

INFORMATION NOTE

Title:	Update: International Urban and Regional Cooperation Program
Date Prepared:	November 4, 2021
Report To:	Council
Councillor and Role:	Mayor Danny Breen, Economic Development, Tourism & Immigration
Ward:	N/A

Issue: On May 25, 2021, Council agreed to approve the City of St. John's application to be considered for the European Union's International Urban Regional and Cooperation program.

St. John's was accepted to the program and has been paired with Braga, Portugal. A listing of cities accepted to the program can be found at the [IURC City website](#)

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) is a European Union (EU) program, aiming to contribute to the objectives of the EU Green Deal, the New Urban Agenda, the Agenda 2030 (SDGs), the Urban Agenda for the EU, and the political objectives of the European Cohesion Policy through city-to-city diplomacy and collaborative regional efforts to overcome common challenges. Targeted at cities of population of 100,000+, the objectives of the program are to enhance knowledge transfer, learning in a number of areas ranging from circular economy, social inclusion, urban regeneration, energy consumption, smart city solutions etc.

Program meetings have begun, and key thematic areas being refined. Online workshops and study tour programs will be developed in the coming months.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: The EU program covers staff expenses related to study tour programs with possibly some local host city costs such as local transport, coffee breaks, or welcome dinner for the study visits. Council agreed to these upon application to the program.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: European city, local community partners in academia, industry and community and these will be better defined based on topical themes and specificity of workshops.
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3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: A Sustainable City as it relates to environmental, economic and social development parameters and learnings.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: An agreement has been signed that provides for general parameters of the program
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: St. John's will work with peered city Braga, Portugal and EU program managers related to any communications programs and protocols.
7. Human Resource Implications: Relevant staff in areas of environmental sustainability, economic development, planning, and healthy city programming will be involved depending on the specific study tour programming, workshops and related thematic areas.
8. Procurement Implications: Any hosting events, workshops etc. will follow procurement requirements.
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: In-person exchanges are expected to start in first quarter 2022, and will be dependent on pandemic related travel restrictions

Conclusion/Next Steps: Online workshops have started, plans and learning exchanges are in process.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Update International Urban and Regional Cooperation Program, City to City Program.docx
Attachments:	- iurc_brochure_042821.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 4, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Elizabeth Lawrence - Nov 4, 2021 - 1:05 PM

Tanya Haywood - Nov 4, 2021 - 1:12 PM