

Call for Action Networks - Info-session 12/05

Exchange & learning and use of expertise

Questions & Answers

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

- **Does the strategy or policy have to be already existing in all the cities part of the network?**
Yes, each partner needs to have a local strategy/action plan in place, answering local needs and priorities. The document has to be drafted, finalised and ready to be implemented at the moment of the application. In the application, each partner should explain when the document was issued, if it has been approved (when relevant according to local legislation), how it answers to local needs and priorities, and how it relates with the proposed action to be implemented within the timeframe of the URBACT Action Network.
- **The ToR requires actions to be based on an 'already existing strategy or local policy.' If a partner lacks a broad strategy document but runs a multi-year, formalized Participatory Budgeting program backed by municipal regulations, does this program qualify as an 'existing local policy' (baseline) for their actions?**
Actions should be based on an already existing strategy or local policy with specific objectives answering to local needs.
- **A recently approved ITI strategy, operational in the coming months and running till 2029, is ok?**
The strategy needs to be ready to be implemented at the moment of the application.
- **If a proposal engages a non-city partner, does this organisation also need to have some kind of strategy / a stakeholder group, etc. in place? Or they can act simply as a knowledge provider, and these requirements don't apply?**
Non-city partners are normal partners and need to deliver the same outputs. Thus, they also need to have a strategy/action plan in place with actions to implement.
- **How detailed does the strategy need to be regarding the project topic? Is it enough if the topic appears as an objective or horizontal objective?**
As the focus of Action Networks is on implementation of action, and not on action design, it is important for the strategy to be specific enough on a given topic, with possible action(s) to implement already clear. While the action may be refined in the first stage of the network, the idea of the action to be implemented needs to be clear and no time will be dedicated to the design of the action(s) during the network journey.
- **If the Chisinau Municipal Regional Development Agency has the 2026–2028 Regional Operational Programme approved for the Chisinau Municipal Development Region, can the Agency use it to already implement the actions set out in it? For example, the development of a tourism strategy?**
If the strategy applies at the level of the municipality then it can be accepted.

ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT

- **What is the scope of the actions? As far as I understood, they cannot be large infrastructure. Can partners purchase equipment for the actions, and what percent of the budget can it take?**
Actions implemented within the framework of 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 as well as

generating practical insights and evidence. They will be “soft actions” that improve policies, governance methods, services, participation mechanisms and organisational practices in cities. Equipment can be purchased, using the dedicated budget line for equipment related to actions. The actions should use 50% of the overall network budget.

- **Do you expect partner cities to already identify and clearly define, in the Application Form, the specific actions they intend to implement?**
Potential action(s) to be implemented need(s) to be already described in the application, along with an estimated budget. The action(s) mentioned in the application will then be refined during the first stage of the network, after the approval.
- **The actions of the non-city partner should be done within the partnership or in their own city? Actions should be designed, implemented and monitored at local level.**

BUDGET

- **Does the partner have to have funds reserved in the city budget at the application submission stage?**
The URBACT programme operates on a reimbursement basis, so partners must be able to incur expenditure, which the programme will refund following specific reporting periods.
- **In terms of budget allocation, how should a university acting as the single non-city partner be positioned, considering that around 50% of the project budget must be dedicated to local action implementation, which is primarily city-driven? Is there any guidance on how to balance their budget so that it remains compliant and proportionate to their supporting role?**
Non-city partners are normal partners and need to deliver the same outputs. Thus, they also need to have a strategy/action plan in place with actions to implement. They are not “supporting” partners.

PARTNERSHIP

- **Is a municipal company considered as a city or a non-city partner?**
In principle a municipal company is considered a city-partner but each case should be checked depending on national legislation, so please send us an email to an@urbact.eu, with the name of the company and a description of its status.
- **Is it eligible for a regional authority (non-urban actor) to join a consortium URBACT provided that it has a formal partnership agreement with a city within its territory?**
Regions can be part of an Action Network, as non-city partner.
- **Regarding the one allowed 'non-city partner' (e.g., a university), do the standard city requirements apply to them? Specifically, do they also need to have an existing strategy baseline and form a local stakeholder group (ULG)?**
Non-city partners are normal partners and need to deliver the same outputs. Thus, they also need to have a strategy/action plan in place with actions to implement.
- **Could you please clarify whether the rule of having only one partner per country also applies when one of the partners is a non-city partner? In other words, would it be possible to include both a city partner and a university (as the single non-city partner) from the same country within the same network?**
Non-city partners are "normal" partners so the rule of only one partner per country applies. It is not possible to have one university and one city from the same country in the same partnership.
- **Can a partnership be composed by EU cities and 1 IPA city and one NDICI city?**
No, this is not possible. There can be only one partner, either from IPA or NDICI.

EXCHANGE & LEARNING

- **Could you please clarify how you envisage the development of learning activities, especially considering the strong connection with implementation-oriented actions?**

The network itself will be designing the activities, adapting them to the needs and deliverables of an Action Network. The core elements of the exchange and learning activities is still knowledge-sharing, building of skills, exploring and experimenting solutions, using the URBACT method.

SYNERGIE-CTE PLATFORM

- **Can a new application be initialised from an existing Synergie account that is tied to a past approved project? Or does the system require a brand-new registration (or a specific access link) for returning applicants to enter this new call?**

Yes, it is possible to use an existing Synergie account which is linked to a past project. You do not need to create a new account. Please check the Synergie guidance available on the URBACT Call page: <https://urbact.eu/get-involved>.