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Cities After Dark Municipality Of Piraeus

Integrated Action Plan

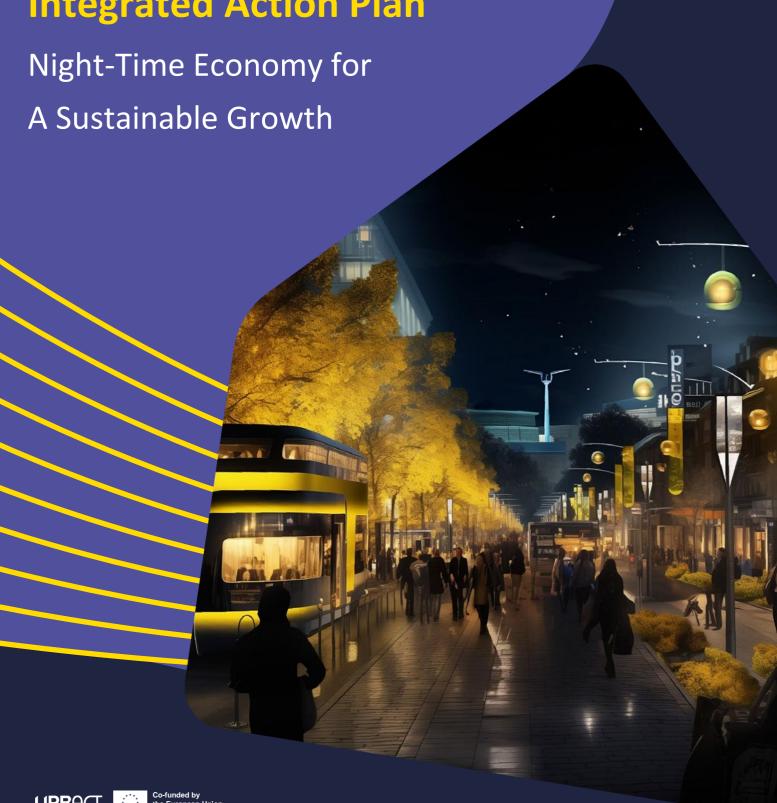




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1. Executive Summary



Figure 1 - Piraeus Night Aerial Photo

This Integrated Action Plan (IAP) attempts to craft a roadmap with specific elements for succeeding the transition of Piraeus into a vibrant, safe and inclusive night-time city that combines economic vitality with social well-being and environmental sustainability. The IAP has been co-created through an extensive participatory process involving the Municipality of Piraeus itself, the URBACT Local Group (ULG) and a wide network of local stakeholders, including cultural and business representatives, community groups and relevant public services. Fully incorporating the values of the collaborative spirit of the URBACT "Cities After Dark" (CAD) network, the plan addresses local challenges while attempting to align with wider European urban strategies for sustainable urban development.

Piraeus, being a major port city with features of a homogeneous cultural landscape and diversified economic structure, is endowed with specific opportunities and challenges in its nighttime economy in close relation to one another. Key issues revealed during the planning process involve various cultural events, nocturnal safety perception, poor participation by the vulnerable groups and a lack of a coordinated governance approach. The IAP addresses these challenges through a shared vision of transitioning Piraeus into a: "A city alive and accessible after dark - inclusive, safe, vibrant and sustainable for all."

To achieve this greater vision, the plan defines four strategic objectives (SOs):

- 1. Promoting the vibrancy of the night-time economy
- 2. Enhancing urban safety and accessibility
- 3. Fostering social inclusion and supporting night-time workers
- 4. Encouraging sustainability and evidence-based governance

These objectives are operationalized through **four Priority Axes (PAs)**, each one backed by a set of well-defined actions and pilot Testing Actions. Specific highlights include seasonal night-time cultural events such as the "Santa Night Run" and "Red Night", gender-sensitive urban design initiatives, noise monitoring systems, late-night childcare services, smart lighting upgrades and the creation of a digital event calendar. Governance measures are equally important to the plan: the city aims to appoint a Night-Time Economy Officer to supervise the continuous monitoring and dynamic adaptation of the plan.

The IAP is pragmatic and sustainable in its conception. It sets out a phased implementation plan underpinned by funding at the municipal, national and EU levels alongside specific monitoring indicators and risk management approach to enable responsive adaptation to changing needs. The focus is on the importance of effective communication and stakeholder management by annual forums, thematic working groups and regular updates. In line with URBACT priorities, the IAP demonstrates strong alignment with the three cross-cutting thematics of **Digital Transition**, **Gender Equality and Green Transition**. By integrating smart cities initiatives, gender-sensitive design and services and sustainable practices such as energy-efficient lighting and eco-friendly noise control, the city shows its commitment towards building a vibrant night time economy that is inclusive, digitally enabled and environmentally responsible. Through progressive local knowledge building, the adoption of collaborative governance and implementable initiatives, Piraeus is committed to the further and targeted development of the night-time economy to achieve measurable benefits for residents, workers, quests and the wider social and economic environment of the city.

2. Introduction

2.1 Cities That Never Sleep: Understanding the Night-Time Economy

Between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., a wide range of activities take place in cities. The night-time economy includes sectors such as culture and recreation, catering, retail, transport, hospitality and nightlife. In addition to these, other sectors such as goods transport, health and social care, waste management and environmental protection are also part of the night-time economy as they operate around the clock or support other sectors of the night-time economy mentioned above. Bars, clubs, theatres and live music venues have traditionally played a crucial role in the discussion about the economy at night, but expanding the scope of reflection to all other business activities operating

after sunset is fundamental to understanding how these sectors reshape cities. This expanded vision is what the "Cities After Dark" (CAD) network brings to the forefront.

2.2 Cities After Dark Network: A European Laboratory for Night-Time Economy



Figure 2 - Transnational Meeting in Piraeus - The Cities After Dark Team

"Cities After Dark" is an Action Planning Network (APN), operating within the framework of the URBACT IV Program (2023–2025), which supports cities in co-developing integrated strategies through peer exchange, transnational cooperation and local stakeholder engagement. Led by the city of Braga, the network brings together 10 cities – Piraeus (GR), Genoa (IT), Paris (FR), Nicosia (CY), Tallinn (EE), Malaga (SP), Budva (ME), Varna (BU) and Zadar (HR) - to explore how urban life can be better managed, understood and governed at night.

The network examines the different models of night-time governance adopted by European and other cities over the last decades to develop innovative and replicable models of night-time governance based on the experience of large and medium-sized cities participating in the network and for new issues emerging in the discussion, from the management of cultural resources to the exploitation of services and night-time activities spaces.

Additionally, the network supports the implementation of small-scale actions which will experiment with pilot activities contributing to addressing some of the most urgent challenges related to the night-time economy in the network's cities. The action taken within the network will feed into the ongoing thematic discussion in Europe about the night-time economy, creating connections with European initiatives and networks active on the topic and producing tangible impact at the local level. The night-time economy is a growing field in urban policies at the European and global level, increasingly recognized as a crucial element for the sustainable development of cities.

2.3 As night falls, Piraeus is reimagining its urban rhythm



Figure 3 - Trouba Street Party

Through its participation in "Cities After Dark", the city crafted a bold strategy to make nightlife vibrant, safe and sustainable - not just in summer hotspots, but across all neighbourhoods, all year round. This strategic document outlines the city's vision, priorities and concrete actions for improving urban life after dark.

Promoting a lively nightlife throughout the year -and not just during the summer months in coastal areas- is one of the main challenges facing Piraeus, supporting the revitalization of neighbourhoods. In a city where the night-time economy has grown in recent years thanks to the creation of new accommodation and entertainment options, the effective management of services and public spaces in its central and suburban night spots is a priority.

Combating noise pollution is another major challenge in a city like Piraeus, which contrasts the effects of excessive noise levels in the city centre and suburban coastal areas. Road traffic in the port area, as well as in the rest of the city, is another source of noise that the city faces by promoting sustainable transport options after dark and reducing private car traffic at night. Piraeus also focuses on improving the sense of safety for residents, visitors and night-time users and promoting better behaviours of business factors and the local community.

Through its strategic plan, the city seeks to build a framework that supports coexistence and quality of life across different user groups and neighbourhoods after dark. These priorities are not addressed in isolation but require coordinated urban governance. The effective allocation of responsibilities, improved communication between services and joint decision-making mechanisms are essential to successfully managing the complexity of life after dark in Piraeus.

2.4 Collaborating Locally - The URBACT Local Group of Piraeus



Figure 4 - Piraeus URBACT Local Group (ULG)

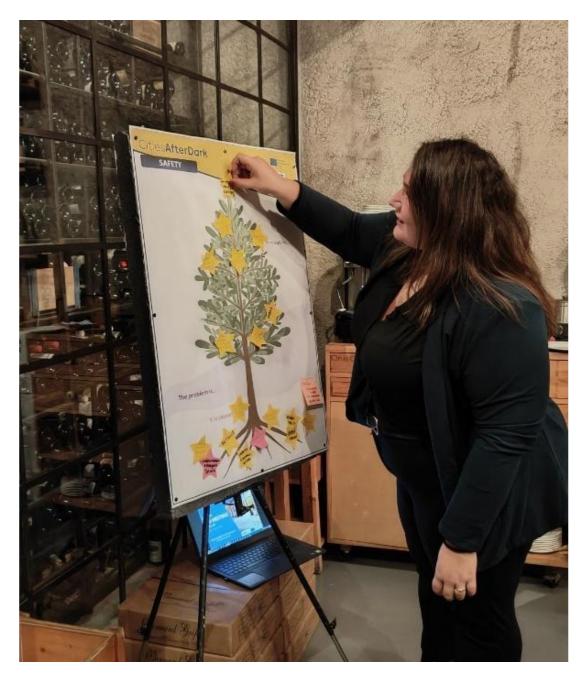


Figure 5 - Problem Tree Workshop

The Integrated Action Plan of Piraeus has been developed through a participatory, iterative process that follows the URBACT methodology, combining local co-creation with transnational exchange. In addition to engaging local stakeholders, the process has incorporated tailored guidance from thematic specialists to ensure that critical aspects of the night-time economy - such as digital transition, gender equality and environmental sustainability - are fully addressed with up-to-date knowledge and good practice examples. The city actively participated in all Transnational Meetings hosted by partner cities and contributed to several online thematic exchanges on night-time mobility, governance, safety and inclusion. These collaborative

sessions allowed Piraeus to share experiences, gather ideas and adapt tested solutions to its local context.



Figure 6 - Radio Show at local media Kanali Ena 90.4 FM

At the core of this process is the Piraeus ULG. Through its dynamism, the Piraeus ULG ensures it remains effective and relevant in addressing evolving challenges and opportunities within the community. The ULG includes representatives from city departments and services, business associations, youth, culture, gender equality stakeholders, sports clubs and residents. This group is characterized by its adaptability and responsiveness to changing local needs and conditions. Its main goal is to enhance the governance of the night-time economy by promoting steady cooperation between local institutions and stakeholders. Their collective expertise and insights are directly embedded in the IAP, which stands as a co-created roadmap for building a more inclusive, safe, and vibrant night-time city.

- Municipality of Piraeus IT Directorate
- Municipality of Piraeus Finance Directorate
- Municipality of Piraeus Financial Committee Department, Municipality of Piraeus
- Municipality of Piraeus Directorate of Planning & Sustainable Development
- Municipality of Piraeus Tourism Directorate
- Municipality of Piraeus Municipal Police

- ➤ Deputy Mayors of: Finance, Culture, Maintenance Repairs and Oversight Projects, Civil Protection and Crisis Management & Property and Land Registry
- > Development Organization of the Municipality of Piraeus
- Piraeus' Youth Culture, Sports and Sports Organization
- ➤ Local Council for Crime Prevention (LCCP)
- Municipal Equality Committee
- Police Directorate of Piraeus
- ➤ Europe Direct Piraeus
- > Tour Operators
- Residents
- Bar Restaurant Owners
- > Gallery Venue Owners

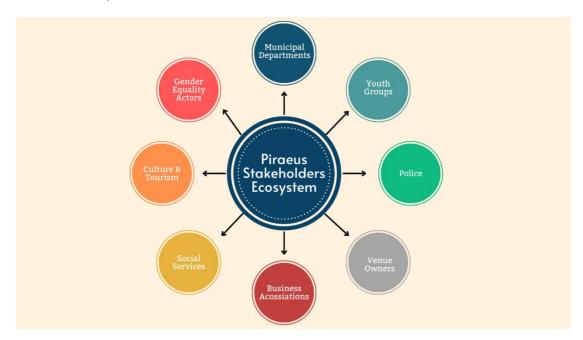


Figure 7 - Stakeholders Ecosystem (ULG)

2.5 Strategic Focus Areas of the IAP: What to Expect?

The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) of Piraeus lays the foundations for a sustainable night-time economy, addressing key social, spatial, and governance challenges identified through local engagement and transnational cooperation. It reflects a shared vision for an inclusive, dynamic and sustainable urban life after dark, capturing the priorities co-defined with stakeholders.

The main goal is to promote a thriving and sustainable night-time economy that enhances both the city's social life and its economic vitality. In this direction, the plan focuses on eight thematic pillars: safety, cultural revitalization, sustainable urban mobility, social inclusion, the quality and use

of public spaces, tourism, the reduction of noise pollution, and improved urban governance.

The city aims to ensure the balanced coexistence of diverse night-time activities for the benefit of both residents and visitors. Cultural and sporting events, leisure and entertainment initiatives, and neighborhood-level urban design interventions are all integral parts of the comprehensive strategy that the city seeks to develop in collaboration with local stakeholders.



Figure 8 - Focus Areas

The next chapters present the full scope of the IAP:

- Chapter 3 outlines the city's night-time context; key challenges and the shared vision co-created with the URBACT Local Group.
- Chapter 4 details the overall logic and integrated structure of the plan, showing how the thematic pillars interconnect and address cross-

cutting priorities.

• **Chapter 5** breaks down the proposed actions, responsible actors, expected outcomes and timeline.

• Chapter 6 presents the implementation framework, including governance, funding and monitoring tools that will support delivery of the IAP beyond the URBACT project lifecycle.

3. Content, Needs and Vision



Figure 9 - Sunset at Piraeus Port

3.1 Beyond the Daylight: Core Themes of "Cities After Dark"

The "Cities After Dark" URBACT network rethinks the role of urban life after sunset, recognizing the night-time economy as a critical part of a city's social, cultural and economic fabric. The network moves beyond traditional notions of nightlife limited to entertainment and hospitality and instead embraces a broader, more inclusive understanding of night-time urban dynamics. It supports cities in developing integrated strategies that improve governance, inclusion, sustainability and vibrancy during night hours. The Municipality of Piraeus, through its participation in the network, explores the following core themes of the "Cities After Dark" initiative:

Cultural Industries and Night-Time Vibrancy

The vibrancy of the night-time economy has traditionally been associated with a thriving range of cultural and entertainment activities in cities. Theatres, cinemas, music venues and nightclubs are the backbone of a lively night-time economy, contributing to job creation and promoting safety, community spirit and cultural development. Cooperation between public authorities, cultural businesses and the local artistic scene is essential for implementing a series of measures to support the sector.

Safety and Noise pollution

The night-time economy is often associated with safety issues, which are frequently perceived negatively by the public. Mediation between local authorities and stakeholders is vital for reducing conflicts with residents. However, increasing conflicts over noise disturbance are not only related to music and artistic venues but also to the introduction of national regulations, such as the indoor smoking ban, which have changed customer behaviour, often negatively affecting the quality of life of residents. Noise from road traffic and antisocial behaviour in public spaces at night can also be considered sources of conflict and factors significantly impacting the perception of safety at night.

Use of Public Space

Revitalizing public spaces at night is a community challenge faced by local authorities. Organizing festivals and public events to enhance the sense of safety on streets and squares at night is an interesting practice applied by many cities, also through the active participation of different parts of the city.

Gender Equality and Inclusive Urban Design

The way individuals experience the city at night varies significantly, shaped by gender, age, ability and background. "Cities After Dark" highlights the importance of gender-sensitive design and inclusive services that respond to these diverse needs. A key factor in this is lighting, which greatly influences the perception of safety after dark-especially for women, whose experiences often differ markedly from those of men. Adapting urban infrastructure to reflect the realities of all users can help reduce gender inequalities and promote safer, more equitable access to public spaces, job opportunities and night-time activities.

Sustainable mobility and transport infrastructure

Many cities are planning and implementing the extension of public transportation at night, which has a positive impact on reducing road noise and the number of private vehicles on the road at night. Extending affordable and reliable night-time transport services targets many different types of users, from partygoers to night workers and focuses not only on city centres and nightlife areas but in some cases also on residential neighbourhoods.

Access to work

Improving urban mobility at night is one of the factors that enable equal access to night-time work. The issue of how certain groups, such as cleaners, healthcare workers, or hospitality staff, commute to and from their work is fundamental to making the discussion about the night-time economy more inclusive. Local authorities must consider how these workers, who often live in suburban areas or belong to disadvantaged groups or minorities, perceive the city at night.

Green spaces and Sustainability

A sustainable night-time city takes into account energy consumption, noise levels, lighting, waste management and broader environmental impacts. "Cities After Dark" encourages the adoption of green technologies and environmentally responsible practices, including efficient nighttime waste collection and smart lighting. Revitalizing parks and open spaces after dark is also key-not only for environmental benefits but for enhancing public life. By making green spaces accessible and safe, cities can support outdoor sports, cultural activities and improve the overall quality of life at night.

3.2 Piraeus and the Night-Time Economy

Piraeus is the fourth largest city in Greece by number of residents, with a total population of 168,151 inhabitants. The wider Greater Piraeus area, which includes five municipalities, reaches approximately 448,051 residents. Piraeus is located 13 kilometres southwest of the centre of Athens, in the Attica region, and hosts the most important port of Greece and one of the largest in the Mediterranean, serving as a critical gateway between Europe, Asia and Africa.



Figure 10 - Passengers boarding the ferry from Piraeus

Port activities are a significant driving force of the local economy, as they handle a huge volume of freight and passenger ships. Maritime services, such as shipbuilding, repair and logistics companies that complement port activities, are particularly important for a city that has restructured several business sectors related to ports after the economic crisis of 2009. **The port remains central to the local economy:** it handles over 5 million TEUs, serves 17.4 million ship passengers annually, and has generated record revenues (€230.9 million in 2024). A key national hub, Piraeus also plays a prominent role in Greece's cruise and ferry industries, having welcomed over 1 million cruise passengers in 2023. The city's three natural ports -one commercial and two marinas (Zea and Mikrolimano) - shape much of its coastal vibrancy and contribute to its growing recreational boating traffic, which further fuels the local night-time economy along the waterfront.

However, alongside these impressive growth figures and opportunities, the rapid expansion of cruise tourism in Piraeus has raised serious concerns regarding its environmental and urban footprint. According to a report by the think tank Transport & Environment, Piraeus ranks third in Europe for air pollution caused by cruise ship emissions, following only Barcelona and Civitavecchia (Rome). Similar to other European cities such as Marseille, Livorno, and Valencia, there is growing local discomfort around overtourism and the perception that cruise activity brings limited returns to the local economy. In Piraeus, professionals from the tourism sector -including hoteliers and restaurateurs- have expressed concern that cruise passengers rarely engage with local businesses or consume local products and services, thus limiting economic spillovers.

The issue of traffic congestion has also become critical: an average of three cruise ships docking daily generates an estimated 5,000 taxi rides, nearly 10,000 round trips, 42 coaches with over 100 journeys, several 20-seater minibuses, and dozens of double-decker tourist buses operating across the city. These figures highlight the urgent need for integrated mobility planning and innovative tools -such as Al-supported traffic management studies- to ensure that the port's development does not come at the expense of residents' quality of life and urban resilience.

Additionally, the city has also developed an ambitious smart specialization strategy for blue growth to support the sustainable development of the maritime sector and promote the role of the blue economy in creating new jobs in the medium and long term.



Figure 11 - Piraeus Passenger Port view

Piraeus is also a major commercial hub with many retail areas, while the tourism industry is growing and attracting more tourists than those who sail from the port to the Greek islands. Hotels, restaurants and related services enliven various areas of the city, especially in the summer, as well as the rest of the coastal part of the region. Sports is a very important development driver for Piraeus, with many sports clubs and facilities that also host events and recreational activities. Notably, the presence of Olympiakos -the city's major multi-sport club and the dominant football brand in Greece- plays a significant

role in shaping the cultural and economic life of the city, including vibrant evening activity on match days and beyond.

The city is also home to the University of Piraeus, which has around 27,000 registered students, with approximately 10,000 actively attending across 10 departments. Fields of study range from Economics, International Studies, and Business to Digital Systems, Shipping, and Tourism, contributing to a dynamic student population that supports the evening economy year-round.

The completion of massive infrastructure interventions in the region's transportation network, such as the extension of the metro line connecting Piraeus with Athens and the airport, has contributed to improving the quality of life for residents and reducing the use of private cars. The city is also implementing a smart city strategy, using a series of applications to improve the safety and efficiency of public spaces.



Figure 12 - Nightlife at Marina Zeas

For many years, the port's vitality was linked to Piraeus's nightlife. Most bars and restaurants were located in areas like Trouba, which is next to the city's waterfront. As this neighbourhood declined and new marinas were built, nightlife moved to other parts of the city, drawing customers from Athens and the surrounding area, especially in the summer. The city's lively food and club scene has helped Piraeus's economy and social life. Restaurants, bars, and galleries also help to bring old industrial areas back to life by encouraging the temporary use of empty buildings and the city's cultural life. 9% of the people who work in Piraeus work in the catering, accommodation, arts and entertainment sectors. Most of them work at night.

Piraeus also offers a wide range of services available at night. Among them, retail activities such as kiosks - called "Periptera"- are a truly and uniquely Greek national institution Operating 24/7 in many cases and providing

proximity services in neighbourhoods, they are vital elements of the urban fabric, acting as "safety lighthouses" and contributing to the improvement of public space visibility and perceived security after dark.



Figure 13 - Kiosk - "Periptero"

In terms of environmental sustainability, 81 of the city's 88 parks and gardens are open at night. An innovative door-to-door waste collection program also encourages people to use recycling and trash collection systems at night. The metro runs until 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and two bus routes that run all day and night connect Piraeus to the city centre and the northern suburbs of Athens. As of 5 July 2025, the pilot 24-hour operation of metro every Saturday (from 2:00 to 5:30 a.m.) further strengthens night-time mobility and represents a step towards establishing permanently extended service hours.

Piraeus adopts the use of sustainable technologies to address some of the biggest challenges of the night-time economy. The installation of new LED lights and smart pedestrian crossings, as well as the use of sensors to detect noise pollution, have improved the perception of safety and the quality of public spaces at night.

From Controversy to Opportunity

Across Greece, the night-time economy sparks ongoing public and policy debates, ranging from noise control and urban disturbances to the cultural and economic value of nightlife. Discussions often focus on reconciling residents' quality of life with the benefits of hospitality and tourism after dark. In this evolving landscape, cities like Piraeus are emerging as frontrunners: piloting smart lighting, sound monitoring and extended mobility to align with EU priorities for vibrant, inclusive and sustainable urban nights. These efforts reflect a shift from reactive regulation to proactive, integrated planning and position Piraeus as a national model for modern night-time governance.

3.4 Connection to Broader Strategies and Policies

Designed to align with and support broader strategies and policies at the local, regional, national and global levels, the plan for Piraeus' night-time economy ensures that initiatives are both responsive to local needs and consistent with wider social, economic and environmental frameworks. This integrated approach promotes sustainable urban development and reinforces the principles of the "Cities After Dark" network.

Local Strategies and Policies

Piraeus has adopted a comprehensive **Smart City Strategy (2022–2030)** to become a sustainable and inclusive smart city. The strategy is built on four key pillars:

- Creating a Digital Municipality
- Securing sustainable digital infrastructure
- Promoting business digitalization and
- Enhancing citizens' digital skills

Within this context, smart LED lighting, noise monitoring sensors, digital signage and pedestrian safety technologies have been introduced. **GO, smart city infrastructure** (e.g. drainage and flooding monitoring), surveillance systems in playgrounds, evacuation plans for schools, digital twin technology and improved accessibility for vehicles in public spaces. These initiatives align with the broader digital transformation and public safety goals of the municipality.

Urban renewal stands at the heart of Piraeus' development strategy, reflected in a series of recent landmark projects such as the regeneration of the Mikrolimano marina, the revival of the Municipal Theatre and the long-awaited reactivation of the Piraeus Tower after 46 years of abandonment, which is now being transformed into a mixed-use coastal landmark hosting retail, office and hospitality spaces. Major infrastructure upgrades are also reshaping the city, including the extension of the metro line connecting Piraeus with Athens and the airport, the revitalization of the Peiraiki coastal area and the under-construction Courthouse in the city's commercial district. Looking ahead, planned developments such as the undergrounding of the railway and the redevelopment of Akti Themistokleous will further advance Piraeus' ambitious urban regeneration agenda.

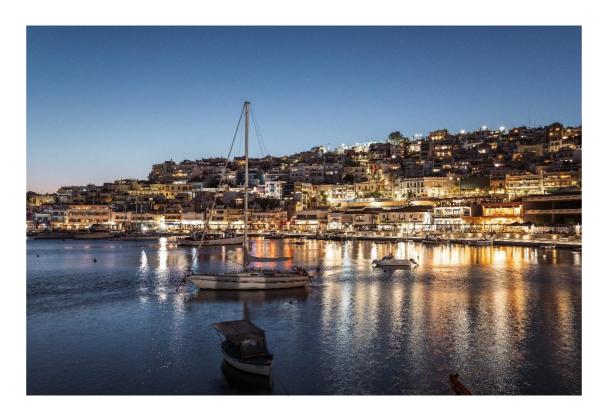


Figure 14 - Marina of Mikrolimano

Piraeus supports its cultural identity through the Cultural Strategy, including initiatives like the Municipal Platform for Culture, the Municipal Library, Gallery, Historical Records and virtual tours. The IAP enhances this by promoting a diverse night-time cultural offer including late-night museum openings, art exhibitions and live performances. The **Municipal Platform for Culture** (encompassing the Municipal Library, Gallery, Historical Records and virtual tours) serves as an enabler for this cultural diversification and community engagement. This cultural orientation closely aligns with the values promoted by the "Cities After Dark" network, particularly the emphasis on inclusive, safe and culturally rich night-time environments.

The city is also promoting sustainable development through its Piraeus **Green City agenda**, which integrates climate adaptation, environmental innovation, and ecosystem monitoring tools such as Climate Piraeus and satellite services. These initiatives support the European Green Deal goals of 55% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

Piraeus has adopted a **Blue Growth Strategy (2018–2024)**, backed by more than €80 million in funding from various sources. It supports innovation in shipping, logistics, tourism and the circular economy. This strategy is part of the city's smart specialisation approach, reinforcing Piraeus' position as a competitive maritime hub.

In terms of tourism, the city implements a **Destination Management System (DMS)**, funded through the Attica Regional Programme (2021–2027),

which enhances data-driven coordination of cultural, commercial and visitor flows. Events like "Sea Days" and "Piraeus Taste Festival" play a role in attracting visitors and supporting local businesses.

The **BeSecure-FeelSecure (BSFS)** project, funded by EU programmes, combines digital tools, community participation and institutional coordination to promote public safety. These lessons contribute to governance and safety principles that inform various dimensions of the IAP.

While Piraeus has previously lacked a dedicated Night-Time Policy outlining a formal vision or regulatory framework, the development of this Integrated Action Plan within the framework of the "Cities After Dark" network now marks a significant shift. The IAP itself functions as the city's first coordinated **Night-Time Policy**, introducing strategic measures for noise control, urban safety, cultural activation and mobility after dark. It sets a foundation for long-term policy development and institutional attention to the night-time economy as an essential dimension of urban life.

Regional and National Strategies

Piraeus aligns its actions with the broader **National Urban Development Strategy**, which emphasizes digital innovation, economic growth and inclusion. The city benefits from multiple EU funding tools such as the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), Horizon Europe, Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the Operational Programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship & Innovation".

The city also participates in EU-funded projects including SMILE, LIFE, EUI, CERV and Interreg, which enable actions ranging from smart infrastructure deployment and cultural programming to safety and participatory governance. These frameworks support the sustainable development and competitiveness of Piraeus.

Although Greece does not yet have a dedicated national night-time economy strategy, local measures in Piraeus -such as sound monitoring, mobility improvements and extended night public services -offer best practices and policy models that can contribute to national discourse.

Global Alignment

Beyond its core objectives, the Integrated Action Plan of Piraeus demonstrates strong alignment with several **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It contributes to **Goal 5 (Gender Equality)** through gender-sensitive urban design, late-night childcare support for working mothers, and gender awareness training for law enforcement. It advances **Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)** by stimulating employment in hospitality, culture, and the blue economy. The integration of smart city technologies and infrastructure improvements supports **Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, while targeted actions for vulnerable groups promote **Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**. The plan also furthers **Goal 11**

(Sustainable Cities and Communities) by enhancing urban safety, accessibility and resilience. Green transition initiatives—such as noise pollution reduction, energy-efficient lighting, and sustainable mobility strategies—contribute to Goal 13 (Climate Action). Finally, by encouraging civic participation and reinforcing transparent governance, the plan upholds Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

Together, these alignments reflect Piraeus' commitment to building a positive, inclusive and enduring night-time economy that integrates social responsibility, innovation and sustainability.

3.5 Addressing Specific Issues of Piraeus's Night-Time Economy

Piraeus's night-time economy is undergoing a promising transformation, guided by its Integrated Action Plan (IAP) and grounded in its cultural, social and maritime identity. However, a number of interconnected challenges continue to affect the vitality, inclusiveness and sustainability of night-time activity in the city. These include urban safety, noise pollution, the need for stronger cultural and economic vibrancy, inclusive infrastructure and services and coordinated governance. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive and integrated approach involving many stakeholders and a clear understanding of the causes and effects of the problems.

Urban Security

Urban safety during night-time activities is a significant concern in Piraeus. This issue is further complicated by horizontal issues such as gender equality and limited access of minorities to night-time activities. Ensuring that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome is essential for a thriving night-time economy.

Key causes include:

- Inadequate police presence and surveillance in night-time hotspots;
- Poorly lit streets and public spaces;
- Limited late-night transport options;
- Lack of gender-sensitive and inclusive urban planning;
- Need for stronger inter-agency collaboration.

These factors can result in increased crime risks - particularly in areas with high night-time activity- and a general sense of insecurity among women, youth and minority communities, ultimately leading to reduced participation in night-time activities. Moreover, the negative perception of the city's safety deters tourists and locals from engaging in the night-time economy.

Noise Pollution

Noise pollution from night-time activities is another significant concern. Excessive noise can disrupt residential peace, impact health and create tensions between residents and businesses.

Key causes include:

- High concentration of bars and venues near residential areas;
- Inadequate regulation and enforcement capacity;
- Limited soundproofing in existing venues;
- Absence of real-time noise monitoring;

This problem also affects the overall attractiveness of night-time venues and events. The effects of these issues include sleep disturbances and health problems among residents, an increased number of complaints and potential legal actions and a negative impact on the reputation of night-time venues.

Cultural and Economic Vibrancy Enhancement

While Piraeus has a rich cultural identity and significant tourism potential, its night-time offerings have historically lacked coordination, variety and promotion.

Potential causes are:

- Fragmented cultural programming and events;
- Limited engagement of local creative sectors in night-time planning;
- Absence of a cohesive branding strategy for night-time activities;
- Underutilized cultural venues and public spaces after dark;

The result is a missed opportunity to stimulate the local economy and draw both tourists and residents into evening activities. Local talent often remains invisible, and underused venues translate into lower revenue. This leads to reduced foot traffic, economic stagnation during evening hours and uneven distribution of cultural activity across neighbourhoods.

Social Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

Night-time urban life does not currently accommodate the full diversity of its population. Certain groups -especially night-time workers, women, youth and families- face barriers in accessing or benefiting from night-time services and activities.

Potential causes are:

- Limited late-night childcare options for working parents;
- Inadequate transport services for night-shift employees;
- Urban spaces not fully designed for accessibility or safety;

Low awareness and engagement with underrepresented groups;

These barriers lead to the exclusion of vulnerable populations from cultural, economic and social opportunities during the night. It reduces workforce participation and contributes to social segregation. The resulting disconnection fosters feelings of neglect and unsafety among those who are unable to fully enjoy or benefit from Piraeus's night-time offerings.

Governance and Coordination

The governance of night-time activities in Piraeus has faced fragmentation and inefficiency due to overlapping responsibilities and lack of central coordination.

Potential causes are:

- Dispersed authority across various municipal departments;
- Limited integration between tourism, safety, culture, and planning policies;
- Absence of dedicated leadership roles before the IAP;
- Lack of a unified communication strategy for night-time programming;

This fragmented approach delays the implementation of essential projects and results in inconsistent enforcement of policies. Departments often miss opportunities for collaboration and the public receives mixed signals or lacks awareness of available activities. These gaps undermine the potential of a coordinated and dynamic night-time economy.

Involved Stakeholders

The stakeholders involved in addressing these challenges include local authorities, law enforcement agencies, business owners, residents, advocacy groups and health and safety experts. Local authorities—urban planners, municipal official and development agencies—play a central role in policymaking and urban planning. Law enforcement bodies, including the police and private security services, are vital for maintaining safety and public order. Business owners, particularly those operating night-time venues, serve as key partners in implementing noise management measures and strengthening on-site security. Residents, especially those in areas with high night-time activity, provide essential feedback and support for community-based initiatives. Advocacy groups focused on gender equality, minority rights and environmental sustainability contribute critical perspectives that help ensure inclusivity and balance. Meanwhile, health and safety experts—from public health officials to environmental noise specialists—bring technical expertise that informs effective, evidence-based strategies.

Together, these actors play an important role in responding to the challenges outlined above, shaping the future of Piraeus's night-time economy through cross-sector collaboration and participatory engagement.

Challenges and Weaknesses Identified by the ULG

The Piraeus Urbact Local Group (ULG) has identified several challenges and weaknesses in addressing urban safety and noise pollution, as well as broader issues impacting the night-time economy. Regarding urban safety, limited resources for increased policing and surveillance and a lack of gendersensitive training and awareness are significant barriers. In terms of noise pollution, weak enforcement of existing noise regulations, business owners' resistance to investing in soundproofing and the need for more comprehensive noise monitoring systems are major challenges. Additionally, fragmented coordination among municipal departments and limited engagement with community-based crime prevention efforts weaken the city's overall security response. Beyond these, the ULG also highlighted the need for stronger cultural programming, better use of night-time public spaces, improved night-time transport services, and more inclusive services such as late-night childcare particularly for vulnerable groups like women, youth and night-shift workers. Governance challenges, including policy silos, limited cross-departmental coordination and low public awareness of initiatives, further complicate the implementation of an integrated and sustainable night-time strategy.

Key Action Priorities

To enhance urban security, priorities include increasing police presence and surveillance by deploying more police officers and security in night-time hotspots, upgrading CCTV coverage and improving street lighting through modern, energy-efficient smart systems. Gender-sensitive training for law enforcement and inclusive design principles in nightlife and public spaces are also central to enhancing both actual and perceived safety.

To reduce noise pollution, it is vital to strengthen regulation and enforcement mechanisms—such as stricter penalties, more trained inspectors and routine sound-level checks in nightlife areas. Incentives for business soundproofing, integrating noise-insulation standards into building codes and adopting real-time digital noise-monitoring tools will further support long-term noise management, enabling better oversight and quicker response to problem areas. At the same time, public awareness campaigns should educate both businesses and residents on the importance of noise control, encourage responsible behaviour among nightlife patrons, and build a culture of mutual respect in shared urban spaces.

Beyond safety and noise, additional priorities aim to strengthen cultural and economic vibrancy. These include expanding thematic festivals, activating underused areas such as port and industrial zones and improving visibility and coordination through a centralized digital event calendar.

For inclusion and accessibility, key actions include piloting late-night childcare services to support working parents and extending public transport routes and hours to ensure that all residents, including night-shift workers, can safely access and participate in night-time activities. These social support services are vital to creating an equitable night-time environment.

Lastly, improved governance and coordination are essential for ensuring implementation. Establishing a dedicated Night-Time Economy Officer, setting clear performance indicators, and fostering stronger interdepartmental collaboration will enhance accountability and long-term implementation. Ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and communities will support the sustainability of these efforts.

Gender Equality

The IAP places significant emphasis on gender equality, recognizing that a vibrant and inclusive night-time economy must be accessible and safe for everyone and aligning closely with the Municipality of Piraeus' recently developed Gender Equality Plan. This plan provides the broader policy framework for preventing gender-based discrimination, improving safety and accessibility in public spaces and embedding gender-sensitive design principles across municipal services. For instance, increased police presence and surveillance in nightlife hotspots are paired with training programs for law enforcement on gender sensitivity and minority rights. Training programmes on gender sensitivity for law enforcement, inclusive urban design and improved lighting are key measures aimed at ensuring that women and marginalized groups feel safe and welcome at night.

Additionally, initiatives such as late-night childcare and targeted awareness campaigns reinforce equitable access to night-time activities and employment. By integrating the thematic recommendations of URBACT into governance, programming and service provision—and by grounding these efforts in the city's Gender Equality Plan—the IAP demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to fostering an inclusive night-time environment free from discrimination.

Green Transition

The IAP's approach to mitigating noise pollution and promoting sustainable nightlife activities aligns with the broader URBACT theme of Green Transition. Piraeus aims to balance economic vitality with environmental responsibility by implementing noise control measures that not only reduce pollution but also promote a more sustainable urban environment. For example, the plan includes incentives for businesses to adopt soundproofing technologies, encouraging the use of environmentally friendly materials and practices. Additionally, the upgrade and maintenance of street lighting will use energy-efficient LED technology, contributing to the city's overall sustainability goals. These actions reflect Piraeus' commitment to integrating environmental considerations into its night-time economy and ensuring that development is sustainable and responsible.

In this way, the city demonstrates its dedication to aligning its night-time economy with the Green Transition Review objectives. By promoting sustainable business practices, deploying energy-efficient lighting and

prioritizing noise reduction through eco-friendly solutions, Piraeus is taking important steps toward a more resilient, environmentally friendly and climate-conscious urban nightscape. This approach also shows strong compliance with the recommendations of the Green Transition Thematic Review, following European guidance while tailoring solutions to the local nightlife context.

Digital Transition

Embracing the digital transition is another cornerstone of the IAP. Piraeus plans to leverage digital technologies to enhance urban security and more effectively manage noise pollution. Implementing smart lighting solutions that adjust to real-time activity levels is a key component of this strategy. These smart systems not only improve safety by ensuring well-lit public spaces but also contribute to energy efficiency. Furthermore, increased use of CCTV and other surveillance technologies will enhance the city's ability to monitor and respond quickly to security incidents. To address noise pollution, digital noise monitoring systems will be deployed to monitor and regulate sound levels in real time, providing data-driven insights for more effective enforcement of noise regulations. By integrating digital tools and technologies, Piraeus aims to create a modern, efficient, and safe night-time economy that harnesses the benefits of the digital age.

To ensure maximum impact of these interventions, all the digital tools and smart infrastructure rolled out under the IAP -from smart lighting to noise monitoring systems, CCTV upgrades and the night-time digital calendar- will be fully integrated into the city's Smart Operations Centre. This provides for real-time data flows and effortless monitoring capabilities, enabling the Municipality of Piraeus to proactively manage night-time activity in coordination with other smart city services. By doing so, the IAP achieves a high level of alignment with the Digital Integration suggestions described in the thematic review of URBACT, positioning Piraeus as a best practice example amongst the "Cities After Dark" network in embracing modern digital solutions for a lively, safe and sustainable night-time economy.

3.6 Testing Actions as a Bridge Between Vision and Practice

To preliminary test part of its Integrated Action Plan, Piraeus designed and implemented a series of targeted Testing Actions to pilot solutions to the key challenges identified by the URBACT Local Group (ULG). These small-scale interventions were developed to advance the plan's four strategic objectives (analytically discussed in the next section): (1) promoting the vibrancy of the night-time economy, (2) enhancing urban safety and accessibility, (3) fostering social inclusion and supporting night-time workers, and (4) encouraging sustainability in night-time activities. Together, these actions aimed to revitalize the city's night-time economy, enrich cultural life, improve perceived and actual safety and ensure broader participation - addressing core challenges

such as fragmented cultural programming, weak night-time safety, limited inclusivity and inconsistent event visibility.





Figure 15 - Santa Night Run Pilot Action

On 21 December 2024, the city's established "Santa Run"—a much-loved event of the annual "Christmas in Piraeus" festival—was held at night for the first time as part of the "Cities After Dark" project. Its transformation into the **Santa Night Run** marked a new approach, encouraging major city events to take place after sunset and thereby supporting the growth of Piraeus' night-time economy. Symbolically coinciding with the longest night of the year, the run attracted **more than 1,000 participants in Santa costumes**—an increase of around 43% compared with previous editions—and filled the streets of Piraeus with light, music and festive energy, creating a joyful spectacle for all ages.

Beyond celebration, the event also served several key goals:

- Revitalizing underused public spaces after dark;
- Boosting local business activity;
- Improving event coordination and visibility, in line with ULG priorities.

The **Santa Night Run** supports the strategic objectives of the IAP (see Chapter 4) by enlivening the city's night-time economy (SO1) through a vibrant, family-friendly event that activated public spaces after sunset and attracted a broader audience. At the same time, it advances social inclusion (SO3) by encouraging participation from diverse groups, including families, young

people and residents who do not typically engage in night-time activities. This action aligns fully with Priority Axis 1: Cultural and Economic Activation (see Chapter 4), using cultural programming and community events to strengthen the vibrancy, inclusiveness and visibility of night-time life in Piraeus.



Red Night - Boosting Cultural and Economic Vibrancy

Figure 16 - Red Night Pilot Action

On 20 December 2024, the Municipality of Piraeus hosted **Red Night** activity as part of its "Christmas in Piraeus" festive program. The event ran from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and featured late-night openings, exclusive discounts and a variety of live musical and local artistic performances.

As a pilot initiative within the "Cities After Dark" framework, Red Night offered valuable insights into the dynamics of the local market and citizens' response to night-time activities. More than **50 local businesses**—including shops, restaurants, bars and shopping centers—participated for the first time, and the increased footfall in the city center confirmed the strong public appeal of the action. As part of the initiative, a dedicated communication campaign was implemented: specially designed Red Night posters were distributed to all participating businesses, who placed them in visible locations at their premises and used them to showcase their offers, discounts or in-store events. This coordinated visual identity strengthened event visibility and helped visitors navigate the evening's activities more easily.

The event also highlighted the potential for further positioning Piraeus as an attractive night-time destination and revealed growing interest in collaboration

between municipal bodies and the local business community for future initiatives.

The initiative advanced key strategic goals:

- Stimulating night-time economic activity through extended business hours and promotions;
- Enhancing urban vibrancy with DJ sets and local artistic performances;
- Promoting social inclusion by offering accessible entertainment for families, young people and night-shift workers.

Red Night supported SO1 and SO3 while testing Priority Axes 1 and 3 (see Chapter 4), connecting culture, the local economy and community needs in an integrated night-time urban experience.

Happening in the city ₩ ₩ ₩ ₩ EN PIRAEUS PAREA * Ημερολόγιο εκδηλώσεων Ενημερωθείτε από το παρακάτω ημερολόγιο για τις εκδηλώσεις στην ζ Σήμερα > Δεκέμβριος 2024

Creation of a Digital Events Calendar – Centralizing Cultural Engagement

Figure 17 - Digital Events Calendar Pilot Action

As part of the pilot actions, the Municipality of Piraeus developed a **Digital Events Calendar**, which also includes the city's night-time activities. The calendar is hosted on the Municipality's official website and has been integrated into the tourism platform **DestinationPiraeus.com**, which serves as the city's main tourism portal. With the active support of the URBACT Local Group (ULG), this initiative addresses long-standing challenges related to limited visibility and insufficient coordination among cultural events. By consolidating information on all events—both municipal and independent—

the platform enhances accessibility and connects residents and visitors with the full range of night-time experiences the city has to offer.

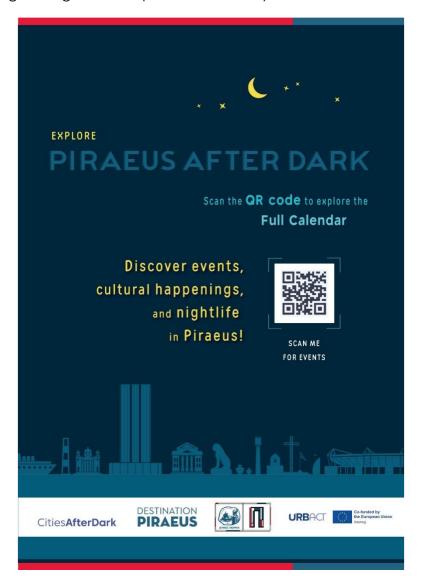


Figure 18 - Promo Poster of the Digital Events Calendar

In addition, within the framework of the "Cities After Dark" project, specially designed posters were created and displayed at central locations across the city. By scanning a QR code, citizens and visitors gained direct access to the digital calendar and to the cultural and entertainment events taking place in Piraeus.

The pilot implementation of the Digital Events Calendar aimed to test the tool's functionality, evaluate the participation of cultural stakeholders and assess public engagement. The pilot phase offered valuable insights: an increased number of visits to the tourism platform, wider participation of local organizations in submitting event listings and positive feedback regarding ease of use and the timeliness of the information provided. Notably, during **December 2024 and January 2025**, nearly **200 day and night events** taking place in the city were uploaded—a strong indication of the tool's relevance

and an impressive start for a first-time pilot initiative. These results confirmed the need for the tool's permanent adoption and its potential to serve as a central hub on events taking place in the city.

This pilot action contributes to SO1 and aligns with Priority Axis (see chapter 4) by promoting a more diverse and coordinated cultural landscape for night-time activities.

3.7 The Night Belongs to Everyone: Piraeus Vision 2030

"Piraeus, a city that thrives after dark - inclusive, safe, creative and sustainable - where nightlife contributes to urban vitality, well-being and economic growth for all."

Piraeus envisions a future where the city transforms into a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable night-time destination-a city that pulses with cultural energy after dark, welcomes everyone safely and thrives economically without compromising quality of life for its residents. This vision is rooted in Piraeus's unique identity as a historic port city, rich in maritime heritage, cultural diversity and urban dynamism. Through its Integrated Action Plan, the city aims to reimagine how its streets, spaces and institutions function after dark-not merely as extensions of daytime activity, but as opportunities for cultural innovation, social connection and economic resilience.

A City Alive After Dark

Piraeus's future night-time economy will be lively and multifaceted, offering a wide range of cultural, recreational and commercial experiences. Museums, libraries, theatres, restaurants and public squares will extend their hours and programming, supporting both traditional and contemporary forms of entertainment. Events like "Red Night", "Santa Night Run" and night-time festivals will become recurring fixtures in the city's cultural calendar, fostering local pride and drawing visitors year-round.

A Safe and Accessible Urban Experience

The city will be safe and accessible for all, where residents and visitors-regardless of gender, age, background or ability-feel confident navigating the city at night. Smart lighting, late-night transport options, visible policing and community-based safety measures will transform the perception and reality of security. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of women, families and night-time workers, ensuring that public space is shared and welcoming.

A Hub of Creativity and Innovation

Piraeus will become a creative hub for emerging cultural and entrepreneurial talent, embracing its strong artistic communities, young

innovators and maritime spirit. The city will support creative industries, local artists and small businesses in shaping the night-time narrative through placemaking, events and collaborative projects. Spaces previously inactive at night-such as industrial zones and underused parks- will be revitalized through cultural programming and temporary activations.

A Responsible and Sustainable Night-Time Economy

The night-time economy will operate in harmony with the urban fabric and environment. By investing in soundproofing, noise monitoring energy-efficient lighting and environmentally conscious business practices, Piraeus will reduce the ecological footprint of its after-dark activities. Noise and waste will be proactively managed and conflicts between nightlife and residential life will be minimized through cooperative governance models.

A Participatory and Collaborative City

The realization of this vision will be driven by cross-sectoral governance and active civic engagement. The URBACT Local Group, comprising representatives from municipal departments, businesses, cultural institutions and civil society, will continue to guide and co-create the night-time strategy. Tools such as the Digital Events Calendar, Piraeus' Local Council for Crime Prevention (LCCP) targeted campaigns and community workshops will ensure transparent decision-making and collective ownership of the night-time transformation.

In summary, Piraeus 2030 by Night aspires to be:

- Well-governed through strong leadership and coordination;
- Vibrant, with diverse events and activated public spaces;
- Safe and welcoming for women, families, workers and tourists alike;
- Creative, supporting local culture and innovation;
- Sustainable by reducing environmental impact through smart urban solutions:
- Participatory by empowering communities to shape the night;

This vision not only aligns with local ambitions but also reinforces broader European goals, including the EU Urban Agenda, the New Leipzig Charter and the Sustainable Development Goals, making Piraeus a reference point for resilient, inclusive and forward-thinking night-time policy.

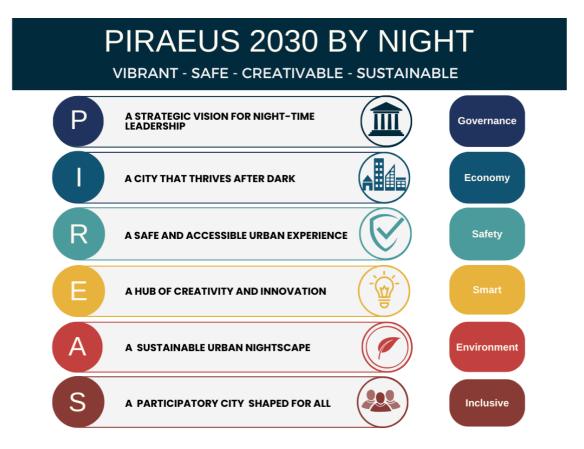


Figure 19 - Piraeus 2030 by night vision

3.8 Integrating Policy and Practice in Piraeus's Night-Time Transformation

This section explores the main integration challenges faced in Piraeus and evaluates the relevance and current application of the 12 elements of URBACT's integrated approach: (i) stakeholder involvement in planning, (ii) coherence with existing strategies, (iii) sustainable urban development, (iv) sectoral integration, (v) spatial integration, (vi) territorial integration, (vii) multilevel governance, (viii) integration of cross-cutting thematic aspects, (ix) integration over time, (x) complementary types of investment, (xi) mobilising all available funding, and (xii) stakeholder involvement in implementation) to this thematic focus. It also identifies which elements are most critical to strengthening integration in the local context.

The Need for Integration in Night-Time Policy

The night-time economy in Piraeus is complex, spanning sectors such as tourism, culture, transport, security, environmental sustainability and labour policy. The city already possesses significant assets: a rich maritime heritage, a vibrant summer tourism scene, dynamic sports and cultural sectors and an evolving smart city framework. However, challenges such as uneven spatial development, seasonal activity peaks, safety concerns, environmental impact

and underrepresentation of vulnerable groups reveal a need for deeper integration across governance levels, stakeholders, sectors and timeframes.

Most Important Elements of Integration for Piraeus

Among the 12 elements of integrated planning, six stand out as particularly critical to the success of the IAP for the night-time economy of Piraeus:

1. Stakeholder Involvement in Planning and Implementation (i & xii)

The governance of night-time activities requires sustained dialogue among city services, private operators, cultural and social actors and residents. The URBACT Local Group (ULG) of Piraeus operates as a collaborative network that brings together a wide range of participants. However, there is room to further systematize and deepen participation, especially in underrepresented neighbourhoods and among marginalized groups (e.g., night-time workers, women and youth).

Current level: Moderate

Priority for improvement: High – stakeholder collaboration is essential to codesign inclusive solutions and ensure buy-in for long-term implementation.

2. Coherence with Existing Strategies (ii)

Piraeus's IAP already aligns with several local strategies, such as:

- The Blue Growth Strategy (economic transformation via maritime innovation),
- The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP),
- Smart city initiatives for safety and energy efficiency,
- The Gender Equality Plan.

Additionally, the city draws on experience from the BeSecure-FeelSecure (BSFS) project, a strategic initiative that complements night-time planning through urban safety innovation, stakeholder collaboration (Local Council for Crime Prevention) and the use of digital tools such as the CURIM platform. BSFS demonstrates how strategic, cross-departmental projects can reinforce safety, improve perception and strengthen alignment across governance levels.

Current level: High

Priority for improvement: Moderate – efforts should now focus on deepening alignment, especially by linking night-time actions to socioeconomic regeneration goals and ensuring coordination across departments.

3. Sustainable Urban Development (iii)

The IAP reflects economic, environmental, and social pillars: promoting business and culture, improving safety and accessibility, supporting night-time workers and using sustainable technology. The emphasis on inclusive growth (e.g., gender-sensitive policies, public space accessibility) and the reduction of environmental impacts (LEDs, noise monitoring, waste collection) show clear commitment to sustainability.

Current level: Strong

Priority for improvement: High – to maintain balance and monitor trade-offs, especially as new investments are made in entertainment and tourism.

4. Integration Over Time (ix)

Night-time transformation is a long-term endeavour. The IAP includes short-term pilots (e.g. late-night childcare), mid-term cultural programming, and longer-term governance structures (e.g. appointment of a Night-Time Economy Officer). However, the sequencing and dependencies between actions could be better articulated, and strategic evaluation milestones should be clearer.

Current level: Emerging

Priority for improvement: High – particularly in defining a timeline for institutional and infrastructural reforms.

5. Sectoral and Spatial Integration (iv & v)

Night-time policy impacts various domains -safety, economy, mobility, culture, environment- and various city areas: from central zones to waterfronts and the inland neighbourhoods. Actions in the IAP attempt to reflect this breadth. However, the current emphasis remains concentrated in coastal and central areas. To be truly integrated, the IAP must better include peripheral zones, ensuring spatial equity in access to opportunities.

Current level: Partial

Priority for improvement: High – especially in using cultural and transport initiatives to reach underutilized neighbourhoods.

6. Integration of Cross-Cutting Themes (viii)

The IAP includes meaningful consideration of gender (e.g., support for night-time working mothers), digital tools (digital events calendar, smart lighting, IoT sensors), and environmental goals (noise reduction, smart mobility). Still, climate adaptation, green procurement and digital inclusion could be addressed more explicitly.

Current level: Moderate

Priority for improvement: Moderate to High – especially as these cross-cutting elements are expected in future EU funding schemes.

Other Elements - Secondary but Still Relevant

- **Territorial Integration (vi):** Some alignment with neighbouring municipalities is implicit (e.g., transport networks), but more collaboration on nighttime tourism, policing and mobility would benefit the wider urban region.
- Multi-level Governance (vii): Piraeus is beginning to link night-time strategies with national and EU agendas (e.g. SDGs, EU Urban Agenda), but more active engagement with regional authorities and ministries is needed for policy leverage.
- Complementary Types of Investment (x): The IAP successfully balances soft investments (childcare, awareness campaigns) with hard infrastructure (lighting, transport), but the funding plan needs to be more clearly developed.
- **Mobilizing Funding (xi):** Currently, limited details are provided on resource mobilization. This is a key challenge area that should be addressed with a blended finance strategy (EU, local, private).

4. Overall Vision

4.1 Strategic Objectives

The Integrated Action Plan for Piraeus envisions a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable night-time economy that contributes significantly to the city's cultural, social and economic development. By capitalizing on its coastal identity, maritime heritage and urban dynamism, Piraeus aims to establish itself as a thriving destination for residents and visitors during the night. This plan aligns with broader regional, national and international goals, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the EU Urban Agenda, ensuring that the city's night-time economy supports long-term sustainable development. The IAP adopts an integrated and participatory approach, engaging stakeholders across sectors – municipal departments, local businesses, cultural institutions, community groups and residents- to create a cohesive strategy that is both actionable and sustainable. The overall logic governing the IAP is built around four interconnected strategic objectives (SOs):



Figure 20 - Strategic Objectives

Promote the Vibrancy of the Night-Time Economy (SO1)

Enhance cultural, retail and recreational activities and offerings after dark to attract visitors, boost local business activity and foster a lively social environment for residents and tourists.

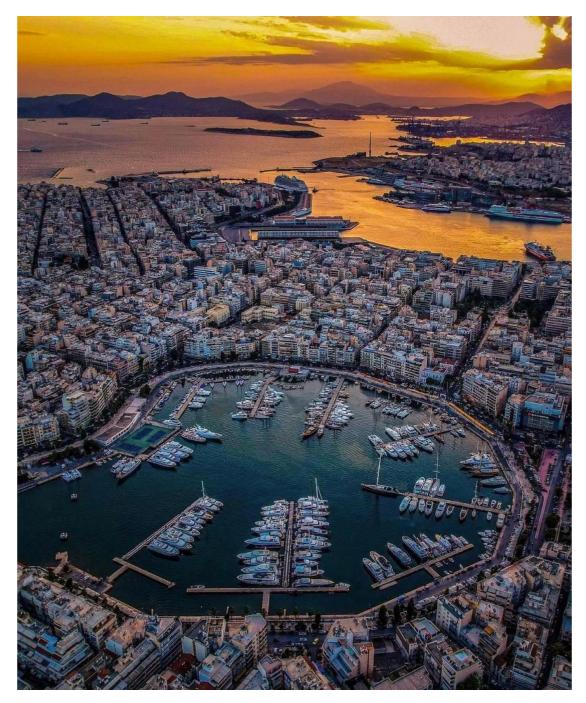


Figure 21 - Marina Zeas & Part of the Port Area Aerial Photo

Piraeus is a port city with a dynamic identity, rich history and active cultural sector. However, its night-time economy remains underdeveloped compared to its potential. Strengthening this domain can stimulate local businesses, increase city revenues, attract diverse visitors and enhance residents' quality of life.

Importance:

- Supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in retail, hospitality, and entertainment;
- Diversifies the local economy beyond day-time activity and port logistics;
- Enhances the attractiveness of the city for both locals and tourists;
- Activates public spaces in the evenings, improving their use and perception;

Enhance Urban Safety and Accessibility (SO2)

Ensure that Piraeus is perceived as a safe and welcoming city at night. Improvements in physical accessibility and inclusivity ensure that night-time opportunities are available to all, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups.

A thriving night-time economy depends on how safe and accessible people feel after dark. Without addressing these concerns, participation in night-time activities will remain low - particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and the elderly.

Importance:

- Improves perceived and actual safety in nightlife zones;
- Ensures inclusion and equal access for all social groups;
- Encourages mobility between neighbourhoods;
- Reduces negative externalities such as noise or anti-social behaviour;

Foster Social Inclusion and Support Night-Time Workers (SO3)

Address the specific needs of workers and participants in the night-time economy - such as childcare and transportation - while promoting equal opportunities and fostering an inclusive environment.



Figure 22 - Life inside the central food market

Night-time activity is sustained by thousands of workers -many of whom are women, young people or immigrants- yet their needs (e.g., childcare, transport, security) are often overlooked. A socially sustainable night-time economy must also be fair and supportive for those who make it possible.

Importance:

- Promotes gender equality and reduces barriers to employment;
- Supports families and vulnerable groups with targeted services;
- Enhances worker wellbeing and retention in hospitality and cultural sectors;
- Helps avoid social tensions by involving all communities in urban life;

Encourage Sustainability in Night-Time Activities and Evidence-Based Governance (SO4)

Integrate environmental considerations, including reducing noise pollution, adopting green technologies and promoting eco-friendly practices, to align economic growth with sustainability goals, while ensuring evidence-based and transparent governance that monitors progress and supports informed decision making.

A responsible night-time economy must minimize its environmental footprint. Light and noise pollution, energy consumption and waste generation are key challenges that must be addressed, especially in residential and coastal areas. Effective, evidence-based governance is essential to monitor these impacts, guide policy decisions and ensure continuous improvement toward sustainability.

Importance:

- Aligns with the city's commitments to the EU Green Deal and climate neutrality;
- Reduces conflicts between residents and nightlife operators;
- Builds a green reputation for Piraeus as a modern, liveable city
- Encourages sustainable innovation among businesses (e.g., soundproofing, LED use);
- Supports evidence-based, transparent governance for monitoring environmental performance and guiding policy decisions;

4.2 Priority Axes and Actions

The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) sets out four Priority Axes that act as levers for advancing the night-time economy. Each axis includes focused, practical actions designed to be measurable, inclusive and geared toward long-term sustainability.



Figure 23 - Priority Axes

PA1: Cultural and Economic Activation

This axis focuses on leveraging cultural and economic opportunities to drive night-time vibrancy and foster community engagement.

Piraeus has a rich cultural heritage and strong urban character, yet its night-time offerings remain disconnected and underexploited. The city already organizes notable events and festivals, but their alignment with the night-time economy is limited. This axis seeks to maximize the potential of culture as an engine of evening activity and economic growth. By creatively extending cultural programming into the night and better integrating it with tourism and local entrepreneurship, Piraeus can enhance its identity as a vibrant, cosmopolitan city with a 24-hour rhythm. Cultural activation is not only about large-scale events, but also about enabling local communities to express themselves, contribute to place-making and strengthen urban social ties.

Revitalizing the city at night through cultural and economic engagement helps reinforce local pride, attract new audiences, and stimulate business opportunities in sectors such as gastronomy, retail, creative industries and tourism. By providing structured and recurring activities after dark, the city can enhance visitor experience and increase dwell time, while also activating underused public spaces. Targeted actions such as thematic festivals, digital tools like a digital events calendar and promotional strategies directed at tourists and cruise passengers can further amplify visibility. Together, these initiatives contribute to a diverse and inclusive night-time offer that goes beyond nightlife and creates economic spillovers across neighbourhoods.



Figure 24 - Nightlight in Piraeus

Action 1.1 - Expand the City's Themed Festivals and Introduction of at Least
 One
 Annual
 Night-Time
 Event

Enhance existing events, such as "Christmas in Piraeus", "Seadays Festival", "Piraeus Taste Festival" and the "Carnival", with dedicated night-time components and at least one additional annual night-time event within the major festivals. Collaboration with local businesses, sponsors and cultural institutions and organizations will ensure expanded reach and impact.

Action 1.2 – Digital Events Calendar

The city will operate a centralized digital events calendar, integrated with both the municipal website and the DestinationPiraeus.com tourism portal. The calendar will compile all municipal and independent night-time events in multilingual format and be supported by a dedicated visibility campaign to drive local and visitor engagement.

 Action 1.3 - Extended Library Hours and Organization of a Night-Time Cultural Activities Program

Extended operating hours will be piloted at the municipal library and selected cultural venues, creating safe and inclusive evening spaces for learning and community engagement. Pop-up mini-libraries will be placed across the city to enrich leisure offerings, while a structured night-time cultural program will further activate these spaces.

 Action 1.4 – Launch of 3 Targeted Campaigns to Promote Night-Time Activities

Launch of three targeted social media campaigns and bilingual promotional materials to enhance awareness of the city's night-time offer. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting activities to tourists and cruise ship passengers.

• Action 1.5 - Leveraging Piraeus's Warm Climate to Extend Night-Time Events

Piraeus's mild weather will be used to expand the seasonal calendar of night-time events, creating additional opportunities for cultural participation and economic activity throughout the year.

• Action 1.6 - Organizing Night-Time Events on Boats

Night-time events hosted on boats will highlight Piraeus's maritime identity, offering distinctive cultural experiences that attract residents and visitors.

PA2: Urban Safety, Mobility and Accessibility

This axis prioritizes safety, mobility and accessibility as foundational elements for a thriving night-time economy.

A night-time economy cannot flourish without strong foundations in safety and mobility. Many citizens, especially women, older adults and people with disabilities, often avoid going out at night due to safety concerns or poor transport options. In Piraeus, certain areas already benefit from basic infrastructure improvements, but a strategic and data-driven approach is needed to enhance lighting, extend public transport coverage, and minimize disturbances such as noise. Drawing on the knowledge gained from the BeSecure-FeelSecure project, this axis promotes a proactive stance on urban safety by combining smart technology, responsive infrastructure, and inclusive urban design to create a secure and welcoming city after dark.

Investing in safety and accessibility infrastructure generates wide-reaching social and economic benefits. Better-lit streets, extended bus services and quieter nightlife zones foster a stronger sense of trust between citizens and their environment, while also encouraging increased participation in night-time activities. Furthermore, these interventions support local businesses by improving footfall and customer retention in key commercial areas. Accessible and safe mobility options also make it easier for workers in the night-time economy to commute efficiently and securely. Ultimately, this axis supports a liveable, balanced urban environment where safety and inclusiveness enable sustainable growth.



Figure 25 - Piraeus Port - Road City Lights (source: Ntino Photography)

Action 2.1 - Extend Municipal Bus Routes

Pilot late-night bus routes connecting key night-time hotspots, prioritizing accessibility for workers and visitors. Ridership data will guide evaluation and future adjustments.

Action 2.2 - Improve Urban Lighting

Upgrade street lighting with energy-efficient LED systems and smart technologies capable of adjusting to real-time activity will enhance safety

and sustainability. Improvements will be concentrated in high-traffic night-time areas.

Action 2.3 - Noise Monitoring

Upgrade and modernize the city's noise monitoring system to provide realtime feedback on noise levels. Data from residential and nightlife zones will inform targeted noise reduction measures.

Action 2.4 - Targeted Noise Reduction Strategies

Use monitoring data to strengthen enforcement and co-develop noise reduction solutions with residents and businesses. Support measures may include incentives for soundproofing and adoption of quieter, eco-friendly technologies.

PA3: Safety Awareness, Social Inclusion and Supportive Services

This axis addresses barriers to participation in the night-time economy while fostering a safe, inclusive environment.

Night-time urban life must be accessible to everyone - not only consumers but also workers, families, and marginalized groups. While safety infrastructure is important, cultural perceptions and social behaviours also influence how people experience the city at night. In many cases, lack of childcare, mobility, or targeted outreach prevents full participation, especially among women, youth, and low-income communities. This axis responds to these barriers by introducing supportive services such as extended childcare, awareness campaigns, and tailored safety initiatives. It prioritizes social inclusion as a key component of a people-centred night-time economy and builds on the existing momentum of initiatives like the BSFS project.



Figure 26 - Students Take the Lead in Choosing Schoolyard Graffiti

By addressing the specific needs of different population groups, this axis fosters equity and reduces exclusion from the opportunities offered by night-time activities. Establishing late-night childcare, continuing community safety education, and maintaining visible security presence in nightlife zones can help residents feel that the city is not only for entertainment, but also for living, working, and socializing safely. Moreover, supporting the wellbeing of night-time workers -many of whom are employed in precarious sectors- sends a strong message that the city values their contribution. Through inclusion and awareness, this axis strengthens the social fabric and ensures that everyone has a stake in the city's night-time future.

Action 3.1 - Establish Late-Night Childcare Services

Pilot a municipal nursery with extended operating hours to support working parents and night-shift employees. Participation data will guide the potential expansion of this service.

Action 3.2 - Safety Campaigns

Deliver workshops and informational materials promoting safe night-time behavior for residents, schools and businesses. Campaigns will emphasize responsible behaviour and promote available safety resources.

Action 3.3 - Increased Police Presence

Deploy additional police patrols and CCTV systems in nightlife areas. Community feedback mechanisms will evaluate the impact on perceived safety. The IAP gives increased police presence a clear nocturnal focus with patrols, schedules and deployment adapted to nightlife districts and transport hubs. This targets late-hour risks such as alcohol-related incidents, harassment and vulnerability of certain groups. By ensuring police are visible, approachable, and trained in gender sensitivity and minority rights, the plan strengthens both actual and perceived safety, encouraging trust and wider use of the city after dark.

• Action 3.4 - Upscale the BeSecure-FeelSecure (BSFS) Project

Build on the success of the BSFS project by deploying additional patrol vehicles, enhancing surveillance using information generated by the CURIM platform and continuing public safety awareness campaigns in nightlife hotspots. The upscale of the BSFS project adapts its tools to the specific challenges of the night-time city. By applying digital platforms, awareness tools and collaborative security schemes in nightlife hotspots and cultural areas, the IAP addresses reduced visibility and distinct night-time patterns. This aims towards residents and visitors feeling safe, encouraging greater use of public space after dark and supporting an inclusive, sustainable night-time economy.

PA4: Governance, Monitoring and Knowledge

This Priority Axis acknowledges that a robust monitoring system, a culture of continuous learning and a strong governance foundation are essential for the success of an integrated and resilient night-time policy. It focuses on creating permanent mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and update the implementation of the IAP, including the appointment of a dedicated Night-Time Economy Officer. It also recognizes the need for effective monitoring tools that support evidence-based decision-making, such as digital dashboards, data-sharing platforms and a Baseline Study on the Local Night-Time Economy.

To ensure that progress is transparently measured and communicated to stakeholders and the broader community, this axis promotes the regular collection and assessment of both quantitative and qualitative indicators. Through thematic working groups and training sessions, it fosters ongoing knowledge sharing and capacity building, giving stakeholders opportunities to exchange ideas, address challenges and adjust policies where needed.

PA4 brings together the key elements required to ensure that the plan remains a dynamic and flexible framework—capable of responding to emerging needs and sustaining its impact long after the Cities After Dark project is completed.



Figure 27 - Piraeus Operation Center: ULG Meeting

• Action 4.1 – Introduction of a Night Officer Role

Establish a dedicated municipal role to coordinate all night-time policies and stakeholders. The Night-Time Officer will act as a liaison among public services, businesses, cultural actors, and residents - ensuring coherence, rapid response, and ongoing stakeholder dialogue.

Action 4.2 – Develop Night-Time Economy KPIs

Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across areas such as safety, participation, business revenue, transport usage, and event attendance. These indicators will support evidence-based policy decisions and transparent reporting.

• Action 4.3 – Conduct a Baseline Study on the Local Night-Time Economy

Commission a comprehensive study mapping the economic and social footprint of the night-time economy—covering employment, value added, public safety costs, energy use and sector-specific trends— and identify sector-specific trends.

Integration Across Axes

The four (4) priority axes are interconnected as a coherent and mutually reinforcing framework: Cultural activation (PA1) stimulates footfall and social interaction, creating the conditions for stronger safety, mobility and accessibility measures (PA2). In turn, safer and more accessible public spaces encourage broader participation in night-time activities, supporting social inclusion and wellbeing (PA3). Effective governance, monitoring and continuous learning (PA4) ensure that these interventions remain coordinated, evidence-based and aligned with the city's long-term vision.

Cross-axis integration is further strengthened through regular stakeholder engagement, data-driven evaluation and community feedback mechanisms. This holistic approach enables the city to adapt to emerging challenges, distribute benefits across neighborhoods and maintain a balanced, vibrant and inclusive night-time ecosystem.

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4.3 Integrated Approach

By adopting an integrated and participatory framework, the IAP creates synergies between its strategic objectives and actions. Cultural vibrancy, urban safety, social inclusion and sustainability reinforce one another to generate lasting impact. Through continuous monitoring, evaluation and stakeholder engagement, Piraeus adapts its strategies to emerging challenges, ensuring that its night-time economy remains a dynamic and inclusive driver of growth.

The integration dimension of the IAP is fully aligned with the 12 Principles of the Integrated Approach promoted by the URBACT Secretariat. In line with these principles, the plan balances social, economic, environmental and cultural priorities (thematic integration), ensures coordinated action across municipal departments and local stakeholders (horizontal integration), and links local initiatives with regional, national and European frameworks (vertical integration). At the same time, the plan recognises the diverse needs of neighbourhoods and communities across Piraeus by embedding a place-based perspective (territorial integration).

By addressing these key aspects, the IAP reflects the URBACT methodology and demonstrates its coherence with the integrated approach advocated at European level. It illustrates how URBACT principles guide cities in shaping transformative policies that benefit residents, businesses and visitors alike.

5. Action Planning Details

This chapter presents a detailed overview of each action included in the Integrated Action Plan to enhance the night-time economy of Piraeus. For every action, the key implementation elements are outlined, including the steps to be undertaken, the indicative timeframe and the roles and responsibilities of lead and supporting stakeholders. Each action also specifies the estimated cost, potential funding sources, relevant monitoring indicators to

assess effectiveness and identified risks with corresponding mitigation measures. This structured approach ensures clarity, accountability and feasibility throughout the implementation process.

5.1 Priority Axis 1: Cultural and Economic Activation

Action 1.1 -Expand the City's Themed Festivals and Introd Time Event	uction of at Least One Annual Night-	Action 1.2 - Online Ev	ent Calendar
Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe
Identify suitable festivals for night-time components	Year 1	Select a digital platform for hosting the calendar. Procurement process and pilot release.	Year 1
Draft a handbook for internal use that documents all the thematic festivals and the actions/events associated with each one	Year 1-3	Develop the calendar interface, ensuring mobile and multilingual compatibility	Year 1-3
Promote expanded festivals through marketing campaigns	Year 1-10	Integrate the calendar with existing platforms (e.g., municipal website, destinationpiraeus.com), embed interactive map (eg Google maps)	Year 1-3
Implement night-time components in festivals	Year 1-10	Launch a promotional campaign to drive awareness and usage	Year 2-10
Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period	Collect user feedback and implement updates	Year 3-10
		Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period
Roles		Roles	
expertise in organizing cultural events and its established collaboration with local organizations. Supporting partners include event organizers, local artists, businesses, the Directorate of Culture and the Directorate of Revenue & Commerce to ensure broad engagement and smooth implementation.		responsibility for municipal websites and digital tools. Supporting partners include local cultural institutions and businesses for event data input, the municipal tourism department and destination management office for integration with visitor platforms, and private IT vendors for platform development.	
Cost		Cost	
Event logistics (Annual)	€ 30.000,00	Platform development (One off)	30.000,00 €
Marketing campaigns (Annual)	€ 10.000,00	Integration and testing (One off)	5.000,00 €
Total (period)	€ 400.000,00	Promotion and marketing (Annual)	10.000,00 €
		Total (period)	€ 135.000,00
Funding sources		Funding sou	rces
Municipal budget (Extroversion & Culture Directorates), private sponsorships		Municipal budget (IT Directorate), ERDF	, EU Digital Transition Funds, RRF
Monitoring Indicator	s	Monitoring Indi	icators
Feedback from attendees and ex	rent organizers	User satisfaction surveys, stakeholder feedback.	
Number of events added, number of festivals expanded, attendance figures, revenue generated		Number of events listed, website traffic, app downloads, visitor engagement metrics.	
Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation
Low participation (Likelihood: Medium)	Targeted marketing and partnerships with community groups	Low user adoption (Likelihood: Medium).	Robust promotional campaign and user- friendly design, ensure accessibility (adopt WCAG standards)
Weather disruptions (Likelihood: Low)	Include contingency plans for indoor venues	Technical issues post-launch (Likelihood: Low).	Allocate resources for ongoing maintenance and support.

Figure 28 - Actions 1.1 & 1.2

Action 1.3 - Extended Library Hours and C Activities Pr		Action 1.4 - Launch of 3 Targeted Campaigns to	Promote Night-Time Activities
Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe
Assess demand for extended library hours	Year 1	Develop bilingual (at least) promotional materials	Year 1-2
Adjust staffing schedules and train staff for evening operations	Year 2	Identify and test key locations for distribution	Year 1-2
Launch pilot extended hours	Year 2-3	Launch social media campaigns targeting specific demographics	Year 2-10
Plan and schedule night-time events program in the library, gallery or in kiosks (mini libraries)	Year 3-10	Monitor campaign performance and adjust strategies	Year 2-10
Collect feedback and make adjustments	Year 3-10	Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period
Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period		
Roles		Roles	
direct management of library operations a collaborate with local schools, the Municipe cultural organizations to engage cit	al Gallery, the University of Piraeus and	its expertise in public relations and marketing. It will Management Office, local businesses, the Piraeus P influencers and media outlets to raise awareness ar	ort Authority Cruise departme
Cost		Cost	
Demand study, training (One off)	30.000,00€	0 € Promotional materials (One off)	
Staff costs (Annual)	60.000,00 €) € Social media campaigns (Annual)	
Event programming and	10.000,00 €		
implementation(Annual)		Total (period)	65.000,0
Total (period) Funding so	590.000,00 €	Funding sources	
Municipal budget (Culture Directorate), ERDI sponsorsh	F, EU Creative Europe Program, private	Municipal budget (Extroversion Directorate), ERDF, advertising sponsorshi	•
Monitoring Inc	dicators	Monitoring Indicators	
User satisfaction surveys, fee	edback from partners.	Feedback from businesses and	participants.
Number of library users during extend	ded hours, event attendance.	Reach and engagement metrics on social m	edia, distribution numbers.
Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation
Low attendance (Likelihood: Medium).	Partner with schools and promote events extensively.	Limited reach (Likelihood: Medium).	Partner with local influencer and optimize content for platforms.
Budget overruns (Likelihood: Low).	Monitor expenses closely and seek additional funding if needed.	Lack of stakeholder collaboration (Likelihood: Low).	Engage stakeholders early ir the planning process.

Figure 29 - Actions 1.3 & 1.4

Action 1.5 - Leveraging Piraeus's Warm Climate to Extend Night-Time Events		Action 1.6 - Organizing Night-Time Events on Boats	
Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe
Identify key coastal, touristic and urban locations for extended events	Year 1-2	Initiate collaborations with boat owners and maritime organizations	Years 1-2
Plan and schedule summer event activities targeting locals and tourists	Year 1-3	Plan event logistics and safety measures	Year 1-3
Collaborate with local businesses and cultural organizations for sponsorships	Year 2-3	Market events to residents and tourists	Years 1-10
Launch the extended summer event series	Year 3-10	Launch boat events	Years 1-10
Monitor attendance and collect participant feedback	Year 3-10	Evaluate success and plan further expansions	Year 3-10
Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period	Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period
Ro	les	Rol	es
experience in organizing large-scale public events. It will be supported by the Destination Management Office and businesses from the hospitality sector to ensure wide participation and professional execution.		and connections within the maritime sector. Supporting partners include local tourism operators, event planners, the Municipal Departments of Extroversion and Tourism, the Piraeus Port Authority and Piraeus Coast Guard.	
C	ost	Co	st
Preperation and planning (One off)	20.000,00 €	Planning and logistics (One off)	50.000,00 €
Logistics, planning and implementation (Annual)	50.000,00 €	Event organization (Annual)	40.000,00 €
Promotion and marketing (Annual)	15.000,00 €	Promotion and marketing (Annual)	10.000,00 €
Total (period)	670.000,00€	Total (period)	550.000,00 €
Funding	Sources	Funding Sources	
Municipal budget (Extroversion Directorate), EU Regional Development Fund, private sponsors, Creative Europe		Municipal budget (Extroversion Directorate, Fund, private partnerships, Olympiakos Spo associ	rts Club and other sailing clubs, shipowners
Monitoring	Indicators	Monitoring Indicators	
Feedback from local bu	sinesses and attendees.	Participant satisfaction surveys, feedback from operators.	
Number of events, visitor attendance, economic impact.		Number of events, ticket sales, attendee demographics	
Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation
Insufficient funding (Likelihood: Medium).	Seek early sponsorship commitments and allocate municipal reserves.	Safety concerns (Likelihood: Medium).	Implement strict safety protocols and insurance coverage.
Environmental concerns (Likelihood: Low).	Ensure environmental permits and compliance with regulations.	Limited interest (Likelihood: Low).	Conduct pre-launch marketing and offer discounts for early bookings.

Figure 30 - Actions 1.5 & 1.6

5.2 Priority Axis 2: Urban Safety, Mobility, and Accessibility

Action 2.1 - Extend Municipal B	us Routes
ps	Timeframe
sess demand for late-night public ansport	Year 1
sign routes covering key night-time tspots and worker transit points	Years 1-2
Collaborate with the municipal transport	Years 2-10
aunch the pilot service and collect user eedback	Years 2-10
valuate performance and consider scaling ased on ridership data	Years 2-10
Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period
Roles	
The Municipal Department of Vehicle and I and Municipal Public Transportwill lead t expertise in managing public transportation service coordination. It will collaborate Transportation, private bus operators, low workers' unions to improve nighttime mobile	his action due to its systems and ensuring with the Ministry of cal businesses, and
Cost	
Operational costs	50.000,00€
Staff Costs	50.000,00 €
Marketing and awareness	10.000,00€
Total (annual)	110.000,00€
Funding Sources Municipal public transport budget. EU C business sponsorships.	ohesion Fund, local
Monitoring Indicators	
Ridership numbers, operational costs, use	r feedback surveys.
Satisfaction levels among riders, feedba	ck from businesses.
Risks	Mitigation
Low ridership (Likelihood: Medium).	Promote the service through targeted marketing campaigns.
High operational costs (Likelihood: Low).	Collaborate with private operators for cost-sharing solutions.

Figure 31 - Actions 2.1 & 2.2

Action 2,3 - Noise Monito	ring	Action 2.4 - Targeted Noise Redu	oction Strategies		
Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe		
Install noise monitoring devices in identified residential and nightlife hotspots	Months 1–2 (but ongoing)	Develop policies for noise limits based on monitoring data	Months 1-4		
Develop a digital dashboard for real-time noise data analysis. Leverage AI for detecting patterns	Months 3-5	Collaborate with nightlife businesses to introduce noise mitigation solutions	Months 4-8		
Train municipal staff in using monitoring tools and interpreting data	Months 4–5	Pilot installation of soundproofing technologies in high-noise areas	Months 4-11		
Conduct public outreach campaigns on the benefits of noise monitoring	Months 2–12	Monitor noise levels post-intervention to evaluate effectiveness	Month 5 -12		
Analyze data to identify problem areas and trends	Months 3-12	Project Timeframe	1 year		
Timeframe	1 year				
Roles		Roles			
The Directorates of Environment - Climate Change and IT are jointly leading this action due to their combined expertise in environmental monitoring and data collection. They will work with the University of Piraeus and technology providers to gather and analyze data supporting a sustainable and safe night-time environment.		lead this action due to their shared responsibility for enforcing noise regulation in the city. They will be supported by the Piraeus' Local Council for Crime Prevention as well as local business associations and technology and construction firms to implement effective noise reduction and monitoring solutions and ensure compliance.			
Cost		Cost	Cost		
Equipment and initial installation	40.000,00 €	€ Policy development and outreach			
New installations and maintanance and analysis (annualy)	6.000,00€	Pilot projects	25.000,0		
Training and public outreach	10.000,00 €	Total	40.000,0		
Total for 1st year	56.000,00 €				
Funding Sources		Funding Sources			
Municipal environmental management budget, EU LIFE Program, local sponsorships, EUI.		Municipal environmental budget, EU Horizon Program, private sector partnerships, EUI.			
Monitoring Indicators		Monitoring Indicators			
Number of monitoring devices installed, no	oise levels recorded.	Reduction in noise levels at targeted locations, number of businesses add measures.			
Community feedback on noise reduction awareness.		Resident satisfaction surveys, feedback from businesses.			
Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation		
Resistance to monitoring (Likelihood: Medium).	Emphasize privacy safeguards in outreach campaigns.	Business resistance (Likelihood: Medium).	Offer incentives and highlig community benefits.		
Technical malfunctions (Likelihood: Low).	Regular maintenance and immediate troubleshooting protocols.	Ineffective pilot results (Likelihood: Low).	Adjust approaches based opilot feedback.		

Figure 32 - Actions 2.3 & 2.4

5.3 Priority Axis 3: Safety Awareness, Social Inclusion and Supportive Services

Action 3.1 - Establish Late	-Night Childcare		Action 3.2 - Safety Ca	
Steps	Timeframe	1	Steps	
Conduct a needs assessment survey for working parents	Months 1-4	1	Develop multilingual safety materials	
Identify and prepare suitable municipal facilities	Months 2–6		Organize and implement workshops for schools, businesses, and nightlife patrons	
Recruit and train childcare staff	Months 3–6		Launch a citywide digital safety awareness campaign	
Launch pilot childcare services	Month 6-12, 3 years pilot		Collect feedback to refine campaign strategies	
Monitor service usage and collect feedback from parents Project Timeframe	3 pilot years 2026-2036 period		Project Timeframe	
Roles	2026-2036 period	ł	Roles	
expertise in community services and Supporting partners include the Dir and Public Health, the Directorate Learning, local NGOs focused on fo childcare providers contributing	ectorate of Social Services of Education and Lifelong amily support, and private		due to its expertise in safety awarenes various community contexts. It will work schools, the Education Lifelong Learning and State Police, and the University of F awareness initiatives and educa	
Cost		Cost		
Facility preparation	30.000,00€	l	Material production	
Staff recruitment and training	20.000,00 €		Workshop facilitation (annual)	
Operating costs (12 months)	150.000,00 €		Campaign and feed back collection (annual)	
Total (3 year pilot)	500.000,00€		Total (period)	
Funding Sou			Funding Source	
Municipal Social Welfare budget, private sponso	-		Municipal safety and education budge private sponsorsh	
Monitoring Indi			Monitoring Indica	
Number of children enrolled, hours of service provided, feedback response rate.			Number of workshops conducted, co	
Parent satisfaction surveys, staff performance evaluations.			Participant surveys, community feedback.	
Risks	Mitigation	ĺ	Risks	
	Conduct pre-launch		Limited participation (Likelihood: Medium).	
Low enrollment (Likelihood: Medium).	outreach and tailor hours to parents' needs.		wedony.	

Figure 33 - Actions 3.1 & 3.2

Steps	Timeframe		Steps	Timeframe	
Recruit and train additional night patrol	Years 1-2		Deploy additional patrol vehicles in	Months 1-12	
Municipal Police officers	Teas 1-2		nightlife hotspots	Months 1-12	
Deploy patrols in high-activity areas	V02		Integrate the CURIM platform for	Months 1-12	
with real-time communication tools	Years 2-3		advanced risk management	Months 1-12	
Install additional CCTV cameras at	× 0.0		Conduct public awareness sessions on		
identified hotspots	Years 2-3		urban safety	Months 1-12	
			Collaborate with local law		
Collect data on crime rates and public	Years 2-12		enforcement to expand training	Months 1-12	
perception			programs		
			Monitor and evaluate the		
Project Timeframe	2026-2036 period		effectiveness of BSFS initiatives	Months 9–12	
,	,		Project Timeframe	1 year	
Roles			Roles	-	
			The Piraeus Local Council for Crime Prev	ention will lead this action due	
The Piraeus Local Council for Crime Pre	vention is leading this action		to its experience in overseeing urb		
thanks to its expertise in safety aware	•		implementing public awareness progra	•	
multiple sectors. Supporting partners			with the BSFS project. It will collaborate		
Education Lifelong Learning Directoral				·	
Police and the University of Piraeus, e			Police, the University of Piraeus, technology vendors to develop and deploy effective urban safety solutions. The IT Directorate will use		
community-rooted approach.			CURIM platform for statistics and crime mapping to feed the		
community-tooled approach.			evaluation process.		
Cost			Cost		
5631			Additional patrol vehicles for Municipal		
Recruitment and training (annual)	80.000,00€		Police	80.000,00€	
Technology upgrades	60.000,00 €		CURiM platform integration	25.000,00 €	
Data collection and analysis (annual)	5.000,00 €		Public awareness campaigns	10.000,00 €	
Total (period)	910.000,00€		Total	115.000,00 €	
Funding Sour	ces	Funding Sources		rces	
Municipal Police budget, EU Secur	ity Fund, private security		Municipal Police budget, EU Secu	rity Fund, private security	
partnerships, EUI,	URBACT		partnerships, EUI, URBACT		
Monitoring Indicators			Monitoring Indicators		
Number of patrols conducted, crime rate statistics.			Municipal safety budget.		
Public perception surveys, law enforcement feedback.			EU Security Fund, private partnerships, EUI, URBACT		
Risks	Mitigation		Risks	Mitigation	
Public resistance to increased surveillance (Likelihood: Medium).	Engage in open dialogue with community stakeholders.		Resistance to increased surveillance (Likelihood: Medium).	Engage the community early and emphasize benefits.	
Resource constraints (Likelihood: Low).	Seek additional funding from partnerships.		Insufficient funding (Likelihood: Low).	Secure partnerships with private stakeholders early.	

Figure 34 - Actions 3.3 & 3.4

5.4 Priority Axis 4: Governance, Monitoring and Knowledge

Action 4.1 - Introduction of a Nigl	ht Officer Role	Action 4.2 - Develop Night-Time Ec	onomy KPIs	Action 4.3 - Conduct Baseline Study Economy	on Night-Time
Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe	Steps	Timeframe
Define role description and responsibilities	Month 1	Co-design KPI framework with stakeholders	Months 1–2	Define methodology and indicators	Months 1-2
Secure municipal approval and funding	Months 2–4	Identify data sources and collection tools	Months 3–5	Collect data from key sectors (hospitality, culture, transport)	Months 3–6
Launch recruitment campaign	Months 4–6	Pilot test indicators	Months 6–9	Analyze findings	Months 6-8
Appoint and onboard officer	Month 7	Refine and adopt KPI dashboard	Month 10	Validate with stakeholders	Months 8-9
Integrate into governance structures	Months 7–12	Publish annual KPI report	Month 12	Publish and present results	Months 9–12
Project Timeframe	1 year	Project Timeframe	1 year	Project Timeframe	1 year
Roles		Roles		Roles	
The Directorate of Culture will lead this mandate for strategic urban initiati governance in the city. Supporting part stakeholders (as involved in "Cities After associations, and the state and munici inclusive planning and coordinated	ves and cultural ners include the ULG Dark"), local business ipal police to ensure	academic expertise in developing metrics and conducting policy evaluation. It will be supported by the Municipality of Piraeus, the Piraeus Traders Association and the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce to ensure the relevance and institutions will be supported by the Municipality.		easearch capacity in ta collection. The e Municipality, the	
Cost		Cost		Cost	
Personnel (salary + benefits)	45.000,00 €	Research & coordination	30.000,00 €	Research team (part-time)	15.000,00€
Equipment and setup	10.000,00 €	Software/digital dashboard	15.000,00 €	Data collection & analysis tools 5.00	
Communication materials	10.000,00€	Reporting & dissemination	5.000,00 €	Dissemination events	2.000,00 €
Total (annual)	65.000,00 €	Total	50.000,00 €	Total	22.000,00 €
Funding Sources		Funding Sources	Funding Sources Funding Sources		
Municipal budget (Culture), EU Social Inclusion Funds, private sponsorships.			University of Piraeus Research Center fund, municipal co- tance, EU Erasmus+ Program, private sponsorships, Horizon Europe ERASMUS+, Horizon, Ministry of Develo		evelopment
Monitoring Indicator	S	Monitoring Indicators		Monitoring Indicators	
Officer appointed and active wi	thin timeframe	Number of KPIs tracked annually		Usage in future policy design	
Stakeholder satisfaction with cod	ction with coordination role KPI use in municipal strategy updates		Usage in future policy de	sign	
Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation	Risks	Mitigation
Low candidate interest (Likelihood: Low)	Strong outreach to universities/public sector	Data Gaps (Likelihood: Medium).	Begin with proxy indicators	Low data availability	Use sector interviews
Resistance from existing staff (Likelihood: Medium)	Clear integration strategy	Stakeholder disagreement (Likelihood: Low).	Co-design with ULG	Delays in fieldwork	Early partner engagement

Figure 35 - Actions 4.1 - 4.3

6. Implementation Framework

A concise, well-structured and collaborative framework is essential to ensure that the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Piraeus remains effective and sustainable beyond the URBACT "Cities After Dark" project. Serving as a practical roadmap, this framework translates the plan's vision, strategic goals, and priority axes into concrete measures for risk management, financial planning, timelines, governance and stakeholder engagement. By maintaining the participatory approach established during the design phase, it ensures that the URBACT Local Group (ULG) and key partners remain actively involved in implementation. A central goal of the framework is to establish a sustainable governance model, including the appointment of a Night-Time Economy Officer to oversee, adapt and update the plan as needed. By linking governance structures with funding mechanisms, stakeholder networks and monitoring tools, the framework provides an integrated, resilient and adaptive strategy. It consolidates insights from the Action Tables and Priority Axes—covering governance, cultural activation, safety, inclusion and knowledge management—into a coherent system of actions, accountability and long-term urban impact.

6.1 Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

The implementation of the Integrated Action Plan is grounded in a multi-level governance model that ensures continuity, coherence and collaboration across municipal departments and partners beyond the URBACT period. At its core is the appointment of a Night-Time Economy Officer, serving as a permanent liaison among the Municipality, businesses, cultural institutions, law enforcement agencies and residents. This role will support coordinated planning, enable rapid responses to emerging challenges and safeguard a balanced and sustainable vision for the night-time economy.

To strengthen civic participation and stakeholder engagement, the IAP builds on existing engagement tools developed during the planning phase. These include the **Digital Events Calendar**, which improves coordination and transparency in cultural programming; **thematic working groups** on safety, **gender equality and youth participation**; and **community workshops** that amplify local voices and highlight neighborhoods with lower representation. This approach recognizes that sustainable governance depends not only on institutional structures but also on continuous dialogue, collaboration and cocreation with the wider urban community.

By combining formal governance structures with participatory mechanisms, Piraeus seeks to balance strategic leadership with community empowerment, responding to persistent challenges such as insufficient coordination, limited cross-sector collaboration and low public awareness of ongoing initiatives. Through this structured yet flexible model, the city aims to establish a sustainable governance system capable of adapting to local dynamics and integrating diverse perspectives. In this way, the plan remains a living, adaptive document aligned with both local needs and broader European urban policy frameworks.

6.2 Funding, Costs and Timeline

Successful implementation depends on a diversified and realistic funding strategy that blends municipal budgets, regional and national programmes and European Union instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Horizon Europe. Public-private partnerships and sponsorships—especially for cultural programming and communication campaigns—will complement these resources, leveraging local business and community support.

Period	Key Actions & Priority Axes	Funding Focus	Responsible Actors*
2026– 2027 (Initial Phase)	Appointment of Night Officer (PA4); pilot Testing Actions including Santa Night Run, Red Night (PA1); ongoing development of the Digital Events Calendar (PA1); latenight childcare pilot (PA3)	Municipal budget, Small-scale sponsorships, Initial EU calls (e.g., URBACT capitalisation, Erasmus+)	Municipality, ULG stakeholders Cultural organisations
2026– 2028 (Mid- Term Phase)	Rollout of smart lighting and noise monitoring system (PA2); pilot extension of late-night bus routes and safety audits (PA2 & PA3); expansion of cultural programming and training for nightlife actors (PA1 & PA3)	ERDF, RRF, Horizon Europe, National co-financing	Municipality, Transport authority, Cultural & business partners
2028– 2030 (Long- Term Phase)	Periodic update of IAP; sustained thematic working groups (PA3); continued awareness campaigns and inclusive cultural events (PA1 & PA3)	Municipal budget, Private sponsorships, EU and National funds	Municipality, Wider stakeholders

^{*}Detailed responsibilities about specific actors are in Action Tables of Section 5.

The financial approach balances **soft actions** (e.g. training programs, awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement) with **infrastructure investments** (e.g. smart lighting, noise monitoring systems, transport), ensuring equitable resource allocation across the four Priority Axes (PA1–PA4).

Implementation will unfold in **three phases**; each aligned with specific priority axes and funding cycles to guarantee feasibility. A consolidated financial estimate places the total cost at approximately **€4.6 million**, covering both cumulative and annualized expenditures. Presenting the budget in this aggregated form provides transparency, highlights the scale of investment, and demonstrates that implementation is financially viable within municipal capacities, while remaining open to complementary regional and EU support. By aligning resource needs with diverse funding opportunities, the plan gains a pragmatic character and a high degree of readiness for implementation.

6.3 Monitoring and Indicators

A transparent and participatory monitoring system is essential to track progress and assess impact over time. Each Priority Axis outlined in the Action Tables provides measurable and qualitative indicators forming the basis of the city's monitoring framework. Priority Axis 4 (Governance, Monitoring and Knowledge Management) underpins this system, establishing clear procedures for data collection, analysis and reporting.

The Night-Time Economy Officer, working with municipal departments, will coordinate baseline setting, data verification and indicator review—covering fields such as cultural activity, urban safety, social inclusion and

environmental sustainability. Reliable data will be drawn from multiple sources: digital platforms, stakeholder surveys, noise sensors and the proposed Baseline Study on the Local Night-Time Economy.

Regular feedback loops—via workshops and consultations —will assess both qualitative aspects (citizen satisfaction, inclusiveness of activities) and quantitative results (event numbers, stakeholder participation, safety improvements).

By directly linking monitoring to governance and stakeholder engagement, the framework ensures **evidence-based decision-making** and the flexibility to adjust priorities as needed. This adaptive process keeps the plan dynamic, responsive and aligned with evolving urban challenges and opportunities. The key monitoring areas, indicative indicators and primary data sources and tools that will facilitate the methodical tracking of the IAP's implementation are summarized in the following table.

Monitoring Area	Sample Indicators	Data Sources & Tools
Cultural and Economic Activation (PA1)	Number of night-time events, attendance rates, local business participation	Event Calendar analytics, cultural partners, municipal records
Urban Safety, Mobility and Accessibility (PA2)	Crime incidents in nightlife zones, noise levels, smart lighting coverage	Police reports, noise sensors, technical inspections
Safety Awareness, Social Inclusion and Supportive Services (PA3)	Participation of women, youth, migrants; use of late-night childcare	Surveys, service provider reports, community workshops
Governance, Monitoring & Knowledge (PA4)	Number of ULG/ meetings, Baseline Study completion, annual performance reports	Municipal records, stakeholder workshops, Night Forum outcomes

6.4 Risk Management

Efficient risk management is essential to ensure that the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) remains viable and influential during its execution. The IAP adopts a proactive and adaptive approach, acknowledging the specific challenges of operating in a dynamic night-time urban environment and drawing on the risks identified in each Action Table and Priority Axis.

Key risks include limited political or institutional commitment after the URBACT period and delays or gaps in funding, especially for infrastructure or digital upgrades. These can be mitigated by diversifying financial sources—combining municipal budgets with national and European programs, as well as potential public–private partnerships—and by phasing expenditures in line with funding cycles.

Challenges associated with stakeholder disengagement or participation fatigue are also acknowledged, especially considering the plan's

focus on co-creation. To counter this, the IAP incorporates ongoing opportunities for participation through thematic working groups and community workshops, ensuring continuous input from diverse groups. Public acceptance is also important when introducing new night-time operations, public-space changes or safety initiatives. Transparent communication, awareness campaigns and pilot actions help residents understand and test measures before wider rollout.

The plan also takes into account external uncertainties—such as economic shifts, public health crises or technological disruptions—by maintaining a flexible, phased structure supported by clear governance and monitoring mechanisms, enabling timely adjustments when needed.

Overall, the governance model, engagement tools, funding strategy, timeline and monitoring processes form a coherent foundation for implementing the IAP. By embedding accountability and adaptability throughout, the city aims to build a night-time economy that is safe, inclusive, economically sound and resilient. This approach ensures that the IAP remains a living, evolving document aligned with local needs and broader European urban policy frameworks beyond the duration of the URBACT "Cities After Dark" initiative.

7. Conclusion

The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) provides Piraeus with a clear and practical roadmap for strengthening its night-time economy. As the city moves from planning to implementation, the priority is to ensure that the IAP's vision is effectively communicated, locally embraced and aligned with national and European strategies.

In the months ahead, the Municipality of Piraeus, together with the Night-Time Economy Officer, will disseminate the IAP through community outreach, public presentations and digital channels—publishing it on the city's official website, sharing it during stakeholder meetings and promoting it across local and social media. At the national level, the municipality will work with networks and ministries to exchange knowledge and identify funding and policy opportunities that support long-term delivery.

Developed through an inclusive and collaborative process, the IAP addresses key priorities such as gender equality, digital innovation and environmental resilience, while combining cultural vitality with actions that enhance safety, accessibility and long-term sustainability Equally important, the plan fosters a culture of communication and cooperation among cultural institutions, businesses residents, and municipal authorities. This approach reflects the ethos of the URBACT "Cities After Dark" network and highlights Piraeus' intention to remain part of a European community of cities that share good practices and jointly tackle common urban challenges.

Through the IAP, Piraeus sets a solid foundation for ambitious yet achievable initiatives that enhance its night-time offer, improve public safety and expand access to urban spaces after sunset. The municipality's commitment to transparency, innovative governance and cross-European collaboration will be essential to realising this vision and delivering tangible benefits for residents, businesses and the wider region. In doing so, Piraeus aims to position itself as a safer, more welcoming and environmentally responsible model of night-time urban living.

Looking toward 2026, the municipality will prioritise actions that demonstrate early impact—such as large-scale cultural events highlighting the city's maritime identity, the official launch of the digital events calendar, targeted safety campaigns in nightlife districts and enhanced noise-monitoring measures. By focusing on these first steps, Piraeus will maintain the momentum gained through the URBACT process and affirm its commitment to **building a lively, inclusive and resilient night-time economy.**

By clearly communicating the purpose of the IAP, advancing early actions and ensuring strong coordination, the city is ready to transition confidently from planning to delivery—reinforcing its dedication to a safer, more accessible and dynamic night-time way of life.



Figure 36 - Olympiakos Cup Tower Illumination