

Democracy at the Crossroads - Cities take Action

6 - 8 June 2025 || Braga, Portugal

Please note that the time zone in the programme is Central European Summer Time

Friday - 6th June 2025

- The Friday programme will be held at
 - **INNside Braga Centro**
 - **Av. Central 107, 4710-310 Braga, Portugal**

During the day:

Arrival of participants at the Summit

Transportation from Porto Airport to the center of Braga

15:00 - 15:30

Opening Session

- Opening Remarks delivered to Mayors and other participants, by GPM Chair and host Mayor Ricardo Rio, GPM Executive Director Rainer Kern, & EUROCITIES Secretary General André Sobczak

15:30 - 17:00

Plenary Debate 1: Delivering Democracy: The DeCiDE Project

- The GPM Annual Summit 2025 session on democracy will highlight the DeCiDE project, spearheaded by the GPM and HRCN, which enhances urban democracy through citizen participation in human rights monitoring. By integrating human rights into public policies, the project strengthens democratic participation and service delivery. The session will discuss its key methodologies, impacts, and future goals.

17:30 - 18:30

- Executive & Advisory Committee Meeting (Exclusive to GPM Board Members)

19:00 - 19:30

- Opening Ceremony & Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award

19:30

- Reception & Dinner at INNside Braga Centro. Presentation of the Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award winner

Saturday - 7th June 2025

- The Saturday programme will be held at:
 - **Forum Braga**
 - **Av. Dr. Francisco Pires Gonçalves, 4715 - 558 Braga**

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary Debate 2: Caring Cities to Repair Welfare States

- This session explores how cities can become engines of social care by prioritizing the needs and wellbeing of their residents. From foundational economies to inclusive urban planning, mayors and experts will discuss how local policies can support democratic resilience and socio-economic sustainability in a changing world.

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Plenary Debate 3: Culture at the Center of the Urban Project

- This session explores how culture and the arts are essential to resilient, inclusive, and imaginative urban development. By placing creativity at the heart of city-making, mayors and cultural leaders will discuss how cultural literacy, artistic engagement, and shared narratives can drive innovation, social cohesion, and democratic transformation.

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00

Smart Talent Cities

- This session highlights the GPM Talent Cities programme, a global initiative empowering mayors to connect, collaborate, and share solutions around the vital issue of talent. By leveraging best practices, shared data, global skills exchanges, and Talent Bridges, cities are equipping students and trainees with 21st-century skills to drive innovation and tackle critical urban challenges.

15:00 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 17:00

Plenary Debate 4: Next Steps in Empowering Cities & Building the GPM

- This session explores why empowering cities is essential to solving global crises—from climate to social equity. Mayors will discuss how expanding municipal authority, enabling multilevel governance, and fostering urban diversity can unlock the full transformative potential of cities in shaping a more sustainable, democratic future.

17:00

Closing Remarks

- by GPM Chair and host Mayor Ricardo Rio, and GPM Executive Director Rainer Kern

19:30 - Gala Dinner

Sunday - 8th June 2025

Morning: Tours and Cultural Activities, **organized by the City of Braga**