

# EUniverCities:

## Where cities and universities cooperate



Cities face major challenges in terms of urban development, financial crisis, rising unemployment rates, energy reduction. New technologies and innovation concepts are needed to make progress in these and other fields. Universities play a crucial part in delivering solutions for all kind of urban problems and in co-creating resilient cities and regions.

### How it all started

After consultations and an initial search for cities the EUniverCities Network was launched in January 2012. Shortly afterwards the City of Delft successfully filed an application under the 3<sup>rd</sup> URBACT Call for Proposals, collaborating with nine other cities in- and outside the network. The URBACT project gives a boost to learning and exchanging between cities and their universities.



The network currently comprises 15 members and observers from all over Europe: Aachen, Aalborg, Brno, Delft, Gent, Lausanne, Linköping, Lublin, Magdeburg, Norrköping, Tampere, Toulouse, Trondheim, Varna and Zaragoza.

### Cooperation matters

21<sup>st</sup> century problems require 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions. Government bodies, universities, research institutes, businesses and civil society need each other to tackle societal issues. Without the right support, engagement and responsibility of relevant stakeholders plans for change remain just wishful thinking.

### How we work

Within the framework of EUniverCities local authorities and their universities act as tandems. This is a prerequisite for acting

in the network and a natural outcome within the project. Tandems exchange and define their views during meetings.

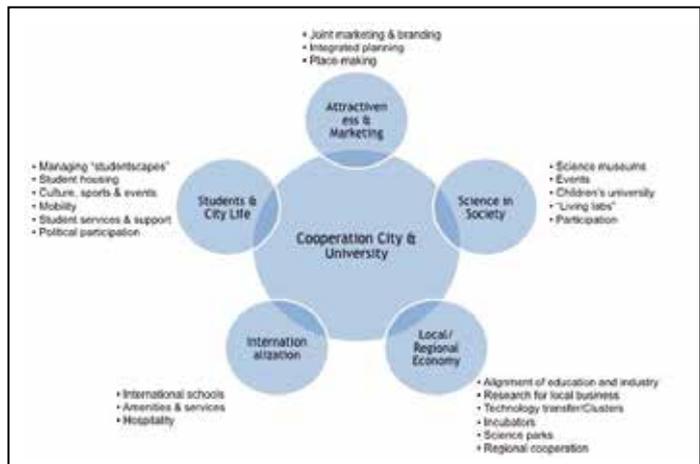
Thematically the focus lies on improving cooperation between the city institutions and the university (or universities if applicable) located within the municipal boundaries. Technology, innovation, entrepreneurship are key elements in both arenas. Other important fields are students and city life, city marketing and science in society.

Each city-university tandem hosting a meeting organizes presentations, lectures and on-site visits. They serve to expose the problems and challenges the city and its university are facing. By adopting the Peer Review methodology all visiting partners reflect, think through and formulate insights and recommendations. They should help the host city to develop new ideas and appropriate policy measures.

The added value of the URBACT Programme is the creation of a Local Support Group (ULSG). ULSGs are the main platform where relevant stakeholders discuss important project developments on a local and European level. They pave the way for the implementation of new ideas.

### Expected results

In addition to an initial Baseline Study, describing every city's challenges and points of departure for improvement, the URBACT project will deliver more outputs: per city a Peer Review report with recommendations, factsheets, two case studies on the role of students and on partnership for placemaking, two Politicians' Meetings, communication items and a final report. The project should help in shaping concrete solutions and finding the necessary funding.



### More information

Interested in EUniverCities? Follow the URBACT project results on <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/innovation-creativity/eunivercities/homepage/> Network developments can be found on <http://eunivercitiesnetwork.com/>

The network is open to new cities and universities. Check with us the opportunities to become involved.

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