



Guidelines for Topical Discussions

TD5.4. Urban Transformations: Rethinking Public Space

09:00 - 10:30 Thursday, 9th October, 2025 | Location: Orange cube

From Scandinavian experiments with temporary street transformations to efforts in the Philippines to institutionalize car-free days, this session highlights how reimagining public space can shift mobility culture and promote walking. Speakers from Norway, Sweden, Albania and the Philippines will share lessons on sidewalk design, overcoming challenges to walking as everyday transport, and the strategic use of short-term interventions as stepping stones for long-term change.

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: Rudina Qerimi Rexhepi, Team Lead, Innovation and Training Park, GIZ, Kosovo

- **Maja Karoline Rynning**, 44 | *Exploring temporary transformations of public space as a tool for municipalities to strengthen their strategic work with promoting walking, Senior Researcher, Institute of Transport Economics, Norway.*
- **Luisa Merlo**, 70 | *Walking as a mode of transport: Exploring challenges and solutions, PhD Candidate, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden.*
- **Artan Morina**, 160 | *"Between Obstruction and Atmosphere – Rethinking Sidewalk Space Design", Project Manager for Urban Planning, urban move, Albania.*
- **Marie Danielle Guillen**, 279 | *Institutionalizing Walking Appreciation in Developing Countries: The Case of Car-free Days in the Philippines, Associate Professor, University of the Philippines - Asian Institute of Tourism, Philippines.*

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: **TD5.4_(last name)**.
- Upload your presentation file - **1 week before the event (Tuesday, 30 Sep)** in the following folder: [TD5.4. Urban Transformations: Rethinking Public Space](#).

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