IURC-CHINA WEBINAR | Urban Renewal and Renovation Wave

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This webinar aims for pilot cities to foster cooperation on climate change through sustainable urban renewal and regeneration.

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EU Policy Initiatives

1. **Urban Agenda for the EU** aims at realizing the full potential and contribution of urban areas
2. **Urban Innovation Actions** provides urban areas with resources to test solutions to address urban challenges
3. **Urban Development Network** strengthens integrated and participatory approaches to sustainable urban development and provides a stronger link to EU policies
4. **URBACT (IV)** helps cities to develop pragmatic sustainable solutions and integrate economic, social and environmental urban topics
5. **The Renovation Wave** aims to measure renovation benefits, minimum energy performance standards (MEPS), encourage green mortgages and support more renewables
6. **The BUILD UP Portal** brings together new practitioners and professional associations to exchange best practices, tools and resources
7. **Level(s)** assesses and reports on the sustainability performance of buildings throughout the life-cycle.

China Policy Initiatives

1. **Guidelines for regeneration of old residential communities in city and county** focuses on renovating old residential areas that have been built before the end of 2000
2. **Instructions on preventing massive demolishment and -rebuilding in urban renewal** restricts massive demolishment area <20%, re-building and re-location.
3. **Strengthening protection of historical heritage and heritage in urbanization** aims at effectively protecting and fully utilizing urban and rural historical and cultural heritage by 2035
4. **Announcement on the first round of national urban renewal pilot** explores action plans and policy options regarding sustainable urban renewal
5. **Announcement on further clarifying the requirements for the renovation of old urban residential areas** specifies the role of communities in renovation projects

Good practice in EU-China cooperation to date has been bilateral programmes such as Technical Assistance projects which have fostered synergies between Chinese and European Cities. Examples are

- **Europe-China Eco Cities Link** which highlighted participative urban renewal and energy efficiency for existing buildings
- **Trans-Urban EU-China research & Innovation on Urban Transition** which aims to create socially integrative cities in an environmentally friendly and financially viable way
- **ProGIreg** stands for 'productive Green Infrastructure for post-industrial urban regeneration

Cooperation areas can be categorised by

- **Sector**, for example, green financing, green building, renewable energy, sustainable urban mobility, water management or social service
- **Theme**, namely NBS, CE or SUD
- **Activity**, such as policy dialogue, piloting, technology application, academic research and capacity building

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Case studies: livability and resilience in urban renewal

To improve the quality of life and the environment, **cooperation** is proposed in different areas

- Turning the touristic over-exploitation into respectful, **sustainable tourism**

- Re-connecting the historical city with its physical matrix through strategies and models of **resource management**

- Re-naturalising the city, using the historic city as a model, by producing **non-polluting urban models** of life

- Considering the urban flows, such a integral water cycle, facilities, and mobility through **inter-administrative** cooperation on planning and technical solutions

Santiago de Compostela

This city shared **best practices** on improving habitability, revaluating real estate and increasing appreciation of heritage by inhabitants through

- **Urban scale interventions** conserving the quality of the city

- **Housing refurbishment** in the entire city

- **Business premises refurbishment** improving use and functions of the city

- **Agent training** fostering cooperation between stakeholders

- **Maintenance programs** for energy efficiency and heritage conservation

- **Social housing** serving heritage and society

- **Investment in restoration of monuments** improving the historic city

"We prepare society to become more self-conserving without constant pushing of the government."

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Urban Renewal and Renovation Wave

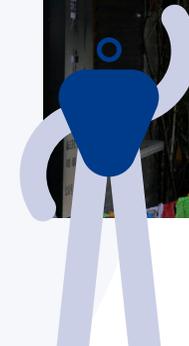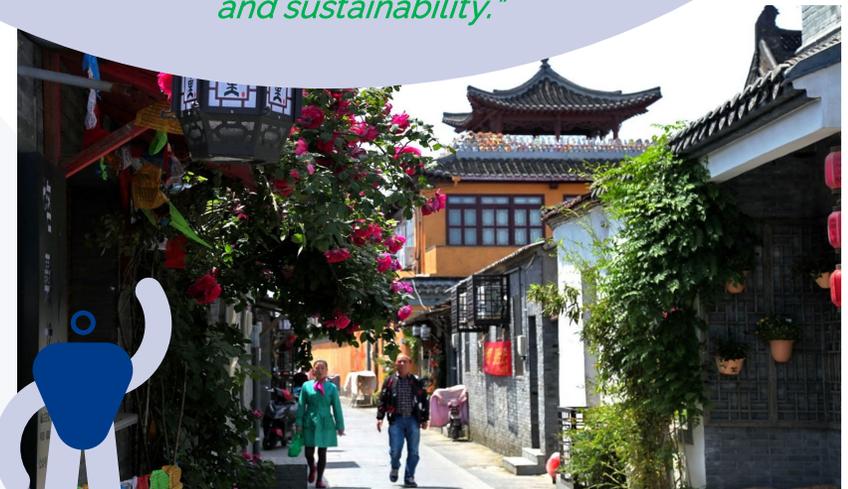*Case studies: livability and resilience in urban renewal*

Yangzhou

Yangzhou implemented steps to regenerate the historical and cultural block in *Renfeng District to improve* living conditions, upgrade facilities, and enhance vitality.

Guidance by the government and autonomous participation of citizens are key to form **bottom-up mechanisms**.
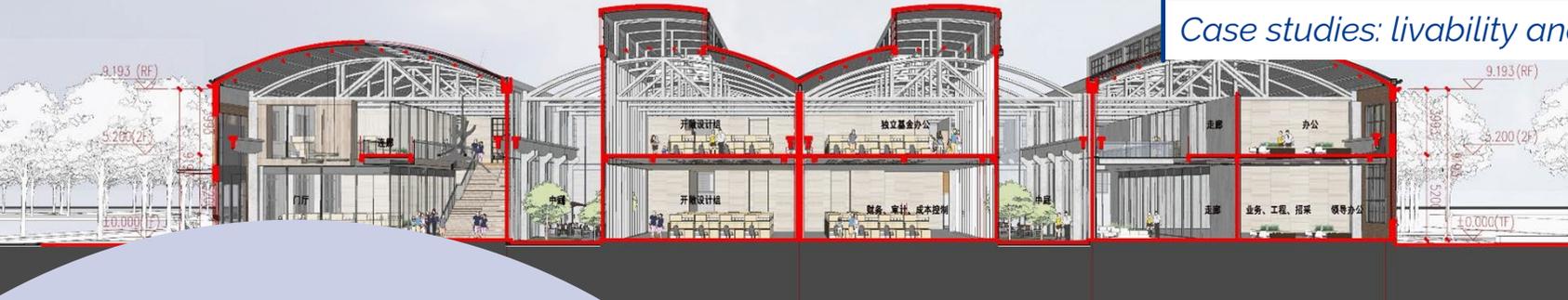
Results of regeneration:
- Integrated regeneration and protection
- Environmental upgrade
- Guide principles and financial resource for urban revitalisation
- Public engagement

"Follow the philosophy of small scale, gradual progress, micro-regeneration, enriched culture and sustainability."

Bari

Bari shared its urban regeneration strategy based on 4 pillars

1. **grand urban transformations and redevelopments**, e.g. waterfront redevelopment, tree planting, city design, strategic projects

2. **creation of new public space** in neighborhoods through participatory approaches on tactical urban planning

3. **greening city and climate mitigation** measures through large green infrastructure projects, community gardening and urban forestry

4. **energy efficiency** of buildings by producing solar energy

"We strongly believe in the value of our city and communities."

NCI - Bologna

The city presented good practices in **design for a green city,** underlining the close relationship between **technology, culture and environment** through different projects.

Cooperation areas lies in:

- Regeneration of historical city centers through a mix of culture, art and sustainability

- Innovative projects in a *New European Bauhaus* perspective

- Education, capacity building, peer review, staff exchange

- Urban regeneration through culture mix project

Case studies: livability and resilience in urban renewal

Zhengzhou

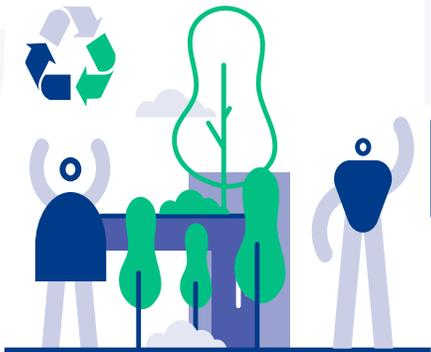The city shared strategies of the urban regeneration by:

- Improving road facilities and optimizing traffic

- Renewal and renovation of old neighbourhoods and communities, enhancing public services

- Improving rural and suburban areas, while facilitating environmental protection

- Micromanagement of urban areas, smart management and smart industries

Additionally, Zhenghzou introduced the good practice of *ZMJ 1958 Science & Culture Park,* a cluster of **innovation and entrepreneurship**. Specialization lies in integrating industrial heritage into revitalised urban spaces.

Future planning focuses on urban integration between cities, ecological environment, intelligent technology development and synergistic growth.

"We facilitate urban renewal to build a beautiful home and a friendly environment."

Murcia

Murcia presented the *Sustainable Integrated Urban Development Strategy*. In addition, good practices on **engaging citizens in** waterfront renewal, creating synergy between different urban programmes, and applying circular economy principles to the entire waste chain within the city were shared.

Proposed **areas for cooperation** include

- Green, competitive and resilient urban planning

- Ecological transition

- Energy efficiency in buildings

- Low emission energy project

- Valorisation of bio-waste

"Informing and engaging with citizens provides a co-governance model that can directly impact the quality of life."

Urban Renewal and Renovation Wave

The exchange of best practices is key to developing and improving urban regeneration policies and practices. In this regard, IURC China facilitated dialogues between the cities and suggested the following cooperation areas:

Suggested Areas for Cooperation
include several interdisciplinary themes

1 Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

- *"Sponge City"* and green corridors
- *Water Sensitive City* focused on planning, governance and smart management
- *Urban Agriculture* to support biodiversity and green roofs

2 Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)

- *Climate Resilient Community* consisting of flood management, design and emergency management
- *Low-Carbon Mobility Infrastructure Update*
- *Electric & Automated Mobility* including integrated planning, parking management and TOD
- *Diverse Culture & Art spaces* focused on integrated planning and parking

3 Circular Economy (CE)

- *Eco-Smart Industry Park* targeting planning, governance and smart grids
- *Waste circularity*, urban mining
- *Smart City* along with BIM, CIM and Big-data tools
- *Public Service & Inclusive Space* counting children, elderly and animal friendly

Cooperation Approaches

- **Policy dialogue**: regulatory support and financial instrument
- **Pilot projects**: `Living labs'
- **Technology transfer**: technical R&D incubation, joint ventures, patent assignment
- **Academic research**: theoretical and applied research
- **Capacity building**: knowledge sharing, workshops and training, study visit

"We should focus less on Development Aid as a developing country and more on equal dialogue and international cooperation."

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