**EU pilot project for fostering the development and promotion of the European Network of Family-Friendly Cities**

**Project objective**

It is important for every city to ensure that families living in it are provided with all necessary qualitative living (for example, services, infrastructure, environmental quality, etc.). Strong and prosper families are the source of economical development.

Providing sustainable family-friendly environment is particularly important in small and medium-sized cities, as it is an essential prerequisite for families to choose to live in small and medium-sized cities, which have faced a decline in population in recent years.

In the framework of the project, each city will develop an integrated, sustainable action plan to make their cities family-friendly. Proposals will be developed based on the developed action plans and good experiences of cities for development of common EU evaluation system for the "Family-friendly Cities".

So far, in some EU countries, activities have been carried out to assess and highlight family-friendly cities. The aim of the EU pilot project would be to combine existing practices and to develop a common EU evaluation system for the "Family-friendly Cities".

The further aim of project could be to make “family-friendly Cities” as a brand for cities.

**Project activities**

Member states, regional and local authorities with existing experience and initiatives establish common pilot mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of family friendly municipality on EU level.

Exchange experience and best practices regarding the approaches how monitoring and evaluation of family friendly municipality have been carried out in different countries and at different levels.

**Working methods**

Baseline studies in each partner city

Study visits in partner cities

International meetings with project management experts and additional experts

Local action group meetings

**Communication and dissemination activities**

Regular updates of the project mini-site on the URBACT website

Production and Dissemination of project results (newsletters, brochures, press releases)

Organisation of a final event open to all target groups and dissemination events at partners’ level

Participation to external events to promote the network

**Project composition**

Lead partner – Daugavpils city in cooperation with project partner Ministry of Environmental protection and Regional Development of Republic of Latvia

Partners – max. 7 cities

**Project budget**

600 000€

**Future objectives after pilot project will be completed**

Development of international criteria for evaluating family friendly municipality.

International competition according to common criteria.

Regulations on the condition of qualification as a "Family-friendly Cities".

Quality marks/certificates which receive those municipalities which qualify as "Family-friendly Cities".