What is EUROCITIES?

EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities. Founded in 1986, we network the local governments of over 130 of Europe’s largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries.

Reflecting Europe's 2020 vision of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, our current priorities are recovery, inclusion and climate.

We engage with the European institutions on a wide range of policies affecting cities. These include: economic development, environment, transport and mobility, social affairs, culture, the digital agenda, public services and public procurement.

We provide a platform for our members to share knowledge and ideas, exchange experiences, analyse common problems and develop innovative solutions, through our six forums, as well as our working groups, projects, activities and events.
How we work

Networking

Over 2,500 city politicians, officials and experts exchange, learn and are inspired by the contacts they sustain through EUROCITIES. Our six policy forums and some 40 working groups bring together city delegates to exchange ideas and understand how other members are addressing challenges and developing policy. Our involvement in a number of EU projects and contracts helps us advance our policy priorities and secure funding to implement members’ political commitments.

Influencing

Through our forums and working groups, we formulate policy positions on key issues affecting cities. We have strong links with the European institutions, particularly the European Commission, Parliament and the Committee of the Regions, who work with us for the direct channel we offer to Europe’s cities and their extensive expertise. We also connect with national ministries and the intergovernmental dialogue under the rotating EU presidencies.

Visibility

We provide an international platform for mayors and leaders to profile their cities and speak on behalf of the network across a range of urban issues. As a valued and credible stakeholder, we regularly participate in the high-level meetings which determine the direction of future EU policy.
Our executive committee is comprised of twelve cities, each represented by their mayor. They are responsible for setting the priorities that guide our activities on an annual basis.

**Member cities**

Warsaw (president)  Nantes (vice president)
Birmingham (secretary)  Ghent (treasurer)
Barcelona  Budapest
Copenhagen  Leipzig
Stockholm  The Hague
Turin  Vienna
• “If there is one network I can’t do without, it’s the EUROCITIES network.” Milan Obradovic, former chair of the EUROCITIES Environment Forum and member of the environment board, Malmo

• “The most important thing [about EUROCITIES] is to be in contact with colleagues around Europe, to have discussions about good practices, experiences…to rethink your decisions and opinions…” Burkhard Jung, mayor of Leipzig

• “Poznan’s regeneration programme is now presented as a model for other towns in Poland. I am convinced that this is a direct, tangible and visible result of Poznan’s membership in the EUROCITIES network.” Ryszard Grobelny, mayor of Poznan

• “Working with other cities brings opportunities to influence the European debate.” Neil Munslow, housing and welfare rights services manager, Newcastle upon Tyne
How to join

Over 2,500 city politicians, officials and experts exchange, learn, and are inspired by the contacts they build through the EUROCITIES network. The benefits to member cities are direct, quick and substantial - in terms of personal and organisational development, collaborative exchanges and EU project funding.

Would you like to join us and contribute in shaping the EU agenda?

We have several member categories:

- Full members – for cities over 250,000 inhabitants from EU/EEA countries
- Associate members – for cities over 250,000 inhabitants outside the EU/EEA
- Associate partners – for cities under 250,000 inhabitants, in one of our thematic sectors
- Business partners – for companies, in one of our thematic sectors
- Subscribers – information service for NGOs, universities, research institutes and associations.

Contact

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Cities are our centres of cultural resource, inspiration and opportunity. Culture promotes social cohesion and citizenship, contributes to education and employment, and enhances health and well-being. Besides their inherent value, the arts are central to social development and regeneration. Nor should we underestimate the role of culture and creative industries in successful urban economies. Supporting culture in our cities is therefore an important step towards achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Chair Matteo Lepore, deputy mayor, Bologna

2014 priorities

• new forms of cultural governance
• connecting culture to the wider urban agenda
• measuring the value of culture

Contacts

Julie Hervé, policy advisor, EUROCITIES: julie.herve@eurocities.eu
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Europe’s cities are centres of trade, commerce and innovation. They provide the intense, productive ecosystem in which entrepreneurs and small and large businesses thrive, delivering growth and jobs. Economically powerful and prosperous cities are essential for increasing cohesion and stimulating regeneration. Our continent’s economic recovery will be led by metropolitan Europe.

Chair  Nick Small, councillor, Liverpool

2014 priorities

• employment and entrepreneurship
• innovation
• area-based cooperation

Contacts
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European cities offer their citizens one of the most sustainable ways of living. Compact, well-serviced, green cities are the most resource-efficient means to deliver a high quality of life for the greatest number of people. Even so our cities strive to moderate the effects of climate change and reduce their carbon emissions. Smarter management of transport, energy, waste and water, all makes for cleaner air, less noise, better public health and greater liveability.

Chair  James McKay, councillor, Birmingham

2014 priorities

• sustainable, resource efficient economy
• healthy environment
• climate change

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Cities with strategic vision are using continually developing digital technologies to foster business growth and service innovation. ‘E-government’ not only delivers service efficiencies but also offers better connected citizens, through community action and co-creation, to contribute to civic renewal and social cohesion. Through the imaginative use of new technologies, big data, open minds and collaboration, ‘smart cities’ promise more liveable, more sustainable and more prosperous environments for their citizens.

Chair    Daniël Termont, mayor, Ghent

2014 priorities

•    smart citizens
•    co-creation for innovation, transparency and business
•    IT development for smart governance

Contacts

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KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

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To stay on the move, Europe’s cities are introducing more resource-efficient and safer solutions to improve mobility and reduce congestion, noise and pollution. Smarter transport management, better traveller information, and investment in infrastructure all play their part. But our cities are also making it easier for citizens to choose more sustainable modes such as public transport, walking and cycling.

Chair  Christian Specht, first deputy mayor, Mannheim

2014 priorities

• follow-up on the European Commission's white paper on transport
• funding and financing for urban mobility
• smart, connected and inclusive urban mobility

Contacts
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Chair  Henk Kool, vice mayor, The Hague

2014 priorities

• social cohesion in an age of austerity
• tackling deep-seated poverty and worklessness
• inclusion and employment of young people

Contacts

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We focus on projects that offer funding opportunities to our cities, e.g. in the areas of energy efficiency or migrant integration. They network and learn from each other through study tours, peer learning visits, staff exchanges and job shadowing.

With the support of EU funding, projects help cities to put policies into action for the benefit of their citizens.

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