

Riga

The city of the future

Riga, capital city of Latvia, organised a high-profile international conference in September with the theme, 'the modern city'. With around 300 participants from 15 different countries, the conference focused on the strategic planning of cities. Two crowded days of plenary sessions, workshops, a virtual exhibition and a simultaneous youth conference allowed key aspects of city planning for the future to be addressed.

The conference aimed to develop cooperation and exchange of experience between twinned towns, European institutions, local governments and entrepreneurs. Beginning with a plenary session and continuing with workshops, the conference covered a range of topics including strategies and actions affecting young people's health, drug prevention in Riga and visions of the city of the future.

The simultaneous youth conference stressed the importance of involving young people in the process of planning cities for the future. A very well-orchestrated public relations campaign assured a high visibility of the events, including the creation of a virtual exhibition that invited the population to participate in the debate through an online forum.

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