➡ URBACT II PROJECTS

PROJECTS	ISSUES ADDRESSED	LEAD PARTNERS
1ST CALL PROJECTS (2008-2011)		
Active A.G.E.	Strategies for cities with an ageing population	Rome – IT
Building Healthy Communities*	Developing indicators and criteria for a healthy sustainable urban development	Torino – IT
CityRegion.Net	Urban sprawl and development of hinterlands	Graz – AT
CoNet	Approaches to strengthening social cohesion in neighbourhoods	Berlin – DE
Creative Clusters	Creative clusters in low density urban areas	Obidos – PT
CTUR	Cruise Traffic and Urban Regeneration of port areas	Naples – IT
EGTC	Sustainable development of cross-border agglomerations	Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière – FR
FIN-URB-ACT	Small and medium enterprises and local economic development	Aachen– DE
HerO*	Cultural heritage and urban development	Regensburg – DE
HOPUS	Design coding for sustainable housing	University La Sapienza, Roma – IT
JESSICA 4 Cities	JESSICA and Urban Development Funds	Regional Governement of Tuscany – IT
Joining Forces	Strategy and governance at city-region scale	Lille Metropole – FR
LC-FACIL	Implementing integrated sustainable urban development according to the Leipzig Charter	Leipzig – DE
LUMASEC	Sustainable land use management	University of Karlsruhe – DE
MILE*	Managing migration and integration at local level	Venice – IT
My Generation	Promoting the positive potential of young people in cities	Rotterdam – NL
NeT-TOPIC	City model for intermediate/peripheral metropolitan cities	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat – ES
Nodus	Spatial planning and urban regeneration	The Generalitat of Catalonia – ES
OPENCities*	Opening cities to build-up, attract and retain international human capital	Belfast – UK
REDIS	Science districts and urban development	Magdeburg – DE
RegGov*	Integrated policies and financial planning for sustainable regeneration of deprived areas	Duisburg – DE
REPAIR	Regeneration of abandoned military sites	Medway – UK
RUnUP	Strengthening potential of urban poles with triple helix partnerships	Gateshead – UK
SUITE	Sustainable housing provision	Santiago de Compostela – ES
UNIC*	Promoting innovation in the ceramics sector	Limoges – FR
URBAMECO*	Integrated sustainable regeneration of deprived urban areas	Grand Lyon – FR
Urban N.O.S.E.	Urban incubators for social enterprises	Gela – IT
WEED	Promoting entrepreneurship for women	Celje – SI
2ND CALL PROJECTS (2009-2012)		
Active Travel Network	Promoting walking and cycling in small and medium-sized cities	Weiz – AT
CASH*	Sustainable and affordable energy efficient housing	Echirolles– FR
ESIMeC	Economic strategies and innovation in medium-sized cities	Basingstoke and Deane – UK
EVUE	Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe	Westminster – UK
LINKS	Improving the attractiveness and quality of life in old historical centres	Bayonne – FR
OP-ACT	Strategic positioning of small and medium-sized cities facing demographic changes	Leoben – AT
Roma-Net*	Integration of the Roma population in European cities	Budapest – HU
SURE	Socio-economic methods for urban rehabilitation in deprived urban areas	Eger – HU
TOGETHER	Developing co-responsibility for social inclusion and well-being of residents in European cities	Mulhouse – FR
3RD CALL PROJECTS (2012-2015)		
4D Cities	Promoting innovation in the health sector	Igualada – ES
CityLogo	Innovative city brand management	Utrecht – NL
Creative SpIN	Cultural and Creative Industries	Birmingham – UK
CSI Europe	Role of financial instruments (Jessica Urban Development Fund) in efficient planning	Manchester – UK
ENTER.HUB	Railway hubs/multimodal interfaces of regional relevance in medium sized cities	Reggio Emilia – IT
EUniverCities	Partnerships between cities and universities for urban development	Delft – NL
Jobtown	Local partnerships for youth employment opportunities	Cesena – IT
My Generation at Work	Youth employment with focus on enterprising skills and attitudes	Rotterdam – NL
PREVENT	Involving parents in the prevention of early school leaving	Nantes – FR
RE-Block	Renewing high-rise blocks for cohesive and green neighbourhoods	Budapest XVIII District – HU
Sustainable Food in Urban Communities	Developing low-carbon and resource-efficient urban food systems	Brussels Capital – BE
URBACT Markets	Local markets as drivers for local economic development	Barcelona – ES
USEACT	Re-utilizing existing locations to avoid land consumption	Naples – IT
USER	Involving users and inhabitants in urban sustainable planning	Agglomeration Grenoble Alpes Metropole – FR
WOOD FOOTPRINT	Local economic development through the (re)use of brownfield and buildings of the wood furniture sector	Paços de Ferreira – PT

*Fast Track Label

➡ THE URBACT II PARTNERS

Lead Partners
Partners

THE URBACT II PROGRAMME
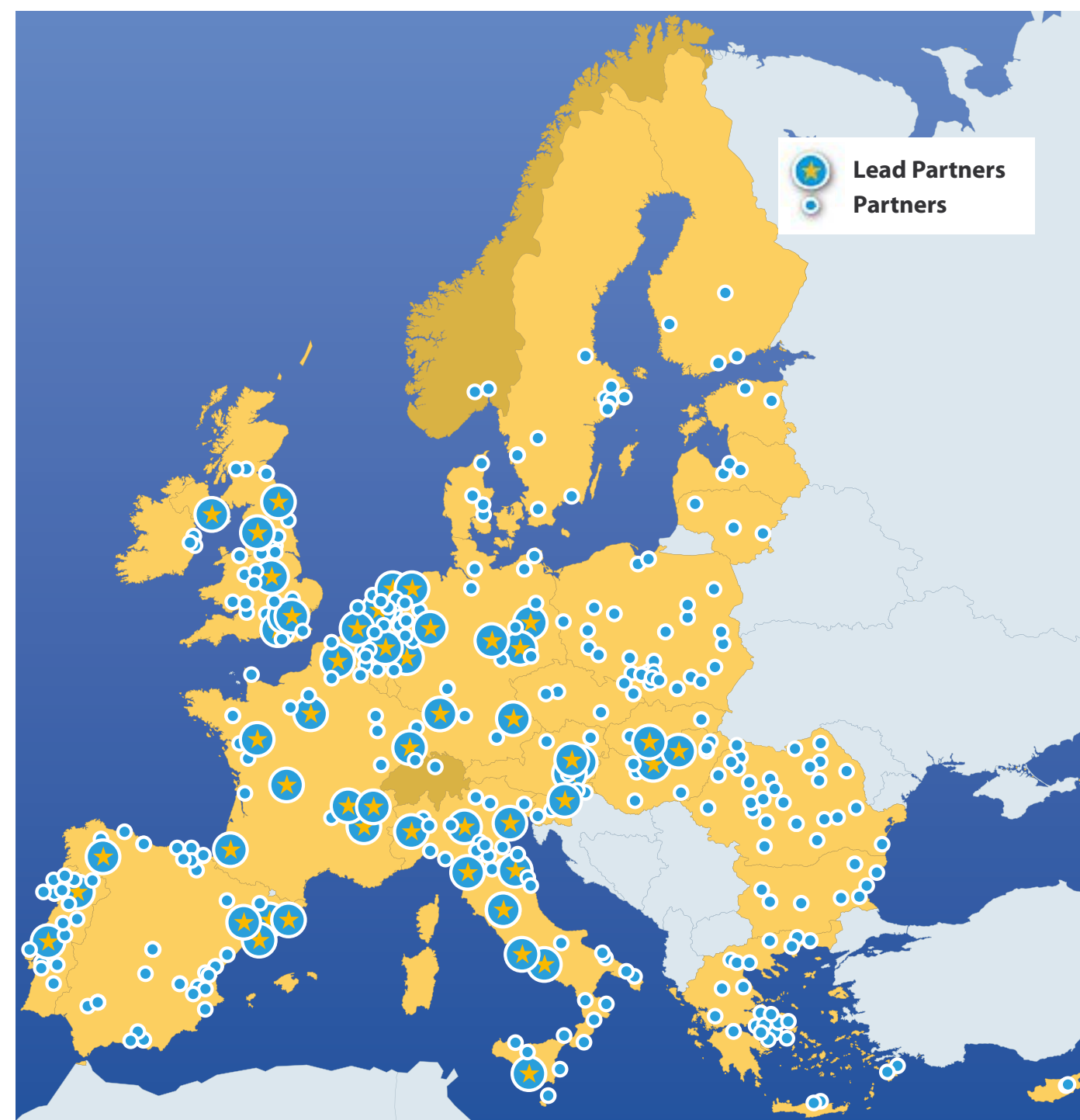
URBACT II

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EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

URB ACT

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

Connecting cities
Building successes

URB ACT

THE URBACT II PROGRAMME

→ EXCHANGING AND LEARNING ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

URBACT enables European cities to work together and to develop effective and sustainable solutions to major key urban challenges. Each network brings together 8 to 12 cities or other partners working together to address a specific urban issue and develop integrated action plans.

▶ **OBJECTIVES**

Following URBACT I (2002-2006), URBACT II (2007-2013) is the European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable and integrated urban development in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Specifically, URBACT aims to:
▶ Facilitate the exchange of experience and learning among city policy-makers, decision-makers and practitioners;
▶ Widely disseminate the good practices and lessons drawn from the exchanges and ensure the transfer of know-how;
▶ Assist city policy-makers and practitioners, as well as managers of Operational Programmes, to define action plans for sustainable urban development.

URBACT is structured along 2 thematic axes:

Priority Axe 1 - Cities, Engines of Growth and Jobs:
▶ Innovation and knowledge economy;
▶ Social innovation;
▶ Employment and labour mobility;
▶ Entrepreneurship.

Priority Axe 2 - Attractive and Cohesive Cities:
▶ Integrated development of deprived areas and areas at risk;
▶ Active inclusion;
▶ Low-carbon and energy-efficient urban economies;
▶ Urban planning.

A commitment to fostering **integrated approaches to urban issues** cuts across all themes in URBACT. Efforts to promote economic competitiveness cannot disregard issues of social cohesion, and alternately slow economic growth can have a negative impact on social cohesion. Consequently, networks address one of these themes as a dominant entry point while exploring connections with the others. URBACT is also encouraging partners to address issues related to major global challenges facing European cities, particularly the consequences of the financial and economic crisis, the impact of demographic change and of climate change.

▶ **BENEFICIARIES AND CO-FINANCING**

The URBACT programme brings together the 27 European Union Member States, as well as Norway and Switzerland.

Its beneficiaries may be:
▶ Cities;
▶ Regional authorities;
▶ National authorities;
▶ Universities, research centres and public bodies.

Network partners are co-financed:
▶ Up to 80% ERDF for partners from Convergence areas;
▶ Up to 70% ERDF for partners from Competitiveness areas;
▶ Up to 50% national contributions for partners from Norway and Switzerland.

→ STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT ON LOCAL POLICIES: THE *"URBACT METHOD"*

The URBACT programme has developed an URBACT method, which builds on the excellence of the networks and seeks a local impact for its partners. URBACT puts emphasis on the impact of transnational cooperation on urban development policies and practices.

▶ **NETWORK PHASING**

Following the call for proposals, the creation of networks is a two-step process, including a phase for project development and a phase for the implementation of planned activities. The approval of the Monitoring Committee is required to enter both phases:

1. Development Phase: 6 months are dedicated to network development (completion of partnership, production of a baseline study considering both the European level and the partners' situation with a focus on urban policies etc.)

2. Implementation Phase: once they have been approved, networks start with exchange and learning activities, production of outputs, dissemination etc.

▶ **URBACT LOCAL ACTION PLANS**

Each URBACT partner commits to producing an integrated Local Action Plan. This concrete and operational output shall address the urban issue identified by the partner, taking into account the social, physical, economic and environmental dimensions of the problem. The integrated Local Action Plan shall draw on the results of the transnational exchange and learning activities implemented within the network.

▶ **URBACT LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS**

Each URBACT partner sets up and runs a Local Support Group gathering the stakeholders most concerned by the policy challenge addressed. The URBACT Local Support Group is in charge of producing the Local Action Plan and acts as a two-way bridge between the local level and the network level, contributing to the transnational exchanges and embedding the learning in the local policies.

▶ **INVOLVEMENT OF MANAGING AUTHORITIES**

URBACT strongly encourages the participation of Managing Authorities of European Operational Programmes (ERDF and ESF) in networking activities in order to increase the impact of these activities on local policies and link Local Action Plans to funds available in the mainstream. More than 200 Managing Authorities have been associated with URBACT networks so far, resulting in the co-financing of a number of action plans.

▶ **EXPERT SUPPORT**

Each network benefits from the support of experts providing thematic input and methodology for effective transnational exchange and learning. Networks appoint a Lead Expert in charge of supporting theirs partnerships both at local level (e.g., running Local Support Groups and developing Local Action Plans) and at network level with thematic content and methods for peer learning. Lead Experts are also involved, at programme level, in capitalisation and dissemination activities related to the topics covered by their networks. These experts are to be chosen from the pool of experts who have been qualified for URBACT .

▶ **CAPACITY-BUILDING**

To support cities in designing and delivering sustainable urban policies, URBACT has developed capacity-building activities primarily dedicated to local urban practitioners and policy-makers, including development agencies, NGOs, etc. Training seminars are offered to URBACT partners aiming to strengthen skills in participative and integrated approaches to urban development. In 2013, seminars are being delivered in national languages in 14 countries. In parallel, a new training scheme involving 30 local elected representatives across Europe is also being piloted.

→ BUILDING UP PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Building on cities' experience, producing new knowledge and disseminating it in such a way that it can be of use to the widest audience - these are the goals of the capitalisation and dissemination process that lie at the core of URBACT.
URBACT networks enable cities and other public authorities to meet and exchange experiences, identify and transfer good practices, build new local policies, draw lessons and recommendations to disseminate to urban policy-makers and practitioners. These results feed into capitalisation activities developed at programme level in view of consolidating knowledge coming from URBACT networks and beyond, and make it useful and accessible to the wider community of urban practitioners and policy-makers all over Europe.
Currently, the capitalisation activities are organised around four main "Thematic Poles":

Cities, Engines of Economic Development and Job Creation

Cities are increasingly recognised as the engines of economic change in modern knowledge-based societies. However, they also concentrate a large share of social and environmental challenges. Both facts have taken cities out of their traditional role of purely physical and land planning into exploring new ways of intervening in social and economic fields as part of the urban sustainable development. The current downturn has reinforced this necessity for cities and local authorities to develop integrated policies. A number of URBACT networks are thus working on supporting sustainable growth through the promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation, resilient local economies, etc.

Cities, Human Capital and Social Innovation

To tackle urban problems, European cities have developed some of the most sophisticated and concerted policies and practices aimed at promoting social inclusion and managing diversity. Despite these strengths, the response is uneven and has varying success. The present economic crisis also put these policies to the test. Cities within URBACT are now reinventing their service delivery models and acting as innovation brokers to improve the efficiency of their policies.

Cities and Sustainable Urban Renewal

Integrated approaches to urban development are recognised as offering a more efficient response to the increasing complexity of our urban societies. Issues related to urban planning, regeneration, land use, buildings, and low carbon urban environments are of growing importance in all parts of Europe. Cities involved in URBACT bring evidence that policies combining physical regeneration with social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions are needed to address today's urban challenges. Building on their experience, URBACT proposes concrete responses about how to do this.

Cities and Governance for Sustainable Urban Development

Most of the challenges facing cities today – e.g. relating to the environment, transport, employment, urban planning – cannot be solved by cities working alone. Developing efficient governance models and processes, taking into account the relevant tiers of government, is a common challenge for all European cities. This is a topic cutting across all URBACT networks, covering a large range of issues, from working beyond administrative borders to promoting the involvement of stakeholders, designing efficient financial instruments and monitoring sustainable urban development.