



Sustainable Cities Platform



Belgium
partner in development

Multi-level governance for sustainable cities :

Concepts, roles and courses of action

24 October 2024

Interprétation / interpretation / interpretación

FRENCH

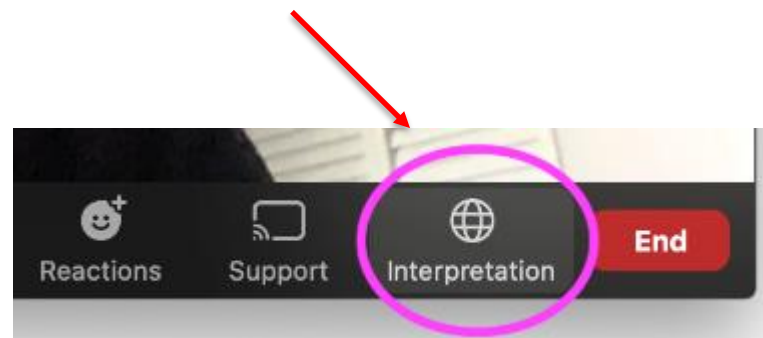
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Agenda

Duration	Subject	Communicators
3 min	Technical support (interpreting, microphones)	Bernadette Ouattara, Rikolto
7 min	Presentation of the Sustainable Cities Platform and the concept of virtual seminars	Karlien Gorissen, VVSG
20 min	The role of multi-level governance in the transition to sustainable cities	Jean Bossuyt, ECDPM
15 min	Results of the survey on multi-level governance for the transformation towards sustainable food systems	Charlotte Flechet, Rikolto
12 min	Questions and answers	Bernadette Ouattara, Rikolto
3 min	Conclusion and presentation of forthcoming webinars	Bernadette Ouattara, Rikolto

SUSTAINABLE CITIES PLATFORM



VVSg

Association of
Towns and
Municipalities
of Flanders



BRULocalis

Association of
Towns and
Municipalities
of Brussels



UVCW

Association of
Towns and
Municipalities
of Wallonia



RIKOLTO

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**ECHOS
COMMUNICATION**

NGO

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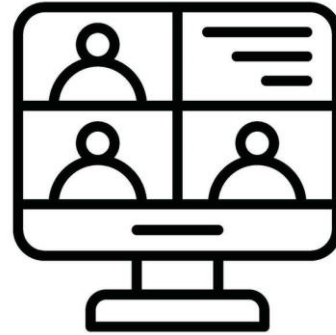
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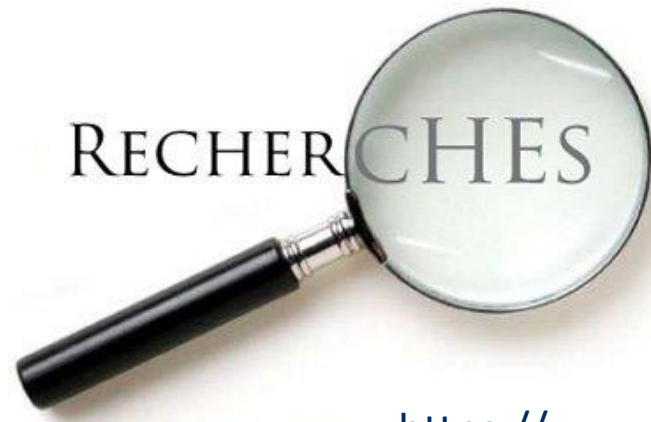
**WORLD
URBAN
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TWELFTH SESSION



CAIRO, EGYPT | 4–8 NOVEMBER 2024



Webinar



<https://www.vvsg.be/kennisitem/vvsg/plateforme-villes-durables>

A series of 3 seminars



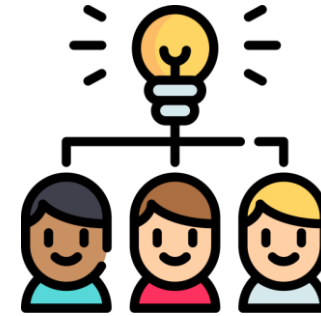
24/10

Session 1:
Multi-level
governance for
sustainable
cities



07/11

Session 2:
Practical examples
of multi-level
governance for
sustainable cities



25/11

Session 3 per
language group:
Actions to mobilise
national authorities
around the theme of
"Sustainable Cities".

Speakers



- **Jean Bossuyt**, Director of the Inclusive Governance and Accountability Team, ECDPM



- **Charlotte Flechet**, Director of the international Good Food for Cities programme, Rikolto

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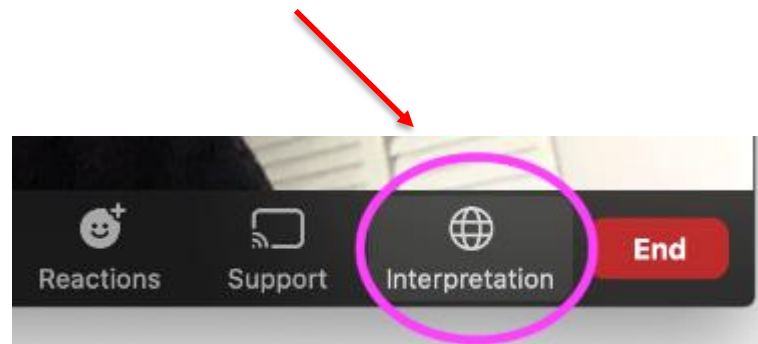
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Role of the **Multi-level governance**
in the transition to sustainable cities

Jean Bossuyt- ECDPM

Platform sustainable cities
Webinar on:
"Multilevel governance for sustainable cities
24 October 2024

Presentation by Jean Bossuyt
(former staff of ECDPM and chair Flemish NGO-Federation)

Welcome in the world of multilevel governance...

An abstract concept ... but with great importance for cities and citizens.... So what is it all about ?

- It refers to fundamental **changes in the way of exercising authority**, formulating and implementing public policies and ensuring accountability
- Nation-states and top-down governance approaches are no longer fit for purpose to address complex (global) challenges of a systemic nature involving a **wide range of actors / interests operating at various levels**
- Multi-level governance approaches imply **major changes** in mindsets, governance principles (e.g. subsidiarity), processes (e.g. decision-making), working methods (e.g. co-creation) and accountability mechanisms
- ✓ The concept of multi-level governance encounters **challenges and resistances** at implementation level



Different views on how to apply ML governance

- Extensive **literature** on how ML governance is applied in different domains, sectors (e.g. food systems) and contexts (e.g. EU and AU)
- Different **theoretical schools** on ML governance can be distinguished, with major implications for the practice
 - the functional vs. the democratic perspective
 - the vertical vs the polycentric perspective
- Need for a **political economy** approach (= focus on power relations, interests of actors, incentives to change) to effectively engage in ML governance



Why is this whole ML governance debate important / vital for cities?

- Multiple **global** challenges as reflected in the SDG agenda... yet requiring context-specific **local responses** -driven forward by the various territorial actors themselves
- Need for **dialogues and collaborative arrangements** between the various governance levels to ensure coordination and coherence
- Local governments need to be granted **space and autonomy** to be an effective participant in ML governance and make the transition to a sustainable city



What are the key bottlenecks for effective collaboration between central-local governments?

- **Legacy** of centralized, top-down governance, underpinned by control-oriented public administration
- Political **competition** for power and resources
- **Incomplete decentralization** reforms that reduce the ability of municipalities to exercise their general mandate to the benefit of their local constituencies
- **Local state capture** (reproducing governance models used by the centre)
- **Lack of territorial vision** and agency by cities / local actors (weak demand)
- **External agencies** (e.g. EU) reinforcing the dominance of centralized governance



What are the factors that can induce better collaboration?

- Effective **advocacy by territorial actors** to be meaningfully included in ML governance (pressure and demands from below)
- Cities taking the lead in developing their own **territorial development** agenda
- Exploiting possible opportunities for **joint action** around common challenges and concrete problems (example Tunisia)
- External agencies creating more **space** for municipalities to be a full-fledged actor in ML governance



Triggers to be activated for improved collaboration

- 1) Exploiting the broad consensus on the need to **localize the SDGs**
- 2) The growing popularity of **territorial development** approaches driven by the local actors -which recognize the need for multi-level collaboration and are less threatening for central actors
- 3) Enhancing the **own sources of revenues** of cities
- 4) **City diplomacy** at various levels, including towards external agencies



Specific mechanisms for improved collaboration

- Intergovernmental dialogues (e.g. on fiscal decentralization)
- Sectoral (system-based) dialogues between the various public and private actors
- Problem-driven dialogues at local level around concrete problems, involving decentralized services of the state (in co-creation and co-production)
- Regulatory changes -particularly geared at addressing bottlenecks affecting city performances that find their root at national level
- Empowering national associations of local authorities
- Generating relevant knowledge on how effective multi-level governance could be ensured



Role Platform partners?

- Systematically adopt "multi-actor" and "multi-level" approaches
- Exploit all windows of opportunities to push for an effective integration of cities/local authorities in ML governance
- Support the generation of locally owned territorial development strategies
- Empower partners to think, engage and act in ML governance processes and advocate for an effective inclusion
- Advocate towards external agencies to coherently support the integration of cities in ML governance



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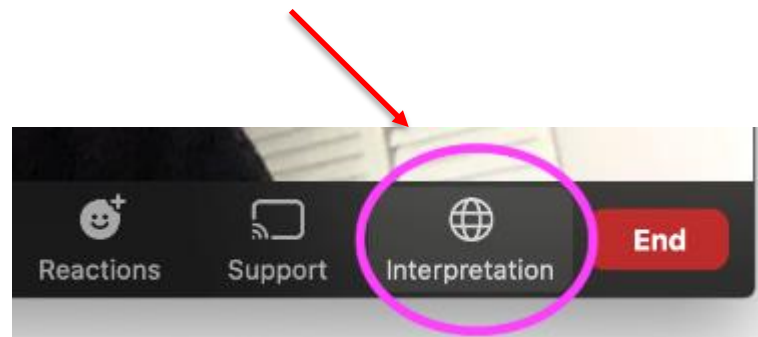
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The Rikolto logo is displayed in white text on the left side of the image. The word "rikolto" is in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "o" is replaced by a stylized white icon of a person with arms raised, set within a circle. The background of the entire slide is a close-up photograph of several pairs of hands of different skin tones cupping a small, vibrant green coffee seedling in a dark pot. The hands are positioned around the plant, symbolizing care and community.

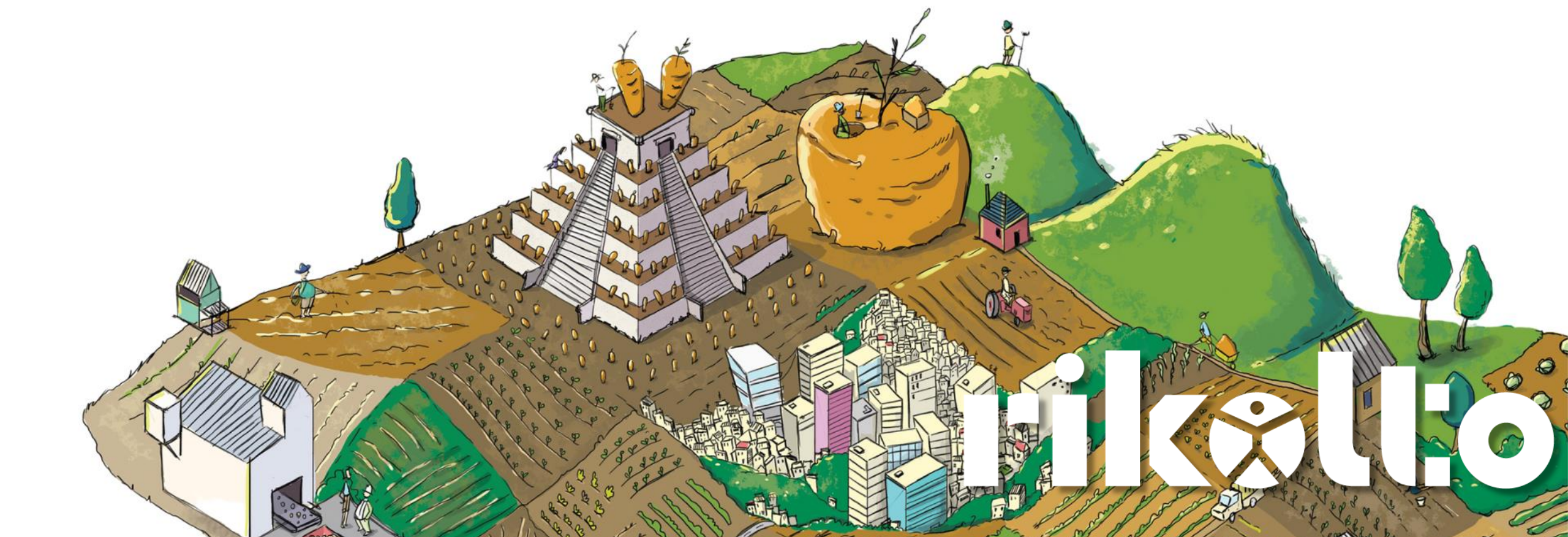
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Results

Surveys

on multi-level governance

Charlotte Flechet - Rikolto



Multi-level governance for sustainable food systems

Sustainable Cities Platform, 24 October 2024

Charlotte Flechet, Good Food for Cities Programme, Rikolto

Who are we?

A **network organisation** with **50 years of** experience and partnership with food system stakeholders in **18** countries

Our mission

A **sustainable income** for farmers, **nutritious** and affordable food for all and **healthy ecosystems**.

Our team

220 colleagues and 3 international programmes: Good Food for cities, sustainable cocoa and coffee, and sustainable rice.

34 partner towns

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An empirical study of multi-country food governance



- Partnership with the FAO and the Urban Food Systems Coalition
- >60 informants
- 7 countries
- Triple objective:
 - Understanding catalysts and constraints
 - Identify mechanisms to improve collaboration between levels
 - Developing guiding principles
- 4 pillars:
 - The coherence of public policies
 - Financing
 - Data and knowledge management
 - Social capital (skills, networks, human resources)



45+ Constraints and catalysts

- Vision and policy framework with a **clear mandate** for local authorities
- Capacity of local authorities to levy **taxes** and control the use of these resources
- **Creative** and well-connected civil servants
- Presence of a central database that is kept up to date and whose information can be disaggregated by territory
- Existence of **networks of local authorities** actively working on food issues.
- Lack of clarity about the **responsibilities of** local authorities
- Insufficient resources to mobilise and maintain **coordination structures**
- **Bureaucratic** and centralised budgetary processes
- Little or no **additional funding** for coordination between authorities
- No mechanism for providing **feedback** to higher authorities
- Lack of **staff specialised** in food systems
- Dependence on **external support** (projects)



10 guiding principles for inclusive and effective



- Ensure that vertical alignment goes hand in hand with **horizontal integration**
- Enabling **data-driven** decision-making
- Integrating food systems into national debates on **decentralisation**
- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each level
- Recognising the **diversity** of socio-geographical **contexts**
- Valuing and integrating different types of **knowledge**
- Recognising that governance is based on **people**

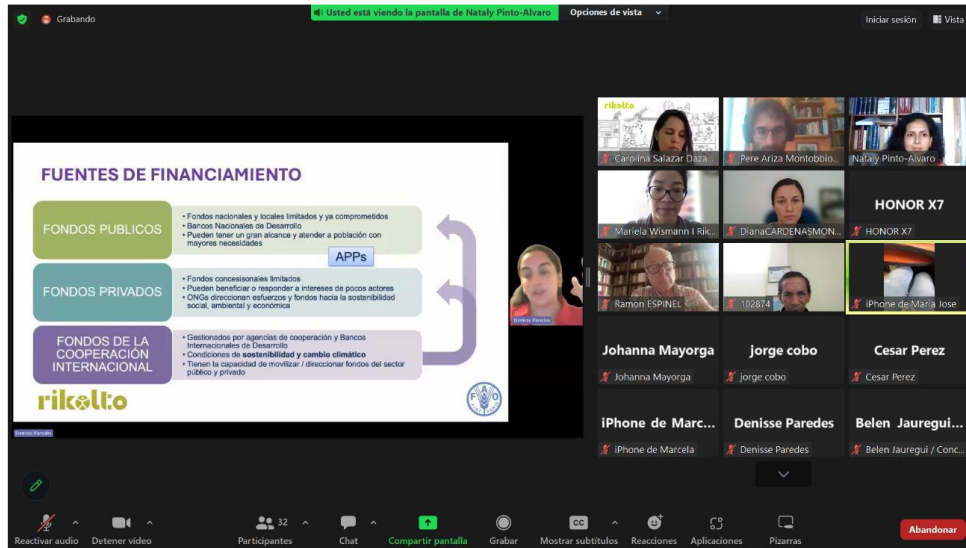


Mechanisms to strengthen multi-level governance

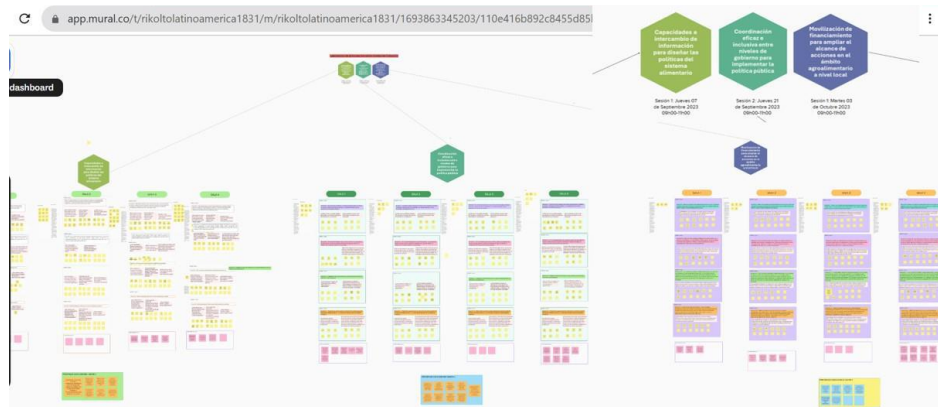
Policy coherence	Financing	Data and knowledge management	Share capital
National food systems strategy/policy	Strengthening decentralisation and financial autonomy	Disaggregated territorial information systems	Appointment of food system focal points
Multi-level dialogue	Creation of national budgets focused on food systems	Capacity building in data management and sensemaking	Local civil servant networks
Creation of multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance forums	Training civil servants to mobilise resources	Setting up a system for monitoring and evaluating food policies	Training on the food system approach



Multi-level dialogues in Ecuador (2023-2024)



- Collaboration between the FAO, the Ecuadorian Association of Municipalities (AME) and Rikolto
- **Objective:** to collectively identify the challenges and opportunities for improving collaboration between different levels in food systems.
- 6 sessions :
 - Policy coordination
 - Knowledge and information management
 - Financing interventions and policies relating to food systems
 - The role of local authorities in the national SAs roadmap
- >80 participants from a wide range of backgrounds
- 22 practical recommendations for improving collaboration between the different levels of government



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Save the date!

Next session: Thursday 07 November - 13:30-15:00 CET

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Next session: Thursday 07 November - 13:30-15:00 CET

Invitation / Invitation / Invitación : see chat



Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.vvsg.be/kennisitem/vvsg/platform-sustainable-cities>

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