

INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME



Fostering sustainable urban
development on a global scale

WHAT IS THE IUC?

As the areas in which most people live and work, cities are increasingly acknowledged as the arena in which solutions to major societal and environmental challenges must be developed and implemented.

Cities are the world's primary hubs of economic and cultural activity, a fact which is causing the rate of urbanisation to increase at a rapid pace. This accelerated demographic change has put many cities under significant strain, with local governments often struggling to meet the higher demand for energy, water, health, education and transport services.

The International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme aims to enable cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with both the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens.

Through engaging in the IUC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IUC programme is an opportunity for cities to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.



To find out more, visit:
www.iuc.eu

CITY-TO-CITY PAIRING

Cities who wish to exchange with a city facing related challenges in another global region are encouraged to apply for the IUC city-to-city cooperation programme on sustainable urban development. The programme will enable local leaders and municipal technical experts to connect and gain new perspectives on pressing sustainable development issues.

Representatives from each city will take part in study tours, staff exchange, trainings and seminars, and will design a local action plan to drive sustainable urban development.

INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regions can generate growth through innovation. Cooperation and networking help to drive the innovation process. Regional governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico, are invited to take part in the European Union's IUC region-to-region exchange programme, which will enable them to cooperate with counterparts in the EU to promote innovation, competitiveness and the creation of new opportunities. For more information, visit iuc.eu/regional-cooperation

By joining the IUC city-to-city cooperation, your city will:

- **LEARN:** Get access to new ways of approaching challenges and benefit from a wider pool of good practices to draw upon.
- **SHARE:** Help others solve issues by sharing your own experiences and relaying knowledge.
- **EXCHANGE:** Open your city to dialogue and partnership with new global peers and relevant stakeholders (public and private).
- **SHOWCASE:** Profile your best practices and achievements internationally.
- **IMPLEMENT:** Work with new partners to make your vision of sustainable urban development a reality.
- **COMMIT:** Cooperate for at least 18 months with your international peers, allocate resources and time to develop a successful cooperation which will last beyond the lifetime of this programme.



For more information on applying, contact:
coordination-unit@iuc-europe.eu

GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing ambitious climate and energy objectives on their territory. It is a powerful response by cities to address the climate challenge. Building on the commitment of over 9,000 cities, it is the world's broadest multi-stakeholder alliance committed to local climate leadership.

The Global Covenant of Mayors joins under a single umbrella regional Covenant of Mayors offices located across the globe, each organised along principles and methods that best suit each region.

Regional Covenant offices help coordinate and support engagement with participating cities. They encourage climate action at the local level and help build a community of committed signatories around it.

Whatever the size or location of their jurisdiction, the mayors and local leaders in this alliance stand ready to take concrete measures with long-term impact to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The IUC is separated into three components, each with a unique focal area.



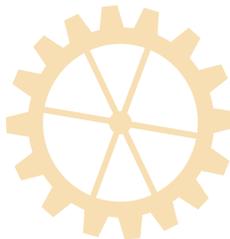
I. CITY-TO-CITY COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

EU cities will be paired up with peers from other regions facing sustainable development challenges. Chosen cities will be supported to share knowledge and best practices on sustainable urban solutions. This will be achieved partly through the development of local action plans, which will outline activities and pilot projects to achieve tangible results. A knowledge-exchange platform will be established with resources and best practices on overcoming specific urban development barriers.



II. SUB-NATIONAL ACTION UNDER THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS INITIATIVE

Cities and other sub-national localities are encouraged to join the Global Covenant of Mayors initiative. Through the Global Covenant of Mayors, local governments commit to acting on mitigation, adaptation and access to energy. Signatory cities benefit from support in the form of technical expertise and cooperation to act on their energy and climate commitments.



III. INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION ON INNOVATION FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Support will focus on ways to improve regional innovation and cooperation in and between two regions: the EU, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The programme will stimulate the development and strengthening of regional strategies involving innovative SMEs, and will promote international value chains. Experience, good practice and lessons learnt will be collected and shared, promoting knowledge management and development.



WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE IUC PROGRAMME?

Contact: IUC Coordination Unit



Phone: +32 (0)2 89 99 141



Visit our website at:
www.iuc.eu



Email: coordination-unit@iuc-europe.eu



Follow us on Twitter:
[@IUC_EU](https://twitter.com/IUC_EU)



A European Union
Programme

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the IUC Coordination Unit and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.