

# Driving change for better cities

**Join [u]s!**

**The call for Action Planning  
Networks in a nutshell**

**Online info session 17 January 2023**

**URBACT**



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# European territorial cooperation programme co-funded by ERDF

Since  
2002



Over  
1000  
cities  
involved



more than  
**150**  
networks

Promoting sustainable urban development in cities

URBACT

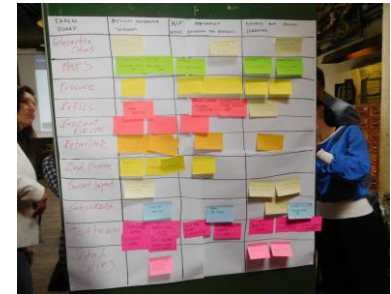


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# URBACT is... driving change for better cities

## With the URBACT Method:

- **Integrated approach** - considering all dimensions of sustainable development
- **Participation in practice** - engagement of relevant stakeholders and citizens
- **Transnational exchange** - connecting cities and learning from peers
- **Tailor-made support** - network experts, methods & tools, learning by doing



# URBACT has... 3 strands of activities

## Networking



Between cities  
Between stakeholders

## Capacity building



Community of  
practice and  
learning

## Communication Knowledge-sharing



Knowledge uptake  
& dissemination



## THE OFFER

URBACT



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## Why apply?

- To get inspired by other cities across Europe
- To develop & implement actions in response to your local challenges
- To strengthen your skills in participatory & integrated policy-making
- To make a difference in your city

✓ **OPEN TO ALL THEMES/ POLICY CHALLENGES** in line with EU Cohesion policy objectives

+ Cross – cutting aspects to be tackled during the journey: Digital transformation, Gender, Green transition

# What to expect?

Exchange & learning  
activities amongst cities



An URBACT  
Local Group

Capacity  
building



Testing actions

Communication  
and visibility



Up to  
EUR 850 000  
per network



An Integrated  
Action Plan

Support by

URBACT  
Experts

URBACT  
Secretariat

National  
URBACT Points

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# Key expected result



## Integrated Action Plan (IAP)



An IAP offers cities a **concrete response** to their policy challenge. The IAP follows an **intervention logic** which aims to **design** and implement **actions based on testing**. The IAP will link the cities actions to the broader **Cohesion Policy funds** to support **long term implementation** and lasting change.





# How?

By providing a *safe space* with 31-month *step by step* journey



- Designing customised methodology for network exchange and learning
- Setting up URBACT Local Groups

- Exploring solutions, practices, case studies and providing inspiration
- Engaging stakeholders by testing and co-designing actions

- Focusing on operationalisation by drawing lessons from testing activities
- Identifying the necessary and possible resources for specific actions

- Celebrating and sharing future prospects of “Ready to implement” Integrated Action plans.



PROGRAMME  
SUPPORT



Network experts



URBACT Toolbox



Digital



Gender



Green



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## Apply to the URBACT call for Action Planning Networks!

Open: 9 January till 31 March  
2023 at 15:00 CEST

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# [Open to all policy challenges

- In line with EU Cohesion policy objectives
- The identification of the policy challenge to be addressed in the network is an initial key step when preparing an application

+ Cross – cutting aspects to be considered in the proposals:



GREEN TRANSITION



GENDER



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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# Network composition

Mainly cities from:



& Switzerland, Norway  
Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina,  
Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia

8-10 Partners



*Lead Partner*

Learn more on :  
[urbact.eu/get-involved](http://urbact.eu/get-involved)

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# Main beneficiaries

## « CITIES » :

- **Cities, municipalities, towns**
- **Local agencies defined as public or semi-public organisations** set up by a city
- **Infra-municipal tiers of government** such as city districts and boroughs
- **Metropolitan authorities** and **organised agglomerations**

*No limitations in terms of size and population*

## « NON - CITIES » :

- **Universities and research centres, Provincial/ Regional authorities, Managing Authorities (EU Cohesion and solidarity funds)**

## Institutions from:

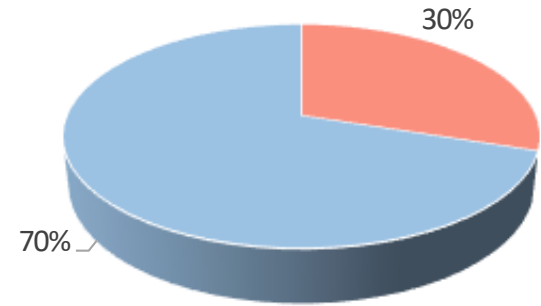
1. **27 EU Members States**
2. **Partner States** (Switzerland and Norway)
3. **IPA countries** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)\*
4. **Other countries** (but on own costs)

*\*5 IPA countries novelty – check carefully if the legal framework is fully set and in place in a particular IPA country*

# Partnership eligibility requirements

- ✓ **2 “non-city partners”** allowed per network
- ✓ **A beneficiary** can be a partner in **max. 2 approved networks**
- ✓ **A city can be a candidate Lead Partner of one Action Planning Network proposal only** (but can be additionally a Project Partner in another network)
- ✓ **Only cities from the 27 EU MS can be Lead Partners** under this call
- ✓ **A partnership** must include **partners** from **at least 7 different countries**

Partnership balance



- More Developed Regions
- Less Developed Regions & Regions in Transition

*Partners from non-EU countries not counted in this geographical coverage of EU region types*

# Financial resources for the network

- Network budget:**  
Up to EUR 850 000  
(total incl. local co-financing)

**+ Additional resources for expertise fees:**

Up to 170 days of expertise = EUR 144 500

(paid by the programme directly)

| Region type                                 | Co-financing rate                     |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Partners from EU « more developed regions » | Up to 65% by ERDF                     |
| Partners from EU « transition regions »     | Up to 70% by ERDF                     |
| Partners from EU « less developed regions » | Up to 80% by ERDF                     |
| Partners from Norway*                       | Up to 50% by Norwegian national funds |
| Partners from Switzerland*                  | Up to 50% by a Swiss national fund    |
| Partners from IPA countries*                | Up to 95% by IPA Funds                |
| Partners from other countries               | Participation at own costs            |

*\*Information around the conditions to participate have to be checked with the national authorities concerned.*

# Find Partners!

## Use the URBACT Partner Search Tool:

- Submit your network idea
- Look for partners
- Find a network idea to join

**+ You can reach out to your National URBACT Points**



Join [u]s!

Go to the URBACT Partner Search Tool and submit your idea!

[urbact.eu/partnersearchtool](http://urbact.eu/partnersearchtool)

**ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS**

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The graphic features a central circular logo with the text 'ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS' and a network diagram. It is set against a red background with a large blue speech bubble containing the main text and URL. The URBACT logo and European Union funding information are at the bottom.



# Where to start with the application?

## Main documents:

- ✓ Terms of Reference
- ✓ Guide for applicants
- ✓ Programme Manual

All available at:

[urbact.eu/get-involved](https://urbact.eu/get-involved)



# [Some Hints and Tips

- Go carefully through the **application form outline** document and the **eligibility & assessment criteria in the Terms of References**
- Check all the aspects for building a **successful proposal** set out in **the Guide**
- **Consult FAQ at [urbact.eu/get-involved](https://urbact.eu/get-involved)**
- **Cannot find what you are looking for? Contact [apn@urbact.eu](mailto:apn@urbact.eu)**

# **Submission procedure** (Lead partners responsibility)

## 2 steps required to submit your application:

### 1 - Online submission of the application form through the SYNERGIE-CTE system in English **by 31 March 2023 at 15:00 CEST**

- *information on the SYNERGIE system outlined in the Guide to SYNERGIE (available soon on [urbact.eu/get-involved](http://urbact.eu/get-involved))*

### 2 - Send the application package by email to [APN@urbact.eu](mailto:APN@urbact.eu) by **3 April 2023 at 15:00 CEST**

- *including scan of the signed PDF of the application generated through SYNERGIE-CTE, signed letters of commitment and all additional requested documents*

# [ Assessment process

- **Assessment of Action Planning Network proposals will be carried out by the External Assessment Panel based on the assessment criteria**
- **Formal approval by the Monitoring Committee: end of May 2023**

Approved networks' starting date: 1 June 2023

# Selection of a network Lead expert

- ✓ **Three network Lead expert candidates to be proposed from the URBACT pool of experts AFTER APPROVAL** based on the identified expertise needs and defined criteria for selection provided in the application form
- ✓ **URBACT Secretariat will check overlaps and suitability of experts in coherence with the Application form**
- ✓ **Final selection agreed with the Lead partner based on the interview with candidates**

*The Pool of URBACT validated experts will be populated in the upcoming months.*



# Join [u]s for the next online info sessions!

- **17 January**, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: **APN call in a nutshell**
- **19 January**, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: **How to build a strong partnership for an Action Planning Network**
- **7 February**, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: **Exchange and learning during the network journey**
- **7 March**, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: **Time to submit your application - tech & troubleshooting**

Details: [urbact.eu/get-involved](https://urbact.eu/get-involved)

Contact: [apn@urbact.eu](mailto:apn@urbact.eu)



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ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS

Online info session:  
How to build  
a strong partnership

19 January 2023  
10:00 - 11:00 CET

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# Join your National Info Session!

Find out info days  
in your country on:  
[urbact.eu/get-involved](https://urbact.eu/get-involved)

## NATIONAL INFO DAYS

Have a look at the events National URBACT Points are organising in your countries and languages to present the call! Save the date for the national Info Days:

- BELGIUM: [17 January, Brussels, from 14:00 to 17:00 CET](#)
- CROATIA: [18 January, from 11:00 to 13:00 CET, online event](#)
- CZECHIA: from 18 January to 16 February, a series of events in Czech regional centres
- ESTONIA: [12 January, Tallinn](#)
- FINLAND: 7 February, Helsinki
- FRANCE & LUXEMBOURG: 31 January and [1 February, Paris](#)
- GERMANY & AUSTRIA: [19 January, online event](#)
- GREECE & CYPRUS: 17 January from 10:00 to 16:00, Athens
- IRELAND: [31 January, Dublin](#)
- ITALY: 23 January, Rome
- LATVIA: 26 January, online event
- NETHERLANDS: [24 & 31 January, The Hague](#)
- PORTUGAL: 2 February, Amadora, Lisbon Metropolitan Region
- ROMANIA: 27 January, online event
- SLOVENIA: [26 January, online event](#)
- SPAIN: [8 & 9 February, Vic](#)

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# URBACT in real life



*"Thanks to the plurality of ideas and experiences we offered each other, out-of-the box thinking and the use of unconventional methods to work on our SUMP, we all grew richer in terms of knowledge and capacities and became friends by our joint work."*



*"Being part of the URBACT community gave us the opportunity to meet with and learn from many like-minded cities across Europe. It also raised our profile as a medium-sized city and enabled us to share our experience of progressive procurement in a way that would not have been possible without our participation in the URBACT programme."*



*"URBACT is offering concrete tools to work with on local level - very useful. Also inviting & sharing the experiences of networks and cities with good practices is highly useful - a good example is the best way to learn."*



# Join [u]s! Together we drive change for better cities 😊



*“It will be remembered as an opportunity to experiment and explore. Communities will remember the fun events that brought people together. Institutions will be affected by changes in ways of working.”*

THANK [u] FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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MORE INFORMATION AT  
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