International Urban Cooperation
Fostering Sustainable Urban Development on a global scale

XXII EU Days: Sustainable urban development in global agendas and European initiatives for local entities
Barcelona, 30.01.2018
George Stiff, IUC Coordination Unit
WHAT IS THE IUC?

The three-year *International Urban Cooperation* (IUC) programme aims to enable cities 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.

The IUC programme activities will support the achievement of bilateral policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change such as the *Sustainable Development Goals*, the *EU Urban Agenda* and the *Paris Agreement*. 
IUC CONNECTS THE EU WITH THE WORLD
OBJECTIVES

EU’S LONG-TERM STRATEGY TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTORS

FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING

OPEN UP COOPERATION & MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
- EU’S URBAN AGENDA
- PARIS AGREEMENT...

- ASIA: CHINA, INDIA & JAPAN *
- LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN: ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLOMBIA & PERU
- NORTH AMERICA: CANADA, MEXICO & USA

*COMPONENT #2 ALSO INCLUDES: INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA & VIETNAM
The **SDGs** aim to provide an **international framework** to enable countries to better target and monitor progress across all three dimensions of **sustainable urban development** (social, environmental and economic) in a coordinated and holistic way.

The goals will be applicable to **all countries**, regardless of their level of development.
The EU's vision of the future global "New Urban Agenda" is based on the understanding that an integrated and place-based approach to urban development, together with a long-term vision, is necessary in order to promote cities to be:

- well-managed
- socially-inclusive
- safe
- resilient
- resource-efficient
- environmentally-sustainable
- economically-prosperous
IUC fosters local action in support of cities’ contributions to climate goals, as outlined in the Paris Agreement backed by 195 signatory countries at COP21, by working with the Global Covenant of Mayors.
I. City-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development

By pairing up EU with non-EU partner cities, the IUC boosts access to expertise in urban development policy, helping cities promote smart, green, and inclusive growth. Working with like-minded partners, it fosters better ways to plan, finance, develop, govern and manage cities, and supports the New Urban Agenda decided in Quito.

II. Sub-national action under the Global Covenant of Mayors initiative

Cities consume two-thirds of the world’s energy. The Covenant of Mayors Initiative promotes local actions and facilitates city-to-city cooperation to reduce CO2 emissions, adapt to climate change and ensure access to clean and affordable energy.

III. Inter-regional cooperation on innovation for local and regional development

Cities and regions can generate growth by innovating and sharing expertise on clustering, global value chains and Smart Specialisation Strategies. This is important in Latin America where governments are trying to diversify their commodity-driven economies.
CITY-TO-CITY COOPERATION
By joining the IUC city-to-city cooperation, your city will:

**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

**LEARN:** Get access to new ways of approaching challenges, and benefit from a wider pool of *good practices* to draw upon

**SHARE:** Help others to 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.*
Participating cities commit to cooperate for at least 18 months with international peers, allocate resources and time to develop a successful cooperation which will last beyond the lifetime of this programme.
FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

• Building further on the model and success of the World Cities project and drawing on the solid approach of the EU-funded URBACT network

• City pairs will be supported in their efforts to design and implement Local Action Plans. These will be developed through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process and include specific activities and economically-viable pilot projects to be implemented in order to ensure results and open up market opportunities.

• These plans will help drive thematic clustering of knowledge, exchange and best practices among cities facing similar challenges.
GLOBAL PAIRINGS

70+ cities involved so far worldwide, coming from 20 different countries.
35 EU cities paired up so far (12 EU nations):
- 10 with *Asian* cities (2 Spanish)
- 14 with *Latin American* cities (4 Spanish)
- 11 with *North American* cities (2 Spanish)

Topics:
- Education/skills
- Employment
- Gender equality
- Health
- Housing
- Land-use
- Mobility
- Nature-based solutions
- Poverty
- Production/consumption
- Smart innovations
- Social inclusion
- Urban-rural development
- Water and waste...
Eligible EU cities should apply with the (upcoming) link on the IUC website’s City-Pairings page:

- Cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants
- Groups of municipalities will also be eligible to apply, but only if:
  - their total population >50,000
  - clear commitment of all involved
  - a single lead urban authority identified
  - lead administrative contact provided
- Regions/provinces cannot apply

There are certain financial restrictions which applicants should also consider:

- IUC will only cover certain incidental costs within the 18 month period, e.g.:
  - Travel
  - Accommodation...
- IUC will not cover other costs, e.g.:
  - Staff capacity, salaries or per-diems
  - Key experts or their studies
  - Projects’ funding or implementation...
## CITY SELECTION ROUNDS

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<td>United States</td>
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GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS
Vision:

We envision a world where committed mayors and local governments - in alliance with partners - accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate-resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.
Mission:

The Global Covenant of Mayors serves cities and local governments by mobilizing and supporting ambitious, measurable, planned climate and energy action in their communities by working with city/regional networks, national governments and other partners to achieve a common vision.
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

• Help Desk
  • Resource exchange
  • Stakeholder mapping
• Governance
  • Organisational structure
  • Stakeholder engagement
• Communication
  • Online channels
  • Involvement in public events
3 IUC INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION
OBJECTIVES - CREATING ADDED VALUE

1. Transferring *knowledge into value*
2. Market share, employment growth, value chains, prosperity, greater *social benefits*

DIMENSIONS - DEVELOPING A PROCESS

1. *Technological* infrastructure and processes
2. *Organizational* practices and structures
3. *Regional* strengths and capabilities
I. Analyze own strengths, weaknesses, competitive advantages and potential for excellence

II. Engaging innovation actors (in particular the private sector) to validate, involve and leverage the strategy and its priorities

III. Develop a joint vision for the region and identify priority areas for support to innovation

IV. Improve internal knowledge flows and regional innovation systems, but also focus on external relations to maximize the potential for cooperation and position in global value chains

V. Set clear, measurable and realistic targets, monitor their compliance, adjusting policies and funding as necessary
Only with LAC, **3 regional pairings so far:**
- Cantabria, Spain ⇔ Chihuahua, Mexico
- Lazio, Italy ⇔ Bogotá-Cundinamarca, Colombia
- Bielsko-Biała, Poland ⇔ western São Paulo, Brazil
CONNECT TO IUC
www.iuc.eu

- General information
  - English (International & NA)
  - Mandarin Chinese
  - Hindi
  - Japanese
  - Spanish (LAC & NA)
  - Portuguese (LAC)
- News
- Access to resources (e.g. FAQs)
- Link to knowledge-sharing platforms (coming soon)
Resources (coming soon):
• Case studies
• Newsletters
• Publications
• Webinars...

Dissemination channels:
• Twitter account: @IUC_EU
• Mailing list (please sign up by writing to support@iuc-europe.eu)
• Email: coordination-unit@iuc-europe.eu
• Website: www.iuc.eu
QUESTIONS?
We look forward to exchanging with you!

GRÀCIES! THANK YOU!
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