



# FEMACT-Cities 6<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report

## April - June 2025

*Moving Towards the Finish Line*

**URBACT**



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg



## 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 Postojna, Slovenia (May) .....	7
Day 1 .....	7
Day 2 .....	9
6. Where do we go next? .....	10

## 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.

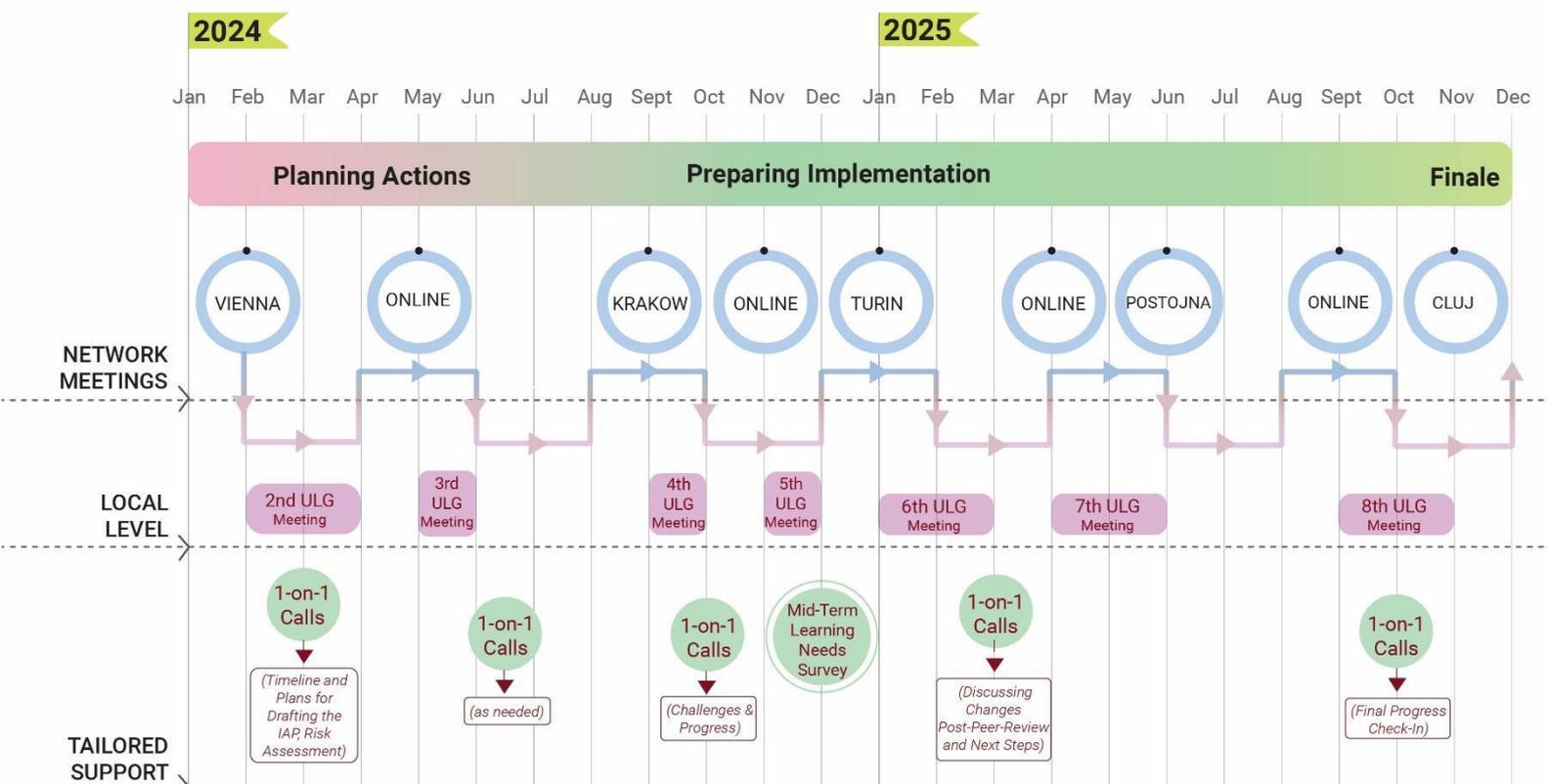
To do this, the bespoke network curriculum focuses on both factors which help and hinder implementation, from plans to data to political support, and sharing knowledge from best practices outside the network and between the network partners. The goal is to empower the partners and a wider audience not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

The FEMACT-Cities partners are

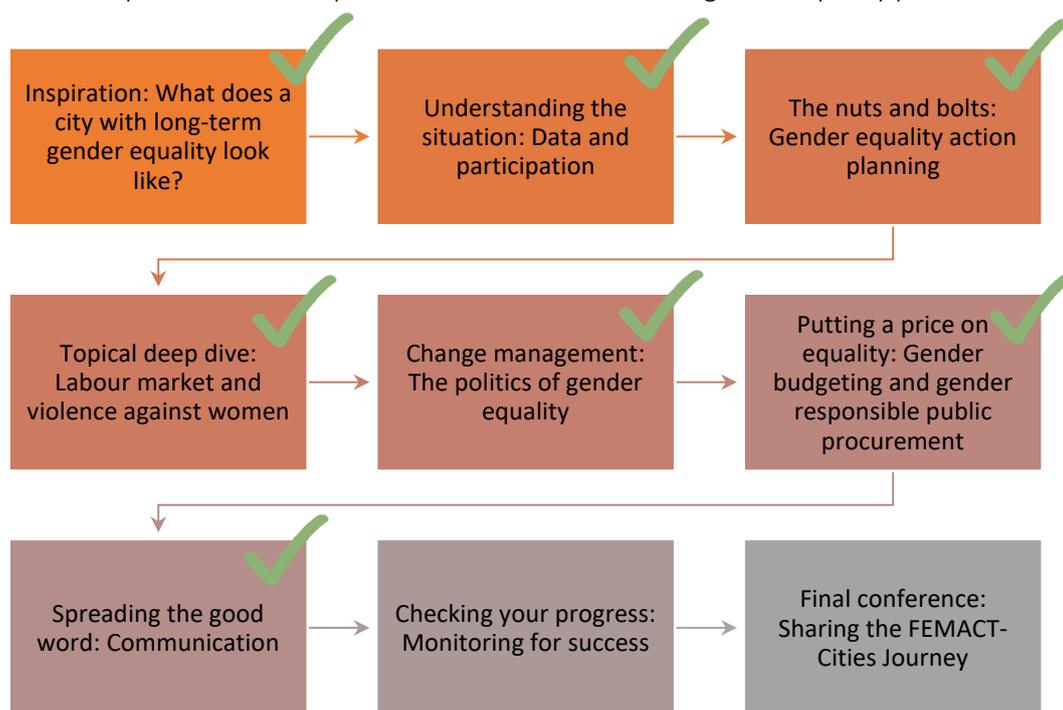
- Clermont Auvergne Métropole (FR) (Lead Partner)
- Länsstyrelsen Skåne (SE)
- Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (PT)
- City of Kraków (PL)
- City of Turin (IT)
- Municipality of Postojna (SI)
- Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (RO)
- Szabolcs 05 Regional Development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

Clermont organised an urban night walk to explore how lighting influences perceptions of safety, sparking dialogue on gendered experiences in public space. They also advanced their Women's Tour initiative, highlighting local female figures to make women's contributions to the city more visible and valued.



#### Länsstyrelsen Skåne (Sweden)

Skåne's ULG met in May for a lecture on venture capital and female entrepreneurship by Marie-Louise Eriksson from ML Impact Consulting. The session shed light on structural barriers facing women founders in accessing funding and inspired discussions on how to strengthen support systems within the region.



#### Comunidade Intermunicipal da Região de Coimbra (Portugal)

The Coimbra region continued its "School without Walls" series, hosting talks on urban planning for liveable, safe, and inclusive spaces. Alongside these activities, the ULG is working closely with municipal equality teams to refine and compile actions that will form the backbone of the Integrated Action Plan.



#### City of Kraków (Poland)

Kraków's busy quarter included the May of Equality Festival with a diverse cultural programme and a Bronze Award in the EU Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity. They also organised an online exchange with other Polish cities in FEMACT and GenProcure, fostering national dialogue on integrating gender equality in urban policy.



#### **City of Turin (Italy)**

Turin's ULG pressed ahead with its pilot project, the "Network of Equal Opportunities Ambassadors." At the March meeting, ambassadors shared their experiences engaging municipal staff and community members, building momentum for embedding equality perspectives across departments and local neighbourhoods.



#### **Municipality of Postojna (Slovenia)**

Postojna convened its ULG on 24 April to review Integrated Action Plan progress and prepare for upcoming activities. A follow-up one-on-one with the expert team in May refined the next steps. The municipality also finalised preparations to welcome partners to the transnational meeting on 21–22 May.



#### **Cluj Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania)**

Cluj is scaling up its safety campaign with new interventions: audio ads across bus stations via Info Traffick Radio, updated bus materials featuring QR codes and emergency contacts, and structured input into upcoming trainings. The ULG also serves as a platform to coordinate the 16 Days campaign on women's safety.



#### **Szabolcs 05 Regional Development Association of Municipalities (Hungary)**

The Hungarian partner strengthened local outreach by publishing Torino's lessons in a local newspaper and celebrating Mother's Day with a public event in Mátészalka. On 31 March, the ULG met to discuss Integrated Action Plan actions, ensuring strong community input into the next project steps.

## 4. Transnational Meeting in Postojna, Slovenia (May)

On 21 and 22 May 2025, the FEMACT-Cities network convened in person for its eighth transnational meeting, warmly hosted by the Municipality of Postojna. As the only network gathering of the quarter, the event was both productive and personal: a chance to reconnect face-to-face, experience generous Slovenian hospitality, and combine partner updates with local inspiration, practical IAP work, and new tools for communicating gender equality.



### Day 1

The Postojna meeting opened with greetings from the National URBACT Point Slovenia, the Mayor of Postojna, and the Lead Partner, setting a warm and collaborative tone for the two days ahead. Each partner then shared updates from their URBACT Local Groups, highlighting recent milestones and challenges.

A key input came from the Institute for Equal Opportunities (IPES Maribor), which presented its work on tackling harmful gender stereotypes, gender-based violence, and intersectional discrimination. Their research underscored the paradox of strong equality rankings in Slovenia alongside persistent structural barriers and lack of political will for systemic change. Local examples showed how interactive learning methods with school pupils, teachers, and municipal officials can help mainstream gender perspectives and lay the groundwork for community-wide engagement.



The day also included a tour of the Perspektiva incubator, which supports entrepreneurship and innovation in Postojna, and visits to the “Familiar Faces of Postojna” exhibition and the Brlog family centre. These local initiatives offered concrete insights into how community spaces can support empowerment, inclusion, and family wellbeing. Partners closed the day with a shared dinner, deepening the sense of network connection in an informal setting.



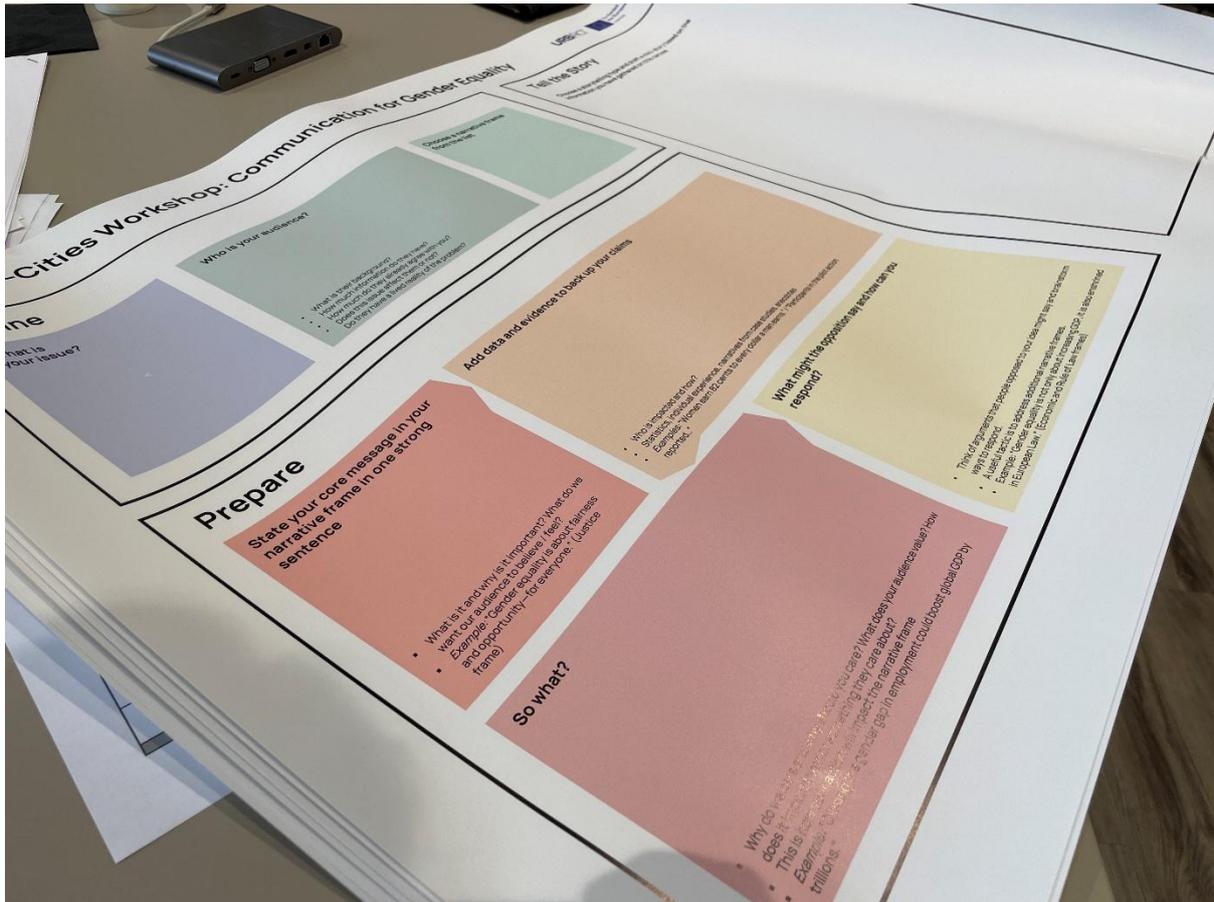
## Day 2

The second day began with a partner deep dive from Clermont Auvergne Métropole. The team presented their strong tradition of women's leadership in the region and current efforts to institutionalize gender equality through annual reporting, a professional equality plan, and a new listening and reporting system for sexist and sexual violence. Their approach illustrates how legal frameworks, organisational culture, and community initiatives like women's tours and safe mobility pilots can be combined to drive systemic change.

Afterwards, partners took part in a hands-on IAP workshop focused on developing SMART actions and drafting implementation frameworks. Using the "Refining an Action" tool, cities worked through how to sharpen their action tables by defining outputs, risks, stakeholders, and resources. The session gave partners practical steps to move their IAPs from vision to reality.



In the afternoon, the administrative session provided updates on network progress and communications. The day concluded with an interactive workshop on communication for gender equality, led by the expert team. Building on change management discussions from Turin, partners practiced developing stories around their IAP priorities, tested different narrative frames, and explored how word choice can either build alliances or trigger resistance. The session ended with a lively exchange of mini-stories crafted by the partners themselves.



## 6. Where do we go next?

As the FEMACT-Cities journey moves into its final months, the focus is shifting towards consolidation and closing the loop. Our next and last online meeting will take place in September, where we will explore gender stereotypes, women in STEM and STEAM, and women's pathways from training into the labour market. The program will also feature a hands-on workshop with Béla Kézy on monitoring and evaluation, equipping partners with tools to measure impact and carry lessons forward beyond the project.

The network will then conclude with a final in-person gathering in November, hosted by our Romanian partner. This closing meeting will not only mark the end of two years of shared learning and collaboration, but also celebrate the relationships, practices, and ambitions that will continue to shape more gender-equal cities in the years to come.

Prepared by

Dr. Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse

Lead Expert for the FEMACT-Cities Network

mary@urban-policy.com



Follow our  
journey on LinkedIn