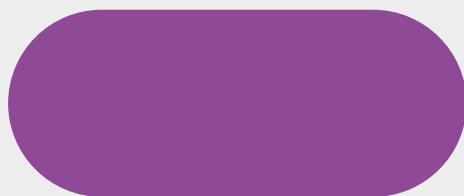


Fondazione IU Rusconi Ghigi is born: innovation for a fairer and more sustainable city

Fondazione IU Rusconi Ghigi is a research and innovation center dedicated to envisioning and shaping the present and future of our city and its communities. Through collaborative approaches and shared experiences, we aim to safeguard and enhance environmental and social resources as common goods.





Our roots are firmly planted in Bologna, extending from the city's neighborhoods to the surrounding hills. From here, we cultivate relationships with other Italian and European cities, with the goal of fostering and promoting new, impactful alliances.

We are committed to integrating the knowledge and expertise inherited from the Fondazione Pietro Giacomo Rusconi, Fondazione Villa Ghigi, and the Fondazione per l'innovazione Urbana, placing these resources at the service of the city. We aim to support and guide the processes of transformation and growth, ensuring a balanced approach to environmental and social sustainability while recognizing the interconnected nature of urban and peri-urban ecosystems.

We encourage democratic participation through active listening, dialogue, and experimentation of new methods and forms of interaction. These tools shape impactful transformation both for the environment and for the well-being of the communities.

We manage spaces and assets for public use, promoting accessibility to green areas, revitalizing disused sites, and encouraging innovative living solutions. In close collaboration with institutions, we strive to enhance the quality of urban life, local services, and the spaces where people and nature coexist, through shared governance and participatory processes.



Five focus areas

We operate across various contexts with the consistent objective of fostering and promoting change in social justice. We aim at contributing to the creation of well-being and shared opportunities.



We support the implementation of major urban transformations that will reshape the city and its overall livability. This includes projects such: Città 30 Project aimed to reduce the speed limit across most urban areas to 30 km/h; the new tram line; the regeneration of areas like the former Scalo Ravone; a new extension of the “Città della conoscenza” (City of Knowledge); Museo dei bambini (Children’s Museum) in the Pilastro district; the cycle-pedestrian



Public



space

route of the Via della Conoscenza.

Furthermore, to enhance urban livability, we are involved in the creation of public squares and new services for school mobility. We are improving the habitability of the historic center - particularly in the university area - and increasing accessibility to public spaces.

We are also engaged in projects that enhance the quality of urban greenery and meet the communities’ needs, thus improving climate resilience.

Our efforts are focused on addressing the ecological emergency within urban transformation processes, protecting biodiversity, and regenerating landscapes as key components of local identity. We manage green spaces such as Villa Ghigi Park and Prati di Mugnano, and we design educational programs and training courses for individuals of all ages. These initiatives concentrate on urban environmental sustainability and involve schools, families, public



Nature



administrations, and universities.

Our engagement spans various initiatives, including the Aula Didattica at Parco Grosso and the Environmental Education Laboratory at Villa Scandellara, in addition to outdoor educational activities such as summer camps, guided walks, trekking, and adventure stays.

We support the development of knowledge-based processes and the ethical use of digital tools and data. Bologna's **Digital Twin** project exemplifies this approach: science and knowledge serve as foundational pillars guiding urban and metropolitan policy-making. As a Foundation, we advocate for the civic application of these tools to better understand the needs of citizens, fostering new forms of participation. We have established the **Urban Innovation Lab**,



Urban digital democracy

a physical and digital space located in the heart of Bologna, where citizens can engage with and contribute to the ongoing urban transformations that are reshaping the city.

In addition, we collaborate on the development and management of the Municipality of Bologna's **Partecipa** portal, and we experiment with digital tools designed to promote civic engagement, blending digital and physical proximity.

We are committed to redefining collaboration between citizens, institutions, third sector organizations, and the diverse actors dedicated to urban well-being. Our work is an ongoing and open laboratory for scalable experimentation at both local and national levels. Key initiatives include the **Participatory Budget** and **Case di Quartiere (Neighbourhood Houses)**, spaces dedicated to activity planning providing essential open services to citizens on welfare and sustainability.



Social and administrative innovation

Numerous local initiatives have been launched in all neighbourhoods of the city of Bologna to combat social vulnerability and promote cultural opportunities, services, and the open use of public spaces.

We are actively involved in **Bologna Missione Clima**, the city's initiative to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. This effort, which started in 2021, culminated in the presentation of the **Climate City Contract** in 2024. We are committed to raising awareness and encouraging citizens and social organizations to engage in responsible policy-making and sustainable practices. By promoting widespread action, we aim to support this global challenge at both the individual



Climate and ecological regeneration

and community levels.

In this context, we coordinated the city's first **City Climate Assembly**, a democratic initiative involving 100 randomly selected citizens tasked with generating proposals and recommendations on climate policies addressed to the public administration of the City of Bologna.



The governance

The Foundation's management and control model includes five Bodies as outlined in the Statute, each contributing to the Foundation's activities.

The founding members include the **Municipality of Bologna** and the **University of Bologna**. Supporting members include **CAAB - Centro Agro Alimentare di Bologna, BolognaFiere, ACER - Azienda Casa Emilia-Romagna** (Bologna province), **TPER - Trasporto Passeggeri Emilia-Romagna**, and the **Order of Engineers of Bologna**. The **Metropolitan City of Bologna** is an ordinary member.

Our organizational structure is supported by a multidisciplinary team, spread across three main offices located in Via Petroni, Palazzo d'Accursio in Piazza Maggiore, and Villa Ghigi Park.



Let's stay in contact!



Visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter for the latest updates.

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Our actions are grounded in listening and dialogue. Events - held in various formats and across diverse contexts - are vital to our mission. We organize public meetings, initiatives that promote environmental and cultural heritage, educational and training programs, as well as design and planning workshops. These activities provide valuable opportunities for direct and continuous citizen engagement in the decision-making process. Join the laboratory for the city we want.





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