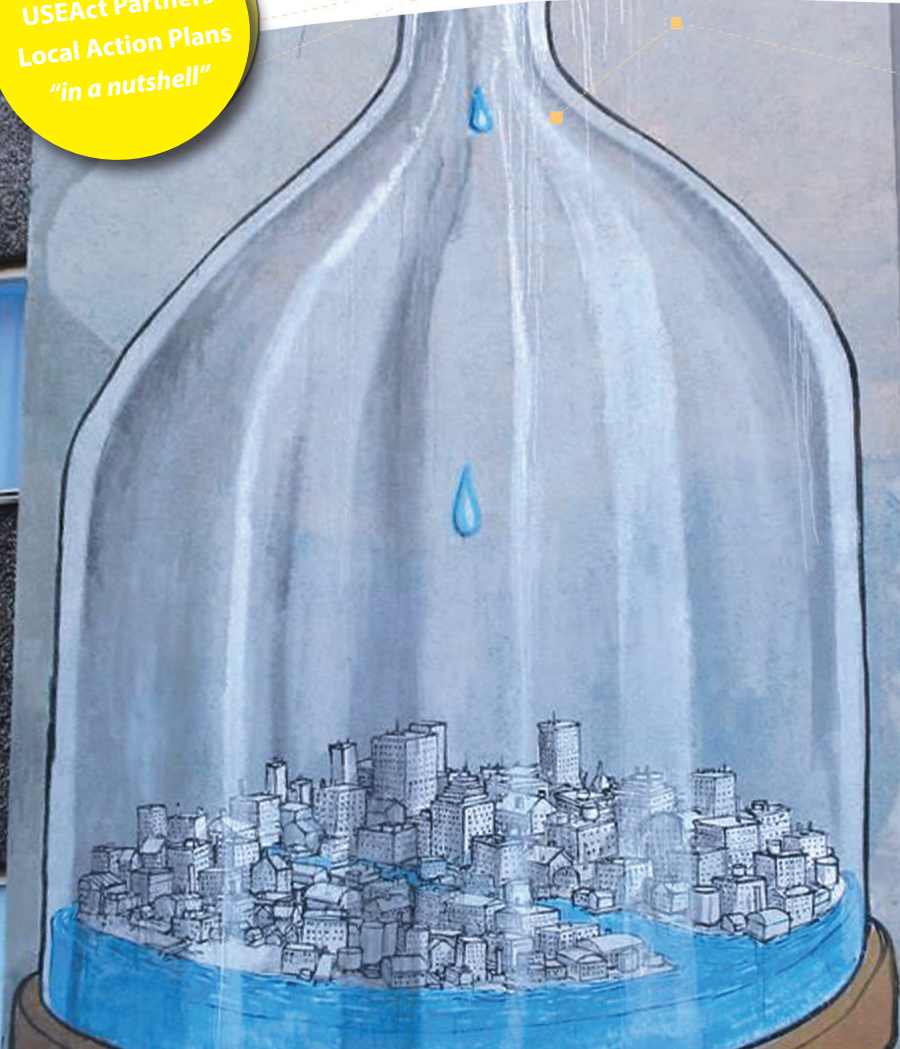




# Urban Sustainable Environmental Actions

## The USEAct Network

The USEAct Partners' Local Action Plans "in a nutshell"



Connecting cities  
Building successes





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Urbact Project Unit

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Cover: An image of the wall made by  
the Italian artist Blu in Berlin against the  
Global Warming, 2010.

Edited by USEAct Lead Partner Team  
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April 2015, Naples



## USEAct Urban Sustainable Environmental Actions

The themes of protection of empty land and the reuse and re-functionalization of inner urban areas are among the European key strategies for the cities' sustainable development and their growth. Particularly, the link between land consumption and models for land-use management both in cities and in metropolitan areas, with special attention to Urban Growth Management, is increasingly important. In this context the USEAct project aims at exploring the urban development interventions and new or improved settlement opportunities for people and businesses, taking up residence in existing locations without consumption of further land.

This target is expected to be met through integrated policies and tools aimed at improving the "urban growth management" planning framework coupled with implementable, sustainable urban "interventions" for the re-use of underutilized, vacant or abandoned areas of land and existing settlements, both in historic districts and more recently built areas. Such an approach is targeted at confronting the obsolescence of urban areas and sustaining the "urban change", and through city reuse, also improving the city's environmental, social, economic sustainability, to provide more urban quality to urban communities and, at the same time support the local economy in the short and long-term, to help overcome the effects of the current down-turn.

### The USEACT Partners



City of Naples (Italy) *Lead Partner*



Baia Mare Metropolitan Area (Romania)



City of Barakaldo (Spain)



Buckinghamshire Business First (UK)



City of Dublin (Ireland)



City of Nitra (Slovak Republic)



Østfold fylteskommun (Norway)



Riga Planning Region (Latvia)



City of Trieste (Italy)



City of Viladecans (Spain)

### Observer Partner



BITMAŞ Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey)

## City of Naples | Lead Partner

### Development strategies for the “core” of the city:

#### LAB Porta Medina | LAB Porta Capuana | LAB Porta del Mercato

One of the priorities of the city is to attract investment for the recovery and reuse of large containers no longer in use but also to put in place effective measures to recover the private degraded buildings that are part of the UNESCO heritage, preserving cultural identity through the permanence of much of the existing population in order to obtain a social mix with a consequent improvement in the quality of life. The desire to re-evaluate - in terms of operational and real estate, as well as from the point of view of environmental sustainability - important parts of the urban fabric - was reflected also in the optimization plan of the infrastructure system, which developed rail transport networks, in urban and regional scale through the construction of new metro lines to connect the suburbs to the city center and the strengthening of regional metro. The overall strategic objective of the local action plan (mission) is the regeneration of three areas of the historical center through creativity, innovation and “smart” solutions, energy efficiency and reuse of declassified and abandoned properties.

Specific objectives:

- Enhance context conditions for urban renaissance
- Requalify public/private buildings heritage and urban infrastructures
- Promote social and economic development

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SUCRE  
Smart renaissance  
Urban identity  
Creativity hubs  
Reuse  
Economic attractors

# Baia Mare Metropolitan Area Association

## Effective Land use policy in the Baia Mare Metropolitan Area

The Baia Mare Metropolitan Area Association has developed a Local Action Plan targeting the effective land use within the Baia Mare Metropolitan Area by creating a land use policy - part of the urban development policy - which aims to maximize the socio-economic development of urban land use.

The LAP takes into consideration all of the 19 localities which are members in the intercommunity development association.

The reason why the area of intervention was selected to be the entire metropolitan area is that the metropolitan development approach aims to overtake and to settle the multiple pressures resulting from the changes in the economic system, in the development and planning system, from the distortions and diversified needs in the urban area, as well as in the adjacent rural area, in order to create a development nucleus in a coherent network at territorial level.

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Development  
<http://www.mdrt.ro/en/>



Land use policy  
Effectiveness  
Efficiency  
Sustainable development  
Metropolitan area

# City of Barakaldo

## 3R Act neighborhood to neighborhood

Barakaldo's USEAct LAP defined the following challenges:

- Neighbourhood regeneration and renewal.
- Urban growth reduction. Previously transformed soils restoration.
- Energy consumption and carbon emission reduction.
- Accessibility improvement and barriers removal.
- New intervention strategies. New governance tools.
- Life quality standards needs and real estate and construction sector economic growth combination.

Local Action Plan Objectives:

- To analyze the new urban law determinations for the pre-existing city.
- To define the future integrated intervention plan guidelines.
- To suggest the most provable solutions for different urban regeneration scenarios (Sustainable and integrated interventions definition).
- To propose Barakaldo to join new research and knowledge exchange networks.

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Housing Department and  
Social Affairs of Basque  
Country Government



# Buckinghamshire Business First / Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership

## Stimulating the regeneration and sustainable development of Buckinghamshire's key urban conurbations

Buckinghamshire will come under significant pressure from increased housing growth in the next economic cycle. With 1/3 of the land designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and large swathes of the south of the county designated as greenbelt, finding suitable space to accommodate development is a significant challenge.

In addition, the global economic crisis has created significant financial constraints in the public and private sectors.

Given this situation, Buckinghamshire needs to develop a range of innovative solutions for delivering sustainable growth built on;

- Aligning leadership and partnership structures;
- Securing suitable development finance;
- Encouraging employment growth in key sectors;
- Stimulating the growth of intermediate housing;
- Delivering integrated transport solutions that promote modal shift; and
- Preserving and enhancing the natural environment.

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### Managing Authority

Department of Communities  
and local government  
<https://www.gov.uk>



Development Finance  
Employment Growth  
in key sectors  
Affordable & Intermediate  
Housing  
Leadership and  
Partnership Alignment  
'Smart' Infrastructure

# City of Dublin

## Red Line Inner City

One of the challenges facing Dublin is how to achieve a more compact sustainable city, by making the best use of urban land and public and social infrastructure to improve the quality of life for citizens. Dublin contains many vacant and underutilised areas (Brownfield sites) together with vacant buildings including some around the historic Georgian Squares, which could be brought into use as an integral part of the regeneration of the city. The redevelopment of the vacant/underutilised sites especially in the city is critical to sustainable development. Increase in development has not taken place at the anticipated rate, particularly along the Red Line between O'Connell Street and Heuston train station – the area that is the focus of this study. Today there is renewed focus on the city centre to provide sustainable urban solutions to avoid further land take.



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# City of Nitra

## Functional City Centre

Nitra, the mother of Slovak towns, is situated on the slopes of seven hills on both sides of the river Nitra under Zobor hill (587m). The earliest written mentioning about Nitra dates back to 871 – 873 in the work *Conversio Bagoaiorum et Carantanorum*, where it is mentioned as a place of consecration of the first Christian church in the territory of present-day Slovakia in 828. Sts. Constantine and Methodius, the patrons of Europe, worked in Nitra and the oldest Slavic bishopric was established here in 880. During the time of the Great Moravian Empire, Nitra was one of the largest housing agglomerations in Central Europe. It remained an important economic centre also in times of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

General strategic target of the Local Action Plan in Nitra: Increasing the quality of the city centre from the perspective of function, mobility, service offerings, spatial reserves potential, quality of public spaces and urban safety and thus to contribute to the sustainability of the urban development in Nitra.

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City Centre  
Spatial reserves  
Pedestrian zone  
Quality of public spaces  
Traffic solutions  
Urban safety


# Østfold County

## Sustainable cities in Østfold. More growth-less sprawl

The target of the Local Action Plan is to reduce area consumption in and around the cities of the County, through transformation of former industrial areas and high quality densification projects. With a higher population and business density in the city centers, the aim of the Local Action Plan is to make them more active and attractive, giving to the inhabitants a better quality of life by creating attractive city centers and preserving farmland, areas of natural beauty and recreational areas.

Specific objectives:

- Creating coherent and shared strategies and targets between different levels of governance and between cities.
- Developing and systemizing tools, strategies and incentives for urban transformation and densification
- Communicating the benefits and importance of high quality interventions



*"The development in Østfold must be sustainable. This means that the needs of today's people are met without compromising the ability of future generations or people elsewhere to meet their needs."*

Østfolds County Council Master Plan

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Networks  
Tools  
Quality  
Empowerment  
Understanding

# Riga Planning Region

## Urban transformation action plan of Riga Metropolitan area

General goal of the LAP:

To enhance cooperation, develop joint platform and understanding of common UGM necessity for Riga Metropolitan Area, and to initiate planning and transformation processes of pilot areas in a participatory way.

Action plan has three objectives:

1. Policies and tools for urban growth management;
2. Initiatives for urban transformations in project pilot areas;
3. improved planning and urban growth coordination.

Plans general structure lies on three pillars:

Urban Growth Management; enhanced urban transformation; enhanced cooperation between RMA local governments.

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Metropolitan area,  
Urban Growth  
Management  
Transformation,  
Cooperation platform  
Planning

## City of Trieste

### Innovative tools for urban regeneration and energy retrofit of public and private estate: from citizens' engagement to reactivation of the local economy

Today Trieste counts 208.000 inhabitants and mainly lives out of a service based economy. Though the population is not supposed to dramatically collapse in the next years, the increase of ageing rates combined with the crisis and the slow reactivation of the port activities weaken the perspectives of economic redevelopment and force the abandonment of many buildings and sites. Since 2011 the Municipality of Trieste has started a new frame of urban policies, mainly focused on the definition of a new General Town Plan (GTP), currently in progress. The GTP defines an overall urban vision for the future, imagining Trieste as the place where to try out an operation of extraordinary urban maintenance and renewal of the existing city.

In the frame of the USEAct project, strictly linked to the design of the new GTP, the Local Action Plan (LAP) of Trieste Municipality was developed as an opportunity to provide an innovative strategy of urban renewal and energetic retrofit of existing buildings working at different urban scales.



Energy-efficiency  
Volumetric credits  
Eco-districts  
Revitalization of local economy  
Job opportunities

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# City of Viladecans

## Transformation of the Industrial Zone “Centre”

The changes in the economic situation have affected the City physical structure resulting in the obsolescence of functional production areas. The city would like to focus on such areas, such as the so called “Centre” industrial zone, with high potential due to their accessibility and location (proximity to the city centre). A key issue is to find an effective link with the regional planning tools, so that the targeted areas can acquire a pertinent role at metropolitan level.

The mission of the LAP is to lead and guide the transformation of the “Centre” industrial zone to turn it to a Low energy industry park with a high level economic activity located within the new City Centre boundaries.

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City Center Renewal  
Mixed Uses  
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URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. URBACT helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 500 cities, 29 countries, and 7,000 active participants. URBACT is jointly financed by ERDF and the Member States.

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