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### Eurbanlab newsletter vol. 8 - March 2015

Dear reader,

In 2015, Eurbanlab will have to proof it can stand on its own feet. As you may read in this newsletter, the future looks promising. Eurbanlab receives a lot of support from many parties. And the people involved are even more motivated to spread and accelerate urban innovations than before. We know we can.

And we have to. Because cities are the future.

Best regards,  
Anne-Marie Spierings (ARCADIS)

## Accelerate 2014: outcomes from the Eurbanlab Community Conference

End of November 2014, experts and practitioners from across Europe involved in sourcing, creating, and delivering urban innovations gathered to discuss ways to accelerate the delivery of low carbon urban solutions for cities. Read about the interesting tools and case studies that were shared. Discover the secrets of success from some of the most innovative urban development projects in Europe.

Purpose: This conference sought to accelerate urban innovation, to highlight successful projects, and to make a significant impact in the efforts to move Europe into a sustainable and vibrant low carbon area.



The presentations and a more detailed report of the Accelerate Conference are published [here](#).

## Eurbanlab community integration into World Cities Network

Per January 1st 2015 the Eurbanlab project has come to an end. Eurbanlab is transitioning from a funded to a self-sustained initiative. The project management team has been looking for the best ways to continue Eurbanlab. In 2014 Eurbanlab has been collaborating with Brian Kilkelly, chief executive of World Cities Network (WCN), and experienced the great complementarity of Eurbanlab and WCN. Eurbanlab has been in discussion with WCN about how to sustain and grow the Eurbanlab community. The project management team believes World Cities Network would be the ideal organisation to continue with the mission and relationship management of the community. Therefore Eurbanlab has agreed with WCN to integrate the Eurbanlab community in WCN. This integration only concerns the Eurbanlab community.

### **About World Cities Network**

WCN has a broad network of international members and partners who are involved and interested in urban innovation. Relationships are managed by an experienced team of professionals and supported by a number of strategic partnerships with organisations in Europe, the US and Asia. World Cities Network will sustain and grow the Eurbanlab community and extend its benefits by providing access to their network and to their series of events. Eurbanlab has asked World Cities Network to invite the Eurbanlab community partners to join the network. WCN will continue to collaborate with Eurbanlab in the work of growing the library and promoting the assessment tools.

Eurbanlab looks forward to continue the process of learning and sharing to accelerate urban innovations in the Eurbanlab sub-group of WCN.

## Open access assessment method in preparation

We are proud to announce that Eurbanlab will soon offer two ways to support stakeholders in the evaluation of sustainable (re)development projects! Both methods make use of the unique assessment methodology – consisting of 60+ qualitative and quantitative indicators – that has been developed by Eurbanlab over the past three years. In case you haven't heard about our assessment methodology, have a look at [eurbanlab.eu/assessments](http://eurbanlab.eu/assessments) for more information.

Next to the in-depth assessment that is executed by Eurbanlab assessors, a web-based version is being developed to function as a self-assessment tool for stakeholders such as construction companies, housing corporations or developers. With guidelines and background information, users are guided through the assessment method.

The tool can be used to evaluate multiple projects to compare outcomes and approaches. Moreover, the tool can be used in different phases of the project's development cycle. This creates a broad scope of applications: (1) creating support & trust for innovations by providing insight into their impact and replicability, (2) as a guide in ongoing urban (re)development projects, as well as a tool to (3) improve the development and up-scaling of successful innovations.

Similar to the in-depth assessment, the tool aims to support the acceleration of successful practices in sustainable urban (re)development projects. The online self-assessment provides stakeholders with a means to determine the:

- Sustainability impact of proposed or completed projects (People, Planet, Profit);
- Factors in the development process that contribute(d) to the success of failure of the project (Process);
- Potential for repeating the methods, ideas, concepts or technologies in other areas (Propagation).

Read more about the self-assessment on our website at [eurbanlab.eu/self-assessment](http://eurbanlab.eu/self-assessment) and subscribe to receive a notification when the tool is available.

## Scientific review of the Eurbanlab assessment method

Eurbanlab has developed an assessment method that gives confidence and trust in innovative urban concepts (products, technologies, systems). Version 1.0 has been tested in 2013 and reviewed in 2014. The scientific review panel consisted of five scientists of five European countries. The goal of this scientific review was to check both the quality as the robustness of the assessment method. Read [more](#) about the conclusions and recommendations and the way they have been integrated in the assessment method version 3.

## Evaluation of the library

To find out about the use and quality of the library, we have send out an enquete to all Eurbanlab library users with the following results:

- 80% of the library users did hear about the library via another contact.
- The respondents did take a look at the library because they were searching for a graduation topic, to check on implemented smart city use cases and to learn about getting innovations standard approved.
- 50% of the respondents rates the library for being useful (on a scale from 1-10) at a 7. The average is a 6,7.
- According to the respondents, the most interesting feature of the library are the map visualisations, the filter options and the huge dataset.
- Some possible improvements are a greater variety of cases and a more visual interface.

Eurbanlab will use the opinions of the respondents to improve the library.



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