

**ITACUS SPECIAL SESSION 2023, MC3 Hall, Wed. 17 May 2023, 08:30-10:30 am**

## THE WAY FORWARD

Where are we heading with underground space? How can cities utilize the subsurface in a way that contributes to resilience and sustainable development? How do we get other organisations and even countries to think deep? How do we get young professionals involved? What can we learn from isolated outer space habitats that need to be self-sustaining to survive? Just some of the questions that will come up during a lively ITACUS special session led by Antonia Cornaro and Han Admiraal, co-chairs of the ITA Committee on Underground Space.

## Programme

8:30 – 8:45	Opening of the special session with guests and presenters joining the moderators on stage for a first lively conversation.
8:45 – 9:15	<b>Advocacy and capacity building</b> Learn how the ITACUS National Actions Think Deep Programme (NATDP) is leading to activities at national level focusing on advocacy and capacity building. Joining us will be AG 4, NATDP lead Abidemi Agwor (Nigeria), Vince Rono (Kenya) and Her Excellency Ogunimi Akinkugbe, the Nigerian Ambassador to Greece. We will hear about the setting up of Think Deep Kenya and the ROWGA Think Deep Programme for Cities that was setup in Nigeria. Two students who won the essay competition will join us live from Lagos, Nigeria.
9:15 – 9:45	<b>Future think</b> Veronika Petschen, Managing Director of SCAUT, the Swiss Centre for Applied Underground Technology and Michael Kompatscher, Managing Director of Hagerbach Test Gallery will join the conversation on the way forward. By bringing in examples of how industry can be challenged and involved in finding new ways forward. Whether it is developing new energy solutions or designing a Mars habitat, what role can underground space play in this? Can we translate what is needed for outer space to solutions for our own planet?
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Collaboration and knowledge building</b> Developing underground spaces requires collaboration between professionals from various disciplines. The Young Professionals' Think Deep Programme (YPTDP) aims at achieving this through hands on weeklong workshops. Our most recent one was held in Gdansk, Poland. AG 1, YPTDP co-lead Petr Salak (Israel), WG11 animateur Marcel 't Hart (the Netherlands) and Konstantinos Karantzoulis (Greece) will report back and talk about this unique way of creating multidisciplinary solutions for urban challenges.
10:15 – 10:30	Antonia Cornaro and Han Admiraal will wrap-up the special session with audience participation and give their view on key takeaways.

## Audience participation

The ITACUS Special Session 'The Way Forward' aims at holding a conversation not just on stage but also with the audience. As a committee we are passionate about underground space and look forward to sharing this passion and our knowhow with you during this session. Do join us and be part of a growing movement to create an urban underground future and to appreciate why the NEXT LEVEL UP IS DOWN.