

***The European Union,
Cities, Funding & the Urban Agenda***

**Part 3: European support services and
networks for engagement by (smaller) cities**

***Ronan Gingles
EU Affairs & Policy Advisor***



***'Urban Policies in Support of 'Ireland 2040' seminar
22 March 2017***

This presentation

- **The *Urban Agenda for the EU* and its 12 Partnerships**
- **Key EU policy areas and concepts for cities**
- **European support services and networks for engagement by (smaller) cities**
- **European Commission Funding
...and EIB Financing...for cities**
- **Comparative EU/OECD observations for Ireland**

Provided by three Regional Assemblies with DHPCLG support.

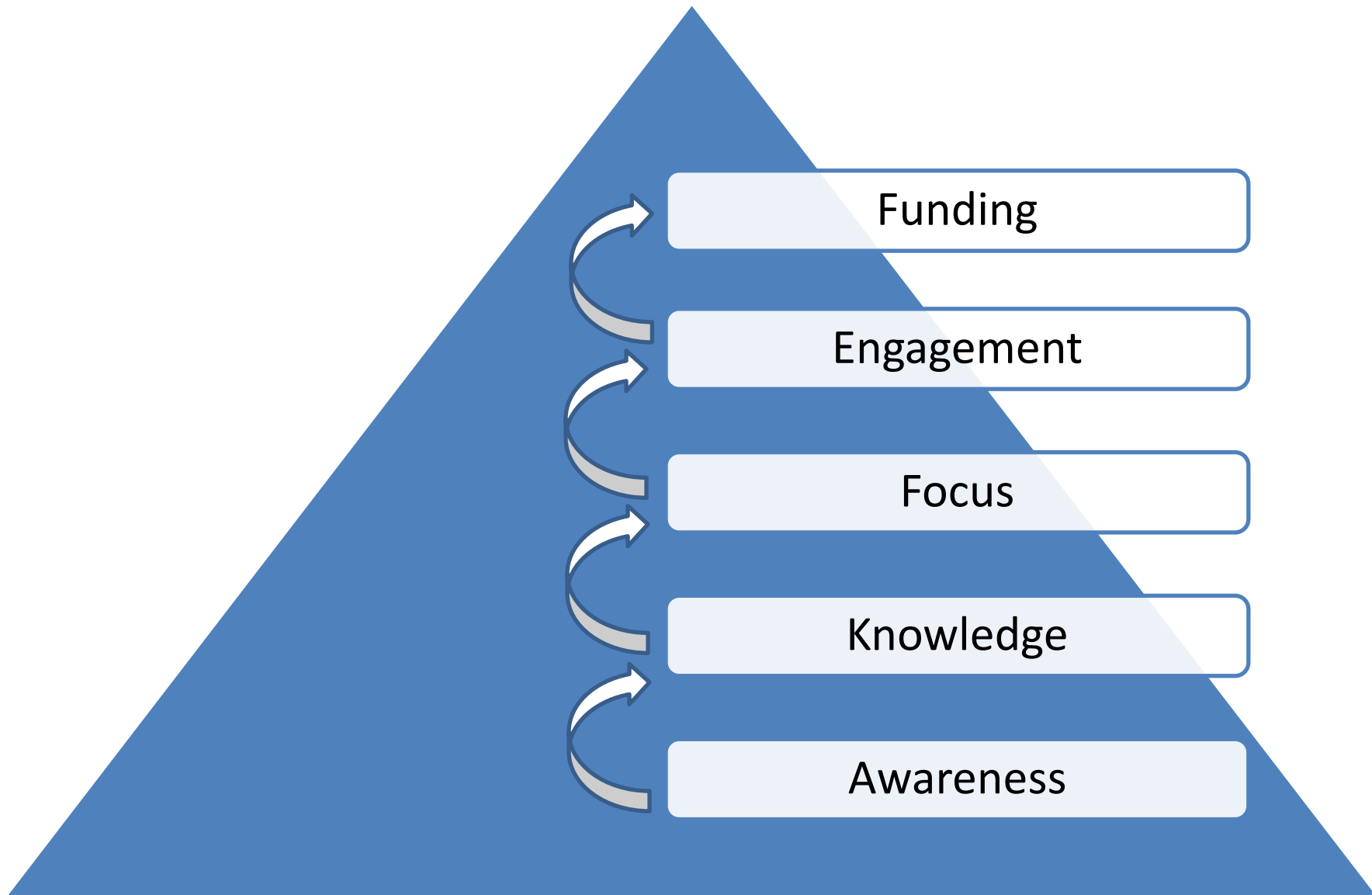
Specialised EU support service for all Local Authorities.

Wide-ranging monitoring, liaison and guidance to inform and facilitate domestic actors' individual and collective understanding of and engagement in European initiatives and activities:

- **Policy Information & Intelligence**
- **EU Funding**
- **Networking, Representation, Promotion & Lobbying**
- **Political Support (Committee of the Regions)**

Only Irish presence among 250+ regional/city representations to EU.
One of few Irish institutions present in Brussels.

Staff of 2.



EC-backed Platforms/Portals

- Market Place of EIP on Smart Cities & Communities
- Smart Cities Information System
- Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities
- ELTIS (urban mobility and related issues)
- CLIMATE-ADAPT
- ManagEnergy (local/regional energy efficiency & renewables)
- BuildUP (Energy Performance of Buildings)
- EPEC (PPP expertise)
- Urban Development Network (ERDF beneficiary cities)
- Startup Europe Regions Network
- European Investment Project Portal (showcase) and Advisory Hub.
- INNOVFIN Advisory (H2020 access to RTDI financing)
- FI-Compass (deploying FIs in ESIFs)

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

EC-backed stakeholder collaboration initiative to establish strategic partnerships between industry and cities to develop the sustainable urban systems and infrastructures of tomorrow.

..by combining **ICT, energy and transport management:**

- Energy and climate performance (targets)
- Improved citizens' quality of life
- Increase competitiveness of industry and innovative SMEs
- help coordinate existing city initiatives/projects, pool resources
- overcome bottlenecks impeding changeover to smart cities.
- support demonstration projects...scalable & transferable solutions

Follows/shapes H2020 SCC initiative calls (Lighthouse projects).*

High Level Group (Strategic Implementation Plan) + “Market Place”



Market Place of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities


Central hub of information (“Stakeholder Platform”) for all those active in Smart Cities projects across Europe.

- Develop and implement integrated smart city solutions.
- Support networking and partnering to accumulate knowledge and facilitate exchange of information.
- Measurable engagement (commitments)
- Action Clusters on 11 specific issues – e.g Sustainable Districts and Built Environment; or Integrated Planning & management – concepts into solutions.

What?

To establish an efficient and effective project implementation and integration platform for small and medium-sized European cities with a focus on cities of up to 150.000 inhabitants.

To address common needs and challenges and ensure knowledge and best practice exchange through Smart City projects.



To enable economies of scale, harnessing the collective procurement and project-building power of small-medium European cities.

To facilitate collective access to solution providers in order to ensure roll-out and scale-up of innovative and existing Smart City solutions.


Why?

Who?

Duurzaam Brabant (NL) and Peterborough (UK) lead the initiative, with the ambition to establish a robust platform for small-medium sized cities across Europe.







After connecting with key stakeholders, we will focus on the areas which address the common needs of our members and offer concrete project building towards smart city projects (positive Energy Communities, Smart City Office and Circular Economy). The project pilots will be launched and scaled up by 2017.

How?

ROADMAP



Project Building session



Launch of SIX City Pilot



Smart City Office

- Call for interest (EIP-SCC GA '16)
- Feasibility study



Positive Energy Communities

- Feasibility study
- Pilot creation

Circular Economy projects

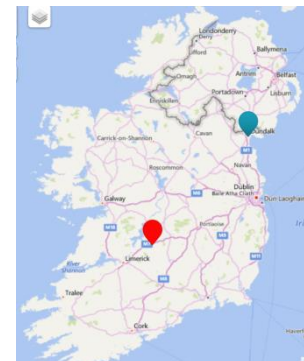
- Call for interest

Smart Cities Information System



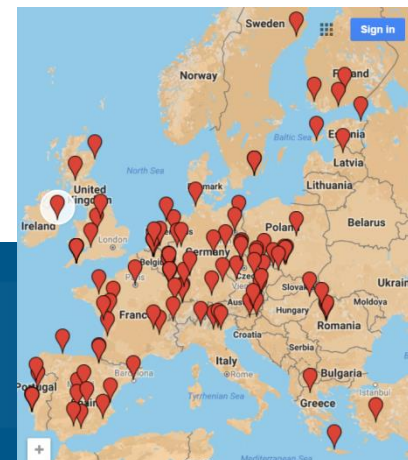
Database of EU smart cities projects showcasing technologies, best practices, barriers & solutions, to promote replication.

smartcities-infosystem.eu





REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE CITIES
A toolkit for the integrated approach



WHAT IS THE RFSC?

The Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities (RFSC) is an online toolkit designed to help cities promote and enhance their work on integrated sustainable urban development. It is available free of charge to all European local authorities and offers practical support in integrating sustainability principles into local policies and actions. The RFSC is a joint initiative of the Member States (led by France), the European Commission and European organizations of local governments.

ManagEnergy

- Supporting local and regional
- sustainable energy actions

Technical Support service to assist from public sector actors working on energy efficiency and renewable energy at the local and regional level.

- Capacity-building
- Online exchange

FINANCING SOLUTIONS

Explore ManagEnergy's new series of pages dedicated to financing solutions. Find information, analysis, case studies, events, and more.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING (EPC)

Energy Performance Contracting is a form of 'creative financing' for capital improvement which allows funding energy upgrades from cost reductions. Under an EPC arrangement an external organisation (ESCO) implements a project to deliver energ...

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESI)

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI)--formally known as the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund--are financial tools set up to implement the regional policy of the European Union. They aim to reduce regional disparities in terms o...

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Community finance means money raised from the local community: including individuals and households, businesses and customers (e.g. of a cooperative venture). Community finance may be coordinated with leadership from the local authority or com...

REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

A revolving loan fund is a source of money from which loans are made for multiple sustainable energy projects. Revolving funds can provide loans for projects that do not have access to other types of loans from financial institutions, or can p...

GREEN MUNICIPAL BONDS

A municipal bond is a bond issued by a local government, which is used to finance public infrastructure projects.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (PDA)

The European Commission has set up a series of facilities to support the development of sustainable energy projects.

Main European portal on Urban mobility:

- Helps to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences good practice models, tools and communication channels.
- Information, Aimed at individuals working in the field of transport, as well as in related disciplines, including urban and regional development, health, energy and environmental sciences.
- Supports the creation of urban transport systems using less energy and producing fewer emissions, while improving urban competitiveness and quality of life.
- Dedicated Mobility Plans hub on how to develop and implement [Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans \(SUMPs\)](#) through integrated planning processes.

BUMP - Boosting Urban Mobility Plans

- Provided small & medium-sized European cities (40-350,000) with a training programme to develop Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans.
- Followed-up by knowledge-sharing and coaching programmes to help produce and manage the actual SUMP.
- Targeted at city planners, environmental and technical officers.
- Urban and peri-urban contexts.

www.bump-mobility.eu/



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe
Programme of the European Union



Climate-ADAPT - Sharing adaptation information across Europe

European Climate Adaptation Platform

Search:

Log in

[About](#) [Database](#) [EU policy](#) ▾ [Countries, regions, cities](#) ▾ [Knowledge](#) ▾ [Network](#) ▾ [Help](#) ▾

You are here: [Home](#) / [About CLIMATE-ADAPT](#)

About CLIMATE-ADAPT

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) is a partnership between the European Commission (DG CLIMA, DG Joint Research Centre and other DGs) and the European Environment Agency.

CLIMATE-ADAPT aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share data and information on:

- Expected climate change in Europe
- Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- EU, national and transnational adaptation strategies and actions
- Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- Tools that support adaptation planning

Pledges & Awards

Local Pledges:

- Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (SECAPs...6000+)
- Covenant on Demographic Change
- Green Digital Charter

Competitions/Prizes:

- Green Capital and Green Leaf (Galway 2017)
- Entrepreneurial Region (EER) (Kerry 2011)
- iCapital
- AER Regional Innovation Award
- ManagEnergy Award
- Sustainable Energy Europe Award
- European Enterprise Promotion Awards
- Capitals of Biodiversity
- Access City Award
- Europa Nostra Award (cultural heritage)



Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

10 Signatory profiles found. *

Signatories	Population	Commitments	Status
Carlow County Council , IE	54,612	2020	
Cork County, IE	361,766	2020 ADAPT	
Dublin, IE	506,211	2020 ADAPT	
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, IE	217,274	2030 ADAPT	
Fingal County Council, IE	296,214	2030 ADAPT	
Kerry Local Authorities, IE	145,000	2020	
Kilkenny County Council, IE	95,419	2020	
Limerick County, IE	195,175	2030 ADAPT	
South Dublin County, IE	265,000	2020	
Waterford, IE	62,617	2020	

Mitigation 2020 targets:

Signatories	Population	Commitments	Status
Carlow County Council , IE	54,612	2020	
Cork County, IE	361,766	2020 ADAPT	
Dublin, IE	506,211	2020 ADAPT	
Kerry Local Authorities, IE	145,000	2020	
Kilkenny County Council, IE	95,419	2020	
South Dublin County, IE	265,000	2020	
Waterford, IE	62,617	2020	

Mitigation 2030 targets:

Signatories	Population	Commitments	Status
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, IE	217,274	2030 ADAPT	
Fingal County Council, IE	296,214	2030 ADAPT	
Limerick County, IE	195,175	2030 ADAPT	

Green Digital Charter



- Committing cities to work together to improve quality of life through digital solutions – notably in tackling climate change .
- More ICT-led energy efficiency in areas such as buildings, transport and energy.
- Includes encouraging reduced carbon footprint from ICT itself.



- Strategic knowledge support and exchange platform on tackling urban development issues.
- Bridging urban policy, research and practice.
- Demand-driven approach based on the needs of urban practitioners and policymakers.
- Topics of focus include **small and medium-sized urban areas and multilevel urban governance**.
- Over 5000 case studies, research results, policy documents, topical dossiers, expert opinions etc.
- Policy Labs bringing European knowledge to a local context.
- Support to Council Presidencies (e.g. on Urban Agenda)
- 10 MS (**not Ireland, currently**), EURO CITIES, URBACT and EC.
- Close relationship with EP URBAN Intergroup

www.eukn.org/



Challenges of Small and Medium-Sized Urban Areas (SMUAs), their economic growth potential and impact on territorial development in the European Union and Latvia

Research report to support the Latvian EU Presidency 2015

Project

21 May 2015



The Socio-Economic Development of Small- and Medium-Sized Towns (SMSTs): Factors, Dominant Profiles and Evolution Patterns

Luca Sara Brody



Cities and towns are thought to be catalysts for global processes and provide opportunities for complex economic activities. While larger cities are considered to be the most capable of confronting economic challenges, small- and medium-sized towns (SMSTs) are often left aside and are less subject to discussion. Nevertheless, SMSTs can be bases of development and new local potential.

Project

26 Jun 2012



Territorial Competitiveness Strategies in Medium Size Cities: Segovia Functional Area with Room for Business Opportunity

Miquel Baiget Llompart



An analysis of functional re-adaptation processes observed in medium-sized European towns is here felt to necessarily enrich our knowledge of changes in contemporary urban spaces.





Local/Regional Networking in Europe

- Communities of like-minded regions, cities etc.
- Exchange, learning and dissemination platforms.
- Foundation for future collaboration/projects (inside track).
- Exercise collective influence on policy.
- Boost profile in relation to specific themes.
- Membership and subscription-based.
- Need to justify time, effort and expense involved.
- Uptake from Irish LG sector is comparatively low.



Territorial umbrella associations



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath



Council of European Municipalities & Regions.

- National associations of local and regional governments (LGMA).
- Influencing European policy and legislation in all areas having an impact on municipalities and regions.
- Providing a forum for debate among LRAs.

5 themes affecting all aspects of the lives of citizens and LRAs:

- Governance, democracy and citizenship
- Environment, climate and energy
- International engagement and cooperation
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Local and regional public services management

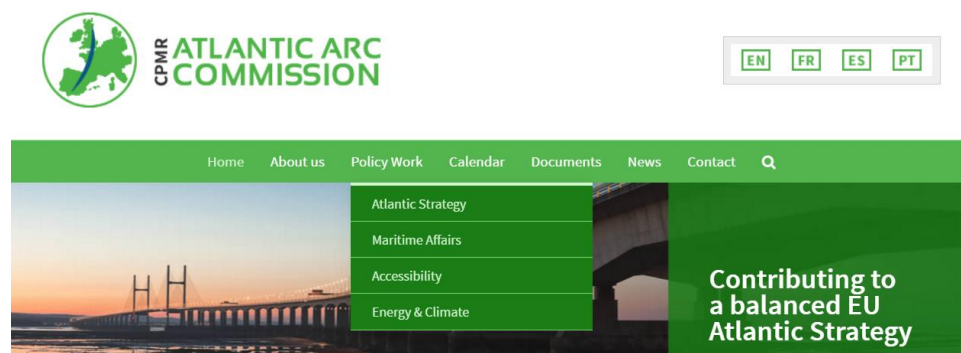
Irish involvement: LGMA

www.ccre.org/



- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
- Lobby/think-tank campaigning for a more balanced development.
- Focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial Cohesion*; energy and climate change; maritime policies and blue growth; and accessibility.
- Structure includes 6 Geographical Commissions (Europe's maritime basins), including for the Atlantic Arc.
- Irish involvement: Northern & Western Regional Assembly

www.cpmr.org/





The largest independent network of regions in wider Europe, enabling policy development, exchange and inter-regional cooperation across 3 committees:

- Economy and Regional Development
- Social Policy and Public Health
- Culture, Education and Youth

Irish involvement: Donegal County Council

www.aer.eu

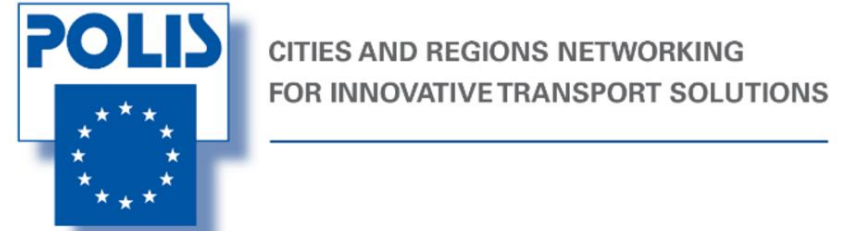


Reinforcing the important role that meeting the challenges of local (urban) governments should play in shaping EU policy and legislation across six thematic fora:

- Culture
- Economic Development (...incl IUD and Metropolitan areas)
- Environment
- Knowledge Society
- Mobility
- Social Affairs

Irish involvement: Dublin City Council www.eurocities.eu/

“Observer” membership available to smaller cities!





CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORKING
FOR INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Project:



QUEST - Quality management tool for Urban Energy efficient Sustainable Transport

- Developed to help **small and medium-sized cities** to set up and further develop sustainable mobility policies and actions.
- Certified audit towards tailor-made improvements.
- Supported partner cities in making real progress towards a more sustainable urban transport system, and helped them to find solutions for achieving the desired goals.

<https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/en/projects/quest>



Networks for our second-tier cities?

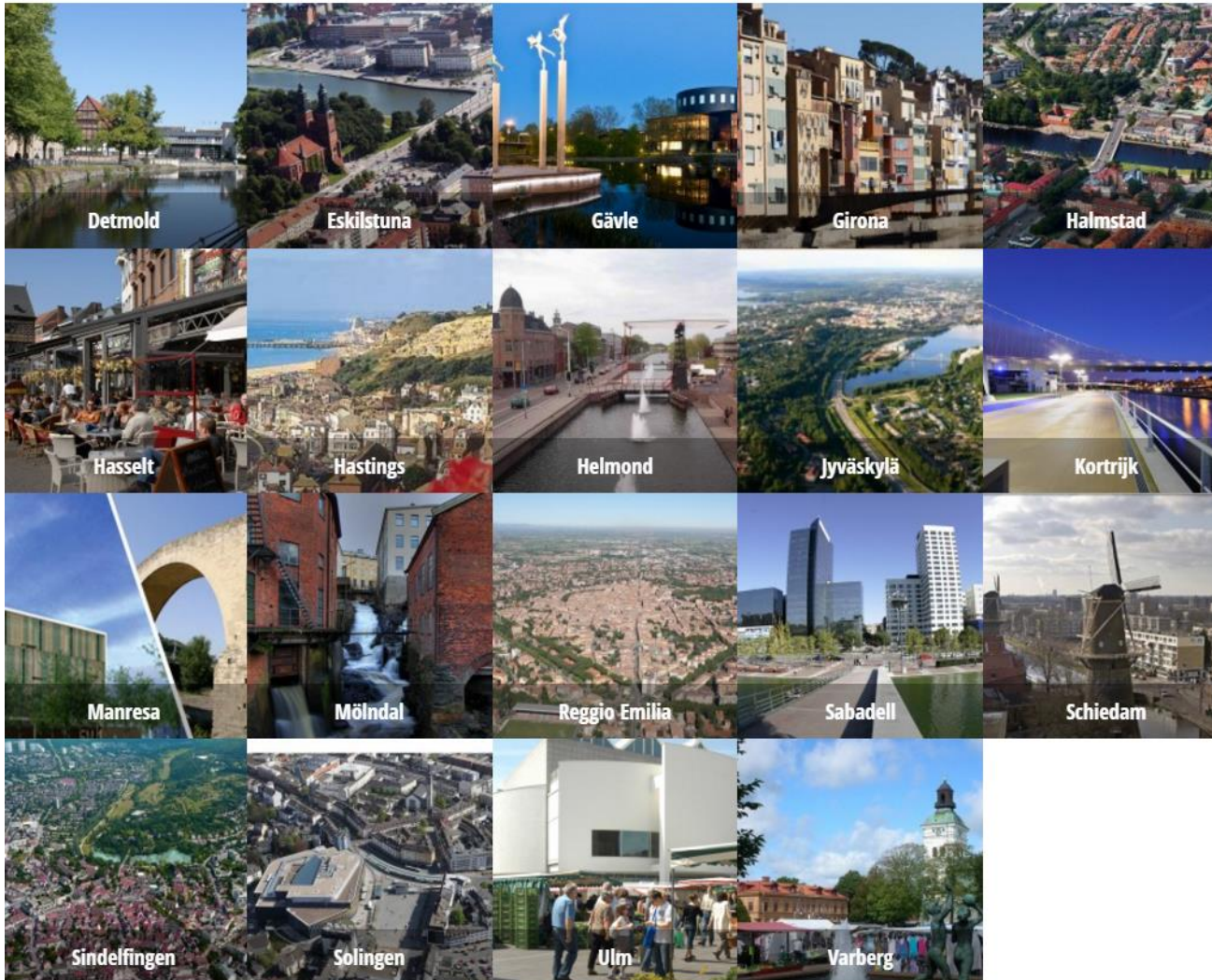
euro**towns** 



METREX The network of
European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

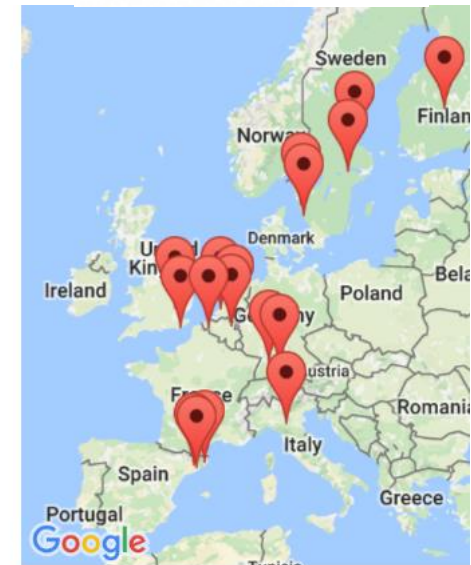


eurotowns



Network TaskTeams

- Creative and Cultural
- Sector Growth
- Innovation
- Mobility
- Social Inclusion



Members

50,000 – 250,000 population centres!

Eurotowns @



2016

Workshop 'Medium-sized cities: An opportunity for sustainable inward investment and enterprise growth in a global economy'

- Sustainable urban-planning developments' importance to attracting investments
- Reggio-Emilia: Strategies and good practices to sustain local economic development through innovation, knowledge and creativity.
- Schiedam: Waterfront development strategies and sustainable ports (governance innovation).
- Sabadell: Using a Smart Specialisation Strategy as a tool to attract investments ('Innovation and Design for Industry').
- Solingen: Innovative, cost-effective solutions in sustainable urbanisation...how to use innovative climate protection processes as a spur for the local economic cycle.



- Peri-urban regions network.
- Challenges and opportunities relating to places where the **urban and rural overlap** to help ensure understanding and recognition.
- Complex web of relationships and inter-dependencies between these areas and their urban centres.
- New Horizon 2020 project: ROBUST...to identify and promote policies, governance models and practices that foster mutually-beneficial relations and synergies to maximise creation of rural jobs and value-added.

- Platform for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience on metropolitan affairs, and joint action on issues of common interest.
- Contributes the metropolitan dimension to policies, programmes and projects on a European scale.
- 50+ Members. Mainly large cities but also:
 - South Coast England cluster
 - Oradea, Western Romania (250,000)
- Member Abstracts provide interesting insight into very varied approaches to spatial planning and development across Europe.

www.eurometrex.org/



- Innovative Urban Policy:
 - Regeneration
 - Buildings
 - Urban-rural
 - Revitalisation
 - Smart Cities
 - Digital Agenda
- Creative Cities
- Social Innovation for employment and entrepreneurship
- Green Cities & Blue Growth
- Atlantic Strategy & Macro-regions.

<http://atlanticcities.eu>

Member: Cork City Council

The screenshot displays a website interface with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs for 'Atlantic Strategy', 'Meetings', 'Atlantic Urban Forum', and 'Project'. The main content area is a grid of news items:

- Atlantic Strategy**: 'The Atlantic challenges in the eve of the Brexit' (19/12/2016, General Secretariat, Administration, 0 comments). Subtext: 'The City of A Coruña has been selected as the seat one of local dialogues of the Committee of the Regions. In cooperation ...'
- Atlantic Urban Forum**: 'The Atlantic cities are preparing the 2017 INTERREG calls' (23/01/2017, General Secretariat, Administration, 0 comments). Subtext: 'Last January 18, 2017, a seminar on the Interreg Europe and North West Europe programmes was held in Nantes. The Conference...'
- Meetings**: 'Third conference in Dublin on the Atlantic Maritime Strategy' (28/09/2016, 0 comments). Image shows two men in suits.
- Atlantic Urban Forum**: 'San Sebastián: leader on innovation' (12/12/2016, 0 comments). Image shows a coastal town.
- Atlantic Urban Forum**: 'Host the Atlantic Games 2017!' (05/12/2016, 0 comments). Image shows people on a boat.
- Atlantic Urban Forum**: 'Cork is growing smarter'. Image shows a city street.

At the bottom, a URL is visible: atlanticcities.eu/archives/category/meetings?lang=en



- Emerging from European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign (Aalborg Charter, 1994).
- Supported by ICLEI network.
- Focuses on the uptake of The Basque Declaration - *New Pathways for European Cities and Towns to create productive, sustainable and resilient cities for a liveable and inclusive Europe* (2016).
- Information hub for local govts, organisations and interested individuals working on issues around sustainable cities.
- One-stop shop for any local community trying to find the right entry door for engaging in sustainability action.
- Includes the Transformative Actions Database, which presents existing transformative actions in line with the Basque Declaration as good practice.



ERRIN European Regions
Research and Innovation Network



Supporting regions in **developing their collaborative and open regional innovation ecosystems to enhance research and innovation capacity** (15 Working Groups):

- Advanced manufacturing & nanotech
- BioEconomy
- Blue Growth
- Design & Creativity
- Energy & Climate Change
- Health
- ICT
- Innovation & Investment
- Opening Science
- Policy
- Smart Cities, Regions & Communities
- Smart Specialisation
- Tourism
- Transport
- Water

Member: Cork County Council.

www.errin.eu



- (not EU)
- FIWARE (open cloud infrastructure)
- Interoperability.
- Standards.
- Avoid vendor lock-in.
- Comparability.
- DSM tie-ins
- 4 Irish cities

www.oascities.org

”

The vision of the Open & Agile Smart Cities initiative is to create an open smart city market based on the needs of cities and communities.

FROM THE OASC VISION

Irish LA engagement with EU

- Post-BREXIT future – “at the heart of Europe”?
- Is Ireland – especially broad local government sector – sufficiently engaged in various initiatives?
- Entirely reactive...or contribute to shape direction (incl of €€€)?
- Width or depth (areas of focus)?
- Structures & resources: local, regional, system-wide?
- Formal tie-ins with policy (CoR)?
- Feeding into more urban-focussed policy-making?
- Responses to policy consultations?
- Monitoring developments “under radar”.
- Membership of European networks?
- Access to (and targeted use of) knowledge.

@IrishRegions_EU



TWEETS 2,148 FOLLOWING 769 FOLLOWERS 879 LIKES 456 LISTS 1 MOMENTS 0

IrishRegionsBrussels

@IrishRegions_EU

Brought to you by Ireland's 3 Regional Assemblies, we work to enable local/regional engagement in EU affairs, initiatives & opportunities.

Irish Regions Brussels Office

iro.ie

Joined March 2010

IrishRegionsBrussels @IrishRegions_EU · Mar 22
 Cllr Michael Murphy responds to #Barrier raising Irish concerns on #brexit including Irish border & agri food #CoRplenary

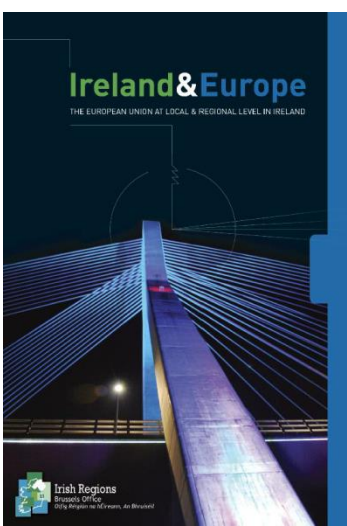


IrishRegionsBrussels @IrishRegions_EU · Mar 6
 Newer batch of Interreg Europe project partners incl @TipperaryCoCo @Dept_CCAE @West_BIC @CIT_ie @DonegalLEO @ERNACT & @SouthernAssembl (x2)

Interreg Europe @interregueurope
 All second call projects are now online! Discover projects and their websites under four topics. interregueurope.eu/discover-proje...

ronan.gingles@iro.ie

www.iro.ie



Irish Regions Brussels Office Oifig Réigiúin na hÉireann, An Bhrúxail