

## Application form for US cities

### Join the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Program

#### Start city-to-city cooperation!

#### How can US cities be involved and apply?

Cities in the US who wish to be paired with a city in the European Union facing similar challenges on their path to achieving sustainable urban development are encouraged to apply for the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation program.

US cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants are eligible to apply.

The program aims to foster links between cities in the United States and the European Union. Through the program, cities will be able to connect and gain new perspectives on pressing issues in sustainable urban development. To find out more about sustainable urban development policies and programs in the EU see the EU [Urban Agenda](#) and [URBACT](#) program which fosters sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe.

In this first call, we are aiming to identify two EU-US city pairings. The two successful US cities will be paired with an EU city tackling related challenges in sustainable urban development, allowing the pairs to build cooperation and share knowledge. This cooperation may help reduce the costs for cities tackling these challenges independently or in isolation. Representatives from each city will take part in study tours, staff exchanges, trainings, and seminars. The two cities will together develop Local Action Plans that are informed by their exchanges.

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

- **COMMIT** – Cooperate for a minimum of 18 months with your European peers and allocate sufficient resources and time to develop successful cooperation which will last beyond the lifetime of this program. There is no maximum length for the city-to-city pairing, but participating cities will only receive support for up to 18 months.
- **LEARN** – Exchange views on new ways of approaching challenges and benefit from a wider pool of good practices to draw upon; receive support in identifying innovative business models for financing local action.
- **SHARE** – Help others to solve issues by sharing your own experiences and knowledge.
- **EXCHANGE** – Open your city to dialogue and partnership with new peers in the EU, and relevant stakeholders
- **SHOWCASE** – Increase the profile of your city's or region's best practices and achievements internationally.
- **IMPLEMENT** – Work with new partners to make your vision of sustainable urban development a reality through developing a Joint Local Action Plan for sustainable urban development in a sector of your choice.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR U.S. CITIES IS FRIDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017!**

Please send completed applications to [info@iuc-na.eu](mailto:info@iuc-na.eu)

**For more information check the [IUC FAQs](#) or contact [info@iuc-na.eu](mailto:info@iuc-na.eu)**

*[Please note: The deadline for questions is September 15th and the FAQs will be updated periodically and posted to the website and the final FAQ document to be posted by no later than Wednesday the 20th]*



## What are cities committing to?

Chosen US cities must commit to cooperating intensively with their partner EU city for at least 18 months, and to share their progress with the partner city, the IUC program and as appropriate with the wider public. Cities also agree to develop a Local Action Plan on an identified thematic priority in sustainable urban development. Afterwards, cities commit to reporting on their progress and on concrete actions to be carried out in the future. The cities involved in the pairing will sign a Partnership Agreement.

The Local Action Plans will follow a common methodology to be determined jointly by the cities. One possible methodology is the [EU-funded URBACT program](#) which involves more than 550 cities. Local Action Plans should be developed through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process.

Each city will develop its own Local Action Plan, and the plan must include activities and economically viable pilot projects that are capable of being realized within the duration of the pairing. It should aim at opening up market opportunities and encouraging the involvement of research, businesses, other levels of government and the local community to ensure sustainability of the proposed actions in the longer term.

Participating cities will become part of a larger international community of peers and stakeholders engaging on sustainable urban development through the International Urban Cooperation initiative.

To ensure a successful exchange and roll-out of measures and actions, cities need to commit an adequate amount of time and resources sufficient both to implement the work and achieve the ambition of the actions planned.

Measures and actions to be implemented should aim at contributing to achieving the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai framework and the Paris Agreement, enhancing quality of life in urban areas.

## Stakeholder Involvement & Metropolitan Areas

Mobilizing a critical mass of diverse stakeholders and key partners (e.g. academia, civil society, business partnerships) working at different levels is a crucial component for the successful development of a Local Action Plan through the planning, roll-out, and implementation of the plan.

In order to increase the reach and impact of this city-to-city pairing, we are encouraging the pairings of metropolitan areas which may include a number of local authorities working together and coordinating the governance of their respective constituencies. Applying as a metropolitan area (e.g. a larger city coordinating the pairing in partnership with smaller local authorities in the area) would be considered an added value.

## Previous cooperation with EU Cities

Does your city already have strong partnerships with cities in the EU? Do you have a history of successful cooperation with an EU city? If so, that's considered an added value for this initiative.

The call for applications for EU cities to participate is already open. More information is available on the [IUC global website](#), and the [application for EU cities is available here](#). *The deadline for EU cities to apply through this separate process is Thursday 21 September.*

**US cities will be paired with an EU partner city after each respective selection process concludes.**



**NOTE: Only fields marked with \* are required.**

**Date Submitted:**

## Part A – City Profile

### Info on the applicant city

1. City Name \*
2. State \*
3. Population (approx.) \*
4. Total city area \*
5. Local government website (URL) \*
6. Please briefly describe your city (general socio-economic description and main urban policy challenges)  
*max 2000 characters* \*

7. Municipal budget (USD) \*
8. Number of municipal employees \*
9. Mayor's name \*
10. Start date of the current Mayoral term\* (*Example: December 15, 2012*)
11. End date of the current Mayoral term\* (*Example: December 15, 2016*)



12. Are you applying as part of a metropolitan area? \*      Yes      No

13. If yes, please list the other municipalities/local authorities that would be involved in this pairing.\*  
*Max 1000 characters*

14. What governance structures (if any) already exist to facilitate coordination between the lead city and other municipalities? \* *Max 1000 characters*

15. Please offer a short explanation of the history of successful cooperation and coordination between local authorities in the metropolitan area. *Max 1000 characters*



## Part B – Contact details

### Contact for application

16. Last name(s), First name(s)\*

17. Function/Job title \*

18. Name of local government \*

20. Name of division/department where you work \*

21. Your department's responsibilities in relation to urban development *max 1000 characters*

22. E-mail address \*

23. Phone number \*

24. I confirm that I am officially authorized by the [Deputy] Mayor to submit this application. \*





## Part C – Motivation, commitment & capacity

### *Capacity (e.g. resources, time, knowledge, skills...)*

25. Please explain the capacity that your city can commit to the IUC city-to-city cooperation (e.g. financial resources, staff time, expertise, knowledge, skills, etc.) \*

26. Who would be your likely team leader and what is their level of responsibility in the municipality? \*  
*Please describe briefly.*

27. Please list names and responsibilities of other likely team members

28. Why are you interested in joining the IUC city-to-city cooperation? \* *max 1000 characters*



29. What experiences does your city wish to share/exchange? \* *max 1000 characters*

30. What does your city wish to learn/exchange through its participation? \* *max 1000 characters*



## Part D – Sector of cooperation and proposed actions for sustainable urban development

### *Sector of cooperation*

31. Which topics/sectors (for which your city has a mandate/responsibility) do you wish to address through this cooperation?

*Examples of thematic fields (the list is non-exhaustive) include:*

Sustainable production/consumption, particularly waste management

Smart cities, innovation, and technology integration

Sustainable buildings

Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions

Low carbon urban mobility and transport

Inclusive, innovative, and sustainable economic growth (this can include social inclusion, gender, education, etc.)

Integrated urban-rural development

Efficient water management and sanitation

Climate change mitigation/adaptation

Energy efficiency/savings

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

32. Please explain why you have selected these three fields *max 2000 characters*





### Proposed Action/Measures/Ideas for a Pilot Project

33. Which proposed actions/measures/ideas have you considered for a pilot project in sustainable urban development, if any? *(the pilot projects will be outlined in your Local Action Plan) Please describe briefly.*  
\* max 2000 characters

34. Has your city already started planning potential solutions for sustainable urban development for the proposed pilot project?

Yes

No

35. If yes, please explain your proposed actions, or your ideas, and their level of advancement. *max 2000 characters*



36. How do you plan to engage the public sector (at different levels), academic community, private sector, civil society organizations and citizens to carry out these actions? Please describe briefly. \* *max 2000 characters*

37. How do you plan to foster social inclusion through your proposed action? *Max 1000 characters*



### Contribution to SDGs, Urban Agendas, Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement

38. How will your proposed actions contribute to the implementation of SDG 11, which aims to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, and to the New Urban Agenda?

39. Please mark as relevant. \*

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

40. Please describe briefly. \* max 1000 characters



## Part E – Previous experiences

### *International & European cooperation and initiatives*

41. Does your city have any previous experience with international exchanges? If so, please briefly outline your activities, the partners involved and specify if connected to EU programs. \* *max 2000 characters*

42. Does your city have any existing ties with EU cities or programs in the field of urban development and innovation? \*

Yes

No

43. If yes, please explain briefly. *max 2000 characters*



44. Does your city have any ongoing city-twinning activities?

Yes

No

45. If yes, please list cities with which you are cooperating and the themes of your cooperation.  
*max 1000 characters*

#### ***Sustainable Urban Development/Stakeholders engagement***

46. Has your city developed a medium or long-term integrated urban development strategy for the whole city? \*

Yes

No

47. If yes, please explain briefly (scope, sectors addressed, methodology and how the actions proposed will link to the strategy, etc.) *max 2000 characters*





48. Does your city have any best practices in the field of sustainable urban development that you are willing to share? \*

Yes

No

49. If yes, please explain briefly, and explain how it could link to the proposed actions. *max 2000 characters*

50. Does your city have any experiences/best practices in innovative financing and business plan development?

Yes

No

51. If yes, please explain briefly, and explain how it could link to the proposed actions. *max 2000 characters*



52. Does your city have experience liaising with other levels of government (e.g. state, federal) for the implementation of sustainable development policies? *Please explain briefly. max 500 characters*

53. Does your city have successful experiences or best practices in working with the business sector, academic research community, civil society organizations, and citizens? \*

Yes

No

54. If yes, please explain briefly, and explain how it could link to the proposed actions. *max 2000 characters*



## Part F – Other

### Preferences

55. Is there a particular EU Member State you would prefer to work with? If you are aware of any specific countries within the EU with relevant cities/experiences in your areas of thematic interest, you can mark them as countries you would like to work with. Please mark them (max. 2 preferences) as well as explain in the box below why you would like to work with them and which is your first and second preference.  
*max 2000 characters*

Austria	Italy
Belgium	Latvia
Bulgaria	Lithuania
Croatia	Luxembourg
Cyprus	Malta
Czech Republic	The Netherlands
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Slovak Republic
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Spain
Hungary	Sweden
Ireland	United Kingdom



56. In the countries mentioned above, are there any specific cities you would prefer to work with? Please name them and explain whether/how your city has had any previous relations with them. *max 2000 characters*

57. In case your application doesn't match with the city/country preferences you mentioned above, would you exclude cooperation with any of the countries listed below? Please specify which if any. *max 500 characters*

#### Other

58. Please include any other relevant information or comments that you consider useful for the application. *max 2000 characters*

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