



Deutsch-Rumänische
Industrie- und Handelskammer
Camera de Comerț și Industrie
Româno-Germană

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Press release

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Cities of Tomorrow #9: Green Cities

“If you look at the population, you will see that there are more children and more grandparents than people who drive home from work. If you take this into account, it will not be a problem to opt for the development of a green, environmentally friendly city in the next 20 years.” **Ullrich Sierau**, Independent Consultant and former mayor of Dortmund.

“This edition showed once more the utmost importance of bringing all relevant stakeholders at the same table to exchange information, personal experiences and lessons learned. The business environment, public administration and civil society representatives are integral parts of any project and city development and they should all serve the same purpose – listening and involving the citizens and communities.” **Sebastian Metz**, General Manager & Board Member AHK Romania

The German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Romania) organized between 13-16 September 2021 the ninth edition of the conference Cities of Tomorrow in a hybrid format. The event brought together more than 250 participants from across the country, but also from abroad, including architects, urbanists, business representatives and numerous representatives of the public sector, confirming once again that the event has an international approach, dedicated to the importance of urban and regional development. The central theme this year was “Green Cities”.

The opening of the event was held by the General Manager and the President of AHK Romania, Mr. Sebastian Metz and Mr. Andreas Lier, by Nicușor Dan, General Mayor of Bucharest, as well as HE Ambassador Adriana Stănescu, Romanian Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and Christian Plate, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bucharest.

The central theme of the main event on September 16 was the importance of dialogue between cities, specialists and community participation in green urban development projects. Therefore, the first dialogue brought together two district mayors of Bucharest, **Radu Mihaiu** (District 2) and **Ciprian Ciucu** (District 6) and **Ullrich Sierau**, former longtime mayor of Dortmund. The dialogue focused on parks, green spaces and reclaiming city areas for pedestrians and leisure activities. The two Bucharest district mayors



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emphasized their ongoing or planned projects to revitalize parks and squares such as Morii Lake or Strada Liniei, in district 6. In district 2, Parcul Sticlăriei is currently undergoing a deep cleaning and being reclaimed for the district's inhabitants. Furthermore, the City Hall has started a collaboration with the Order of Architects in order to develop four run-down urban areas in need of revitalization. Representatives of the Order will propose projects based on the wishes of the population. Ullrich Sierau showed how Dortmund underwent a lengthy, more than 20-year-long transformation from a heavy industry city to one that puts pedestrians and the quality of life of its citizens first. The discussion was moderated by **Irina Meliță**, architect and vicepresident of the Romanian Order of Architects Bucharest. Afterwards, we welcomed **Arch. Eugen Pănescu**, Mayor **Ioan Popa** of the city of Reșița, **Elena Lucaci**, founding president of "Părinți de Cireșari" association and **Andreas Kipar**, renowned international architect, urban planner and landscapist in a dialogue regarding the correct approach on big urban green projects and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The dialogue was moderated by **Dorothee Hasnaș**, architect and experienced cultural manager.

Before this edition, AHK Romania organized a project competition for public administration, business environment and civil society. The projects in focus were the ones dealing with green solutions and initiatives that improve the quality of life of citizens.

With the help of a specialized jury with a vast experience, **9 finalists were chosen**. Therefore, the 9 participants received special attention during the pitching session, where they had the chance to present their projects: category public administration: Buzău ("Buzău Green City"), ADI for Public Transport Bucharest-Ilfov (Introduction of urban and metropolitan train services in the Bucharest - Ilfov metropolitan area"), Sector 6 of Bucharest ("nZEB educational units and deep retrofit measures"); category business environment: Banca Comercială Română ("BCR Smart Transport Solution"), Life is Hard ("City Health Smart City Platform"), Urban Cultor ("Food for Earth"); category civil society: EFdeN ("Development of solar house prototypes for educational and research purposes"), Fundația Comunitară Mureș ("Cycling for a good cause"), Centre for research, innovation and promotion of wood SILVANIA ("Standard carbon footprint management system").

The winners of the category public administration: City of Buzău; business environment: Banca Comercială Română; civil society: EFdeN (unanimous decision). The runner-ups were: public administration: Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport Bucharest – Ilfov with the project for the Bucharest-Ilfov metropolitan train; business environment: Urban Cultor – Food for the Earth.



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The first three conference days, dedicated to finding concrete solutions regarding 9 topics of high importance for the regional development: energy efficiency & energy management, financing & EU funds, mobility, digital city governance, construction law, reconversion & revitalization, circular economy, tourism & lifestyle, city safety. Each of these topics was discussed separately during the round table debates, where participants had the opportunity to actively engage and contribute with input on the chosen subject. The best solutions were voted by the conference participants and the members of the winning round table were awarded a prize during the award ceremony of the event.

The roundtable Mobility, moderated by Mr Ștefan Roșeanu, Project Manager Bucharest-Ilfov Metropolitan Train at the Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport Bucharest - Ilfov, Cirprian Nicolae, Manager Payment Systems BCR and Ronaldo Valentim from BABLE won the title for the best identified solutions for a smart mobility for green cities. The round table discussion revolved around green transportation and encouragement of alternatives to personal polluting vehicles, such as the Bucharest-Ilfov metropolitan train currently being implemented by the Intercommunity Development Association for Public Transport Bucharest – Ilfov. The moderators from BCR and BABLE complemented the discussion with their activities and solutions for smart, user-friendly and green mobility.

Similar to previous years, the conclusions and solutions of the nine round tables will be summarized in the follow-up brochure of the event, while the German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry together with its partners from the private and public sectors will focus on implementing them. More details here: www.citiesoftomorrow.ro.

This year's edition of Cities of Tomorrow, organized by the German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, confirmed once again that the event became an important platform for interaction between the public and private environments, offering the possibility to exchange information, ideas, experiences and valuable contacts. We would like to thank our 250+ participants for their engagement, our sponsors (**Banca Comercială Română (BCR), FEPR, SAP, BABLE, Robert Bosch, E.ON Romania, BASF, National Battery Recycling System, Industrial Park Siret and Siemens Energy**), and our partners for their support. A special thank you goes out to Hostpot Workhub for hosting our main event in their workspace studio.



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The first part of the main event was recorded and can be watched on our official Facebook page AHK Romania: <https://fb.watch/841s49r532/>

The next edition of the conference Cities of Tomorrow #10 in March 2022.

About the German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

The German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce (AHK Romania) is the largest bilateral Chamber in Romania and the official representative of the German economy in our country. AHK is actively supporting German companies to enter the Romanian market and, on the other hand, works as a partner for Romanian companies who are interested in the German market, through the services it provides and the events it organizes. Moreover, it is an important platform for networking, exchange of information and experiences, not only for its members, but also for other interested companies. Furthermore, the Chamber is involved in implementing the dual learning system in Romania, similar to the German model, and it has created both the GreenTech platform econet romania and the Permanent Arbitration Court. Further details about AHK Romania can be found here: www.ahkrumaenien.ro.