International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC):

NORTH AMERICA

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION
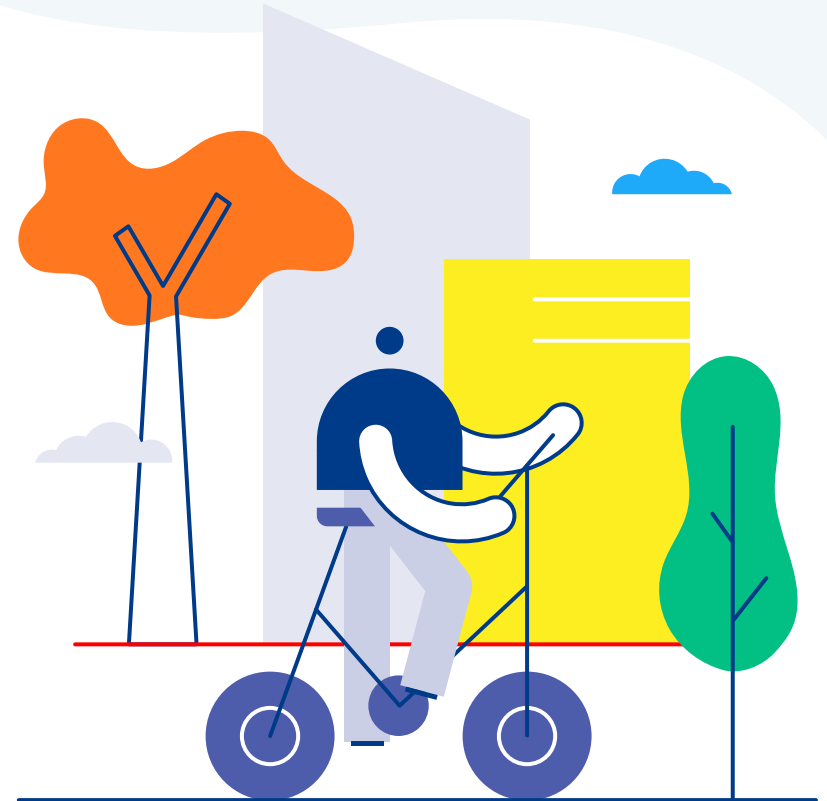
A European Union
Programme

What is IURC?

Implemented since 2017, the **European Union's International Urban Cooperation** (IUC - first phase) contributes to the objectives of 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 to overcome common challenges. IUC has become the world's largest city-to-city cooperation program **involving 165 cities from the EU and non-EU countries across America and Asia.**

The new phase of the program launched in early 2021 and now called the **International Urban and Regional Cooperation Program** (IURC), aims to capitalize on the results and lessons learned from the first phase to optimize the added value of international cooperation, transforming the new program into an **international network of reference for urban innovation and sustainable urban development.**
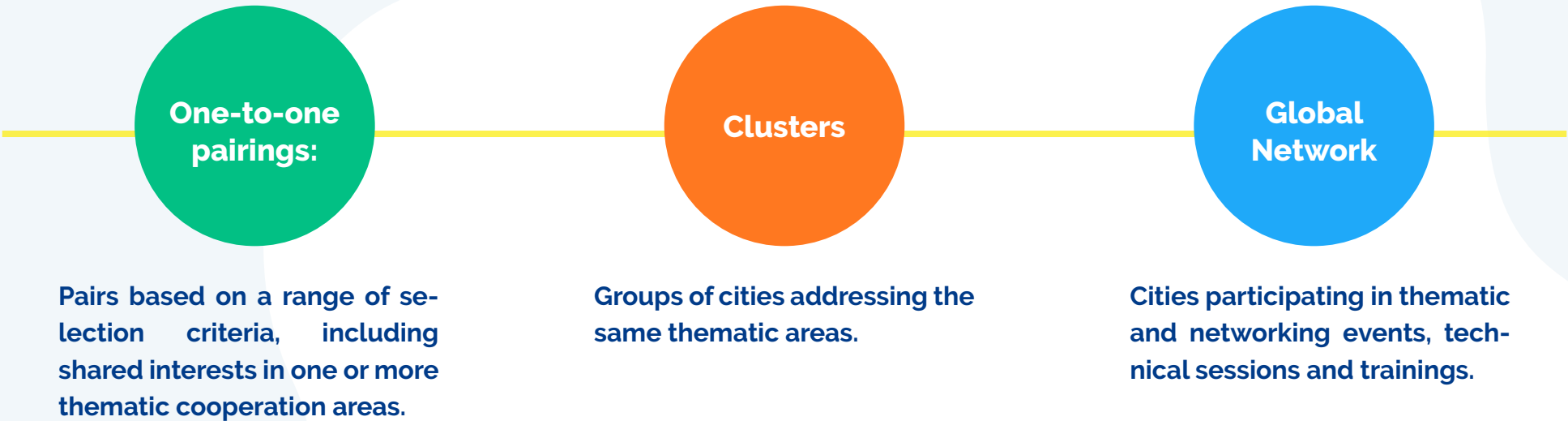
The program is financed under the EU Partnership Instrument and benefiting from the strategic support of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission.

How does it work?

IURC North America partners European cities with Canadian and US cities tackling similar sustainable urban development and innovation challenges. The project facilitates knowledge exchange through a combination of online tools and face-to-face support such as study visits, thematic and networking events, and capacity-building activities. IURC cities become part of a wide community of over 300 local and sub-national governments and stakeholders from academia, business, and civil society who benefit from international cooperation through:

One-to-one pairings:

Clusters

Global Network

Pairs based on a range of selection criteria, including shared interests in one or more thematic cooperation areas.

Groups of cities addressing the same thematic areas.

Cities participating in thematic and networking events, technical sessions and trainings.

Thematic Networks

The cooperation will be organized along the following Thematic Networks:

1. ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION & GREEN DEAL

Subthemes:
- Circular Economy
- Nature Based Solutions
- Sustainable urban agriculture
- Renovation Wave

Cross-Cutting challenges:
Digital Transition & Smart City | Energy Transition & Climate Change | Post Covid Recovery – Social Justice & Inclusion

Thematic Networks

The cooperation will be organized along the following Thematic Networks:

2. URBAN RENEWAL & URBAN POVERTY

Subthemes:
- Urban Agendas and Urban Planning
- Mobility & Transport
- Urban Poverty
- Deprived Neighbourhoods
- Housing, Social Cohesion
- Industry 5.0

Cross-Cutting challenges:
Digital Transition & Smart City | Energy Transition & Climate Change | Post Covid Recovery – Social Justice & Inclusion

Thematic Networks

The cooperation will be organized along the following Thematic Networks:

3. INNOVATION

Subthemes:
- Tourism & Culture
- Health
- Life science
- Education
- Jobs & Skills
- Innovation centres
- Business Clusters
- Regional Innovation

Cross-Cutting challenges:
Digital Transition & Smart City | Energy Transition & Climate Change | Post Covid Recovery – Social Justice & Inclusion

Why join IURC?

- Gain **inspiration** and **access** to innovative sustainable urban development solutions

- Join a **global network** sharing direct experiences and lessons learned on the 'dos & don'ts'

- **Showcase** your city's best practices and achievements

- Benchmarking & **international positioning**

- Identifying **innovative business models** for financing local action

- Opening doors for your stakeholders to **international markets & cooperation** opportunities

What cities are saying...

"In terms of learning through the IUC program, the cooperation with the City of Baltimore reaffirmed the crucial role of public institutions as key players to promote urban development based on principles of equity, inclusion, community welfare, and local production: that was true before the Covid-19 pandemic and it's even more true now"

FABRIZIO BARBIERO, CITY OF TURIN

"From formal presentations to impromptu in-depth discussions we had with our Bologna counterparts, the collaboration between our cities engendered new ways of thinking, led to innovative ideas, and helped us understand how different cultures solve similar problems but in drastically different ways."

MARC COUDERT, CITY OF AUSTIN
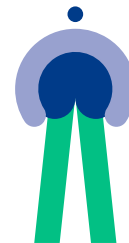
What cities are saying...

"We were given a platform to share our economic development approaches across a number of subjects from affordable housing to supporting innovation. We really connected on questions of using municipal procurement to support broader social goals."
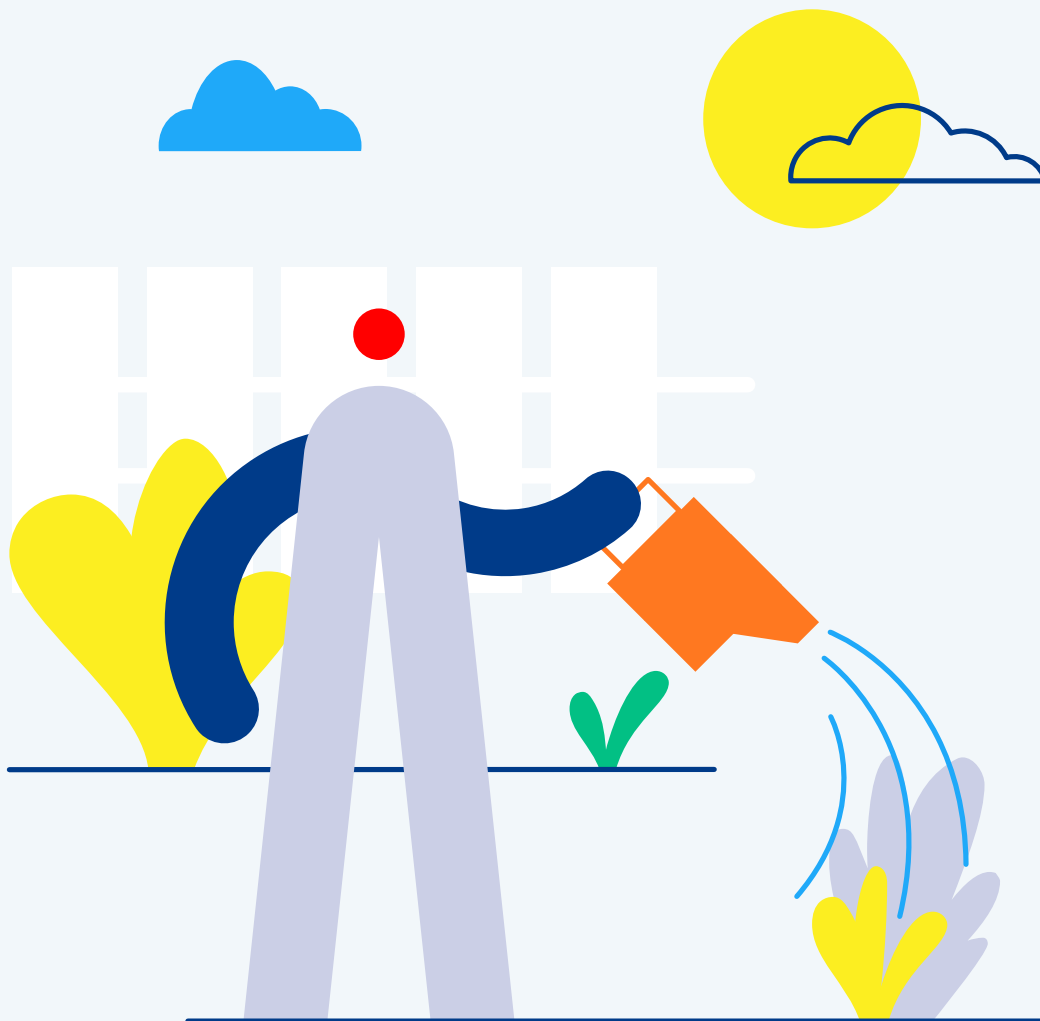
ELIZABETH MITCHELL, CITY OF MANCHESTER

"The thing that jumps out at me is how Riga approaches transit. The climate is very similar to ours and we could be doing our transit better. How Riga is using hydrogen electric power is something that Edmonton should learn more about. And they approached it so technically. We can use and appreciate the analysis to sell the idea to our politicians so that we can model it on our own and get advice from Riga as we move forward."

MAURYA BRAUN, CITY OF EDMONTON

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Learn more about IURC NA

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For more information

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