

# Driving change for better cities

**Innovation Transfer Networks**

**How to build a strong partnership**

Online Info-session - 23 January 2024

**URBACT**



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

# Who's in the Zoom?



# PARTNERSHIP

- Programme introduction
- Eligibility requirements
- How to build the partnership

European Territorial Cooperation Programme co-funded by ERDF  
Promoting sustainable urban development in cities

Since  
2002



Over  
**1000 cities**  
involved



more than  
**150**  
**networks**

# URBACT has... 3 strands of activities

## Networking



Between cities  
Between stakeholders

## Capacity-Building



Community of practice  
& learning

## Communication Knowledge-sharing



Knowledge uptake &  
dissemination

## Three types of networks



**Cities and local stakeholders** co-produce an Integrated Action Plan to tackle their common policy challenges.



**Cities** share and adapt a successful Good Practice that has already been implemented in their Network's lead city.



**Cities** adapt the experience of a successful Urban Innovative Actions' project and develop an investment plan to implement it.



## Apply to the URBACT call for Innovation Transfer Networks!

Open: 10 January 2024

Close: 20 March 2024 at 15:00 CET

**URBACT**



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the European Union  
Interreg



## Network composition

5 to 7 Partners including the Lead Partner

Mainly cities from:



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



*Lead Partner*

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



# Eligibility requirements

## Partnership - Eligibility requirements

### Who is the Lead Partner?

- ✓ Only cities having implemented a project funded under Urban Innovative Actions (2016-2023) can be Lead Partners
- ✓ A city can be a candidate Lead Partner of one Innovation Transfer Network proposal only (but can be additionally a Project Partner in another network)

# Lead Partner role and responsibilities

Lead Partners are key actors of transnational partnerships for Innovation Transfer Networks.

They have full responsibility for:

- ✓ **network management,**
- ✓ **coordination of activities among the transnational partners, and**
- ✓ **implementation of the work programme.**

The Lead Partner also bears **financial and legal responsibility and liability** for the whole partnership towards the Managing Authority.

**Lead Partners complete and submit the Application form and all requested documents to the URBACT Joint Secretariat**

## Partnership - Eligibility requirements

Who can be a  
Project Partner?

- ✓ City or non-city partner who answer the eligibility requirements

# Partnership - Eligibility requirements

## City? Non-City?

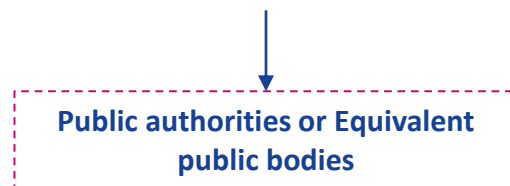
### « CITIES » :

- **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)**



## Partnership - Eligibility requirements

- ✓ A **beneficiary** can be a partner in **max. 2 approved networks**
- ✓ A **partnership** cannot include **more than one partner from the same country**
- ✓ **1 “non-city partner”** allowed per network
- ✓ **Geographical balance**

In case you have a doubt about a  
potential partner's eligibility  
→ Contact [ITN@urbact.eu](mailto:ITN@urbact.eu)

## Partnership - Eligibility requirements

Which countries  
can participate?

### Institutions from:

1. **27 EU Members States**
2. **Partner States** (Switzerland and Norway)
3. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia (countries benefitting from the **Instrument for Pre-Accession** to the EU)



### What is the Geographical balance?

#### EU Regions balance

- *Partnership of 5 to 6 partners:* minimum of 3 partners from Less Developed and Transition EU Regions
- *Partnership of 7 partners:* minimum of 4 partners from Less Developed and Transition EU Regions

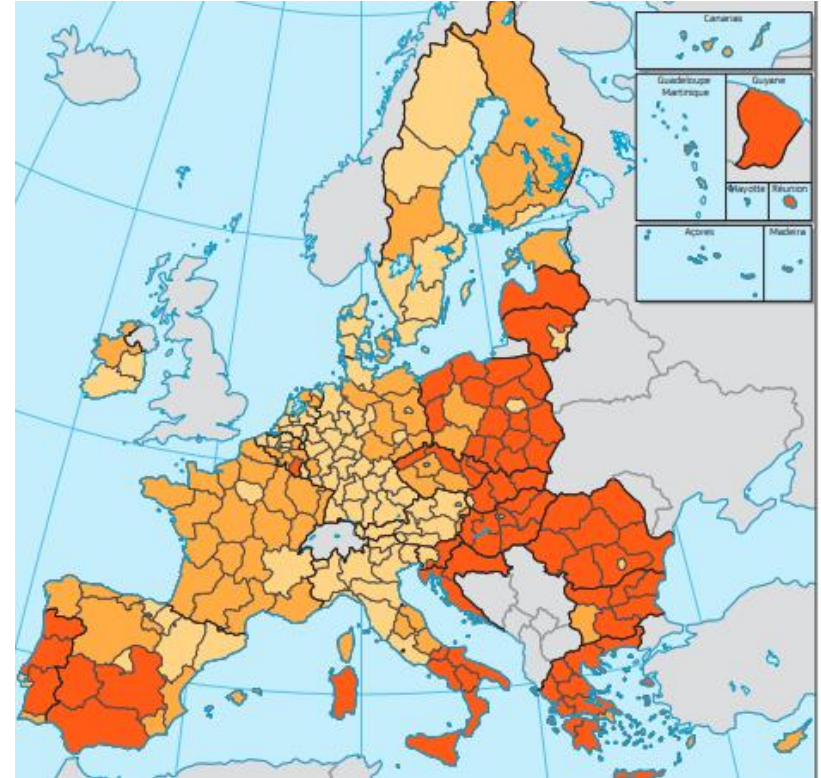
# Partnership - Eligibility requirements

Check the status of your EU Region:

→ [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/graph/poster2021/eu27.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/graph/poster2021/eu27.pdf)

In case you have a doubt

→ Contact [ITN@urbact.eu](mailto:ITN@urbact.eu)



## Partnership - Eligibility requirements

What is the  
Geographical  
balance?

>>> To complete the partnership:

- Partners from all types of EU Regions (More developed, in transition or less developed)
- Partners from Norway, Switzerland and IPA Countries (Max. 1 per partnership!)

>>> In terms of assessment, it is recommended to build a diverse partnership, also involving partners from more developed countries

# Partnership - Eligibility requirements

## Summary

- **5 to 7 partners** (Lead Partner included)
- Lead Partner only from **UIA-funded cities (2016-2023)**
- Project Partner can be **CITY** or **NON-CITY**
  - If **non-city**, **max. 1** per network allowed
- Project Partner in **max. 2 approved networks**
  
- **Each partner from a different country**
- **Partners from all types of EU Regions:**
  - Thresholds of **Regional Balance**
    - Partnership of 7: **minimum of 4** partners from Less Developed and Transition EU Regions
    - Partnerships of 5 or 6: **minimum of 3** partners from Less Developed and Transition EU Regions
  - **Max. 1 from IPA or Switzerland or Norway** per network

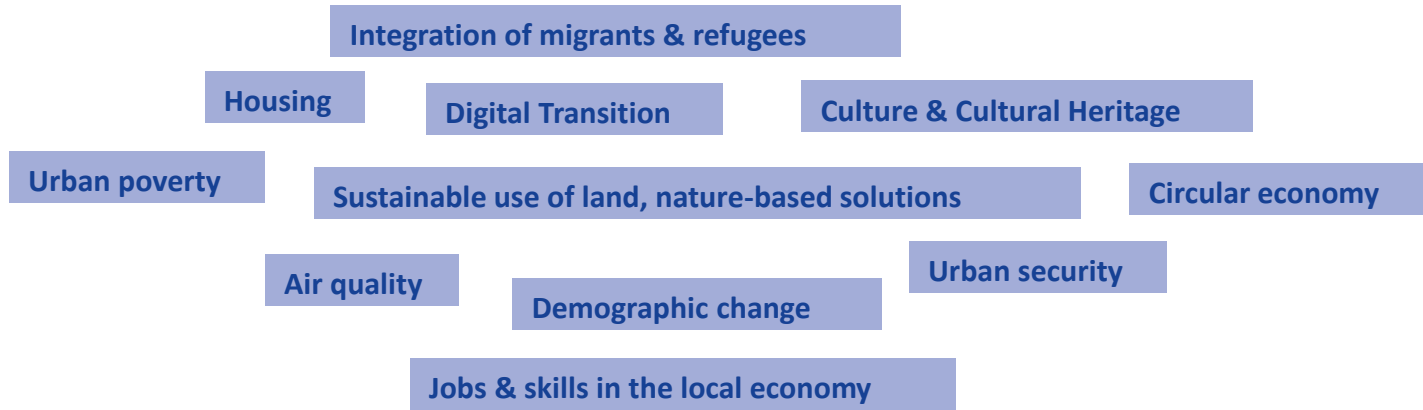
Questions?



# How to build the partnership?

# If you are a candidate Project Partner...

... Find your **Lead Partner** and the practices to be transferred in the **URBACT Partner Search Tool** <https://urbact.eu/partnersearchtool>





## [ If you are a candidate Lead Partner...

1. ... you will be contacted by interested Project Partners through the Partner Search Tool
2. ... don't hesitate to reach out to the **National URBACT Points**  
> [Contacts](#)

# Join your National Info Session!

## 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:

- **Austria**, [31 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Belgium**, [30 January 2024, Brussels](#)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 31 January 2024 at 10.00, more information will follow
- **Bulgaria**, more information will follow
- **Croatia**, [25 January 2024, Zagreb & online](#)
- **Czechia**, [23 January - 8 February 2024, a series of regional sessions](#)
- **Denmark**, 24 January 2024, Copenhagen & online
- **Estonia**, [30 January 2024, Tallinn](#)
- **Finland**, [17 January 2024, Helsinki & online](#)
- **France & Luxembourg**, [25 January 2024, online](#)
- **Germany**, [23 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Greece & Cyprus**, more information will follow
- **Hungary**, [25 January 2024 TBC, hybrid event in Budapest](#)
- **Ireland**, [25 January 2024, Dublin \(Custom House\)](#)
- **Italy**, more information will follow
- **Latvia**, [25 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Lithuania**, [25 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Malta**, [22 January 2024](#)
- **Montenegro**, 7 February 2024, Podgorica, more information will follow
- **Netherlands**, [1 February 2024, The Hague](#)
- **North Macedonia**, more information will follow
- **Poland**, more information will follow
- **Portugal**, [31 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Romania**, more information will follow
- **Slovakia**, [23 January & 6 February 2024, online event](#)
- **Slovenia**, [25 January 2024, online event](#)
- **Spain**, [7-8 February 2024, Fuenlabrada](#)
- **Sweden**, [18 January 2024, online event](#)

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

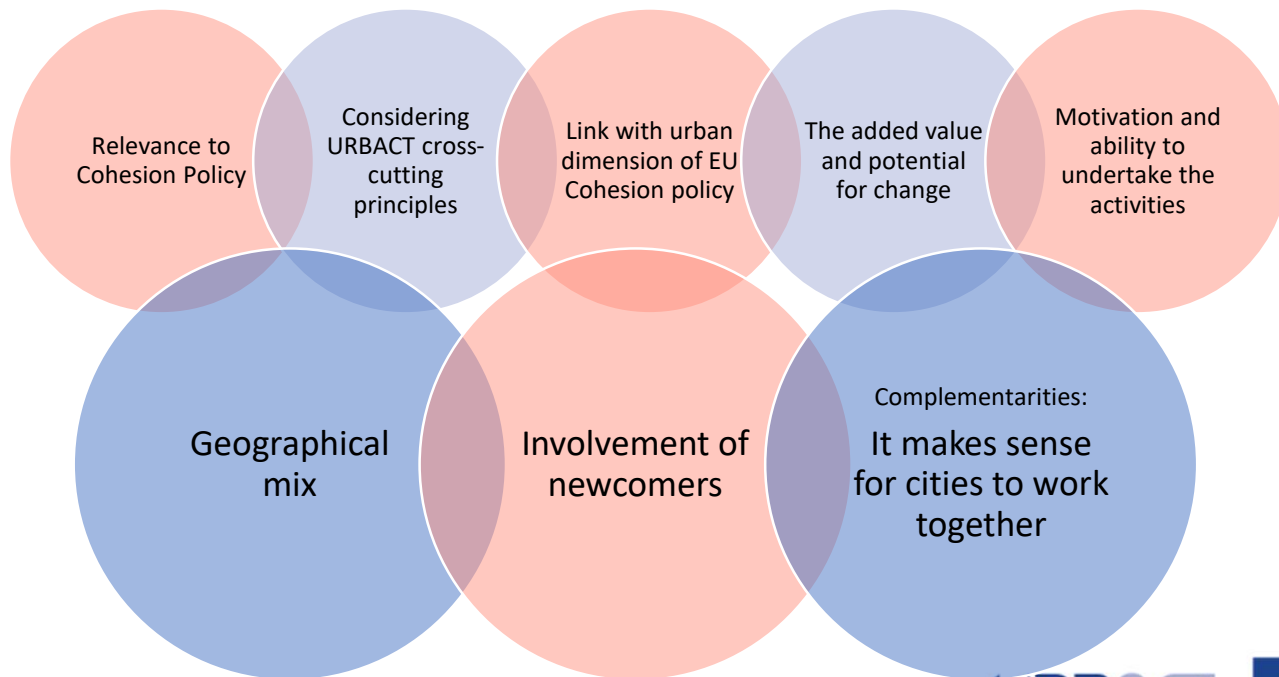


# ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS in partner search

# Keep in mind the ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## Criterion 1: Relevance of the UIA practice and quality of the partnership (20%)

For this criterion, assessors will more especially consider the following dimensions:



# Keep in mind the RELEVANCE

- The challenge addressed is a **priority for all network partners**.
- The **experiences of all network partners are relevant** and will contribute to the learning process of the whole partnership.
- For **certain topics** the **size and positioning of the city** could be important comparable elements for the coherence check of partners' local situations i.e. maritime cities working on maritime issues.
- There is a clear understanding of the **added value** an involvement in an URBACT network will bring to the partner in relation to respective capacity building needs.

# Keep in mind the ELIGIBILITY

- A city can be a Lead Partner in only one network proposal  
(and project partner in another network)
- A city can be a Project Partner in only two approved networks

# Tips for candidate Project Partners

## Demonstrate relevance

- How is the policy challenge relevant for you?
- What is your experience on the topic? (e.g. existing policies, strategies and actions developed by your city in relation to the policy challenge)
- How is your city relevant to adapt and transfer the target innovation?

## Demonstrate motivation

- What is your motivation to join this network?
- What is the added value that URBACT would bring to the city in terms of learning and capacity-building?
- What do you expect from a transnational network?

## Demonstrate commitment

- What could be the scope of the Investment plan to be produced within the framework of the network?
- Which resources (human, time, financial) are you willing to engage?
- Who are you envisioning in the initial URBACT Local Group?
- What is your experience in working through transnational exchange?



# Tips for candidate Lead Partners



Check for multiple commitments of Project Partners



Test the commitment to:

- *Perform expected activities and tasks at transnational and local level*
- *Engage with local stakeholders*
- *Mobilise the resources needed (human, time and financial)*

# Tips for candidate Lead Partners

## Draft a **QUESTIONNAIRE** based on the application form requirements

- Example of Questionnaire template provided in the Guide for Applicants (page 30)
- Test responsiveness
- Analyse profiles (commitment, motivation, needs, added value)
- Gather a shortlist of partner candidates
- Make final selection for the network proposal



Keep the reserve (in case of last minute drop-outs)

# Essential considerations in partner search

## 7 Tips for a great partnership

1. There is no such thing as the “perfect size”
2. Ensure the **geographical balance!**
3. **Welcome newcomers!**
4. Test the commitment
5. Beware of not-responsive partners
6. Connect to the available resources (URBACT Secretariat, National URBACT Points...)
7. Take time to **know the partner**



# Questions?



**What's next?**

# 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)



Cannot find what you are looking for? Contact [itn@urbact.eu](mailto:itn@urbact.eu)

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

- **16 January, 10:00 -11:00 CET: The Innovation Transfer Networks Call in a nutshell**
- **23 January, 10:00 -11:00 CET: How to build a strong partnership for an Innovation Transfer Network**
- **6 February, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: Exchange & learning during the network journey**
- **7 March, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: Time to submit your application - tech & troubleshooting #1**
- **14 March, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: Time to submit your application - tech & troubleshooting #2**

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

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



THANK [u] FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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