

**Driving  
change  
for better  
cities**

## **URBACT IV**

**URBACT Accelerator for  
Ukraine & Moldova**

**Call for applications**

**3 June – 16 July 2026**

Online Information Session: 24 June 2026

**URBACT**



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

Your hosts

**Kristijan  
RADOJČIĆ**

Strategic Programme  
Development Lead



Your hosts

Teofil Oliver  
GHERCA

URBACT Programme  
Director





# Agenda overview

## During the session we will cover:

- What is URBACT?
- Why this bespoke learning programme?
- The three tracks for active involvement
- Activities and support
- Application process
- Questions and answers



## Poll - Who is in the room?

### Country:

- Ukraine
- Moldova
- EU Member/ partner states



## Poll - Who is in the room?

### URBACT Experience:

- Currently participating in an URBACT Network
- Previous URBACT experience
- First experience with URBACT

# URBACT Programme



in a nutshell



# URBACT IV

2021-2027

## Mission:

Since 2002 promoting integrated urban development in Europe

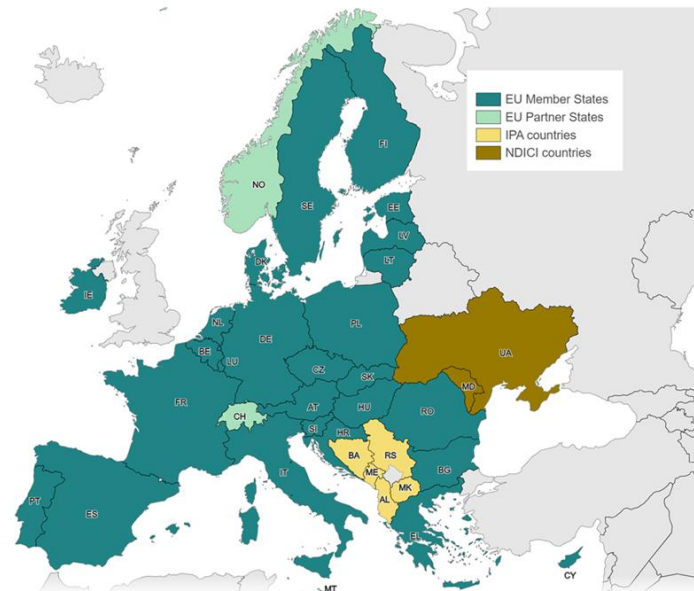
## Budget: 110 Mil EUR

Co-financed by 3 EU funds: ERDF, IPA, NDICI;

## Beneficiaries:

- **Cities and towns**, metropolitan areas, specialized municipal agencies, districts and boroughs,
- non city partners when relevant (i.e. Universities, Regions), from the programme area

Programme Area



Limites administratives: © EuroGeographics, © FAO (ONU), © TurkStat  
Cartographie: Eurostat – IMAGE, 07/2024

URBACT



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

# Three main strands of activities

## Networks of European cities

Capacity building  
activities & tools



*Currently 525 cities involved in 65  
networks*

Knowledge uptake  
and sharing



URBACT



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

# URBACT is... driving change for better cities

## With the URBACT Method:

- **Integrated approach** – designing and delivering cross-sectoral strategies/ actions
- **Participation in practice** - engagement of relevant stakeholders and citizens
- **Transnational exchange** - connecting cities and learning from peers
- **Tailor-made support for Action learning** - experts, tested methods & tools;



**Why this  
bespoke  
learning  
Programme?**





# Background and Purpose

## Cities from Ukraine and Moldova face exceptional circumstances requiring:

- Recovery and reconstruction
- Urban revitalisation
- Resilience and crisis management
- Maintenance of essential services

## URBACT offers:

- Learning for alignment with EU urban development framework
- Practical experimentation
- European peer exchange
- Concrete support (expertise, financial)



## Objectives

- Build a **community of practice** between cities from Ukraine, Moldova and EU member/partner States
- Strengthen understanding of **EU Sustainable Urban Development**
- Support concrete **urban actions**
- Increase **readiness** for future EU opportunities

# [ What makes this programme unique?

## Practical learning and action:

- Tailored to Ukraine and Moldova
- Based on existing priorities and strategies
- Combines learning, experimentation and peer exchange
- Produces knowledge relevant for cities across Europe

# Programme Architecture



# Learning programme with 3 interconnected tracks



## A. Urban Knowledge Track

Learning and exchange activities for all participants (all tracks)



## B. Urban Action Lab Track

10 cities from Ukraine and Moldova implement concrete small-scale urban actions



## C. EU Mentor City Track

Up to 10 EU cities involved in peer learning, providing hands-on support and hosting staff exchanges



# A. Urban Knowledge Track



## **PARTICIPANTS: Up to 50 cities altogether**

- ✓ Cities from Ukraine, Moldova
- ✓ URBACT partners from UA & MD already involved in URBACT networks (based on the expression of interest)
- ✓ 10 cities from Ukraine, Moldova selected for Urban Action Lab Track
- ✓ Up to 10 selected EU Mentor cities

## **MAIN ACTIVITIES:**

### **1. Webinar series on:**

- URBACT Method – integrated & participatory approaches
- EU Cohesion Policy & Sustainable urban development
- Preparing the community for scaling impact
- Funding Observatory

### **2. Two EU study trip:**

Reconstruction & Revitalisation (Spring 2027)  
Resilience & crisis management (Autumn 2027)

### **3. National URBACT events:**

Exchange, networking and dissemination

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

**Travel & accommodation covered** (up to 2 representatives per city)

URBACT



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg



## B. Urban Action Lab Track



### PARTICIPANTS:

- ✓ 10 cities from Ukraine and Moldova

### PURPOSE:

- Develop concrete solutions
- Implement **small-scale urban pilot actions**
- Apply **participatory and integrated approaches**
- Generate **organisational learning** and insights for future projects

### SUPPORT PACKAGE:

- Dedicated funding for pilot action
- URBACT expert support
- Online coaching sessions with EU Mentor Cities
- Participation in Urban Knowledge Track activities





## B. Urban Action Lab Track – dedicated funding



Each selected city has a **total budget of EUR 40,000**

- Up to EUR 10,000 — Staff costs (i.e. 1 full time position, 15 months)
  - Around EUR 23,000 — Implementation of Small-scale pilot action
  - Around EUR 7,000 — Travel & accommodation (2 representatives)
- 
- ✓ 95% co-financed by **NDICI funds (5% municipal co-financing required)**
  - ✓ Subsidy contract with URBACT Managing Authority
  - ✓ Advance payments (20%), Mid term payment 50%, final payment at project closure
  - ✓ Simplified draft budget framework and reporting (Results based – Dynamic Journal)



# B. Urban Action Lab Track – Learning by doing



## PILOT ACTIONS designed and implemented with URBACT framework:

- Building local ecosystems by setting up URBACT Local Multi-stakeholder Group
- Practice co-design principles with URBACT Action Labs
- Preparing future investments Proof of concept
- Gaining political support for long-term strategy

**Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Population: 133,719

**Building Tuzla's Cycling Backbone**

*Small interventions for safer and connected mobility*

**The Challenge**  
Tuzla has grown rapidly, present on dependent and fragmented cycling infrastructure. Limited sidewalks and safety barriers discourage cycling, making it less potential for active mobility.

**The Question**  
How might we enhance the continuity of cycling infrastructure for daily commutes, including safe connections and crossings, to make more people use a safe, faster and more attractive mode of transport?

**Main beneficiaries**  
• Local communities and daily users  
• Active mobility and urban and tourism  
• Youth groups and university groups  
• Tourists and the wider urban community

**The Solution**  
Tuzla is testing a first action focused on creating the first cycling backbone connections, testing a proposed route with an existing segment and advancing safer coverage of critical points through cooperation with local authorities. The pilot combines:  
• connecting priority cycling segments into an initial backbone  
• increasing safety (color coding of critical points)  
• Rather than large-scale infrastructure investment, the pilot tests practical interventions that can inform broader sustainable mobility transformation.

**Stakeholders Involved**  
• City of Tuzla  
• Urban Planning Department  
• Development Agency "Tuzla Tuzla"  
• Public Enterprise "Bosna Tuzla"  
• Public utility companies and traffic safety units  
• University partners, academic staff and students  
• Civil society, cycling associations and athletic organizations  
• Citizens and local communities

**The Challenge**  
City of Mostar: Public utility company "Komunalna", Democratic school, Municipality, Marketing Agency and the citizens of Mostar.

**The Question**  
How might we make recycling less waste awareness and a lack of existing knowledge, creating poor habits to prevent over recycling, a lack of clear information generally accessible, dispersed from becoming a social norm rather than a core identity.

**The Solution**  
• Increased awareness and knowledge  
• Recipients, students and citizens will gain a new understanding of waste segregation  
• "Mostar's trash agency" Students from the local school becoming "eco-ambassadors" who advance the recycling habits of their parents and neighbors  
• Community campaign regarding waste separation. District and temple initiatives provided through promotional materials to raise the waste banter from by citizens  
• Viewing waste as a resource rather than garbage.

**Main beneficiaries**  
• All residents of the city of Mostar  
• Kindergarten  
• Democratic school students  
• Public Utility Company "Komunalna"  
• City of Mostar  
• Local community

**Through powerful campaigns and recycling culture and a greener Mostar!**

**Contact: Aneta Spivacki, Senior Expert Advisor for EU funds, aneta.spivacki@urbact.eu**

**Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Population: 108,717

**LEARN! ACT! CHANGE!**

*Making recycling understandable, motivating and essential*

**The Challenge**  
City of Mostar: Public utility company "Komunalna", Democratic school, Municipality, Marketing Agency and the citizens of Mostar.

**The Question**  
How might we make recycling less waste awareness and a lack of existing knowledge, creating poor habits to prevent over recycling, a lack of clear information generally accessible, dispersed from becoming a social norm rather than a core identity.

**The Solution**  
• Increased awareness and knowledge  
• Recipients, students and citizens will gain a new understanding of waste segregation  
• "Mostar's trash agency" Students from the local school becoming "eco-ambassadors" who advance the recycling habits of their parents and neighbors  
• Community campaign regarding waste separation. District and temple initiatives provided through promotional materials to raise the waste banter from by citizens  
• Viewing waste as a resource rather than garbage.

**Main beneficiaries**  
• All residents of the city of Mostar  
• Kindergarten  
• Democratic school students  
• Public Utility Company "Komunalna"  
• City of Mostar  
• Local community

**Through powerful campaigns and recycling culture and a greener Mostar!**

**Contact: Aneta Spivacki, Senior Expert Advisor for EU funds, aneta.spivacki@urbact.eu**

**Tivat, Montenegro**  
Population: 16,338

**Mobility for all**

*Tivat moves: smart, sustainable and connected*

**The Challenge**  
Our main challenge is insufficiently developed road infrastructure for cycling, pedestrians and wheelchair users. These gaps in Tivat compromised that safety and accessibility, creating barriers to inclusive urban mobility.

**The Question**  
How can we improve accessibility and mobility across the Municipality for all citizens, especially people with disabilities, through small-scale pilot interventions in public spaces?

**The Solution**  
• Installing mobile ramps and tactile surfaces at key locations throughout the municipality to provide easier access to public spaces and restaurants and solve accessibility barriers  
• Creating a safe and attractive movement network through Tivat by integrating mobile accessibility interventions with strategic urban improvements

**Stakeholders Involved**  
Municipality of Tivat, Public Institution Day Care Center and Youth with Disabilities, Museum and Gallery Tivat, Tourist Organization, Food of Montenegro, Utility Services, Local community, citizens including people with disabilities.

**Main beneficiaries**  
• People with disabilities  
• Parents and other citizens  
• Elderly people and other citizens  
• Tourists

**Tivat for All: A City Without Barriers**

**Milica Monjević, Secretary of the Secretariat for European Integration and Relations with Strategic Investors, monjevic@urbact.gov.me**

**Herzliya, City of Tel Aviv**  
Population: 491,301

**From Neglected to Urban Oasis**

*Transforming an underused area into a green, inclusive, and functional public space*

**The Challenge**  
Transforming an underused area that spent years as a vacant lot into a functional, vibrant and inclusive public space, while preserving the existing urban structure and functions, and providing a safe and attractive environment for all citizens, including people with disabilities, through small-scale pilot interventions in public spaces for long-term maintenance and reuse.

**The Question**  
How might we create a safe, accessible and green public space that encourages people to use it, including people with disabilities, through small-scale pilot interventions in public spaces for long-term maintenance and reuse?

**The Solution**  
• A co-created urban regeneration model that combines participatory design, green infrastructure, and multi-source funding to transform the space  
• The vision includes introducing shade-reduced vegetation, installing urban furniture, and creating a safe and accessible environment, while actively involving residents, local authorities, and partners in both the design and long-term maintenance of the area

**Stakeholders Involved**  
• City of Herzliya Government  
• Municipality of Herzliya  
• Residents and housing community  
• Private sector / locally established companies  
• Citizen organizations in the area  
• URBACT Local Group (EU funds)

**Main beneficiaries**  
• Local communities, especially those living nearby  
• Elderly population  
• Greater engagement of young people / Encouraging youth participation in community planning and regeneration

**By working together with the community, we can create a vibrant and inclusive public space that encourages people to use it for many years.**

**Contact: Yoram Mironov, Project Coordinator, yoram.mironov@urbact.eu**

**Kakanj, Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Population: 37,000

**Reimagining Kakanj: From Industry to Tourism**

*Viewpoint on Mujunovic Hill for boosting visibility, attracting visitors and supporting local growth*

**The Challenge**  
Kakanj has strong natural and historical potential but still faces issues such as a varying level and uneven water coverage (due to small, old-fashioned water treatment plant) and poor infrastructure as well as a more effective, sustainable approach towards boosting visibility and strengthening the city's identity.

**The Question**  
How might we improve Kakanj beyond its current identity to better showcase its value, engagement, and support sustainable local economic and tourism growth?

**Main beneficiaries**  
• Main beneficiaries are the residents of Kakanj, local businesses operating in tourism and hospitality, cultural and historical heritage, and visitors who gain a better and longer lasting experience of the city

**The Solution**  
This was implemented the construction of a modern viewpoint in the city's core area, offering panoramic views of Kakanj's main attractions and its natural and historical assets, helping to reposition the city beyond its industrial identity.

**Contact: Mirada Celic, Senior Officer for Development Planning and Project Implementation, Coordinator, mirada.celic@kakanj.gov.ba**



## Poll – What urban challenge would you like to tackle?

### Open answer

(i.e. concrete urban challenge, topic, policy strategy...)



## C. EU Mentor City Track



### **PARTICIPANTS:**

- **Up to 10 EU Cities**

[Represented by experienced municipal agent/s working in local authorities with demonstrated experience in EU cooperation, active involvement in sustainable urban development policy areas, and the delivery of concrete urban actions based on the integrated and participatory principles.]

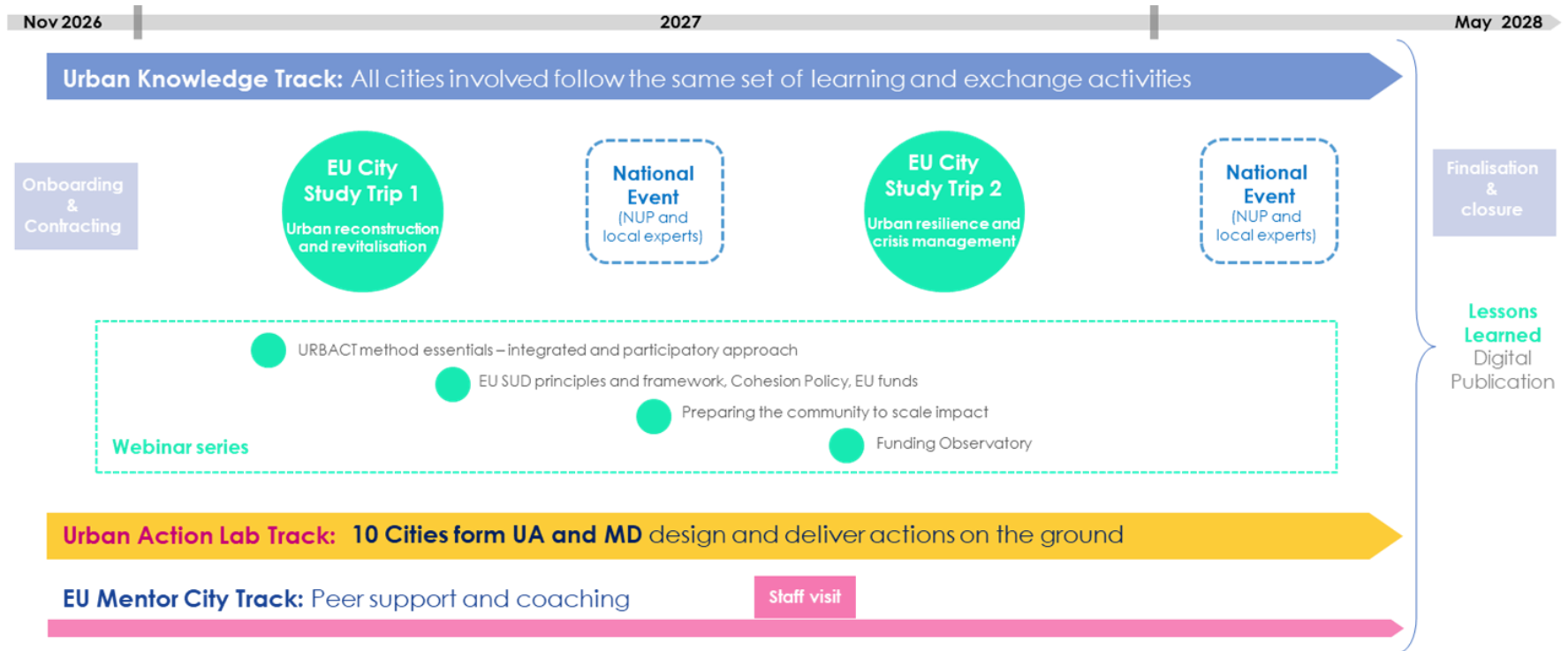
### **ROLE:**

- Share experience
- Provide coaching
- Participate in learning activities
- Host staff exchange visits

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

- Travel costs reimbursed
- **Up to EUR 5.000** for direct costs related to mentoring activities (working hours, visit hosting costs)

# The learning journey with 3 interconnected tracks



# [ Poll - Which track are you most interested in?

- Urban Knowledge Track
- Urban Action Lab Track
- EU Mentor City Track
- Not sure yet

# Expected Results



# [ Learning Outcomes



## City level outcomes:

- ✓ Strengthen cross-departmental cooperation;
- ✓ Better stakeholder engagement;
- ✓ Improved thematic knowledge and integrated and participatory policy delivery;
- ✓ Increased readiness for future EU-funded urban initiatives.
- ✓ Enhanced Networking with cities at national and EU scale

# Expected Knowledge Outputs



## Urban Action Lab outputs:

- At least one implemented visible urban action
- **Dynamic Journal**

## Programme-level outputs:

- Short reports/ articles reflecting main takeaways for each Urban Knowledge activity
- **Digital publication reflecting lessons learned** (with EU-wide relevance)

# Application process



# [ Who can apply?



## Eligible cities\* include:

- Municipalities
- Towns
- City districts
- Local agencies
- Metropolitan authorities

## Cities from EU Member/ partner states:

- ✓ Invited to apply for the EU Mentor City Track

# [ Already participating in URBACT network?



## Good news!

- Priority access to Urban Knowledge activities >> Based on the expression of interest
- May apply for Urban Action Lab Track >> Added value will be assessed
- Specific activities remain open regardless of selection >> Webinar series and National events

# Application package



Online [EUSurvey](#) application for all applicants:

**Application form sections customized based on the selection of the track in the first section:**

- A. Urban Knowledge Track
- B. Urban Action Lab Track
- C. EU Mentor City Track

**Signed letter of commitment (to be attached):**

- ✓ Required only for Urban Action Lab applicants

**ALL RESOURCES and APPLICATION LINK AVAILABLE ON THE DEDICATED WEBPAGE:**

<https://urbact.eu/call-urbact-accelerator-ukraine-and-moldova>

# [ Selection criteria



## Urban Knowledge Track criteria:

- ✓ Motivation
- ✓ Learning expectations
- ✓ Relevance of the thematic interests
- ✓ Minimum Capacity for active participation

## Additional Urban Action Lab Track criteria:

- ✓ Urban challenge
- ✓ Feasibility of the proposed urban action
- ✓ Institutional commitment and team capacity
- ✓ Added value (if involved in URBACT network)

## Specific EU Mentor City Track criteria:

- Motivation
- Experience
- Capacity to host staff exchanges

# Application process & timeline



**Application submission:** by 16 July 2026 included



**Eligibility check & Assessment:** August – September 2026



**URBACT Monitoring Committee approval:** 29 October 2026



**Onboarding:** November - December 2026



**Learning Programme starts:** January 2027

# Questions & Answers





Please raise your hand or write your question in the chat...



### Possible questions about:

- Eligibility
- Activities and learning outcomes
- Funding
- Application process

# Active community creating the positive impact 😊



*“It will be remembered as an opportunity to experiment and explore. Communities will remember the fun events that brought people together. Institutions will be affected by changes in ways of working.”*



## Poll - **After today's session, are you considering applying?**

- Yes
- Probably
- Still undecided
- No

**Together we drive change for better cities!**  
Submit your application by 16 July 2026 included

**THANK [u] FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**URBACT**



Co-funded by  
the European Union  
Interreg

**MORE INFORMATION AT  
[urbact.eu]**

**Please send your questions to: [accelerator@urbact.eu](mailto:accelerator@urbact.eu)**