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HRVATSKA

Planning Cities of the Future

EU support for cities:
URBACT and EUI

July 9, 2026

European territorial cooperation programme co-funded by ERDF

Since
2002



Over
1000
cities
involved



more than
150
networks

Promoting sustainable urban development in cities

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URBACT is... driving change for better cities

With the URBACT Method:

- **Integrated approach** - considering all dimensions of sustainable development
- **Participation in practice** - engagement of relevant stakeholders and citizens
- **Transnational exchange** - connecting cities and learning from peers
- **Tailor-made support** - network experts, methods & tools, learning by doing



URBACT has 3 strands of activities

Networking



Between cities
Between stakeholders

Capacity building



Community of
practice and
learning

Communication Knowledge-sharing



Knowledge uptake
& dissemination

4 types of URBACT city networks



Cities and partners develop **integrated action plans**.

(Call in 2023)



Cities adapt **successful innovative actions** and develop **investment plans**.

(Call in 2024)



Cities share and adapt **successful good practices**.

(Call in 2025)



Cities **implement** their strategies and **concrete actions**.

(Call in 2026)



URBACT APNs (2023 – 2025)

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What to expect?

Exchange & learning activities amongst cities



An URBACT Local Group

Capacity building



Testing actions

Communication and visibility



Up to EUR 850 000 per network



An Integrated Action Plan

Support by

URBACT Experts

URBACT Secretariat

National URBACT Points

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Key expected result



Integrated Action Plan (IAP)



An IAP offers cities a **concrete response** to their policy challenge. The IAP follows an **intervention logic** which aims to **design** and implement **actions based on testing**. The IAP will link the cities actions to the broader **Cohesion Policy funds** to support **long term implementation** and lasting change.

[Open to all policy challenges

- In line with EU Cohesion policy objectives
- The identification of the policy challenge to be addressed in the network is an initial key step when preparing an application

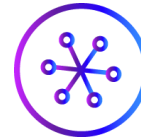
+ Cross – cutting aspects to be considered in the proposals:



GREEN TRANSITION



GENDER



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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LOCAL ACTIONS

From APN partners...

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Results on the ground



Network:

One Health 4 Cities

Lead Partner:

Lyon (France)

Challenge :

Develop tools that empower decision-makers and operational teams to increase the positive impact of urban projects on the well-being and health of people, animals and environment.

Network output:

- A publication for local leaders, urban planners and stakeholders on integrating a healthy city approach into their practices. The guide contains tips, tools and case studies in 6 thematic chapters.



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Results on the ground

City: Munich (Germany)

Action:

In updating its **city Health Guideline**, Munich is embedding the One Health approach as a tool to address the links between health equity, environmental protection, and social inclusion.

Teams are exploring how vulnerable groups such as women, migrants, elderly residents, or people with disabilities can be better protected from climate-related health impacts such as heat stress.



Results on the ground



Network:

[GreenPlace](#)

Lead Partner:

Wroclaw (Poland)

Challenge :

Restoring "forgotten" urban areas into valuable places for and with residents

Network outputs:

- Governance models and ways to engage local communities exchanged.
- Implementation of circularity, culture and NBS.
- [Handbook for restoration of abandoned areas](#), contains: case studies, tools, good practices and recommendations.

Results on the ground

City: Wroclaw (Poland)

Action:

City launched a public call to address limited access to green spaces and to improve neglected public areas near residential buildings.

Residents can apply to care for the nearby public area for duration of 3 years.

This created better residents' connection with the place, improved cooperation in the neighborhood, and transformed public spaces into more open places.



Results on the ground

Network:

Re-Gen

Lead Partner:

Verona (Italy)

Challenge :

Cities face challenges related to sedentary lifestyles, youth disengagement, mental health pressures, public space degradation and social fragmentation. Sport-Based Solutions can respond to these challenges in both pragmatic and transformative way.

Network outputs:

- Regenerated urban spaces returned to citizens
- Active participation of young people in the design and restoration of areas for street sports
- Nine European cities exchanged best practices and support
- Seven thematic articles published
- Publication *Active, Healthy, Inclusive and Sustainable Cities* for designing and implementing Sport-Based Solutions and Urban Sport Hubs.



Results on the ground

City: Daugavpils (Latvia)

Action:

Esplanade park was unused wetland area, without clear structure or purpose. The city decided to make the park a multi-functional sports space integrating green infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions

4ha area: lake, bike park, skatepark, outdoor gym, running and walking trails, skills parks and children's areas.

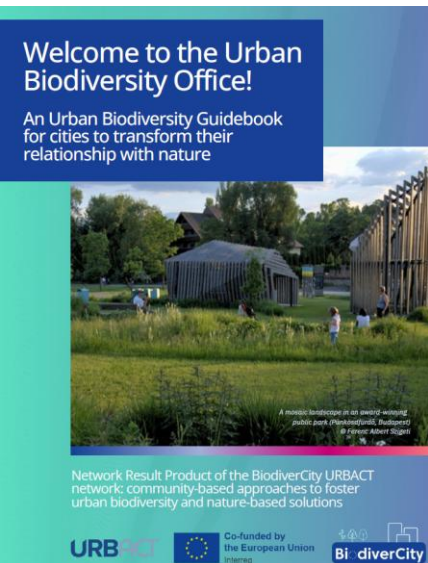
City launched **nature restoration actions** (removal of invading plants, thinning shrub, creating a system of open water areas and ponds).



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Results on the ground



Network:

[BiodiverCity](#)

Lead Partner:

Dunaújváros (Hungary)

Challenge :

How to support and enable communities to plan powerful nature-based solutions, foster pro-environmental citizen behaviors and draft Urban Greening Plans

Network outputs:

- Two **Urban Biodiversity Offices** opened
- **Climate-adaptive grassland management** implemented
- [A guidebook containing tips and examples](#) of activities in a range of areas: soil composition, trees and green infrastructure, city parks, climate shelters, pollinators and birds, education and stakeholder engagement, strategy development and financing.

Results on the ground



Network:

[Let's Go Circular](#)

Lead Partner:

Munich (Germany)

Challenge :

Paving the way for a sustainable, just and productive transition of cities towards a functioning Circular Economy. It addresses all issues relevant to a holistic strategy of circular city ecosystems.

Network output:

- [Thematic flipbook](#) with examples of 10 urban actions for a circular economy, the main lessons for achieving the role of cities that serve, enable and support a more balanced, prosperous and sustainable future.



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Discover networks & knowledge

→ Find additional information on closed and active URBACT networks here:

- urbact.eu/networks/

→ Read urban policy analyses and thematic insight here:

- urbact.eu/knowledge-hub





European Urban Initiative

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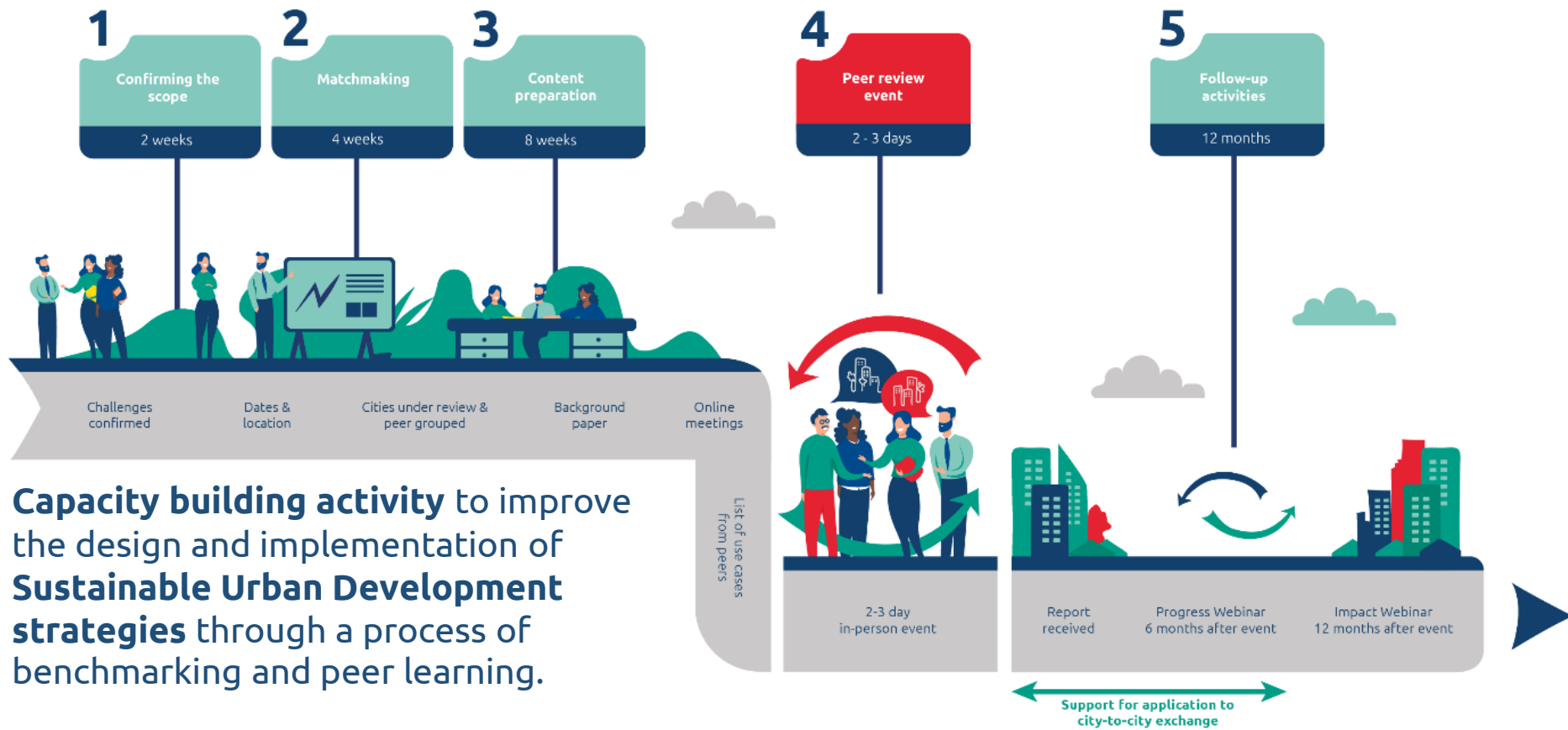
[What it is?

- EC initiative to **SUPPORT INNOVATION** and development of portable, innovative solutions for urban challenges
- Targets **large, small** and **medium-sized cities** and **functional urban areas**
- **CAPACITY BUILDING facility:**
 - City-to-City Exchanges
 - Peer Reviews
 - other national and international events
- **KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION platform:**
[PORTICO portal](#)



EUI Peer Review

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Peer Review in action



PR 6 – San Donna di Piave, IT



PR 13 – Joensuu (FI)



PR 4 – Jiu Valley, RO

More info

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→ Find EUI news, events, funding and networking opportunities at:

- www.urban-initiative.eu

→ Access knowledge, people and initiatives to achieve sustainable urban development in Europe via:

- portico.urban-initiative.eu



Thanks for your
attention!

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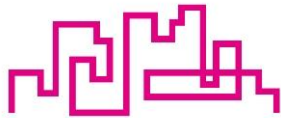
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