



Guidelines for Topical Discussions

TD3.2. City Stories: Local Walking Action

11:00 - 12:30 Wednesday, 8th October, 2025 | Location: Yellow (Cinema)

Learn from diverse city experiences that showcase how local action is reshaping walking environments at different scales. From comparative studies of urban design in Barcelona and Rotterdam, to neighbourhood-level improvements in Gdańsk, experimental approaches in Mekelle, and lakeside planning in Farka, these stories highlight practical strategies that strengthen safety, accessibility and the everyday walking experience. With speakers from the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Italy.

Presentation Type

Topical Discussions are a set of oral presentations in a moderated session to illuminate different perspectives and experiences on the same topic. The presentations will provide the framework for the subsequent discussion and debate.

Your session is scheduled as indicated in the [programme](#).

Session length: 90 minutes.

Speakers

Please be aware that the speaker line-up may change.

Moderator: Sophia Schuff, Director, Gehl, Denmark

- **José Besselink**, 79 | *Walking the Streets: Comparing Urban Design and Walkability in Barcelona and Rotterdam*, Urban Planner, City of Rotterdam, Netherlands
- **Grzegorz Krajewski**, 149 | *Enhancing Walkability in Gdańsk: Creating a Safer, More Accessible City for All*, Plenipotentiary of Mayor of Gdańsk for Pedestrians, Municipality of Gdańsk, Poland
- **Azeb Tesfaye Legese**, 171 | *"Re-imagining walking through real-life experiments – Learnings from a case study in Mekelle, Ethiopia"*, Research Associate, University of Kassel, Germany
- **Federico Parolotto**, 337 | *Addressing Walkability Across Different Planning Scales – The Case of Farka Lake*, CEO, MIC-HUB Srl, Italy

Session organisation

- A computer, a projector and a screen will be provided for your presentation.



Moderator

- It is up to you and the speakers to agree on the optimal format of the session.
- We encourage you to set up a meeting to get in touch with the speakers beforehand.
- Decide on the best order of presentations.
- Review the schedule below including the timings for presentations, Q&A and conclusions.
- Prepare a short introduction for each speaker. Biographies are available here: [Speaker Profiles](#). (If the profile information is not available, please contact the speakers directly.)
- Prepare comments, discussion points and/or questions to lead the Q&A and engage the audience.

Speakers

- Prepare a 12 minute presentation (typically 12 slides or less). Please do not go over time.
- Please use our conference template for your presentation: [W21 Tirana Presentation Slides Template](#), to edit it, please **download the template or make a copy of the file**.
- Name your presentation including your session number and your last name, as follows: **TD3.2_(last name)**.
- Upload your presentation file - **1 week before the event (Tuesday, 30 Sep)** in the following folder: [TD3.2. City Stories: Local Walking Action](#)

Before your session

- Please make sure to arrive at the venue at least **15** minutes before your scheduled session to perform a technical check with our AV team. As a speaker, you play a pivotal role in delivering valuable content to our audience, so we appreciate that you are well-prepared and punctual.

During the session

- The session is **90** minutes long and must start and end on time. This is critical for coordination of the event.

Moderator

- Agree how speakers will be alerted to their time ending.

Session schedule

- Introduction (3 minutes)
 - Welcome all attendees and introduce the speakers to the audience.
 - Remind the audience of the topic of the session.
 - Make the attendees aware that they can ask questions at the end. Questions will be moderated.



- Presentations
 - Give speakers 12 minutes each for their presentation. Ensure speakers keep to their allotted time. This is very important to ensure all speakers have equal lengths of time despite when in the session they present.
- Q&A (30 mn).
 - Engage the audience. Invite comments and questions, and guide the discussions.
 - Ensure anyone asking a question states their name and organisation.
 - If you feel the audience may not have heard a question, please repeat it.
- Conclusion (2 minutes)
 - Provide the conclusion
 - Thank the speakers
 - Thank all attendees

Further Information

- We invite you to join the official [Walk21 Tirana WhatsApp Channel](#), where you'll receive reminders, announcements, and practical information to help you stay updated and get the most out of the conference.
- To promote your session on social media, please download or make a copy of our [Speaker Spotlight template](#), include your information, and share it on your channels and your organisation's platforms
- If you have any questions please contact us at tirana@walk21.com