



## Special Session Proposal

### Gender and diversity in cities

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### Abstract

The consideration of gender into the planning, development and administration of cities has become the focus of more initiatives. For instance, the URBACT Gender Equal cities programme offers an overview of various initiatives at different administrative levels in Europe, from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 11, the Urban agenda for the European Union, the Charter for Equality of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, to the more local and specific initiatives in various cities, including the gender landscapes in - what are, possibly, the most renowned examples of - Umea in Sweden and Vienna in Austria. The idea of gendered landscapes, indeed, results from acknowledging that the first step towards more user-sensitive and inclusive cities is the recognition that different groups have different needs and experiences in the urban space. The spatial dimension of gender inequality goes beyond cities to difference in gender norms, employment, paid and unpaid labour, welfare support that can have an impact on local development and wellbeing and deserves dedicated investigation. Differences may come from pervasive social norms and complex social dynamics, such as gendered power structure or residential segregation and social exclusion. Ignoring these social forces will undermine seriously the ability to make any sustainable changes. Despite the growing body of initiatives in various localities across Europe, there is no clear and structured approach to gender and diversity and papers in this session aim to fill this gap.

The session welcomes particularly papers addressing:

- The spatial dimension of gender and diversity
- Local welfare and gender inequality
- Urban planning and urban scapes and their effect on gender dynamics
- Socio economic determinants of gender violence
- Local labour markets and gender
- Local amenities and gender

