

SEARCH FOR PARTNER / PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Title

Reach the Goals (provisional)

Programme to be submitted:

URBACT III OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME: ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS

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Description of the Lead City:

The city of Manresa, a millenary medium-sized town with a population of 75.475 (2016) and a surface area of 41,66 km², is located in the heart of Catalonia, nearby Barcelona (60 km), between the Pyrenees and the Costa Brava. At the crossroads of two rivers (Llobregat and Cardener) and three strategic communication axes in Catalonia, Manresa has an industrial and commercial tradition. It's the capital of Bages county (175.000 inhabitants) and it plays a very important role of administrative capital of a wider territory: the so-called Central Catalonia (over 250.000 people).

The city centre continues to offer a wide variety of local commercial establishments, which coexists with new trends of commercial distribution. As a capital of the Bages county and main city of Central Catalonia region, Manresa is a great provider of services in fields as

health, education, public administration, research and advanced services consultancy services.

Manresa is also a vibrant city with lots of cultural and artistic events during the year. It has three theatres, four museums and some auditoriums with regular programming. It celebrates some special and well-known events once a year: Fira Mediterrània (a festival of musical and performing arts with Mediterranean and traditional roots) in October and Fira de l’Aixada (medieval fair) and the Light Fest (light festival and performances) in February. During 2018, Manresa is the capital of the Catalan Culture.

Project background:

The 2030 Agenda, adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015, set a total of seventeen global goals in order to reach a sustainable development in a secure world and leaving no one behind. These goals are known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and they are sustained on five pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships (the 5Ps):



Around two thirds of the actions set to reach the SDGs need the support or direct intervention from local and regional governments to be implemented. That’s why the Agenda 2030 urges cities all over the world to “localize” the SDGs and to involve their citizens as well as public and private stakeholders in the action planning, implementation and assessment of results related to the achievement of the SDG at local level.

Within this context, the city of Manresa has started a process to align its municipal policies with the 17 SDGs. However, the alignment process involves important policy challenges that Manresa, like many other cities, has to face up with if it wants to be successful in the incorporation of SDGs in their city strategy and local policies. These challenges have mainly to

do with how to adapt administrative culture and internal ways of work to the objective, how to engage citizenship in the process and how to measure impact of SDG in each city, thus improving accountability of local government.

Manresa City Council aims to work with other medium sized European cities around these challenges in order to share and learn from peers across Europe, as well as to jointly design innovative solutions in the format of integrated action plans.

Thematic Objective:

- URBACT Thematic objective number 1: **Strengthening research, technological development and innovation**
- ERDF Thematic objective number 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

Other URBACT Thematic Objectives related:

- Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors (TO4)
- Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management (TO5)
- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (TO6)
- Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty (TO9)

Policy challenge:

The project aims to produce an Integrated Action Plan to address a specific policy challenge, which is **to incorporate the SDGs in the strategy of each city partner through administrative changes and civil engagement**. The involvement of municipal staff and local stakeholders in the participatory action-planning process is going to be crucial in order to reach a successful localization of SDGs in each city partner as well as later implementation and assessment for accountability.

Main issues

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governance, URBACT, sustainability, strategic planning, municipal policies, civil engagement, accountability, resilience.

Specific objectives of the project

- To produce an integrated, horizontal and participative action plan to incorporate Sustainable Development Goals in each city partner strategy

- To share and learn among European cities methodologies to connect local policies with Sustainable Development Goals through the active involvement of municipal staff and organisational changes
- To establish participative methods for involving local communities and achieving a successful civil engagement in the process of localizing SDGs in each city partner
- To define indicators at local level in order to assess the level of implementation of SDGs and to improve local governments accountability
- To increase the resilience and sustainability of all participant cities

Work plan and activities foreseen:

Phase 1 is going to last for **6 months** and it has the objective of setting the foundations of the network. In order to do it, two **work packages** have been defined with the final objective of developing the candidature to second phase:

Work package 1- Project management and coordination

Work package 2- Project development

Phase 2 is going to last **24 months** and it has the objective of producing Integrated Action Plans. To do so, four work packages are foreseen:

Work package 1 – Project management and coordination

Work package 2 – Transnational exchange and learning

Work package 3 – Impact on local governance and urban policies

Work package 4 – Communication and dissemination

Activities foreseen in Phase 1:

- **Exchange activities** among all the city partners to develop a common vision of the policy challenges and issues to be addressed through the Integrated Action Plan
- **Study visits** to each city partner in order to know and share local situation, needs and expected results from each city partner
- **Baseline study** with the state of the art, partner profiles and synthesis
- **Enlarging the network**, up to maximum 12 partners

Desired partner profile (country, activity/sector, experience)

2 city partners from More Developed EU regions

2 city partners from Less Developed EU regions

(except Spanish ones)

The partners should be municipalities between 50.000 and 250.000 inhabitants, preferably.

Budget:

Total budget Phase 1: max. 100.000€

Total budget Phase 1 and Phase 2: between 600.000€ and 750.000€

Grant:

- Partners from 'more developed' regions shall be co-financed at up to 70% by ERDF
- Partners from 'less developed' and 'transition' regions shall be co-financed at up to 85% by ERDF

Deadline of the call of proposals: starting on 7th of January and ending around March - April 2019

Deadline of manifestation of interest: until the end of December 2018

European experience and previous projects:

- URBACT Transfer Network entitled Re-growCity, Phase 1. Its aim is to develop interventions that are built on local capabilities to arrest and reverse long term social, economic and environmental decline. Altena, the lead city, has a track record of recognised good practices that facilitate the development of sustainable initiatives with a minimum of external resource input. This network will support partners to revitalise public services and the economy, regenerate the urban fabric and develop civil society in a context of long term decline.
- UrbanWINS (Urban metabolism accounts for building Waste Management Innovative Networks and Strategies) – HORIZON2020 Program acting as a pilot city in which the assessment is being carried out using an urban metabolism assessment and participatory methodologies with the aim of improving waste prevention and management in European municipalities.
- Manresa2022 is a project financed by FEDER Catalonia program with the aim of improving the arrival of Saint Ignatius of Loyola pathway in town. As a result, urban quality in historical center is going to be improved. This project is going to be developed until 2020 and has a budget over 2 million of euros.
- Vi de Tina is a project financed by FEDER Catalonia program with the objective of recovering agricultural heritage related with traditional wine production. Moreover, "Vi de Tina" wants to recover wine production.
- Eurotowns-European network of 17 small and medium cities, candidate to become European Union cities of excellence, that wants both to contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives and to the achievement of global challenges. It's a network of cities which want to put social cohesion, innovation, knowledge and participation of local communities at the centre of their policies of sustainability. More info at www.eurotowns.org
- ACTE-European Textile Collectives Association. More info at: www.acte.net
- Network of Cities and Villages towards Sustainability (Catalonia). More info at www.diba.cat/en/web/xarxasost/inici
- NetwerCH2O - Promoted by Fundació CTM (Technological Centre of Manresa) in consultation with the European Commission, NetwerCH2O is a European organization which fosters supports and improves the application of sustainable practices in the use of water at regional and municipal level.
- Manresa city hall has also participated in INTERREG III and IV and URBACT-REDIS initiatives.