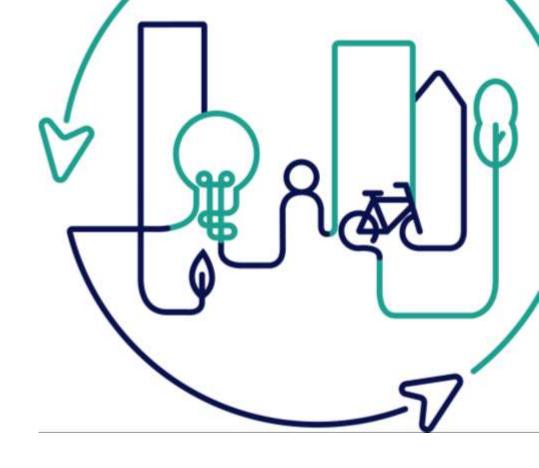
EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

Consulting Local Authorities Poreč, Croatia – 23 May 2024







EUI is a European Union instrument and is managed by the European Commission's DG Regional and Urban Policy.

EUI has a total **ERDF budget of €450 million** for 2021-2027.

The European Urban Initiative is an essential tool to support cities of **all sizes**, to build **capacity** and **knowledge**, to support **innovation** and develop **transferable** and **scalable** innovative solutions to **urban challenges of EU relevance**.

Innovative Actions

Capacity Building

Knowledge

Capacity Building

> One target

EU cities of all sizes involved or interested in Sustainable
 Urban Development (SUD) within Cohesion Policy

> Two objectives

- Improve the capacities of cities to design and implement SUD strategies, policies and practices in an integrated and participative way
- Improve the quality of the design and overall implementation of SUD strategies, policies and practices

> Three activities



Knowledge

- ➤ Ambition: to share and capitalise on knowledge on sustainable urban development; and to provide accessible know-how information on urban matters
- > Capitalisation carried out through dedicated policy labs/reviews...
- ▶ Portico (Knowledge sharing platform)
 - Knowledge hub | Urban panorama
 - Urban practices database | Expert databaseCommunity | Country specific pages

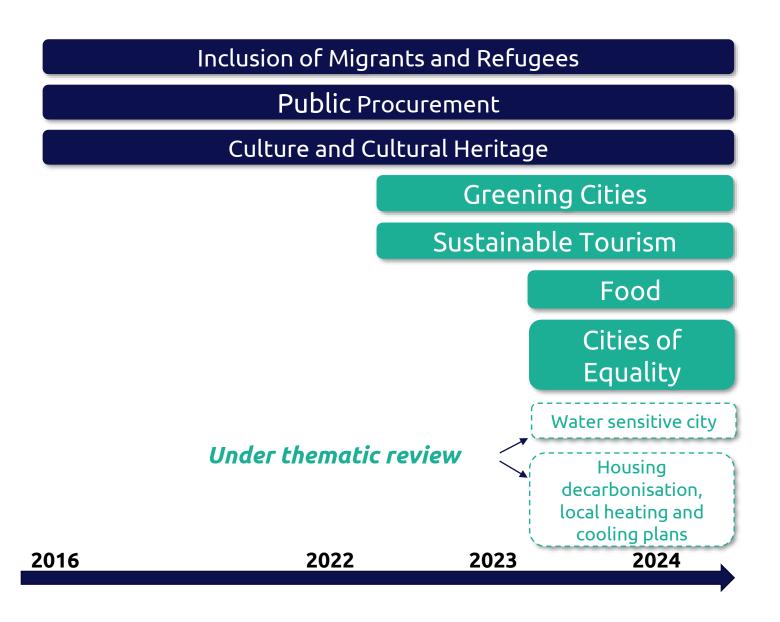


Urban Agenda for the EU – ongoing Partnerships

Multi-level working method, for urban policy and practice, promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission, and other stakeholders

Focused on #BetterRegulation, #BetterFunding and #BetterKnowledge

Implemented through thematic partnerships





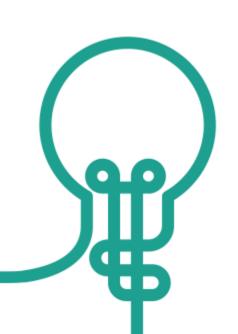
Innovative Actions

- Ambition: to foster the deployment of proof-tested urban innovations across the EU and to provide opportunities for cities, as enablers of innovation, to take the risk to turn ambitious and creative ideas into pilot projects that can be tested in real urban settings
- Call 1 on New European Bauhaus demonstrators (closed)
- Call 2 on Greening cities / Sustainable tourism / Harnessing talents in shrinking cities (closed)
- Call 3 on Energy Transition / Technology in Cities (ongoing)
- Call 4 new, smaller-scale format (TBC)



EUI Innovative Actions (EUI-IA)

- > Projects on sustainable urban innovation
- > local pilots (experimental character, implementation aspect)
- city-led, participative character (quadruple helix partnership led by an urban authority)
- > transnational transfer component
- > 80% ERDF co-finance rate (20% own contribution; max grant: EUR 5 mio)
- extensive use of simplified cost options



MAIN FEATURES OF an EUI-IA solution

1 INNOVATIVE

2 OF GOOD QUALITY

3 PARTICIPATIVE

4 MEASURABLE

SUSTAINABLE AND SCALABLE

6 TRANSFERABLE

EUI-IA Key Aspects – INNOVATION

- pilot projects that have never been tested anywhere else in Europe
- experimental and hence risky, consequently not likely to be funded by traditional or mainstream sources of funding
- the innovativeness of the proposed solution can be understood as an evolutionary approach where the innovation lies in the new elements added to the existing idea, or as a revolutionary approach with completely new solutions
- good and relevant benchmarking of the proposed solution against existing practices/projects/trends is key!
- ➤ EUI-IA projects must go beyond pure research and studies proposed solutions need to be piloted and tested in a real-life, local urban context



EUI-IA Key Aspects – PARTNERSHIP (1/3)

- > local and city-led partnership only an eligible Urban Authority can submit a proposal
- > all eligible authorities and Project Partners must be located in the EU
- city ownership
 - > multidimensional meaning applying urban authorities lead the partnership; they own the proposed idea/solution; legal ownership of investment sites/localities
- quadruple helix (Academia, Industry, Community/Society, Government/Policy) concept
 & participative approach

EUI-IA Key Aspects – PARTNERSHIP (2/3)

- > balanced, complementary, promote horizontal & vertical integration
- > no transnational partnerships expected (except for Transfer Partners), unless specific competencies are needed and justified
- ➤ a given Urban Authority (MUA or AUAs) cannot be involved in more than 1 application per Call for proposals (Delivery Partners have no such restrictions)
- cooperation formalized in a Partnership Agreement



EUI-IA Key Aspects – PARTNERSHIP (3/3)

- Partner categories (Sections 1.5 & 2.1 of the <u>Guidance</u>):
 - Main Urban Authority (MUA)
 - Associated Urban Authority (AUA) in case multiple urban authorities apply; urban authorities only
 - Delivery Partners any other organisations (private sector, NGOs, academic institutions, etc.) needed for successful implementation
 - Transfer Partners urban authorities only from different member states than the MUA



EUI-IA Key Aspects – TRANSFER COMPONENT (1/2)

- The selected solutions address urban challenges that can be relevant to other urban authorities in Europe and applicable to other local contexts (Section 5 of the <u>Guidance</u>)
- Based on lessons drawn from the project and shared to a wider audience of policy makers and practitioners, the Innovative Actions have the potential of being scaled and transferred to other urban areas across Europe.

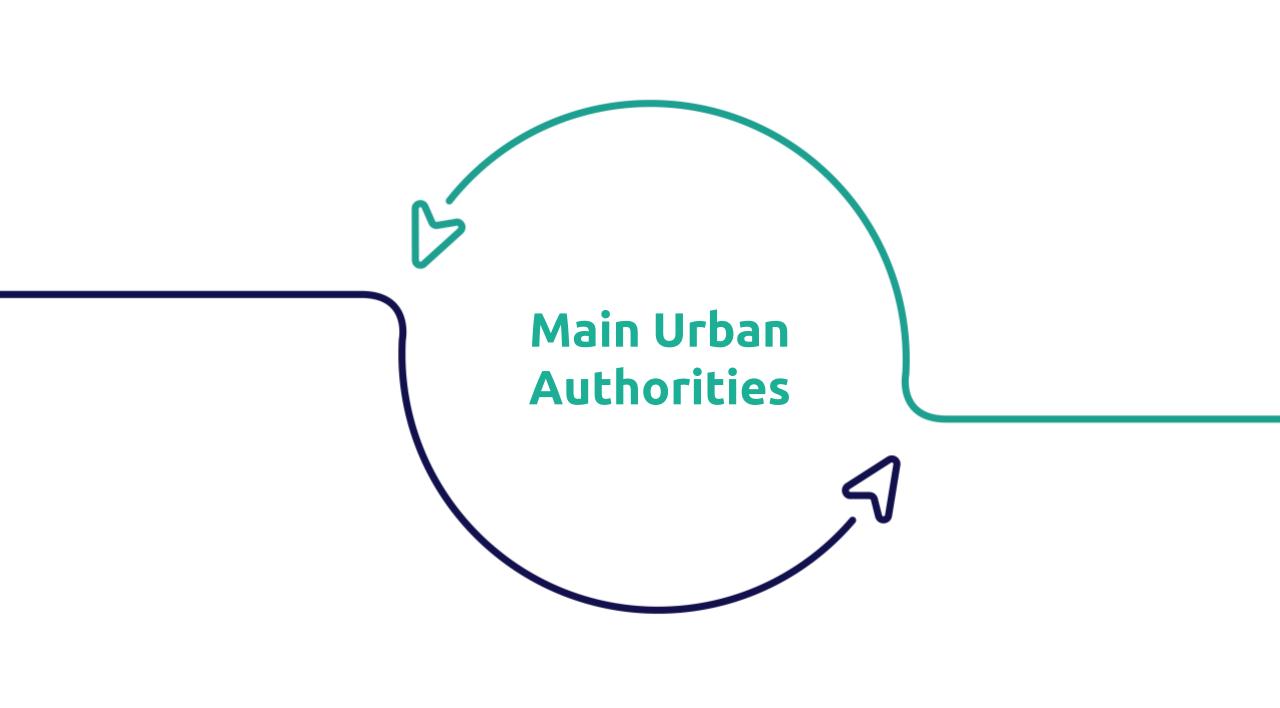


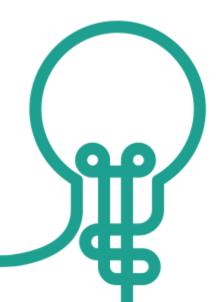
EUI-IA Key Aspects – TRANSFER COMPONENT (2/2)

TRANSFER PARTNERS

- Urban Authorities joining the Project Partnership to follow and learn from the experimentation and interested in replicating the innovative solution
- > 3 Transfer Partners originating from other Member States than the MUA, located in the EU
- at least two of the four cities involved (Main Urban Authority + the 3 Transfer Partners) are located in less developed or transition regions
- Local Administrative Unit defined according to the degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA 1 or 2)
- no minimum number of inhabitants required
- active role in the Transfer Work Package (compulsory outputs)
- dedicated fixed budget (EUR 120 000 ERDF lump sum) and co-financing (EUR 30 000; own contribution)

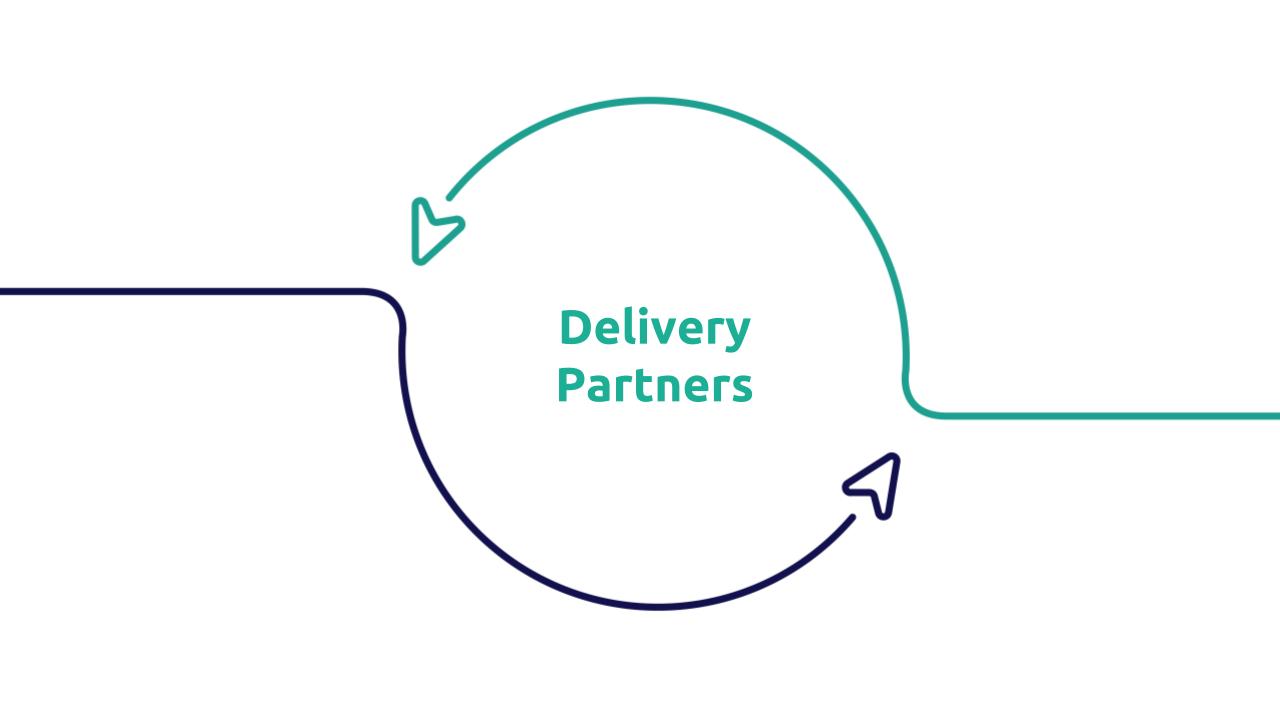


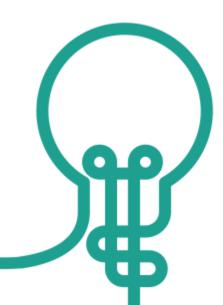




Role of the Main Urban Authority

- Responsible for the overall implementation and management of the project
- Strategic leading role in the development of the EUI-IA
- ▶ Bears the entire financial and juridical responsibility vis-à-vis the Entrusted Entity
- Directly involved in the experimentation
- Chairing the Project Partnership
- Dedicated budget and co-financing



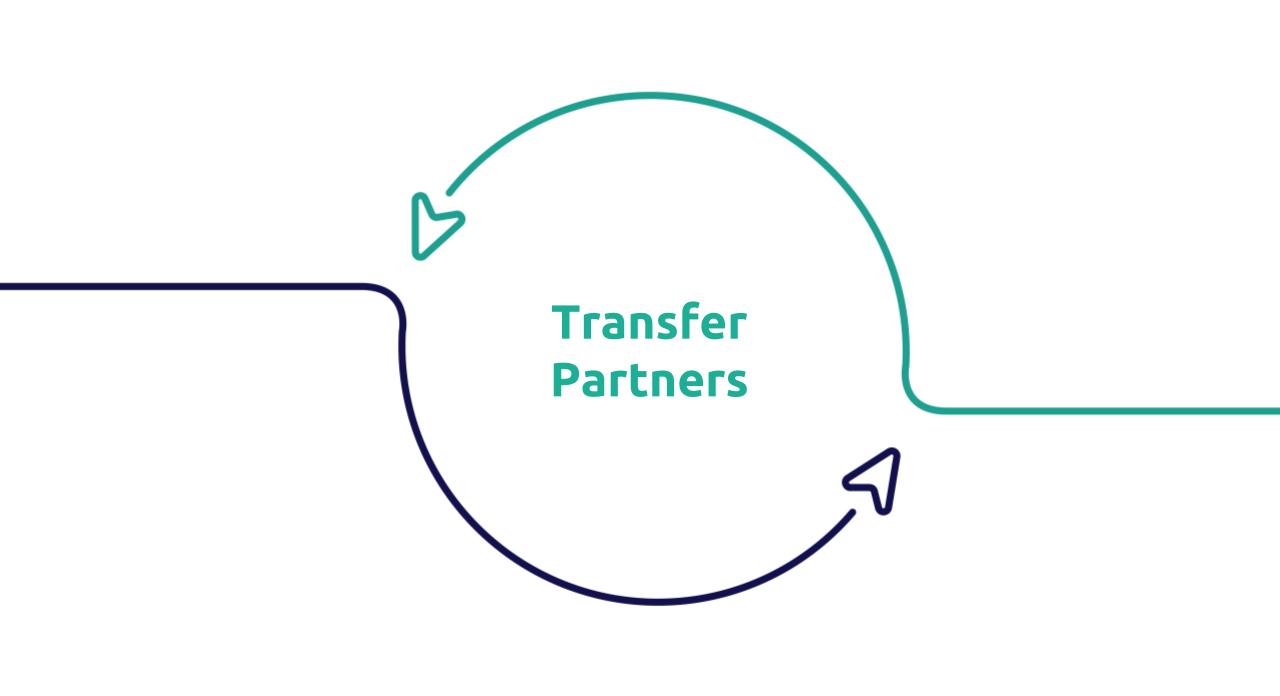


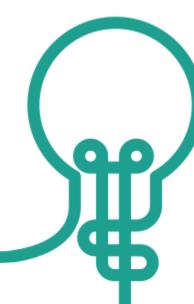
Role of the Delivery Partners

- Active role in the implementation of the project
- Mix of relevant Partners (Institutions, higher education institutes, sectoral agencies, NGOs, private sector...) that are needed to deliver the proposed solution (quadruple helix concept)
- Key organisation able to bring knowledge and expertise into project design & implementation
- Responsible for the delivery of specific activities and of the related deliverables/outputs
- Dedicated budget and co-financing
- To be selected through fair and transparent procedures
- Any organisation having legal personality, except:
 - Consultancy firms having as primary objective the development and management of European projects, and
 - Organisations with no staff budgeted (only declaring external expertise costs)



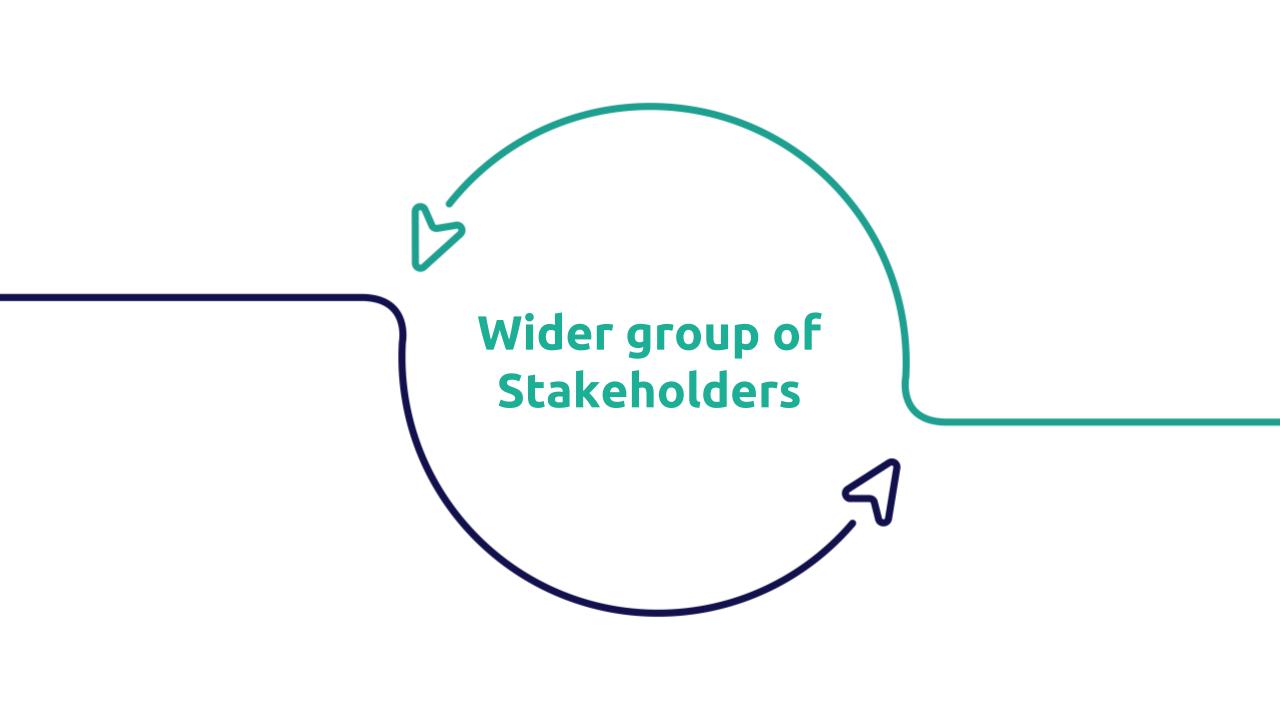
Partnerships with more than 10 partners may require extra efforts and resources to ensure an effective management!





Role of the Transfer Partners

- Urban Authorities joining the Project Partnership to follow and learn from the experimentation and interested in replicating the innovative solution
- 3 Transfer Partners originating from other Member States than the MUA, located in the EU
- at least two of the four cities involved (Main Urban Authority + the 3 Transfer Partners) are located in less developed or transition regions
- Local Administrative Unit defined according to the degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA 1 or 2)
- no minimum number of inhabitants required
- active role in the Transfer Work Package (compulsory outputs)
- dedicated fixed budget (EUR 120 000 ERDF lump sum) and co-financing (EUR 30 000; own contribution)

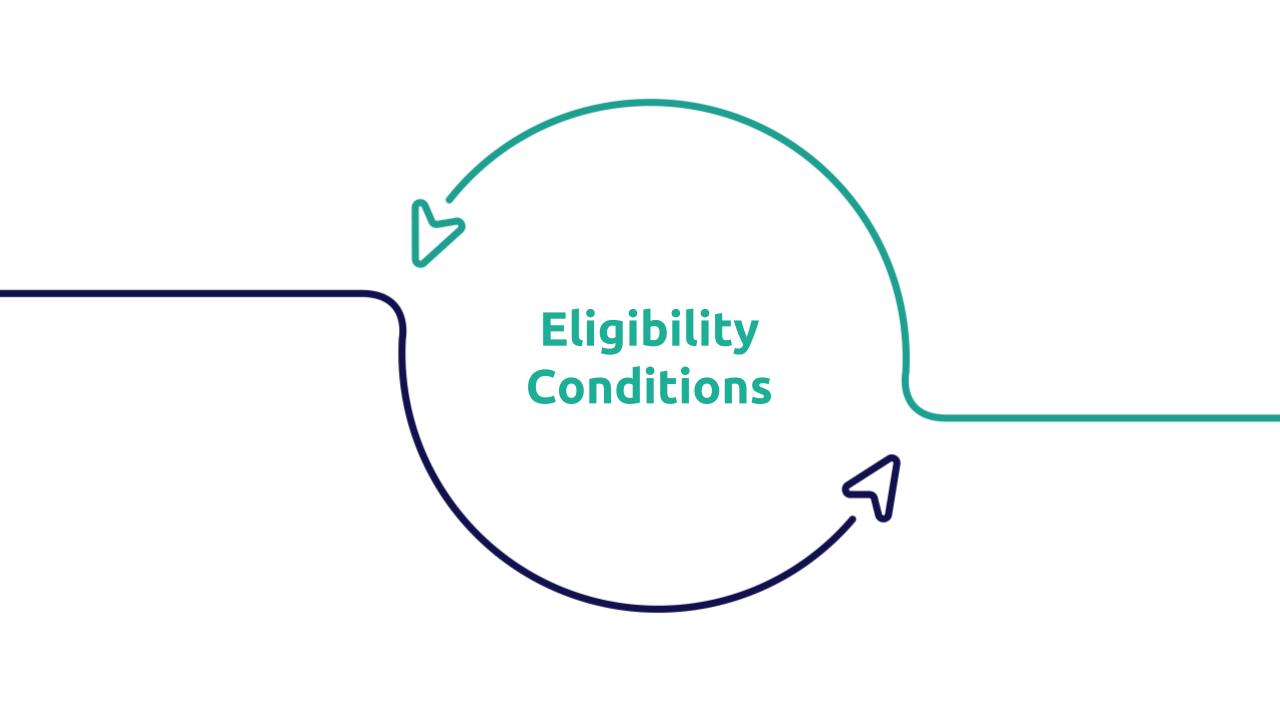




Role of the Wider group of Stakeholders

- ▶ Local communities, social partners, business, NGOs, experts, institutions, organisations, individuals, project's target groups that may influence or be influenced by the project
- No official status of Project Partners
 - No active role/ responsibilities
 - No dedicated budget
- ➤ Recommended to be involved in the design and implementation of the project to ensure a smooth project delivery and maximize sustainability (co-creation)
- Projects shall design **structured mechanisms** to ensure their effective involvement (clearly explained in the AF)

Identifying stakeholders, understanding their influence on the EUI-IA project, and balancing their needs and expectations are critical to the success of the project!



Which Urban Authorities can apply (Sections 1.5 & 2.1 of the Guidance)

1 Individual Urban Authorities

Any eligible Local Administrative Units

E.g. Municipalities, Districts (in case of some larger cities)

Organised agglomerations

Any eligible organised agglomerations

E.g. Métropoles (FR), Mancomunidades (ES), Città Metropolitane (IT), Landkreis (DE), Comunidades Intermunicipais (PT)...

Association of individual urban authorities applying jointly

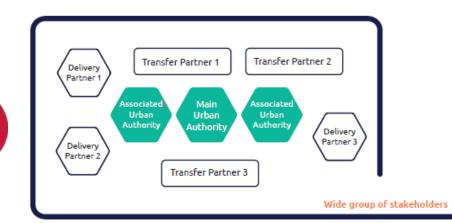
Any eligible group of urban authorities willing to submit a project together.

E.g. 3 (contiguous) municipalities willing to apply jointly to address a similar challenge









What defines an eligible MUA?



1

Local Administrative Unit (LAU) or a grouping of LAUs

2

Population > 50 000 inhabitants

3

Degree of Urbanisation (DEGURBA 1 or 2): cities, towns or suburbs





How to check the eligibility of the MUA?

NUTS 3 CODE	LAU CODE	LAU_CODE_2	LAU NAME NATIONAL	. LAU NAME LATIN	CHANGE (yes/no)	POPULATION	TOTAL AREA (m2)	DEG- URBA	DEG- URBA same as last year?
BE211	11001	BE_11001	Aartselaar	Aartselaar	no	14468	11015556	2	
BE211	11002	BE_11002	Antwerpen	Anvers	no	531420	204293229	1	
BE211	11004	BE_11004	Boechout	Boechout	no	13557	20710028	2	
BE211	11005	BE_11005	Boom	Boom	no	18825	7387152	2	
BE211	11007	BE_11007	Borsbeek	Borsbeek	no	11107	3901269	2	
BE211	11008	BE_11008	Brasschaat	Brasschaat	no	38254	38580646	2	
BE211	11009	BE_11009	Brecht	Brecht	no	29833	91451100	2	
BE211	11013	BE_11013	Edegem	Edegem	no	22256	8717948	2	
BE211	11016	BE_11016	Essen	Essen	no	19216	47568895	2	
BE211	11018	BE_11018	Hemiksem	Hemiksem	no	11737	5479228	2	
BE211	11021	BE_11021	Hove (Antwerpen)	Hove (Anvers)	no	8300	6018087	2	
BE211	11022	BE_11022	Kalmthout	Kalmthout	no	19052	59409054	2	
BE211	11023	BE_11023	Kapellen (Antwerpen)	Kapellen (Anvers)	no	27634	37220780	2	
BE211	11024	BE_11024	Kontich	Kontich	no	21267	23801502	2	
BE211	11025	BE_11025	Lint	Lint	no	8739	5651541	2	
BE211	11029	BE_11029	Mortsel	Mortsel	no	26220	7784336	2	
BE211	11030	BE_11030	Niel	Niel	no	10506	5320952	2	
BE211	11035	BE_11035	Ranst	Ranst	no	19744	43675152	2	
BE211	11037	BE_11037	Rumst	Rumst	no	15160	20134220	2	
BE211	11038	BE_11038	Schelle	Schelle	no	8570	7774410	2	
BE211	11039	BE_11039	Schilde	Schilde	no	19952	36095679	2	
BE211	11040	BE_11040	Schoten	Schoten	no	34320	29493576	2	
· [BE BG CZ	DK DE EE	IE EL ES FR H	IR IT CY LV L	T LU H	U MT NL A	AT PL PT R	O SI S	K FI



ELIGIBLE CITIES IN CROATIA (FIRST CATEGORY)

4	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	1	J	К	L	M	N
1	NUTS 3 CODE	LAU CODE	LAU NAME NATIONAL	LAU NAME LATIN	CHANGE (yes/no)	POPULATION	TOTAL AREA (m2)	DEGURBA		CITY_ID	CITY_NAME	FUA_ID	FUA_NAME	
102 H	HR025	03123	Osijek	Osijek	no	96313	174861996	1	0	HR004C	Osijek			
221 H	IR031	03735	Rijeka	Rijeka	no	107964	43380796	1	1	HR002C	Rijeka			
265 H	HR033	05207	Zadar	Zadar	no	70779	192439915	1	1	HR007C	Zadar			
327 H	HR035	04090	Split	Split	no	160577	79394738	1	1	HR005C	Split			
372 H	HR036	03590	Pula - Pola	Pula - Pola	no	52220	53819822	2	1					
413 H	HR050	01333	Grad Zagreb	Grad Zagreb	no	767131	641237559	1	0	HR001C	Zagreb			
548 H	HR065	05410	Velika Gorica	Velika Gorica	no	61075	326665934	2	0					
558														

- ➤ Population > 50.000
- DEGURBA 1 or 2

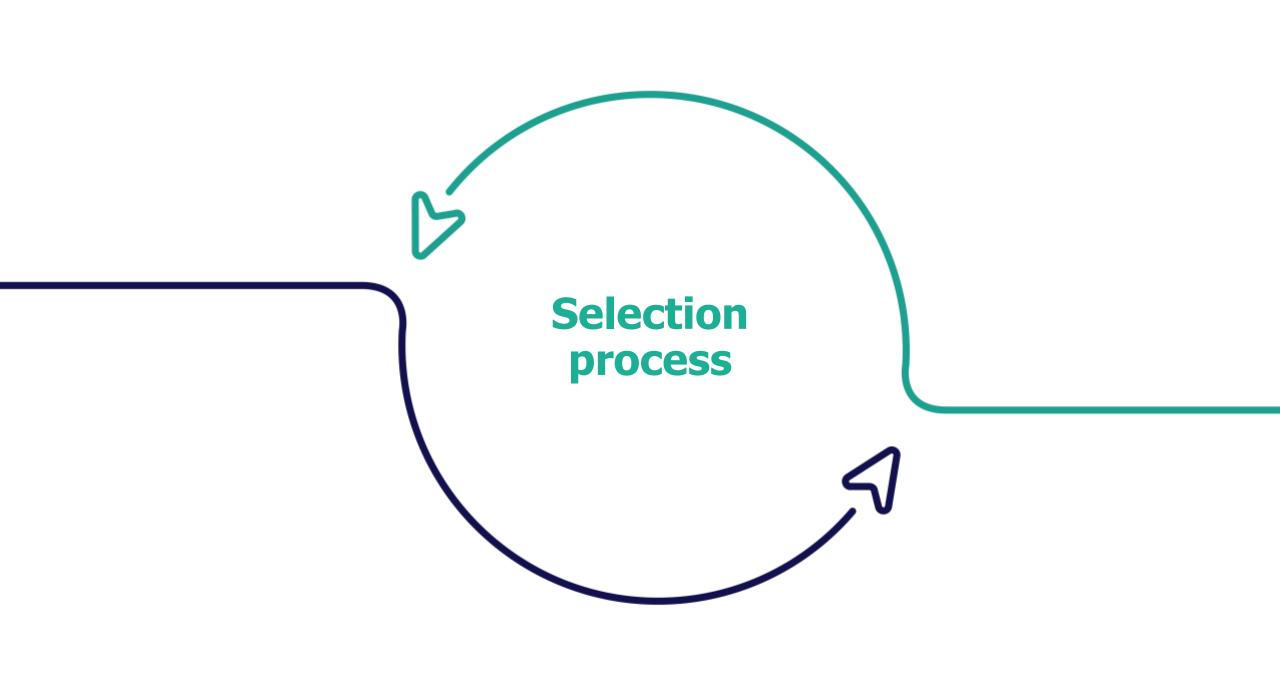


ELIGIBLE CITIES IN CROATIA (THIRD CATEGORY)

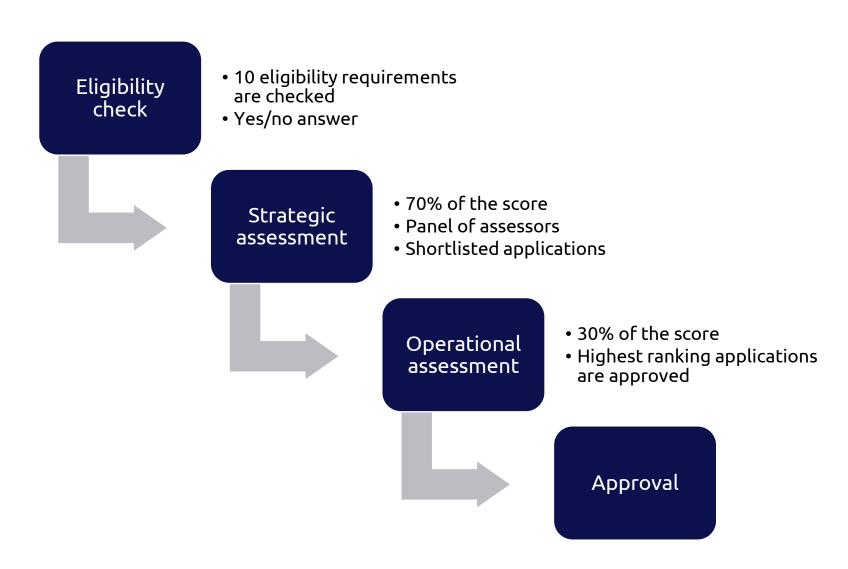
- > Multiple cities applying jointly **combined population > 50.000**
- DEGURBA 1 or 2 for all cities applying
- Example: Grad Varazdin & Grad Ludbreg (InterACT Green Project)
 - ▶ Grad Varazdin (population 43782; DEGURBA 2) Main Urban Authority (MUA) lead partner, submits the application
 - ▷ Grad Ludbreg (population 8477; DEGURBA 2) Associated Urban Authority (AUA)

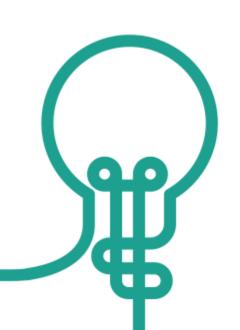
	A B C		D E		F	G	Н	I		
	NUTS 3 CODE	LAU CODE	LAU NAME NATIONAL	LAU NAME LATIN	CHANGE (yes/no)	POPULATION	TOTAL AREA (m2)	DEGURBA	COASTAL AREA	СП
	▼	▼	▼	T.	▼	▼	▼	Ţ,	AREA	
1	HR062	02445	Ludbreg	Ludbreg	no	8477	74245952	2	0	
1	HR062	04723	Varaždin	Varaždin	no	43782	59879714	2	0	
8										





3 Steps Selection Process





Eligibility Check

- > 10 requirements, among which:
 - > The AF has been submitted on time and is completely filled-in
 - Urban authorities applying are eligible
 - Urban authorities are only involved in one proposal in the call
 - ▶ Eligibility period, budget requirements, co-funding principle are respected
 - All partners are located in the EU
 - The signed confirmation sheet has been submitted



Strategic Assessment Criteria

Innovativeness and relevance (30%)

To what extent is the applicant able to demonstrate that the project proposal is a new solution that has added value in relation to the topic of the Call? To what extent is the solution relevant to the local context and to Cohesion Policy objectives?

Partnership and co-creation (12%)

To what extent is the Partnership relevant and solid to implement the proposed solution and achieve expected results. To what extent the proposal allows meaningful participation and co-creation from stakeholders, target groups and citizens?

Measurability of results and impact (12%)

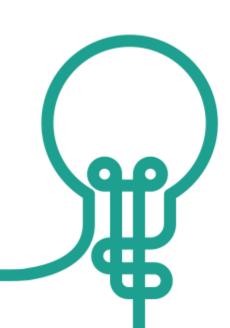
To what extent are expected results specific and realistic, and reflecting project expected impact on the local context, as well as beneficiaries/end users?

Sustainability and up scaling (8%)

To what extent will the project provide a durable contribution to address the identified challenge? To what extent the proposed solution will be self-sustainable beyond its end date and has the potential to be up scaled if proven successful?

Project's transferability (8%)

To what extent will the project have the potential to be transferable to other urban areas across Europe?



Operational Assessment Criteria

Project Design and Logic (12%)

To what extent are Work Plan elements (activities, deliverables, outputs, indicators) complete, realistic, consistent and coherent? To what extent will the proposed project design lead to the achievement of objectives and expected results?

Project feasibility and operational readiness (8%)

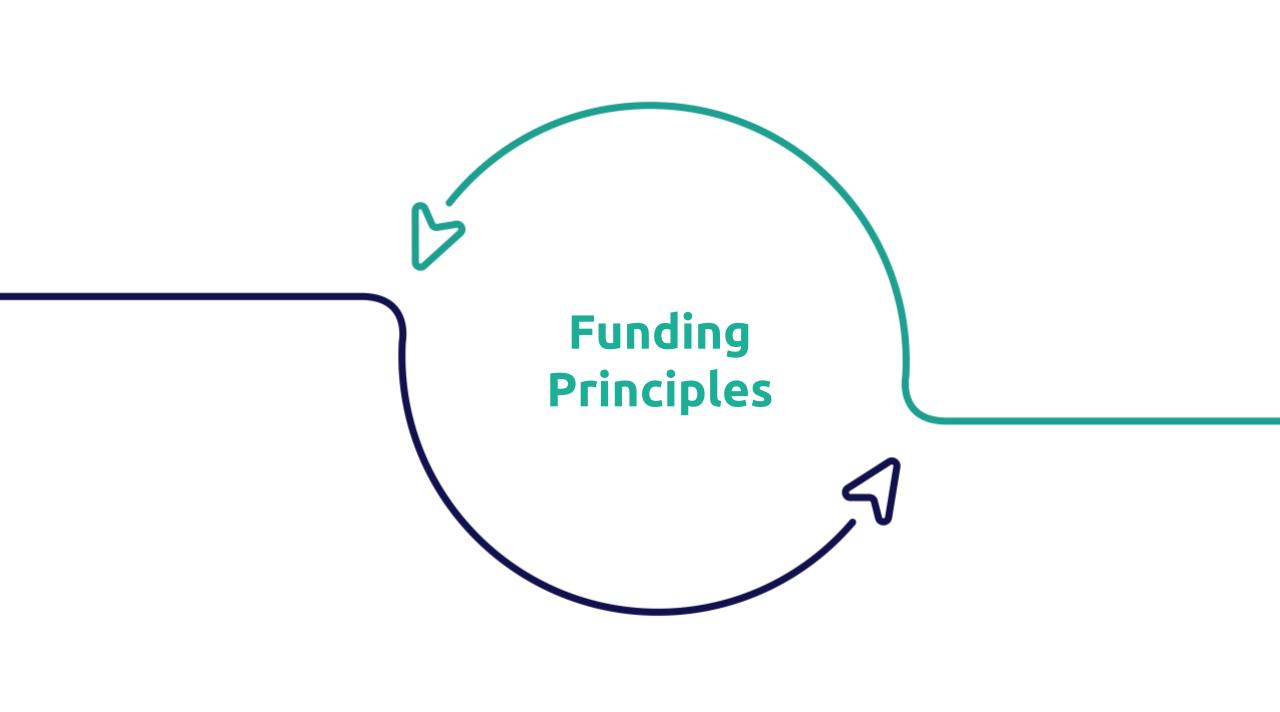
To what extent the proposal demonstrates to be feasible (to be implemented within the given time-frame) and operationally ready?

Organisational arrangements and operational capacity (5%)

To what extent are management and communication activities appropriate and supporting the overall implementation of the project?

Budget (5%)

To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?



Total costs principle (1.8.1)

- EUI follows the **total costs principle**. Whilst the project receives **ERDF co-financing up to 80%** of the eligible costs, every Partner (MUA and AUA, Delivery Partners and Transfer Partners) receiving ERDF needs to secure **20% at least of public or private contribution** to complete its budget either **from its own resources or from other sources**, **in cash or in kind**.
- The contribution cannot come from another EU funding source

	%	BUDGET
ERDF	80% maximum	EUR 5 Mio maximum
ContributionCash and/or in kindPublic or privateOwn resources or not	20% minimum	EUR 1.25 Mil (ERDF rate = 80%)
Total	100%	EUR 6.25 Mil

Other financial rules In-kind contribution (7.5.3)

Principle

- > Non-cash contributions which have a monetary value, but given free of charge to the project
- E.g. Provision of goods, real estate, land (max 10%.), volunteers, equipment, services, rents...

Requirements

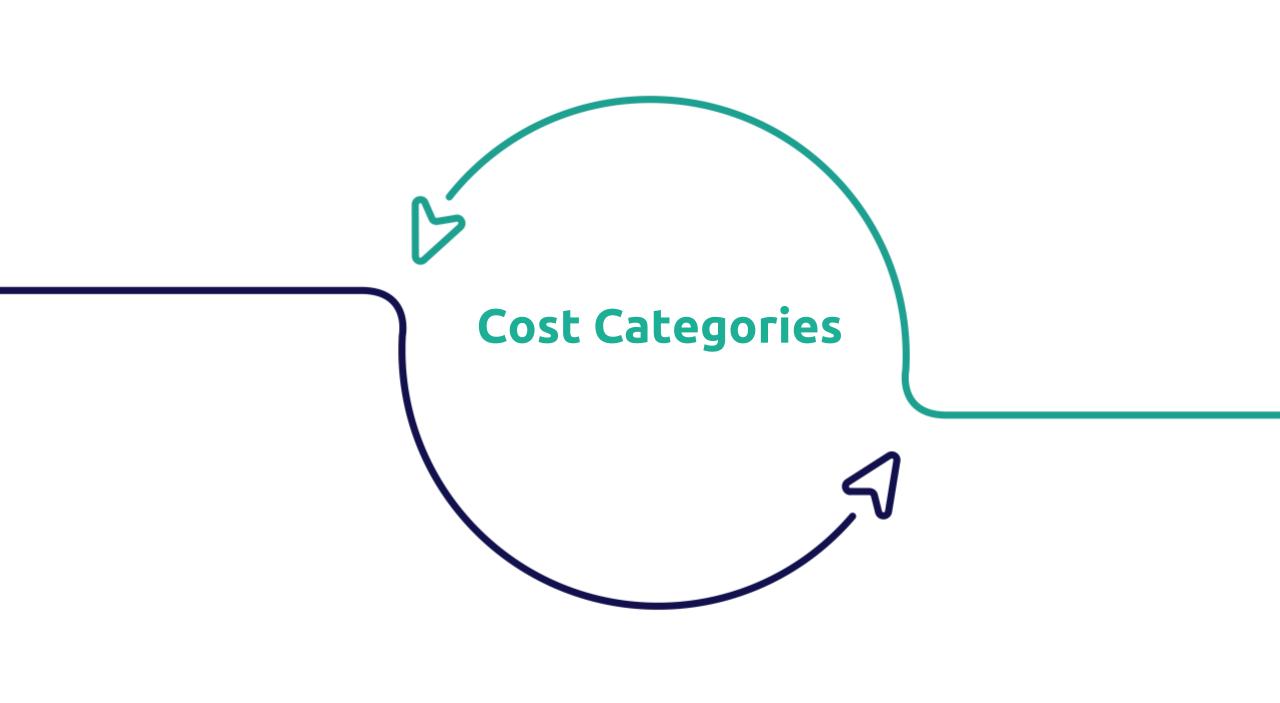
- Necessary to carry out the project and achieve the project objectives
- Not previously paid for/ co-financed by EU funds
- Value independently assessed by an expert
- Limited to maximum 20% of the budget
- Eligible provided included in the Application Form (both in the Contribution section + Work Plan budget)

ERDF payments (1.8.2) Overall functionning

EUI-IA payment scheme

Mainly based on the principles of advance ERDF payments

	First ERDF payment	Second ERDF payment	Third ERDF payment
When	Within 90 days from the successful completion of the Initiation Phase	During the project implementation - After the submission and approval of a Financial Claim 1	After the project implementation - After the submission and approval of a Financial Claim 2 (+ 4 th Annual Progress Report and Final Qualitative Report)
Туре	Advance payment	Advance payment	Reimbursement
How much	50% ERDF grant	30% ERDF grant	Maximum 20% of the ERDF grant
Included	Lump sums for preparation and Initiation Phase		Lump sum for closure



Cost Categories (7.2)

Category	Option 1	Option 2
Staff Costs	Flat rate – 20% of direct costs	Standard scale of unit costs – calculation of hourly rate by each PP
Office & Administration	Flat rate -15% of the staff costs	
Travel & Accommodation	Flat rate - 5% of the staff costs	
External Expertise & Services	Real cost	
Equipment	Real cost	
Infrastructure & Construction works	Real cost	

Overview of EUI-IA Project Lifecycle

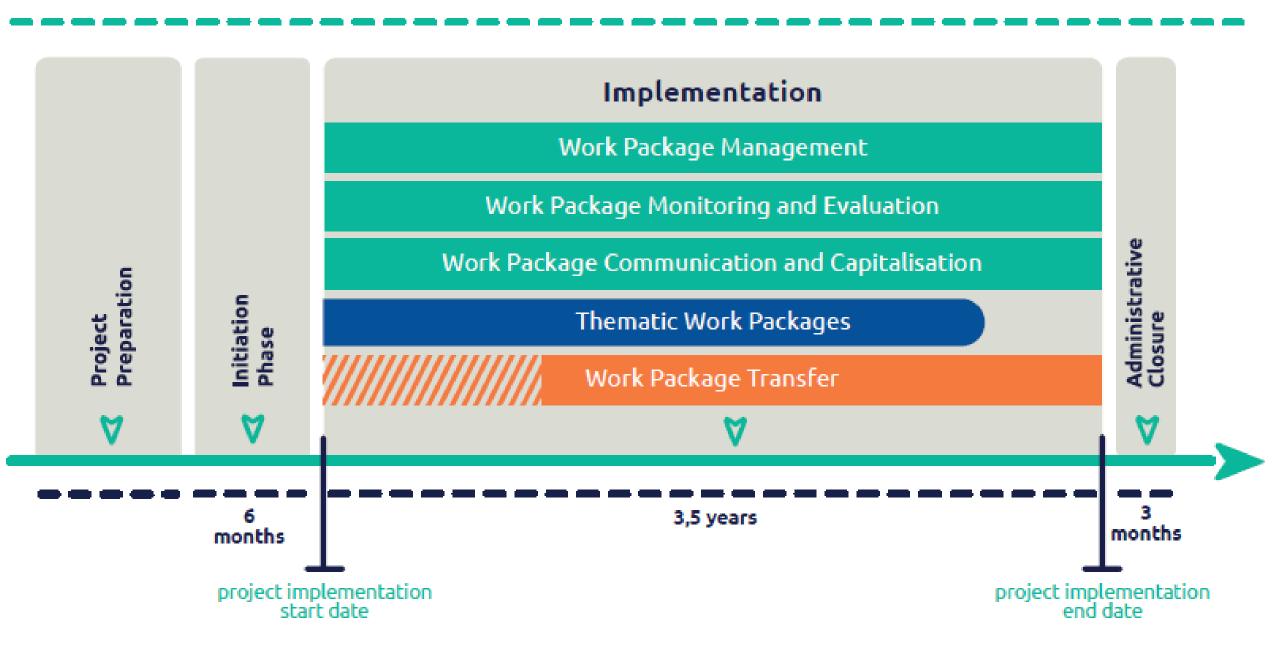
SELECTION:

- Call Launch
- Submission of Application Forms (100% paperless Electronic Exchange Platform (EEP))
- Call Closure
- Eligibility Assessment
- Strategic Assessment (70%)
- Operational Assessment (30%)
- Selection Committee decision

IMPLEMENTATION:

- (**Preparation Phase**) covered by lump-sum; ends with approval of project for funding Project
- Initiation Phase 6 months starting with official approval of the project, covered by lump-sum
- Implementation Phase 3.5 years
- Administrative Closure 3 months starting with the official end date of the project, covered by lump-sum

PROJECT PHASES



EUI-IA Call 1 – Project Example

Project Name: Green infrastructure InterACTive management and regeneration tested through

River Drava Forest Park in Varaždin

Project Acronym: InterACT Green

Total Budget: EUR 5,166,425.60

ERDF: EUR 4,133,140.48

Duration: 01/03/2024 - 31/08/2027

Partnership:

MUA: Grad Varaždin

AUA: Grad Ludbreg

Delivery Partners: Faculty of Organisation & Informatics (FOI), Croatian Forest Research Institute. Public Institution "Nature of Varaždin County", Varaždin Tourist Board

Transfer Partners: Municipality of Kamnik (SI), Municipal Association for Tourism in Sierra Espuna (ES), Municipality of Nyiregyhaza (HU)

Contacts: Slađana Miočić d.i.a., pročelnica Upravnog odjela za gospodarske djelatnosti/Head of Department of Economic Affairs, tel: +385 42 658 012; fax: +385 42 658 021; e-mail: sladana.miocic@varazdin.hr



Overview of EUI-IA Calls for Proposals (1/2)

CALL 1:

- topic: New European Bauhaus
- budget: EUR 65 Mio ERDF
- Call launched on 10 October 2022 and closed on 19 January 2023;
 14 projects selected for funding
- implementation period: March 2024 August 2027

CALL 2:

- topics: Greening Cities, Sustainable Tourism, Harnessing Talents in Shrinking Cities
- budget: EUR 120 Mio ERDF
- Call launched on 31 May 2023 and closed on 5 October 2023; strategic & operational assessment under way
- implementation period: **December 2024 May 2028**

Overview of EUI-IA Calls for Proposals (2/2)

CALL 3:

- topics: Energy Transition & Technology in Cities
- budget: EUR 90 Mio ERDF
- Call launch: 6 May 2024 (close in October 2024)
- implementation period: October 2025 March 2029
- **Urban authorities already supported in an approved project** by the EUI-IA in the framework of a previous Call for Proposals **cannot submit** a new Application Form.

CALL 4: new format

EUI-IA Call 3

Topic 1: Energy Transition

Under the topic 'energy transition', the European Urban Initiative aims at supporting the testing
of transferable and scalable innovative solutions in real-life settings for economically viable,
smarter and more integrated local energy networks, zero carbon and demand driven while
empowering citizens and stakeholders to accelerate the transition.

Prompts:

- Minimizing the energy demand
- Diversifying local energy sources
- Deploying smart and integrated local energy systems
- Maximizing multi-stakeholder and citizens' engagement
- Boosting jobs and skills for the energy transition

EUI-IA Call 3

Topic 2: <u>Technology in Cities</u>

• Under the topic 'technology in cities' the European Urban Initiative aims at supporting the testing of innovative solutions powered by new technologies in real life settings for better services to citizens and/or for boosting local authorities' capacities to offer these services, via experimentations that could be replicated at a wider scale with the help of the Cohesion policy investments.

Prompts:

- Ensuring better and adapted public services
- Consolidating the multilevel and multistakeholder governance, ensuring an effective participatory democracy and stimulate innovation and competitiveness
- Mastering the digital transformation, local data collection and sharing while ensuring the highest standards for data privacy
- Perfecting the Spatial planning and land use and industrial zoning
- Ensuring better services, digital and physical accessibility, and inclusion of persons with disabilities and older population
- Safe, secure and resilient cities
- Strengthening prevention and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters
- Ensuring food security in urban and functional areas
- Cybersecurity

EUI-IA Call 3 Support to Applicants

Support to Applicants (all information/registration links are available on the <u>EUI website</u>):

Online Q&A Sessions

- Thursday 6 June 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 20 June 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 4 July 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 18 July 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 29 August 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 12 September 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 26 September 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST
- Thursday 10 October 2024, 10.00 11.00 CEST

Applicant Seminars (in-person)

- 13th June 2024 Bucharest, Romania
- 27th June 2024 Prague, Czech Republic

Application Form Workshop (in-person)

10th September 2024 Brussels, Belgium

Online 1-1 Consultations

Dates and registration to be published in June 2024

EUI-IA Main Contact Points

- Permanent Secretariat:
 - Contact e-mail: innovativeactions@urban-initiative.eu
 - Project Unit: <u>Domagoj@urban-initiative.eu</u>
 - Finance: zrinka@urban-initiative.eu
- National Urban Contact Point for EUI in Croatia:
 - Contact e-mail: info@udruga-gradova.hr
 - Contact e-mail: marko@udruga-gradova.hr; lucija@udruga-gradova.hr

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions on the EUI offer!

EUI-IA Key Documents

- EUI-IA Guidance
- EUI Website
- <u>Self-Assessment Tool</u>
- EUI-IA Correspondence Table
- Call 1 Selected Projects
- <u>EEP</u> (Electronic Exchange Platform)
- Technical guidance for EEP
- Application Form courtesy working document
- Annex I b) to the Contribution Agreement
- EUI Transfer Platform



Questions & Answers

