⭐ URBACT II PROJECTS
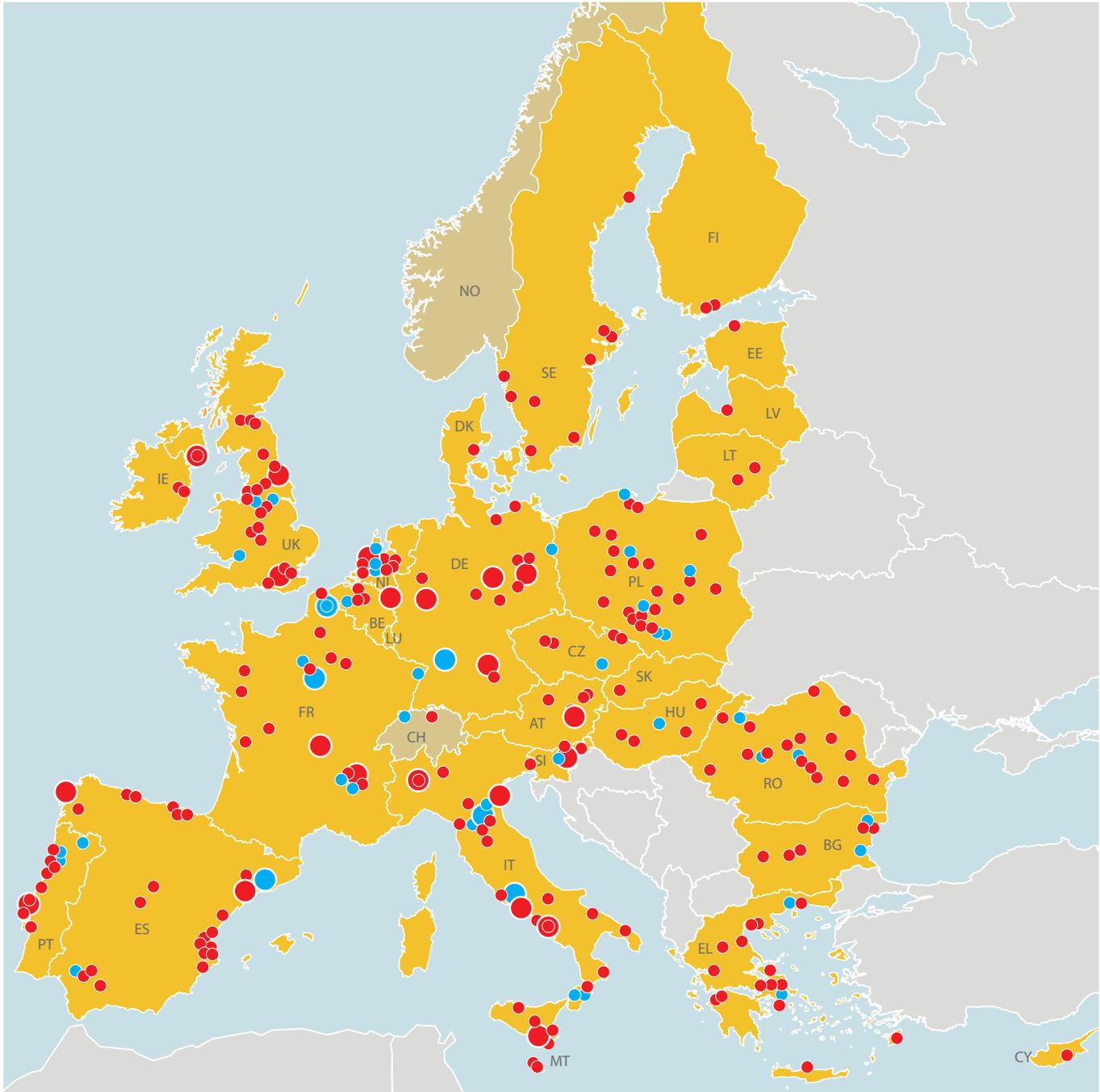
ISSUES ADDRESSED	LEAD PARTNER
Thematic Pole: Cities, Engines of Growth & Job Creation	
Thematic Networks	
Creative Clusters — **Creative clusters in low density urban areas** (diversifying local economic base; using cultural activities as catalysts for development; setting up physical, social, educational environment to attract and retain talented people in "the creative city"; etc.).	Obidos – PT
Fin-Urb-Act — **SMEs and local economic development** (support systems for small scale SMEs and innovative/ high-tech projects; pathways to partnerships between cities and Managing Authorities; communication on support schemes, etc.).	Aachen – DE
OPENCities *(Fast Track Label)* — **Opening cities to build-up, attract and retain human capital** (identifying factors of "openness" and their impact on city attractiveness; increasing and promoting city openness to attract international migrants, etc.).	Belfast – UK
REDIS — **Science districts and urban development** (integrated policies for the development of science/ knowledge districts; multi-level governance issues; etc.).	Magdeburg– DE
RUnUp — **Strengthening endogenous potential of urban poles** (improving local governance of innovation promoting triple helix partnerships for local economic development setting conditions for the stimulation of knowledge-based activities, etc.).	Gateshead - UK
UNIC *(Fast Track Label)* — **Traditional industries and innovation** (strengthening local industries and promoting innovation in the ceramics sector; promoting ceramics traditions as a driver for urban renewal; promoting cultural and industrial heritage, etc.).	Limoges – FR
URBAMECO *(Pilot Fast Track)* — **Regeneration of deprived areas and city-wide/ regional growth and competitiveness** (fostering economic growth opportunities; integrated neighbourhood development plans; local partnerships and involvement of local communities, etc.).	Greater Lyon - FR
Urban N.O.S.E. — **Urban incubators for social enterprises** (fostering inclusive development policies; consolidating inter-institutional partnerships; connecting local authorities and the Service sector, etc.).	Gela – IT
WEED — **Women at work** (improving working conditions, promoting/ supporting entrepreneurship, fostering employment in IT and scientific/ knowledge-based sectors, etc.).	Celje - SI

ISSUES ADDRESSED	LEAD PARTNER
Thematic Pole: Cities, Social Inclusion & Governance	
Thematic Networks	
Active A.G.E. — **Strategies for cities with an ageing population** (supporting employment; improving long-term and home-based care services; fighting social exclusion and insecurity; fostering inter-generational solidarity as a driver for elderly-sensitive urban development policies; assessing the impact of ageing in urban planning; etc.).	Roma - IT
Building Healthy Communities *(Fast Track Label)* — **Urban factors influencing health** (indicators and criteria for a healthy sustainable urban development; healthy sustainable lifestyles; use of structural funds in addressing health issues).	Torino - IT
City Region Net — **Urban sprawl and development of hinterlands** (planning tools and financial schemes for a sustainable city-hinterland development; cooperation at regional level).	Graz –AT
Co-Net — **Approaches to strengthening social cohesion in neighbourhoods** (area-based and integrated approaches to neighbourhood development; new governance structures for the integration of socio-cultural, educational and economic dimensions, etc.).	Berlin – DE
MILE *(Pilot Fast Track)* — **Managing migration and Integration at local Level** (enterprise development for ethnic minorities and active inclusion in the labour market; cultural diversity and social cohesion; access to key services, etc.).	Venice - IT
My Generation — **Promoting the positive potential of young people in cities** (transforming passivity and alienation into positive personal and professional aspirations; fostering active transitions from education to work; holistic coordination of youth related initiatives, etc.).	Rotterdam – NL
Reg Gov *(Fast Track Label)* — **Governance in integrated urban development** (long-term integrated policies and financial planning for sustainable regeneration of deprived areas; monitoring progress and achievements; sustainable partnerships; city-region governance; neighbourhoods at risk, etc.).	Duisburg – DE
Suite — **Sustainable housing provision** (economic viability and social mix; environmental quality standards, etc.).	Santiago de Compostela – ES
Working Groups	
JESSICA 4 Cities — **JESSICA and Urban Development Funds** (design and implementation of funding schemes; territorial evaluation and diagnoses; city projects and Operational Programmes, etc.).	Regione Toscana – IT
Joining Forces — **Strategy and governance at city-region scale** (spatial planning; mobility and transport; environmental issues; development of knowledge-based economies; attractiveness and competitiveness; social inclusion, participation, empowerment; governance mechanisms, etc.).	Lille Metropole - FR

ISSUES ADDRESSED	LEAD PARTNER
Thematic Pole: Cities & Integrated, Sustainable Development	
Thematic Networks	
C.T.U.R. — **Cruise Traffic and Urban Regeneration** (physical and environmental regeneration of port-areas; cruise traffic and port-heritage as drivers for economic and social development; planning and management of cruise development, etc.).	Napoli – IT
Hero *(Fast Track Label)* — **Cultural heritage and urban development** (revitalisation policies; protection of visual integrity; integrated systems for the management of cultural heritage).	Regensburg - DE
Net Topic — **City model for intermediate/ peripheral metropolitan cities** (managing urban identity; governance issues; fighting urban fragmentation; regeneration of brownfields, military sites, etc.; transforming a mono-functional city into a multifunctional city).	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat –ES
REPAIR — **Regeneration of abandoned military sites** (socio-economic regeneration of abandoned military heritage sites as a driver for sustainable urban development).	Medway - UK
Working Groups	
EGTC — **Sustainable development of cross-border urban areas** (local and multi-level governance systems).	Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière – FR
H-OPUS — **Design coding for sustainable housing stock** (governance for the implementation of design coding; quality standards for urban and architectural design, etc.).	University Roma, CITERA Sapienza – IT
LUMASEC — **Sustainable land use management** (managing urban sprawl; fostering attractiveness; strategies for local decision-makers, etc.).	University of Karlsruhe – DE
NODUS — **Spatial planning and urban regeneration** (improving coordination of area-based regeneration and regional/metropolitan planning; integrated policies, etc.).	Generalitat de Catalunya - ES

★ THE URBACT II PARTNERS

Thematic Networks

🔴 Lead Partner

🔴 Partners

Working Groups

🔵 Lead Partner

🔵 Partners

www.urbact.eu

URBACT Secretariat
194, avenue du Président Wilson
93217 Saint-Denis La Plaine
Tel. : 00(33) 01 49 17 46 02
Fax : 00(33) 01 49 17 45 55

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

⭐ URBACT II

**EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

URB
ACT

Following URBACT I 2002-2006, the **URBACT II** programme for sustainable urban development takes part in implementing the Lisbon-Gothenburg Strategy (priority to competitiveness, growth and jobs). It manages the exchange of experience among European cities and the capitalisation/dissemination of knowledge on all issues related to sustainable urban development.

Specifically, URBACT II aims to:
❯ **Facilitate the exchange of experience and learning** among city policy-makers, decision-makers and practitioners;
❯ **Widely disseminate the good practices and lessons drawn** from the exchanges and ensure the transfer of know-how;
❯ **Assist city policy-makers and practitioners, as well as managers of Operational Programmes**, to define action plans for sustainable urban development.

URBACT II is structured along two thematic axes:

❯ **PRIORITY AXE 1-Cities, Engines of Growth and Jobs**
  - Promoting Entrepreneurship
  - Improving Innovation and Knowledge Economy
  - Employment and Human Capital
❯ **PRIORITY AXE 2 - Attractive and Cohesive Cities**
  - Integrated development of deprived areas and areas at risk of deprivation
  - Inclusion
  - Environmental issues
  - Governance and Urban Planning

A commitment to fostering integrated approaches to urban issues cuts across all themes in URBACT. Efforts to promote economic competitiveness cannot disregard issues of social cohesion, and alternately slow economic growth can have a negative impact on social cohesion. Consequently, projects shall address one of these themes as a dominant entry point while exploring connections with the others.

The URBACT II programme brings together the 27 European Union Member States, as well as Norway and Switzerland.
Its beneficiaries may be:
❯ Cities
❯ National authorities
❯ Regional authorities
❯ Universities and research centres

European city networks, European thematic networks dealing with urban development, national and transnational networks of local authorities, as well as private actors may also be partners in the programme.

Project partners are co-financed:
❯ Up to 80% ERDF for partners from Convergence areas
❯ Up to 70% ERDF for partners from Competitiveness areas
❯ Up to 50% national contributions for partners from Norway and Switzerland

The European Commission's 'Regions for Economic Change' initiative fosters identification, testing and dissemination of good practices in the sphere of economic modernisation, growth and job creation, as well as the inclusion of innovative policies into European mainstream programmes.
The Commission grants the *Fast Track Label* to Thematic Networks which develop strong participation on the part of Managing Authorities of operational programmes and address one of the seven priority areas under 'Regions for Economic Change'.

Seven URBACT Thematic Networks have been given the *Fast Track Label* so far and receive active support from the Commission.

EXCHANGE AND LEARNING
ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Thematic Networks and Working Groups focussing on key urban issues will enable cities and other public authorities to meet and exchange experience, identify good practices and learn lessons to disseminate to urban policy-makers and practitioners.
21 Thematic Networks and 6 Working Groups are currently operating at local level and participating, within the framework of Thematic Poles at programme level, in the development of capitalisation / dissemination activities .
3 Thematic Poles have been created to date:

CITIES, ENGINES OF GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

Cities are increasingly recognised as the "motors" of economic change in modern knowledge-based societies. However, they also contain the largest concentrations of social and environmental problems. Both facts have taken cities out of their traditional role of purely physical and land planning into exploring new ways of intervening in social and economic fields as part of urban sustainable development.

9 projects are currently operating in this Thematic Pole. They will make a series of specific contributions on the role that cities can play as sources of innovation and creativity and as places which can fully develop the human potential of all their inhabitants.

> **Creative Clusters**
> **Fin-Urb-Act**
> **OPENCities**
> **REDIS**
> **RUnUp**
> **UNIC**
> **URBAMECO**
> **Urban N.O.S.E.**
> **WEED**

CITIES, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND GOVERNANCE

To tackle urban problems, European cities have developed some of the most sophisticated and concerted policies and practices aimed at promoting social inclusion and managing diversity. Despite these strengths, the response is uneven and has varying success.

10 projects have undertaken to work within this Thematic Pole, on issues related to demographic challenges facing cities, housing, disadvantaged neighbourhoods, urban sprawl, multi-level governance, etc.:

> **Active A.G.E.**
> **Building Healthy Communities**
> **City Region Net**
> **Co-Net**
> **JESSICA 4 Cities**
> **Joining Forces**
> **MILE**
> **My Generation**
> **Reg Gov**
> **Suite**

CITIES AND INTEGRATED, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Integrated approaches to urban development are increasingly recognised as offering a more efficient response to the growing complexity of our urban societies. In order to address contemporary urban development challenges, policies combining physical, social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions have steadily replaced policy models primarily targeting physical regeneration. It is crucial today to further explore both the possibilities for development and transfer of practice in this respect, as well as the need to adopt tailor-made responses to specific contexts.

8 projects are currently working within this pole, exchanging experiences on topics such as planning for developing metropolitan areas, polycentric urban identities, cultural heritage as a driver for socio-economic development, housing and quality of life, port tourism as a feature of integrated coastal cities, etc.

> **C.T.U.R.**
> **EGTC**
> **Hero**
> **H-OPUS**
> **LUMASEC**
> Net Topic
> **NODUS**
> **REPAIR**

NEXT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

A new call for proposals for the creation of Thematic Networks and Working Groups focusing on a limited number of urban themes will be launched in June 2009.

STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT ON LOCAL POLICIES

URBACT II puts emphasis on the impact of project activities on urban development policies and practices. This will be ensured through several new features and tools.

❯ LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Each URBACT partner commits to producing a Local Action Plan. This concrete output will address the problems identified at the beginning of the project and draw on the results of the exchange and learning activities implemented over the life of the project.

❯ URBACT LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Each URBACT partner is required to set up a Local Support Group gathering the local stakeholders most concerned by the issue. Those groups will especially contribute to exchanges (preparing case studies, etc.) and to the production of the Local Action Plan. They have their own dedicated budget.

❯ PARTICIPATION OF MANAGING AUTHORITIES

The URBACT II programme strongly encourages the participation of Managing Authorities of European operational programmes in the Thematic Networks' and Working Groups' activities in order to increase the impact of these activities on local policies. More than 200 Managing Authorities are currently associated with the ongoing projects.

❯ PROJECT PHASING

The creation of projects is a two-step process, including a phase for project development and a phase for the implementation of planned activities. The approval of the Monitoring Committee is required to enter both phases:

1 **Development phase:** 6 months for Thematic Networks / 4 months for Working Groups are dedicated to project development (completion of partnership; production of a baseline study including all partners; definition of themes and related outputs, etc.).

2 **Implementation phase:** once they have been approved, projects start with exchange and learning activities, production of outputs, dissemination, etc.

STRENGTHENING THE CAPITALISATION / DISSEMINATION PROCESS

Building on existing experience, producing new knowledge and disseminating it in such a way that it can be of use to the widest audience - these are **the goals of the capitalisation and dissemination process** that lie at the core of URBACT II.

❯ EXPERTISE AND LEAD EXPERTS

Each project can appoint one or more experts to support their activities in terms of methodology and thematic input. The experts are to be chosen from the pool of experts who have been qualified for URBACT II (list of experts available on www.urbact.eu).

Each project appoints a 'Lead Expert' to support it throughout its entire duration and to participate on its behalf in programme level activities, particularly regarding capitalisation and dissemination initiatives.

❯ THEMATIC POLES

Thematic Poles represent the main URBACT II tool for improving both the effectiveness of exchanges and learning at project level and the capitalisation process at programme level.

❯ ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership agreements will be developed, particularly with European city networks, European thematic networks, national and transnational local authority networks, etc.

❯ NATIONAL DISSEMINATION POINTS

To reach urban practitioners, URBACT II will disseminate programme results in their national language with the support of web sites within the various member and partner States, which notably have a wide impact upon urban practitioners. A Call for tenders will be opened during the 1st semester 2009.