

# How AI is transforming public participation in urban planning

**13.05.2024**  
**h. 17:00 – 18:30**

**Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32**  
**Building 4, Room 4.0.1**

**Streaming Online**

Daide  
Ponzini's  
Webex Room



Incorporating the views of residents and stakeholders in the enhancement of urban public spaces is widely considered essential. However, traditional participation methods have struggled to involve laypeople in providing clear and implementable design inputs. This barrier is being overcome through the use of visual creative AI tools, which enables those without formal design training to visually articulate changes, for example in streetscapes and squares. In particular, the UrbanistAI tool quickly generates diverse visualizations based on user descriptions, facilitating more effective collaborative discussions and more refined design proposals. In this seminar, Dr. Sampo Ruoppila (University of Turku & UrbanistAI) explores how this technology contributes to participatory planning and e-participation practices, addresses a variety of challenges, and evaluates the role of visualizations in urban development according to recent academic insights. Additionally, he examines various case studies using UrbanistAI, highlighting the differential impacts of this pioneering commercial tool in real-world applications across different global contexts.

Speaker:

**Sampo Ruoppila (University of Turku & UrbanistAI)**

Discussants:

Barbara Piga (Politecnico di Milano)

Aubrey Toldi (Politecnico di Milano)

EXPLORING THE URBAN DIMENSION OF AI  
Seminar Series organized by Grazia Concilio,  
Daide Ponzini, Valeria Fedeli, Zachary Jones, and  
Michelangelo Secchi



Rendering of Piata M.R.Stefanik in Bucharest generated by UrbanistAI

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