



OPEN Cities Monitor

Benchmarking the
openness of cities



Connecting cities
Building successes



This tool was developed by the British Council and BAK Basel in collaboration with the Urbact Group but not financed under Urbact Framework II.

What is openness?

“Openness is the capacity of a city to attract international populations and to enable them to contribute to the future success of the city”

See Understanding OPENCities, published by British Council in 2010

How can openness be measured?

Openness cannot be observed or measured directly. It is a multi-dimensional and very complex phenomenon. However, there are many aspects of openness that can be observed and measured. The OPENCities monitor includes **54** internationally comparable indicators, aggregated into **11** areas:

- Migration
- Freedom
- Barriers of entry
- Quality of living
- International presence
- Education
- International flows
- Infrastructure
- International events
- Standard of living
- Diversity Actions

These areas are grouped into three policy themes: Internationalisation, Leadership & Governance and Managing diversity.

The data

The data has been collated in 2010, using most up-to-date available sources. It currently includes 26 cities from different continents. We aim to include 100 cities by 2012.

- Auckland
- Barcelona
- Beijing
- Belfast
- Bilbao
- Bucharest
- Buenos Aires
- Cape Town
- Cardiff
- Chongqing
- Dublin
- Duesseldorf
- Edinburgh
- London
- Los Angeles
- Madrid
- Manchester
- New York
- Newcastle
- Nitra
- Nottingham
- Poznan
- Sao Paulo
- Sofia
- Toronto
- Vienna

A large number of official sources (international, national, regional or city statistics) have been surveyed to collate data, including private and public, national and local data-sets.

The OPENCities Monitor

The OPENCities Monitor is a unique collaboration & learning tool which measures cities' openness, avoiding ranking to eliminate negative competition. With this online tool users can get, in a snapshot, a city profile. Their profile is measured against the average results of the 26 cities and against the group of cities selected to compare with. They receive an immediate and easy to use insight of their strengths and weaknesses in the 11 areas.

- How welcome is my city to international populations?
- Are we doing the right efforts to improve the infrastructure and legislation?
- Are we hosting more or less international events than similar cities?

Policy makers, researchers and journalists can use the results to promote investments, develop actions plans and influence decisions. The tool is:

- Publicly available online at www.opencities.eu
- Easy to use
- Very Flexible

Case Studies & Policy Recommendations

Developed as a working tool, the OPENCities Monitor offers practical examples and ideas that are successful and can easily be adapted and used. We have reviewed hundreds of case studies that can help a city to improve its openness. Users can find the case studies related to their search just by clicking on the corresponding areas of the graphs generated by the tool. The OPENCities Monitor also provides policy recommendations and outlines learning points for the three policy themes: Internationalisation, Leadership & Governance and Managing diversity

The future

OPENCities will develop into a quality standard (kite-mark) - a new marketing tool for cities willing to attract international populations and compete globally. Joining this data-set allows usage of the OPENCities kite-mark and is a public statement that the city believes and is willing to work towards openness.

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www.opencities.eu





City of Düsseldorf



POZnan
Gdańsk, Poznań, Warszawa



City of Vienna



URBACT II

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 challenges. It helps them 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 300 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is co-financed by the ERDF Funds and the Member States.

www.urbact.eu/opencities
www.opencities.eu



European Union
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT



OPENCities is a British Council project funded by URBACT and led by Belfast City Council in collaboration with a network of European cities. The partner cities include Bilbao, Cardiff, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Nitra, Poznan, Sofia and Vienna.