

URBACT CITY FESTIVAL

31 March - 01 April 2026 - Nicosia, Cyprus



Programme

URBACT City Festival

Nicosia, 31 March - 01 April 2026

#URBACTfest

urbact.eu/city-festival-2026



URBACT



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Δήμος Λευκωσίας
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Day 0

Monday, 30 March

17:30 - 21:00

Royal Hall

Preparatory meeting for Action Planning Networks *(upon invitation)*

Closed meeting followed by dinner, for invited representatives of URBACT Action Planning Networks only.

Day 1

Tuesday, 31 March

08:45 - 09:30

Eleftheria Square (under the bridge)

National networking coffee

Get your badge at the registration desk and join your country corner for a coffee with your National URBACT Point
- find a home base before diving into the Festival!

09:30 - 10:15

Eleftheria Square (under the bridge)

3, 2, 1... action! Opening plenary

The URBACT City Festival kicks-off in a dynamic way!

After a warm welcome by the Mayor of Nicosia and the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union, find out what is happening over the next two days and what are the stories to discover. Understand the flow of the URBACT City Festival and don't miss a thing!

Speakers:

- **Themis Christophidou**, *European Commission's Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy*
- **Constantinos Ioannou**, *Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus*
- **Charalambos Prountzos**, *Mayor of Nicosia*
- **Corinne de La Mettrie**, *Director General for Urban Policy at the French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, URBACT Managing Authority*

10:15 - 10:45

Eleftheria Square (under the bridge)

A trailer to the marketplace

Get a taste of what awaits you at the local actions marketplace. Uncover where each city shines in the exhibition space, and hear short teasers from a few of them: just enough to make you want to see more.

10:45 - 12:30

Eleftheria Square (under the bridge)

Local actions marketplace

Discover 273 local actions from European cities driving sustainable urban development!

The local actions in the marketplace are clustered under five thematic areas: climate action, local economy, participative governance, social cohesion, and urban planning.

Walk around the stands, find out the story behind each action and think how this could work in your city.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch

14:30 - 15:30

273 local actions in sessions

In these thematic sessions, discover the local actions carried out by URBACT cities to make a change on common challenges, and get inspired from them.

Each session builds on the actions implemented by different cities on a selected topic. These sessions showcase collaboration in practice, and the impact of URBACT Action Planning Networks on driving real change.

Session 1 Local economy

...where an enterprising panel of cities will tell their stories of how they manage in evolving economic times, how they try to attract and retain young talents, how they revitalise spaces, and how they use digital tools and tech to become more attractive.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [C4Talent](#), [Cities@Heart](#), [Residents of the future](#), [Cities After Dark](#), [Remote-IT](#), [TechDiversity](#)

Session 2 Digital transition

... where cities showcase their work crafting urban agendas for cities' entrance into the tech sphere, by leveraging new digital technologies like the metaverse, accompanying the rise of digital work amongst younger generations, and supporting inclusive access to digital technologies for all.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [DIGI-INCLUSION](#), [METACITY](#), [NextGen YouthWork](#), [TechDiversity](#)

Session 3 Nature-based solutions

... where cities showcase practical experiences on co-creating green spaces with their inhabitants to enhance well-being, restore biodiversity, preserve soils and adapt to climate change.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [BiodiverCity](#), [Re-Gen](#), [GreenPlace](#)

Session 4 Health and wellbeing

... where citizens' health and wellbeing is the top priority, and cities strive to enhance it by empowering decision-makers and strengthening social bonds across groups and generations.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [One Health 4 Cities](#), [Breaking Isolation](#)

Session 5 Mobility

... where cities present accessible, integrated, and climate-friendly mobility solutions with the help of citizens.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [S.MALL](#), [ECONNECTING](#), [SCHOOLHOODS](#), [PUMA](#), [Beyond the Urban](#)

Session 6 Welcoming cities

... where cities tell their stories about how they welcome migrants and how they become more inclusive and responsive to locals in need.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [WELDI](#), [Agents of Co-Existence](#)

16:00 - 17:00

273 local actions in sessions (continues)

Pursue the thematic exploration of the 273 local actions implemented by URBACT Action Planning Networks' partner cities.

Session 7 Social data management

... where cities tell their stories of how they collect, manage, and use social data to draft social, health, and wellbeing policies.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [Cities@Heart](#), [U.R. Impact](#), [One Health 4 Cities](#), [NextGen YouthWork](#)

Session 8 Urban planning

... where cities will tell their stories on how to (re)design public spaces using virtual reality, with setting a number of indicators and targets, and with engaging with citizens.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [Cities@Heart](#), [METACITY](#), [Beyond the Urban](#)

Session 9 Greening urban economies

... where cities discuss their local actions for greening economies and places: from reshaping underused urban areas into new sustainable spaces, to engaging local stakeholders to accelerate the green transition.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [LET'S GO CIRCULAR!](#), [GreenPlace](#), [In4Green](#), [COPE](#), [EcoCore](#)

Session 10 Gender equality

... where our local heroes fight to close the gender gap in cities, among others by integrating the gender lens in public procurement processes.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [FEMACT-Cities](#), [GenProcure](#)

Session 11 Youth

... where younger citizens are in the spotlight, and tales are told about creating safe and accessible school neighborhoods, transforming underused urban places into youth communities' hubs, and tackling the emerging digital space of employment among the next generation.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [NextGen YouthWork](#), [Re-Gen](#), [SCHOOLHOODS](#)

Session 12 Storytelling for citizens' engagement

...where URBACT experts will give you tools and methods to better communicate and engage with your citizens. City representatives will illustrate how this is possible with real examples.

This session builds on insights and experience from the following URBACT Action Planning networks, and their member cities: [ARCHETHICS](#), [Agents of Co-Existence](#), [One Health 4 Cities](#), [Cities for Sustainability Governance](#)

Day 2

Wednesday, 1 April

08:30 - 09:00

Royal Hall

Welcome coffee

09:00 - 10:00

Royal Hall (Plenary)

Spotlight on new URBACT call & EU opportunities

Start early and fresh with getting to know the latest developments about the Cohesion Policy post 2027, the new Policy Agenda for Cities, and the new URBACT call for networks, presented by representatives of the European Commission and the URBACT Secretariat. A good snapshot about what's yet to come.

Speaker:

[Themis Christophidou](#), *European Commission's Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy*

10:00 - 10:45

Royal Hall (Plenary)

Speed dating on the new URBACT call for networks

11:00 - 12:00

Royal Hall

Funding stories

How and why does an urban project or action receive EU funds for implementation? Each of these sessions will dive into examples of cities having received funding for their actions or ideas through the European Urban Initiative, Net Zero Cities, Horizon Europe, and others. Representatives of these programmes or organisations will be there to respond to your questions.

12:00 - 12:30

Royal Hall (Plenary)

Happy ending: closing plenary

Before we split in city visits, let's look back at the highlights of the 2026 URBACT City Festival.

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

Royal Hall

14:30 - 16:30

Walking tours of Nicosia

These walking tours, implemented in collaboration with the Nicosia Tourism Board, will take you to discover the rich history and dynamic present of our host city.

Each of these itineraries will showcase Nicosia under a different angle, including cultural diversity, architecture and recent innovation created with European support.

Participation requires prior registration. A dedicated online form will be sent to confirmed participants of the City Festival only, for them to register to the walking tour of their choice.

19:00 - 24:00

Old GSP Square

Nicosia After Dark Party

Let's wrap up the URBACT City Festival 2026 with an unforgettable Goodbye Party at the OLD GSP Stadium in Nicosia!

Live performances, DJ sets, interactive urban art, and local food experiences powered by the URBACT Action Planning Network "Cities After Dark"-- all in a unique riverside industrial space.

As we say goodbye to the 2026 edition, let's celebrate the cities, people, and ideas that are shaping the future of urban Europe!