immense changes. Bilbao is an exceptional case of urban, economic and environmental change based on innovative gambles and a strong local identity. And now? Risk management

(especially flooding), tourism regulation, decarbonisation, adaptation to demographic decline, association of "distant" regions essential to the metropolis (for water, energy, housing, etc.), industrial relocations: all these are fascinating subjects of investigation for the students of the GETIC Master's programme.

Over these few days, students engaged with key actors shaping Bilbao's evolution. Through expert meetings, site visits, and on-the-ground exploration, they gained insights into the city's social, economic, and environmental transitions—a valuable perspective for their future work in urban governance and sustainability.

“What I found very interesting in Bilbao is how the city has managed to transform its industrial land into a valuable resource in a context of financial constraints and urban renewal by developing an innovative economic model based on the city redeveloping industrial land and then selling it on to generate a profit that repays the investment in renovating and cleaning up the land and even makes it possible to finance the next project”.

Marion Dejean, GETIC student

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

- Meeting with Roberto San Salvador, Deusto University Cities Lab, about Bilbao's urban transformation (Deusto University Cities Lab)
- Meeting with Idoia Postigo, Bilbao Metropoli 30 Director, about the public/private governance of the transformation
- Meeting with Maria Bidaurreta, Public relations coordinator of the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum, about the "Guggenheim effect" and the project of a new Museum in Urdaibai (Gernika river) - Followed by a visit of the Museum
- Meeting with Ziortza Olano Astigarraga, coordinator of Mondragon Unibertsitatea, about industry 4.0, cooperativism and the Zorrotzaurre project
- Meeting with Asier Abaunza, deputy in charge of urban planning, City of Bilbao
- Meeting with Greenpeace Euskadi about their vision of ecological challenges
- Meeting with the association StopGuggenheim Urdaibai (Gernika), about the possibility of a sustainable tourism
- Meeting with Unai Diago, Mayor of Zalla (9000 inhabitants), about transition challenges and center-periphery relations in the Greater Bilbao

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