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## City entrepreneurs can lead economic recovery

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It is innovative small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that drive business growth, and it is in Europe's cities that entrepreneurship is most prolific.

Although large cities are actively fostering entrepreneurship and business development, not enough attention is paid at the EU level to supporting effective measures that reach entrepreneurs and SMEs on the ground in their localities.

Ahead of today's European SME week summit, Vice-Mayor of Poznan, Tomasz Kayser said:

"Cities need European support to drive economic recovery. They have a wealth of expertise to share and future European funding programmes should actively support the development and implementation of innovative practices supporting entrepreneurship in cities."

Many cities already provide support services, premises and financial support to entrepreneurs and small businesses. They facilitate supply chains and clusters, and help to create university links and spin-outs.

However, local authorities still face barriers in realising the economic potential of entrepreneurship and small businesses. EURO CITIES has identified ways in which European policies and funding programmes can further support cities in delivering economic recovery through entrepreneurship, including:

- improving coordination between different European funds to help support entrepreneurship as part of local integrated development;
- making public procurement rules more SME-friendly; and
- supporting cluster development and SME internationalisation.

Given the right support, cities are ideally placed to drive forward economic recovery through small businesses and entrepreneurship. EURO CITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan, says:

"Cities offer not only the business opportunities but also the combination of services, support and infrastructure that entrepreneurs need. Cities develop policies and programmes tailored to the specific needs of local entrepreneurs and small businesses."

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### Note to editors

- EURO CITIES is the network of major European cities: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- 'Supporting entrepreneurship in cities', EURO CITIES recommendations to the European Commission: [tinyurl.com/4x34fl8](http://tinyurl.com/4x34fl8)
- Julie Hervé, EURO CITIES policy officer, email: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)