

URBACT FOR 2007-2013

URBACT, a community initiative programme which generated from the URBAN programme, was approved by the European Commission in December 2002. Today, it assembles 24 Member States who have elected France to be in charge of its day-to-day management.

URBACT enables the networking between cities from all the Member States around three larger objectives:

- developing the sharing of experiences between all cities currently benefiting or having already benefited from the URBAN 1 & 2 programmes and Urban Pilot Projects and, since 1 May 2004, cities in the Union's 10 new Member States,
- drawing lessons from and capitalizing on each of these experiences,
- passing on what has been learnt and the know-how acquired to all European cities and their partners.

Three changes will be introduced in the URBACT II programme:

- Integrating the programme with the Cohesion Policy's core objectives means broadening its scope: URBACT 2 will also include the role the cities play in the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategy: competitiveness, job creation, sustainable development.
- The elimination of zoning will make all cities eligible. They must, however, be of a minimum size (60% of URBACT 1 partner cities have less than 200.000 inhabitants).
- The ERDF has substantially increased its co-financing rate, providing up to 75% of funds required and even 85% for certain countries.

Following the approval of the URBACT II Operational Programme by the Commission, the first URBACT II call for proposals is open, from 04 December 2007 until 15 February 2008 (updated on 2008.01.11). It covers the 2 thematic priorities of the programme: Priority Axe 1 - Cities, Engines of Growth and Jobs / Priority Axe 2 - Attractive and Cohesive Cities. Cities and public authorities are invited to submit proposals for the creation of 23 Thematic Networks and 7 Working groups. These proposals shall be submitted to the URBACT Secretariat by 15 February 2008, in the form of a Declaration of Interest.

For more information please see the URBACT official website:

www.urbact.org