

URBACT Pioneers Accelerator Call – FAQ (v18122024)

- LOCAL TEAM AND URBACT INTERN

Are we obligated to hire an URBACT Intern regardless of the thematic focus we are applying for?

Yes, all participating cities are expected to hire an URBACT Intern that will support the existing city staff with activities expected in the Pioneers Accelerator programme. We expect URBACT Interns to work only on URBACT project and be notably involved in local communication and stakeholder engagement activities. Further information and guidance for hiring the most appropriate profile will be provided at the start of the programme.

Does the intern need to be a full-time employee? And is that the eliminatory criteria?

URBACT Intern does not need to be a full-time employee and this is not eliminatory criteria. There can be different possibilities for hiring an URBACT Intern depending on local legislation and procedures. In case the institution is not able to hire interns (or other type of apprentice) it needs to be explained in the application form.

Can the URBACT intern be a student of relevant university?

URBACT Interns can be either students of relevant universities or young graduate searching first job opportunities.

Are URBACT interns counted in a local team?

URBACT Interns will be part of the Local team and are expected to be involved in all key Pioneers Accelerator activities.

How does 10 000 EUR support the work / engagement of the local team (including the interim)?

10 000 EUR are estimated for financing the salary of the URBACT Intern as well as for the bonuses/ salaries of the existing municipal staff involved in the project. The local team involved in the learning programme are expected to be already full-time employees acquiring new skills for supporting the existing work/ projects.

- SMALL SCALE PILOT PROJECT

Result of the Pioneers Accelerator is a learning process with a small budget to develop and implement the small-scale pilot project?

Yes. All participating cities are expected to implement a small - scale pilot project for their urban challenge. 15 000 EUR are available for financing local activities and the implementation of the possible solution. Cities will be able to buy specific equipment needed for the pilot project and cover the costs of stakeholder engagement activities.

Can you give an example of a small-scale pilot action?

Some examples of possible pilot project are illustrated in the Annex 2 of the Call document under each thematic area described. In addition to this you can also take a look at the [URBACT Testing Actions Catalogue](#) which describes these types of small-scale interventions implemented by cities in the past URBACT Action Planning networks. The scope of possible small-scale pilot projects is very wide. These will be defined in the course of the Pioneers Accelerator programme based on the foreseen methodological framework.

- ELIGIBILITY

Our city is already involved in an ongoing URBACT network, does that mean that none of the individuals that make up the team for that project can't be a part of the team for this one?

The individuals involved in an ongoing URBACT network may be part of the proposed local team for the Pioneers Accelerator. However, it is important to demonstrate the capacity to manage multiple projects, as well as the added value and complementarities with the existing URBACT project. Typically, international departments within local administrations are engaged in cooperation projects. In the Pioneers Accelerator, the focus is on learning, and we expect to include, in the Local team, civil servants from relevant departments working on the specific thematic or policy area to be addressed in the Accelerator programme.

Can city Agencies responsible for specific municipal services apply?

Local agencies defined as public or semi-public organisations set up by a city, partially or fully owned by the city authority, responsible for the design and implementation of specific policies (economic development, energy supply, health services, transport, etc.) are eligible.

It is mentioned that Regions aren't eligible to apply, what about regional development agencies that are registered as unit of local self-government?

Place-based approach is expected to be applied in the Pioneers Accelerator programme.

Due to the complexity of local self-government systems in different countries, we would suggest (regional/ county) development agencies to propose the project and describe how the place-based approach will be applied. In this case, it would be suggested that the Local team includes the relevant staff from the local level concerned. We will then assess if it makes sense for the specific institution/ local administration to take part in this programme.

Another option is that these types of agencies invite specific municipality from their region/ province/ county area to participate in the programme. "Regional" development agencies in this case can provide strategic support or similar.

Can we merge our application, together with the municipal enterprise formed by the municipality, or with a team consisting of the municipality and the public enterprise on a topic that is within the joint jurisdiction of both institutions?

This option is possible as long as it makes sense for the urban challenge to be tackled. However, one of the two institutions will need to be designated as an accountable party to sign the subsidy contracts (and provide signed commitment letter at the application stage).

- APPLICATION FORM

Question 4.2 in application form: Why applicants need to rate all proposed topics of the call, in addition to the ones for which they are applying for?

We would like to have an overview of knowledge in different topics of the cities involved in order to identify the potential for possible contribution to exchange and learning activities related to different themes of the Accelerator.

- REPORTING and ADMINISTRATION

How many project reporting periods will there be? How often are reimbursements made?

In addition to the advance payment of 20 % that can be provided at the start of the programme we expect to have 2 rounds of payments. First reporting round will take place at the mid-point and the second (final one) at the end of the Accelerator programme.