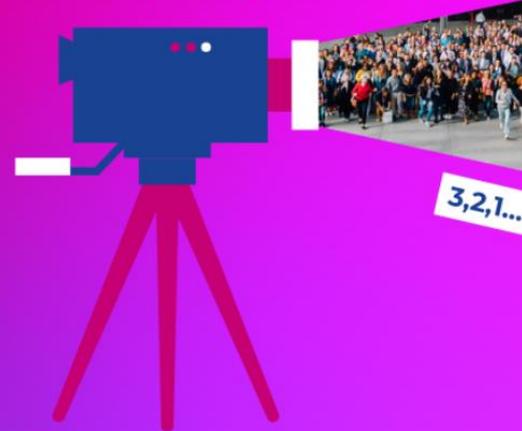


Driving change for better cities

OD PLANOVA DO AKCIJA!

POZIV ZA MREŽE ZA AKCIJE

Info dan
27. mart 2026.
Podgorica



Driving change for better cities

AGENDA

10.30 h Uvodno obraćanje

10.45 h O programu

11.10 h O pozivu za akcije

12.00 h PAUZA

12.20 h Sljedeći koraci Poziva

12.30 h Projekat „EU i tačka“

12.45 h Pitanja i odgovori



European Territorial Cooperation Programme

Since
2002



Over
1000
cities
involved



more than
150
networks

Objective: Promoting sustainable urban development in cities

URBACT IV

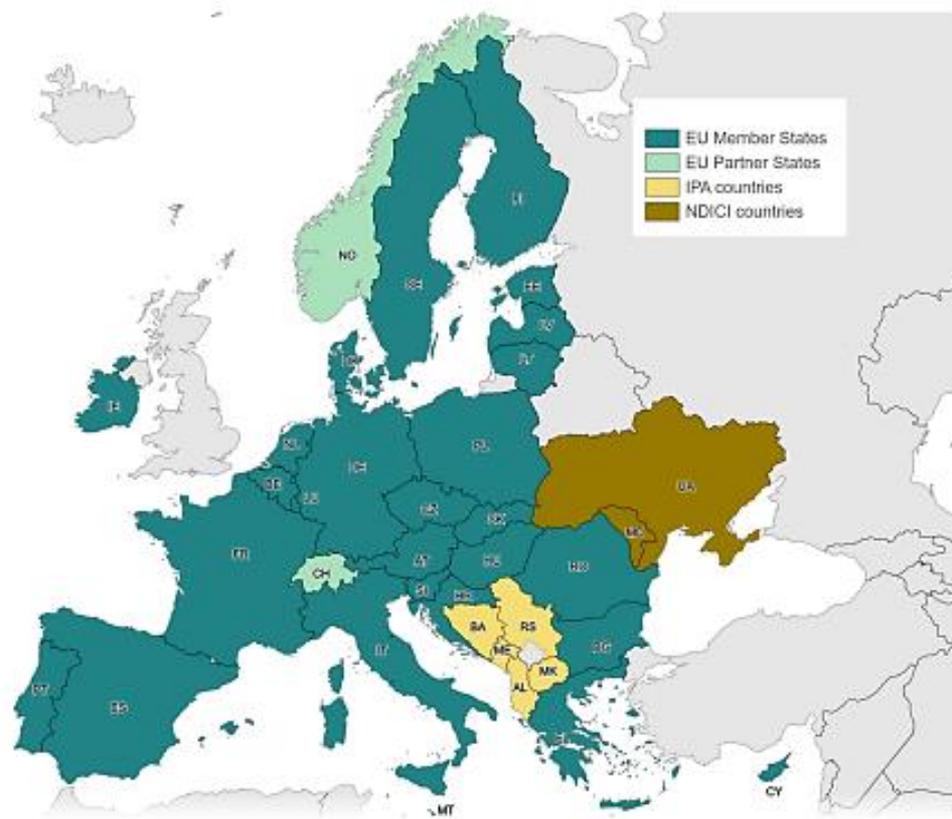
2021-2027

European Territorial Cooperation programme co-financed by:

- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
 - The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)
 - the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)
- EDRF: EUR 79,8 million
 - **IPA: EUR 5 million**
 - NDICI: EUR 2 million €

PROGRAMME TERRITORY

- ❑ **27 EU Member States + Norway and Switzerland**
- ❑ **5 IPA countries – Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia**
- ❑ **2 NDICI countries: Moldova and Ukraine**



Three strands of activities

Capacity building activities & tools

- Summer University & e-University
- National Campus
- URBACT Toolbox
- Online courses



Knowledge uptake and sharing

- URBACT knowledge hub
- URBACT City Festival
- Urban policy labs
- Thematic reports
- Online courses



Networks of European cities

Types of networks



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

Call 2023

30 networks

Implementation 2023 – 2026



Cities **adapt the experience of a successful Urban Innovative Actions project** and develop an Investment Plan to implement it.

Call 2024

10 networks

Implementation 2024 – 2026



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

Call 2025

25 networks

Implementation 2025 – 2028

PARTICIPATION OF MONTENEGRIN BENEFICIARIES

4 Action Planning Networks

1 Innovation Transfer Network

3 Transfer Networks

3 URBACT Pioneers



Types of Networks of Cities – Join the next calls!



Cities exchange experiences, co-develop solutions, and implement actions at the local level.

Call 2026

20 networks (estimated)

Implementation 2026 – 2029

What is an Action Network?



WHAT IS AN ACTION NETWORK?

- URBACT Action Networks support cities **to implement concrete urban actions by addressing identified local challenges and building on existing local strategies or policy frameworks.**

Transnational exchange and learning

- Action Networks allow cities to work together **to identify, shape and implement solutions to common urban challenges.**

Targeted actions and impact at the local level

- Through this collaboration, they have the space to carry out **concrete actions at the local level.**

WHY URBACT PROMOTES ACTION NETWORK?

- ❑ **To strengthen URBACT's contribution to implementation, learning and tangible change, while building on the Programme's established integrated and participatory approach.**
- ❑ **A significant number of cities face difficulties in moving from strategies/plans to action.**
- ❑ **To address this gap by supporting cities to prototype concrete actions anchored in existing strategies, and test delivery arrangements in real conditions.**
- ❑ **This shift allows URBACT to capitalise more effectively on its planning legacy, while strengthening its contribution to implementation capacity, practical learning and tangible urban change at the local level.**



WHY APPLY TO AN ACTION NETWORK?

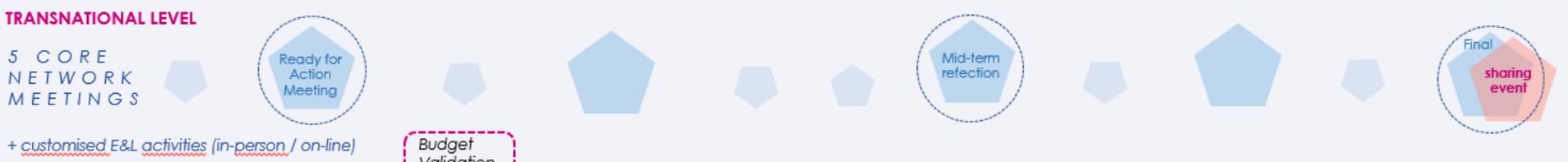
- To **build on an existing strategy or policy** framework, ensuring strategic coherence and political relevance for project activities.
 - To use **transnational exchange**, compare implementation approaches, overcome common barriers, and refine actions throughout the network lifecycle.
 - To mobilise a URBACT Local Group to support **implementation actions through a participatory approach**.
 - To refine, **implement**, and monitor a limited number of **concrete actions** addressing clearly identified local challenges.
 - To benefit from **visibility and communication activities** at the EU and national levels.
- ✓ **Benefit from the support of URBACT experts**
 - ✓ **Benefit from the involvement of local stakeholders**
 - ✓ **Enjoy a safe space for experimentation**

ACTION NETWORK: 30-MONTH 3-STAGE JOURNEY



- Activation (First 3 months)**
 - Contracting & onboarding
 - Set up of URBACT Local Groups
 - Baseline Study and Network Roadmap
- Develop & Deliver**
 - Development, implementation and monitoring of concrete actions
 - Organization of Actions Labs to mobilise stakeholders to co-design and co-implement actions
 - Support learning with transnational exchange - comparison of implementation approaches, common barriers, action adaptations, resources, longer-term urban transformation etc.
- Finale**
 - Sharing results and future prospects
 - Project closure

• Network Communication Plan • Network Journals, Articles • Actions Playbook



PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Network experts

URBACT (University) 8/2027

URBACT Toolbox

Digital Gender Green

URBACT KNOWLEDGE HUB

Co-funded by the European Union Interreg

ACTIONS WITHIN URBACT ACTION NETWORKS

- A **defining feature of URBACT Action Networks** is the opportunity for partner cities **to implement concrete actions** during the lifetime of the network.
- Actions are expected **to build on an existing local strategy**, policy framework, or Integrated Action Plan, and contribute to advancing its implementation.
- **Urban policy delivery as a continuous cycle** of planning, implementation, learning, and adaptation; within the URBACT network, journey **cities will implement selected actions and learn** from their delivery and transnational exchanges.
- Large **flexibility** as regards the type of action and activities to be implemented.
- URBACT Action Networks are expected to be **practical interventions** that test or improve ways of addressing urban challenges, while remaining **feasible within the limited budget, duration of the network**, and generating practical insights and evidence.
- Examples of actions are given in the [Guide for applicants](#).

Network level

- **A Network roadmap** (Baseline study)
- **A Communication Plan**
- **Transnational Network meetings** (5)
- **Network Journals** (3)
- **Network Articles** (3)
- **Final Network Output: Actions Playbook**

Local level

- **A URBACT Local group**
- **Action Portfolio**
- **Actions implemented**

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

Call for Action Networks In a Nutshell



Open: 17 March 2026

**Closed: 17 June 2026
at 15:00 CET**

CALL FOR ACTION NETWORKS – MAIN FEATURES

- **Partnership:** 6-8 partners
- **Eligible Lead Partner:** from all countries part of the programme
- **Eligible Partners:** cities from all EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, IPA, and NDICI countries
- **Duration:** 30 months (from November 2026 to April 2029)
- **Budget:** 1 000 000 € (EU + local contribution), of which 50% for implementation of actions at the local level
- **20 new networks** to be approved (estimated)

SPECIFIC FEATURES OF URBACT ACTION NETWORKS

- **New approach** while keeping the DNA of the programme – focus on the **impact at the local level**, by implementation of local targeted actions, while benefiting from the added value of transnational exchange and learning.
- **Bottom-up approach in the selection of topics**, although suggested themes are proposed in the Terms of Reference.
- **Flexibility in the identification and definition of actions** to be implemented, provided that they are foreseen in an existing strategy.
- **Allocation of 50% of the budget for the implementation of actions.**
- Intent to **increase the share of reimbursement of expenses through simplified cost options** (flat rates for office & administration and travel + novelty of draft budgets proposed for implementation of actions).
- **Composition of the partnership.**

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

« CITY PARTNERS »

- **Cities, municipalities, towns** (*as defined by national rules*)
- **Local agencies defined as public or semi-public organisations** set up by a city
- **Infra-municipal tiers of government**, such as city districts and boroughs
- **Metropolitan authorities** and **organised agglomerations**

No limitations in terms of size and population

« NON-CITY PARTNERS »

- **Universities and research centres**
- **Provincial/ Regional authorities**
- **Managing Authorities (EU Cohesion and solidarity funds)**

Institutions from:

1. **27 EU Member States**
2. **Partner States** (Norway and Switzerland)
3. **IPA countries** (**Montenegro**, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia)
4. **NDICI countries** (Ukraine and Moldova)

In case you have a doubt about a potential partner's eligibility
→ **Contact AN@urbact.eu**

PARTNERSHIP – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ **Between 6 and 8 partners**
- ✓ **A city can be a candidate Lead Partner of one Action Network proposal only** (but can be additionally a Project Partner in another network)
- ✓ **A beneficiary can be a partner in max. 2 approved networks**
- ✓ **A partnership cannot include more than one partner from the same country**
- ✓ **1 “non-city partner” allowed per network**
- ✓ **At least half of the partners must come from EU Member States;**
- ✓ **A partnership may include a maximum of 1 partner from IPA and NDICI countries.**

>>> **It is recommended to build a diverse partnership**

>>> **It is also encouraged to include in the partnership, cities which are newcomers to URBACT**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA *(as set out in the Terms of Reference)*

- The application package is submitted in English, respecting the procedure outlined in the Terms of Reference and within the notified deadline.
- The application package is complete, including the required documents set out in the Terms of Reference.
- The proposal is complete in terms of information and data required in the documents (Application Form and letters of commitment from partners have been properly filled in and signed, are correctly completed, and all letters use the official templates according to the instructions).
- The proposal fulfils the partnership requirements, bringing together between 6 and 8 candidate partners, including the Lead Partner.
- The proposed partnership does not include more than 1 non-city partner.
- The proposed partnership respects the minimum of partners from EU Member States and the maximum of partners from Partner States, within the proposed network.
- The candidate Lead Partner is a candidate Lead Partner in one URBACT proposal only under this call.
- All candidate partners are eligible according to the URBACT Programme rules.
- The partnership does not include more than one partner per member state.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA *(as set out in the Terms of Reference)*

An URBACT External Assessment Panel (EAP) reviews and scores the applications against the following criteria:

- Relevance of the policy issue addressed (20%)
- Proposal to address URBACT cross-cutting objectives (gender equality, green transition and digital transition) (10%)
- Quality of the partnership (30%)
- Quality of the proposed methodology and activities (20%)
- Quality of the proposed network management (10%)
- Quality of the proposed budget (10%)

BUDGET & EXPERTISE

FINANCIAL RESSOURCES FOR THE NETWORK

Network Budget: 1 000 000€

(total incl. local co-financing)

Costs covered:

- staff
 - office & administration
 - travel & accommodation
 - external expertise
 - equipment
- Subsidy + local contributions
 - To be divided among all partners

Expertise: 127 500€

- 170 days in total to support the network
- Support by a Lead Expert for 30 months
- Support by Ad hoc experts on any relevant subject
- Managed directly by the Joint Secretariat

- **Lead partners** should foresee 2 full-time equivalent posts for the overall management & coordination
- **Partners** should foresee 1 full-time equivalent

BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

- **50% of the overall budget** at the level of the network and partner should be **dedicated to the implementation of actions** at the local level.
- **Mix of budget lines:** budget lines, staff, external expertise, and equipment can be used to mobilise budget for the implementation of actions.
- In the Application Form, an estimation of the cost for the implementation of each action is to be indicated.
- **The actions, including the budget, will be refined during the Activation stage.**
- **2 options** for the reimbursement of costs incurred with the implementation of the action: based on **real costs or simplified cost option** (Draft Budgets).
- **Each partner can decide** what option to use (during the Activation stage).
- In the precontractual phase, approved networks will receive the methodology and detailed instructions on the use of the draft budgets' methodology.
- **At the end of the Activation stage, the budget for local actions will be validated for each network** by a notification from the Managing Authority.
- Eventual budget revision, following validation of the actions budget, should be kept within 20% limit; if above, the Monitoring Committee will have to approve.

CO-FINANCING RATES

Region type	Co-financing rate
Partners from EU « more developed regions »	Up to 65% by ERDF
Partners from EU « transition regions »	Up to 70% by ERDF
Partners from EU « less developed regions »	Up to 80% by ERDF
Partners from Norway	Up to 50% by Norwegian national funds
Partners from Switzerland	Up to 50% by a Swiss national fund
Partners from IPA countries	Up to 95% by IPA Funds
Partners from NDICI countries	Up to 95% by NDICI Funds

EXPERTISE SUPPORT

Additional envelope of EUR 127 500 for expertise support
> Up to 170 expertise days available

- **Network Lead expert supports** the network over the entire duration of the network (130 days)
- **Several network Ad-Hoc Experts providing specific support** on a particular policy subject, methodology, communications... (40 days)
- **Experts are selected from the URBACT IV Pool of validated experts** available on the URBACT website in the upcoming months



LEAD EXPERT SELECTION

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



TIMELINE

CALL FOR ACTION NETWORKS TIMELINE

- **17 March:** Launch of the Call
- **17 June:** Deadline to submit applications (via Synergie)
- **18 June:** Deadline to submit applications (via email)
- **June-August:** Eligibility Check & Assessment
- **28 October:** Approval by Monitoring Committee
- **1 November:** Action Network formal Start Date
- **November:** selection of the Network Lead Expert
- **January 2027:** Kick-Off Meeting in Paris (for LP & LE)

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE (Lead partner's responsibility)

2 steps required to submit your application:

1 – Online submission of the application form through the SYNERGIE-CTE system in English **by 17 June 2026 at 15:00 CET**

- *information on the SYNERGIE system outlined in the Guide to SYNERGIE (available soon on urbact.eu/get-involved)*

2 – Send the application package by email to AN@urbact.eu **by 18 June 2026 at 15:00 CET**

- *including a scan of the signed PDF of the application generated through SYNERGIE-CTE, signed letters of commitment and all additional requested documents*



Next Steps / What to do now?

WHERE TO START WITH THE APPLICATION?

Main resources:

- ✓ Terms of Reference
- ✓ Guide for applicants
- ✓ Application Form and SYNERGIE-CTE Practical Guide
- ✓ FAQ
- ✓ Programme Manual

All available at: urbact.eu/get-involved

- A specific **tool** dedicated to assisting with the **partner search** has been developed on the URBACT website. It can be accessed at: <http://urbact.eu/partnersearchtool>

SOME HINTS AND TIPS

- Go carefully through the **application form outline** document and the **eligibility & assessment criteria in the Terms of References**
- Check all the aspects for building a **successful proposal** set out in **the Guide**
- Consult the FAQ at **urbact.eu/get-involved**
- Cannot find what you are looking for? Contact **AN@urbact.eu**

JOIN [U]S FOR THE NEXT ONLINE & NATIONAL INFO SESSION

- **1 April 2026 10.00–11.00 CET:** Call presentation & how to build a strong partnership for an Action Network
- **12 May 2026 10:00–11:00 CET:** Exchange and learning during the network journey
- **27 May 2026 10:00–11:00 CET:** Time to submit your application: tech & troubleshooting *(for candidate Lead Partners)*
- **29 May 2026 10.00–11.30 CTE:** How to write good applications using storytelling techniques
- **9 June 2026 10:00–11:00 CET:** Final troubleshooting *(for candidate Lead Partners)*

Details: <https://urbact.eu/get-involved>

Contact: AN@urbact.eu



- **Austria:** [25 March 2026, online info session](#)

Belgium: 16 April 2026, info session in Brussels, more information in [French](#) and in [Flemish](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia: 7 April 2026, online info session, more information will follow

Croatia: [7 April 2026, online info session](#)

Czechia: online info sessions on [24 March 2026](#) and [15 April 2026, in-person info session in Ústí nad Labem on 22-23 April 2026](#)

Denmark: [14 April 2026, online info session](#)

Estonia: [24 March 2026, online info session](#)

France and Luxembourg: [26 March 2026, online info session](#)

Germany: online info sessions on [23 March 2026](#) and [28 April 2026](#)

Hungary: [14 April 2026, online info session](#)

Ireland: 25 March 2026, info session in Dublin

Latvia: 16 April 2026, online info session

Lithuania: 27 March 2026, online info session, more information will follow

JOIN YOUR NATIONAL INFO SESSION!

- **Moldova:** [26 March 2026, info session in Chisinau](#)

Montenegro: 27 March 2026, info session in Podgorica, more information will follow

Netherlands: [19 March 2026, online info session](#)

Poland: [17 March 2026, info session in Warsaw](#)

Portugal: [21 April 2026, info session in Lisbon](#)

Romania: [26 March 2026, online info session](#)

Slovenia: 8 April 2026, info session in Ormož, more information will follow

Spain: [24 March 2026, online info session](#)

Sweden: online info sessions on [13 March 2026](#) and [27 April 2026](#)

Ukraine: online info session on 7 April 2026, more information will follow

URBACT



CRNA GORA

Find out more at:

<https://urbact.eu/get-involved>

<https://urbact.eu/otvoren-poziv-za-mreze-za-akcije-slijede-info-dani>

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Questions?



HVALA NA PAŽNJI!

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