



Reykjavík, 21. maí 2024

MSS24050089

Borgarráð

### **Fyrirhuguð ferð formanns borgarráðs til Bratislava**

Fyrirhuguð er ferð formanns borgarráðs til Bratislava til að taka þátt í tveimur ráðstefnum sem haldnar verða dagana 27.-29. maí.

Á fundi Bandalags frjálsra borga - Pact of Free Cities – þann 27. maí mun Reykjavíkurborg fá formlega aðild að sáttmálanum, sem borgarstjórar Bratislava, Búdapest, Varsjá og Prag lögðu grunn að árið 2019 til að standa vörð um lýðræði og vinna gegn þjóðernishyggju sem átti þá vaxandi fylgi að fagna á þjóðþingum þessara landa. Með undirritun sáttmálans verður Reykjavík í hópi 33 borga sem hafa skuldbundið sig til að leggja áherslu á það mikilvæga hlutverk sem borgir heims gegna í að varðveita og vernda lýðræði og opið samfélag, og að borgarstjórar séu öflugir talsmenn þess á alþjóðlegum vettvangi.

Formaður borgarráðs verður með erindi á fundinum þar sem málefni Úkraínu verða í brennidepli, og mun fá umboð til að undirrita yfirlýsingu sem kennd er við Bratislava – Bratislava Declaration of the Pact of Free Cities. Einnig verður stofnaður vinnuhópur valinna borga um loftslagsvænni hverfi fyrir fjölskyldur og börn (sjá fylgiskjöl).

Formanni borgarráðs er einnig boðið að vera með tvö erindi á ráðstefnunni Start with Children: Bratislava Summit 2024, sem verður í beinu framhaldi af fundi Bandalags frjálsra borga, dagana 28.-29. maí. Þetta er í fyrsta sinn sem ráðstefnan er haldin, en áætlað er að hún verði árlegur viðburður. Þar koma saman um 550 sérfræðingar í málefnum barna, fulltrúar frjálsra félagasamtaka og stofnana auk stjórnmálafólks – sjá boðsbréf.

Þátttaka formanns borgarráðs er í boði Bratislavaborgar sem greiðir fyrir ferðir og gistingu.

Einar Þorsteinsson  
borgarstjóri

Hjálagt:

Boðsbréf fyrir *Children Summit* dags. 15. janúar 2024.

Boðsbréf í tölvupósti fyrir *The Pact of Free Cities Summit*, dags. 9. maí 2024

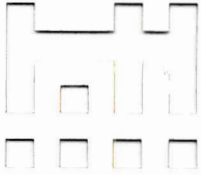
Yfirlýsing.

Dagskrá 27. - 28. maí 2024.

Lýsing á vinnuhópi sem stofnaður verður á ráðstefnunni.



**Reykjavík**



Matúš Vallo

Mayor of Bratislava  
Capital City  
of the Slovak Republic

January 15, 2024

Distinguished Mayor Eggertsson,

On behalf of the City of Bratislava, it is with great pleasure that I invite you to speak at the plenary session of the ***Start with Children: Bratislava City Summit 2024***, the first annual summit on child-focused urban planning taking place on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

This global gathering is intended to accelerate transformative action centered on the needs of children and their caregivers around the world. As a trailblazing leader on youth engagement and empowerment, your presence is an absolute requisite for this convening to deliver on its primary goal: to energize and catalyze a growing momentum for building cities that build better futures for our youngest citizens.

Your leadership in improving local services for children, youth, and their families has been remarkable, transforming people's wellbeing and daily lives. ***Start with Children*** audiences will be inspired by your programs to improve accessibility and service delivery, and will be eager to bring your model to their cities.

The list of invited plenary speakers includes **Ankita Chakra, Dr. Cheryl Charles, Gil Penalosa, David Runciman, Erion Veliaj, Michelle Wu, and Amanda M. Burden** in conversation with **Jan Gehl**.

At ***Start with Children***, approximately 550 city officials and leading experts, practitioners, foundations, and businesses from cities around the world will exchange their knowledge and experience in topics such as Child Learning and Brain Development, Child Friendly Neighborhood Design, Childhood Independence Through Play, and Environmental Impacts on Childhood Health. The outcome of the summit will be to implement tactical strategies that start with children, can be measured, and over time, build a better future for all.

**Start with  
Children**  
The Bratislava Summit 2024  
May 28 – 29, 2024 Bratislava, Slovakia




The summit is being held in concert with the conference hosted by The Pact of Free Cities. Founded in 2019 by the mayors of the capitals of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, the Pact is a global network of mayors who champion the agile position of city governments to rise to global challenges, preserve democracy, and protect an open society.

It would be a great honor to host you in Bratislava. Your message will bring invaluable distinction to the first annual **Start with Children**. I hope you will consider this request.

My team would be pleased to discuss with you any questions regarding travel and financial arrangements. Should your office require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [hello@startwithchildren.com](mailto:hello@startwithchildren.com) where Zuzana Žurkinová (+421 903 707 647) is at your disposal. More details about **Start with Children** can be found on our website at [www.startwithchildren.com](http://www.startwithchildren.com)

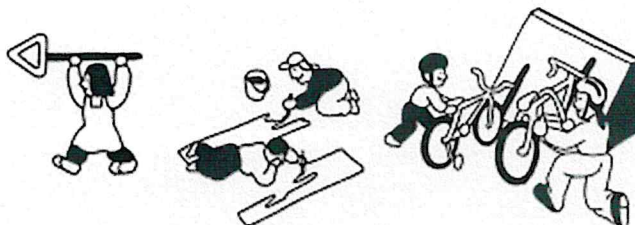
We would appreciate a confirmation of your attendance and participation by February 1, 2024.

Very Sincerely,



Honorable  
Dagur Eggertsson  
Mayor of Reykjavik

**Start with  
Children**  
The Bratislava Summit 2024  
May 28 – 29, 2024 Bratislava, Slovakia



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**Frá:** Fáberová Veronika, Ing. <[veronika.faberova@bratislava.sk](mailto:veronika.faberova@bratislava.sk)>

**Sent:** fimmtudagur, 9. maí 2024 10:47

**Efni:** Pact of Free Cities Summit Bratislava 27 May 2024

Dear colleagues,

Please, let me send you wider package of information to The Pact of Free Cities Summit (and further activities of the Pact):

1. Summary document including:
  - updated program of PoFC Summit
  - list of (so far) confirmed participants
  - practical information
  - program of the Start with Children Summit
2. Declaration as an outcome of PoFC Bratislava Summit
3. Project proposal - European Mayors' Early Years Alliance

Our questions to you:

1.
  - **Closed Session (14:30-16:00)** – discussion is free, but if you can indicate, that your delegate wishes to have a separate **input or bring some new agenda**, please, let us know in advance. *(Note: At the main table, there will be the priority seating, other delegates/accompanying person will be seated in a close distance. Main speaking opportunity is given to the Heads of delegations/political representatives.)*
  - **Logistics:** Transfers from Vienna Airport, **Bratislava Airport**, Bratislava train station (to and from hotel) will be arranged by us according to your arrivals and departures times. In case of traveling by car, we will reserve a parking space for you. All transfers within the city are in walking distances.  
**Please let us know (as soon as possible) flight/train numbers with exact times of arrival and departure and approximate arrivals/departures by coming by car.**
  - **Accommodation:** AC Hotel Bratislava Old Town Vysoká 2/A, 811 06 Bratislava  
Hotel will be provided by the City of Bratislava for Mayor (deputy political representative) + 1 accompanying person.  
If the delegation is bigger than 2 people, for other members of the delegation rooms will be secured in the same hotel, however registration will be needed via separate link:

Here's your reservation link your guests can use to make reservations:

**[Book your group rate for Bratislava - the Capital City of Slovakia](#)**

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need event.

Event Summary:

Bratislava - the Capital City of Slovakia

Start Date: Sunday, May 26, 2024

End Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

- AC Hotel Bratislava Old Town for 124 EUR per night

Book your group rate for Bratislava - the Capital City of Slovakia

- **Dietary Restrictions:** please, let us know in advance **if your delegates have some dietary (or other) restrictions.**

2.

- **Bratislava Declaration:** Please, let us know in advance before the Summit (ideally till 22 May) **if we can add your Mayor under the text of the declaration.**

**Declaration is open to all cities/Mayors – regardless, they attend the Bratislava Summit or not.**

Physical signing of the declaration is not needed. We just would like to kindly ask for your permission via e-mail to add the name of your mayor under the text of the document.

3.

- **Project proposal - European Mayors' Early Years Alliance:** please, **indicate the interest of your mayor to join the project and working group in advance.**

**One more note: Mayor of Kharkiv expressed the interest to participate as an observer - if his program will allow it. Please, if there would be any objections, let me know, otherwise I will inform his team about the program of the event and further details.**

Thank you those, who have already sent us the required information – in this case, please take it as just informative.

Would you have any further questions, feel free to let me know and I will reply individually.

Thank you for your great cooperation and we are looking forward to welcoming your delegations to Bratislava.

Veronika

Kind regards



**Veronika Petrle Faberova**

**Head of International Relations and Protocol Department**

Mayor's Office

City of Bratislava

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[www.bratislava.sk](http://www.bratislava.sk)

Informácie obsiahnuté v tejto e-mailovej správe vrátane príloh sú dôverne, sú určené výlučne adresátovi a môžu byť predmetom ochrany osobných, osobnostných práv, obchodného tajomstva, autorských práv a/alebo zákazov vyhotovovania kópií. Za obsah správy zodpovedá výlučne osoba, ktorá správu odoslala. Ak Vám bol tento e-mail doručený omylom, žiadame Vás, aby ste sa zdržali jeho odtajnenia, či jeho použitia pre vlastné potreby, informovali nás o tejto skutočnosti a e-mail následne vymazali.

## Bratislava Declaration of the Pact of Free Cities

### Preamble

*Highlighting* an indispensable active role of cities in tackling global challenges which pose a burden as much as they represent an opportunity.

*Echoing* that safe child-friendly urban environment requires safeguarding our universal values as only open societies nourishing individual freedoms can guarantee healthy advancement of our children.

*Emphasizing* that democratic deficit at state level endangers our urban communities which is particularly disturbing in case of building safe and stimulating children's environment.

*Reaffirming* that the Pact's mission and its values are of universal merit which cannot be taken for granted and they maintain their global significance demonstrated by the growing membership since Pact's inception.

*Recalling* that it is city leaders who are at the forefront of the Pact's functioning, and they are responsible for shaping Pact's mission.

*Reassuring* of the Pact's determination to cooperate with other initiatives on addressing global challenges while the Pact preserves and enhances locally-driven democratic communities and respect for rule of law.

*Confirming* that standing for our values also means their active protection and support for international regulatory mechanisms aimed at harbouring them.

*Recognizing* that urban development requires respect for subsidiarity and fair financing for cities as metropolitan growth centres.

### Our mission

- Our Pact is a shield for values of open society underlying a unique role of cities in promoting versatile and inclusive growth and an opportunity for continuous information exchange and knowledge-sharing.
- Being true to our mission, we strive to build a legacy which shall be here to stay. The legacy cemented by the joint vision of freedoms, creativity, ensured development, solutions to variety of divisions and global environmental and technological challenges.
- Like-minded city leaders have gone together a remarkable path. From the founding declaration through humanitarian actions towards Ukrainian cities and their citizens to global initiatives underpinning democracy or cities' fair financing.
- Our Pact represents an open and informal community of solidarity striving for transformative changes towards green and digital societies bringing far-fetched and lasting improvements.
- Over years, we have gone global demonstrating that universal values and endeavours towards flourishing cities as centres of wellbeing are shared in hugely different corners across the globe.
- At the same time, Pact's expansion manifests that city leaders perceive urgency to take action in support of the shared values of open society as well as visions of social and economic harmonious development of their cities.

## Political threats and our responses

- Democratic backsliding of the current political systems is manifested in symptoms such as governments monopolizing public institutions and judicial power, hampering free media, while promoting hoaxes and factless information with limited public accountability, and increased nepotism in otherwise impartial public service.
- Parochial nationalistic chauvinism and hegemonistic tendencies of authoritarian regimes as well as xenophobia and exclusion undermine economic, social, and territorial stability of societies all over the globe.
- Cities stand for open society, freedom of speech, political pluralism, justice, rule of law, and fairness as well as gender equality in pursuing opportunities.
- Cities support international regulatory or informal mechanisms harbouring rule of law including the use of sanctions against trespassers.
- The Pact fully underlines EU Capital Mayors' Conclusions of the 13th Direct Dialogue on the Rule of Law at the local level of 23 January 2024 echoing our commitment to preserve and champion the rule of law, democracy, and an open society.

## Upholding values globally

- The Pact of Free Cities upholds the values of human dignity, democracy, freedom, equality, rule of law, and human rights. We advocate globally for these principles, even in the face of oppression and aggression.
- As democrats, we stand with peace, freedom, and justice organizations and offer solidarity to those advocating for these principles in Russia. We call for unity in our pursuit of democracy and encourage other cities to join us in action.
- **The Pact strongly condemns any political violence performed against individuals or groups. We call for peaceful dialogue and deliberation to combat the growing polarisation of our societies.**

## Role of the cities in facing the common global challenges

- Cities are well-equipped to tackle global megatrends notably transition to green and digital economy. They attract talents by providing room for inspiration, innovation, creativity, or unconventional problem-solving and versatile approaches.
- Cities can play a role model for successful national green and digital policies due to attracting highly productive, vibrant, and grass-rooted economic and social activities.
- Increasing inequalities and a decline of once flourishing industrial centres contribute to growing sense of distrust towards public authorities including municipalities. Inhabitants in these localities perceive themselves and their environment as being abandoned by their representatives and their discontent being negligible. It is cities' utmost duty nowadays to reverse this gloomy trend and provide their inhabitants with opportunities raising their self-esteem and a sense of engagement.
- Quality of life is a particularly sensitive issue when concerning children, their access to education, social and health care services, and opportunities to live in safe and stable environments.
- Our conference on safe urban neighbourhoods as the accompanying event manifests that safe children environment is high on our agenda.
- Functioning rule of law also demonstrates a secured environment for our children as it restricts their exposure to harmful social developments.

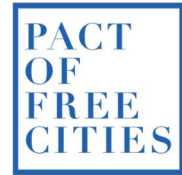
### **Urban development and place-based policies**

- Metropolitan areas play a central role in local and regional developments. Cities as their hearts concentrate essential economic and social activities and they are conducive to developing fresh innovative ideas.
- Place-based policies are essential for urban development as they address megatrends of economic, social, and technological transformations related to environmental challenges, arrival of disruptive technologies and automation, population aging or migration.
- Furthermore, place-based policies seek to address various inequalities and local disparities by leveraging on their potential. Place-based policies express cities' confidence to pursue their development goals independently of, yet in constructive cooperation with national level.
- Place-based policies are capable to counter public discontent as they promote economic - development by valorising local cultural assets and traditions. Thus, place-based policies diminish a popular sense of being abandoned and neglected.
- Governance in place-based policies manifests adherence to democratic principles where public mobilisation and engagement are an essence of policymaking.

### **Direct and just funding of the cities**

- Cities are growth inducing. To pursue their development goals, cities need to have guaranteed equal opportunities to access both, domestic and international public sources.
- Cities as metropolitan centres need just budgetary environment ensuring fair revenue distribution and a guaranteed direct access to great variety of grant and loan schemes.





## PACT OF FREE CITIES SUMMIT BRATISLAVA

**Monday, 27 May 2024**

- 12:30** *meeting at the lobby of the hotel and pick up – protocol Bratislava*  
*Venue: AC Hotel Bratislava Old Town Vysoká 2/A, 811 06 Bratislava*
- 12:50** **Welcome Drink**  
*Venue: City Hall - Primatial Palace, Courtyard of St. George (in case of bad weather premises of the Primatial Palace)*
- 13:00-14:15** **Networking Lunch**  
*Venue: City Hall - Primatial Palace, Courtyard of St. George (in case of bad weather premises of the Primatial Palace)*
- 14:30-16:00** **Closed Session**  
*Venue: City Hall – Primatial Palace, Gallery*

**Moderator:** Zora Jaurova, Adviser to the Mayor, Member of the National Parliament

- **Opening remarks:** Matus Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava
- Welcome of new members, Matus Vallo
- Inputs from Mayors of Founding Cities
- Inputs from other mayors/head of delegations

*Inputs are optional and are focused on updates from the cities with regard to the agenda of PoFC. Mayors are welcomed to bring up the new development in their cities and countries, the challenges they are facing now and the reports on the democratic processes, urban development and citizens attitudes in their cities and countries.*

- Discussion about current PoFC – priorities, challenges, and vision
- Host City for PoFC Summit 2025
- Bratislava Declaration – output of PoFC Summit 2024
- Working Group European Mayors' Early Years Alliance (short introduction to the voluntary project offered to mayors)

End of the working session



16:00-16:15

**Signing of New Members + Press Statement + Family Photo**

Venue: City Hall – Primatial Palace, Gallery

*Press statement: expected short statement without questions – with participation of attending mayors.*

16:15

Mayors/Panellists leaving to the venue of public event for tech preparation

16:00/16:15-16:30

Coffee Break – other delegates

Venue: City Hall – Primatial Palace, Gallery

16:30-17:00

Transfer to Slovak National Gallery – walking distance

17:00-19:00

**Public Event - Panel Discussions**

Venue: Slovak National Gallery, Rázusovo nábrežie 2, 811 02 Bratislava

**17:00 – 17:45 Panel Debate #1: Mayors – the Avengers of Democracy?**

Pact of Free Cities has been created from the desire of the democratic mayors and city leaders to support the liberal democracy and develop cities which are not only good places for life but which also nudge and stimulate more open, active and democratic societies. The future of European and global democracy is very much depended on the situation in Ukraine and on the ability of democratic world to help its rebuilding as a free, modern and democratic country. Can the Mayors save Europe and its basic values of freedom, openness and democracy while the populist governments and leaders gain popularity all over the Europe? Are the city leaders able to deliver better quality of everyday life to people the hope in today's political frenzy?

Moderator: Eva Mihockova (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

Speakers: Andriy Sadovyi (Mayor of Lviv), Rafał Trzaskowski (Mayor of Warsaw), tbc (Matus Vallo, Mayor of Bratislava; Vitali Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv)

17:45 – 18:00 Coffee Break

**18:00 – 18:45 Panel Debate #2: Cities as educational platforms for democracy**

Cities are the cradles of democracy. They naturally concentrate the more democratic population, offers variety of lifestyles, creates opportunity for debate between various stakeholders. But could cities of 21<sup>st</sup> century become the democracy protecting entities? How to design a city in the way it nudges and educates its citizens to democratic attitudes and practices? How to create



an urban space which is an alternative to antidemocratic tendencies of digital space?

*Moderator:* Andrew Tuck (Monocle)

*Speakers:* Gergely Karácsony (Mayor of Budapest), Erion Veliaj (Mayor of Tirana), Anouch Toranian (Deputy Mayor, Paris)

19:00-19:30 Transfer to the evening program – walking distance

**19:30-22:30 Dinner and Evening Program**

*Venue:* Albrechtov dom, Kapitulska 313/1, 811 01 Bratislava

*Note:* outdoor space – garden (in case of bad weather premises of the Primatial Palace – TBC)

*Common cocktail dinner: participants of Pact of Free Cities Summit, speakers, main guests, and partners of the Start with Children Summit.*

**Tuesday and Wednesday, 28 – 29 May 2024**

**Start with Children Summit**

*Note:* all participants of the Pact of Free Cities Summit have free entrance to the Start with Children Summit

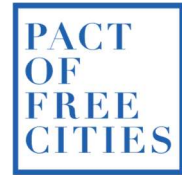


## List of confirmed participants

City	participants	position
Amsterdam	Sabine Gimbrère	Director of the International Office
Barcelona	Albert Batlle (TBC)	<b>Deputy mayor</b> in charge of prevention, security, living together and internal affairs
	Álvaro García Pérez	Department of International Relations
Budapest	<b>Gergely Karácsony</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
	János Kenderney	Senior Advisor to the Mayor on City Diplomacy
	Olivér Pilz	Policy Secretary to the Mayor
	Rania Ruzsa	Photographer
Brussels	Nathan Clarke	International Relations Officer
	Solomiia Hera	International Relations Officer
Frankfurt am Main	Ina Hauck	Honorary <b>Deputy Mayor</b>
Gdansk	<b>Aleksandra Dulkiewicz</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
Kyiv	Vitali Klitschko (TBC)	Mayor
Lviv	<b>Andriy Sadovyi</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
London	TBC	
Los Angeles	TBC	
Paris	Anouch Toranian	<b>Deputy Mayor</b> in charge of Local Democracy
	Léa Boniface	International Relations Officer
Podgorica	<b>Olivera Injac</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
Prague	<b>Bohuslav Svoboda</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
	Petr Pešek	Advisor to the Mayor
	Zuzana Hocková	Head of International Relations
Rijeka	TBC	
Riga	Linda Ozola	<b>Vice Mayor</b> for International Affairs
	Kaspars Adijans	Head Bureau of Vice Mayor



<b>Rome</b>	TBC	
<b>Tirana</b>	<b>Erion Veliaj</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
<b>Ulm</b>	<b>Martin Ansbacher</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
	Sebastian Rihm	Director, Danube Office Ulm/Neu Ulm
<b>Neu-Ulm</b>	Ralph Seiffert	Head of Department Education, sport, culture and social affairs, Managerial head of the Danube Office Ulm/Neu-Ulm
<b>Vienna</b>	Peter Florianschütz	Chair of the Vienna City Council Committee for European and International Affairs and Human Rights spokesperson
	Magdalena Szopa	Vienna Offices
<b>Vilnius</b>	TBC	<b>Deputy Mayor</b>
<b>Warsaw</b>	<b>Rafał Trzaskowski</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
	Karolina Medyk	Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department
	Stefan Kabat	Official, Mayor's Office
<b>Zagreb</b>	TBC	
<b>Reykjavik</b>	Dagur Eggertsson	<b>Deputy Mayor, Former Mayor</b>
<b>Sofia</b>	Nikola Barbutov	<b>Deputy Mayor</b>
<b>Bratislava</b>	<b>Matúš Vallo</b>	<b>Mayor</b>
	Zora Jaurová	Advisor to the Mayor
	Veronika Fáberová	Head of International Relations and Protocol



## Practical Information

### Contact persons (City of Bratislava, International Relations and Protocol):

**Veronika Faberova**, [veronika.faberova@bratislava.sk](mailto:veronika.faberova@bratislava.sk), +421 902 985 861

- Main contact point, general coordination, available also via WhatsApp

**Zuzana Jurkovičová**, [zuzana.jurkovicova@bratislava.sk](mailto:zuzana.jurkovicova@bratislava.sk), +421 902 985 837

- Logistics, accomodation

**Andrea Dachová**, [andrea.dachova@bratislava.sk](mailto:andrea.dachova@bratislava.sk), +421 903 506 802

**Veronika Štefániková**, [veronika.stefanikova@bratislava.sk](mailto:veronika.stefanikova@bratislava.sk), , +421 902 762 910

### Dress code:

Business Casual for all events

Note: Dinner on 27 May is planned (in good weather) outside – in the garden of a historical building in Old Town

### Working Language:

English

### Logistics:

**Transfers** from Vienna Airport, Bratislava Airport, Bratislava train station (to and from hotel) **will be arranged by us** according to your arrivals and departures.

In case of traveling by car, we will reserve a **parking space** for you.

All **transfers within the city are in walking distances**. You will be guided by my colleagues or me all the time.

### Main venues:

**Hotel** - AC Hotel Bratislava Old Town Vysoká 2/A, 811 06 Bratislava

**Lunch, Closed Session** - **City Hall**, Primatial Palace, Primacialne namestie 1, 811 01 Bratislava

**Public Event** - **Slovak National Gallery**, Rázusovo nábrežie 2, 811 02 Bratislava

**Dinner** - **Albrechtov dom**, Kapitulská 313/1, 811 01 Bratislava

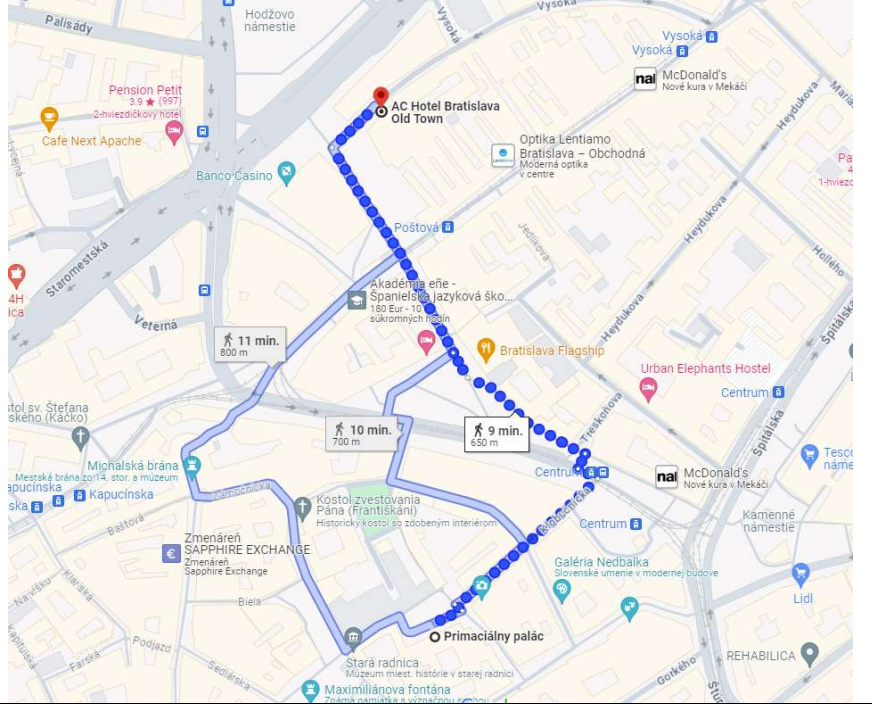
**Start with Children Summit** - **Old Market Hall**, Námestie Nežnej revolúcie, 811 01 Bratislava



**Hotel – City Hall  
(Lunch, Closed Session)**

AC HOTEL by Marriott  
⇒  
PRIMATIAL PALACE

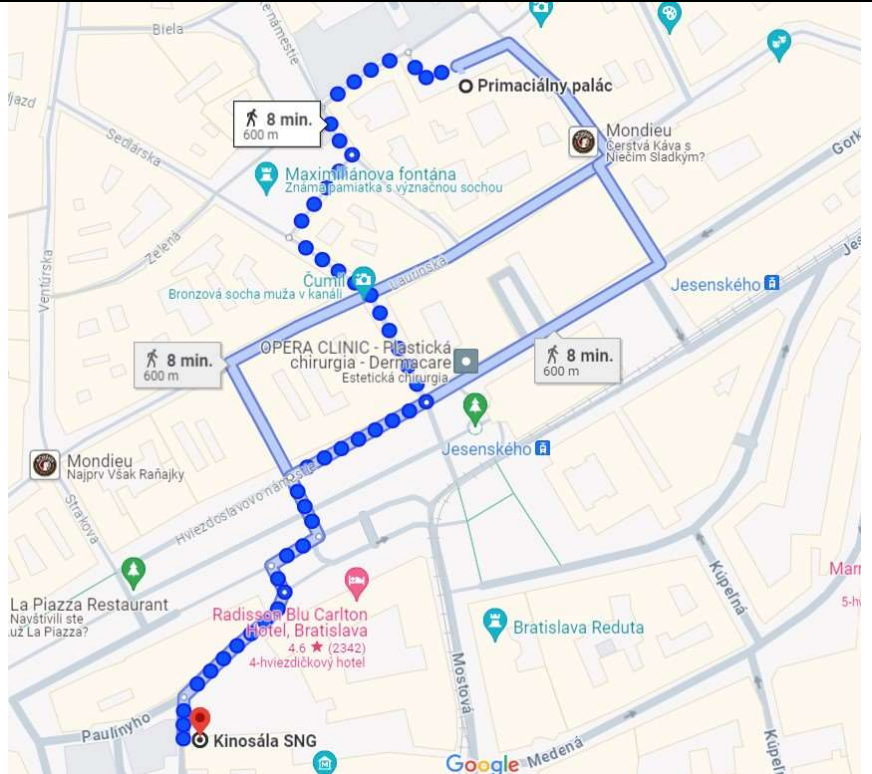
9 min. walking  
(650 metres)



**City Hall – Public Event**

PRIMATIAL PALACE  
⇒  
SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY

8 min. walking  
(600 metres)

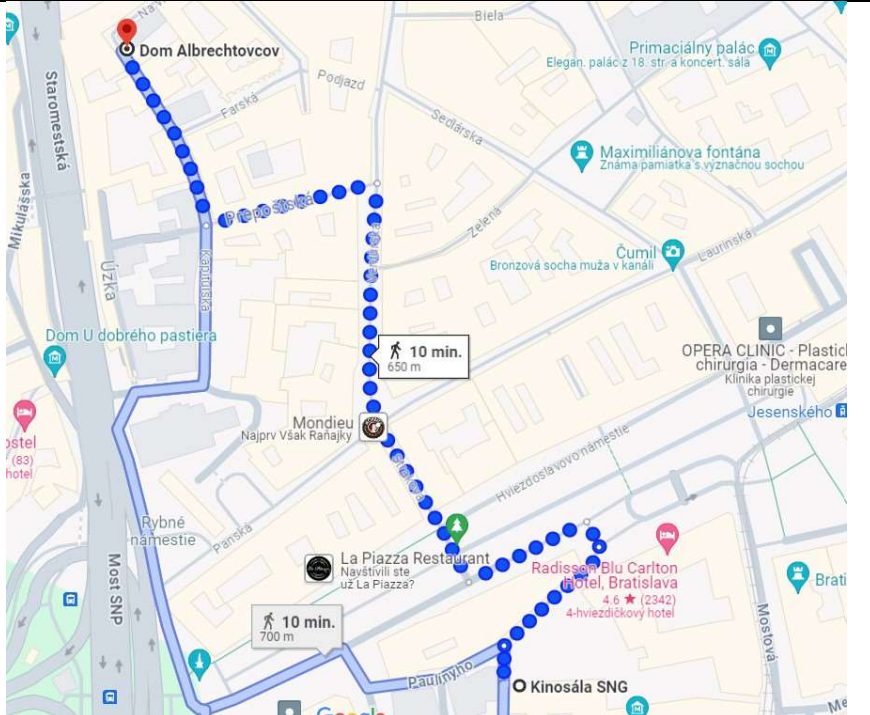




**Public Event - Dinner Venue**

SLOVAK NATIONAL GALLERY  
⇒  
ALBRECHTOV DOM

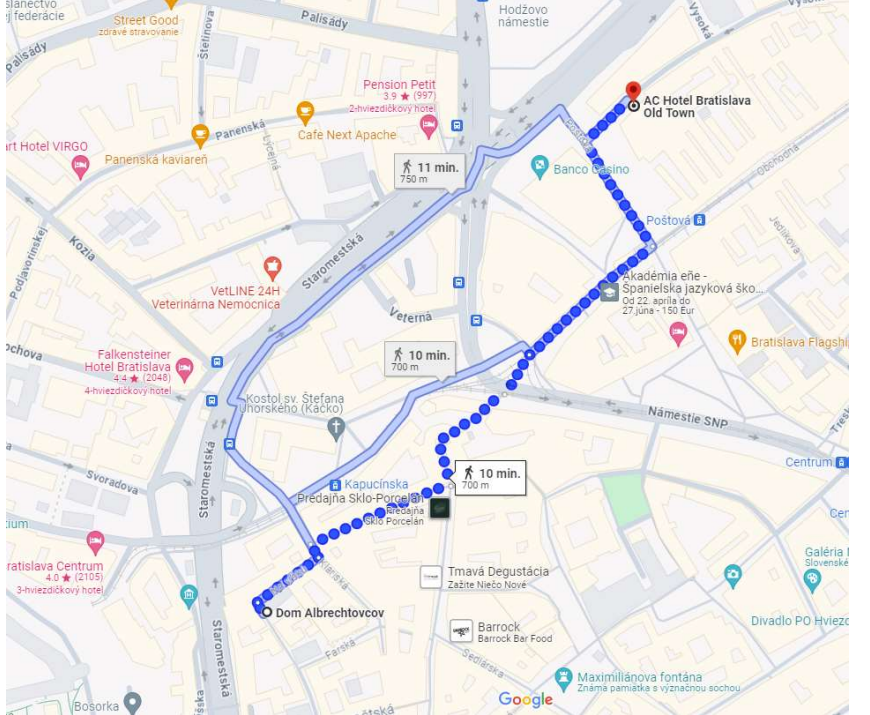
*10 min. walking (650 metres)*



**Dinner Venue - Hotel**

ALBRECHTOV DOM  
⇒  
AC HOTEL

*10 min. walking (700 metres)*







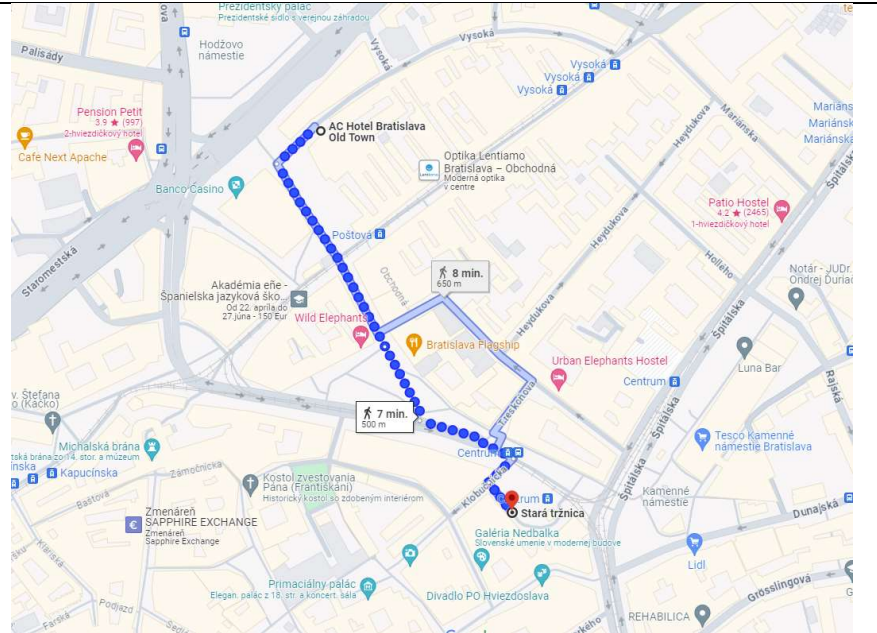
**Hotel – Start with Children Summit**

AC HOTEL



STARÁ TRŽNICA (Old Market Hall)

7 min. walking  
(500 metres)





## START WITH CHILDREN SUMMIT BRATISLAVA

**Date:** 28 – 29 May 2024

**Venue:** Old Market Hall, Námestie Nežnej revolúcie, 811 01 Bratislava

**Program:** <https://startwithchildren.com/schedule/>

**Tuesday, 28 May 2024**

8:30	<b>OPEN DOOR - REGISTRATION OF GUEST</b>	
9:30	<b>MODERATOR - WELCOME SPEECH</b>	
9:40	<b>SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF BRATISLAVA</b>	
9:50	<b>TBC GUEST OF HONOUR</b>	
10:00	<b>SPEAKER 1 - Ankita Chachra</b>	Why Child Friendly Cities are Everyone's Business / Making the case for prioritizing children in city planning and policies
10:25	<b>SPEAKER 2 - Erion Veliaj</b>	Including children's voices in city planning / Empowering children to take action in their city
10:50	<b>SPEAKER 3 - Tim Gill</b>	Childhood Independence / Free Play / Benefits of Risky Play / Designing Cities Where Children Thrive
11:10	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11:40	<b>SPEAKER 4 - Skye Duncan</b>	Shaping Streets for Kids
12:05	<b>SPEAKER 5 - Thomas George (Unicef)</b>	Raising Resilient Children / Nurturing in Distressed Environments
12:25	<b>SPEAKER 6 - Gil Penalosa</b>	Shaping Neighborhoods for Our Youngest Citizens / Political Will needed for achieve child-friendly neighborhoods
13:00	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Venue:</i> City Hall	European Mayors' Early Years Alliance Working Group on Neighborhood Adaptation for a Child- and Family-Friendly Climate Future
14:30	<b>PANEL 1: Mayors Panel</b> moderated by Andrew Tuck (Matus Vallo, Dagur Eggertson, Erion Veliaj, Rafal Trzaskowski, tbc)	MAYORS PANEL: Cities Climate Action for Children / How Cities taking action on climate change will protect children and youth
15:35	<b>PANEL 2: Moderator Sam Bloch, Maria Sitzoglou, Sophia Schuff</b>	Heat effects on children's health / Protecting Communities in the face of Rising Temperatures / Importance of shade infrastructure
16:25	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
16:45	<b>PANEL 3: Moderator Shekufeh Zonji, Xoli Fuyani, Laís Fleury Cunha</b>	Children and the Impact of the Natural World / Reconnecting Children and Nature



18:00-20:00	<b>Meet and greet</b>	Informal meeting of speakers and participants
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**Wednesday, 29 May 2024**

8:30	<b>OPEN DOOR</b>	
9:00	<b>MODERATOR - WELCOME</b>	
9:10	<b>SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF BRATISLAVA</b>	
9:20	<b>ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION</b>	Social Climate Fund – The Time is Now to Future-Proof our Cities
9:30	<b>SPEAKER 1 - Petra Marko</b>	Bratislava's Plan for a Child-Centric City
9:50	<b>SPEAKER 2 - Ladd Brothers (2 people)</b>	The Power of Art and Children for Building Community
10:15	<b>SPEAKER 3 - Jan Gehl &amp; Amanda Burden</b>	Scaling Cities for our Younger Citizens: the Eye-level City
10:45	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11:20	<b>SPEAKER 4 - Joe Waters + Beverly Barnett Jones</b>	Investing in Care Services and Early Childhood Development
11:45	<b>SPEAKER 5 - David Karásek (mmcite), Meghan Talarowski</b>	Building a Child Friendly Streetscape
12:10	<b>SPEAKER 6: Anna Dworakowska</b>	Impacts of Parent-led activism / Air pollution impacts on children's health
12:35	<b>SPEAKER 7: Dinah Bornat + Maria Vassilakou + Sudeshna Chatterjee</b>	Designing for Play / Child centric Neighborhood Design
13:05	<b>LUNCH</b>	
14:30	<b>Panel 1: Moderator Bronwen Thornton, Atsani Ariobowo, Ankita Chachra</b>	Safe Streets Make Healthier Communities / Leveraging streets as a public space
15:25	<b>Panel 2: Maya Mailer, Kamila Kadzidlowska, Xoli Fuyani</b>	
16:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
16:35	<b>Panel 3: Patrin Watanatada &amp; Nikhil Chaudhary</b>	On Care giving, Human nature of group caregiving / Collective capacity for care

## **Pact of Free Cities Voluntary Project**

### **Call for Expressions of Interest**

#### **European Mayors' Early Years Alliance**

#### **Working Group on Neighborhood Adaptation for a Child- and Family-Friendly Climate Future**

**Chaired by Bratislava Mayor Matuš Vallo and [Capita](#)**

**Mayor Vallo will convene a Mayor's Alliance and working group of thirty cities to address the urgent challenge of scaling climate adaptation projects that explicitly center children's and families' wellbeing.**

**The Alliance Working Group will develop projects in two phases:**

- **Phase 1 is a mentorship and knowledge-exchange network of thirty cities (2024).**
- **Phase 2, ten selected cities will be awarded challenge funding for implementation in years two and three (2025-26).**

**The Alliance and Working Group will be launched at the Start with Children Summit, May 28, 29, 2024.**

#### **Problem Statement**

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to security and stability that humanity has ever faced. Today, in the climate change era, we face more extreme weather events that not only cause day-to-day interruptions to our lives but also have a ripple effect on the lives of families and young children, especially those who have been historically marginalized. Our cities, buildings, and homes must adapt to create environments where young children and families can be safe and healthy and grow to be resilient and flourish.

Threats from climate change are multiplied for infants and young children, yet there is a meager investment in the adaptive capacity of child- and family-serving systems. Building that adaptive capacity has positive spillover effects that build climate resilience and the flourishing of entire communities and societies.

**Too few European cities have climate action plans that comprehensively address neighborhood adaptation, and even fewer adequately address the unique needs children and caregivers have from the built environment as cities warm.**

**Two major opportunities are being missed**

1. **For the rest of our lifetimes, infrastructure loans, grant programs, and the like will be further tied to climate resiliency; the time to build capacities within cities to apply for, manage, and deliver these projects is now.**

- 2. Secondly, the social, moral, economic, and political value of shaping government policy for early childhood and family thriving is well documented by cities who have shown resolute leadership in this regard; more cities need to adopt and lead with this premise.**

### **Premise of Working Group: Building a Pilot to Policy Pipeline**

The premise of the working group is to ask the simple question: If you had to build the evidence to make an urban/climate policy change for children and families, what would that pilot project be?

The Mayor's Alliance will lay the foundation for building tangible and replicable models for climate-adaptive physical interventions supporting early childhood care, with a focus on policy change, fostering collaboration among cities along the way.

This effort will bring together city officials, researchers, and donor institutions to address the unique challenges climate change poses to the healthy development of young children and the well-being of their families and caregivers.

By leveraging the expertise and commitment of city leaders, this initiative aims to create lasting impacts and contribute to the global discourse on children's health in the context of urban climate resilience. The alliance will focus on European cities, including the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Eastern Mediterranean.

### **Admission to the Working Group**

Working Group cities will be divided into three “tiers” based on their level of experience. The working group is open to 15 Pact of Free Cities member cities, and 15 external cities by invitation. Pact cities are admitted on a first-come first-served basis.

#### Tier 1

City administrations with a proven track record of implementing local-level climate adaptation projects and/or significant child/caregiver-friendly projects.

#### Tier 2

City administrations with a progressive approach to urban planning and political will for change, but without an explicit framing on children and climate. Ready to be more bold and could use help with where to begin.

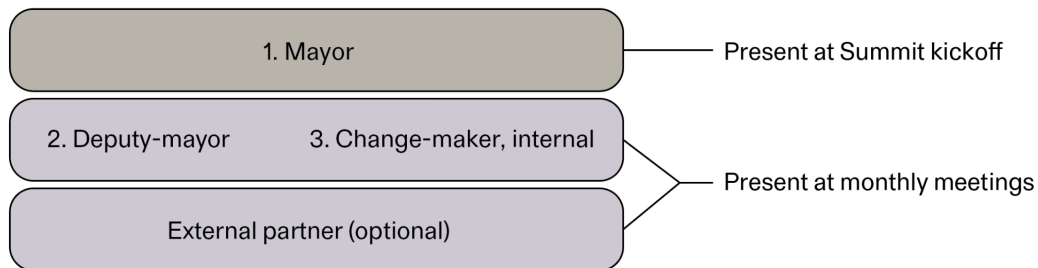
#### Tier 3

Cities that need a little bit of convincing and inspiration, or new administrations who have not yet implemented anything but who are eager to begin.

### **Working Group Team Composition**

The mayor of each city is included in the working group by default, and is encouraged, though not required, to attend regular meetings.

Each working group team will consist of two city representatives, including at least one deputy-level official, and one change-maker from inside the city. Cities may also invite local partners they have established relationships with to develop projects. (though these won't be invited to travel to in-person meetings).



### **Year 1 Working Group Process and Time Expectation**

Teams will be expected to attend one online meeting per month, organized around a theme. Themes will cover Climate Finance, Capacity-Building, ECD Science, Design, Project Development. NB timeline below is all TBC.

#### **May 2024**

Alliance Declaration Signing and Working Group Kick-off at Start with Children Summit

#### **July**

Technical kick-off (online)

#### **September**

In-person meeting in Bratislava

Teams arrive prepared with relevant institutional frameworks

Exchange and Module previews

#### **October – January**

Modules in Finance, Capacity Building, ECD, Design (online)

#### **February – April**

Project writing & feedback & submission (online)

#### **May**

10 Winning cities announced

Successful cities will be awarded a grant sum to implement a pilot project, selected by a jury of experts.

### **Year 1 Outputs**

- Knowledge product on Finance, Capacity Building, & Design
- Podcast series on themes
- Capacity building and cities will have an application-ready project by the end