

Brussels Urban Talks

9th March 2026



Agenda

12:30 – 13:00 : Presentations

- Serious Game « Course de Fonds » *by Amélie Sanou, Lyon Metropole*
- Call for Action to make the circular economy act an enabler for sustainable construction *by Astrid Heidi Ottosen, Greater Copenhagen*
- Search for partners on Urban Digital Twins *by Aurélien Parsy, Nantes Metropole*
- Search for partners Sustainable renovation (Horizon Europe Program) *by Paal Mork, City of Oslo*
- Collaboration opportunities for European Partners *by Zheng Qiongfang, City of Helsinki*

13:00 – 14:00 : Networking lunch

14:00 : Beginning of the funding officers meeting



Inaccessible Complex

Obscure

Difficult

Opaque

European funds?

How our colleagues in our local authorities perceive european funds? In one word?

Our challenges, our goals

**Strengthen public policies
and local authority projects**



**Develop projects through European
funding opportunities**

Boost (your) interest in European funds

Facilitate access to European funds for operational departments by providing guidance and support

Foster a European mindset within local authorities, among both staff and elected representatives



The *Course de Fonds* game

- Immerse participants in the world of European funds.
- Uncover the keys to accessing them.
- Maximize European funding by playing the role of a local authority project manager.
- Collaborate with colleagues to boost local authority's financial resources.



Our solution... An all-inclusive game!



1. Learning about European programmes

(Quiz & Questions for a European champion)

2. Setting up a project

(Board game)

3. Obtaining European funding

(Role-playing exercises based on real-life cases)

Overall review 2025

- 1st year of implementation
- 8 training sessions
- **63 participants** (All delegations represented)
- Target group: **76% project managers, project officers, department head profiles**
- **1/3 followed up:** EU opportunities, EU projects, participation in EU ambassador meetings
- Positive feedback from participants:
 - Fun format, dynamic facilitation (pair work)
 - Provides general knowledge on the diversity of EU opportunities and key principles of EU funds



Call for Action

to make the Circular Economy Act
an enabler for circular construction
to face the raw materials crisis





The Circular Economy Act, Q3 2026

COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

JESSIKA ROSWALL

COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT, WATER RESILIENCE
AND A COMPETITIVE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Call for Action on
Circular Construction 2026

09.03.2026
Brussels

Slide 11

OUR CALL FOR EU ACTION

1. Focusing on reducing material and land consumption
2. Creating market demand through public procurement
3. Revising and harmonising end-of-waste criteria
4. Supporting the competitiveness of secondary and biobased raw materials

Join the Call for Action as a co-signatory

To sign, send a signature from a political representative to
CircularConstructionCall2026@cphoffice.eu

We choose to lead. We call on the European Union to join us.

Signatories

The Capital Region of Denmark
Lars Gaardhøj
Chairman of the Regional Council and of the
Executive Committee, Capital Region of Denmark

Metropolitan Region Amsterdam
Esther Rommel
Board Member of the Metropolitan Region of
Amsterdam and Regional Minister of the Province
of Noord-Holland

City of Amsterdam
Zita Pels
Deputy Mayor, Sustainability

City of Copenhagen
Line Barfod
Mayor of the Climate, Environment and Technical
Administration, City of Copenhagen

ICLEI Europe
Matthew Bach
Managing Director of ICLEI Europe,
signed as a network organisation

Île-de-France
Yann Wehrling
Vice-President of the Île-de-France Region
responsible for Ecological Transition, Climate and
Biodiversity

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City of Vienna
Kathrin Gaál
Deputy Mayor, Executive City Councillor for
Housing, Housing Construction, Urban Renewal
and Women's Issues

City of Vienna
Mag. Jürgen Czernohorszky
Executive City Councillor for Climate,
Environment, Democracy and Personnel



Call for Action on
Circular Construction 2026

09.03.2026
Brussels

Slide 13

Further information

Launch of the initiative

Hybrid conference: *Accelerated Circular Construction in Europe*

Industriens Hus, H. C. Andersens Blvd. 18, 1553 Copenhagen

April 7, 2026, 12:30-16:30 CET

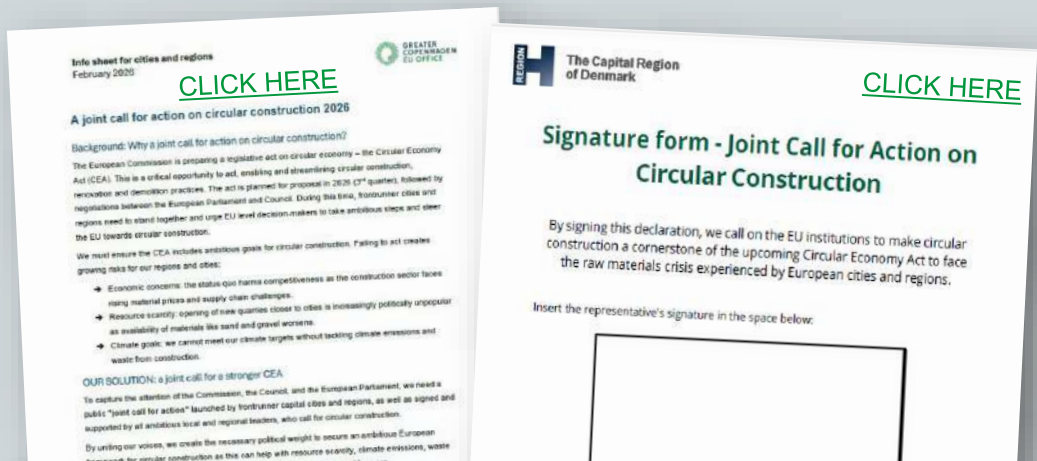
[Read more and find registration here](#)

Handover event

High-level political event handing over the initiative to the EU-institutions.

TBA, Brussels

June 24, 2026



Astrid Heide Ottosen

aho@cphoffice.eu



Functional mailbox

CircularConstructionCall2026@cphoffice.eu

Call for Action on
Circular Construction 2026

09.03.2026
Brussels

Slide 14

Eurocities Funding Officers meeting 2026

Nantes Métropole Looking for partners on Urban Digital Twins

Aurélien Parsy
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Nantes Métropole

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**A few words about
Nantes**



NANTES

6th biggest city in France
323 204 inhabitants

**24 cities in Nantes
Métropole**

677 879 inhabitants

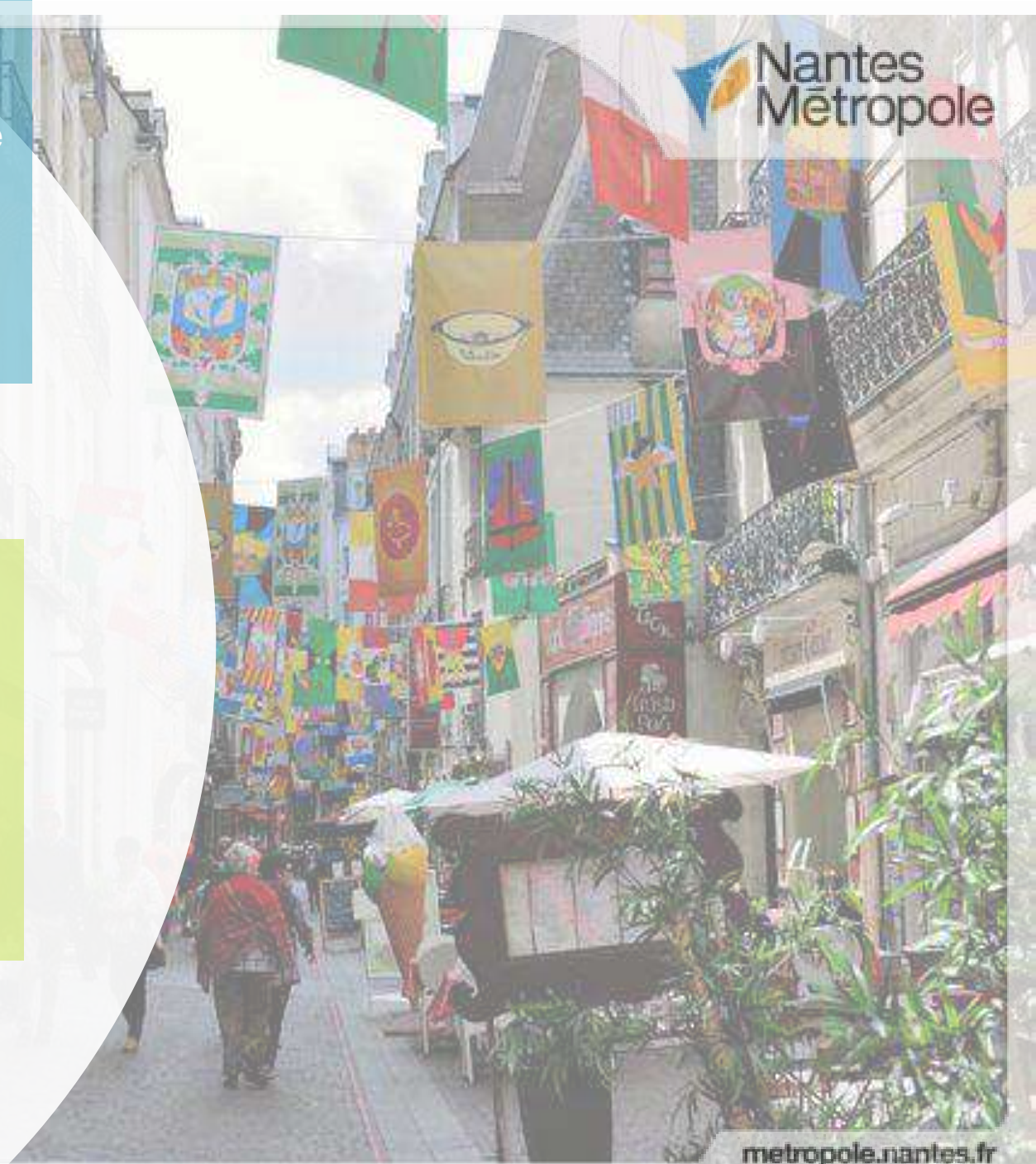
+ de 61 000
STUDENTS

EUROPEAN
Capital of Innovation
2019

Green Capital

2013

**Nantes
Métropole**



Urban Digital Twins in Nantes



Urban Digital Twins: definition and interests

What is it ?

- > Originating and mostly used by the industry, a digital twin is a **digital replica** of the **system** being studied (e.g., an aircraft) that can be tested by modifying it (e.g., using different materials) or by changing its environment (e.g., turbulence).
- > This replica is linked to the system, via **sensors**, to improve the model created.

What is this digital infrastructure made of?

- > A **digital model** of the system, either in **2D or 3D** that allows the system to be represented.
- > A **thematic computer model** to simulate modifications to the system.
- > An **Artificial Intelligence** to improve the model.
- > **Modification scenarios** to test possible modifications to the system or its environment, to find out how the system will behave.

What about URBAN digital twins?

- > Emerged 15 years ago.
- > Common misunderstanding: often mentioned to refer to 3D models, without AI or sensors.
- > Aim: use this industrial model to **improve the city of tomorrow**
- > Interests: better planning of public policies, decrease mistakes in planning phases, pedagogic tool to raise awareness (e.g. visualise heat waves effects)



Today in Nantes: 3D GIS model



Modélisation 3D de la métropole



Projets Immobiliers



Projet de renouvellement urbain



Transports publics



Diffusion internet grand public



Expériences VR Collaboratives



Rèaménagement d'un Ouvrage d'Art



Simulation des éclairages urbains



Simulation des crues de la Loire



Towards Urban Digital Twins in Nantes

What we have in 2026 in Nantes

> **A 3D GIS model**

- Designed for communication to citizens and for being a medium of citizen participation on urban projects.
- Virtual reality equipment and systems acquired for the same purpose.

> **Application made at national level to contribute to the national digital twin**

- The National Geography Institute, CEREMA and INRIA aim at building a digital replica of the French territory to better steer public policies to boost ecological transition.

What we need

- **Get knowledge** of existing urban digital twins with positive feedbacks from users.
- **Integrate a community** of practices/ experts at EU level.
- **Engage in European funded projects** or initiatives as follower to learn or as partner with means to integrate a thematic computer model, sensors or AI to feed our existing 3D GIS model

Call for projects 2024 - 2026

Local Digital Twins for Smart and Sustainable Communities



- **Call:** DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-DATA-AI-07-DIGITALTWIN: Towards networked Local Digital Twins in the EU.
- **Objective:** “to consolidate existing results and move towards an ecosystem of mature LDT-based infrastructures and services across the EU to help cities and communities achieve economies of scale to access and deploy data platform and LDT-based services.”

Work strand 2 Creation of LDTs based on Common Needs

Addressing shared urban or regional challenges (e.g., cross-border traffic, air pollution).

- **Deadline:** 02 April 2026
- **Funding :** 50% EU/ 50% co-funding
- **Consortium :** 2 two local or regional authorities ← 2 different from 2 eligible countries
+ at least 1 additional partner

Thank you!

Contact

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Oslo

Sustainable renovation

Paal Mork,
City of Oslo

Oslo seeks partners for Horizon Europe topics:

Advancing
sustainable
maintenance
and repair measures for
existing buildings
Deadline 1 December 2026

Combining conventional
and innovative construction
materials, products and
techniques for sustainable
and beautiful buildings
Deadline 1 December 2027

Oslo

- Ambitious climate targets
- EU climate-neutral and smart city
- Forerunner towards emission-free construction sites
- Many old buildings



City of Oslo representatives



▶ **Oslobygg** - the City of Oslo's property enterprise with a broad portfolio of buildings

▶ **Futurebuilt**, an innovation program for a sustainable building industry



Advancing sustainable maintenance and repair measures for existing buildings

- ▶ To reach climate targets, and to preserve cultural heritage, Oslo seeks sustainable methods to extend service life of existing buildings.
- ▶ The City of Oslo invites partners to co-create methods, tools, and pilots in line with the NEB values that make it more attractive to upgrade existing buildings while reducing climate and environmental impacts.

▶ HORIZON-NEB-2026-01-REGEN-02



Oslo



Combining conventional and innovative construction materials, products and techniques for sustainable and beautiful buildings

- ▶ Applying standardised techniques and modern materials in renovation of older buildings can often conflict with the methods and materials originally used.
- ▶ Oslo is seeking partners to co-create solutions that successfully combine innovative, contemporary techniques with traditional construction methods and craftsmanship.
- ▶ Oslo can offer relevant pilot cases and demonstration areas for a project, including several options for cultural heritage buildings.
- ▶ [HORIZON-NEB-2027-01-REGEN-01](#)



Contacts:

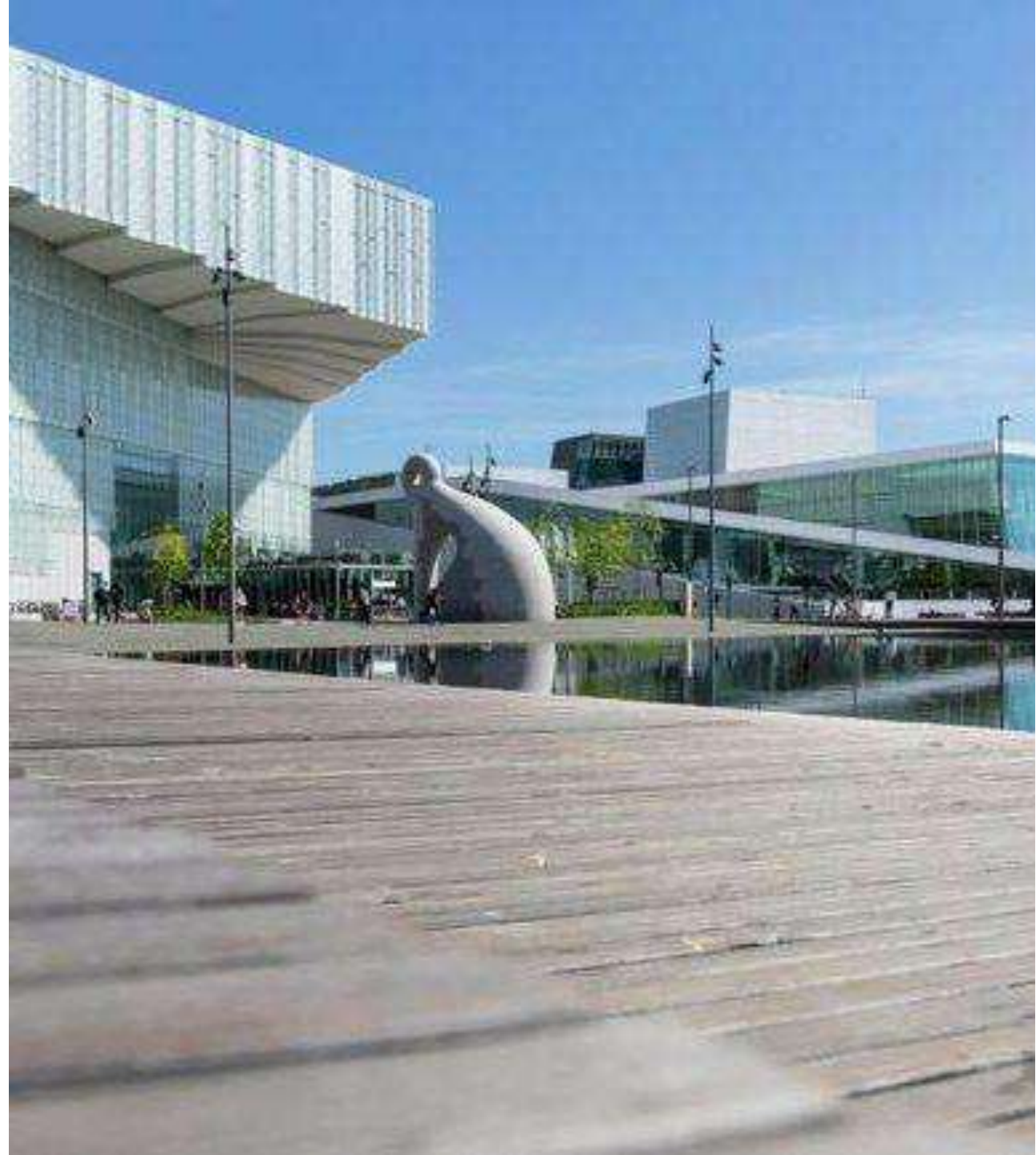
City of Oslo

Office of the Governing Mayor
International office

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Oslo



Collaboration opportunities for European Partners

Qiongfang Zheng

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Helsinki



CERV-2026-DAPHNE: To fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children

- ❖ [Call](#) open: 15 May – 10 Sep 2026
- ❖ City of Helsinki **looking for a consortium** in a Work package leader role (negotiable)
- ❖ **Development of Perpetrator Work in Domestic Violence Prevention with an early intervention focus on young / young adults**
- ❖ The project offers clear EU added value by addressing a widespread European challenge — insufficient early identification of domestic violence perpetrators and fragmented service pathways.

Through transnational cooperation, partners will co-develop effective early-intervention models, strengthen professional competence, and create transferable tools and structures that support long-term prevention.

- ❖ To ask for more about joining this call, contact project manager, Ms **Paula Salmi** at paula.salmi@hel.fi
- ❖ Other project cooperation concerning culture, library, sports, and youth, contact senior advisor, Ms **Minna Ilva** at minna.ilva@hel.fi
- ❖ Other project cooperation with the City of Helsinki, contact senior advisor, Ms **Qiongfang Zheng** at qiongfang.zheng@hel.fi

Thanks for joining

