

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference: Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Name of Conference: EIFAAC Symposium

Location of Conference: Dromhall Hotel Killarney

Date of Conference: 20th, 21st, 22 June 2022

Summary of Conference Content

The conference covered themes relating to inland fish stock assessment, developments in freshwater fish monitoring technologies, assessing the impacts of climate change on freshwater fish and their habitats, the role of citizen science and the pros and cons of traditional vs recirculation aquaculture systems.

Theme 1: Inland fish stock assessment

Quantitative approaches to assessment and management of inland fisheries and fish stocks, with a focus on:

Data collection and monitoring requirements for stock assessment,

Data-limited assessment methods relevant to inland commercial and/or recreational fisheries,

Assessment of predation, e.g., cormorant, impacts on freshwater fish stocks, and

Model-based approaches to inland fisheries management, e.g., MSE, harvest control rules etc.



Theme 2: Developments in freshwater fish monitoring technologies with an emphasis on non-destructive methods

Monitoring fish populations is an essential tool for quantifying population abundance and composition and assessing impacts of anthropogenic pressures. Conventional sampling such as electrofishing and netting surveys (fykes, gill nets, seine nets) and associated equipment can be expensive, difficult to transport and surveys are often limited to those waterbodies with road access or boat slips. Many conventional methods also require handling fish, which can cause stress, injury and sometimes mortality. Relatively new non-destructive sampling methods/technology, such as remote sensing (e.g. hydroacoustics, telemetry), visual observation (e.g. underwater camera, snorkel surveys) and eDNA are becoming increasingly popular. Could these techniques be adopted for routine monitoring programmes, e.g. for Water Framework Directive or Habitats Directive monitoring.

Theme 3: The problems and challenges of climate change and its impacts on inland aquatic resources and fisheries

Inland fisheries provide critical ecosystem services to communities in Europe and worldwide and have important subsistence, cultural, and economic value. However, the freshwater rivers, streams, and lakes that fish occupy are faced with many challenges, including climate change, and have become one of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet. Fish are an important indicator of the health of aquatic ecosystems, and an improved understanding of how they are affected by changing climate conditions is critical to understanding the future of these ecosystems and identifying adaptive management strategies. There are still numerous knowledge gaps related to fish species and climate change (e.g. what can be done to make fish communities resilient to climate change, how do we minimize exposure and sensitivity to climate change and maximize adaptive capacity amid uncertainty; what actions are most likely to

be successful in the long term and where should these actions be implemented). There is now a growing body of empirical research and conservation actions that are being employed to tackle these challenging problems. The conference highlighted existing research and experiences related to, but not limited to, approaches to assess impacts of climate change with a focus on species, spatial and habitat vulnerability, thermal performance and tolerance of fish species, mitigation measures and environmental flows.

Theme 4: Citizen science

The involvement of citizens in recording our natural environment has been around for centuries, e.g. amateur meteorologists and ornithologists; however modern-day citizen science with the engagement through technology is a growing movement and this has broadened opportunities to expand our knowledge of the natural environment. Citizen science could offer a potentially cost-effective tool to obtain fishery information over large spatio-temporal scales to support fisheries management, e.g. to contribute to stock assessments in inland waters. The conference highlighted existing citizen science initiatives and explored its use as a complementary tool to traditional fishery management methods in inland waters.

Theme 5: Aquaculture - traditional freshwater systems vs recirculation systems

Aquaculture is one of the world's fastest growing agri-food sectors and has the potential to provide the world's population with quality and healthy fish products. Traditional methods of aquaculture production can affect the environment. Environmental restrictions to minimise pollution, focus on sustainability, food safety and cost effectiveness has driven the development of recirculation aquaculture systems. These systems have two advantages: cost effectiveness and reduced environmental impact.

Signature: *Seán Hartigan*

Print Name: Seán Hartigan

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COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED

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Organiser of Conference: European Cyclists' Federation

Name of Conference: Velocity Ljubljana 2022

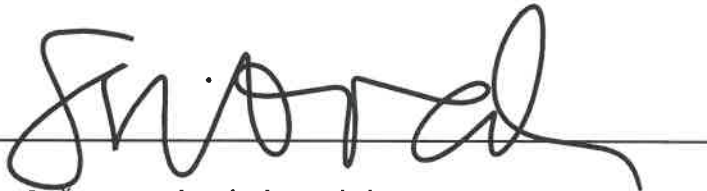
Location of Conference: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Date of Conference: 14th – 17th June, 2022

Summary of Conference Content

Velo-city plays a valuable part in promoting cycling as a sustainable and healthy means of transport for all. The conference offers a knowledge-exchange and policy-transfer platform to the growing number of more than 1400 Velo-citizens from over 60 countries involved in the policy, promotion and provision for cycling, active mobility and sustainable urban development. The conference exhibition showcases the latest innovations for a better cycling experience in cities and beyond.

Signature:



Print Name: Saša Novak Uí Chonchúir

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Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach,
Cé na gCeannaithe,
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24th August 2022

Report on the Final Meeting of the URBACT III Project; Find Your Greatness in Perugia, Italy-

July 2022

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

A delegation recently travelled from the Council to Perugia, Italy, following an invitation to attend the Final Meeting of the URBACT III Find Your Greatness project, in which Limerick City and County Council is a participating partner. The delegation was comprised of Cllr. Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, and Terence Connolly, EU Programme Manager.

The delegation took part in a number of activities and events alongside the meeting itself with the objectives of:

1. Highlighting the work Limerick has done in this project.
2. Deepening the good relationships we have developed with the other partner cities in this project.
3. Exploring future project collaboration opportunities.
4. Sharing best practices around culture, tourism, Smart cities, and enterprise.

I am satisfied that these objectives were met and that suitable high quality engagement with the City of Perugia and the other cities and elected officials present, was achieved. Limerick is now viewed as a valued partner in this project, and the perception of our city is one with a proud and deep history, an innovative presence and a positive future.

The meetings and events that were attended by the delegation during the visit are summarised below:

Wednesday 20th July

Perugia is approximately 3 hours by train from Rome Fiumicino Airport. Due to flight and connection timings, as well as the ongoing travel difficulties at Dublin airport, the delegation stayed in Dublin on Tuesday night and flew out on Wednesday morning at 06:20am.

Wednesday 20th July- Arrival and Informal Welcome

Upon arrival in Perugia, all delegates were invited to a welcome reception involving different city delegations. This was a good opportunity to talk with staff from Perugia Council about the current political situation in Italy and to get an insight into how they administer their EU Projects. Once

delegates had arrived from the other cities with a physical presence (Alba Iulia, Vöru, and Bragança) we proceeded to the Arco Etrusco to take part in a cultural event.

Later that day the City of Perugia invited delegates to join the "Ai confini della memoria" torchlight procession along the Etruscan Wall which surrounds the city. This event has many similarities with the Lumen Street Theatre event that took place in Limerick as part of the 'Samhain', Limerick Halloween Festival 2019. At the opening speech of the event the Mayor of Perugia welcomed the Mayors of Limerick and Bragança especially and talked about how pleased they were to have other cities taking part in the first torchlight procession since the pandemic ended.

Thursday 21st July 2022- Conference

The conference was opened by Cllr. Leonardo Varasano from Perugia (Councillor for Culture), and included welcome speeches by Tudor Drambarean from Alba Iulia, the Project Coordinators and from Laura Colini Programme Expert from the URBACT Secretariat in Paris who gave very positive feedback on the Integrated action plans produced as part of this project. The cities of Budafok and Candelaria joined online.

Marco Tortoiali, who designed Perugia's new brand, presented the process and inspiration behind it. Perugia's branding is based on the ancient city walls and stones, similar to how Limerick used the texture of the treaty stone for our Edge and Embrace brand.

All cities then presented their project results and highlights from their integrated action plans. The EU Programme Manager presented Limerick's and highlighted the cooperation we have had with other cities, the work done by and with the Urbact Local Group members, the partner meeting we held in Limerick just before the pandemic, the Limerick Small Scale Action and the support we have had from all the Mayors since the project began. The Small Scale Action was the Limerick Innovation Virtual Event which took place at the Confirm Centre on the 9th and 10th of December last year.

In the afternoon, participants took part in the "Student for a Day" meeting at the Perugia Academia for Fine arts. As part of their final projects, a group of International Masters students presented their urban brand ideas. Students looked at ways people can use sounds to experience the city and how the shapes produced by the sounds and sand can be used to promote the city, also how to use playing cards to teach the local dialect of Italian, how Perugia's chocolate culture can be capitalized upon and how technology can help citizens interact with a city's brand.

At this event the Limerick delegation spoke with Prof. Paul Robb, originally from Ireland, and explored the possibility of linking the Perugia Academia for Fine arts with the Limerick College of Art and Design so students could potentially travel between the two cities on Erasmus.

Thursday 21st July 2022- Conference Dinner and Student Exhibition at the Etruscan Wall

During this networking dinner we discussed the potential for Limerick to twin with Alba Iulia and/or Vöru since we also partner with them as Follower Cities on the +CityxChange project and have developed a deep respect for how each other works. This will be explored further in the future.

Following the dinner, one of the student groups from the earlier visit to the academy, presented a projection show on the Etruscan walls which was very engaging and proof of the high standard of student output in Perugia.

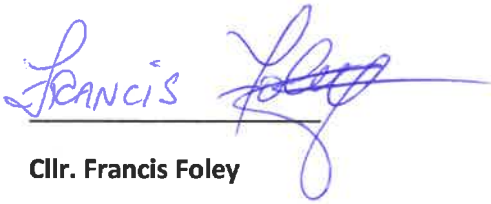
Friday 22nd July 2022 – Partners meeting

The final meetings of the trip were very much technical in nature and took place at the municipal offices. We discussed the budget, how well spending was progressing, final reporting, communications, and updates from the Urbact Secretariat.

There was very much a feeling that cities in this project want to work together again in future and will explore further opportunities to do so.

Saturday 23rd July- Travel Home

We departed Perugia early on Saturday afternoon and returned by train to Rome Fiumicino Airport, via Rome Tiburtina station and then onwards with Aer Lingus to Dublin.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francis Foley', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cllr. Francis Foley

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

