

URBACT II

The new framework

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URBACT II: The new context

- European Cohesion Policy and the Lisbon-Gothenburg agenda
- Mainstreaming and suppression of the URBAN programme
- 27 Member States, Norway and Switzerland
- The Commission's initiative « Regions for Economic Change »



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At project level: 4 main new features

To improve the quality of projects

- Phasing (Development phase / Implementation phase)

To foster the impact on local policies

- Local Action Plans (LAP)
- URBACT Local Support Groups (ULSG)
- Association of Managing Authorities (MA) of Operational Programmes to project activities



1. Phasing of projects

- Creation of projects: a 2-step process
 - Submission of Declaration of interest to enter a Development phase/ Eligibility check/ Assessment & ranking/ MC Decision
 - Submission of Final Application to enter the Implementation phase/ Eligibility check/ Assessment & ranking/ MC Decision
- Development phase shall be dedicated to:
 - Complete partnership (up to 12 partners)
 - Realise a baseline study (including all partners)
 - Fill in the Final Application (deadline 21 Oct 2008)
 - Submit all required documents signed by all partners (letters of commitment, audit trails, joint convention)



2. Local Action Plans

- Each project partner commits to produce a Local Action Plan (LAP) within the framework of the project
- LAP should be a concrete output of the exchange and learning process, aiming at solving a specific problem
- LAP should be the result of a collective process organised at local level by each partner
- No precise definition given so far as content and format of LAP should depend on the needs/ situation of each partner
- Guidance should be provided building on exchange with Lead partners and Lead experts in each Thematic Pole and experience existing outside of URBACT



3. URBACT Local Support Groups

- Each project partner commits to set up and animate an URBACT Local Support Group (ULSG) gathering local stakeholders concerned by the issue addressed
- ULSG shall be set up during the Development phase (list to be included in Final Application), building on a stakeholders analysis
- Project partners shall ensure participation of ULSG to project activities, and more especially to:
 - production of input for exchange & learning activities (case studies)
 - production of the Local Action Plan
- In each Thematic Network, a minimum budget of 70.000 € shall be dedicated to the functioning of ULSG



4. Participation of Managing Authorities

- Projects are strongly recommended to associate Managing Authorities (MA) of Operational Programmes to their activities (included in assessment criteria for Final Application)
- This should allow:
 - to link the Local Action Plan to be produced to potential funding available in the Operational programmes
 - to facilitate exchange & learning among MA with regard to the definition and implementation of urban development policies
- MA may take part to a project being:
 - full partners
 - associated partners (compulsory dedicated line in TN budget: min 40.000€)



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At programme level: Thematic poles

- A new feature of the programme, based on learning from the URBACT I experience
- Pillars of the Capitalisation-Dissemination process at programme level
- Intended to:
 - allow cross-cutting exchange and learning between URBACT projects
 - maximise on the learning and outputs from URBACT projects
 - organise capitalisation and dissemination at programme level, building on projects' outputs
 - organise the exchange of knowledge with external programmes/ projects/ networks working on urban policies



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3 Thematic poles

- 3 thematic poles have been set up so far:
 - Cities, engines of growth and job creation
 - Social inclusion, Governance
 - Sustainable urban development
- Thematic pole composed of Lead partners and Lead experts of projects assigned to the pole
- Thematic poles will develop a range of activities building on projects' activities and outputs (policy papers, thematic regional conferences, etc.)

