



WHICH WAY TO THE FUTURE?

A travel guide for urban sustainability transitions

**Results and insights from the
4th Informed Cities Forum**

26-27 March 2015,
Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

Dear Traveler, welcome to the City of Today!

If you want to make the best of your time here and discover a sustainable urban future in the City of Today, this travel guide can show you how to get there and how to get there faster. In the following pages we are suggesting a number of starting points here in the City of Today where you can discover ways forward.

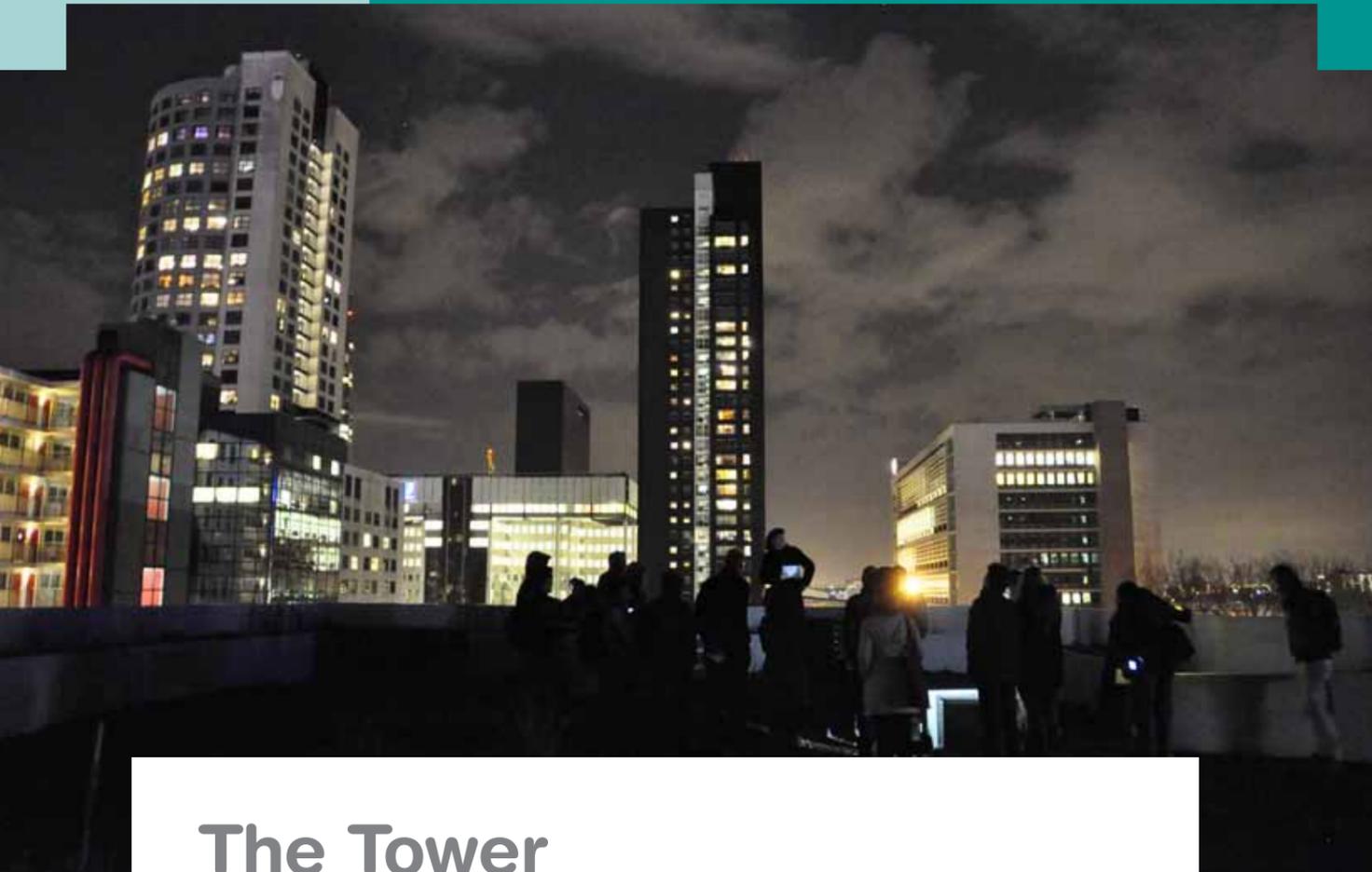
- You can start from more than one point but you do not have to visit them all.
- You do not necessarily have to visit the starting points in a certain order but some combinations will make more sense for you than others.
- Finally, these are certainly not the only places where you can find a sustainable urban future, however these starting points come highly recommended by other travelers.

Find the ones that are most to your liking and that offer you the best way forward based on your needs and abilities.

For each starting point you will find a general description, a list of things to do and some firsthand impressions and recommendations by experienced tour guides and fellow travelers.

We hope you enjoy your trip and recommend our travel guide to family, friends and colleagues.





The Tower

Often, what we see in our own efforts is just the place and time right in front of us: our own initiative, neighborhood, topic or department. That way we might not be able to appreciate the overall picture. The tower helps to put things into perspective.

Things to do:

- Look far into the distance without forgetting the small steps needed to get there
- Remove yourself from daily chaos and appreciate diversity
- Get an integrated view, look beyond everyday constraints and divisions



Impressions and recommendations of fellow travelers



Niki Frantzeskaki @NFrantzeskaki · Mar 26

imagine far in the future to forget the problems of today to make a sustainability vision to talk about the transitions of today! #infcities



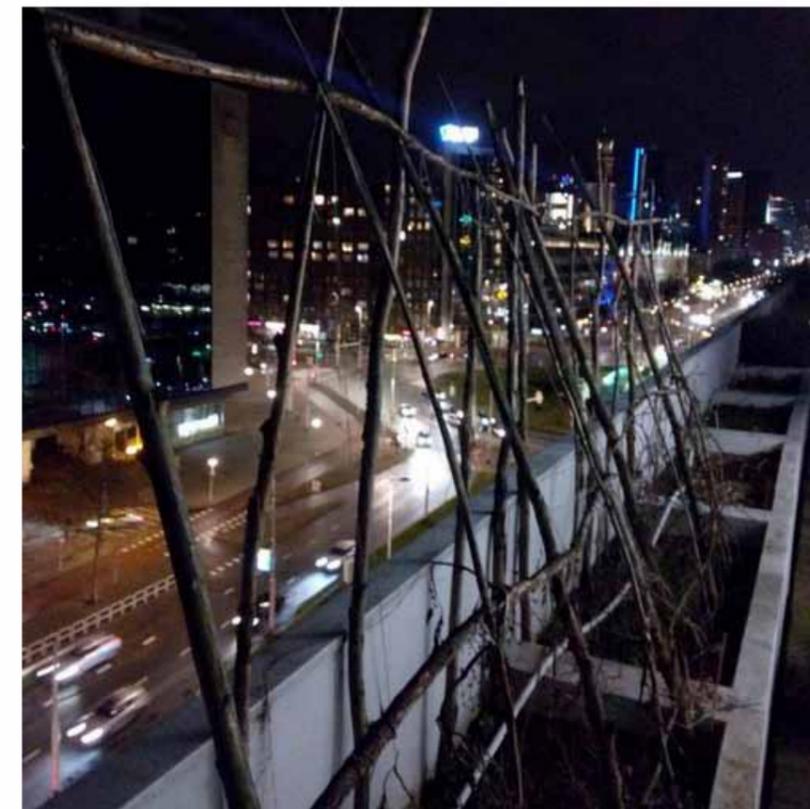
Five recommendations from policymakers pursuing sustainable urban transitions in www.themusicproject.eu:

- If you want to empower: DO IT
- Open your mind, open your data!
- Integrate energy issues into planning with GIS
- Be aware that transition management is not project management
- Be patient and persistent



Felelős Gasztróhős @Gasztrohos · Mar 26

#Rooftop #community #garden @ Rotterdam by night! Way to #grow! #infcities



RETWEETS 5 FAVOURITES 3



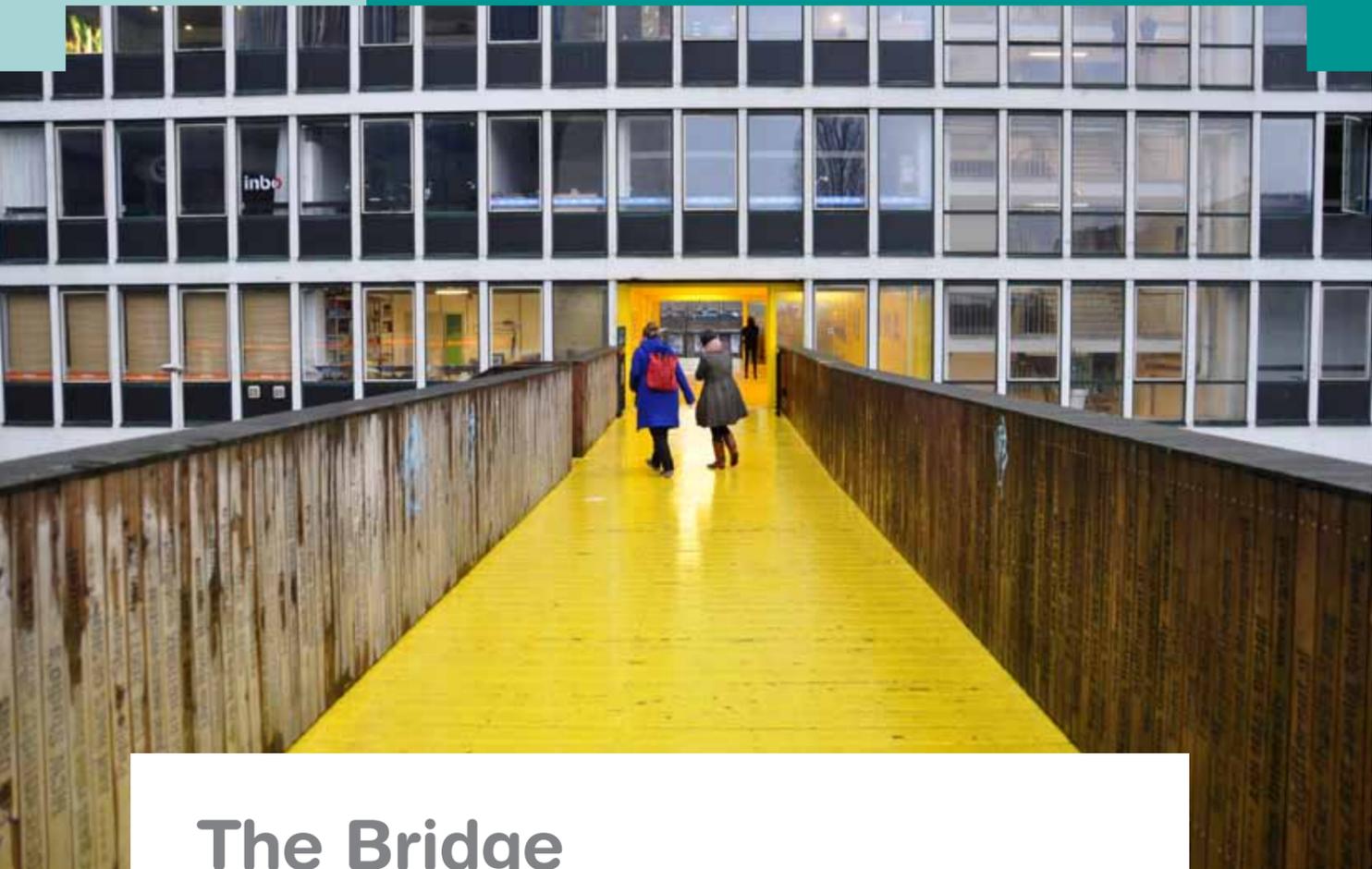
Work holistically across depts to address issues & support initiatives
CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY OF PARTICIPANTS

“Often people put innovation in a silo.”

Shane Waring

Beta Projects,
Dublin City Council,
Ireland



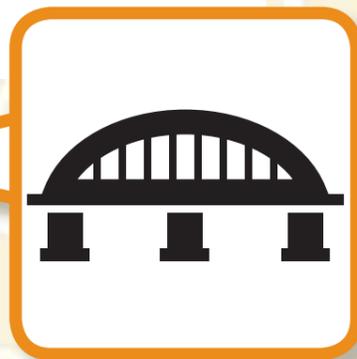


The Bridge

A sustainable urban future cannot be achieved alone. However, people, initiatives, city departments and other stakeholders are often pulling in different directions. The bridge is the place to bring people together.

Things to do:

- Be open to unusual alliances
- Try to understand the position of others and what might hold them back
- Take your time to build trust
- Listen and interact without trying to take over



Impressions and recommendations of fellow travelers



Anne de Feljter @AnnedeFeljter · Mar 26
 #infcities inspiration from Ghent' experiment I eefstraat Be a sustainable street and decide with neighbours what you do! New participation!

← ↻ 2 ★ 2 ⋮



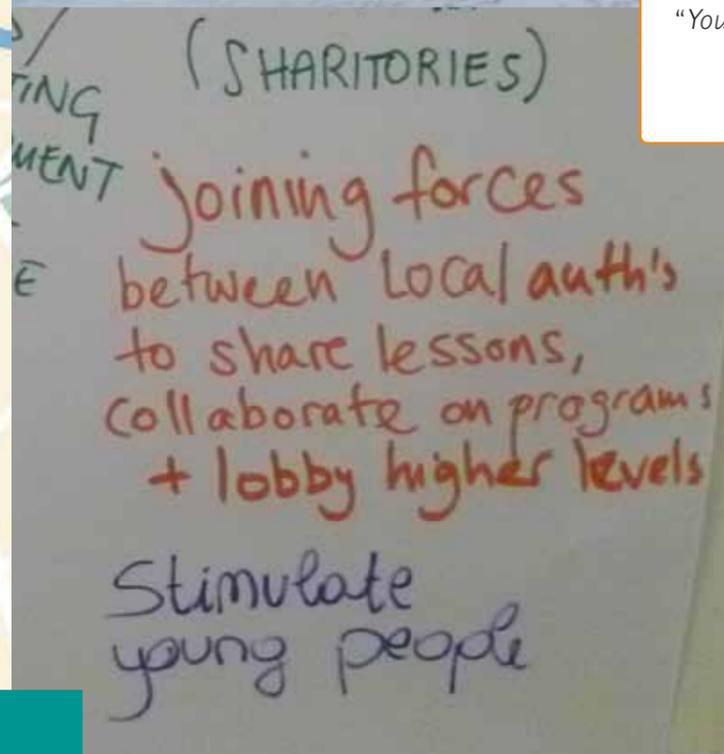
EU Green Capital @EU_GreenCapital · Mar 26
 "Cities have the capacity of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everyone." #infcities

← ↻ 5 ★ ⋮



"You need to build an internal network of likeminded people."
Shane Waring
 Beta Projects, Dublin City Council, Ireland

"We have a tradition of participation, but less a tradition of empowering stakeholders."
Indra van Sande
 Sustainable Building and Energy,
 City of Ghent, Belgium



Impressions and recommendations of fellow travelers



s8ren @s8ren · Mar 27

Best point about accelerating #transition so far: give people space and they will create innovations #infcities

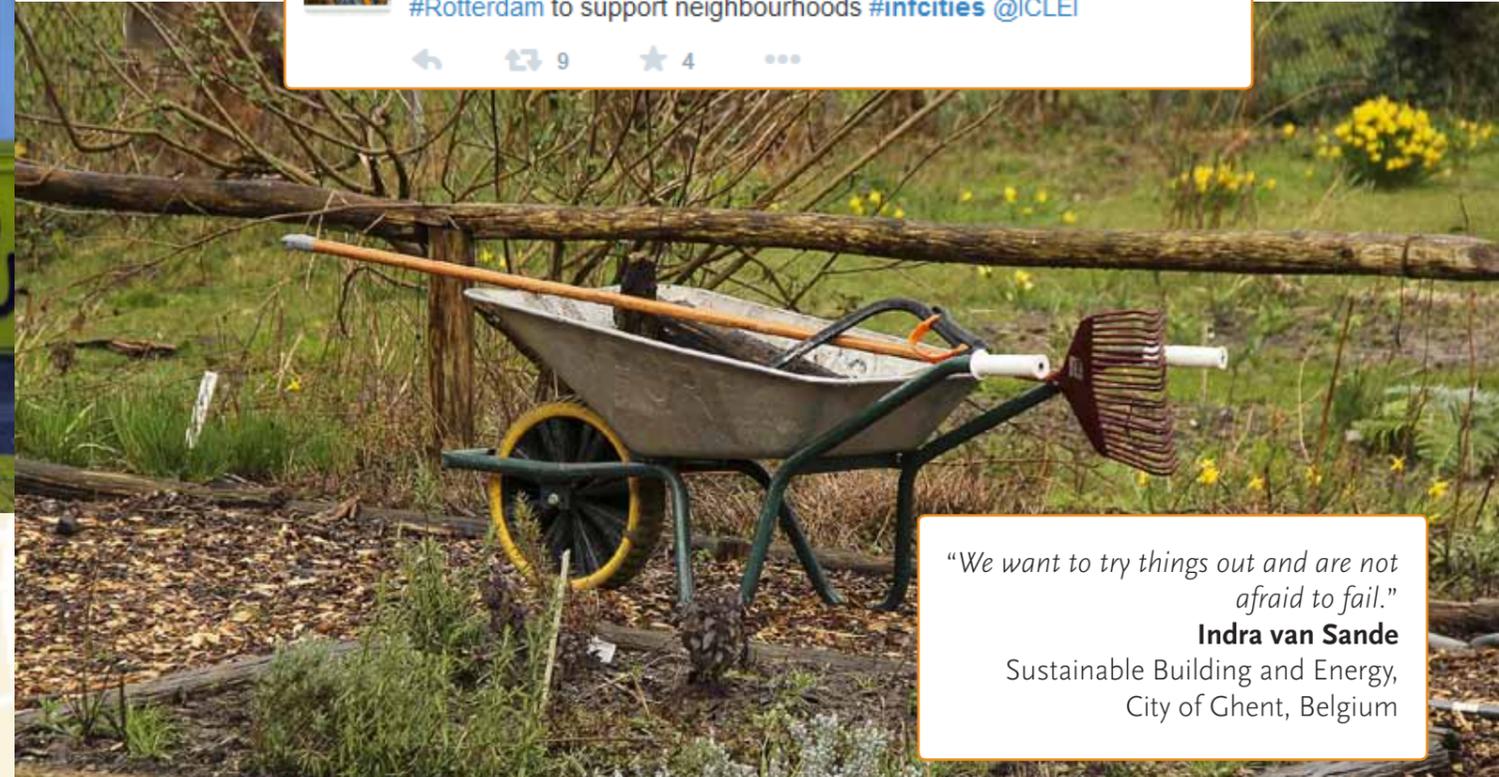
← ↻ 1 ★ 1 ⋮



Maria Adebawale @mariaadebowale · Mar 26

Constantly amazed with communities resilience & skills, like in Carnisse, #Rotterdam to support neighbourhoods #infcities @CLEI

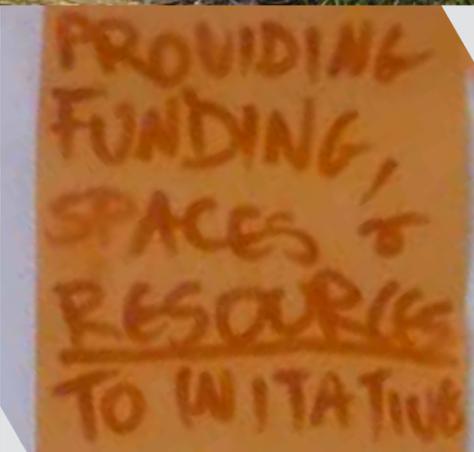
← ↻ 9 ★ 4 ⋮



"We want to try things out and are not afraid to fail."

Indra van Sande

Sustainable Building and Energy,
City of Ghent, Belgium



TEST SITE ROTTERDAM

The Playground

Innovation is a key to the future, but sometimes hard to come by. Structures, processes, hierarchies and traditions can keep us on the track of "business as usual". Allow yourself some playtime once in a while to come up with new ideas.

Things to do:

- Allow space and time for experiments
- Try new things
- Organize things differently
- Don't be afraid of failure





The Theater

Concrete steps are important in order to reach a sustainable urban future. However, do not forget the role of culture for changing people's mindsets and behavior. The theater is where you can learn and apply this approach.

Things to do:

- Create stories and narratives
- Focus on cultural change and its triggers
- Keep in mind emotions as an important driver of change



Impressions and recommendations of fellow travelers



Miriam Steiner @ThatMiriam · Mar 26

"We must change cities in the minds of people" to be able to visualise our future
@nextthamburg #infcities

← ↻ 1 ★ 1 ⋮



Nico Tillie @nicotillie72 · Mar 26

#infcities at The Story telling House Katendrecht Rotterdam. 80 shareholders bought it story telling as a big value



ARTS @ARTS_EU · Mar 27

"Acceleration is not about upscaling projects but about system change, we need new narratives of transformation" says @GESpiau #infcities

← ↻ 5 ★ 3 ⋮



Isabel Fernández @iclei_isabel · Mar 27

#infcities @GESpiau @the_young_fdn narrative transformation for connection of projects @ICLEI_Europe @NFrantzeskaki

← ↻ 1 ★ 1 ⋮

[View photo](#)



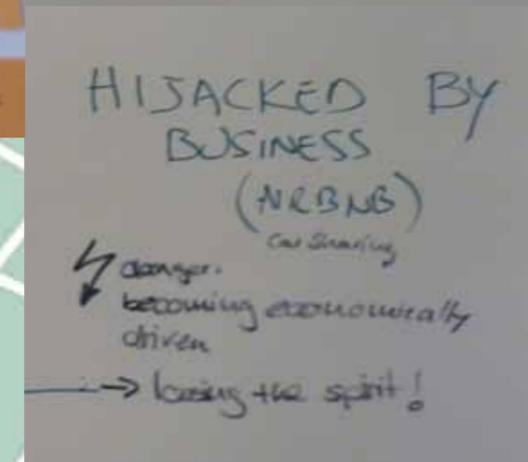
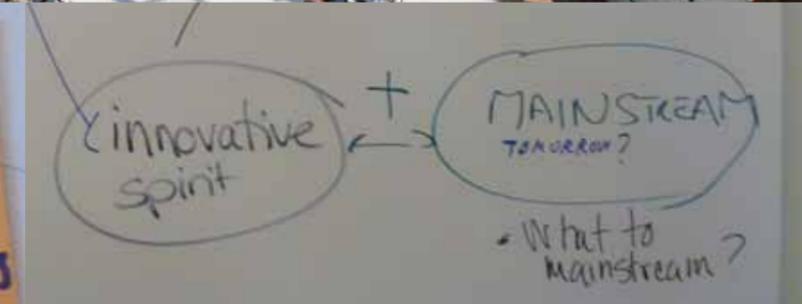
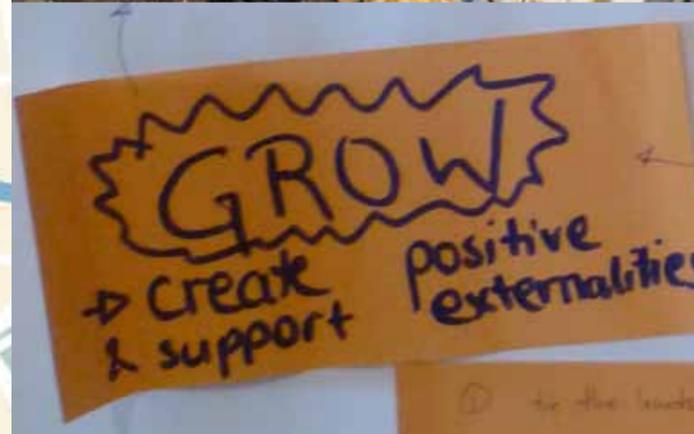


The Factory

New solutions are crucial for creating a sustainable urban future. But what if these solutions never make it past their own niche? The factory is where you can take good ideas to the next level. But, while growing, be careful not to exclude the possibility of other sustainable urban futures.

Things to do:

- Mainstream good solutions without compromising their core value
- Be aware of frauds and getting hijacked
- Make use of established solutions – there is no need to reinvent the wheel



"It's not a copy-paste thing!"
Jeroen Mercy
 Planning, Data & GIS,
 City of Ghent, Belgium

The Informed Cities Forum 2015

The 4th Informed Cities Forum, from 26-27 March 2015, was organized by the City of Rotterdam, DRIFT and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability as a co-production of the MUSIC and ARTS project consortia. This event brought together a mix of actors from across different sectors and domains. The aim was to learn from each other and exchange experience on the following issues:

- how to identify and support transition initiatives in your city?
- how to bring together unusual suspects from across different sectors and domains?
- how to gather, share and utilize knowledge needed for sustainability transitions?
- how to move beyond experiments and mainstream innovative practices?

As part of a two-day program, participants had the opportunity to experience transition dynamics in action by taking part in one of six field workshops, designed to bring together local changemakers with their European peers. In total, over 150 participants from 22 countries participated in the conference.



<http://informed-cities.iclei-europe.org>

Twitter:  #infocities

by the ARTS project Accelerating Transitions

Accelerating and Rescaling Transitions to Sustainability

Funded by:



Project Partners:

Stockholm Resilience Centre
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Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development



I.C.L.E.I
Local Governments for Sustainability



Mitigation in Urban areas: Solutions for Innovative Cities

Funded by:



Project Partners:

