



FEMACT-Cities 5th Quarterly Report

January - March 2025

Peer learning, Peer support

URBACT



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Table of Contents

1. The FEMACT-Cities Network.....	3
2. The FEMACT-Cities Journey – A Path to More Equality.....	4
3. What is going on in our URBACT Local Groups?.....	5
4. Transnational Meeting in Turin, Italy (January).....	7
Day 1.....	7
Day 2.....	9
Resumée.....	10
5. Transnational Meeting online (March 2025).....	10
Day 1.....	10
Day 2.....	11
6. Where do we go next?.....	11

1. The FEMACT-Cities Network

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

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

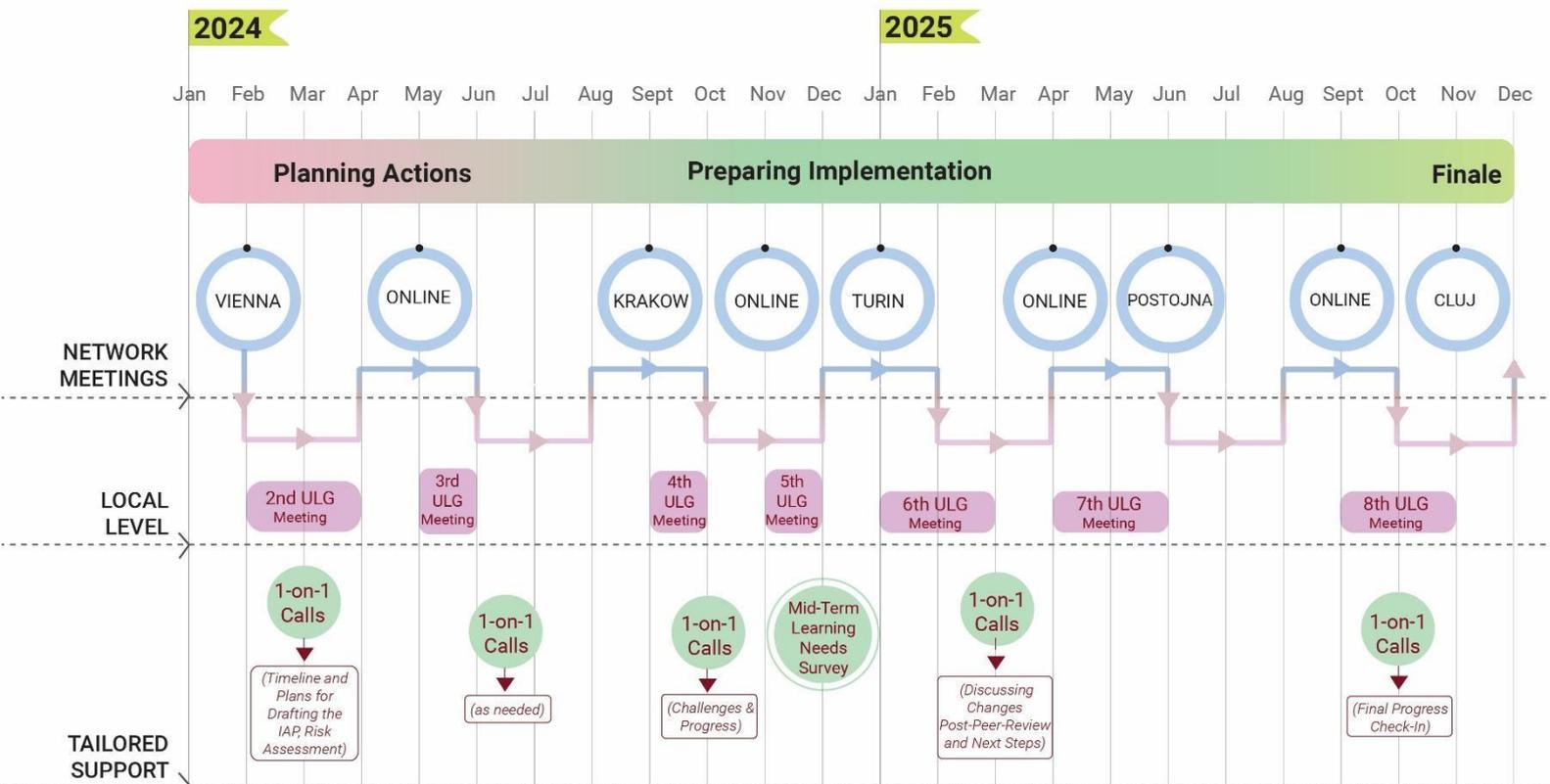
To do this, the bespoke network curriculum focuses on both factors which help and hinder implementation, from plans to data to political support, and sharing knowledge from best practices outside the network and between the network partners. The goal is to empower the partners and a wider audience not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

The FEMACT-Cities partners are

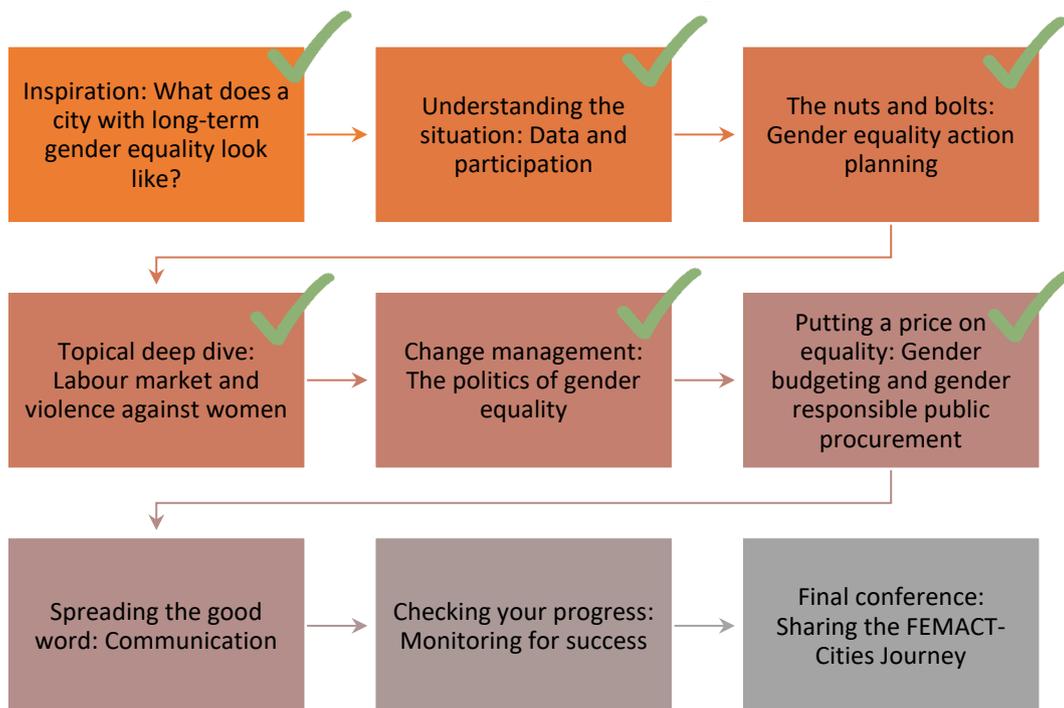
- Clermont Auvergne Métropole (FR) (Lead Partner)
- Länsstyrelsen Skåne (SE)
- Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (PT)
- City of Kraków (PL)
- City of Turin (IT)
- Municipality of Postojna (SI)
- Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (RO)
- Szabolcs 05 Regional Development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



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



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



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



Clermont Auvergne Métropole (France)

The French partner continued its move towards a coordinated gender equality strategy. A key milestone was the publication of a guide on gender-based and sexual violence, harassment, discrimination, which gave examples of what constitutes sexist behaviour or sexual harassment, and an online platform for reporting gender-based violence or sexist behaviour.



Länsstyrelsen Skåne (Sweden)

The Swedish partner hosted a session in February with "Jämställd Utveckling Skåne," sharing tools and strategies to advance gender equality in the context of regional growth. They also worked on an application for an operational project on female entrepreneurship in Skåne within the framework of the European Regional Development Fund.



Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (Portugal)

The Portuguese partner's fifth ULG meeting in February aimed to sharpen IAP objectives and actions. A "Contact Guide" was developed to help structure future collaboration and stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, they presented the results of the testing action at the Municipality of Lousã's "Week for Equality".



City of Kraków (Poland)

Kraków organised over 100 activities covering sport, health, history, and empowerment around 8 March, including the second Women's Run, the "Herstorian" exhibition, and the "Girls' Shelves" initiative launched in public libraries to spotlight female voices in literature. They also hosted a roundtable on gender mainstreaming in educational facilities in Kraków.



City of Turin (Italy)

The Italian partner organised two events for the pilot project "Network of Equal Opportunities Ambassador" with community-based workshops. These events were designed to reach diverse neighbourhoods and engage women as advocates for equality and were a great success!



Municipality of Postojna (Slovenia)

The Slovenian team organised interactive workshops for pupils in primary and high schools for the prevention of intimate partner and cyber violence and to break gender stereotypes. They are now coordinating the next transnational meeting in May and developing a program involving local partners like the Family Centre and IPES gender institute.



Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania)

The Romanian team advanced its campaign on women's safety in public transportation. The initiative combines awareness-raising with creative interventions to promote respectful behaviour and safer environments. Early social media engagement suggests growing community support.



Szabolcs 05 Regional Development Association of Municipalities (Hungary)

The Hungarian team participated in the URBACT National Campus and hosted a budget-focused meeting with its member municipalities in February. A March carnival event in the Roma community centre emphasised inclusion and raised awareness for the needs of Roma girls.

4. Transnational Meeting in Turin, Italy (January)

On 29 and 30 January 2025, the FEMACT-Cities network gathered in person for its sixth transnational meeting, hosted by the City of Turin. The event marked an important milestone in the network's progression, with an engaging program structured around peer feedback, strategic planning, and thematic inspiration.

Day 1

On day 1, we met at Via Baltea, a neighbourhood hub in a former printing factory which offers space for the locals to meet, creative enterprises to thrive and unemployed persons to learn new skills in the neighbourhood kitchen. It was the perfect setting for a creative meeting.



The first day began with a warm welcome from Deputy Mayor Jacopo Rosatelli, National URBACT Point Moira Rotondo, and Gender City Manager Norma De Piccoli. As in every FEMACT-Cities meeting, each partner presented updates from their URBACT Local Groups (ULGs) and shared developments in their testing actions.

Following a tour of the location, the partners dug in to the IAP peer review, a session in which the cities paired up to give constructive feedback on each other's' Integration Action Plans. The peer

review followed the "4C" method, encouraging partners to help their peers think about completeness, coherence, concerns, and how the draft might be further developed (continuation).



After all that exchange, it was time for a bit of team building. In a true URBACT highlight, the FEMACT-Cities partners teamed up and had a tiramisu-making competition! Who knew work could be so delicious?



We closed the day with a visit to the Community Concierge, a place for meeting, exchange and assistance, and a lovely network dinner.



Day 2

On day 2, we visited not one but two locations. We started our day at Almaterra, an association of feminist and transfeminist women from different countries, based in Turin, which works on



intercultural projects, women's empowerment, rights, accessibility to the labour market, social and cultural inclusion, gender and gender-based violence, where both Torino and Szabolcs 05 presented deep dives of their local work.



In the first partner deep dive, Alessandro Tempia Valenta from Urban Lab Torino presented Voci di Quartiere, a detailed and multi-year outreach participation program involving multiple stages and formats to inform the new city master plan. The second speaker, Monica Cerutti, from Torino Città per le Donne, presented this feminist association, including their initiatives for increasing

the number of women in politics and women who are active politically.



In the second partner deep dive, Monika Komadi and Botond Felfoldi from Szabolcs 05 presented the Hungarian partner's local work in depth. Their policy challenge, keeping young Roman girls in

schooling and integrating them into the labour market, is one which they have been working on already for many years. And yet there is still process to be made - work with the girls themselves and their teachers has turned up new lines of action. Thank you to Nora Kebel from the URBACT Secretariat for the translation support!

After a delightful lunch, we all got back on the bus and headed to the newly-opened anti-violence centre. There we learned about their work and their newly opened safe house Luna Nuova for women with psychological disorders who are victims of gender-based violence - the first of its kind in Piemonte. We rounded off the day with a workshop on change management and argumentation against resistance strategies to gender equality measures, ending on a high note!

Resumée

The meeting in Turin successfully combined structural progress on IAPs with rich local inspiration. The peer review process helped sharpen IAP drafts, while thematic presentations showcased how local innovation can advance gender equality. Turin's holistic citywide initiatives and Szabolcs 05's community-driven inclusion efforts offered concrete, transferable models for others in the network.

5. Transnational Meeting online (March 2025)

We had not one but two transnational meetings in the first quarter. The seventh transnational meeting took place online on 18–19 March 2025 and was dedicated to deepening strategic and operational elements of the IAPs.



Day 1

The meeting began – as always - with a round of ULG progress updates from all partners, highlighting recent local activities and key milestones. This was followed by a mini-workshop led by Lead Expert Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse, focusing on stakeholder motivation—mapping stakeholders, prioritizing engagement, and addressing barriers to participation. In the afternoon, our structural ad hoc expert,

Ian Graham, facilitated a troubleshooting session for IAP drafts, giving targeted feedback to help partners refine the structure, logic, and feasibility of their proposed actions.

Day 2

The second day opened with a hands-on session on risk assessment. Partners were guided through a practical framework for identifying, analysing, and mitigating implementation risks. During the administrative session, Christine provided an overview of reprogramming procedures, Rosalie updated the group on network communication, and Mary introduced the upcoming “Recipes for Success” toolkit. In the afternoon, Jenna Norman gave an expert talk on gender-responsive budgeting, followed by a panel discussion featuring examples from Barcelona (Blai Martí) and Berlin (Alina Zimmerman). The session illustrated how gender-sensitive financial planning can drive equitable urban development.

6. Where do we go next?

Our next meeting will be hosted by the Slovenian partner, Postojna, on May 21 & 22. In addition to deep dives from the Slovenian and French partners, we can look forward to further work on developing SMART actions as well as an interactive workshop on storytelling.

