



CITY  
OF KRANJ



# UrbanMind

## The Future of Cities: EU Initiatives and Smart Solutions

**3 February 2026 | 09:30 – 12:30**

*Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU*

*Rue Joseph II 14, 1000 Brussels*

*Discover how cities can transform into **smarter, more sustainable, and connected communities** at this interactive conference on urban innovation. Through presentations, platform demonstrations, and expert discussions, including **upcoming European Commission initiatives**, the event will explore key achievements in **smart city development**, the **role of data and technology in urban transformation**, and the opportunities and challenges cities face in creating intelligent, citizen-centered environments. Participants will gain practical insights, learn from real-world projects such as the **UrbanMind** initiative – a successful example of fostering sustainable and innovative urban practices – and engage in a dynamic discussion on the future of urban communities, providing inspiration and actionable strategies for building the cities of tomorrow.*

### Programme

**09:00 – 09:30** *Registration of participants*

**09:30 – 09:40** **Welcome and Opening remarks**

- *Draško Veselinovič – Director and Member of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)*
- *Biljana Prinčić – Project Manager of UrbanMind at Riko d.o.o. – UrbanMind implementation partner*

**09:40 – 10:00** **Smart City Transformation in Practice: The Experiences of Kranj (Slovenia) and Pula (Croatia)**

- *Matjaž Rakovec – Mayor of the City Municipality of Kranj*
- *Peđa Grbin – Mayor of the City Municipality of Pula*

**10:00 – 10:25** **EU Funding Opportunities for Cities and Regions in 2026**

- *Radka Konstantinova – Policy Officer, European Commission, DG REGIO*

**10:25 – 10:35 European Cities at the Heart of EU Policy: Priorities, Funding, and the Road Ahead**

- *André Sobczak – Secretary General, Eurocities (TBC)*

**10:35 – 11:05 Presentation of the UrbanMind project: Overview of key achievements and contribution to the development of smart communities**

- *Tomaž Lanišek – Head of the Smart Communities Department, City Municipality of Kranj*
- *Dražen Stepanov – Head of the Smart Communities Department, City Municipality of Pula*

**11:05 – 11:20 Demonstration of the UrbanMind platform: Interactive presentation of the platform's functionality and support for cities in transforming into smart communities**

- *Andraž Logar – Director of 3Fs d.o.o. - UrbanMind technological partner*

**11:20 – 11:40 Key insights and latest developments in smart and sustainable urban communities from the *Data Space for Sustainable and Smart Cities and Communities (DS4SSCC)* consortium**

- *Thimo Thoeye – Tech Lead, Open & Agile Smart Cities & Communities*

**11:40 – 12:20 Roundtable “Lessons Learned” – Discussion on challenges and opportunities for the future**

- *Moderator:*

- *Draško Veselinovič – Director and Member of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)*

- *Speakers:*

- *Radka Konstantinova – Policy Officer, European Commission, DG REGIO*
- *André Sobczak – Secretary General, Eurocities (TBC)*
- *Matjaž Rakovec – Mayor of the City Municipality of Kranj*
- *Peđa Grbin – Mayor of the City Municipality of Pula*
- *Janez Škrabec – Director of Riko d.o.o. - UrbanMind implementation partner*
- *Andraž Logar – Director of 3Fs d.o.o. - UrbanMind technological partner*
- *Thimo Thoeye – Tech Lead, Open & Agile Smart Cities & Communities*
- *Flavio Fuart – Chamber of Commerce of Slovenia*

**12:20 – 12:30 Concluding remarks**

**12:30 Networking Luncheon**