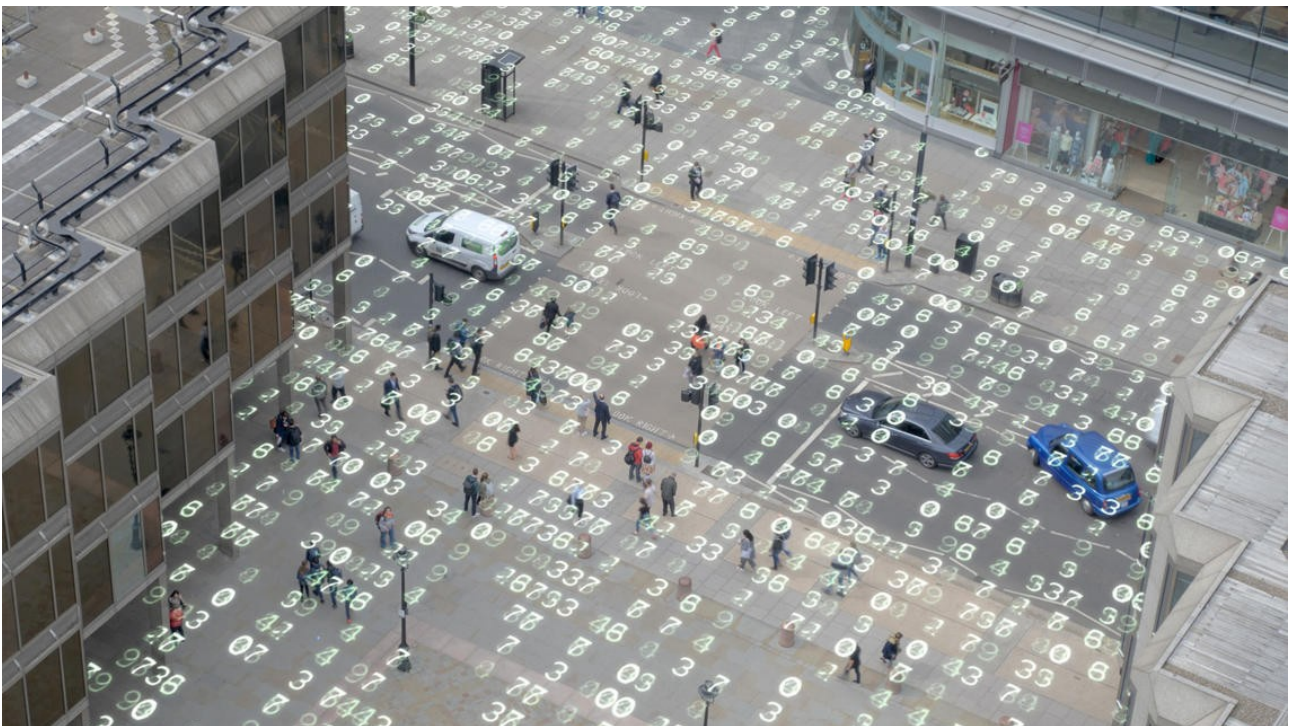


PROJECT IDEA

URBACT IV

INTEGRATED ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS (ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS)

MAIN TOPIC: DIGITALIZATION AND WELFARE



URBACT IV (2021 - 2027) will continue to support cities working on integrated and sustainable urban development through the cooperation of the EU and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The existing types of networks will again be:

Action Planning Networks to develop local integrated action plans to improve their cities.

Transfer Networks where cities will understand, adapt and reuse a labeled best practice in their context.

Innovation Transfer Facility where cities will develop investment plans for initiatives implemented under the Urban Innovative Actions and European Urban Initiative projects

URBACT IV networks will continue to cover a wide range of urban themes, from which cities will be able to choose. However, it is very much appreciated that the cross-cutting themes of the program will be taken into account in the process: green, gender, digital. Naturally, URBACT's capacity building and capitalization activities, as well as flagship events, will continue until 2027.

Proposed subject matter:

Having analyzed the priorities of the European urban agenda and the URBACT program, and having analyzed the strategic opportunities of the program, it is proposed to explore the following main theme:

Digitalization, accessibility and social inclusion.

Taking into account the "SMART" concept or digitalization of things, a network of 8-9 small European cities (less than 100,000 inhabitants) will work to explore the digital transition in their cities from the point of view of social welfare, accessibility and social inclusion. Small cities are the only ones able to guarantee sustainable development, according to the conclusions drawn from the HABITAT conference organized by the United Nations in Quito in 2016.

The demographic challenge posed by the aging of the European population highlights the need to adapt cities to the different generations that inhabit them, with special attention to the elderly population. In this scenario, accessibility is one of the future challenges for the European Union due to demographic changes and the aging of the population, with a special impact on common aspects such as tourism, public services or the day-to-day life of the inhabitants and visitors of the municipality. In addition, the issue of accessibility and the demographic challenge will address other topical issues such as gender equality, the intergenerational approach, disabilities, mental health or the management of social support to vulnerable people during extraordinary periods such as those experienced during the COVID19 pandemic.

In this sense, the URBACT program will offer the cities participating in the network the opportunity to cooperate for more than two and a half years on these issues, learning from each other, exploring and learning more about these challenges, visiting similar realities in other parts of Europe, developing integrated strategies and innovative actions in their urban contexts and also acquiring URBACT's own working methodologies, based on citizen participation, peer learning and integrated approach. Likewise, participating in this experience will provide an improvement in the technical capacities of the participating cities, a greater experience and results with which to be able to opt for other future funding opportunities from the European Union. All this, co-financed by the URBACT program at 70% and with the support of experts from the same program, which will facilitate the whole process.

The URBACT program, although financed by the European Regional Development Fund, is a cooperation program that does not finance physical actions. It finances the whole process of cooperation, learning and development of technical documents (reports, strategies, technical development of project ideas, etc.), which will last 30 months. All these technical documents will form a privileged argument for future European subsidies, innovative policies, etc.