

## ANTI-FRAUD POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### Our commitment

The Managing Authority (MA) for URBACT IV Programme is committed to maintain high legal, ethical and moral standards, to adhere to the principles of integrity, objectivity and honesty and wishes to be seen as opposed to fraud and corruption in the way that it implements the programme. All members of staff are expected to share this commitment.

URBACT IV Programme finances projects through EU and public funding and we are engaging to protect the EU and public funds that have been entrusted to us.

Fraud can manifest itself in many different ways. The MA has a zero-tolerance policy to fraud and corruption, and has in place a robust control system that is designed to prevent and detect, as far as is practicable, acts of fraud and correct their impact, should they occur.

The objective of our anti-fraud policy is to promote a culture which deters fraudulent activity and to facilitate the prevention and detection of fraud and the development of procedures which will aid in the investigation of fraud and related offences and which will ensure that such cases are dealt with timely and appropriately.

This policy and all relevant procedures and strategies are supported by the URBACT IV Programme Monitoring Committee who will proactively review and update them on a continual basis.

### **A procedure is in place for the disclosure of frauds and situations of conflict of interests**

The term fraud is commonly used to describe a wide range of misconducts including theft, corruption, embezzlement, bribery, forgery, misrepresentation, collusion, money laundering and concealment of material facts. It often involves the use of deception to make a personal gain for oneself, a connected person or a third party, or a loss for another – intention is the key element that distinguishes fraud from irregularity.

Fraud does not just have a potential financial impact, but it can cause damage to the reputation of an organisation responsible for managing funds effectively and efficiently. This is of particular importance for a public organisation responsible for the management of EU funds.

Corruption is the abuse of power for private gain.

Conflict of interests exists where the impartial and objective exercise of the official functions of a person are compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with e.g. an applicant for or a recipient of EU funds.

The Managing Authority bears the responsibility of having effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures and procedures in place, considering the risks identified (Common Provision Regulation, Article 74(1)).

### **Reporting Fraud and Whistleblowing procedure**

The MA has procedures in place for reporting fraud, both internally and to the European Anti-Fraud Office.

All reports will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence and in accordance with EU Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Staff reporting irregularities or suspected frauds are protected from reprisals.

Either suspected or established, the URBACT IV Programme has developed a strong procedure to report any fraud you may have witnessed should it be one partner, any involved expert or even one of the Programme authorities.

If so, please provide all details to the following anonymised email address: [alert@urbact.eu](mailto:alert@urbact.eu), so that all appropriate measures will be implemented starting with a thorough investigation of the fraud, and if applicable, apply all sanctions as described in the Programme's procedures and relevant EU regulation and guidelines.

Please note that sending a message to this email address does not replace notification to competent national authorities or any national legal actions that may be introduced in parallel. It also does not have any impact on the time limits for such legal actions.

National controllers wishing to report a suspicion of fraud should use the template provided by the programme.