



Driving change for better cities

Call for Transfer Networks

→ Exchange & learning

→ Expertise

Online Info session

22 May 2025

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Who's in the Zoom



EXCHANGE & LEARNING

- 
- **The URBACT Programme**
 - **What's in it for cities**
 - **The Transfer Network journey**
 - **Shaping network activities**
 - **Expertise support**

The URBACT Programme

URBACT IV

2021-2027

European Territorial Cooperation programme

co-financed by:

- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
- The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
- the and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

Objective:

Promote sustainable urban development in Europe

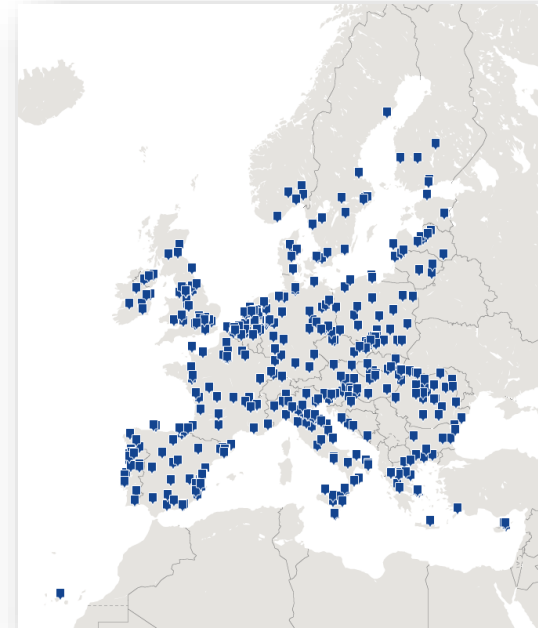
European Territorial Cooperation Programme co-funded by ERDF

Promoting sustainable urban development in cities

Since
2002



Over
1000
cities
involved



more than
150
networks

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Three strands of activities

Capacity building activities & tools



Summer University & e-University

National Campus

URBACT Toolbox

Online courses



Knowledge uptake and sharing

URBACT knowledge hub

URBACT City Festival

Urban policy labs

Thematic reports

Online courses



Networks of European cities

*From 2014 to 2021,
83 networks involved 678 partners across the EU*

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3 Types of Networks of Cities – Join the next calls!



Cities and local stakeholders co-produce an Integrated Action Plan to tackle their common policy challenges.

1st Call – 2023

2nd Call –
Spring 2026



Cities share and adapt a successful Good Practice that has already been implemented in their Network's lead city.

Call
April-June 2025



Cities adapt the experience of a successful Urban Innovative Actions' project and develop an investment plan to implement it.

Call – Spring 2024

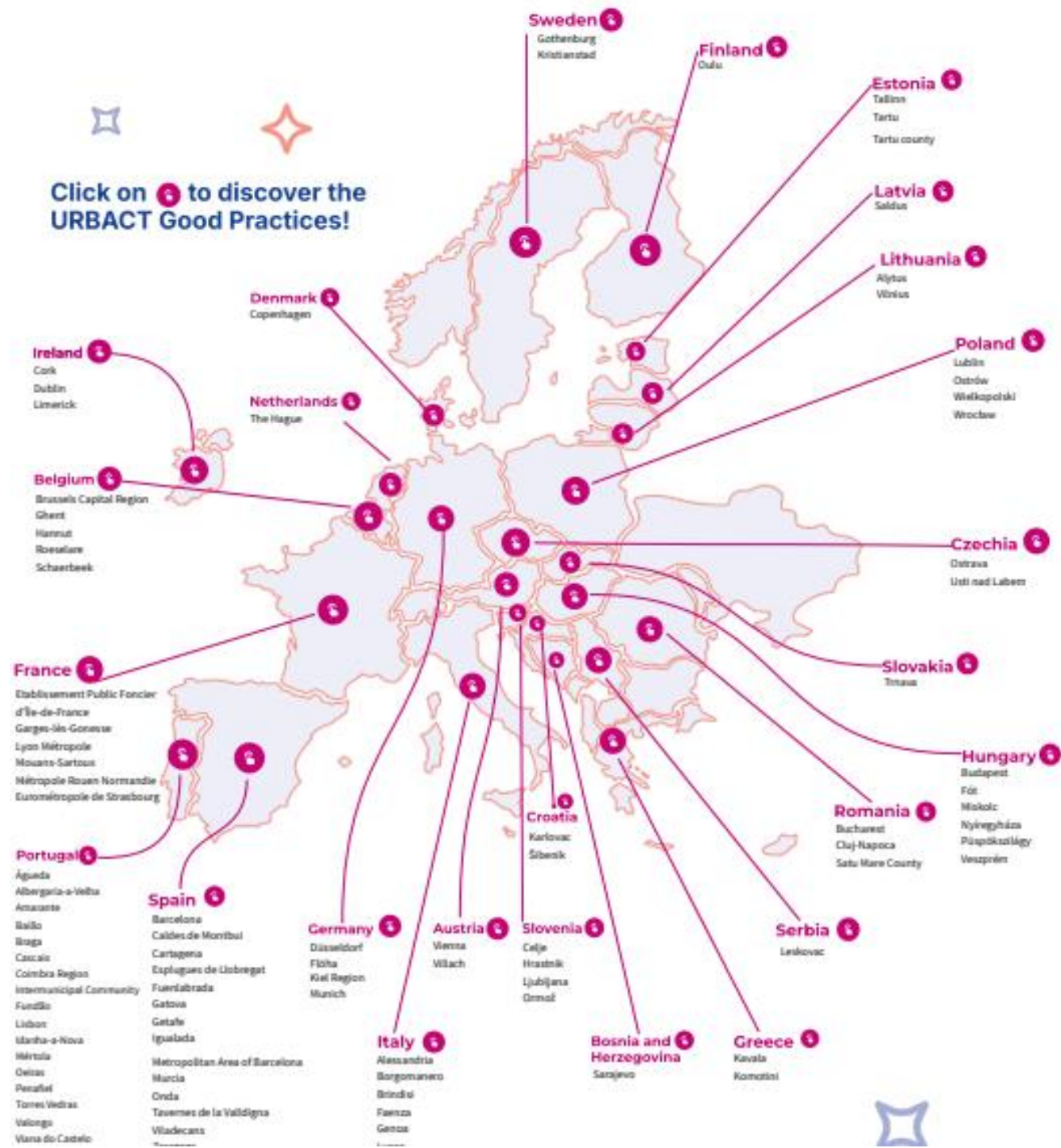


Good Practices Call

URBACT
GOOD
PRACTICE

116 URBACT Good Practices

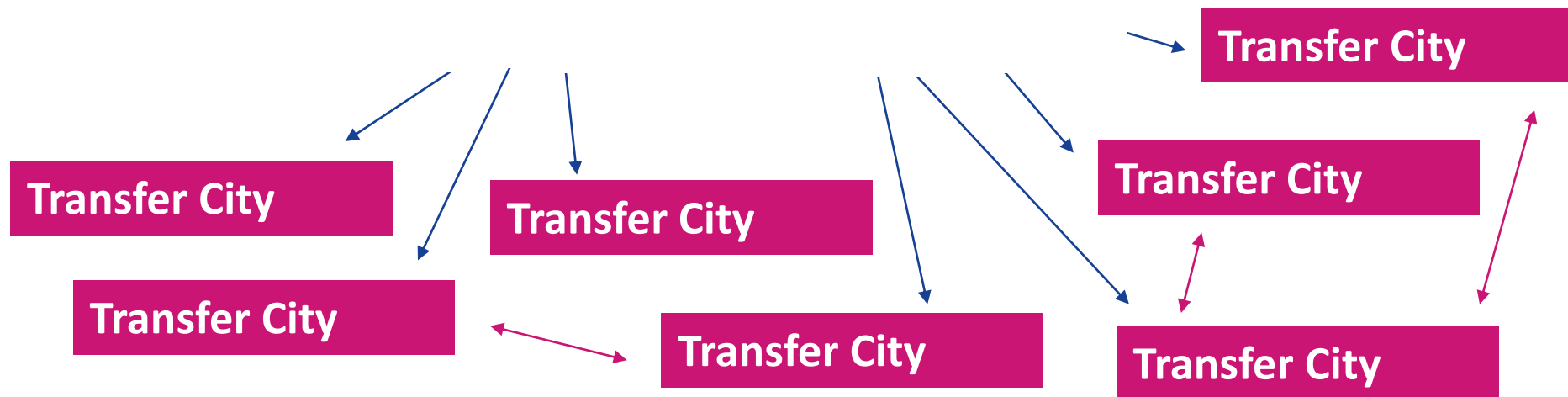
99 cities
25 countries





WHAT IS A TRANSFER NETWORK?

An URBACT Good Practice City



[Call for Transfer Networks – Main features



- **Partnership:** 6-8 partners including Good Practice City
- **Eligible Lead Partner:** 116 Good Practices selected in 2024
- **Eligible Partners:** all EU cities, Switzerland, Norway, IPA and NDICI countries
- **Duration:** 30 months (from 1/11/2025 to 30/04/2028)
- **Budget:** 750 000€

[Partnership - Eligibility requirements



- ✓ Only cities with a 2024 URBACT Good Practice can be Lead Partners under this call
- ✓ **A city can be a candidate Lead Partner of one Transfer Network proposal only** (but can be additionally a Project Partner in another network)
- ✓ **A beneficiary** can be a partner in **max. 2 approved networks**
- ✓ **A partnership** cannot include **more than one partner from the same country**
- ✓ **1 “non-city partner”** allowed per network

Geographical balance

- a network must involve partners from at least 6 different countries (in case of a 6 partners), of which at least 2 from EU Member States (including the Good Practice city)
- from the EU partners (minimum 2, maximum all partners), at least half should be located in Less Developed and Transition EU Regions.

>>> In terms of assessment, it is recommended to build a **diverse partnership**

[WHY APPLY TO A TRANSFER NETWORK?

URBACT Good Practice City

- To **lead & mentor the process** of understanding, adapting and reusing your good practice.
- To benefit from **visibility & communication activities** at EU and national levels
- To try out new methods related to your Good Practices thanks to **Testing Actions**
- To **upscale and improve the Good Practice** thanks to the URBACT method & inputs from other EU cities

- ✓ **Benefit from the support of URBACT experts**
- ✓ **Benefit from the involvement of local stakeholders**
- ✓ **Enjoy a safe space for experimentation**

Transfer Cities

- To **adapt & re-use a tested and effective practice** in their own city context
- To **tackle a specific policy challenge** with an integrated and sustainable solution
- To learn from the process & document it through a **Transfer Plan**



How to transfer?

A 30-month 3-stage journey

2025/2026

2027

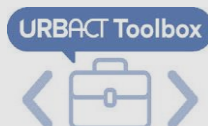
2028



- Getting a deep understanding of the Good Practice
- Designing the transfer methodology & Exchange and Learning
- Setting up URBACT Local Groups

- Breaking down the good practice into modules
- Focusing on the adaptation of the good practice to the local contexts
- Engaging stakeholders with testing actions
- Documenting the Transfer Process

- Focusing on finalising plans & drawing lessons for the future
- Sharing results of the Transfer processes to an external audience
- Looking forward to upscale, expand and improve the Good Practice



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[Network deliverables



Network level

- A **Transferability Study** – UNDERSTAND stage
- A **Communication Plan** – UNDERSTAND stage
- **Transnational Network meetings** (at least 6)
- **Quarterly Network Journals** (6 during UNDERSTAND & ADAPT stage)
- **Network Articles** (at least 3)
- **Final Network Report**

Local level

- A **URBACT Local group**
- A **Transfer Plan** (Roadmap & Report) – *For Transfer partners*
- An **Improvement Plan** – *For Good Practice Cities*

+ Additional customised set of Exchange & Learning and Communication activities to be decided by the partnership

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[Transferability Study

- ✓ A detailed description of the Good Practice and its transfer potential, placing it within the context of the EU's urban policy priorities
- ✓ A review of the transfer context in each of the transfer partner cities
- ✓ The network's bespoke exchange and learning methodology based on the identified assets and barriers to transfer and implementation
- ✓ Highlights local assets and barriers to transfer and implementation
- ✓ Takes account of key factors such as local strategic priorities, levels of political support and potential funding sources
- ✓ Sets the basis for a unique “network roadmap” with a detailed workplan of activities at transnational and local level

[Transfer Plan for Transfer Cities

- ✓ A needs analysis establishing the rationale for transferring the Good Practice
- ✓ A detailed description of the Good Practice, including its results and evidence of impact
- ✓ A detailed outline of the modules of the Good practice to be adapted
- ✓ Details of the partnership delivery model – including roles and responsibilities
- ✓ A schedule of activities, outputs and outcomes
- ✓ Lessons learned during the transfer process
- ✓ Expected ways to further work on the Good Practice after the end of the Transfer Network



Improvement Plan for Lead Partners

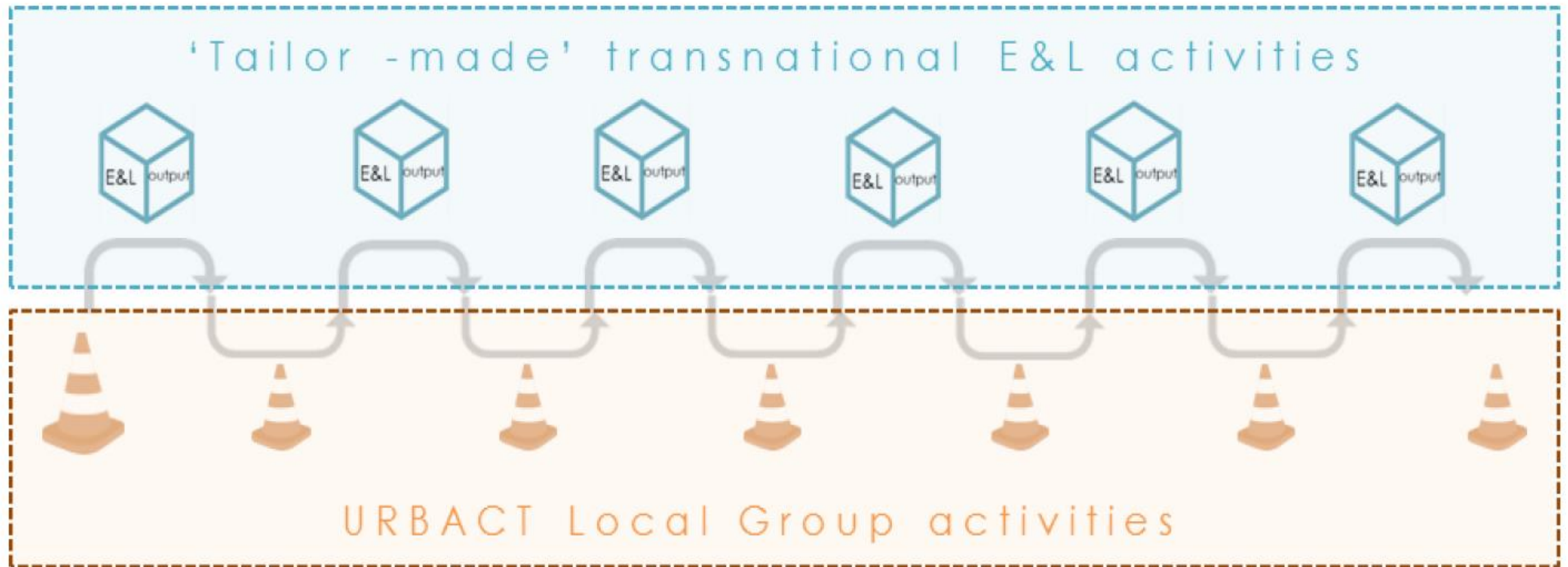
- ✓ tailored to the Good Practice city's needs and priorities
- ✓ each Lead Partner will determine its own set of activities, supported by the network Lead Expert

Expected benefits:

- ✓ Enhancing the city's profile as a lead player in the network's policy area
- ✓ Gathering suggestions for improvement of the Good Practice from the network's peer review activities
- ✓ Sustaining, improving and possibly upscaling the practice and reviewing it considering the cross-cutting principles of Green transition, Digital Transition and Gender equality.

SHAPING NETWORK ACTIVITIES

[SHAPING NETWORK ACTIVITIES



[SHAPING NETWORK ACTIVITIES - key points

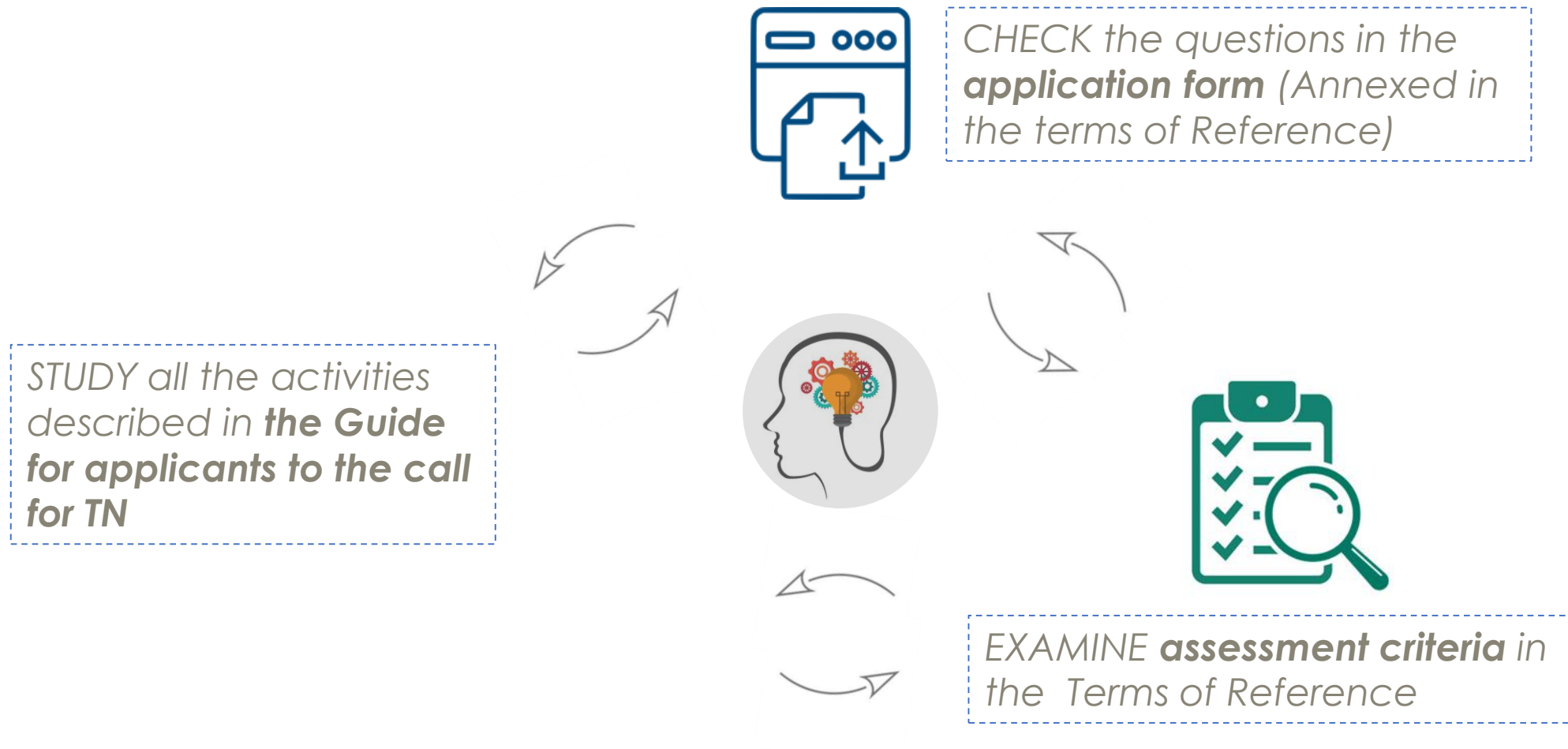
- ✓ Different lengths of transnational network activities
- ✓ Meetings should be interactive, stimulating and enjoyable
- ✓ Thematic focus – type of stakeholders – type of activities proposed (expert input, ‘Forensic’ site visits, peer review exercises, group problem-solving, structured discussions and analysis sessions using dynamic facilitation techniques, ...)
- ✓ Key role of local stakeholders
- ✓ Advance planning

[SHAPING NETWORK ACTIVITIES – tools for learning and knowledge uptake

FOR EXAMPLE

- ✓ Pre- and post-meeting **briefing notes**: capture and document the E&L rationale
- ✓ **Different tools to capture learning**: includes key learning points for each partner and actions to be carried out at local level, helps partners record the history of learning and monitor actions throughout the journey
- ✓ **Support and follow up materials**: materials, handouts, produced for/at network activities that can help ULG participants design debriefings at local level

[Developing your proposals around exchange and learning activities



[Keep in mind

- Transfer / Improvement plans: a driver of the transnational exchange & learning activities as well as a concrete output of the participation in the Network
- The transfer journey, although a shared experience, is ultimately a unique / tailor-made one for each transfer partner. Adaptation of the original Good Practice and preparation for reuse is made in a format that reflects the new local context.
- **The lessons learnt during the transnational activities will inspire partners to adapt this knowledge at local level, develop skills relating to the good practice and co-design a robust Transfer process with peers.**

Questions?



EXPERTISE SUPPORT

[Expertise support

Additional envelope of 120 000€ for expertise support
> Up to 160 expertise days available

- **Network Lead expert** supports the network over the entire duration of the network
- **Several network Ad-Hoc Experts** providing specific support on a particular policy subject, methodology, communications...
- **Experts are selected from the URBACT IV pool of validated experts** available on the URBACT website



[Expertise support

- Production of the **Transferability Study**
- Development of the **network methodology**, including the potential modularisation of the good practice
- Support for setting up URBACT **Local Groups** in each partner city
- Expertise for the **design and delivery of transnational exchange and learning activities** in collaboration with partners
- **Thematic expertise** related to the policy challenge being addressed
- Support partners in applying **integrated and participatory approaches**
- Support partners with the design and peer review of their **Final Transfer Reports**.
- Support the Lead Partner to produce **Improvement Plans**
- Production of **key network outputs** and contribution to **programme-level activities** on relevant topics
- Advice to Lead and Transfer Partners on **testing actions**

[Lead Expert Selection



1. **Expertise needs and criteria for the selection of network experts shall be provided in the application form** based on URBACT expertise framework outlined in the ToR and Guide
2. **After the approval of Transfer Networks, experts validated in the URBACT pool** will be invited to express their interest in becoming Lead Expert of an TN
3. **URBACT Secretariat will check suitability** in coherence with the Application Form
4. **Final selection agreed with the Lead partner based on interviews with candidates**



Questions?



[Where to start with the application?

Main resources:

- ✓ URBACT Good Practice Database
- ✓ Terms of Reference
- ✓ Guide for applicants
- ✓ Programme Manual
- ✓ Guide to Synergie

All available at:

urbact.eu/get-involved



Cannot find what you are looking for? Contact tn@urbact.eu

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[Join [u]s for the next online info sessions!

- 23 April, 10:00 -11:30 CET: 10.00-11.30 CET: Call Presentation & How to build a strong partnership for a Transfer Network
- 22 May, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: Exchange & learning during the network journey
- 17 June, 10.00-11.00 CET: Time to submit your application: tech & troubleshooting
- 24 June 2025, 10.00-11.00 CET: Final troubleshooting

Details: urbact.eu/get-involved

Contact: TN@urbact.eu

➤ For information and support in your national language, you may contact the National URBACT Points:

<https://urbact.eu/how-find-us/nup>

THANK [u] FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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**MORE INFORMATION AT
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