

# Driving change for better cities

## Innovation Transfer Networks → The Call in a nutshell

Online Info-session

16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

URBACT



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# Who's in the Zoom?

# 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

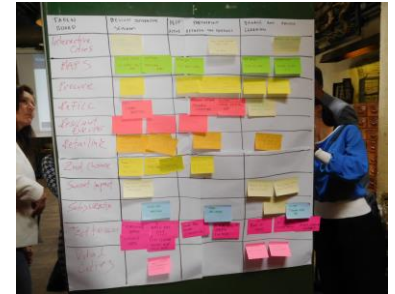


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# URBACT is... driving change for better cities

## 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  
& learning

## Communication Knowledge-sharing



Knowledge uptake &  
dissemination

## Three types of networks



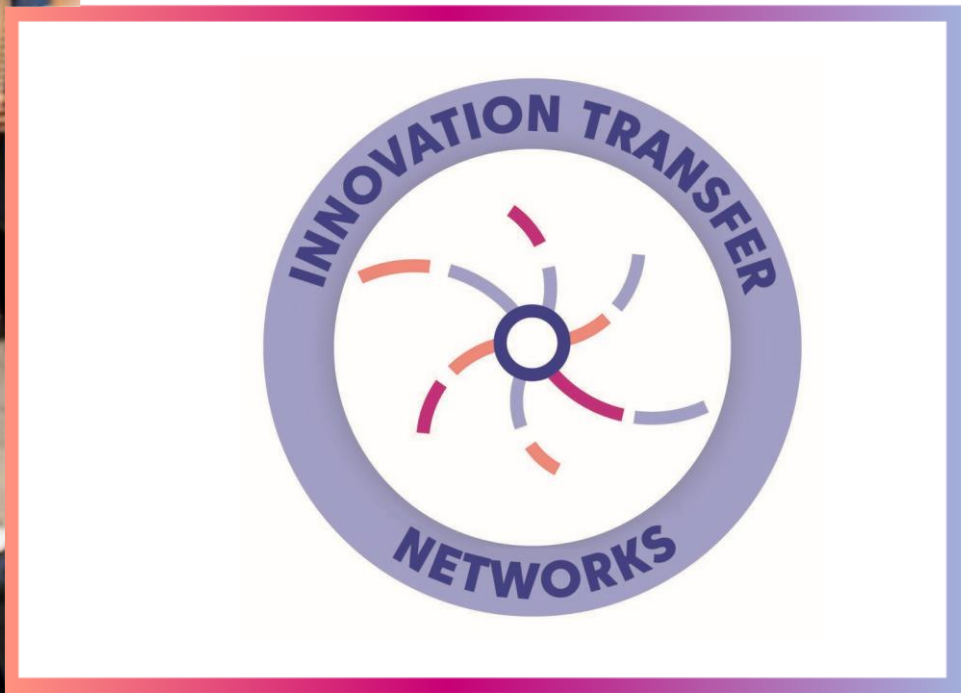
**Cities and local stakeholders** co-produce an Integrated Action Plan to tackle their common policy challenges.



**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.





# WHY APPLY?



## Transfer Cities

- To understand, adapt and reuse a good practice funded under UIA 2014-2020
- To develop an Investment plan to implement this innovative practice
- To make a difference in your city through concrete actions

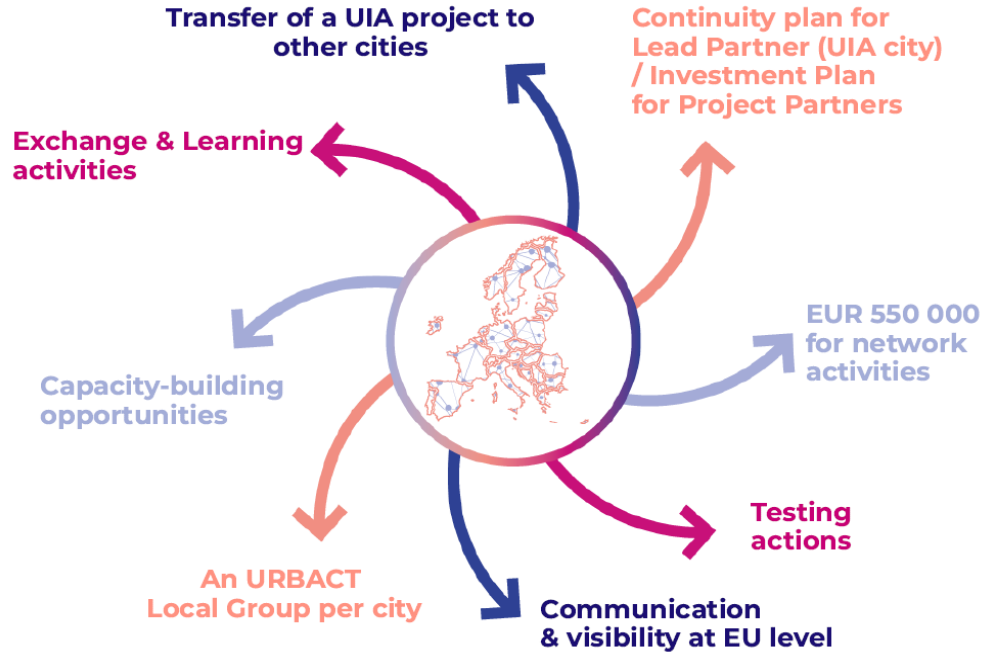


## Lead Partner City

- To further build on the legacy of your UIA project
  - To further develop your innovative solution thanks to the URBACT method & inputs from other EU cities
  - To benefit from visibility & communication activities at EU and national levels
- ✓ Benefit from the support of URBACT experts
  - ✓ Benefit from the involvement of local stakeholders
  - ✓ Enjoy a safe space for experimentation



# What to expect?



**Support by** URBACT Experts URBACT Secretariat National URBACT Points



# How?

## A 24-month 3-stage journey

9/2024

2025

2026

### UNDERSTAND

- Getting a deep understanding of the innovative practice
- Designing the transfer methodology & Exchange and Learning
- Setting up URBACT Local Groups

### ADAPT

- Breaking down the innovative practices into modules
- Focusing on the adaptation of the innovative practice to the local contexts
- Engaging stakeholders with testing actions

### PREPARE FOR RE-USE

- Focusing on finalising plans by drawing lessons from testing activities
- Exploring funding for future implementation



PROGRAMME  
SUPPORT



Network experts

URBACT Toolbox



Digital



Gender



Green

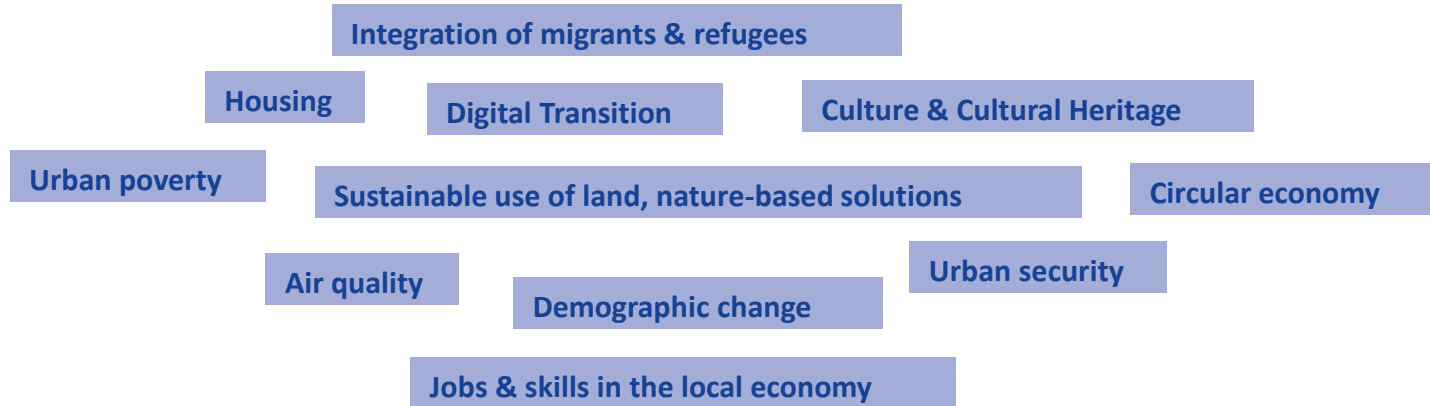


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21 cities with an Innovative Action (2014-2020) have expressed their interest to lead an Innovation Transfer Networks



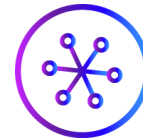
+ Cross – cutting aspects to be considered in the proposals & during the network journey



GREEN TRANSITION



GENDER



DIGITAL TRANSITION



# Questions?





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

Open: 10 January 2024

Closed: 20 March 2024 at 15:00 CET

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# Partnership

## 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)

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# Partnership - Eligibility requirements

- ✓ Only cities with an innovative action (2014-2020) can be Lead Partners under this call
- ✓ **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)
- ✓ **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

## ***EU Regions balance***

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

## **>>> 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**

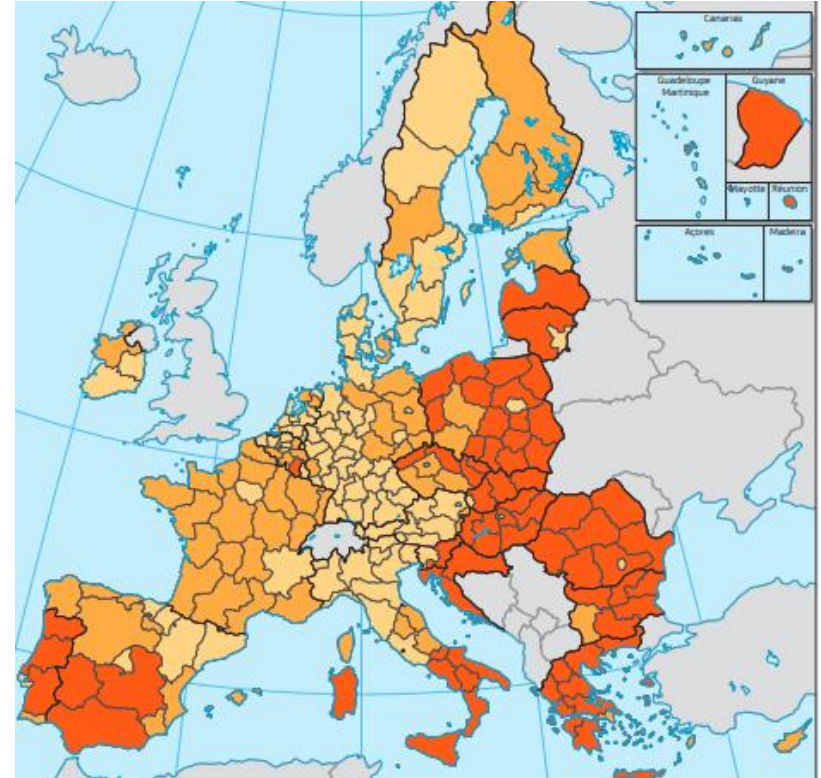
# Partnership - Eligibility requirements

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)





# 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)\*

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

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

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# Financial resources for the network

- Network budget: Up to EUR 550 000**  
(total incl. local co-financing)

**+ Additional resources for expertise fees:**

**Up to 140 days of expertise = EUR 105000**

*(payed 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

# Expertise support

Additional budget of 105 000€ for expertise support  
> Up to 140 expertise days available

- **Network Lead expert** supports the network over the entire duration of the network
- **Several network Ad-Hoc Experts** providing specific support on a particular policy subject, methodology, communications...
- **Experts are selected from the URBACT IV pool of validated experts** available on URBACT website in the upcoming months



# Identification of potential network Lead expert

1. **Expertise needs and criteria for the selection of network experts shall be provided in the application form** based on URBACT expertise framework outlined in the ToR and Guide
2. **Three network Lead expert candidates to be nominated from the URBACT pool of experts in the proposal** (at least 2 different countries and 1 female candidate represented)
3. **Other Experts from the pool** will be invited to express their interest in becoming a Lead Expert of an ITN
4. **URBACT Secretariat will check suitability** in coherence with the Application form
5. **Final selection agreed with the Lead partner based on the interview with candidates**



# 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 **[itn@urbact.eu](mailto:itn@urbact.eu)**

# Submission procedure (Lead partner's responsibility)

## 2 steps required to submit your application:

**1 - Online submission of the application form through the SYNERGIE-CTE system in English **by 20 March 2024 at 15:00 CET****

- *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 [itn@urbact.eu](mailto:itn@urbact.eu) by**

**21 March 2024 at 15:00 CET**

- *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 Innovation Transfer Network proposals will be carried out by the External Assessment Panel based on the assessment criteria
- Formal approval by the Monitoring Committee: **late June 2024**

Approved networks' starting date: 1 September 2024

## Timeline

10 January 2024



Launch of the call  
for networks

20 March 2024



Deadline  
to apply

June 2024



Approval of  
networks

September 2024



Start of network  
activity

August 2026



End of  
network activity





# Questions?



# 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)

# 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)

THANK [u] FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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