

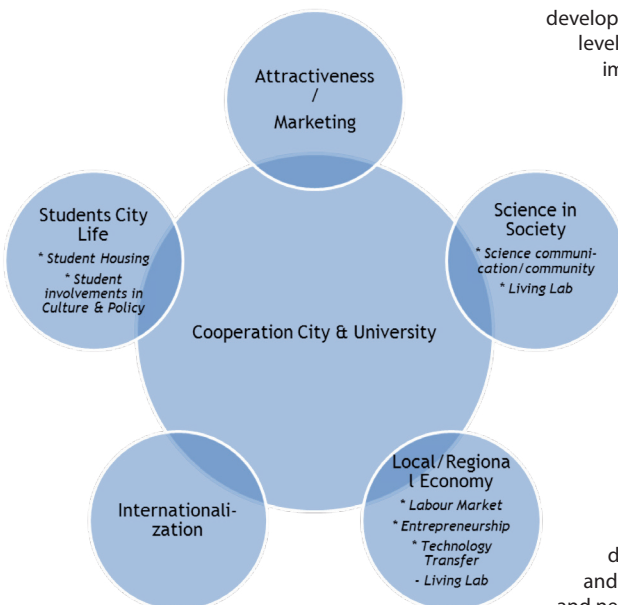
EUNIVERCITIES: CITIES AND UNIVERSITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY AND URBAN LIFE

Economic development, sustainable mobility, local embeddedness, social innovation, housing: to name a few major topics that pertain to cities and their inhabitants. But they are not the sole and exclusive domain of city authorities. Nowadays cities, higher education institutions, businesses and citizens cooperate to obtain the best results for high quality urban life. But how to do so in an effective way?

European network + URBACT project

With this question in mind, the EUniverCities Network was launched in January 2012: a network of city-university tandems that want to learn from each other on how to improve their co-operation. The network currently has 17 members and observers from all over Europe: Aachen, Aalborg, Delft, Gent, Lausanne, Linköping, Lublin, Magdeburg, Norrköping, Parma, Reykjavik, Tampere, Terrassa, Toulouse, Trondheim, Varna and Zaragoza. The network is still growing, as city-university partnership is a key topic for many European cities, universities and the European Commission alike.

After setting up the network, the City of Delft successfully filed an application under the 3rd URBACT Call for Proposals, collaborating with nine other cities in- and outside the network. The URBACT project gives impetus to the process of learning and exchanging between cities and their universities.



Riding on tandems

In EUniverCities, local authorities and their universities act as tandems. The concept is to work together and meet regularly locally, preferably institutionalizing cooperation at different levels. When meeting with other European peers opinions and views may still differ. EUniverCities shows how acting as tandems helps create a better mutual understanding, overcome differences and work on common dossiers.

Let's meet and learn!

Technology, innovation, entrepreneurship are key fields for universities and cities alike. Other important fields of common interest are students & city life, joint city marketing and promoting science in society.

In our meetings, we exchange experiences and learn about new developments and concepts, via presentations, debates and excursions. A particular feature of the EUniverCities "way of working" is Peer Review: sessions in which policies and initiatives of the host city are presented and critically reviewed by the visiting members. This method supports the host city to develop new insights and appropriate policy measures. All European actors learn from each other and go home with fresh ideas. The added value of the URBACT Programme is the creation of a Local Support Group (ULSG) in each member city: local platforms 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

All URBACT project cities will host a meeting: 10 in total. A final meeting is scheduled in Delft, 17-20 March 2015.

In each meeting, the partners develop recommendations for the host city, and the results are published in a Peer Review report and factsheets (summary of main points). Moreover, two thematic papers will also see the light. During two special "politicians" meetings, key decision-makers from partner cities and universities discuss challenges and needs for the future, reflected in



a joint statement to the European institutions. The project concludes with an overall report describing the main findings, learning points and recommendations in city-university cooperation.

More information

You can attend our Open Days workshop 'A Symphony for Progress: Cooperation between the University and the City', code 08A18, Centre Borschette.

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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