

IUC-NA

Integrated Local Action Plan (iLAP)

Summary

<u>City:</u>	Bologna	Austin
<u>Province, State, Department...:</u>	Emilia-Romagna region	Texas
<u>Country:</u>	Italy	USA
<u>Population:</u>	912,791	950,000
<u>Size (km²)</u>	140.9 km ² - City 3,703 km ² – Metropolitan area	704.47 km ²
<u>Period of cooperation</u>	November 2017- November 2019	

<u>Cooperation Themes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability with a focus on the circular economy, innovation and creative cities and smart cities. • Climate Resilience
<u>Related SDGs and Urban Agenda topics:</u>	<p>SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – 11- Sustainable cities and communities – 13- Climate Action <p>EU Urban Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Circular economy – Climate adaptation
<u>Key focus of cooperation themes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand on existing entrepreneurs’ programs: Worked together to open a channel between entrepreneurs in Bologna and Austin. – Knowledge exchange on Circular Economy: Austin drew on Bologna’s experience in creating a “Library of Things” and Circular Economy Toolkit while Bologna considered creating a Reverse Pitch Competition similar to Austin’s program. – Metrics for Climate Change Resiliency: Considered applying the metrics to climate change resiliency to the Austin-area similar to that of the City of Bologna



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Integrate Circularity and Resilience: To better understand the relationship between Circular Economy and Climate Resilience,
<p>Key challenges of cooperation theme:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Finding new opportunities for sustainable start-ups (SMEs) and the implementation and scaling-up of nature-based solutions.
<p>Main objectives of cooperation as described in the U-CAP:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To boost circular economy: both cities will exchange respective knowledge and experience. – To improve entrepreneurs’ programs, with a special focus on green jobs: to open/expand channels between entrepreneurs in Bologna and Austin. – To promote Smart city, civic engagement, and open government: to share knowledge and experience aiming to encourage innovation projects.
<p>Short description of main activities and key outputs (e.g. pilot projects):</p>	<p>Representatives from the city of Austin and the Metropolitan City of Bologna participated in Austin’s SXSW Cities Summit and the Open Government Partnership Summit, where they met civic leaders and creative innovators from all over the world to discuss, learn, strategize and coalize to address common pressing issues.</p> <p>For Bologna, the visit to Austin’s forefront initiatives was inspirational and pushed them to innovate and transfer some elements into their work.</p> <p>In November 2019, they also attended Ecomondo in Rimini, Italy, to further their knowledge of green energy solutions. Austin took advantage of their visit to Italy to lead an innovation workshop in Bologna, where city officials and academics discussed the relationship between climate change, resilience, and circular economy, to identify solutions applicable to each city’s context.</p> <p>During their first learning exchange in March 2018, a relationship between Texas’ and Emilia Romagna’s Chambers of Commerce started. As a result, the Metropolitan City of Bologna is supporting the Chamber in implementing a project aimed at bringing together innovative start-ups of Emilia Romagna, active in the hi-tech, big data and life sciences sectors, with Texan partners from the research centres, venture capitalists, and the medical and business sectors. In particular, the Metropolitan City of Bologna supported CCIA in the identification of start-ups and building links with local stakeholders.</p>



	<p>Austin was very impressed during the first learning exchange with the Leila-Library of Things implemented in Bologna, which offers a wide range of tools available for free check-out or low-cost rental. After exchanging technical advice on how to implement such service, Austin will launch this year their Tool Lending Library at the Recycled Reads location.</p> <p>Finally, the Austin service system to support green entrepreneurship, in the sphere of the circular economy (such as the Reverse Pitch Competition and the incubator), led Bologna to launch projects aimed at improving their support services for this particular range of start-ups (e.g., GRESS - Green Start-up Support).</p>
<p>Expected results and benefits:</p>	<p>During the pairing activities, both cities had the opportunity to confront different contexts facing similar problems and challenges. This allowed them to enrich their knowledge, discovering different points of view, methodologies, and solutions, collecting ideas, and stimuli to improve.</p> <p>The pairing activities also enabled the city of Bologna to improve its support services for innovative companies, particularly in the context of the circular economy and learning about open government initiatives.</p>

For further information (including access to the full iLAP), please **contact:**
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