

# Eurbanlab Newsletter



October 2013 Issue 1

Dear reader,

You just started reading the first Eurbanlab newsletter. Eurbanlab is an initiative to accelerate urban innovations. We are a growing community of European partners who want to share, improve and spread urban innovations and learn from them. This newsletter explains why Eurbanlab, what we offer, who we are and how you can get involved. We hope you enjoy your reading and are looking forward to meet you in our community. Welcome to Eurbanlab.

Anne-Marie Spierings  
Project lead

## Definition of an urban innovation

A project incorporating systemic innovations, in which new or modified concepts, systems, products and/or techniques are used, which contribute to low-carbon, climate resilient development on the scale of a neighbourhood or upward.

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Sustainable and energy-neutral second hand store,  
Houten, Netherlands



## Why Eurbanlab?

Today, over half of the world's population lives in cities. Given the effects of climate change and other environmental challenges for cities, the need for change is high.

It is estimated that cities account for at least 70% of global carbon emissions. Buildings and transport are the largest contributors of emissions, causing as much as 40% and 30% respectively. Existing buildings tend to be inefficient in the energy usage. Knocking these buildings down to make way for new ones is expensive and means losing certain cultural and social value. Retrofitting of complete building stocks and an implementation of energy efficiency measures in new buildings is necessary.

Similarly, transport and mobility systems in cities need to be (re)designed, in that innovative efficiency solutions are integrated. Hence, in order to overcome the impacts of climate change there is a need for a systemic approach to urban planning which encompasses all urban sustainability dimensions.

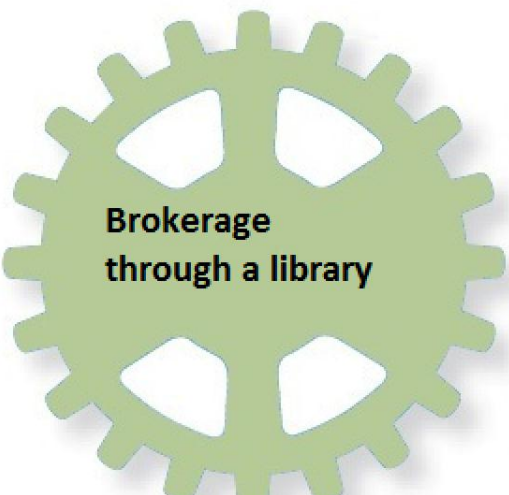
A lot of innovations are aiming at technical solutions to improve energy efficiency, use sustainable energy, support people and processes with software, etc.. Although important, this is not enough to achieve

goals of energy efficiency, sustainable energy and reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. Systemic innovation is needed to implement the right combination of technical solutions on a large scale. The challenge is to accelerate innovation cycles in cities and overcome a general reluctance to invest in innovative and systemic projects.


The process and context play an important role in the success of systemic innovations. Eurbanlab is accelerating urban innovations with a special emphasis on process and context in order to be able to spread urban innovations from one place to the other.

## Eurbanlab: for whom?

Eurbanlab, as an initiative to accelerate urban innovations, is addressing all stakeholders in urban innovations: from public sector and semi-public entities (municipalities, regional authorities, housing corporations, economic development boards, etc.) to private sector parties (land developers, construction companies, system integrators, SME's, etc.). Every stakeholder has challenges and a role to play. Eurbanlab is there to help in making the next steps. How? You can read this in the next pages.



## Brokerage through a library



## Showcasing of urban innovations

### What do we offer?


We offer different possibilities to improve, spread or accelerate urban innovations. Eurbanlab proves through its assessments which innovations are ready to be widely implemented. We can guide you to examples that fit your needs or show your best examples to others. In our community you will meet interesting people with whom you can share experiences and learn from.

When you are looking for the right solution for a desired urban innovation, we can provide good examples to learn from for your challenge. Eurbanlab has developed a library for collecting urban innovations from all over Europe. So far we have over one hundred urban innovations in our library. This will become over 250 by June next year. In this library Eurbanlab records essential data of innovation projects: energy efficiency, sustainability, type of innovation and key success factors.

Many good examples of urban innovations exist. But when you want to show them to a European or worldwide public, there is a lack of relevant independent platforms. Eurbanlab offers to show good examples on our website, in our newsletters, on our events, etc.. Of course with the contact details to make sure you will be found.



## Assessment of urban innovations



## Learning and expert community

We offer a unique assessment methodology providing confidence and trust in new, innovative concepts (products, technologies, services, systems). The assessment can be used to evaluate implemented innovations and benchmark them by showing stronger and weaker points compared to other innovations. It can also be used to study innovative ideas in order to improve successful implementation.

In this systematic and scientific evaluation performance is assessed in terms of 'profit, people and planet' dimensions. And an in depth analysis will indicate the importance of the process in achieving the results and the capacity to scale up the innovation and apply it to other contexts. These last two aspects contain Eurbanlab's added value of guiding cities to sustainability through de-risking the process of implementing systemic urban innovations in their local context.

Eurbanlab has 19 partners in five European countries and is extending this network of essential stakeholders to highlight all the necessary accompanying measures when implementing urban innovations in specific contexts. The diversity in the Eurbanlab community facilitates 'cross-overs' to stimulate innovation and new business models. Here, the success of past projects can be shared and the benefits of investing in



new innovative urban projects are clear. As a member of our community you will be able to expand their networks in the private, public and academic sectors, will be added on our website, receive our special members-newsletter and many other benefits.

Of course, if you have any other questions regarding your urban innovations, the Eurbanlab team is there to assist you.

### Who we are?

Eurbanlab was founded in 2011 by the leading partners in urban innovations in Paris, London, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Berlin and Valencia. The Eurbanlab community currently has 19 partners from the private, public and academic sectors. The ambition is to expand this vibrant and diverse network to forty partners by June 2014.

Eurbanlab is co-funded by the European Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (Climate-KIC). This is an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) with a mission to create sustainable growth by addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. As Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership Climate-KIC integrates education, entrepreneurship and innovation. By bringing together communities it helps transform knowledge and ideas into economically viable products or services that help to mitigate climate change.

To find out more about working with Climate-KIC, visit [www.climate-kic.org](http://www.climate-kic.org).



Villa Flora, a sustainable and cradle-to-cradle building at the Floriade 2012 in Venlo, Netherlands



## How to get involved?

We want to accelerate urban innovations. Sharing and learning from each other is key to this. We welcome all partners that are working on or starting with urban innovations and want to contribute to the goals of Eurbanlab.

You can contact us and subscribe for our newsletter by sending an email to [eurbanlab@climate-kic.org](mailto:eurbanlab@climate-kic.org). On our website [www.eurbanlab.com](http://www.eurbanlab.com), you can find out more about us. One of our partners can visit you to introduce you further to Eurbanlab, you can follow us on twitter ([#Eurbanlab](https://twitter.com/Eurbanlab)) and [facebook: eurbanlab](https://www.facebook.com/eurbanlab) or join our group on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/).

## Eurbanlab Accelerating Urban Innovations



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