

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PROJECTS

The CITIES-GroW (integration of migrants through economic activity in cities) project provides practical advice to municipal leaders and decision makers in Europe on how best to address migrant integration challenges and develop effective integration strategies. The mentoring schemes aim to: match buyers and suppliers by facilitating access to public and private contracts for immigrant entrepreneurs; engage with businesses, local job agencies and local educational institutions to promote job skills match for employment of youth with migrant background; provide services to help migrant entrepreneurs; and implement anti-discrimination strategies on local job markets.

www.integratingcities.eu



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May 2018

In 2018

The economic development forum will continue to implement its 2016-2018 strategy focused on six priority themes:

- job creation and skills development, support for innovation and to start-ups, entrepreneurs and SMEs;
- cities international attractiveness and branding strategies, competitiveness and internationalisation;
- contributing to the relevant partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- city logistics and retail (link with mobility and environment forums);
- supporting cities long term investments;
- sustainable development goals (SDGs 8-9).

WORKING GROUPS AND CHAIRS

- City attractiveness & international economic relations
Genoa
- Entrepreneurship & SMEs
Gothenburg & Lisbon
- Innovation
Helsinki
- Long term investment

<p>LEARN & NETWORK</p>	<p>Learn from your peers in other cities: replicate their success, avoid their mistakes! Get advice and share knowledge with a wide network of colleagues</p>	<p>“The economic development forum is a great platform to discuss common challenges. All our cities are facing major economic transitions. Thanks to the forum meetings, we are more efficient in finding new and innovative business models. Those have to be co-constructed with business creators, entrepreneurs, investors, employees and citizens, which allow for new businesses, new industries and for innovation to flourish.”</p> <p>ANDRÉ SOBCZAK vice president, Nantes Metropole</p>
<p>HAVE YOUR SAY</p>	<p>Influence EU legislation and funding programmes: make sure that the EU helps your city achieve its goals</p>	<p>“One of the main strengths of EUROCITIES is its lobbying power. Collectively we have more impact when we try to influence EU policies such as the initiative of the European Commission on start ups.”</p> <p>ULRIKE FIRNISS EU Affairs Representative, Business Region Gothenburg</p>
<p>GET EU FUNDING</p>	<p>Get early EU funding forecasts and funding briefs</p> <p>Lobbying on cohesion policy and FP9</p> <p>Find project partners</p> <p>Participate in EUROCITIES projects</p>	<p>“Thanks to the EUROCITIES network, we were able to build a partnership together with Birmingham, Tallinn, Rotterdam and other cities that helped us win an URBACT project called Creative Spin, on how best to connect cultural and creative industries with other sectors.”</p> <p>FRANCESCA MARTINESE head of international relations, cooperation & projects office, Bologna</p>
<p>BE VISIBLE</p>	<p>Build an international profile for your city on urban economic development</p>	<p>“Thanks to EUROCITIES information on funding opportunities and support for partner search, Utrecht led the URBACT II project CityLogo on city branding and marketing.”</p> <p>HAYE FOLKERTSMA senior advisor, Utrecht</p>
<p>CROSS CUTTING WORK</p>		<p>The working group on long term investment will focus on all types of investment from transport to housing and education. We will also work closely with the culture forum on issues such as supporting creative industries and creative entrepreneurship.</p>