

URBACT  
**FIN-URB-ACT network**  
**Workshop on**  
**Cities and Managing Authorities – a**  
**Pathway to Partnership**

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# FIN-URB-ACT

## Cities and Managing Authorities

- **Context**
- **Views from the partners (URBACT annual conference)**
- **Managing Authorities Annual speak up at the annual conference workshop**
- **Some conclusions**

# Managing Authorities in URBACT: the context

**URBACT II focus on involving Managing Authorities**

**Over 120 Managing Authorities of Operational Programmes officially declared their intent to take part in the implementation of an URBACT project**

**Now that URBACT II is moving to its final phases**

- **how are they involved at present?**
- **How can they be more involved in a future programme?**

# Urbact Annual CONFERENCE CAFE tables

« *What are the main results (local impact, changes in ways of working, better policies, etc) from your URBACT project or your experience of working with URBACT?* »

**“The presence of Managing Authorities in the project is an added value.** Working with Managing Authorities is challenging and rewarding at the same time. On one side, there is the work of attracting them and obtaining a continuous presence and interest from their part. On the other hand, their participation puts “pressure” on the final Local Action Plans which have to be good and coherent with the Operational Programmes. It also opens the project to new opportunities”. **(6 tables)**

## Urbact Annual CONFERENCE URBACT CAFE tables: on the Managing Authorities

*« What difficulties have you experienced with the URBACT programme? »*

“The Managing Authorities, while being able to provide a substantial support to the project partners, are often very reluctant to engage in such cooperation. Often they offer no aid, do not monitor the networks and are not willing to link the activities under the URBACT project with their respective regional Operational Programme. One reason for that might be the fact that the Managing Authorities have different roles and responsibilities than the project partners. Another is the lack of resources and capacities (manpower, funds, time) to engage in such cooperation.”

**(16 tables)**

# Urbact Annual CONFERENCE CAFE tables

## « Which main changes and improvement would you propose in the perspective of the URBACT 3rd call for proposals? »

More **cooperation with and involvement of the MA, e.g.** informative workshops for the representatives of the MA, more support in the relations with MAs, especially when they have difficulties materializing. Include among the evaluation criteria of the Monitoring Committees of ESF and ERDF an incentive score for MAs that made concrete networking in URBACT Organisation of nationwide meeting with the MAs. **(8 tables)**

# Urbact Annual CONFERENCE

## Workshop 10 What role for Managing Authorities of Operational Programmes in urban policies

**Poland:** Marshal's office of the Lubelskie Voivodship

**Austria:** Municipal Department for EU-Strategy and Economic Development - Department for Urban Affairs, City of Vienna

**Romania:** Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism

**Northern Ireland:** Department of Finance and Personnel

# Differing roles of Managing Authorities

## 4 Managing Authorities

=

## 4 different roles



# Romania

**Managing Authority for 27 cities involved in the URBACT programme**

**One Regional Operational programme for all 8 regions**

**30% of Operational Programme devoted to sustainable urban development**

**Participation in meetings of Local Support Groups**

**Supports drafting Local action plans**

# Poland

**Attends most meetings of the HerO project**

**A 'silent partner' in the Local Support Group,  
attending most meetings**

**Operational programme includes cultural activities,  
with one part specifically devoted to urban  
regeneration**

**Role within the city 'characterised by 'personal  
contact and cooperation'.**

**Interested in finding good projects to fund**

# Austria

**Partner in the Open Cities project**

**Cooperates well within the city and is a member of the Local Support Group (e.g. presented the Operational Programme)**

**Trying to identify potential funding possibilities within different Operational programmes**

**But.. The Operational Programme was adopted in 2006, and the project started in 2008, so could not take the Open Cities programme into account**

# Belfast

**Not a Managing Authority but coordinating ERDF, ESF, PEACE II and Interreg 4**

**Partner in the Open Cities project**

**As the Lead Partner's Managing Authority, took on a coordinating role between the project partners' respective Managing Authorities, e.g. by coordinating a questionnaire to partners, and stocktaking existing similar projects already being funded.**

**Liaising and disseminating to other cities**

**Also notifies other MAs of transnational workshops and URBACT processes**

**MA minutes circulated to all partners**

# For the Managing Authorities: positive aspects

**Taking part in the Local Support Groups**

**Links with the Operational Programmes, and ideas for future programme priorities**

**Developing cooperation with URBACT cities**

**Participation in URBACT projects proves a view of potential good projects**

**URBACT a good tool for explaining 'integrated approach' to urban development in some new member states**

# Challenges for Managing Authorities

**Clarifying the purpose/objectives of the Managing Authorities?**

**Competition for Structural funds can be difficult**

**Difficult to follow 'distant' cities**

**Challenge to clarify that funding not automatically guaranteed for Local Action Plans!**

# Proposals to overcome difficulties

**Involve cities more in the Operational Programmes**

**Better understand the links between cities and regions**

**Involve regional intermediate bodies to overcome problems of distance, and to better identify needs**

**Closer link between timing of URBACT Local Action Plans and drafting the Operational Programmes**

**Meetings between Managing Authorities to exchange views on integrated development in Member States**

**Operational Programmes to include a separate activity to deal with URBACT issues?**

# Belfast: Terms of Reference for Managing Authorities in Open Cities network

Managing authorities are expected to

- Engage with, and advise and support their local partner city where possible, including in their Local Support Group, and in the formation and implementation of their Local Action Plans
- Attend meetings of the Group and project as agreed by the Group and subject to the budget
- Consult and inform other relevant stakeholders and policy leads in their regional administrations



# Belfast: terms of reference for Managing Authorities in Open Cities network (2)

- Agree and engage in a work programme which involves the interests of all members of the Group, including following up agreed actions
- Ensure the Group's budget is used as economically as possible for travel costs and any other agreed activities
- Ensure that the lessons and findings of the project are provided to the relevant policy organisations and bodies in their region including EU Structural Funds Programmes Monitoring Committees where appropriate. This should include activities for consideration in future EU Programmes subject to paragraph 3 and national procedures concerning regional EU Structural Funds Programmes.”

# Urbact Annual CONFERENCE WORKSHOP conclusions (1)

- Clarify the **role of Managing Authorities in URBACT**
- Mixed experience of **participation of Managing Authorities in network meetings**: some organise separate meetings between MAs but others prefer to involve them more in the meeting as a whole.
- Role of Managing Authorities in **dissemination of results**.
- Link **timing of Local Action Plans and Operational Programmes**

# Urbact Annual CONFERENCE

## WORKSHOP conclusions (2)

- **Managing Authorities can support networks by giving information about other Operational Programmes**
- **URBACT contributes to improving the quality of projects presented under the Operational Programmes**
- **URBACT role in contributing to a better understanding of the 'integrated approach', especially in New Member States**
- **For some MAs better coordination between the city departments can also contribute to successful LAP funding**

Grazie Thanks  
Danke **Merci** Gracias  
**Ευχαριστώ** multumesc  
Takk dziękuję dakujem hvala  
**Obrigado** dziękować  
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