

# EU FORUM 24/3/ CITY OF EQUALS — OUR APPROACH TO THE FUTURE OF CITIES 2025

## DATE&VENUE

24/3/2025

RIJEKA, CROATIA

The University of Rijeka and Lürssen Design Centre Kvarner / Maritime Centre of Excellence are proud hosts of the Third European Forum, dedicated to the 'City of Equals' theme.

At a time when cities are becoming key global actors — home to more than half of the world's population and drivers of economic development — they are also increasingly facing growing social inequalities. Gentrification, rising housing costs, and the exclusion of vulnerable groups are pressing challenges for the future of urban life. How can a city ensure a sense of belonging for all its residents, despite economic disparities?

Working language: English

The 'City of Equals' theme explores how cities not only shape economic and cultural opportunities but also create inclusive communities where every resident feels like an equal part of society, rather than just a member of narrowly defined local groups.

In line with the modern vision of universities as responsible and engaged actors in fostering social sustainability and well-being, this forum will examine what makes cities attractive and how they can become spaces of equal opportunity. The forum brings together distinguished international and national partners from the fields of higher education, science, and business to collectively explore a key question: What makes a city a city of equals?

Now in its third edition, the European Forum continues to promote multilateralism and cross-sector collaboration, emphasizing the role of collective wisdom derived from dialogue between academia and the business sector, a fundamental element of the university of the future.

MONDAY  
24/3/25  
RIJEKA,  
CROATIA

TIME	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
9:00–9:30	REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE	
9:30–9:45	OPENING REMARKS	<u>Snježana Prijić Samaržija</u> , Rector, University of Rijeka <u>Peter Lürssen</u> , CEO, Lürssen Group <u>Marko Filipović</u> , Mayor, City of Rijeka <u>Zlatko Komadina</u> , Prefect, Primorsko- goranska County
9:45–11:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE CITY OF EQUALS	<u>Jonathan Wolff</u> , Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford <u>Avner De-Shalit</u> , Hebrew University of Jerusalem
	Introduced and hosted by <u>Snježana Prijić Samaržija</u> , Rector, University of Rijeka	
11:00–11:30	LÜRSSEN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME	
11:30–12:00	COFFEE BREAK	
12:00–12:45	PANEL PUBLIC SPACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	<u>Jonathan Wolff</u> , Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford <u>Avner De-Shalit</u> , Hebrew University of Jerusalem <u>Elvio Baccarini</u> , Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka <u>Petar Bojanić</u> , Centre for Advanced Studies of South East Europe, University of Rijeka
	Moderator: <u>Snježana Prijić Samaržija</u> , Rector, University of Rijeka	
12:45–13:45	LUNCH BREAK	
13:45–15:15	CITY SPOTLIGHT CHALLENGES OF URBAN LIFE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	<u>Marko Filipović</u> , Mayor, City of Rijeka <u>Ivica Puljak</u> , Mayor, City of Split (TBC) <u>Tomislav Tomašević</u> , Mayor, City of Zagreb (TBC) <u>Martin Ansbacher</u> , Mayor, City of Ulm, Germany (TBC) <u>Sara Funaro</u> , Mayor, City of Florence, Italy (TBC) <u>Gergely Karácsony</u> , Mayor, City of Budapest, Hungary (TBC) <u>Matúš Vallo</u> , Mayor, City of Bratislava, Slovakia (TBC)
	Moderator: TBA	
15:15–16:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE	<u>Carsten Beck</u> , Director & Futurist, Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies
16:00–16:15	DISCUSSION	