

Call for Proposals for the Creation of Implementation Networks

Deadline: 22nd June 2016

UrbACT III

UrbACT is a European exchange and learning programme with focuses on the promotion of urban development. Variou cities are given the possibility of working together to develop solutions to major challenges. Such solutions are new and more importantly sustainable which integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The programme supports three types of Networks:

- Action-planning networks: supporting cities in addressing a policy challenge by producing an integrated action plan
- Implementation networks: supporting cities with the delivery of an integrated urban strategy/action plan
- Transfer networks: supporting cities in adapting and reusing a good practice to enhance their urban policies

The Call

The call forms part of one of the Programmes 3 strands of activities, the creation of Networks to enhance transnational exchange and learning. It therefore aims at allowing cities share experiences/ problems/ solutions and learn from one another by identifying good practices to design and implement integrated urban policies.

The call for **Implementation Networks** has as its main purpose the support for cities in the implementation of integrated sustainable urban strategies or action plans. Therefore participating cities are required to have the following:

- Integrated Strategies or Action Plans at a local level
- National Funds available to implement these strategies

The Implementation network aims at supporting an organised process of exchange and learning among peers across Europe with the aim of improving local policies through concrete implementation across all the partners. The implementation of these strategies are done through the national funds. The project will however finance the exchange of ideas by sharing experiences, problems and possible solutions with the aim of generating new ideas to address challenges.

The mandatory implementation challenges financed through the project will be as follows:

- Ensuring the integrated approach in the delivery of urban policies
- Maintaining involvement of local stakeholders in the delivery stage
- Setting up efficient indicators and monitoring systems to measure performance

Networks are expected to also participate in 1 of another five other implementation challenges which are optional.

Through this project, cities with such strategies or plans commit to work on their challenges by involving all local stakeholders which will become the Urbact Local Group and will also be actively involved in the transnational exchange with international partners in the network to identify challenges and seek common solutions.

Cities will be required to produce an operational framework for the implementation of their action plan after being selected as one of the Implementation Networks. It is this framework that will be the driver to the exchange and learning activities that the project will result in.

Participation

The project requires the participation of 7 or 9 cities in the 28 Member States as well as the 2 Partner States, Switzerland and Norway. This network could build on the work done in the previous EWT European Project in which guiding principles were issued. However it is mandatory that participating cities have a planned Action Strategy/Plan for urban development as well as national/local funding available to implement this strategy. This project will add the European participatory dimension by encouraging discussion and exchange of best practices between cities in the Network.

Cities interested in participating in this call are to contact the European Walled Towns and submit a one page document outlining their Urban Action Plan. Interest is to be sent by no later than 15th April 2016.