



【26】 Guimarães 26
European Green Capital

Environment Forum 2026

One planet cities: bringing science, policy and practice together

3-6 November 2026

POLITICAL PROGRAMME*

Programme overview

The political programme will be invitation-only for deputy mayors and mayors. The aim of the political programme is to provide space for local politicians to meet and hold discussions, including closed-door ones. Should you wish for your politician to be involved, please contact **Elena Chiarini at: elena.chiarini@eurocities.eu or **+32 25520843***

Tuesday 3 November 13.00-17.45	PM EEF 2026 welcome and scene setting • Coffee and registration • Official welcome • Keynotes • Political discussion • Eurocities policy updates <i>Official dinner at 19.00</i>
Wednesday 4 November 09.15-15.15	AM Politicians' study visit hosted by Guimarães PM Closed-door political discussions (registration needed) <i>Meetings will be followed by an informal dinner with forum members</i>

Additional sessions open to all participants will be held on Thursday 5 (9.00-18.00) and Friday 6 (9.00-12.30) November. Please refer to the general EEF 2026 agenda for more details.

Detailed Programme

DAY 1 - Tuesday 3 November 2026 Venue: Jordão Theatre	
13.00-14.00	Welcome coffee and registration <i>(please note there will be no lunch provided)</i> Participants will be able to collect their badges for the entire Forum at each of the venues.
14.00-14.15	EEF 2026 welcome and scene setter • Ricardo Araújo, Mayor of Guimarães (tbc) • Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor for Climate, Bologna & Chair, Eurocities Environment Forum
14.15-14.30	Guimarães on One Planet City Declaration Awarded European Green Capital 2026, the European Commission's flagship award recognising cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants for their local environmental and climate action, Guimarães will present its One Planet City Declaration . The declaration calls on cities worldwide to strengthen their commitment to addressing the climate emergency through five fundamental pillars: education, science, social justice, the green economy, and culture.
14.30-14.50	Keynote intervention on climate change and cities Marta Olazabal , Iker Basque Professor and Ramon y Cajal Fellow at the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) and co-author of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities
14.50-15.10	Keynote and interactive session on multi-crises and emergency response Janne Hukkinen , Professor Emeritus of Environmental Policy at the University of Helsinki and part of the Bios Research Group
15.10-15.30	Moderated panel discussion with keynotes
15.30-16.10	Group photo and coffee
16.10-17.10	Political panel discussion (plenary session): the right to stay and thrive in European cities in the era of poly-crises Europe's cities are already living with the realities of climate change: hotter summers, more frequent heatwaves, pressure on buildings and infrastructure, rising health risks, and

	growing inequalities between those who can adapt and those who cannot. In that context, the European Commission's emerging Right to Stay initiative opens an important political debate: what does it mean to ensure that people can continue to live in their city - safely, affordably, and with dignity? This discussion will bring together mayors and deputy mayors to reflect on a key defining urban question: how do we keep cities liveable when extreme heat becomes part of everyday life? And how do we ensure that the right to stay also means the right to remain in a healthy environment, with access to decent housing, clean air, green space, and resilient services? • Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor of Bologna, Chair of the Environment Forum • Other speakers (tbc) More information below
17:10-17:45	Eurocities policy updates • Eurocities policy priorities and initiatives • New Ways of Working • People at Eurocities • EEF 2027
SOCIAL EVENT Venue:	
19.00-22.00	Official dinner <i>Join fellow participants at a dinner hosted by the city of Guimaraes. Dress code is business casual.</i>

DAY 2 - Wednesday 4 November 2026

Venue: Palácio Vila Flor

09.15-09.30	Meet ahead of departure
<i>09.30-10.00</i>	<i>Transfer</i>
10.00-12.00	Politicians' study visit <i>Territorial Solutions for Climate Resilience</i> This visit will explore how cities can translate climate science into practical territorial solutions, connecting prevention, modelling and direct response to climate risks. In Guimarães, climate action is supported by an applied science ecosystem that brings together the Landscape Laboratory, municipal teams and territorial data, enabling evidence-based decision-making and the development, testing and monitoring of solutions adapted to local challenges. The visit will highlight concrete examples of nature-based and territorial solutions for climate resilience, including solutions integrated into Guimarães' Green Map, demonstrating how green and blue infrastructure can contribute to flood risk management, ecosystem resilience and urban adaptation. Participants will also experience an immersive demonstration of territorial transformation, showing how scientific knowledge, territorial data and innovation can be translated into concrete interventions on the ground. The programme will showcase the Landscape Laboratory as a science-based structure supporting municipal climate action, and, importantly, how its scientific teams work in close operational articulation with the Municipality's technical teams — from risk assessment and modelling to planning, implementation, monitoring and direct response. The objective is to demonstrate how cities can move from science and data, territorial solutions, implementation, monitoring and informed response, creating a more integrated and proactive approach to climate resilience.
<i>12.00-12.30</i>	<i>Transfer</i>
12.30-13.45	Lunch break
13.45-15.15	Closed-door high level political meeting The following topics will be discussed, each prompted by an intervention from a city and followed by a moderated discussion:

	• Topic 1: How to keep momentum for climate policies in electoral campaigns and fight climate backlashes and disinformation? • Topic 2: What did this summer and autumn teach us about urban climate resilience and how can cities move from emergency response to preparedness? • Topic 3: Mobilising our community of EEF politicians. Reflection on policy priorities, the way forwards and political campaigns. (More details to come)
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Annex

Background for the political panel discussion (Tuesday 3 November, plenary session) – The Right to Stay

The European Commission's emerging Right to Stay initiative is best understood as a territorial and social cohesion agenda: it aims to ensure that people can continue to live, work, and build a future in the places they call home, rather than being pushed to leave because essential conditions for decent life are deteriorating.

In cities, the right to stay is no longer only about territorial cohesion, jobs, services, and housing affordability; it is increasingly about whether urban areas remain habitable under climate stress, especially as extreme heat, flooding, drought, poor air quality, and energy insecurity become more frequent and more unequal in their impacts. If a city becomes a place where several days of 40-degree temperatures are normal, as it happened last summer, then the question is not just how to adapt infrastructure, but whether residents can realistically continue to live and thrive with dignity, health, and safety. In that sense, the right to stay is also a climate resilience question, a public health question, and an environmental justice question.

The link to energy policies and vulnerable groups is equally important. In many cities, the people most exposed to heat, energy poverty, and indoor overheating live in the worst-performing buildings, often with limited access to cooling, retrofitting, green space, or mobility options. This creates a risk that vulnerable residents are effectively “priced out” or displaced by climate pressures, while others can adapt more easily. The right to stay must therefore be tied to building renovation, energy efficiency, decarbonised district energy, affordable electricity, and protection against energy poverty.

The environmental dimension is broader than heat alone. A city that is liveable must also offer clean air, accessible nature, lower pollution exposure, and safe public space. The right to stay should therefore be framed as the right to remain in a healthy, non-polluted environment, where climate adaptation does not come at the expense of environmental quality, and where urban regeneration strengthens rather than displaces communities.

This panel will discuss what does it take for cities to remain places where people can choose to stay, especially those with fewer resources, in a Europe that is warming faster than many other parts of the world. It will explore how local leaders can combine adaptation, housing, social inclusion, mobility, health, and environmental policies into a coherent “right to stay” agenda.