

INVESTMENT

PLAN



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IPENTÁGONO URBANO



PENTÁGONO URBANO
Belonging Creates Safety

URBACT



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BELONGING CREATES SAFETY

ACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACE AT NIGHT TIME
THROUGH CIVIC INNOVATION



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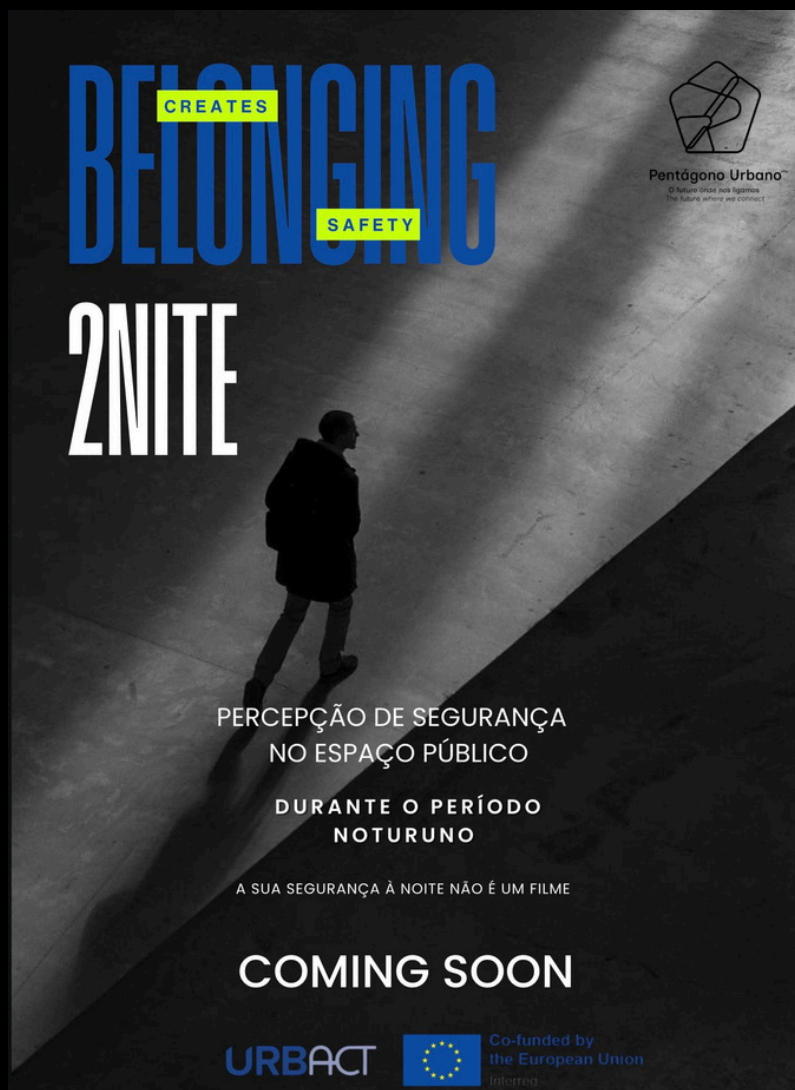
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Belonging creates safety.

This simple idea lies at the heart of the Pentágono Urbano Investment Plan developed through the URBACT 2NITE network.

Across our five cities, we share a common conviction: safer public spaces are not created solely through infrastructure, regulation or surveillance. They are built when people feel connected to their neighbourhoods, engaged in community life and empowered to shape the places where they live.

This Investment Plan reflects our ambition to strengthen civic participation as a driver of urban transformation. By supporting citizens, associations and local communities as active co-producers of public space, we seek to foster more vibrant, inclusive and welcoming urban environments.

As a network of five municipalities working together through the Pentágono Urbano, we believe that cooperation is our greatest strength. The solutions to today's urban challenges will emerge not only from institutions, but also from the collective energy, creativity and commitment of our communities.

The future of our cities depends on our ability to build places where people feel they belong. Because where belonging grows, safety follows.



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MÁRIO CONSTANTIO
MAYOR OF BARCELOS AND PENTÁGONO URBANO PRESIDENT



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FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

This Investment Plan is the result of a collective learning journey developed within the URBACT 2NITE network.

Throughout this process, our partners challenged us to look beyond conventional approaches to urban safety. We gradually moved from discussing public space at night to a broader reflection on the relationship between participation, community ownership and the quality of urban life.

The conclusion was both simple and powerful: people are not merely users of public space. They are its creators, caretakers and most important source of vitality.

The proposal presented in these pages seeks to transform that insight into action. Through a civic innovation mechanism operating across the five cities of the Pentágono Urbano, we aim to support citizens, informal groups and local organisations in developing initiatives that strengthen social interaction, activate public spaces and reinforce the sense of belonging that makes places feel safer.

More than a project, this is an invitation: an invitation to trust communities, to experiment with new forms of collaboration and to recognise that resilient cities are built together.

The future happens where we connect.

NUNO CUNHA
PENTÁGONO URBANO DIRECTOR

BELONGING

CREATES

SAFETY

2NITE



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PERCEÇÃO DE SEGURANÇA
NO ESPAÇO PÚBLICO

DURANTE O PERÍODO
NOTURNO

A SUA SEGURANÇA À NOITE NÃO É UM FILME

COMING SOON

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ABSTRACT

The Investment Plan proposed by Associação Pentágono Urbano aims to establish a multi-city civic innovation mechanism focused on improving night-time liveability, strengthening safety perception and promoting community participation through the activation of public space across the territories of Barcelos, Braga, Guimarães, Vila Nova de Famalicão and Viana do Castelo.

Building on the experience developed within the URBACT IV 2NITE Innovation Transfer Network, as well as on previous local Investment Plan approaches implemented in Braga and Vila Nova de Famalicão, the proposal represents a strategic evolution from neighbourhood-scale interventions towards an integrated intermunicipal framework for civic experimentation, participatory governance and community-led urban innovation.

The Investment Plan is grounded in the understanding that perceived safety during evening and night-time periods is closely connected to social presence, collective appropriation of public space and the existence of vibrant community dynamics. In this context, the project adopts a people-centred and place-based approach to urban safety, recognising that safer public spaces are not generated exclusively through surveillance or physical control mechanisms, but also through social interaction, civic activation and the strengthening of local urban ecosystems.



Belonging Creates Safety is an Open Innovation Programme that gives the opportunity to the Civil Society Organizations from the Pentágono Urbano Region to co-design, co-create and co-manage several “Placemaking Initiatives” on Public Spaces in order to extend the use of it during nighttime and create safety perception of those spaces.

Inspired by the Torino ToNite Good Practice and aligned with the principles of the URBACT methodology, the proposed mechanism combines civic innovation, tactical urbanism, participatory governance and small-scale experimentation instruments in order to support citizens, NGOs, informal groups and local stakeholders in the co-creation of solutions for safer, more inclusive and more active urban nights.

The Belonging Creates Safety initiative introduces an Open Civic Innovation Cycle for Night-time Activation, structured around open calls for civic initiatives, co-design and mentoring processes, collective evaluation mechanisms and pilot implementation support. Through this model, Associação Pentágono Urbano aims to create a distributed territorial ecosystem capable of generating scalable and transferable solutions for public space activation, community resilience and behavioural safety at intermunicipal scale.





City of Famalicão

Photo credits | Municipality of Famalicão

ACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACE AT NIGHT THROUGH CIVIC INNOVATION

The supported initiatives may include cultural and artistic activation programmes, youth-led activities, placemaking interventions, temporary urban installations, tactical lighting solutions, community night-time events and small-scale social innovation pilots designed to increase urban liveability and strengthen social cohesion.

The pilot phase is expected to mobilise an estimated investment between €30,000 and €40,000 through a combination of municipal contributions, Associação Pentágono Urbano resources, potential ERDF and NORTE 2030 funding opportunities, private sponsorship and partnerships with intermediary organisations supporting civic innovation and community-led urban development.

More broadly, the Investment Plan contributes to the transition from municipality-led urban activation models towards distributed governance systems where communities, institutions and local ecosystems collectively become co-producers of safer, more resilient and more inclusive urban environments.

In this sense, Pentágono Urbano positions itself as a polycentric laboratory for civic innovation, night-time liveability and community-led placemaking within the broader European debate on urban transformation and participatory governance.

SECTION 01

CONTEXT ANALYSIS & POLICY RESPONSE

1.1 NEEDS ANALYSIS AND PU TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Across the territories of Barcelos, Braga, Guimarães, Vila Nova de Famalicão and Viana do Castelo, the challenges addressed through the URBACT IV 2NITE network increasingly reflect broader European urban transitions related to public space liveability, social cohesion, behavioural safety and community participation during evening and night-time periods.

Although each municipality presents distinct territorial characteristics and urban dynamics, the collaborative work developed through the Pentágono Urbano partnership and the respective URBACT Local Groups identified a set of common challenges affecting the quality, inclusiveness and perception of public space after dark. These include the progressive underuse of public spaces during evening hours, the fragmentation of community interaction, reduced civic participation in neighbourhood life and the growing perception of insecurity associated with the absence of social presence and collective urban activity.

The territorial diagnosis developed throughout the network demonstrated that perceived insecurity within the Pentágono Urbano context is not exclusively linked to objective crime indicators or public security data. On the contrary, local evidence revealed that the perception of unsafety is frequently connected to wider social and urban phenomena, including weak emotional connection between communities and public space, limited opportunities for positive coexistence, reduced community ownership of shared environments and the absence of mechanisms capable of supporting community-led urban activation processes.

At the same time, the experiences previously developed within the Pentágono Urbano territory, particularly through the local Investment Plan approaches implemented in Braga and Vila Nova de Famalicão, generated important territorial learning regarding the role of participatory governance and civic activation in strengthening urban liveability and improving safety perception. These interventions demonstrated that social presence, cultural activation, community participation and collective appropriation of public space contribute positively to reducing conflict, reinforcing trust between residents and institutions and creating more resilient and inclusive neighbourhood environments.

The previous experiences also revealed important structural limitations in the implementation of neighbourhood-scale interventions. While capable of generating significant local impact, many initiatives remained strongly dependent on municipal operational structures, territorially limited in scope and difficult to replicate through traditional public administration mechanisms. Furthermore, the absence of flexible instruments supporting experimentation, prototyping and citizen-led initiatives limited the long-term sustainability and transferability of several community-based processes.

In this context, the Pentágono Urbano partnership identified the need to evolve from isolated local interventions towards a more integrated and scalable intermunicipal framework capable of supporting distributed civic innovation processes and strengthening community participation at territorial scale. The Investment Plan therefore emerges as a strategic response to the growing necessity of creating lighter, more flexible and more collaborative mechanisms for night-time urban activation, public space experimentation and participatory governance.



City of Braga

Photo credits | Municipality of Braga

1.2 POLICY RESPONSE

In response to the identified challenges, Associação Pentágono Urbano proposes the creation of an intermunicipal Civic Innovation Mechanism for Night-time Activation aimed at supporting community-led solutions capable of transforming underused urban spaces into safer, more inclusive and socially active environments during evening and night-time periods.

The proposed mechanism reflects a strategic transition from municipality-led intervention models towards distributed governance approaches where citizens, NGOs, informal groups, cultural actors and local stakeholders become active co-producers of urban transformation processes. Rather than focusing exclusively on infrastructure-based or surveillance-oriented responses to urban safety, the Investment Plan adopts a people-centred and place-based approach grounded in participation, social activation and collective ownership of public space.

Inspired by the Torino ToNite Good Practice and reinforced by the collaborative methodology promoted through the URBACT framework, the mechanism combines civic innovation, participatory governance, tactical urbanism and



City of Viana do Castelo

Photo credits | Municipality of Viana do Castelo

small-scale experimentation instruments in order to create enabling conditions for community-led placemaking and behavioural safety interventions across the Pentágono Urbano territory.

The Investment Plan is strongly aligned with several contemporary European and local policy priorities, particularly regarding participatory governance, community resilience, tactical and human-centred urbanism, youth participation, cultural activation, placemaking and integrated territorial cooperation.

At the same time, the proposal contributes to strengthening intermunicipal collaboration within Pentágono Urbano by creating shared methodologies, common experimentation frameworks and collective governance processes capable of generating scalable and transferable urban solutions.

Through this approach, Pentágono Urbano positions itself not only as an intermunicipal cooperation platform, but also as a polycentric laboratory for civic innovation, night-time liveability and participatory urban governance within the broader European debate on sustainable, inclusive and community-driven urban development.



City of Guimarães

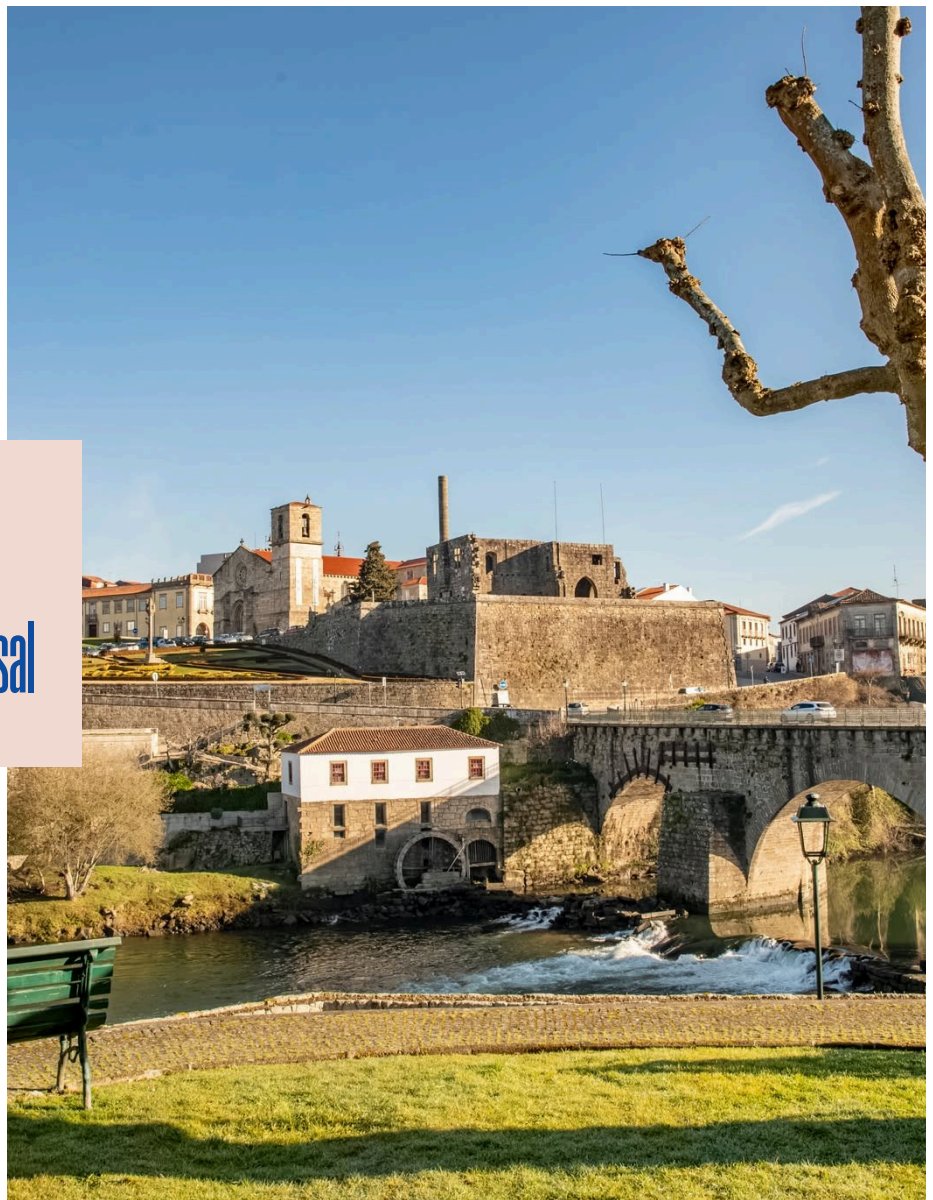
Photo credits | Municipality of Guimarães

SECTION 2 | INVESTMENT PROPOSAL



By ULG PU 2NITE
Photography by Carlos Sousa Santos

2.1 Background to the proposal



City of Barcelos

Photo credits | Municipality of Barcelos

The Investment Plan proposed by Associação Pentágono Urbano builds upon the territorial learning process developed through the URBACT IV 2NITE Innovation Transfer Network and the collaborative work carried out by the local URBACT Local Groups across the participating municipalities. The proposal represents the consolidation and evolution of previous local experiences implemented within the Pentágono Urbano territory, particularly the neighbourhood-based approaches tested in Braga and Vila Nova de Famalicão, while simultaneously incorporating inspiration from the Torino ToNite Good Practice and its integrated approach to urban safety, public space activation and community participation.

Throughout the transfer process developed within the network, the Pentágono Urbano partnership identified that many of the contemporary challenges related to night-time safety are deeply connected to broader dynamics of social fragmentation, weak civic participation and the progressive reduction of collective urban presence in public space during evening and night-time periods. The network activities also demonstrated that conventional public intervention models, often centred on infrastructure investment or top-down municipal programming, present important limitations in generating long-term community ownership, behavioural transformation and sustainable urban activation processes.

When you've decided on your cover story, come up with a list of topics for your feature articles. This can range from interviews, product reviews, human interest pieces, and even lists. Think about what your audience would be interested in and get writing! Again, choose engaging photos and graphics to accompany your words, as these also help catch your audience's eye.

After writing all your articles and adding them to your layout, list down all the titles to set up your table of contents. You can add a brief description for each article or keep it simple and paste the feature titles on the page. Don't forget your page numbers too!

In response to this context, Associação Pentágono Urbano identified the opportunity to move beyond isolated pilot interventions and create a distributed civic innovation mechanism capable of mobilising local creativity, strengthening participatory governance and generating scalable solutions for public space activation and behavioural safety. The Investment Plan therefore introduces a new operational framework based on open innovation cycles, civic experimentation and tactical urban activation processes designed to operate across the Pentágono Urbano territory.

The proposal also reflects the strategic ambition of positioning Pentágono Urbano as a collaborative platform for urban innovation and intermunicipal experimentation capable of connecting municipalities, communities and local ecosystems around shared territorial challenges and common governance approaches.



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City of Viana do Castelo

Photo credits | Municipality of Viana do Castelo

Associação Pentágono Urbano identified the opportunity to move beyond isolated pilot interventions and create a distributed civic innovation mechanism capable of mobilising local creativity, strengthening participatory governance and generating scalable solutions for public space activation and behavioural safety.

2.2 Our starting point

The starting point for the Investment Plan is characterised by a combination of relevant territorial assets and structural challenges identified throughout the implementation of the URBACT transfer process.

Across the Pentágono Urbano territory, municipalities already demonstrate significant experience in participatory governance, civic engagement and collaborative urban development processes.

The existence of active URBACT Local Groups, established intermunicipal cooperation dynamics and previous experimentation with community-led initiatives created favourable conditions for the development of a shared mechanism focused on civic innovation and night-time activation.



At the same time, the territory benefits from the presence of active NGOs, youth organisations, cultural actors, community groups and local stakeholders interested in participating more actively in urban transformation processes. The collaborative work developed within the network also reinforced political openness towards experimentation and innovative governance approaches capable of strengthening social cohesion, public participation and urban liveability.

Nevertheless, the diagnosis identified several structural barriers limiting the capacity of local ecosystems to generate sustainable and scalable community-led interventions. These include limited access to flexible funding instruments for small-scale civic initiatives, lack of technical support structures for citizen-led experimentation, uneven levels of participation across municipalities and reduced articulation between local initiatives operating within different territorial contexts.



Lead Partner and Lead Expert Study Visit
Photo credits | Carlos Sousa Santos

The territorial analysis also demonstrated that many public spaces across the Pentágono Urbano territory continue to experience low levels of night-time activation, reduced community appropriation and limited opportunities for positive coexistence during evening periods. In several contexts, these dynamics contribute directly to increased perceptions of insecurity and weaker social interaction within neighbourhood environments.

In this sense, the Investment Plan emerges from the recognition that improving night-time liveability requires not only physical interventions or institutional programming, but also the creation of enabling conditions for citizens and local communities to become active participants in the production of urban life, social presence and collective ownership of public space.



2NITE PU ULG Session in Famalicão
Photo credits | Carlos Sousa Santos

2.3 | ADAPTED VERSION OF THE INNOVATIVE PRACTICE



City of Famalicão

Photo credits | Municipality of Famalicão

The Investment Plan adapts and expands several principles and operational dimensions inspired by the Torino ToNite Good Practice while introducing a new intermunicipal framework tailored to the specific territorial realities and governance model of Pentágono Urbano.

Rather than directly replicating individual neighbourhood interventions, the proposed approach translates the core logic of the Torino experience into a distributed mechanism for civic innovation and community-led experimentation operating at polycentric territorial scale. In this context, the Investment Plan shifts the focus from municipality-managed projects towards enabling frameworks capable of supporting bottom-up urban activation processes developed by citizens, NGOs, informal groups and local stakeholders.

The adapted model introduces an Open Civic Innovation Cycle for Night-time Activation structured around four interconnected dimensions: open calls for civic initiatives, participatory co-design and mentoring processes, collective evaluation mechanisms and pilot implementation support.

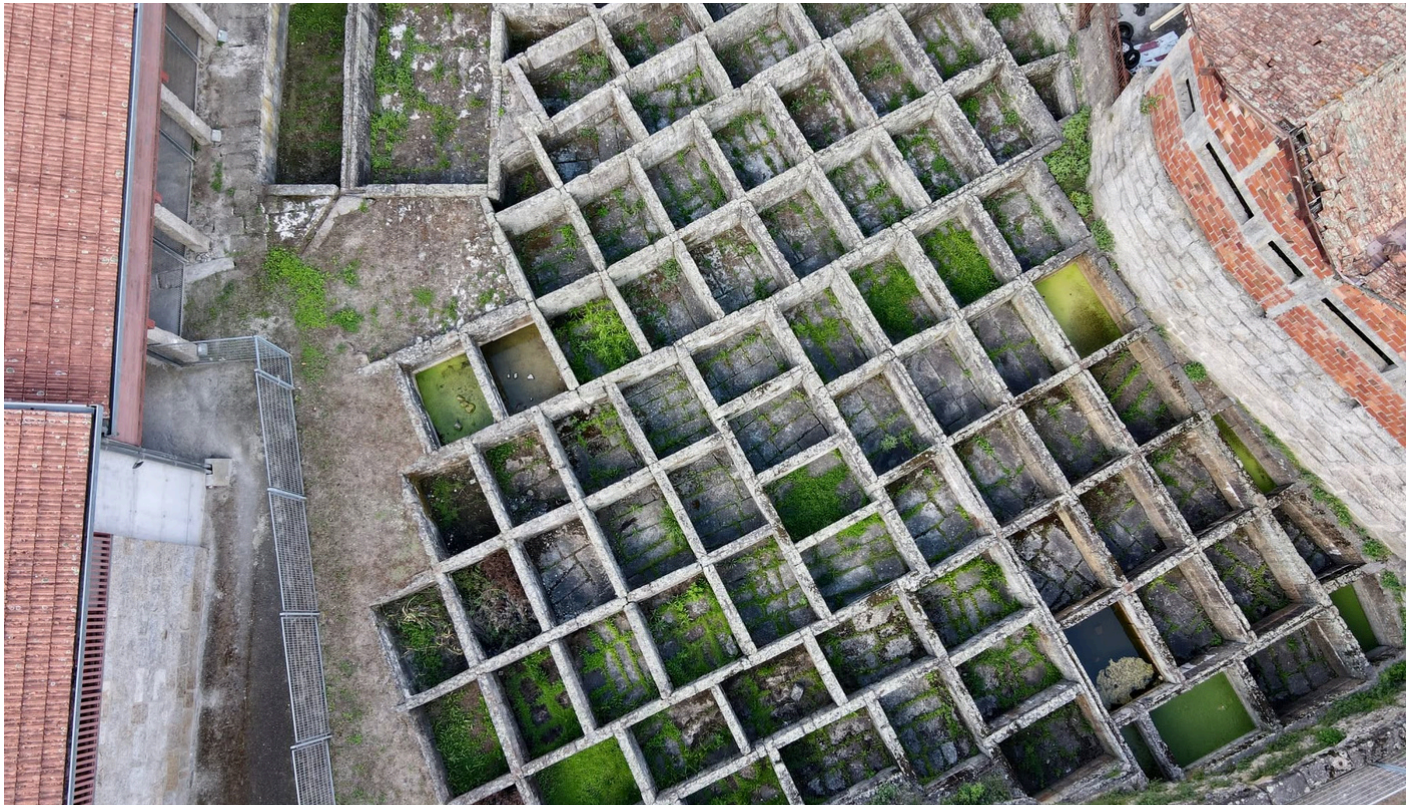
The first dimension consists of launching open calls aimed at identifying innovative proposals capable of improving safety perception, activating public space and strengthening community interaction during evening and night-time periods. These calls are designed to lower participation barriers and encourage the involvement of diverse actors, including informal groups and emerging community initiatives.

The second dimension focuses on civic prototyping and co-design processes through Speed Design sessions and mentoring activities where participants receive technical support to improve the feasibility, sustainability and impact of their proposals. This component reinforces the educational and capacity-building dimension of the mechanism while promoting collaborative learning between municipalities, experts and local communities.

The third dimension introduces a collective evaluation and public pitching process inspired by Demo-Day formats commonly used within innovation ecosystems. Through this approach, projects are publicly presented, discussed and evaluated within a participatory environment that reinforces transparency, community ownership and civic visibility.

Finally, the fourth dimension supports the implementation and monitoring of selected initiatives through small-scale funding mechanisms and technical accompaniment processes. The supported interventions may include temporary urban installations, cultural activation programmes, placemaking activities, tactical urbanism experiments, youth-led initiatives and community night-time events designed to increase social presence and improve urban liveability.

Through this model, Pentágono Urbano adapts the principles of participation, co-creation and urban activation promoted by the Torino Good Practice into a scalable intermunicipal framework capable of generating distributed civic innovation processes and strengthening behavioural safety across multiple urban contexts.



City of Guimarães

Photo credits | Municipality of Guimarães



City of Guimarães

Photo credits | Municipality of Guimarães

2.3 | INTEGRATED APPROACH AND PARTICIPATIVE PROCESS

The Investment Plan adopts an integrated and participatory governance approach combining municipalities, URBACT Local Groups, civil society organisations, cultural actors, youth organisations, community groups and citizens within a shared framework for civic innovation and urban experimentation.

The proposed mechanism is based on the understanding that improving night-time liveability requires the articulation of multiple dimensions simultaneously, including public space activation, cultural participation, behavioural safety, social cohesion, civic empowerment and participatory governance. In this sense, the Investment Plan moves beyond sectoral intervention models by combining social innovation, tactical urbanism, community engagement and experimentation-driven public policy approaches within a common territorial strategy.

The participatory dimension of the mechanism is reinforced through the active involvement of the URBACT Local Groups in the co-design, dissemination, mentoring and evaluation processes associated with the open innovation cycle. Rather than functioning exclusively as consultative structures, the ULGs are positioned as collaborative governance platforms supporting dialogue between institutions, communities and local ecosystems.

The implementation model also promotes intermunicipal learning and knowledge exchange across the Pentágono Urbano territory by encouraging the circulation of methodologies, practices and experimentation results between municipalities and local actors. This collaborative dimension contributes to strengthening territorial cohesion while simultaneously increasing the transferability and scalability potential of the supported initiatives.

At operational level, the mechanism combines institutional coordination capacity with flexible and community-oriented implementation processes, allowing municipalities to support experimentation without over-centralising intervention models. Through this approach, Associação Pentágono Urbano aims to create a distributed ecosystem for civic innovation where public institutions progressively evolve from direct intervention roles towards enabling and facilitation functions supporting community-led urban transformation processes.



2NITE PU ULG Session in Famalicao
Photo credits | Carlos Sousa Santos

SECTION 03

ADAPTED INNOVATION PROJECT





3.1 | VALUE PROPOSITION



City of Viana do Castelo

Photo credits | Municipality of Viana do Castelo

The Investment Plan proposed by Associação Pentágono Urbano introduces a new territorial approach to night-time urban activation based on civic innovation, participatory governance and community-led placemaking. The project positions public space not only as a physical environment requiring management or surveillance, but as a collective social infrastructure whose quality, inclusiveness and perceived safety depend on the intensity of social interaction, civic presence and community appropriation taking place within it.

The core value proposition of the mechanism lies in its possibility to transform fragmented and underused urban spaces into active environments of coexistence, participation and collective ownership through flexible experimentation and citizen-led initiatives. In this sense, the proposal moves beyond conventional public intervention models by creating enabling conditions for citizens, NGOs, informal groups and local stakeholders to become active co-producers of urban liveability and behavioural safety.

The Investment Plan also represents an important governance innovation within the Pentágono Urbano territory. Rather than implementing isolated municipal programmes, the mechanism establishes a distributed intermunicipal ecosystem for civic experimentation capable of connecting municipalities, communities and local actors around shared urban challenges and collaborative transformation processes. Through this approach, Pentágono Urbano strengthens its role as a platform for territorial cooperation, urban innovation and participatory governance at polycentric scale.

The proposed mechanism generates value simultaneously across multiple EU 2030 Priorities.

At social level, it contributes to strengthening social cohesion, community trust and civic participation. At urban level, it promotes the activation and re-appropriation of public space during evening and night-time periods. At governance level, it reinforces collaborative decision-making and experimentation-driven public policy approaches. At territorial level, it creates opportunities for intermunicipal learning, transferability and collective capacity-building across the Pentágono Urbano ecosystem.

The project also contributes to broader European urban priorities related to community resilience, tactical urbanism, behavioural safety, placemaking and integrated territorial development by demonstrating how lighter, more flexible and participatory mechanisms can generate scalable urban transformation processes without depending exclusively on large-scale infrastructure investment.

BELONGING CREATES SAFETY PRIORITIES

Urban Priorities	Expected Contribution
Urban Liveability	Increased activation and use of public space during evening and night-time periods
Behavioural Safety	Improved perception of safety through social presence and community interaction
Civic Innovation	Creation of distributed experimentation and prototyping mechanisms
Participatory Governance	Stronger collaboration between municipalities, communities and local actors
Social Cohesion	Reinforcement of trust, coexistence and collective ownership of public space
Territorial Cooperation	Shared methodologies and intermunicipal learning across Pentágono Urbano



3.2 | BELONGING CREATES SAFETY WORKPLAN

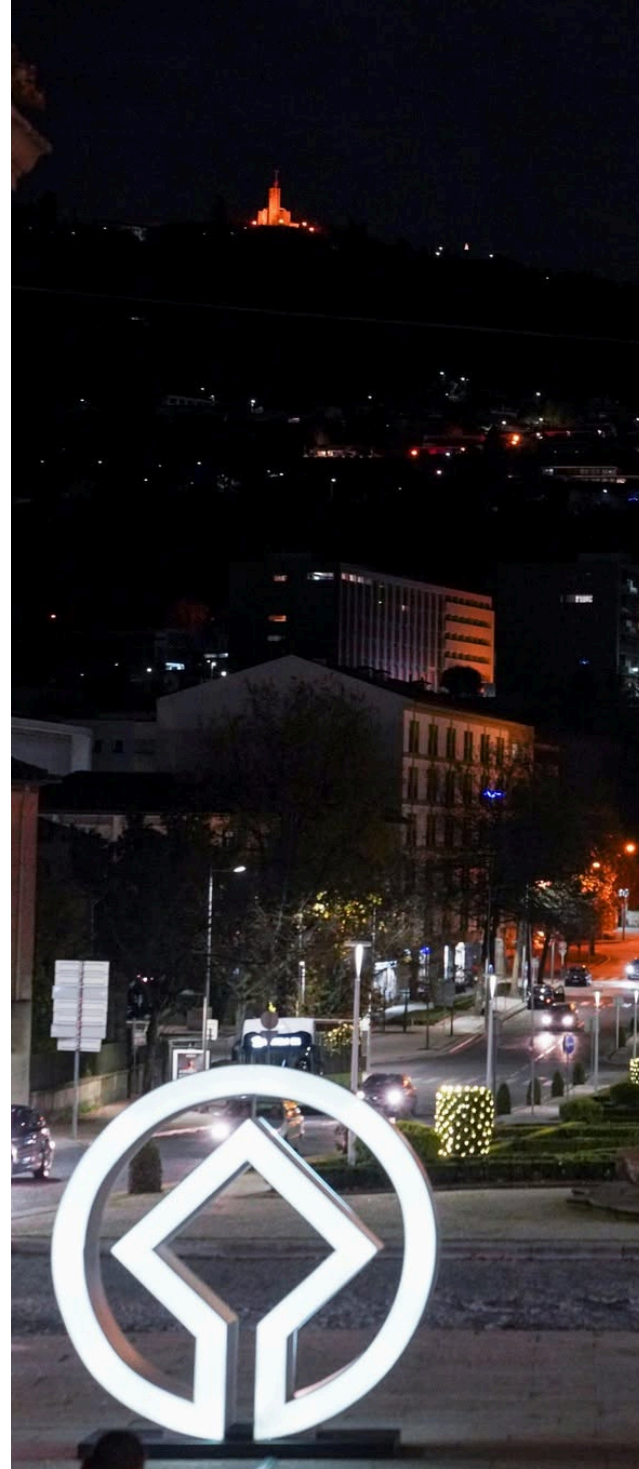
The implementation of the Investment Plan is structured around a progressive civic innovation cycle combining participation, experimentation, capacity-building and pilot implementation. The operational model was designed to ensure flexibility, accessibility and scalability while simultaneously creating conditions for collective learning and intermunicipal cooperation across the Pentágono Urbano territory.

The first phase focuses on the design and preparation of the Open Civic Innovation Cycle for Night-time Activation, including the definition of thematic priorities, eligibility criteria, communication strategies and governance procedures. This preparatory stage also includes the mobilisation of local ecosystems and the articulation between municipalities, URBACT Local Groups and community stakeholders and consists of launching the Open Call for civic initiatives across the Pentágono Urbano territory. The call aims to identify proposals capable of improving public space liveability, increasing social presence and strengthening behavioural safety during evening and night-time periods. Particular attention will be given to initiatives promoting community participation, cultural activation, placemaking and youth engagement.

The second phase will give the follow-up to the selected proposals, participants will enter a co-design and civic prototyping phase structured around Speed Design sessions and mentoring processes. This stage is intended to strengthen project feasibility, reinforce collaborative methodologies and support participants in refining the social, operational and territorial impact of their initiatives.

The 3rd phase involves the organisation of a public Demo-Day event where projects are collectively presented, discussed and evaluated within a participatory and transparent environment involving municipalities, experts, civil society representatives and local stakeholders. Beyond the selection process itself, this event also contributes to strengthening visibility, civic recognition and community ownership of the supported initiatives.

The 4th and final implementation phase focus on supporting selected pilot projects through small-scale funding mechanisms, technical accompaniment and monitoring processes. During this period, initiatives will be tested within real urban environments across the Pentágono Urbano territory, allowing municipalities and communities to evaluate their capacity to improve public space activation, behavioural safety and social interaction.



City of Guimarães

Photo credits | Municipality of Guimarães

BELONGING CREATES SAFETY ACTION TABLE

Action	Description	Timeline
Action 01	Design of the Open Civic Innovation Cycle and governance framework	Phase 01
Action 02	Launch and dissemination of the Open Call across Pentágono Urbano	Phase 01
Action 03	Speed Design and mentoring processes for selected initiatives	Phase 02
Action 04	Public Demo-day and collective evaluation process	Phase 03
Action 05	Pilot implementation and technical support for selected initiatives	Phase 04



3.3 | GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY MODEL



City of Famalicão
Photo credits | Municipality of Famalicão

The governance model proposed by Associação Pentágono Urbano is based on a collaborative and multi-level structure designed to combine institutional coordination capacity with flexible community-led implementation processes.

At strategic level, Associação Pentágono Urbano assumes the overall coordination role, ensuring territorial articulation between municipalities, alignment with the objectives of the URBACT IV 2NITE network and coherence between the different implementation phases of the mechanism. The association also acts as a facilitator of intermunicipal cooperation, territorial learning and methodological transferability.

Municipalities participate as local enabling institutions responsible for supporting dissemination processes, ecosystem mobilisation, logistical coordination and articulation with local policy priorities related to public space, youth participation, culture, social cohesion and urban liveability.

The URBACT Local Groups play a central role within the governance model by functioning as collaborative platforms for co-design, participation and collective evaluation. Beyond their consultative role, the ULGs contribute actively to communication processes, community outreach, mentoring dynamics and territorial monitoring activities, reinforcing the participatory dimension of the mechanism.

The governance framework also integrates NGOs, cultural organisations, youth groups, informal collectives and local stakeholders as active participants within the experimentation ecosystem. This distributed governance logic reinforces the transition from municipality-centred intervention models towards collaborative urban transformation processes where communities progressively become co-producers of public space activation and behavioural safety.

In parallel, the mechanism incorporates the participation of external experts, facilitators and mentors supporting civic prototyping, project development and experimentation methodologies throughout the implementation cycle.

BELONGING CREATES SAFETY GOVERNANCE ACTORS

Governance Actor	Main Responsibilities
Associação Pentágono Urbano	Strategic coordination, intermunicipal articulation and overall implementation
Municipalities	Local facilitation, dissemination and policy articulation
URBACT Local Groups	Co-design, outreach, mentoring and participatory evaluation
NGOs & Community Actors	Development and implementation of civic initiatives
Experts & Mentors	Technical support, capacity-building and prototyping guidance



City of Braga
Photo credits | Municipality of Braga



3.4 | OVERALL SCHEDULE

The implementation schedule of the Investment Plan follows a phased approach designed to ensure progressive ecosystem mobilisation, participatory experimentation and effective territorial coordination across the Pentágono Urbano municipalities.

The first implementation stage focuses on governance preparation, methodological design and ecosystem activation, including the articulation between municipalities, URBACT Local Groups and local stakeholders. This phase is followed by the launch and dissemination of the Open Civic Innovation Cycle and the mobilisation of civic initiatives across the territory.

The subsequent phases focus on co-design, prototyping and collective evaluation processes, culminating in the implementation of pilot initiatives and the development of monitoring and territorial learning activities. The phased structure of the schedule ensures operational flexibility while creating opportunities for adaptation, experimentation and continuous evaluation throughout the implementation cycle.

Phase	Main Activities	Timeline
Phase 1	Governance design and ecosystem mobilisation	2026
Phase 2	Open Call launch and dissemination	2027
Phase 3	Speed Design and Demo-day processes	2027
Phase 4	Pilot implementation and experimentation	2027



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SECTION 04 | BUDGET

4.1 | PROJECT COSTS

The financial structure of the Investment Plan was designed to ensure operational flexibility, accessibility for community actors and the capacity to support experimentation-driven urban innovation processes at intermunicipal scale. In line with the overall philosophy of the mechanism, the proposed budget prioritises agile and community-oriented investment instruments capable of generating visible urban impact through relatively lightweight financial structures when compared to conventional infrastructure-based urban interventions.

The pilot phase of the Investment Plan is therefore structured around a balanced combination of coordination, participation, experimentation and implementation resources, ensuring that municipalities and local stakeholders are able to support civic innovation processes while maintaining a strong focus on territorial scalability and transferability.

A significant component of the proposed investment is allocated to the implementation of the Open Civic Innovation Cycle itself, including communication, dissemination, ecosystem mobilisation and participatory engagement processes across the Pentágono Urbano territory.

These dimensions are considered fundamental for ensuring accessibility, visibility and broad territorial participation within the mechanism.

Additional resources are dedicated to the organisation of the Speed Design and Demo-day phases, including facilitation, mentoring, technical support and collective evaluation processes. These activities represent core components of the experimentation methodology by supporting project feasibility, collaborative learning and community capacity-building.

The central investment dimension of the mechanism corresponds to the funding and implementation support allocated to selected pilot initiatives. Through small-scale and flexible financial instruments, the Investment Plan aims to enable community-led experimentation capable of generating visible improvements in public space activation, behavioural safety and night-time liveability.

The budget structure also includes monitoring and evaluation components designed to support evidence collection, territorial learning and the identification of transferability opportunities across the Pentágono Urbano ecosystem and beyond.

While the present proposal focuses primarily on a pilot implementation phase, the Investment Plan was intentionally designed as a scalable mechanism capable of progressively evolving towards larger multi-source funding structures integrating European programmes, regional instruments and external partnerships linked to civic innovation, participatory governance and urban experimentation.



COSTS TABLE

Budget Component	Estimated Cost
Open Call design, communication and dissemination	€5,000
Ecosystem mobilisation and participatory engagement activities	€5,000
Speed Design and mentoring processes	€5,000
Demo Day and collective evaluation activities	€5,000
Funding support for pilot initiatives	€25,000
Monitoring, evaluation and territorial learning	€5,000
Estimated Total per year of Programme	€50,000
5 Years Implementation Programme	€250,000



4.2 | INVESTMENT SOURCES

The Investment Plan is based on a collaborative and diversified funding approach combining local institutional commitment, intermunicipal cooperation and the exploration of complementary external funding opportunities linked to urban innovation, community participation and civic experimentation.

The pilot phase is expected to be primarily supported through the direct involvement of Associação Pentágono Urbano and the financial participation of the member municipalities, reinforcing the collective territorial commitment towards participatory urban governance and night-time liveability. This co-financing approach also reflects the collaborative nature of the mechanism and its intermunicipal governance structure.

In parallel, the Investment Plan creates opportunities for future articulation with regional, national and European funding instruments aligned with the strategic priorities addressed by the project. In particular, the mechanism demonstrates strong alignment with ERDF and NORTE 2030 priorities related to community-led urban development, social innovation, participatory governance and integrated territorial cooperation.

The proposal also presents potential for attracting complementary support from intermediary organisations, private sponsors, foundations and ecosystem partners interested in supporting civic innovation, placemaking initiatives, youth participation and community-led urban transformation processes.

Beyond the direct financial dimension, the mechanism also benefits from important in-kind contributions provided by municipalities, URBACT Local Groups and local stakeholders, including technical support, dissemination capacity, facilitation resources, access to public spaces and ecosystem mobilisation activities.

The diversified funding logic adopted by the Investment Plan contributes not only to its financial sustainability, but also to the progressive consolidation of Pentágono Urbano as a collaborative platform for urban experimentation, participatory governance and civic innovation at polycentric territorial scale.

Funding Source	Potential Contribution
Associação Pentágono Urbano	Strategic coordination and operational support
Municipal co-funding	Direct financial contribution from member municipalities
ERDF / NORTE 2030	Community-led urban innovation and territorial cooperation
European Programmes	Urban experimentation, participation and social innovation
Private sponsorship	Support for pilot initiatives and public activation activities
Local ecosystem partners	In-kind support, technical expertise and dissemination

SECTION 05 MONITORING & EVALUATION



City of Famalicão
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City of Famalicão

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5.1 | MONITORING APPROACH

The monitoring framework proposed by Associação Pentágono Urbano is designed to support continuous learning, adaptive governance and evidence-informed decision-making throughout the implementation of the Investment Plan. In line with the principles promoted by the URBACT methodology, monitoring is understood not only as a technical reporting exercise, but also as a collaborative and participatory process capable of generating collective knowledge, strengthening territorial coordination and improving the long-term effectiveness of civic innovation mechanisms.

The monitoring approach combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies in order to capture the multiple dimensions associated with night-time liveability, behavioural safety, public space activation and community participation. Given the experimental and community-led nature of the mechanism, particular importance is attributed to the observation of behavioural change, social interaction dynamics and evolving perceptions related to public space use during evening and night-time periods.

Monitoring activities will be developed continuously throughout the implementation cycle and articulated across different governance levels, involving Associação Pentágono Urbano, municipalities, URBACT Local Groups, participating organisations and local stakeholders. This distributed monitoring logic reinforces the collaborative nature of the mechanism while simultaneously supporting intermunicipal learning and the identification of transferable practices across the territory.



City of Braga
Photo credits | Municipality of Braga

Special attention will be dedicated to evaluating the capacity of supported initiatives to generate social presence, strengthen civic ownership of public space and stimulate positive coexistence within urban environments. In this sense, the monitoring process moves beyond conventional event-based metrics by incorporating indicators related to community engagement, behavioural transformation and territorial activation.

The mechanism will also promote periodic reflection and collective evaluation sessions involving municipalities, project promoters, ULG members and local communities in order to identify operational challenges, emerging opportunities and strategic recommendations for future implementation cycles. This adaptive governance approach allows the mechanism to progressively evolve according to territorial learning processes and the practical experience generated through experimentation.

At territorial level, the monitoring framework also aims to assess the scalability and transferability potential of the proposed mechanism, identifying methodologies, governance approaches and intervention models capable of being replicated or adapted within other municipalities and urban cooperation contexts.

5.2 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The monitoring framework combines operational indicators, participation metrics and behavioural impact dimensions in order to evaluate both the implementation process and the broader contribution of the Investment Plan to urban liveability, community participation and safety perception across the Pentágono Urbano territory.

The proposed indicators focus not only on measuring outputs and activities, but also on capturing the qualitative transformation generated through civic activation and participatory urban experimentation processes. In this context, particular relevance is attributed to indicators associated with social presence, public space appropriation, interinstitutional collaboration and community engagement.

The monitoring framework also supports the production of territorial knowledge capable of informing future public policies related to behavioural safety, participatory governance and community-led urban activation. Through this approach, the Investment Plan contributes to strengthening the institutional capacity of Pentágono Urbano and its municipalities in the field of experimentation-driven urban policy and collaborative governance.



MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Monitoring Dimension	Indicators
Participation & Engagement	Number of applications submitted; number of participants involved in activities; diversity of participating actors; number of NGOs, informal groups and community stakeholders engaged
Civic Innovation	Number of pilot initiatives implemented; number of experimentation processes developed; transferability potential of supported projects
Urban Liveability	Increased use of public space during evening and night-time periods; number of activated public spaces; frequency of community-led activities
Behavioural Safety	Improvement in perceived safety levels; increased sense of belonging and community trust; reduction of perceived urban isolation
Governance & Cooperation	Level of intermunicipal collaboration; participation of municipalities and ULGs in governance processes; number of collaborative actions developed
Territorial Learning	Production of recommendations, methodologies and transferable practices; dissemination and replication potential within other territories

SECTION 06 CLOSING REMARKS



6.1 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES OF PU 2NITE INVESTMENT PLAN

The PU 2NITE Investment Plan represents more than the implementation of a pilot mechanism for night-time urban activation. It constitutes a strategic territorial framework for strengthening civic innovation, participatory governance and community-led urban transformation across the Pentágono Urbano ecosystem.

Through the creation of an intermunicipal Civic Innovation Mechanism for Night-time Activation, the Investment Plan contributes to consolidating a new generation of collaborative urban governance models capable of articulating municipalities, citizens, NGOs, cultural actors and local communities around shared territorial challenges and collective experimentation processes.

At urban level, the project is expected to contribute to the progressive transformation of underused or fragmented public spaces into more active, inclusive and socially vibrant environments during evening and night-time periods. By increasing social presence, community interaction and civic appropriation of public space, the mechanism aims to strengthen behavioural safety and improve overall urban liveability across participating municipalities.

At social level, the Investment Plan reinforces opportunities for participation, collective ownership and community empowerment by enabling citizens and local ecosystems to become active co-producers of urban transformation processes. Through participatory experimentation and civic prototyping methodologies, the mechanism contributes to strengthening trust between institutions and communities while simultaneously fostering new forms of coexistence, collaboration and territorial identity.

At governance level, the project supports the evolution of public administration approaches from conventional top-down intervention models towards more flexible, enabling and distributed governance systems. In this sense, municipalities progressively assume the role of facilitators and ecosystem enablers capable of supporting local experimentation, collective learning and community-led innovation processes.

The Investment Plan also generates important territorial outcomes for Pentágono Urbano itself by reinforcing intermunicipal cooperation, shared governance practices and collaborative policy development capacities. Through the circulation of methodologies, experimentation frameworks and civic innovation practices across the territory, the mechanism contributes to strengthening the institutional maturity and strategic positioning of Pentágono Urbano as a platform for urban innovation and integrated territorial development.

At European level, the project positions Pentágono Urbano within the broader debate on night-time liveability, behavioural safety, placemaking and participatory urban governance by demonstrating how lightweight and community-driven mechanisms can generate scalable urban transformation processes with strong social and territorial impact.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

ULG PENTÁGONO URBANO