OVERVIEW

• About the International Urban Cooperation (IUC)
  • Its three components
  • Focus on sustainable urban development
  • City-to-city cooperation
• Upcoming opportunities
Across the world, the rate of urbanisation is increasing at a rapid pace. As the areas in which the majority of people live and work, cities are increasingly acknowledged as the arena in which solutions to major societal and environmental challenges must be implemented. This rapid change has put many cities under significant strain. Local governments are struggling to meet the higher demand for services in fields such as energy, water, health, and transport prompted by the increase in population.
WHAT IS THE IUC?

The three-year International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme aims to enable cities to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with both the public and private sectors.

The IUC programme activities will support the achievement of bilateral policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.
OBJECTIVES

FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

LONG-TERM STRATEGY BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

OPEN UP COOPERATION & MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

URBAN AGENDA, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

CHINA, INDIA, JAPAN, CANADA, MEXICO, USA, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLOMBIA AND PERU (SOUTH KOREA, VIETNAM, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE FOR COMPONENT 2)
I. City-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development

By pairing up EU with non-EU partner cities, the IUC boosts access to expertise in urban development policy, helping cities promote smart, green and inclusive growth. Working with like-minded partners, it fosters better ways to plan, finance, develop, govern and manage cities, and supports the New Urban Agenda decided in Quito.

II. Sub-national action under the Global Covenant of Mayors initiative

Cities consume two-thirds of the world’s energy. The Covenant of Mayors Initiative promotes local actions and facilitates city-to-city cooperation to reduce CO2 emissions, adapt to climate change and ensure access to clean and affordable energy.

III. Inter-regional cooperation on innovation for local and regional development

Cities and regions can generate growth by innovating and sharing expertise on clustering, global value chains and Smart Specialisation Strategies. This is important in Latin America where governments are trying to diversify their commodity-driven economies.
The SDGs aim to provide an international framework to enable countries to better target and monitor progress across all three dimensions of sustainable urban development (social, environmental and economic) in a coordinated and holistic way. The goals will be applicable to all countries, regardless of their level of development.
The EU's vision of the future global "New Urban Agenda" is based on the understanding that an integrated and place-based approach to urban development, together with a long-term vision, is necessary in order to promote well-managed, socially inclusive and safe, resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable as well as economically prosperous cities.
LOCAL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF PARIS AGREEMENT
By joining the IUC city-to-city cooperation, your city will:

LEARN: Get access to new ways of approaching challenges and benefit from a wider pool of good practices to draw upon

SHARE: Help others to solve issues by sharing your own experiences and relaying knowledge

EXCHANGE: Open your city to dialogue and partnership with new global peers and relevant stakeholders (public and private)

SHOWCASE: Profile your best practices and achievements internationally

IMPLEMENT: Work with new partners to make your vision of sustainable urban development a reality.
Cities participating commit to cooperate for at least 18 months with your international peers, allocate resources and time to develop a successful cooperation which will last beyond the lifetime of this programme.
CITY PAIRINGS

Rounds of selections so far:

- European Union Member States
- China
- Japan
- Canada
- Mexico
- United States
- India
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Peru
FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

• Building further on the model and success of the World Cities project and drawing on the solid approach of the EU-funded URBACT network

• City pairs will be supported in their efforts to design and implement Local Action Plans. These will be developed through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process and include specific activities and economically viable pilot projects to be implemented in order to ensure results and open up market opportunities.

• These plans will help drive thematic clustering of knowledge, exchange and best practices among cities facing similar challenges.
THE IUC WEBSITE (WWW.IUC.EU)

- General information,
- News
- Access to resources
- Link to knoweledge-sharing platform (coming soon)
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

• Knowledge-sharing platform: November 2017
• Next selection rounds: Early 2018
• Showcase action:
  - City-to-city event (10 November, Brussels)
  - GCoM Day @COP23 (13 November, Bonn)
  - IUC event at Cities and Regions Pavillion @COP23 (tbc)
QUESTIONS?
We look forward to exchanging with you!

THANK YOU!
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