

EURO
CITIES

EUROCITIES

annual report
2018



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Daniël Termont,
EUROCITIES president
Mayor of Ghent

Forewords

This is the last time I will address you as EUROCITIES president. I leave proud of the achievements of our network – not only during the last two years.

Our ‘Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens’ campaign has been a highlight for me. I was delighted to see so many people turn up for the launch event in May, and to follow the local initiatives of the more than 90 cities that have been involved so far.

It is clear to me that a genuine partnership between cities, citizens and other levels of government is the only way forward. We have gathered examples and ideas from all over Europe – including many ideas sent to us via postcard – of what people want. Building on the momentum of our campaign, the European Commission approached us to coordinate the organisation of twenty citizens’ panels in cities across Europe. This shows how Cities4Europe has raised our profile as a strong partner in shaping the future of Europe and sent a strong message to the EU that working with cities means working with citizens. We will bring these messages to our second mayor’s summit in Brussels on 20-21 March 2019.

Another key factor in EUROCITIES work this year has been our advocacy efforts for cohesion policy within the EU budget. It represents a vital lifeline of investment for many local authorities – and even more: it is the glue that holds Europe together. In times of political unrest, we need solidarity. That is the basis of EUROCITIES’ daily work. We exchange best practices and share knowledge across national borders to find solutions to common challenges, from climate change to urban poverty.

I am convinced of the fact that our network will stay strong. Moreover, I am confident that our colleagues from Stockholm, taking over the EUROCITIES presidency, will continue to strive for representation of people and cities in politics and decision making at all levels.

In a world that is evolving at great speed, the challenge for EUROCITIES is how to ensure that the needs and views of Europe's major cities are increasingly heard and heeded. That is why, in my fifth year as secretary general, we have spent a lot of time consulting and speaking with members and stakeholders to imagine the urban future together for both our cities and the network. I'm positive that this ongoing exercise will prove time well spent in renewing our long term strategic framework and reinforcing our ways of working, with a view to consolidating EUROCITIES as the leading network of major cities in Europe.

Our strength undoubtedly lies in our members, but also in our values, convictions and results. We are increasingly recognised as a key partner by the European institutions. Through the Urban Agenda for the EU we have been totally committed to working with other levels of government to tackle urban challenges and aim for better regulation, better funding and better knowledge sharing. We must continue to advocate for this experimental model of governance in the future as a way to get Europe closer to its citizens.

This year we have made progress in many other areas, such as social rights for all, better air quality and sustainable mobility, and citizens' engagement. With a view to the looming exit of the UK from the EU in 2019, our members will continue working together in a spirit of openness and cooperation across Europe, symbolically highlighted by holding our annual conference 2018 in Edinburgh.

Europe needs a strong city leadership in order to deliver results that matter to people on the ground. And cities need support in facing tomorrow's challenges and positively shaping their future. That is where EUROCITIES comes in as an effective instrument for cities and a solid urban community with a great potential and drive to build a better Europe. And I am so proud to be part of it!

Anna Lisa Boni,
EUROCITIES secretary general





CITIES4EUROPE Europe for citizens

At a time when Europe is striving to retain its legitimacy and relevance in the face of growing disillusionment and Euroscepticism, cities can provide a critical link in shaping the future of Europe. Our campaign 'Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens' successfully launched in May, with over 90 member cities hosting more than 200 events to show how working with citizens can change the way politics is done in Europe.

We want to

- involve citizens in a dialogue about the future
- inspire all levels of government to build societies where people come first
- impact the way decisions are taken in Europe

We are now collaborating with the European Commission's citizens consultations in reaching out to citizens. This proves that our campaign has put us on the map in shaping a more positive future for Europe. It has sent a strong message to the EU that working with cities means working with citizens.

Our annual conference in Edinburgh welcomed a delegation of over 60 young city ambassadors from across Europe who actively shaped the debate with their views on Europe and the 'city of the future'. Many of our member cities also underlined their commitment to strengthening citizens' participation in politics by signing the 'EUROCITIES declaration on citizens engagement'.

We are already preparing for 20-21 March 2019, when we will meet with European and national leaders at our second mayors' summit in Brussels to present the results of the campaign and launch the EUROCITIES manifesto on our future priorities.

"Today, citizens are increasingly taking collective action locally to address challenges they experience. As local authorities we work closely to include citizens in our decision making, and we can share this with other levels of government."

Ada Colau,
mayor of Barcelona



Cities as drivers of quality jobs and sustainable growth

A strong urban voice in the next EU budget

We believe that the next EU budget needs to maintain a strong cohesion policy, the structural and investment funds that are the basis for a stronger, more inclusive Europe. As a partner in the Cohesion Alliance, and through regular dialogue with EU policy makers and member state representatives, we have been consistently advocating for a stronger urban dimension.

A survey we undertook with member cities showed that in the current funding period the European Social Fund has brought tangible results to cities, including better access to jobs and social care for vulnerable groups, and it can serve as a catalyst for innovation at local level. The next round of social funds, ESF+, must capitalise on these results by better recognising the role of cities in delivering in areas such as social inclusion.

Our leadership in the urban agenda partnership on the inclusion of migrants and refugees has allowed the key role of cities in integration to be reflected in the European Commission's proposal for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

The proposal suggests that member states will need to consult with cities at all stages of the process, with cities having more direct access to funding.

We want to ensure that Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation framework, reflects cities needs and becomes a tool for supporting cities and other stakeholders to improve quality of life for all citizens. One example of an emerging issue that we have helped to redefine in the future programme came from our Food in Cities project, which gathered evidence on the work done by cities in developing urban food strategies.

Looking ahead, urban and European challenges continue to be strongly connected. In our advocacy for a stronger urban dimension in European policy making, we will call for support to scale up our city-to-city capacity building efforts, which deliver results that matter to people. We will continue fighting for the recognition of cities as essential partners in the formal EU budget negotiations.



“Cohesion policy should remain a strong pillar in the EU budget. It should reach all cities in the EU and empower them to act locally for a more inclusive, prosperous, democratic and sustainable Europe. I call on all European leaders to financially strengthen this policy and use it as a firm basis for a genuine partnership between the EU and its cities.”

Daniël Termont, EUROCITIES president
and mayor of Ghent

Social rights for all

Strong political engagement from our members on the European Pillar of Social Rights has helped open doors at the highest level in the EU. We urgently need to work more closely with the EU institutions and national governments to address the challenges of urban poverty and rising inequalities in Europe. Our political presence at the EU's flagship event on social affairs, the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth, demonstrated better recognition for the role of cities. And when meeting with Commissioner Thyssen in April, she fully agreed that cities should have a key role in delivering on the pillar to make social rights a reality and to connect with citizens.

In September, we were joined by the European Parliament's rapporteur on the social pillar for a study visit on long term unemployment in Madrid. We shared best practices from the cities represented and created a set of guidelines for cities to improve local policies to fight unemployment of people aged 45 and over, and to develop 21st century skills. Madrid also became the first EUROCITIES member to sign our pledge on implementing the goals of the social pillar. And at our social affairs forum this October many more cities followed Madrid's example to commit to the principles of the social pillar.



“The European Pillar of Social Rights is our chance to reconnect Europe with its citizens. Cities should have an important role in delivering on the pillar to make social rights a reality on the ground.”

Marianne Thyssen,
European commissioner
for employment and
social affairs



Investing in our future

Fast growing cities need to be able to choose from a good mix of instruments, whether local or national, financial or non-financial, to create opportunities for businesses, jobs and help improve people's quality of life. Our new working group on long term investment is exploring the added value of these types of instruments for cities and will work to push the need for unlocking public investments for cities up the political agenda.

Cities' ability to effectively use social, environmental and innovation clauses in their public procurement has a long term impact on jobs and sustainable growth. As large public buyers we are working closely with the European Commission on public procurement. We need to make sure cities have the right legislative and regulatory environment to make strategic decisions on their procurement. This also includes supporting cities to scale up innovative practices and facilitate joint procurement, or at least make a joint statement of demand possible, as discussed by our members at several events coordinated with the Commission. Cities can be market changers when they work together.

"We are convinced that EU funds and EIB loans must fit our systematic integrated policy approach, and not the other way around. Sustainable long term public investments are not only good for our citizens, but also good for the economy in general."

Tanja Wehsely, chair of the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum, Vienna councillor





Inclusive, diverse and creative cities

Culture – a smart investment for our future

Exchange of good practice, and discussing failures, is an important part of our activities. Creativity and culture can help stimulate new solutions to address challenges in cities, such as unemployment, climate change and political alienation. Our successful Culture for Cities and Regions project collected 71 case studies, hosted 15 thematic study visits and provided expert coaching to 10 cities. Several cities are now replicating policies adapted to their local environment that they learned about on a study visit.

Knowledge transfer has also proven to be a good strategy in our ROCK project, which organised work shadowing and mentoring visits this year that resulted in recommendations on urban regeneration through cultural heritage. ROCK also created and presented guidelines on sustainable adaptive reuse of historic city centres.

A EUROCITIES study visit in Leeuwarden, European Capital of Culture 2018, also worked with these principles. Participants shared knowledge and learned from each other on how culture drives innovation, socio-economic change and sustainability.

Culture and cultural heritage will drive one of the next urban agenda partnerships, coming up in 2019. We have already been preparing our participation by partnering in the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, and through our own events. The role that culture plays in making a city liveable, inclusive and competitive has inspired some of our debates at our annual conference EUROCITIES 2018 Edinburgh.

Cities welcome refugees

Despite the increasing controversy and growing polarisation around immigration at local and national level, city leaders want to manage the arrival, shelter and integration of newcomers with solidarity, humanity and dignity.

Our Cities Grow project is working with 16 of our member cities on integrating migrants and refugees into the labour market. Mutual learning visits have enabled cities to pick up ideas and implement them at home, such as including social clauses in public procurement contracts, providing better support for entrepreneurs and working across municipal departments.

Our Integrating Cities VIII conference in November in Milan made clear the importance of including cities in the development of the European agenda for migration. Cities showed their commitment to the integration of migrants, with new signatories to our Integrating Cities Charter.

We advocated for ‘cities as service providers’ to be one of nine topics included in the EU funded ReSOMA project. We also helped launch its dedicated web platform, which gives local administrations the opportunity to alert EU decision makers to local priorities and share advice.

In June, to mark World Refugee Day, Solidarity Cities, our initiative enabling city-to-city support for refugees in Europe, joined the UNHCR #WithRefugees campaign alongside more than 50 cities around the world.



“In the aftermath of a crisis that has created tension and undermined Europe’s fundamental values, our cities have proven that they can offer solutions to the multiple implications of the refugee challenge and be the frontrunners in promoting coexistence and mutual respect.”

Georgios Kaminis,
mayor of Athens

Improving social cohesion

Minority groups, such as Roma, persistently face discrimination and we can play a crucial role in protecting their rights. With 55 member cities now part of our working group dedicated to fighting Roma discrimination and exploitation, we are working to shape the EU strategy for Roma integration post-2020.

EUROCITIES was recognised as an official partner of the EU Roma Week 2018, which was celebrated at the European Parliament in April. We are also involved in the strategic dialogue on Roma inclusion, where we participate regularly in all consultative meetings, as well as the annual European Platform for Roma inclusion.

A leading cause of urban poverty and social exclusion across Europe is the lack of affordable housing. Our role in the urban agenda partnership on housing has led to more systematic monitoring of housing markets at regional and local levels in the European semester, and expanded EU funding and financing instruments to support provision of affordable housing.

Ensuring that people of all ages receive the skills training needed to ensure equal access to good jobs underpins our work with the European Commission on an updated assessment of the youth guarantee. Our mandate in the EU-level working group on schools was also extended for another three years, giving us the opportunity to work with member states as an equal player in tackling early school leaving.



Green, free-flowing and healthy cities

Breathable cities

Following the Dieselgate scandal, EU decision makers agreed a deal to control car emissions. We advocated for this by publishing position papers, ensuring media awareness and organising events. The type-approval reform aims to ensure that cars meet emission standards, resulting in cleaner air in our cities.

In November, we continued our advocacy efforts, as a co-organiser of the European Diesel Summit, which presented a declaration to European leaders on our demands for cleaner air.





To determine successful strategies on the take up of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), we conducted an analysis with over 300 representatives from European cities and national governments. The evidence helped pinpoint a set of obstacles, motivators, and solutions, which will feed into the European Commission's reflection on further developing SUMPs and supporting cities.

The 17th European Mobility Week, which kicked off with the traditional car-free day, was celebrated by more than 2,700 towns and cities under this year's theme 'mix and move'. We can be especially proud of our leading role in this annual initiative, which mobilises citizens and cities to achieve shared goals such as improving air quality, people's quality of life and health.

*"By mixing the ways we move,
we can save time, improve our health,
and lower our transport costs. This week
[European Mobility Week] is also an opportunity
for cities to accelerate this social shift by making
sure the right services and infrastructure are in place."*

Violeta Bulc, European commissioner for transport

Circular cities

We secured a seat on the EU's stakeholder platform on circular economy following the work of our task force on circular economy and our annual conference 2017 on circular cities. This allows us to raise awareness of city needs at the highest level.

Local authorities play a crucial role in achieving European waste management objectives, particularly with regards to separate collection, resource recovery and final disposal. This expertise helped secure a definition of municipal waste at EU level that ensures cities continue to have flexibility in choosing how to implement waste policies locally. Member states must now assess the financing needs of cities before implementing new recycling objectives for 2030.

“As the level of government closest to citizens, cities can ensure that circular opportunities generate benefits for citizens, leaving no one behind. The circular economy is one of the key elements securing the survival of our planet.”

Zoran Janković,
mayor of Ljubljana





Climate commitments

It is in our cities that issues of climate change, air and noise pollution as well as sustainable mobility come together and require integrated solutions. EUROCITIES role within the Covenant of Mayors is one example of how we are supporting cities' action in meeting climate challenges. Cities' commitments so far will help reduce average CO₂ emissions by signatory cities of about 27% by 2020.

Earlier this year, thanks to our intense advocacy, we achieved a key victory in our efforts to influence the EU's Energy Governance proposal. From now on member states will have to include local authorities in their climate and energy plans, ensuring greater impact when local and national plans are joined up.

We launched our statement on the drinking water directive at this year's EU Green Week, which focussed on 'Green cities for a greener future'. We are working to make sure health and safety are considered the top priorities for drinking water, with a view to strengthening cities' capacity to provide clean and safe water for all. We advocated for the importance of peer learning and knowledge transfer between cities to help implement environmental regulations.



Smarter cities

Sharing cities

Knowledge sharing at city level can make a substantial contribution to achieving Europe's social and environmental goals. But developing and sharing transferable, impactful practices is a long term activity. Through 'lighthouse' projects such as Sharing Cities, cities are becoming smarter by trialling innovative technologies and by replicating examples from other European cities.

This year, EUROCITIES was responsible for communication and replication efforts for the lighthouse projects, in which Sharing Cities is one of 12 projects. We have helped foster exchanges with many other cities through webinars and capacity building events. It has also created opportunities for wider collaboration, such as partnering the Nordic Edge Expo, increasing the visibility of these projects to potential investors and partners in the north of Europe.

The Smart Cities Information System (SCIS) applies this principle even more widely. Through this online platform we distil the findings and experiences of dozens of smart city projects, representing hundreds of millions of euros in EU funding, and ensure that this information continues to flow through urban knowledge networks, touching the lives of urban residents across the continent.



“At EUROCITIES our concept of what makes a city ‘smarter’ begins with the citizen... citizens must be able to access, use and manage their own data.”

Anna Lisa Boni,
EUROCITIES secretary general

Citizen focussed bits and bytes

The new EU rules on data protection, which entered into force in May 2018, significantly change the way public authorities deal with personal data. To support cities in making the necessary changes, we organised a training day on how to comply with the EU general data protection regulation (GDPR). This was supported through our GuiDanCe project, which concluded earlier this year.

There are many critical voices when it comes to the use of public data, most notably regarding transparency and privacy. Nonetheless, there are many examples from cities of how data is being used and managed responsibly, and in a way that allows citizens to benefit, such as monitoring traffic flows or air pollution. This autumn, in light of upcoming legislation on the reuse of public sector information, we met with EU officials to share the opportunities and challenges cities face in making public data available. Several of our member cities have developed their own open data strategies, making them leaders in this area, and we aim to build cities' capacity by sharing and developing this knowledge.

Urban innovation and governance in cities



Sustainable cities

EUROCITIES politicians met with European and international urban experts, as well as national and EU representatives in Ghent during the European Sustainable Development Week. A public debate focussed on the role of cities in translating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into relevant actions at local level and involving citizens in the process.

As a member of the EU's multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs, we are promoting the role of regional and local government in their implementation. The SDGs propose a broad and integrated approach to sustainability that reflects the interconnected challenges cities face, whether economic, social, environmental, democratic or demographic. Many cities are already using this framework to bolster their own sustainability models and work more inclusively with citizens.

EUROCITIES believes that the post-2020 EU strategy should reflect this broad, integrated and participatory approach to sustainability, and should ensure a clear local dimension for the benefit of Europe's population.

“Urbanisation is a strategic issue for a sustainable future. The role of cities is increasing as a source of value, so we need to look at urbanisation as a source of development. This changes the approach to policy-making in cities. We need national governments to support urban policies and work with cities for sustainable development.”

Joan Clos,
former UN Habitat
executive director

A seat at the table

Two years after the Pact of Amsterdam, the European Parliament voted in support of a report that proposes a larger role for cities in EU decision making. For us, the partnership approach of the Urban Agenda for the EU, which recognises the added value of bringing cities and other levels of government around the same table, should inspire new ways of working in all policy areas with an impact on urban development.

We continue to be part of the intergovernmental Urban Development Group that oversees the direction of the EU Urban Agenda. We also engage both practically and strategically with the twelve urban agenda partnerships, which all contribute to strengthening the urban dimension of EU policies. We worked with the European Commission to deliver the biennial Cities Forum at the end of 2017 that focused on the implementation of the urban agenda and the urban dimension of cohesion policy.

This year we have made further progress on understanding successful metropolitan area governance. Members of our metropolitan area working group recruited a team of researchers to work on the dynamics, challenges and success factors of intermunicipal cooperation. The outcomes are already being used in our interactions with the European Commission and OECD.



The image features a central collage of various colored papers (orange, yellow, green) layered on a dark background with faint white chalk-like markings. The most prominent element is an orange piece of crumpled paper with the words "SHAPE THE FUTURE" written in bold, black, hand-drawn capital letters. The entire composition is framed by large, diagonal, light blue and white geometric shapes.

SHAPE
THE
FUTURE

Looking forward

What's coming up in 2019

Elections to the European Parliament in May and the subsequent appointment of a new Commission will dominate the agenda for much of 2019. Our priority is to make sure that the renewed EU institutions fully understand the role of cities in the EU as well as the added value of working with us, as a network and cities, directly as partners. Our second mayors' summit on 20-21 March will deliver a strong contribution to this, aiming to firmly put forward the strategic value of cities for the EU.

With our 'Cities4Europe – Europe for citizens' campaign, cities are now leading the way towards the creation of societies where people come first, and where trust between people and public authorities is strengthened.

We will continue to advocate on the future funding framework, including cohesion policy, to make it possible for cities to have better access to EU funds and to enable cities to promote integrated approaches through EU investments. We will also continue our work to support long term investments at local level and monitor the implementation of the new EU procurement package.

Engaging cities in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights will remain a crucial priority for us, as will the integration of refugees and migrants.

Air pollution, reducing CO₂ emissions, tackling climate change, and clean, connected mobility are topics that are closely linked, and we will work to ensure that new EU rules take into account the reality in cities. We will continue our ongoing dialogue with EU policy makers on circular economy, waste management, water and noise pollution

We will step up efforts to facilitate mutual learning, replication and scaling up between our cities both through meetings, study visits and our strong focus on project implementation.

We want to see the urban agenda carried forward and strengthened in the next Commission's mandate, to maximise its potential to deliver solutions for all citizens, and help the EU tackle its biggest challenges by working at the local level.

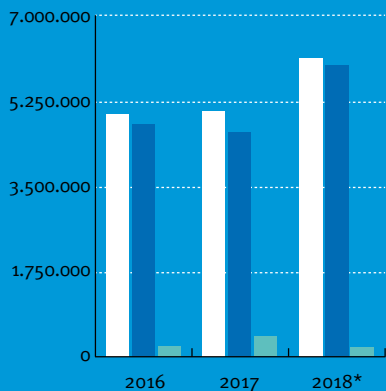
Our impact





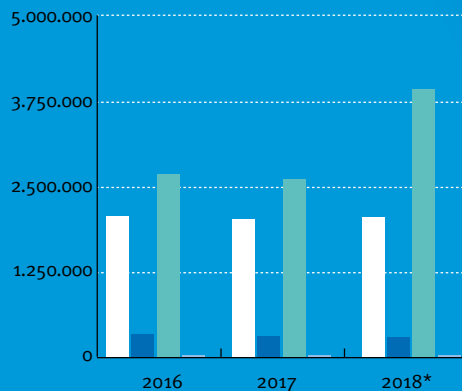
Fast financial facts 2016-2018

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



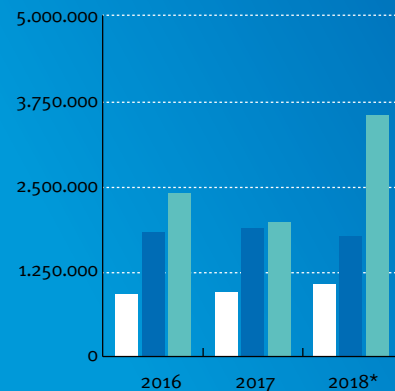
- total income
- total expenditure
- result end of period

INCOME



- members
- associates/partners
- projects & grants
- other

EXPENDITURE



- operating expenses
- staff costs
- projects & grants

* projected results

EUROCITIES members and partners

31 OCTOBER 2018

In 2018, EUROCITIES welcomed two new members: **Nottingham** and **Verona**, as well as three new partners: **Arezzo**, **Leeuwarden** and **Leuven**.

Members

AL	Tirana
AM	Yerevan
AT	Vienna*
BA	Banja Luka, Sarajevo
BE	Antwerp, Brussels Capital Region, Brussels City, Ghent
BG	Burgas, Sofia, Varna
CH	Zurich
CY	Nicosia
CZ	Brno, Pilsen, Prague
DE	Berlin, Bonn, Chemnitz, Cologne, Dortmund, Dresden, Dusseldorf, Essen, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Kiel, Leipzig*, Mannheim, Munich, Munster, Nuremberg, Stuttgart
DK	Aarhus, Copenhagen
EE	Tallinn*
ES	Barcelona*, Bilbao, Gijon, Madrid, Malaga, Murcia, Seville, Terrassa Metropolitan Area, Valladolid, Zaragoza
FI	Espoo, Helsinki, Oulu, Tampere, Turku, Vantaa
FR	Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropole, Angers Loire Metropole, Bordeaux, Grand Nancy, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Metropole Europeenne de Lille, Lyon, Nantes Metropole*, Nice Cote d'Azur, Paris, Rennes Metropole, St. Etienne Metropole, Strasbourg, Toulouse
FYROM	Skopje

GE	Tbilisi
GR	Athens, Thessaloniki
HR	Zagreb
HU	Budapest
IE	Dublin
IS	Reykjavik
IT	Bologna, Florence*, Genoa, Milan, Palermo, Rome, Turin, Venice, Verona
LT	Vilnius
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Riga
NL	Amsterdam, BrabantStad Metropolitan Area, Eindhoven, Rotterdam*, The Hague, Utrecht
NO	Bergen, Oslo
PL	Bialystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Katowice, Lodz, Lublin, Poznan, Rzeszow, Warsaw*, Wroclaw
PT	Braga, Lisbon, Porto
RO	Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Timisoara
RS	Belgrade, Novi Sad
SE	Gothenburg, Malmo, Stockholm*, Uppsala
SK	Bratislava
SI	Ljubljana*
TR	Gaziantep, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya
UA	Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa
UK	Belfast, Birmingham*, Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle/Gateshead, Nottingham, Sheffield, Sunderland

Associated partners

BE	Kortrijk, Leuven, Ostend
CH	Lausanne
CY	Turkish Cypriot Community of Nicosia
DE	Bremen, Hagen
ES	Fuenlabrada, San Sebastian
FI	Sipoo
FR	Amiens Metropole, Brest Metropole, Océane, Reims Metropole, St.Nazaire, Tours
GR	Acharnes, Amaroussion, Heraklion
HR	Rijeka
IT	Arezzo, Cesena, Pisa, Pesaro
LT	Klaipeda
NL	Almere, Groningen, Leeuwarden, Netwerkstad Twente
NO	Stavanger
PT	Guimaraes
RU	Barrier free city foundation
SE	Karlstad, Linkoping, Nacka, Solna, Umea, Kungsbacka
TR	Besiktas, Beylikduzu, Beyoglu, Mezitli, Nilufer, Osmangazi, Pendik, Serdivan
UK	Derry, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Preston, Wolverhampton

Associated business partners

ENEDIS, ENGIE, Kapsch, VEOLIA

*executive committee





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