

PROGRAMME



# World Built Environment Forum - Europe

19 - 20 October 2023

Venice, Italy

[rics.org/wbef](https://rics.org/wbef)

Decarbonising Europe's built environment: a sustainable approach for people, planet and profit



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# About

As a globally recognised professional body, everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environment.

## RICS WBEF

Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

The World Built Environment Forum is an initiative of RICS. We have a formal public interest remit and our work aims to ensure that markets operate in the best interests of society. Our mission is to advance discussions of critical importance to the built and natural environment, inspiring positive and sustainable change for a prosperous and inclusive future.



**WBEF is facilitating an exclusive gathering to discuss the sustainable future of the built environment**

# Venue

## Procuratie Vecchie

Reopened in 2022 for the first time in 500 years

The historical building that was once home to the Procurators of the Venetian Republic, who, in addition to being senior city officials, were also responsible for social issues and looking after the poor. The elegant arches along the Northern edge of St. Mark's square have been silent witnesses to centuries of history, wise programmes of administration, urban renewal, and care for the most vulnerable.

**An example of optimal renovation of heritage built environment to enhance sustainability...**

The restoration of the Procuratie Vecchie was managed by Generali Real Estate on the basis of a project commissioned to David Chipperfield Architects Milan, selected following an international competition to renovate and enhance the prestigious building while respecting its unique historical and cultural heritage. Today, the Procuratie is the new home of The Human Safety Net (the global movement of NGOs, volunteers, and partners, working with people living in vulnerable circumstances so that they can transform the lives of their families and communities).

**Venice – a vision to be the World Capital of Sustainability**

Directly affected by climate change (rising sea levels) and social challenges (mass tourism), the city of Venice, as well as the wider public and private sectors recognise the need to change, and to do so at pace. To realise this vision, there is an ongoing project of promoting an environmental, economic, social and urban planning model for the sustainable development of the city and the Venetian lagoon.





## Event highlights

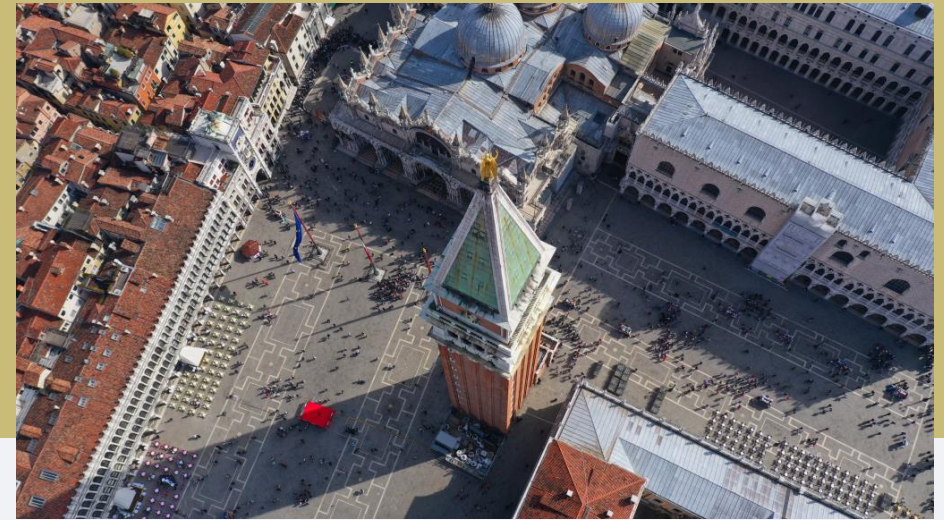
Introducing the first of its kind, RICS World Built Environment Forum Europe is a unique opportunity for our regional members and those who have an interest in the built and natural environments to gather, collaborate and network in Venice.

Directly affected by climate change (rising sea levels) and social challenges (mass tourism), the city of Venice, as well as the wider public and private sectors recognise the need to change, and to do so at pace.

To realise this vision, WBEF Europe will take place at the Procuratie Vecchie, a historical landmark in Piazza San Marco, where we will convene sector leaders from different backgrounds to advance discussions of critical importance and ultimately shape the future of the profession and that of the built and natural environments.

Over 2 half days, participants will build a picture of the effective decarbonisation of the European built environment and sustainable investment practices amidst a global economic downturn that is impacting industry practice and notions of business-as-usual.

At the heart of it, the ESG agenda will be a constant feature throughout the event. To conclude, we will revise what has been discussed across the different sessions and state the next steps to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and prosperous continent.



## Key takeaways

By joining this in-person event, you will be able to network and exchange best practice with peers from across the region, be up to date with the latest industry thinking, trends and forecasts and find out about state-of-the-art solutions to industry-wide challenges.

### Participants can:

- Attend 10 insightful sessions and interact with the speakers
- Gain 7 hours CPD
- Insightful and engaging networking opportunities during the coffee breaks
- Join an exclusive cocktail reception on the evening of day 1

We invite you to be part of an exclusive gathering designed to foster positive long-lasting change

## Programme overview – 19 October 2023

13:00

Registration and networking coffee

14:00 Welcome remarks

14:15 Opening keynote address

### Decarbonisation of the built environment amidst a complex economic outlook

At a time of growing recognition that climate change is having a material impact on all aspects of the property lifecycle, the decarbonisation of the built environment will play a key role in Europe's sustainable future.

Amidst a challenging economic outlook, our opening keynote address will analyse current market conditions, how they are impacting the journey to net zero, and how real estate can help to produce negative emissions.

**Aldo Mazzocco FRICS, CEO, Generali Real Estate**

14:45 Presentation followed by panel discussion

### ESG from a European perspective: Understanding the impact of the legislative and regulatory framework

A presentation highlighting key legislative and regulatory frameworks in the EU which will have an impact on the built environment.

**Aleksandra Njagulj, Managing Director, Global Head of ESG, Real Estate, DWS**

A panel discussion bringing together occupiers, investors, cities, and governments that have a key role to play if we are to reduce CO2 emissions in the context of construction and operation of real estate. Whilst European governments mark the agenda in establishing and adopting sustainable and comprehensive long-term policies, how are the decisions being made impacting the sector? Focusing on the new challenges and opportunities for the real estate industry and the implications for both owners and occupiers, our panel of sector leaders will openly discuss recent legislative changes, sector collaboration, and key actors to consider when making long lasting and impactful decisions.

**Frank Hovorka MRICS, Chair of RICS sustainability panel (moderator)**  
**Lonneke Löwik, Chief Executive Officer, INREV**  
**Dominique Moerenhout, CEO, EPRA**

15:30

Networking coffee break

16:00 Panel discussion

### Towards net zero: Analysing sustainability investment practices, ESG strategies, and beyond

The importance of integrating environmental, social, and governance as well as other factors such as health and wellbeing into investment decisions provide a premium and results in quicker, smarter, and higher sales. And whilst buildings are a key component of financial institutions portfolios, in many cases, green buildings only make up a small proportion. How is the industry changing the trend and how are developers, investors, and financial institutions defining best practice?

**Susanne Eickermann-Riepe FRICS, Chair of the European World Regional Board, RICS (moderator)**  
**Jens Böhnlein MRICS, Global Head of Asset Management and Sustainability, Commerz Real AG**  
**Roger Baumann MRICS, COO, Zurich**  
**Dr Jens Hirsch, Chief Scientific Officer, BuildingMinds**  
**Gloria Brocchi MRICS, Head of Sustainable Investing Management, Southern Europe Region, Generali Real Estate**

17:00 Panel discussion

### Impact of ESG on valuation: Managing transition and physical risks

ESG is increasingly front and centre of investment decisions and now most investors include ESG criteria in investment decisions. What does the interest in sustainable demand mean for future decision making for valuers?

This session provides a practical framework for delivering on sustainability and ESG investigation and reporting requirements in professional valuation advice.

**Sander Scheurwater, Head of Public Affairs AEMEA RICS (moderator)**  
**Joël Scherrenberg MRICS, RICS Chair of Dutch Advisory Board**  
**Adam Targowski MRICS, Group Head of ESG Management, CTP**

18:00 Panel discussion

**How are EU sustainable finance policies impacting the built environment sector?**

The European Union has repeatedly stressed its aim to create, through enabling policy frameworks, the world's first carbon neutral continent. This ambition first took shape in 2019, with the announcement of the Green Deal.

Since then, much existing legislation has been climate-proofed, and a series of new laws introduced, all for the purpose of equipping the bloc for this monumental challenge. Closing day 1, our panel of experts will analyse how latest European Union sustainable finance policies are impacting the real estate and construction sectors.

**Linda Zeilina-Cross, CEO, International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFC) (moderator)**

**Luca Bertalot, Secretary General of the EMF-ECBC**

**Robert Adamczyk MRICS, Senior Environmental Advisor, Environment and Sustainability Department, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

**Prof. Monica Billio, Full Professor of Econometrics, University Ca' Foscari of Venice**

**Dr. Andreas Muschter FRICS, CEO DACH, EDGE Technologies**

18:45

Cocktail and networking evening

## Programme overview – 20 October 2023

08:00

Registration and networking coffee

09:00 *Welcome remarks*

09:15 *Opening keynote address*

### Is Europe ready for the circular economy?

Whole lifecycle appreciation of the built environment's carbon footprint is evolving and whilst circularity is not yet fully mainstream across our industries, much is happening to move our practices in the right direction.

Opening day 2 of WBEF Europe, take this opportunity to revise strategies, priorities and best practices that can be replicated around the European continent.

**Carolien Gehrels, Global Director Energy Transition, Arcadis**

09:30 *Panel discussion*

### Climate resilient cities and infrastructure: Venice's Vision for the future

Transforming the infrastructure of our cities remains key to support the transition to net-zero carbon emissions and whilst the environmental and social benefits are clear, how are we doing so in anticipation of the climate change threat?

With rising sea levels and increasing temperatures, wildfires and droughts, this session will introduce Venice as a case study including discussion about the MOSE project.

**Alessandro Costa, Director General, Venice Sustainability Foundation (moderator)**  
**Prof. Benno Albrecht, Rector, Università Iuav di Venezia**  
**Caterina Fosci, Partner, Head of infrastructures asset management and Construction, PWC Italy**  
**Hermes Redi, Civil hydraulic engineer & General Manager of Consorzio Venezia Nuova**

10:30

Networking coffee break

11:00 *Presentation followed by panel discussion*

### What is next for Europe: The symbiotic relationship of ESG, data and tech and its role in the transformation of the urban environment

From the use of satellite technology to identify the social impacts of climate change, to the application of thermal imaging in guiding intelligent retrofit decisions, new climate technologies are emerging across the land and property lifecycle. Introducing a panel of tech experts, we explore this rapidly evolving sector. What new applications are emerging? How are these being adopted? And how can this technology be leveraged to support the transition to net zero?

**Hubert Abt FRICS, CEO and CDO of New Work and workcloud24 (moderator)**  
**Christopher Frost-Tesfaye, Space Applications Engineer, European Space Agency**  
**Erik Landry, Director of Climate Change, GRESB**

11:45 *Panel discussion*

### Sustainable placemaking in a resilient, net zero world

Striking the balance between dense, low-impact urban development and liveable, affordable, inclusive, green, and human-friendly city environments has never been more pressing. It highlights the need for affordable and sustainable retrofit solutions as well as addressing 'place-making' with people, in communities within cities.

**Sven Bienert MRICS, Director, Competence Center of Sustainable Real Estate, University of Regensburg**  
**Michele Monterosso MRICS, Managing Director and Global Construction Lead, ING**  
**Philippe Parlange, Head of Client Delivery and Member of the Executive Committee, Deepki**

12:30 *Closing remarks from conference chairperson*

12:45

End of conference

PROGRAMME



We look forward to  
welcoming you.

Book to attend here:

[RICS World Built Environment  
Forum – Europe](#)