

Call for Contributions

Walk21 Portugal - Everybody Walks!

The 24th International Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities

14-18 October 2024

At the Carlos Lopes Pavilion

Lisbon Portugal

The 24th International Walk21 Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities is being hosted by the Institute for Mobility and Transport on behalf of the Portuguese Government, in partnership with the City of Lisbon.

Together with experts from across Europe and around the globe this in-person only event will share insights and expertise on how to develop and implement walking policies and programmes that deliver walkable communities and safer streets, broader community participation and enhance the value of walking.

Calling politicians, engineers, campaigners, academics, and planners to share their experience and be part of the discussions and activities at Walk21 Portugal.

You are invited to discuss how walking policies and projects are transforming the urban paradigm; impacting people's walking experiences; helping deliver on safety, equity and climate goals and attracting investment for urban development that supports people walking.

Join us as we explore what makes a successful national policy, local action or transformative project for walking.

The Call for Contributions closes on 15 March 2024

Introduction

Portugal wants everybody to walk. According to the 2021 Census, 15.7% of commuter movements are made on foot. Increasing the number of people walking every day to access work, education, health care, markets, and public transport is a national ambition.

In 2023, the Portuguese government approved a national policy for walking. The national strategy for walking has 5 strategic vectors, 10 lines of action and 21 measures and was held up as an example at ITF and COP28 to inspire other national governments. There is a dedicated team under the stewardship of the Secretary of State for Urban Mobility to coordinate the implementation of measures that will benefit communities across the whole country.

Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, has been working on its walking accessibility plan for more than 10 years. Inspired by citizen rights and inclusivity, the existing policy is ambitious and seeks to involve the community in improving the walking space and removing barriers through the work of a core team of experts delivering under the stewardship of the Deputy Mayor. The focus is on delivery and success will be a city accessible, safe and pleasant to all.

The global momentum for more walkable communities is growing. The Portuguese walking team is well connected to European and international expertise. They are active members of the Expert Group on Urban Mobility of the European Commission, for example, and are supporting the development of a Pan European Masterplan for Walking. The international plan responds to a call for more walking, more safety, more accessible infrastructure, more national plans, better integration between health and transport and environment and better conditions for people to enjoy walking.

Experts from around the world will gather in Lisbon in October to share their expertise and identify the next important steps we need to foster communities that support and enhance the walking experience for everyone.

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Themes

You are invited to submit a proposal under the conference themes to be part of the programme and discussions in Portugal, so that you can benefit from your experience, successes, and contemporary research.

The four conference themes are:

- 1. Inclusivity: Enabling everybody to walk - all genders, all ages, all abilities, all incomes, all backgrounds.**
- 2. Positive public space: Delivering safe, accessible, attractive, and valued streets and public spaces.**
- 3. Climate imperative: Investing in walking as a fundamental part of transport decarbonisation.**
- 4. Good governance: Policy at all levels that places pedestrians at the centre.**

We welcome all creative ideas and opportunities to explore these themes to find innovative and constructive ways that thread an understanding of the evidence base into policies and actions with a showcase of delivered projects that have realised beneficial change.

- 1. Inclusivity: Enabling everybody to walk - all genders, all ages, all abilities, all incomes, all backgrounds.**

The diversity of people who walk is huge and includes all age groups and genders, a wide range of physical and mental abilities, income, and ethnicity. It is essential to ensure policies that benefit everyone walking – especially those walking for necessity as they have no choice and those who would like to walk but have no alternative to driving because the distances are too long, or it is unsafe to walk.

Portugal is revising the national inclusive accessibility law and is interested to discuss how walking, which has the characteristics of a human right, could be embedded into legal statutes.

Contributions are invited that share relevant walking research, data collection, policies and projects that are successfully targeting people and supporting everybody to walk.

2. Positive public space: Delivering safe, accessible, comfortable and valued streets and public spaces.

Walking is not always a positive experience. It is possible however to invest in the quality of streets and public space so that they are safe, accessible, attractive and valued.

In Portugal, investing in quality walking environments is key to the delivery of the national strategy integral to the future urban mobility vision. In Lisbon, the city is reallocating road space on the main boulevards to walking, pedestrianising many of the downtown areas, and has set ambitious design standards to ensure beautiful streets lead to positive experiences.

Contributions are invited that demonstrate positive experiences by people walking, through design decisions and practical transformations.

3. Climate imperative: Investing in walking as a fundamental part of transport decarbonisation

Walking is being talked up as an affordable, quick, and reliable solution to help reach several goals including the Paris climate targets. With the promise of new money for mitigation and adaptation.

Portugal is embedding commitments to walking in their climate actions as well as their transport plans.

Contributions are invited that share how walking policies and actions are delivering on SDG and climate goal commitments.

4. Good governance: Policy at all levels that places pedestrians at the centre.

Recent research highlights that Portugal is one of 118 countries that has some sort of national policy for walking. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a surge in national policy commitments and also at the city level.

The vision, ambition and effectiveness of policies can be limited by the governance framework. In Portugal, an inter-ministerial commission for active mobility was set up, bringing together various areas of government to discuss actions of the national walking strategy. At a city level, Lisbon also engages a multidisciplinary team, including representatives from different departments, to ensure their walking plan is delivered.

Contributions are invited that share good governance approaches for delivering effective walking policies.

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Formats

There will be a range of formats for in-person presentations and activities. The programme committee will be looking for creative ideas for sessions, so please feel free to make any suggestions you like!

Available formats are:

- Topical discussion – a group of 15-minute presentations on a similar topic.
- Roundtables - brainstorming and feedback on a critical issue to generate a set of ideas and actions, particularly good for street design or infrastructure challenges.
- Pecha Kucha – 20 slides x 20 seconds to tell your story.
- Workshops – focused topic discussion with colleagues with a clear output.
- Walk Shops – on-street real-world experiments in walking.
- Posters – share your emerging research in poster format.
- Weetings – 15 minute ‘walk and talk’ conversations to discuss an issue.
- Training – a 90 minutes module to build capacity for walking policies and projects.
- Learning Labs - an interactive session designed to share and explore the good, the bad, and the ugly of walking projects.

Topical Discussion

This is a 15-minute oral presentation in a moderated session shared with other presenters to illuminate different perspectives and experiences on the same topic. The presentations will provide the framework for the subsequent discussion and will be selected to encourage debate.

Roundtable

A roundtable allows for extended discussion among a small group of colleagues. Roundtables are good venues for the hands-on exploration of case studies. Speakers are encouraged to provide insight into their topic and encourage questions and discussion taking advantage of the expertise and insights of other attendees to build ideas and possibly an output. Please note that a roundtable is an interactive format and that any presentations are limited to a certain length of time.

Pecha Kucha

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Pecha Kucha is a presentation format where there is a show of a maximum of 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images change automatically while presenters are talking, so that the storyline of the talk is built around the chosen images. There will be no time to digress or get hung up on a detail but it can be a very engaging and exciting session. Remember, the images of your talk automatically change after 20 seconds. There will be 6 presentations per session. After the talks are finished, the presenters and the audience will have time for discussion.

Workshops

At a workshop, a larger group of people deal with a specific topic or question. A workshop aims at working together with workshop participants targeting a common goal. Workshops are designed and managed by the proposer. Please note that a workshop is usually a more interactive format and presentations should be limited. You can propose a workshop in collaboration with a colleague working in the same field and build an agenda with multiple speakers and/or activities. Workshops can be 90 min, 3 hours or a full day.

Walkshops

The street will be your laboratory. A Walkshop an opportunity to use the public spaces in the city to explore or carry out experiments, pilot programmes and deliver direct interventions. You can facilitate your own urban laboratory and the participants will follow you outside the conference venue to the real urban fabric and discover your experience, ideas and research. Explore the city and its perceptions of public space and experience the impact of your idea.

Posters

Perfect for young researchers, a poster session enables you to bring current research work to share with delegates. Posters will be A0 in size and displayed during the event as well as online, with a scheduled presentation to attendees.

Weetings

An opportunity to walk and talk, typically a 15-minute Walk/Meeting is a way to have a conversation on the move to discuss a particular issue while benefiting from the physical and mental benefits of being active in public space.

Training

Typically 90 minutes on a particular topic or skill to help build capacity for walking policies and projects.

Learning Labs

An interactive session designed to share and explore the good, the bad, and the ugly of walking projects. We invite you to share your lessons learned from both successes and failures with honesty and respect.

Important deadlines

15 March 2024	The Call for Contributions Closes
Early May 2024	Notification of Acceptance
End May 2024	Confirmation of Participation

Guidelines

- The Call for Contributions to Walk21 is now open.
- The submission system will be online shortly.
- Proposals submitted after the closing date cannot be included in the assessment.
- After selection, contributors will be informed about the format, time, manner of presentation and embedding in the programme of Walk21 Portugal.

Assessment and Conditions

Submissions will be assessed by a committee of international experts based on substantive quality; focus on the discipline; and the degree in which the proposal links to the themes of Walk21 Portugal.

Contributions must meet the following conditions:

- Matching one or more of the themes of Walk21 Portugal.
- In the case of research or a project, the assertions and conclusions must be substantiated and verifiable.
- Work in progress can be considered if it has substantive material or activities to share
- Have new value, be innovative and stimulating.
- Be written in clear and concise English.
- Contain no more than 500 words.

Please note that if proposing several abstracts, it is essential that each proposal be submitted individually.

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By submitting a proposal, authorisation is given to Walk21 Foundation to publish and promote any information provided online and in conference materials.

Only in-person presentations will be possible at Walk21 in 2024. More information about tickets and potential scholarships to attend will be available shortly.

Reviewing criteria

- The evaluation criteria includes: relevance to the conference theme; content quality and professional rigour; innovation and cutting edge; pertinence; originality; and, timeliness.
- We very much welcome abstracts with inter- and trans-disciplinary (scientific) approaches as well as contributions that involve diverse partnerships (e.g. city administrations, politicians, industry, planners, advocacy groups, and artists). In the same way, submissions made by contributors originating from different countries will also be appreciated.
- Every abstract will be reviewed by at least four expert reviewers. The reviewing will be anonymous.
- The Reviewing Team consists of more than 40 international reviewers and is managed by the Walk21 Portugal organisation team. Reviewers originate from many different countries and have relevant and unique insight into the different themes. The reviewers provide the foundation for decision-making by the members of the Walk21 Portugal Programme Committee.
- The Programme Committee is responsible for making the final decisions on acceptance (including geographical, gender and quality considerations) and on the format for delivery.

Copyright

- By submitting your abstract and/or presenting at Walk21 Portugal conference you guarantee that you have the right to present and submit the content of your abstract, of data, pictures and photos. Please make sure to include all necessary sources in your presentation where relevant.
- Copyright in any abstract submitted will be retained by the author(s). If selected for presentation at the conference, it is mandatory that the author will permit the conference organisers (Walk21 Foundation, City of Lisbon, Institute of Mobility and Transport) to use the abstract (whether in whole or in part) as part of the programme outline, promotion and presentation of the conference before, during and after the event.

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- Copyright in any digital presentation given at Walk21 Portugal will be retained by the author(s), but it is mandatory that Walk21 Foundation are permitted to share your digital presentation as part of the conference proceedings. The conference proceedings will be published on the Walk21 database and website.
- All abstracts and presentations (whether in whole or in part) must not be re-published by any person and/or organisation other than the author or Walk21 Foundation.

More information

Email us: portugal@walk21.com

Visit the website: <https://walk21.com/conference/walk21-portugal>