

EUROPEAN NEW TOWN ACTION NETWORK (ENTAN)

2019 Call (Deadline 17 April 2019)

Project title:

Reinvent our ageing New Town buildings, places and spaces to increase activities within our public realm that enable citizens to integrate better into city life.

Policy challenges:

To develop a Policy and Action Plan to physically reinvent our ageing New Town buildings, places and spaces to increase activities within our public realm that enable incomers/migrants, young people and disadvantaged citizens to integrate better into city life.

URBACT Topics:

City Planning, Culture & Heritage,
Disadvantaged neighbourhoods; Social innovation; Urban Renewal; Green Area renewal

Main policy issue:

Our network is a coming together of European New Towns and cities with substantial New Town components who investigate the spatial and social transformations undergoing in these specific contexts. All the new Towns represented in the network share a substantial modernist development dating from the 1950s to the 1980s. Our cities are relatively young in design and infrastructure, built on a utopian ideal of creating better lives for people and grown from planned migration from larger cities. In city timescales we are only just reaching maturity and today we face similar challenges and want to explore together possible tools and policy action to tackle those issues.

As New Towns, our urban infrastructure and public realm is now in danger of it all failing at the same time. The percentage under threat is much higher than a traditional city, threatening a critical imbalance which will lead to large parts of our cities unused and undesired, reducing the quality of life for our residents in the process and creating social and economic inequality. Our livable cities are under pressure from rapid urbanization and incoming global diversity on a scale not seen before and which threatens significant social change and upheaval.

This project has the ambition to co-design an integrated Policy and Action Plan to help our cities to reinvent themselves from the post-war utopian, homogeneous, New Town ideal, by creating a new relationship with its citizens and with those nearby larger cities which once again are looking to us to solve their own population increases.

Useful information:

The ENTAN Action Planning Network has largely arisen out of a successful Europe For Citizens project where six cities with a 'New Town' heritage have come together to look at challenges around migration in their cities, shared issues, advised on solutions and best practice and come to some initial conclusions. This gives the network a strong evidence basis for moving forward but also a rigor to the project structure and governance in which cities and its key officers already know and trust each other. In this the cities are supported by key research institutions and universities who provide the independent research, policy thinking and development, and/or the communication and dissemination.

For this URBACT project, the cities of Nissewaard (NL), Grand Paris Sud (FR), Milton Keynes (UK) and Kaunas (LT) are wishing to attract other project partners to join it!