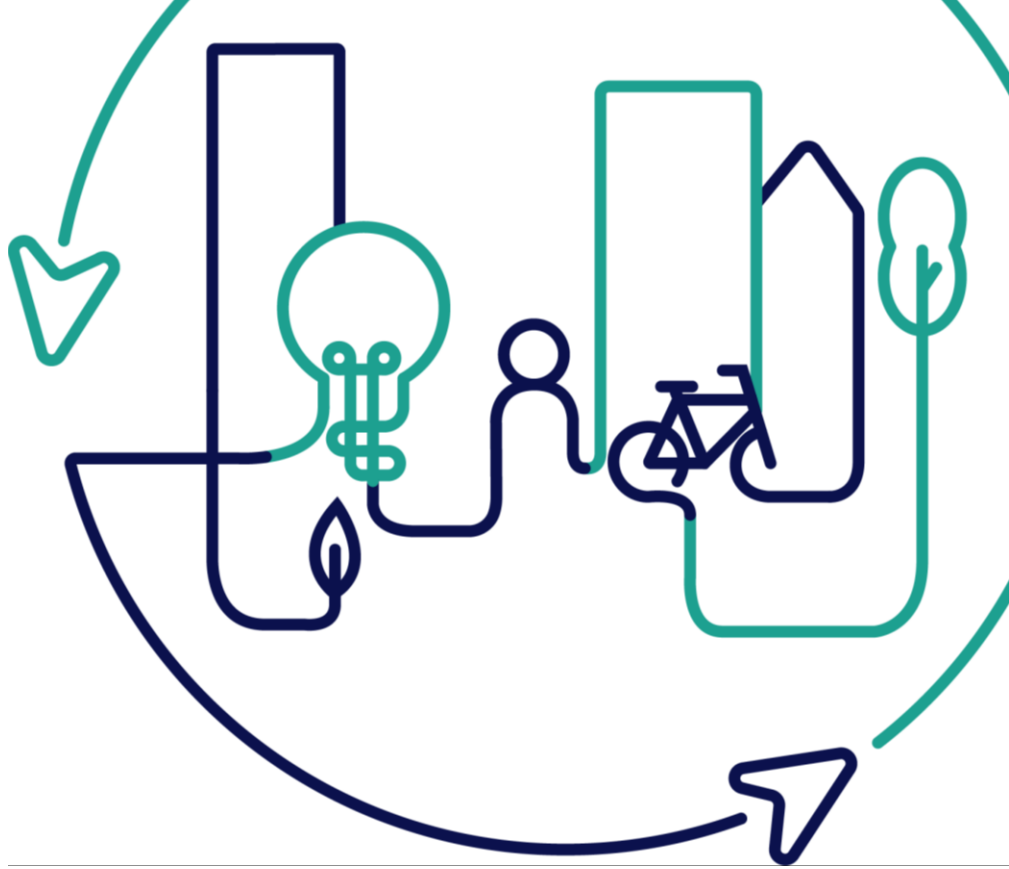
EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE



Co-funded by the European Union

Summary

1. What is the European Urban Initiative?
2. Capacity building opportunities
3. Focus on: City-to-city exchanges

Raluca TOMA, Head of Capacity Building
raluca@urban-initiative.eu

European Urban Initiative

WHAT IS THE EUI?

Coherent support for cities

3 SERVICE PILLARS FOR EU CITIES

FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECTS

SUPPORT & STRENGHTEN CITIES' CAPACITIES

URBAN KNOWLEDGE AT ONE REFERENCE POINT: PORTICO

- identify and test innovative, transferable and scalable solutions to sustainable urban development problems of particular relevance at EU level
- building cities' capacity for sustainable urban development
- communicating, disseminating knowledge from implemented projects and further building on the lessons learnt and their experience

EUI capacity building offer

One target

- EU cities of all sizes involved in **Sustainable Urban Development**

Two objectives

- **Accompany you in your road towards** sustainable urban development
- **Improve the design and overall implementation** of sustainable urban developement strategies, policies and practices

Three activities

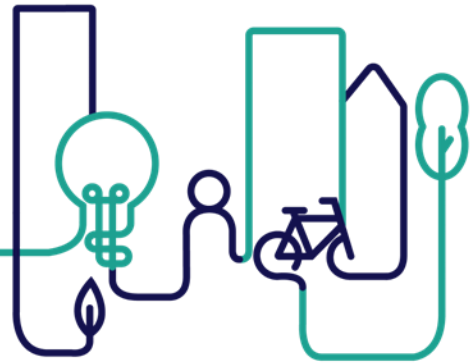
City-to-city Exchanges

Main features
and how to apply

What is a City-to-City Exchange?

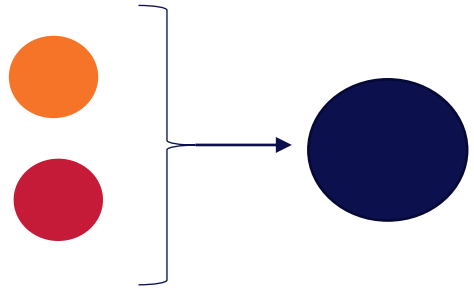
- It brings together an **urban authority** facing a specific implementation challenge related to SUD ('the applicant')
- With another urban authority from a different EU Member State with expertise to help tackle this challenge ('the peer')
- Fairly **easy application**, quickly implemented visit(s)
- **Depends entirely on your needs** and the challenge you wish to put forward!

The objective is to inspire and help you find solutions to your challenges through exchanges with peers



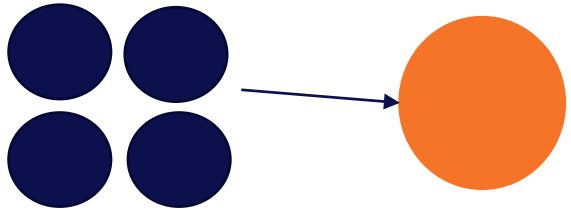
City-to-City Exchanges: type of formats

Incoming visit



Up to 2 participants from 1 or 2 peer cities visit your city

Outgoing visit

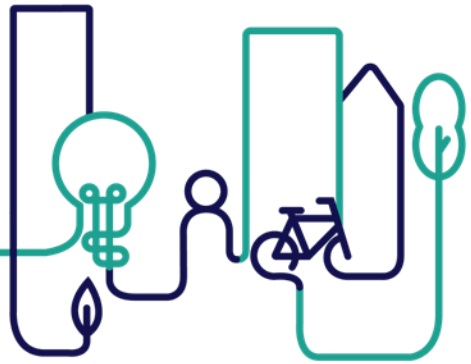


Up to 4 participants from your city visit peer city, other peer can join

Online meeting

1 online meeting following face-to-face visit, if justified

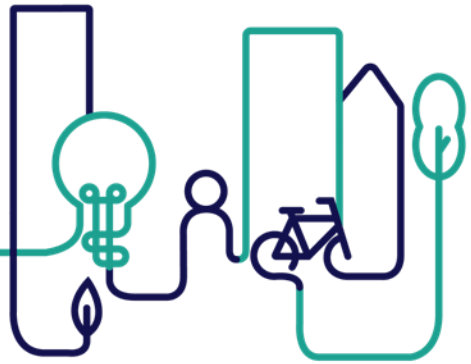
Each visit can last between 2 and 5 days



City-to-City Exchanges: what type of topics?

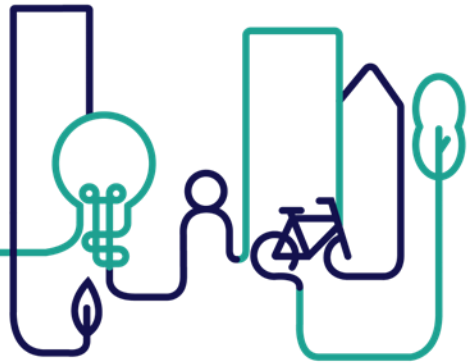
- Potential policy **challenges**:
  - Thematic: Decarbonised mobility, Biodiversity and nature protection, Education and employment, Access to housing, Sustainable urban planning etc.
  - Operational: Multi-level governance, Citizens engagement, Public procurement and State Aid, Monitoring and Evaluation, Data collection and analysis, Functional Urban Areas etc.
- Focus on: **a specific policy challenge** related to the implementation of Sustainable Urban Development within Cohesion Policy
  - **What do we mean by policy challenge/instrument**: any programme, policy, strategy, or law developed by public authorities and applied on the ground to improve a specific territorial situation

NB: While the specific policy instrument to be influenced must be named in the application form, the challenge may refer to the design and implementation of specific types of projects to be funded through the policy instrument.



City-to-City Exchanges: who may apply?

- Applicants are **urban authorities** within EU Member States:
  - A Local Administrative Unit as city, town or suburb (DEGURBA code 1 or 2).
  - An association or grouping of urban authorities with legal status of organised agglomeration composed by Local Administrative Units, where the majority (at least 51%) of inhabitants lives in Local Administrative Units defined as cities, towns or suburbs (DEGURBA code 1 or 2).
- No minimum population requirement for the city, town, or suburb
- Interest or involvement in **integrated, place-based approaches to SUD**

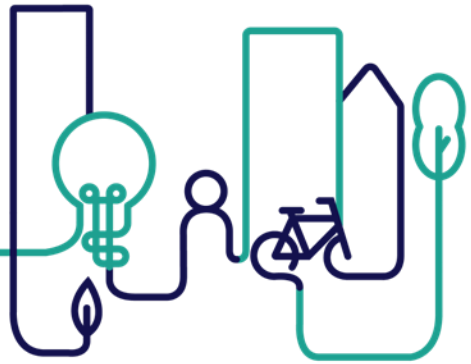


City-to-City Exchanges: who can be your peer?

- **Urban authorities** from different EU Member State to the applicant
- Cities with **expertise and experience needed** to address the applicant's challenge

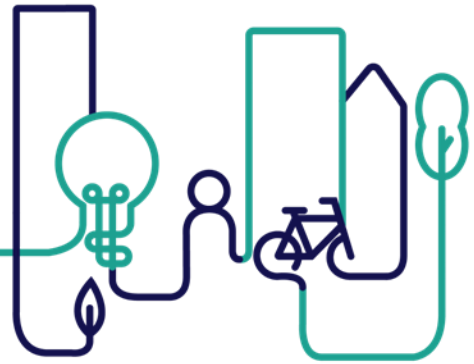
How to convince them to participate as a peer?

- capacity building opportunity
- visibility & networking
- reimbursement of the activity through a lump sum



Concrete example

- Exchange between Municipality of **Oulu** (FI) and Municipality of **Fuenlabrada** (ES)
- Topic: Community-led local development, community engagement strategies
- 2 visits:
  - Oulu going to Fuenlabrada
  - Funlabrada visiting Oulu



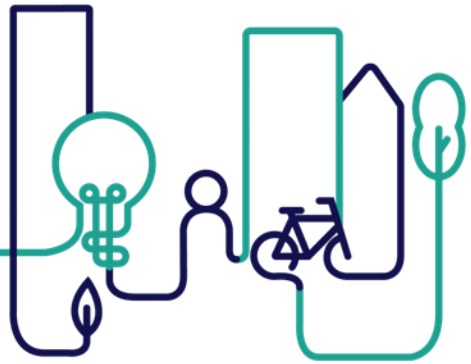
City-to-City Exchanges: support available

Funding to support applicants and peers:

Type of cost	Applicant City	Peer City
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	Up to 4 people	Up to 2 people
Daily rate covering staff time	No	Up to 2 people

Expertise: EUI can appoint a moderator to facilitate exchange and learning process

Peer identification: EUI can facilitate contact with urban authorities involved in UIA / EUI – Innovative Actions and the Urban Agenda for the EU.



City-to-City Exchanges: selection process

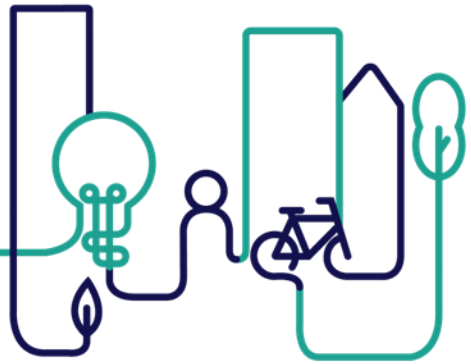
Applications submitted and evaluated **on a rolling basis**

Selection process organised along the following steps:

1. Prioritisation
2. Eligibility check
3. Quality evaluation

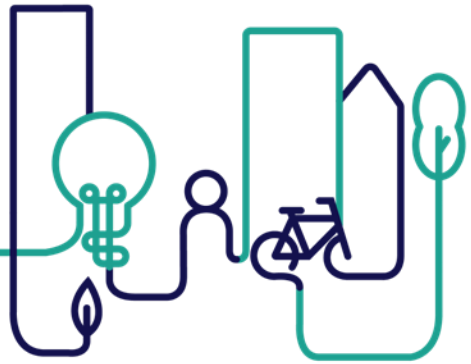
Applications are evaluated by a team of external experts under supervision of EUI PS who take a final decision on the selection process.

How long does it take to receive feedback on application?
Indicatively, **within 4 weeks after submission**



City-to-City Exchanges: eligibility check

- Full application submitted via EU Survey before the deadline
- The applicant and peers are eligible urban authorities located in an EU Member State
- Peers come from a different EU Member State
- The applicant and its institution comply with the requirements on exclusion from access to funding
- Both the applicant institution and the peer(s) endorse the application



City-to-City Exchanges: application form

CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGE BUDGET	
ID code of the city-to-city exchange	*[this field will be filled-in by the EUI PS after the receipt of Application]*
Title of the city-to-city exchange	

TOTAL budget (EUR)	0.00
TOTAL eligible ERDF - 100% (EUR)	0.00

	Name of the urban authority (English language)	Staff cost (EUR)	Travel cost (EUR)	Per Diem (EUR)	Total (EUR)
Applicant lump sum		-	-	-	-
Peer 1 lump sum		-	-	-	-
Peer 2 lump sum		-	-	-	-

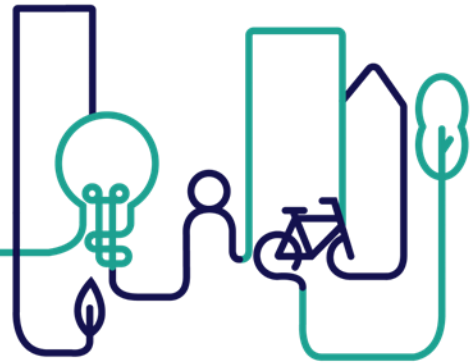
Eligibility of costs conditions for involved urban authorities of the city-to-city exchange		
Cost category	Applicant	Peer(s)
Staff cost	*not applicable*	*max. 2 persons (outgoing visit / incoming visit / online event)*
Travel cost	*max. 4 persons (outgoing visits)*	*max. 2 persons (outgoing / incoming visit)*
Per Diem	*max. 4 persons (outgoing visits) * visit duration (days + 1 for travel)*	*max. 2 persons (incoming visit / outgoing visit except when hosting) * visit duration (days + 1 for travel)*

** data to be filled-in by the Applicant*

** data to be filled-in by the EUI PS*

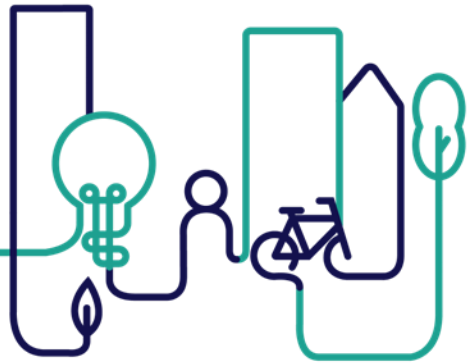
** automatic fill-in*

** data entered is not in consistency with the conditions for funding provided - red font color in the cell indicates potential reason for rejection of the application*



City-to-City Exchanges: contracting

- You will sign a Grant Agreement with EUI's Entrusted Entity (Haut-de-France Region).
- The contract specifies maximum amount of ERDF granted & all conditions under which exchange is approved and stipulates the legal basis for funding.
- Agreement is shared with beneficiaries following notification of approval, to be returned signed by the beneficiary when submitting the Reimbursement Form at the latest.



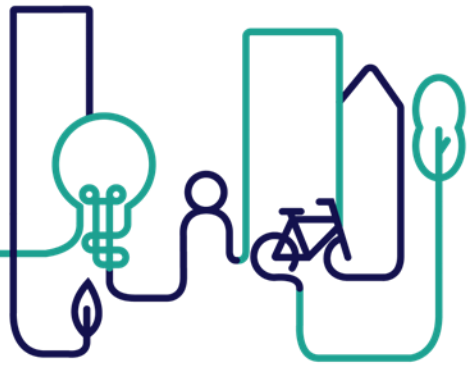
How to apply for a City-to-City Exchange?

What are the key dates of the call?

- 17 November 2023, 12:00 CET — Closure of call for City-to-City Exchange applications
- 4 weeks after application — Earliest notification of decision to applicants

Where to apply?

- Submission of applications on EU survey: link
- Courtesy Application Form available:
  - EU Survey (word format) Workplan and Budget file
- Guidance and additional information available on EUI Website



We are here to help you!

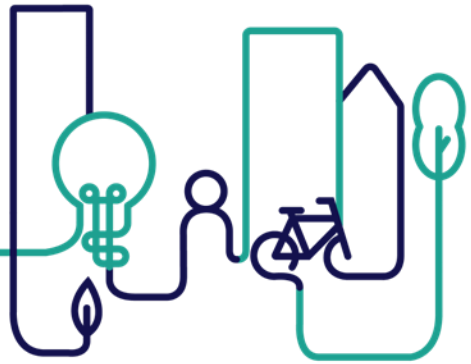
Online bilateral consultations

If you have any question regarding our offer, please book a consultation with us via our **Booking page**

Email: capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu

For City-to-City Exchanges: Peer introduction support

Use this form to request contact with another urban authority from an UIA project or an Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership.
For contact details from URBACT partners, contact National URBACT points.



Other opportunities

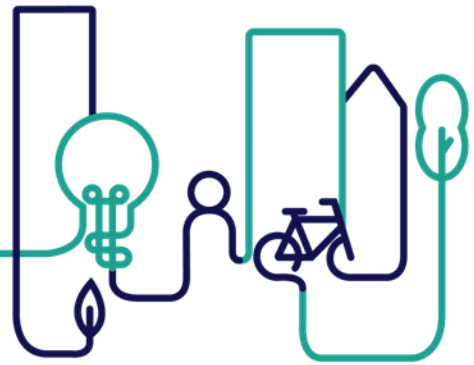
Event upcoming

08 - 09 November 2023

9:00am → 5:00pm CET

Reshaping policy, unleashing talents, shifting minds for the Green Transition: a EUI capacity-building event for European cities

- **Green Transition (EU-wide event)** – 8-9 November, Tourcoing, France
  - Registration OPEN



Thank you for your attention!