



FEMACT-Cities 3rd Quarterly Report

July - September 2024

Moving towards action

URBACT



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1. The FEMACT-Cities Network

Gender equality has been enshrined in EU law for nearly 25 years, however, implementation on a local level remains uneven. The role of gender equality as a cross-cutting topic which is vital to all policy areas remains poorly understood and work on gender equality implementation on a local level continues to be hampered by knowledge and data gaps, lack of dedicated personnel, lack of awareness, lack of political support and both active and passive resistance.

The FEMACT-Cities network is therefore focusing on the **implementation gap** in gender equality policy across a wide range of topics. The network's goal is twofold: to **improve the implementation of gender equality on a local level** and to **increase innovation and knowledge sharing in gender equality** in topics shared by the partners.

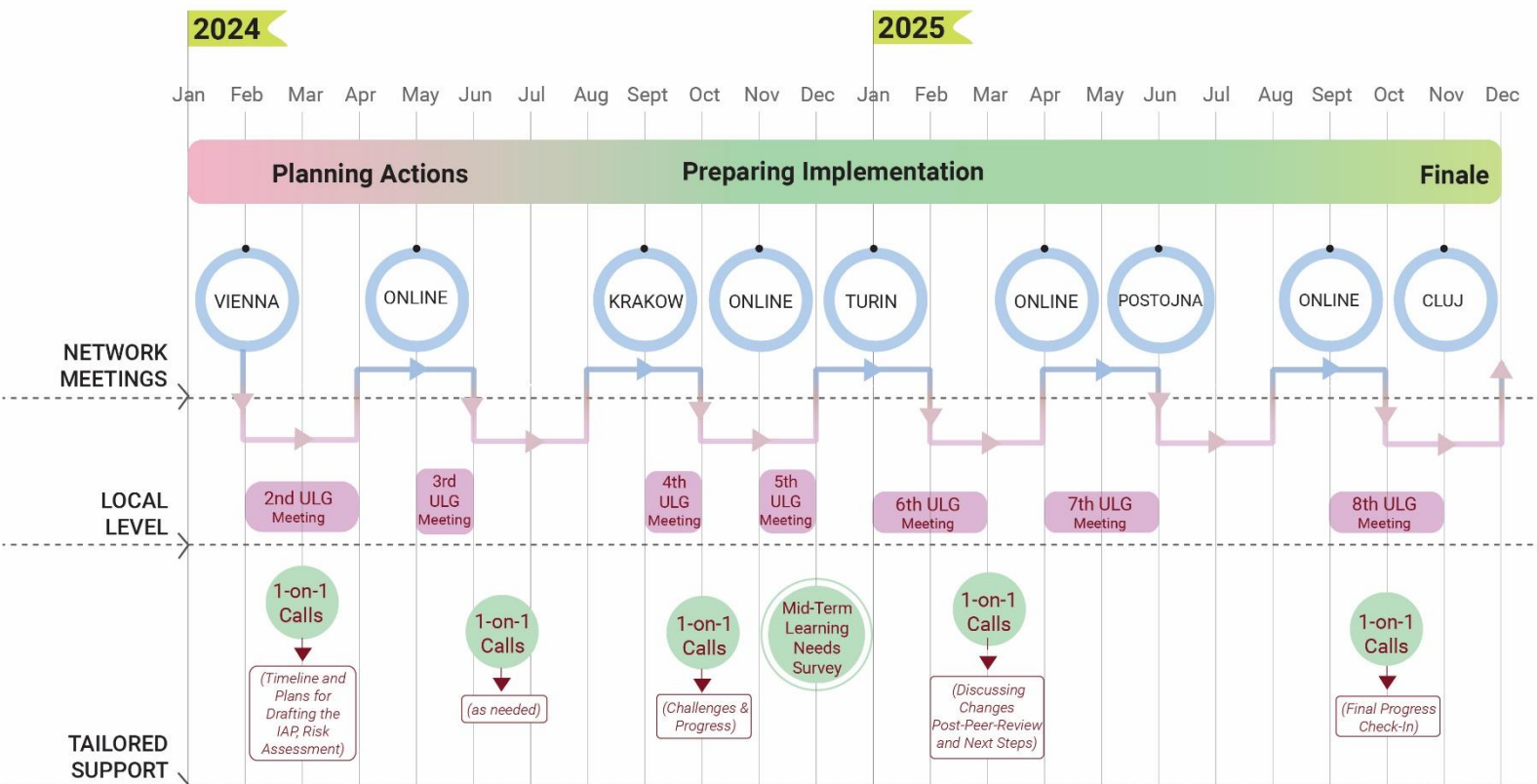
To do this, the bespoke network curriculum focuses on both factors which help and hinder implementation, from plans to data to political support, and sharing knowledge from best practices outside the network and between the network partners. The goal is to empower the partners and a wider audience not only in the “what” but also the “how” of gender equality on a local level.

The FEMACT-Cities partners are

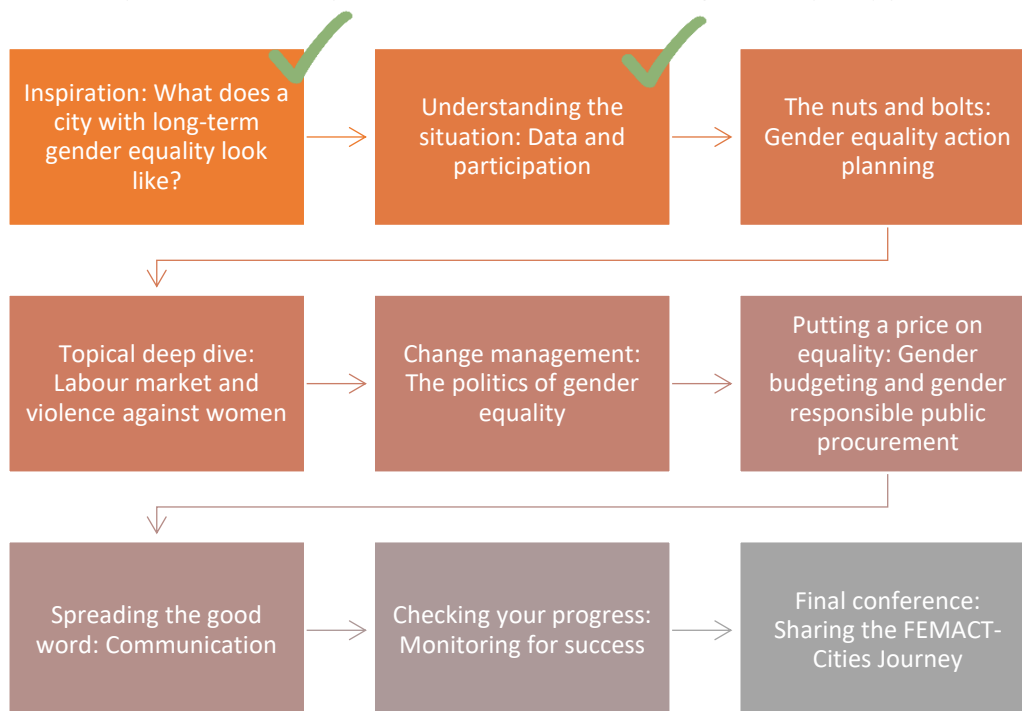
- Clermont Auvergne Métropole (FR) (Lead Partner)
- Länsstyrelsen Skåne (SE)
- Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (PT)
- City of Kraków (PL)
- City of Turin (IT)
- Municipality of Postojna (SI)
- Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (RO)
- Szabolcs 05 Regional Development Association of Municipalities (HU)



2. The FEMACT-Cities Journey – A Path to More Equality



Over the course of the two-year network journey, the partners will meet at nine transnational meetings, which will give them the topical inputs, peer learning and exchange, and methodological tools to be able to move towards the network vision in their local context. The bespoke network methodology will cover both the topics in the four topical clusters and the “how” of gender equality plans.



3. What is going on in our URBACT Local Groups?



Clermont Auvergne Métropole (France)

The French partner used their recent ULG meetings to transfer the knowledge from the recent transnational meetings to their local partners and to kick-start the action planning process by running an “idea marathon” with their ULG, in which the more than 30 members generated numerous ideas for actions and testing actions.



Länsstyrelsen Skåne (Sweden)

The Swedish partner has cooperated with universities in the county and two student groups are writing their theses on female entrepreneurship – a great source of data. One of the students presented at the Kraków meeting, more about that below. In their next meeting, they will discuss the role of networks in female entrepreneurship.



Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (Portugal)

The Portuguese partner has been working hard on developing their four IAP topical areas: cultural issues, urban planning, entrepreneurship and educational inequalities. The data session with Béla Kézy helped them to realize that they lack good quality data, which has led to a new focus on developing indicators for gender equality monitoring.



City of Kraków (Poland)

Since the last meeting, the research commissioned by the Polish partner has been completed – this will be presented at the transnational meeting and is discussed in more detail in the section below. Their ULG has grown to nearly 40 members and boasts members from a number of city departments, the police department and local organisations.



City of Turin (Italy)

In Italy, the focus of the last ULG meetings was team building and data. The ULG members broke into small groups to work on proposals for the IAP. Ideas included the promotion of a new leadership model, a mentoring programme, expansion of flexible hours, and the promotion of parental leave for men.



Municipality of Postojna (Slovenia)

The Slovenian partner has worked on improving their IAP draft, including meeting with an external expert and getting feedback from Béla Kézy on the data sources for their IAP. They have defined their pilot actions and already contracted out for the delivery. Finally, they have planned a ULG meeting directly after the meeting in Kraków to transfer knowledge directly from a network to a local level.



Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania)

In Romania, the partner has decided on testing actions which will support the work on their IAP. They plan to pilot bystander trainings and a bystander campaign on harassment in public transportation and also work on trainings for police officers on consent and reporting. They look forward to our upcoming network session on GBV.



Szabolcs 05 Regional Development Association of Municipalities (Hungary)

In Hungary, the ULG meeting on 3 September 2024 helped share the good practices and learnings from the most recent transnational meeting and discuss the pilot actions, which will take place in October. In addition, the team was invited to present the project by the Hungarian NUP, a great communication opportunity!



4. Transnational Meeting in Kraków, Poland

Our most recent transnational meeting was a wonderful reunion, and the first time that we had all seen each other since our February 2024 meeting in Vienna. Over two intense days in Krakow, we really dug into both the thematics being worked on in the network and the action planning process.

Day 1: A Thematic Feast

After a warm welcome from **Maria Kłaman**, the Vice Mayor of Krakow, **Aldo Vargas**, the Polish National URBACT Point, and **Christine Fournioux** on behalf of the lead partner, Clermont-Auvergne Métropole, each of the partners presented what they've been up to on a local level in one slide, a session we call the **ULG Progress Report**. You can find more details about that in the previous section.

After these opening sessions, two of the partners gave a more in-depth presentation on their topical focus, both choosing to present background research conducted in the context of their Integrated Action Planning process.

Partner Deep Dive: City of Kraków



Partner Deep Dive: Länsstyrelsen Skåne
Caroline Olsmats presented her research on female entrepreneurship and venture capital. Her master thesis was funded in part as one of the Swedish partner's testing actions.

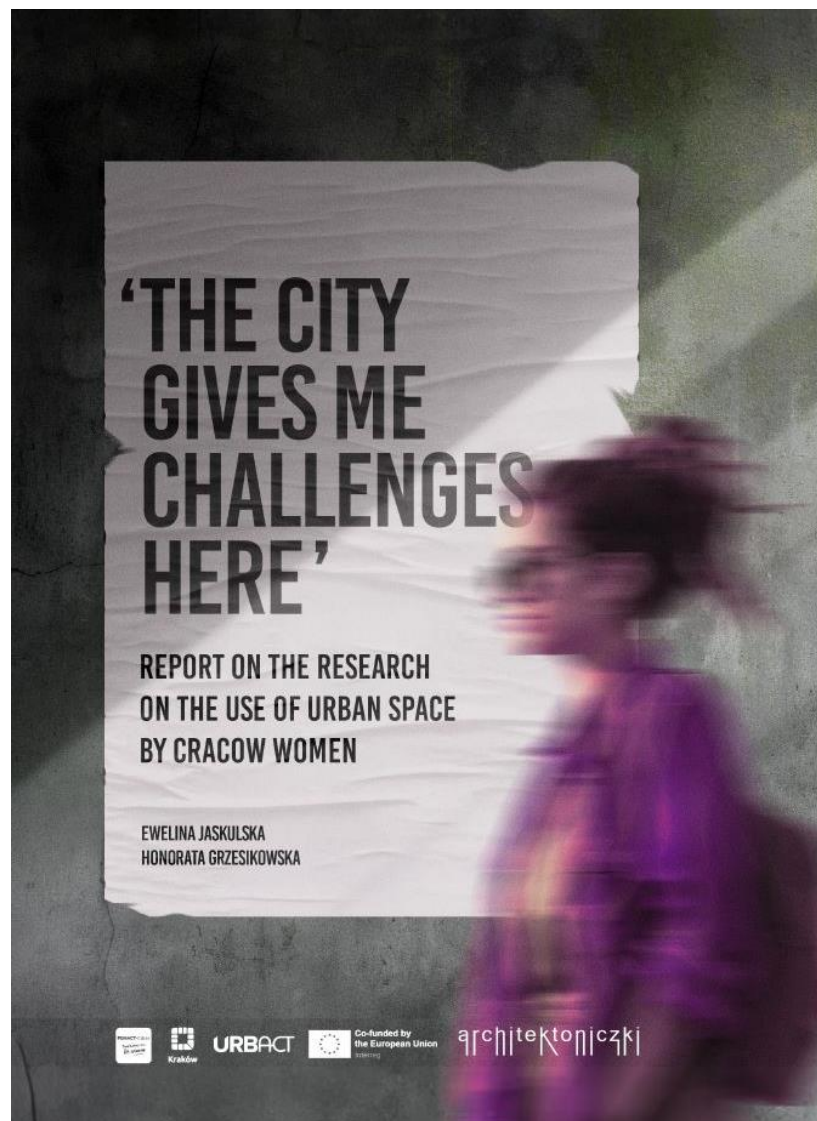
Caroline gave insight into gender gaps in equity-based funding for start-ups in Sweden. In her thesis, she examined female entrepreneurs' attitudes toward equity-based funding, identified barriers to access for female entrepreneurs, and identified actions that regional actors can take in making access to venture capital easier for female entrepreneurs.

Caroline's research will flow directly into Skåne's integrated action plan.

Ewelina Jaskólska from the women's architecture collective Architektoniczki presented the research she completed on behalf of the city. The report presents research into four research areas: gendered perceptions of space with relation to fear and comfort, girls' perspectives on school recreation spaces, the specific needs of mothers with disabilities, who have the double burden of physical constraints and care work responsibilities, and more generally the city from the perspective of care givers and care work.

The presentation offered a number of new and innovative perspectives into the spatial needs of different groups of women in Krakow from an intersectional perspective.

Read more and download the report in English here: <https://rownosc.krakow.pl/zalacznik/489386>





Local Case Study: Safer cities for girls and young women

After a break, **Agata Teutsch** from the JUNIPER Foundation presented the Safer Cities and "#strong #free #safe" project. The goal of this project was to develop a safe, responsible, and inclusive city with girls and young women which increases their safety, their access to public spaces, their active and meaningful participation, and their autonomy and safety of movement.

The project, which was made up of a large consortium of partners, explored gender-based violence in public space, looking at cause and effect and co-creating solutions and policy recommendations together with young women and girls.

Fresh Air and Fresh Perspectives: A Feminist City Tour

We wrapped up day one with a feminist city tour, highlighting the role of women in Krakow's history and development. Photos from the tour are scattered throughout this report.

Day 2: Gender Action Planning Workshop with Ian Graham

On day two of the meeting, the partners worked intensively on honing their intervention logics in a workshop run jointly by **Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse** and **Ian Graham**.

Partners reported in particular finding the differentiation between visions, goals and actions important, and many reported benefitting from the elevator pitch “speed dating” that wrapped up the workshop.



Resumée

The fourth transnational network meeting offered the partners an in-depth view into a number of topics we are working on in the network, from urban development to safety. In addition, partners got to work directly on honing their intervention logics, in preparation for preparing the IAP drafts for our next in-person meeting in January.

5. Key Learnings from Kraków

1. Asking users can give **surprising answers**

The projects presented at the Krakow meeting demonstrate the value of direct participation measures and working together with people directly affected by problems. Not only does this approach yield surprising answers and occasionally contradict our assumptions about the best course of action, it also often offers new ideas for solutions.

2. There is **more data** than you think

The examples presented in Krakow also demonstrate the various data sources cities can draw from – from master theses and academic research, to information from participatory measures. In order to form a full picture, cities need to be creative. But thankfully, as the examples presented in Krakow show, there is often more data than one thinks.

3. **Research and policy** go hand in hand

Data and participation are also both necessary to inform targeted policies. Working together with a cross-stakeholder group and involving policy beneficiaries are two effective measures to ensure that policies are both well-informed and well-targeted.

4. Practice makes a **perfect message**

Finally, the intervention logic workshop made clear how important it is to work on one's message and pitch. Communication is a central part of social change, and it is important to "try out" core messages with different target groups and adjust as needed. This approach yields important information about whether wordings and tone work or still need work.



6. Where do we go next?

In the next quarter, the network will meet online again. The fifth transnational network meeting will include a dedicated session on partner's testing actions and on the mid-term review. We will also have a number of exciting ad hoc inputs, including a workshop on integration with Ed Thorpe, a panel on municipal approaches to the labour market and female entrepreneurship with Sandra Rainero and a panel on municipal approaches to gender-based violence with Jenna Norman. This last one will be a first for URBACT. More about that in the next report! Stay tuned!



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