

3rd Call for proposals under URBACT II

External Assessment Panel Report

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13 April 2012

1. General Context

1.1. The 3rd URBACT call for proposals

The third call of the URBACT II Programme represents the last call for applications in the 2007-2013 programming period.

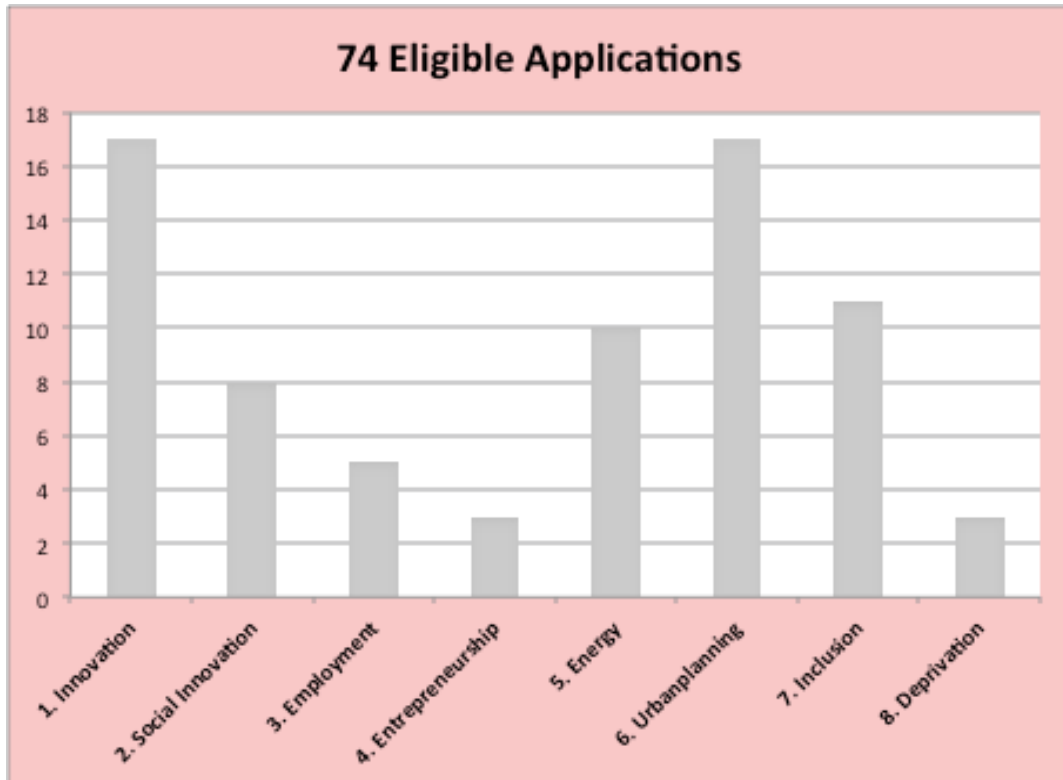
The deadline for applications to create thematic networks was the 15th of March 2012. The Secretariat received 82 applications. One applicant withdrew their proposal before the EAP started its work. Following the eligibility check, 74 proposals have been declared eligible submissions.

The applications were requested to contribute towards one of eight key topics and to comply with all URBACT application procedures and requirements.

A small number of new features have been added to the third call of the URBACT II Programme. These include:

- a thematic focus represented by three sub-themes to align more fully with the European 2020 strategy:
 - Innovative cities
 - Sustainable cities
 - Inclusive cities
- three cross-cutting themes to reflect better the current global socio-economic developments and challenges:
 - how to manage urban development in the context of the economic and financial crisis
 - how to foster integrated and sustainable approaches to urban development
 - how to develop efficient partnerships and multi-level governance processes.

The 74 eligible project submissions were distributed across the eight topics as follows:



1.2. The 3rd External Assessment Panel (2012)

For the Stage 1 assessment of the applications submitted under the 3rd call of the Programme, the URBACT Secretariat appointed an External Assessment Panel (EAP) consisting of the following seven independent assessors:

- Sylvia Amann (AT)
- Alexandra Bolland (UK)
- Zsuzsanna Kravalik (HU)
- Jordi Pascual (ES)
- João Seixas (PT)
- Regina Trenkler-Fraser (DE) (Chair)
- Andis Zilans (LV)

The seven EAP members bring a comprehensive range of expertise in all thematic fields relevant to URBACT II, including urban planning, governance, knowledge exchange, social inclusion, community-based development, economic development and environmental sustainability.

1.3. The EAP Report

This report presents the appraisal method, scoring results and assessment findings of the External Assessment Panel (EAP) at Stage 1 of the third Call for thematic networks under the URBACT II-Programme.

As specified in the URBACT Programme manual, the overall application and appraisal process of funding applications includes two stages, whereby Stage 1 focuses on the assessment and ranking of eligible Declarations of Interest and Stage 2 which includes the appraisal of the more enhanced final applications at the end of the development phase of project proposals.

This report relates to Stage 1 of the URBACT application process.

2. The Assessment Process

2.1. The EAP Induction Meeting

The URBACT Secretariat provided a comprehensive induction session for all EAP members in Paris on Friday 10th March 2012. As part of this one-day session, the EAP members undertook a practical mock-assessment and scoring exercise to familiarize themselves with the Stage 1 appraisal process and the application of the scoring criteria.

It was agreed that the URBACT Secretariat would:

- undertake the eligibility check of all applications;
- undertake a detailed financial assessment of each application in terms of accuracy, eligibility of expenditure items;
- provide the EAP with a detailed financial assessment of each application; and
- provide the EAP with an indication of the track record of each lead applicant organisation as additional information.

An internet-based workspace (Huddle) was set up to facilitate the process of sharing applications, appraisal templates, and guidance documents. This space was also used to up-load completed appraisal forms and assessment reports.

Following the eligibility check, the URBACT Secretariat was in charge of allocating two assessors for each application. This allocation process considered the thematic expertise and nationality of the assessors so that each application received an independent and expert assessment.

2.2. The Individual Assessment Process

The assessment of each application at Stage 1 was based on the following selection criteria and scores:

Table 1: URBACT Selection Criteria	Score
1. Relevance of the proposal and European added value	0-25
2. Coherence of the proposal	0-25
3. Quality of the expected results	0-20
4. Quality of partnership and lead partner	0-20
5. Budget and Finances	0-10

The maximum total number of points an application could receive in the assessment process was therefore 100.

The EAP assessment was entirely guided by the endeavour to identify high quality applications. Neither the nationality of the lead partner or the partner cities, nor the choice of URBACT themes or possible priority axes influenced the scoring of the applications.

Each application was assessed by two EAP members. Their individual assessment sheets were uploaded to an internet based and shared space (Huddle).

2.3. The EAP Consensus Meeting

The full EAP panel met in Paris from 27th to the 30th of March 2012 to debate all findings of the individual appraisals and to reach a consensus of the scores for each application. The URBACT Secretariat facilitated the meeting and provided technical and operational support.

The consensus finding process consisted of the following steps:

- Assessor A and Assessor B provided a short presentation of his/her findings, whereby the strengths and weaknesses of an application were highlighted;
- the URBACT Secretariat reported on their specific assessment of the financial budget of each application and added contextual information regarding the track record of the lead partner and lead expert;
- all EAP panel members contributed to the debate with queries and comparative comments and perspectives; and
- a consensus score was agreed across all selection criteria and in total.

In the case of Assessor A and Assessor B not being able to agree on a consensus score, a third assessor is asked to appraise the application until the following day to add a further perspective and score (this process was required for two applications).

Once a consensus score was identified for all applications, the EAP panel reviewed the overall outcome of the total set of applications. Each application was considered in relation to all other applications. This comparative approach helped to refine the relative scoring position (ranking) of each application and helped to ensure that each application received its appropriate place in the scoring list.

3. The EAP Results

3.1. The Overall Ranking of 74 Project Proposals

The following table shows the ranking of all 74 applications based on the assessment scores allocated by the EAP.

For each application, an assessment form is annexed to this report, presenting the initial partnership, the short description of the issue addressed and the detailed scores allocated under each assessment criteria.

Project Title	Lead Partner	MS/ PS	Final Assessment Score
Enter HUB	Reggio Emilia	IT	85
Creative SpIN	Birmingham	UK	84
E4C	Red Local	ES	84
My Generation at Work	Rotterdam	NL	83
URBACT Markets	Barcelona	ES	82
INNOVA	Tomares	ES	80
Citylogo	Utrecht	NL	80
RE-Block	XVIII District Budapest	HU	80
PESL	Nantes	FR	79
CSI Europe	Manchester (AGMA)	UK	75
USER	Grenoble Metropole	FR	75
USE ACT	Napoles	IT	75
Eunivercities	Delft	NL	74
SMART CITIES	Coimbra	PT	74
JOB TOWN	Cesena	IT	73
DID-RFSC	Umea	SE	75
4D CITIES	Igualada	ES	72
Sustainable Food for Urban Communities	Brussels Capital	BE	72
WOOD FOOTPRINT	Paços de Ferreira	PT	72
Ecoblocks	Santa Coloma	ES	68
S3 CITIES	Terni	IT	68
(Ex)change	The Hague	NL	67
CitySenior	Tampere	FI	66
FUTURE MAKERS	Obidos	PT	66
GREEN URBAN PPPs	Ascoli Piceno	IT	65
GreenMilSit	Tapolca	HU	65
Act4Energy	Luckenwalde	DE	65
AccessCities	Berlin	DE	65

Cities of Excellence	Bilbao	ES	65
INNOCARE	Amadora	PT	65
PIKE Tech	Roma	IT	65
SMART PARK	Bragança	PT	65
Urbenergy	Avrig	RO	63
IASMIN	Firenze	IT	65
BIP	Vicenza	IT	64
CitiZen Planning	Dudelange	LU	64
Jilted Generation	Leicester	UK	62
Micro-CHiP	Lecce	IT	62
REACT	Faenza	IT	62
CHORUS	Bucharest	RO	61
SEROIP	Rosendaal	NL	60
CITIMORPH	Hackney	UK	58
DIHI	Velje	DK	57
MaGiC	Wycombe	UK	57
SURPRISE	Preston	UK	57
Y4C	Lewish	UK	57
FACT	Agia Varvara	EL	57
Y&E	Pisa	IT	57
FIATOP	Ferrol	ES	56
OLACITY	Murcia	ES	55
RECONOMY	Genova	IT	54
CERIC	Amsterdam	NL	53
ALIVE	Etten Leur	NL	53
CREW	Hertogenbosch	NL	52
C&P.GOV	Livorno	IT	51
Future Proof Cities	Eindhoven – SRE	NL	51
SING	Viladecans	ES	50
Active City	Kolding	DK	50
GREEN-URBS	Lefkara	CY	50
Inclusive Growth	Celje	SI	49
BEEAT	Catania	IT	48
Living Cities	Aviles	ES	48
Youth Claps	Perugia	IT	48
UD-Inno	Seinajoki	FI	47
ADM INN	Volos	EL	45
CITY ANTISOMA	Thessaloniki	EL	45
GOV&ACT	Otranto	IT	45
Urb-Hubs	Espinho	PT	45
ECO-CITY	Pecs	HU	42
IANGUS	Marseille	FR	41
OURSpace	Salerno	IT	37
ATP	Marathon	EL	30
INNOVMUSE	Covilha	PT	28
WSCN	San Sebastian	ES	22

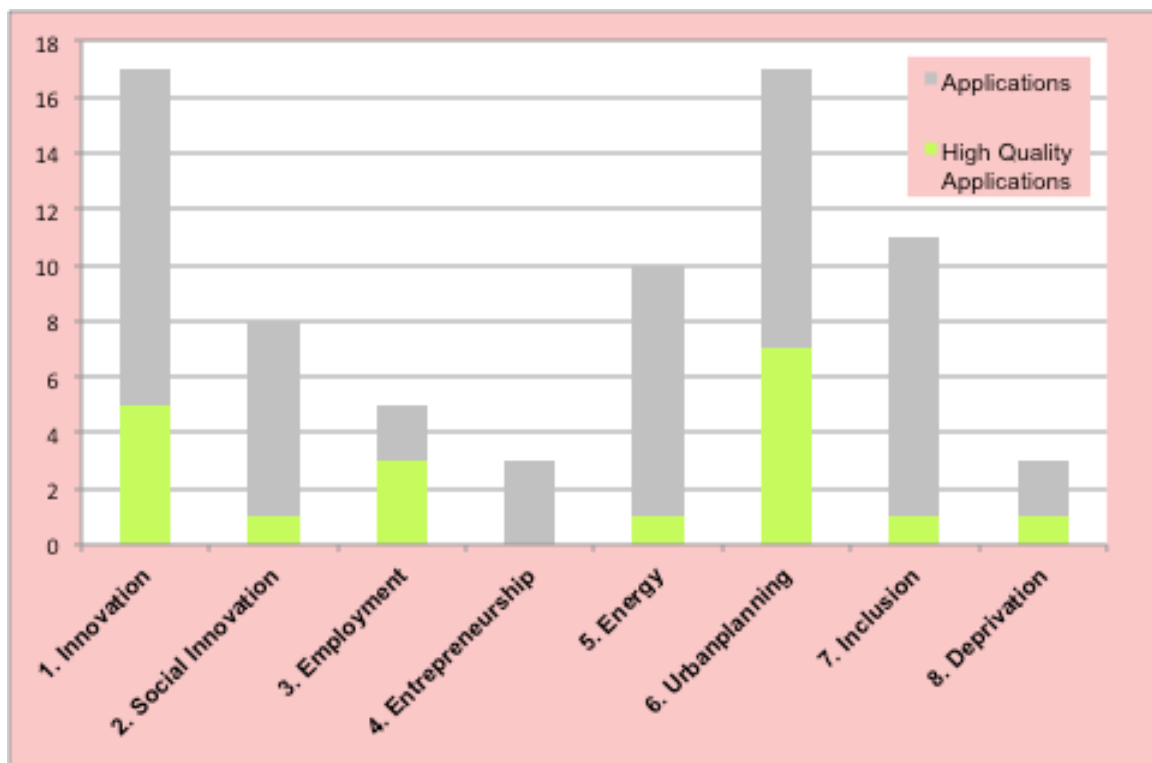
Building on the assessment process and on the discussions held during the consensus meeting, the EAP members consider that the applications scored below '70' are only of medium to low quality (low quality threshold was below '50'). These are unlikely to progress sufficiently well during the development phase. With a score over '70', the EAP indicates that the project has fulfilled all major requirements of the call for proposals with only minor improvements to be achieved during the development phase.

3.2. High Quality Project Applications for Recommendation

Considering the fact that this 3rd and last call for proposals was open for the creation of up to 19 thematic networks, the EAP would recommend that all 19 project applications that reached a score over '70', representing high quality applications, be considered for funding of their development phase.

Although the choice of topics and the nationality of the lead partner of an application were not considered during the assessment process, the following two graphs show the relevant distribution of the 19 high scoring applications against the total population of submitted applications of the 3rd Call for information.

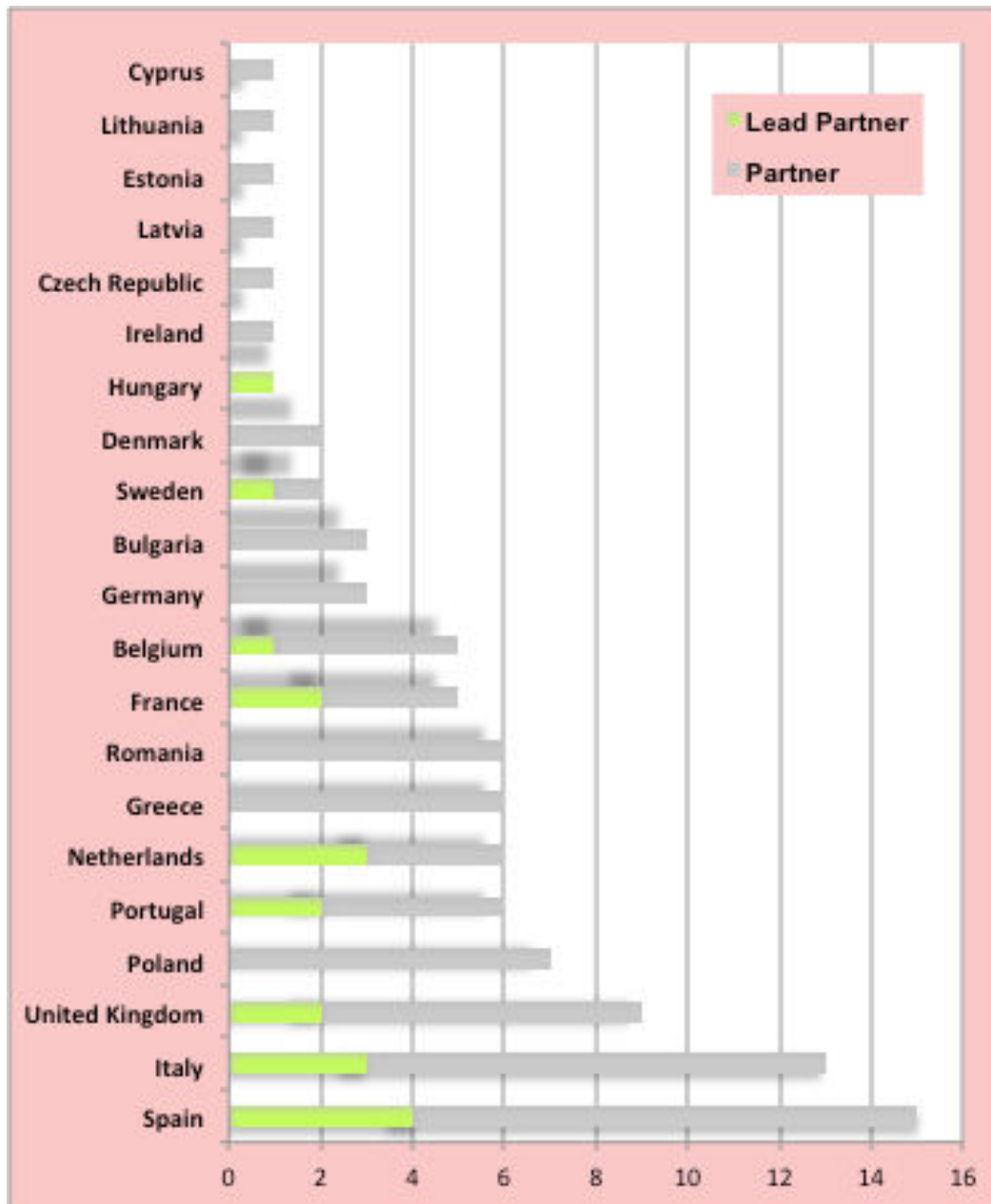
In terms of the eight topics proposed for this call, the high scoring applications are distributed as follows:



The above graph shows that the most popular themes of the third call were 'innovation' and 'urban planning' both attracting 17 applications including respectively 5 and 7 high quality bids. Although relatively few (5) applications were received under the 'employment' theme, a proportionately high number of those were of high quality. The remaining high quality proposals distribute evenly across the remaining themes, except for 'entrepreneurship' which only attracted 3 submissions of which none was deemed of sufficient high quality. Having said this, many applications pointed out that

due to their integrated character, their proposal could have identified a number of other suitable URBACT topics. It might, therefore, be misleading to over-interpret the distribution of applications.

The nationality of the lead partner and partner organisations of the 19 high quality applications is distributed as follows:



The above graph shows that the Member States with most lead and participating partners are Spain (15 cities) and Italy (13 cities). Although a number of cities from the new Member States are partners in high scoring applications, only one organisation (from Hungary) is performing the lead partner role in the highest-scored proposals.

In total the Lead Partners and Project partner included in the high quality applications received in this third call cover 21 European Member States.

3.3. General EAP Observations

In the following, a summary is provided to illustrate some of the key findings of the EAP regarding the most common problems encountered in applications:

- substantially under-developed sections in the application form, whereby too little detail and evidence is provided to demonstrate the interests and thematic challenges of the partners;
- the chosen partners have little in common and/or their interests are too different or diverse to understand how the exchange might provide benefit for them;
- the proposal contains apparent 'copy and paste' sections of standardised versions of applications or of the example template provided by the Secretariat without further elaboration and adjustment to the specific theme of the proposal (this happened particularly often in the case of work packages and budgets);
- themes and topics remain vague, too broadly described and under-developed to clearly understand what the focus of the project and the partnership exchange will be;
- "too much icing without substance" – although the theme and topics of the proposal are well articulated, the application is missing the practical application and implementation of the theme to demonstrate an appropriate level of operational understanding;
- the composition of the ULSG has been poorly specified, particularly with regard to the involvement of local citizens and relevant stakeholders;
- there is concern about the added value of the proposal in case where cities are already participating in other networks and action plan developments;
and
- the lead expert does not seem to have experience in the proposal's main thematic focus.

Regarding the projects that will be approved by the Monitoring Committee on 23 April 2012, the EAP expects that the recommendations formulated for each project will be taken on board by applicants when building their Final application during the 6-month development phase.

ANNEX TO THE EAP REPORT

74 project assessment forms



Project Assessment Sheet	4D CITIES	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Igualada	ES	Comp
PP	Tartu	EE	Conv
PP	Plunge	LT	Conv
PP	Novara	IT	Comp
PP	Leeds	UK	Comp

Project summary

4D CITIES project aims at stimulating the key factors for developing successful integrated policies on Health Innovation so they become driving forces for local development, both at economic and social levels. Partner cities would like to give a boost to innovation and knowledge economy in health sector as a new productive sector which contributes to the diversification and enhancement of the economic activities and social cohesion of their territories

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	18
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	72

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

This is a relevant project that identifies an important field of innovation in the health care sector. The 4D project contributes to 'promoting innovation and knowledge economy' theme of the URBACT programme. Through the health sector the project seeks to stimulate economic development and to combat the effects of the economic crisis.

The European policy context is clearly addressed and the proposal addresses the programme's horizontal criteria. The project could potentially be a forerunner to the European Innovation Partnership, if the strong focus on innovation in the health sector could be maintained.

The project is building on the experience of existing initiatives of the lead partner and a number of the partner cities. Overall, the partners state clearly their challenges and needs in the theme of the project. However, the national differences in competences at the municipal level in health provision could have been more clearly stated and carefully studied, since health is often addressed at the national level.

There may be links with the Building Healthy Communities project, however, these are not addressed in the proposal and could have been explored in the development phase. However, it is considered that the overall aim of the 4D Cities project is sufficiently different to the previous project; whilst both address the same sector, the core aims are different.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The work packages of the implementation phase are generally well developed and detailed while allowing flexibility for further development during the development phase.

The transnational exchange, learning and the capitalisation work packages are well interrelated; although the vision for the thematic coverage for the implementation phase needs further carefully design, producing more concrete deliverables.

The partnership has the potential to create a well focused connection between local authorities, health care organisations as well as private companies in the health care field.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The plans for the development phase are well detailed including the proposed content of the two transnational meetings, and their outputs are precisely quantified. It is explained which networks/sources will be used for searching of additional partners.

A more detailed time management is recommended to coordinate the different activities of the project with a clear vision of actual time-requirements for single activities.

Several partners clearly build on existing initiatives (e.g. for the lead partner the project will build upon an ERDF financed Innovation Simulation Health Centre that is being built, defining and developing partnerships and financing for other related projects that will contribute to health innovation in the city), although this is less clear for Plunge and Tartu.

Although the USLG composition is outlined, the involvement of patients or patients' organisations and NGOs is recommended to be included in the Local Support Groups.

There is clear commitment from the partners that they will implement project results through their Local Action Plans (LAPs), however further connections of the LAPs to other activities might need some revision, such as its relations to the transnational learning actions.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

All the partners have relevant experience in the theme of the project with experiences that can be shared.

The lead partner has strong relevant experience in relation to the theme of the project; the proposed project coordinator has a solid background in health/medicine. The political representative of the project is named, however, it is not explained if or how this person will participate in project activities.

The designated lead expert is a innovation and knowledge transfer coordinator in a hospital research foundation and has experience of collaboration projects through FP7. Given the limited experience of the lead partner in EU territorial cooperation programmes the selection of a lead expert with expertise in this field may be prudent.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget which has been developed for the development phase is generally consistent with the work proposed, however it should be adjusted especially in the following areas:

- Travel and accommodation costs should be clearly devoted to the extended partnership;
- project communication costs should be more detailed and not be constrained to the preparation of a logo
- the EUR25,000 'external expertise' costs needs to be clarified

Concluding remarks

This is a very relevant project that identifies a significant economic development and innovation opportunity in cities focusing on the health care sector. While the project intends to explore an important future economic field, at the same time there is the potential that it could help improve the quality of the health services provided to local residents.

The lead partner is experienced in innovative actions in health policies, while also the partnership has clear experiences in health innovation. The project has a good potential to create new and innovative knowledge for cities and explores how the health sector can contribute to economic development and recovery.

Attention should be given to the following issues during development phase:

- in order to boost European level interest national differences in competences at municipal level in health provision should be stated and carefully studied, since health is often addressed at national level
- how the project builds upon or differs from the Building Healthy Communities project should be clearly stated and the thematic coverage for the implementation phase should be adjusted accordingly
- Inclusion of patients or patients' organisations and NGOs in Local Support Groups is also recommended
- Strong time management would be recommended to coordinate the different activities of the project with a clear vision of actual time-requirements for single activities.

Project Assessment Sheet	Access Cities	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Berlin Senate Dpt for Urban Dvpt	DE	Comp
PP	Barcelona	ES	Comp
PP	Lille Métropole	FR	comp
PP	Sofia	BG	Conv
PP	Warsaw	PL	conv

Project summary

The establishment of the Thematic Network “Exploring current approaches to strengthen accessible cities” aims at fostering and supporting the participation of the member cities in the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 in line with the principles included in the UN Convention on the Rights of People of Disability ratified by the EU in January 2011 (along with 20 Member States). Two priority areas have been chosen to be dealt with: Accessibility and Participation.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The topic of 'barrier free cities', is tackled in a broad way and while a holistic approach is to be encouraged, the project would have benefitted from more focus. The theme is relevant to the URBACT programme although the selection of topic 7 (promoting the inclusion of specific groups) would have been more appropriate than topic 2 (promoting social innovation). All of the partner cities experience the challenge tackled by the project and all have some experience of dealing with the issue as well as some political commitment to tackle it. The topic is of European level interest and it is relevant to Europe 2020.

The nature of the issue addressed and the related challenges are quite vaguely tackled in sections 1 and 2 of the Declaration of Interest. A stronger evidence base for the need of the project could have been provided. The application also needed to explain how it will tackle the programme's horizontal criteria as these are hardly mentioned. Finally, examples of the 'innovative technological solutions' that the project will aim to develop would have created a clearer idea of what the project may have achieved.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities of the work programme have been clearly set out in work packages. However, for the Implementation Phase the activities are quite weakly defined, particularly in work package 2 (Transnational exchange and learning). In particular there are some deliverables/outputs stated that do not clearly interlink with the proposed activities, such as the 'manual with different case studies' and the 'reports of implementation'. In work package 3 (Impact on local governance and urban policies) the fields of action of the Local Support Groups are very wide and can be considered over-ambitious. This approach is less likely to lead to concrete impact in the cities than a more focussed and targeted approach of these groups. This view is also reinforced when examining the aims of the individual partners' Local Action Plans (see criteria 3). Also in work package 3 there are deliverables described as 'other outputs aiming to achieve the aims defined for this work package' with no examples of what these additional activities and outputs may be. Work packages 2 and 3 include participation at Eurocities meetings and at the Urban Development Platform to share, facilitate learning and to disseminate results of the project. These activities would be more relevant under work package 4 (Communication and Dissemination).

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals for both the Development Phase and the Implementation Phase. They are also precisely quantified in the workplan for the Development Phase and the outputs and results are interrelated. All partners show a commitment to develop a Local Action Plan, however it needs to be ensured that the Local Action Plans include practical and concrete measures specific to the local contexts, this is not clear for all partners in section III.3.

While there is an intention to engage the relevant Managing Authorities in the project, in section III.5 no partners have mentioned their Managing Authority in relation to the proposed membership of their URBACT Local Support Group (ULSG) and there is no mention of their participation in Implementation Phase activities (in work packages 2 or 3). This aspect could have been reinforced so as to maximise potential impact.

Access Cities originated from a working group within the Eurocities network. It would have been useful if it would have been explained how the project is adding value to the activities of this working group.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner and in particular the lead partner coordinator have experience in addressing this field of activity, as well as in leading and participating in exchange of experience projects. A named responsible for related projects is named in the Declaration of Interest however it is not explained how this person will be directly involved in the project's activities (e.g. through membership of the ULSG). The partners have varying degrees of experience in the field, some of which is quite limited but there is evidence that it is a policy priority for all of the partners. The designated lead expert has very relevant experience in the theme which would support the partnership, as well as some experience of transnational working.

It seems that the additional 7 partners to be proposed from the Implementation Phase may also be Eurocities members. The inclusion of non-Eurocities partners would have helped to reinforce the added value of the project.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is generally well balanced and corresponds to the activities outlined in the Declaration of Interest.

The overall budget is within the recommended limit of EUR 100,000. The allocation to work package 1 is also reasonable. Section III.8 mentions a 'procedure for advance payment' which is not clear. In table 5 it is not clear if travel and accommodation costs have been included for the lead expert. It is also not clear if these costs have been foreseen for the additional 7 partners. The costs for the lead expert under work package 1 are not explained and it isn't clear what these are for.

Concluding remarks

In summary, Access Cities is not recommended for funding due to the broad approach adopted by the project resulting that the project lacks focus. In addition, the proposed activities for the Implementation Phase are weakly defined compared with other applications. It is also not sufficiently clear how Access Cities will add value to the existing Eurocities' working group which is examining this topic and to which all of the partners are a member.



Project Assessment Sheet	Act4Energy	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Luckenwalde	DE	Conv
PP	Jelvaga	LV	Conv
PP	Rakvere	EE	Conv
PP	Nijmegen	NL	Comp
PP	Oldham	UK	Comp

Project summary

Being responsible for 80% of the EU's energy consumption, cities with their large housing stock and corresponding infrastructure play a key role in reaching the EU's climate change and energy targets. Act4Energy fosters the European exchange of cities on participative approaches to energy-efficient urban renewal and on developing integrated energy strategies for urban areas. Thereby, an intense dialogue with the Managing Authorities on the opportunities of the next funding period is intended.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project is clearly contributing to the 'low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies' theme of the URBACT programme. It also addresses, to varying extents, the three horizontal criteria. The nature of the problem to be tackled is clearly described and is in line with the European climate change and energy goals as well as to the aims of Europe 2020. The problem exists in each of the partner cities, and although the description is very general, it somewhat lacks a common focus. The project is building on the experiences and needs of the partners and in particular draws upon two issues which emerged from an INTERREG IVB Baltic Sea Region project (Urb.Energy), namely the need for communication and coordination processes with stakeholders to develop an integrated energy concept and communication with authorities regarding financing opportunities and mechanisms. However, ULSGs are composed predominantly of municipal administration personnel. The expected results are relevant, but are not particularly innovative. The geographic focus of the work in the partner cities is not clearly defined. Mention is made of a "quarter", but the extent of such a city dimension in the partner cities is not clearly elaborated. It is uncertain whether the entire housing stock in the partner cities is the focus and the types of buildings that are considered. Some of the issues considered by the proposal are being addressed by the on-going URBACT project CASH (Cities Action for Sustainable Housing), but no reference is provided.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The overall strategy is appropriate, however, it is described in general terms. The "integrated energy efficiency concept" is vague and the meaning of urban "quarters" is unclear. There is a clear focus on exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but interests differ considerably. The need to secure sources of funding from outside the partner cities is the main commonality. Work packages are defined, but the descriptions of activities are somewhat limited and vague. Although wide stakeholder participation is proposed in the development of the Local Action Plans (LAPs), many of the partners intend to develop LAPs with mainly municipal administration stakeholder participation. The number of ULSG meetings is not defined. Themes are proposed for the exchanges which correspond with the objectives of the project ('integrated energy efficiency concepts', and 'Financing concepts'). There is interrelation between the proposed work package 2 and 3 with the ULSG supporting the exchange and learning processes through preparation and input for the meetings.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals, although the elaboration of the final application is not included as an activity. The deliverables are precisely quantified in the work plan and the outputs and results are logically interlinked. However, outputs do not demonstrate added value as they are in part similar to those that were produced in a previous INTERREG IV B Baltic Sea project "Urb.Energy – Energy Efficient and Integrated Urban Development Action". All partners show a commitment to develop a LAP, although coherence in aims is not clearly demonstrated. The project shows a good level of commitment to the engagement of MA and the focus on financing concepts could ensure a good level of impact and results deriving from the LAPs.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

Most of the partners have signed the Covenant of Mayors and have identified energy efficiency as one of their municipal priorities. All partners intend to set up ULSG, but the breadth of stakeholder participation in some of the municipalities is restricted to the immediate municipal administration. Although there is a commitment to include the MA in the ULSGs, the degree of ambition amongst the partners varies considerably. Some partners wish to produce roadmaps to reach specific energy efficiency targets, while others simply wish to identify new innovative project ideas. The lead partner from the municipality of Luckenwalde has previous experience with similar issues, particularly in the area of urban renewal, and has relevant experience in leading exchange of experience projects in fields close to the proposed project. The Project Coordinator has relevant experience, but as deputy Mayor and Head of the Planning Department would be busy with other responsibilities and thus would receive considerable external expertise assistance from the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development and the Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe. However, it seems that this may lead to an overly complex management system as the roles of these bodies seem to overlap in part with those of the Project Coordinator and of the lead expert. Political support from the Mayor of the municipality of Luckenwalde is demonstrated. The lead expert has abundant relevant experience in supporting transnational activities (URBACT project HERO) and relevant expertise in relation to the issues addressed - energy-efficient urban renewal.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

On the whole the budget is clear and well documented; the lead partner has not fully assumed its responsibilities for the development phase by decentralising management costs.

The budget is balanced, and ensures enough resources for the international exchange activities. Some questions remain concerning the project expertise.

Concluding remarks

The partnership has chosen to use the "integrated energy efficiency concept" as the focus of their work, which is good. However, as the concept is insufficiently elaborated, the starting position of each of the cities and their specific challenges are incompletely specified and partner objectives differ, the potential for the implementation of a meaningful exchange of experience and learning action is not clearly demonstrated.



Project Assessment Sheet	Active City	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Kolding	DK	Comp
PP	Zalau	RO	Conv
PP	Granollers	ES	Comp
PP	Birmingham	UK	Comp
PP	Piran	SI	Conv

Project summary

The Active City project will develop comprehensive and strategic ways to integrate the promotion of active lifestyles within the development and revitalization of urban areas to support equality in health in a diversity of activities.
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	11
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	9
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	50

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The Active City project intends to address the integration of healthy lifestyles and health planning into revitalisation policies and urban planning policies. Thus, the project is clearly in line with its chosen URBACT theme “Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration”. The European level interest in the project thematic work has also been clearly established. However, the project proposal could have built more on previous URBACT knowledge (Building Healthy Communities).

There is an added focus on urban-sprawl communities, however this does not fit well with the focus of many of the partner cities.

The experiences and needs of the different partners are varied. Consequently, there are different expectations from the network, which could potentially lead to a less meaningful exchange between the partner cities. Thus, the coherence of the project is limited and the proposal could have been clearer in identifying how the different levels of governance could cooperate.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, but without an in-depth elaboration that goes beyond the template provided for URBACT. The Declaration of Interest states that there will be a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but, compared to other URBACT proposals, this application does not provide enough detail to demonstrate that successful results can be achieved.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs of the network are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals. However, based on the fact that the challenges of the partners are quite wide ranging, the proposed Local Action Plans (LAPs) are also quite different. No details have been provided on the elaboration of the baseline study, and very few information is given on the composition and the methodologies to set up the ULSG. The work plan would have benefited from a clear indication on how the different activities and outputs are interrelated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The strength of the partnership is in its good geographical coverage, however, the different experiences of cities stemming from their differences in size and density has not been taken into consideration.

The candidate lead partner has experience in leading international projects; however, there is only limited political commitment in supporting the project.

It seems that the selection of the lead expert has been on the basis of his knowledge of English and not his thematic expertise. His expertise is in urban art development and cultural planning and not health and health related policies.

There is a certain lack of balance in terms of goals and proposals stated in the LAPs. The contributions regarding networking activities have different intensities for each partner.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is on the whole sound, although there are some inconsistencies, namely on the costs related to the extension of the partnership and the external expertise costs, which were not supported by evidence.

Concluding remarks

The Active City project integrates health topics into urban planning policies presenting an innovative idea, which could have a real impact on urban planning practices and a clear relationship to European interest. However, the proposal did not clearly describe how the partnership would integrate in light of the differences among partner cities. In addition, there were issues regarding the coherence of the work plan regarding the different experiences and local interests of the partners.

In comparison to other proposals, the Active City proposal remains under-developed.

Project Assessment Sheet	ADM INN	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Volos	EL	Conv
PP	Ulm	DE	Comp
PP	Misterbianco	IT	Conv
PP	Viladecans	ES	Comp
PP	Brasov Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Dvpt	RO	Conv

Project summary

ADM INN project aims to tackle administrative complexities in horizontal & vertical integration, contributing to more effective and inclusive urban policies. The proposed network will undertake a careful examination and analysis of successful urban policies, good practices and urban governance structures to develop and exchange innovative solutions in: active urban planning, flexible administration structures and citizen inclusion routes for a more crisis- efficient service provision.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	12
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	11
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	8
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	45

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project aims to achieve administrative innovation and solutions for process designs for active, flexible and inclusive urban planning. While these aims are clearly valuable for an efficient public administration and are also in line with the European agenda and with URBACT objectives, the project fails to demonstrate clearly how these complexities will be managed through the project and how this can be undertaken in a strategically coherent way.

While there is a substantial previous URBACT knowledge generated from previous projects, the proposal does not clearly identify how it relates to and how it will build on these projects.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The project has a very ambitious agenda, however, the issues to be tackled, especially regarding the entirety of urban administrative structures are not sufficiently made clear. This also is the case with regard to the cross-thematic topics and the political dimensions of the project. Further detail and clarity would have been useful in demonstrating a better level of coherence.

While the partners are experimenting with the transforming urban governance, they are involved in very different policy changes, thus, it is unlikely that there will be significant levels of synergy from the exchange of knowledge between partners.

Although there is information provided concerning expected activities and deliverables, this remains too standardised in the implementation phase. The information shows insufficient overall strategic vision for the expected results.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal only vaguely outlines the expected activities and deliverables. The proposal shows some concrete details for the creation of the Urban Local Support Groups and the consequent Local Action Plans for partners. However, this information does not convey sufficiently how the overall strategic vision will be applied in practice.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner is committed to manage and organise a partnership in municipal administrative reforms, however, the project design seems too much centred on the needs of the lead partner and misses to identify sufficiently the links between the partners' interests, the involvement of the Managing Authorities and the lead expert.

The lead expert does not identify expertise in the thematic coverage of the project nor in international affairs.

The project is managed entirely by EU department officers. This could potentially represent the risk of creating a distance between municipal level policy making and the project outcomes.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget does not cover all of the compulsory activity foreseen in Phase I of the project.

The budget is more focused on administration and project management than on exchange of experiences. This is shown in the high level of personnel and external expertise costs and the low level of travel and accommodation expenditures, which hardly allows for the extended partnership to participate at the final meeting.

Concluding remarks

This is an ambitious project which has not succeeded in clearly demonstrating how it will deliver its objectives regarding urban administration. The lead partner is interested in addressing challenges regarding major socio-political and administrative changes in recent times and seems keen to form a comprehensive partnership on administrative restructuring. Unfortunately, the scope of interest among partners is so broadly outlined that it seems unlikely that any significant impact will be able to be created via the exchange of experiences.

Notwithstanding the important topic in administrative, regulatory and governance innovation, the proposal does not succeed in demonstrating how the nature and the areas of the different problems will be tackled, and how the main directions of the project will be followed.



Project Assessment Sheet	ALIVE	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Etten-Leur	NL	Comp
PP	Mons	BE	Conv
PP	Cremona	IT	Comp
PP	Malevizi	EL	Conv
PP	Nuenen	NL	Comp

Project summary

Economic vitality of cities is under pressure because of the economic crisis and stagnation in innovation. To bring vitality back identity and inspiration are necessary. Famous artists of the past are such identifying and inspiring sources. They emphasize the uniqueness of cities and reflect European urban development in the past. The partner cities want to support innovative entrepreneurship in relation with their artist. Priorities are SME's in the creative industry, tourism, retail and crafts

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	13
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	53

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project topic is based on the convergence between symbolic and material plus the value of renowned artists and cities with which they have a connection. With the hypothesis of bringing these famous artists (Van Gogh + Stradivarius + El Greco, for the starting five cities) 'alive', the project aims to develop urban innovation and entrepreneurship. Albeit the risk of being considerably vague, the topic and its objectives differ from a single monothematic touristic approach, and could be well accepted within the URBACT aims, as well as in line with the global 2020 EU Strategy.

The idea to "reanimate" artists, their methods, their "steps" in the cities is relevant and can be replicated in other urban and territorial contexts as well as in other disciplinary sectors. And despite the fact of not being directly mentioned, giving priority to the revitalisation of the SMEs economic tissue can be important for urban and social inclusion.

However, the general proposal remains very vague. There is a very weak description of the baseline situation in each city and most development opportunities are not analysed in depth, neither in terms of previous URBACT experience or a more general European dimension, nor in terms of each specific local analysis. The articulation between the different levels of governance is not well detailed as well.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The bulk of the strategy can be appreciated and it remains interesting. However, the application is not developed very well. The information provided in the work packages equates to the minimum standard information from the call for proposals. This seems to show insufficient strategic envisioning and commitment for what is expected. Likewise, the expected effects of the implementation are not clearly defined. This leaves the coherence of the proposal quite fragile.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The effects of the project implementation on policies and each partner actions are not clearly demonstrated. The project does not mention any successful European cities or networks which are using their well-known artists in similar processes. The expected results are not visible and measurable in the application, the activities and outputs are only very generically interrelated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partners' commitment with the project seems good. Each partner has a strong motto and potential regarding the common concept proposed by the project. However, the skills needed to achieve the project aims and its outputs, remain vague and are not well identified.

A project coordinator and a political decision-maker within the lead partner are appointed, but the expertise, milestones and means of the intervention are not well explained. It is necessary to understand how an external entity can guarantee an actual political commitment. The lead expert shows good experience as networking coach, but it is not evident what experience is present to establish the necessary interrelation between entrepreneurship, culture, arts and tourism.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget seems to cover the compulsory activity foreseen for Phase I, however it presents several inconsistencies which would require clarification:

- Costs for personnel are presented in project coordination budget category
- Meeting costs appear a bit low and are the same for the kick off meeting and the final meeting which is not realistic
- Costs for a website appear to be presented – such costs are not eligible
- Expertise costs for baseline work are presented but these are covered by the programme

Concluding remarks

ALIVE proposes a valuable topic with an interesting focus on urban development and innovation through the convergence between symbolic and material added value of renowned artists and the cities they are connected with. The proposal, however, leaves several if not most of the areas of its presentation substantially underdeveloped and far too vague in approach. This leaves the proposal exposed to uncertainty in its effective development and on its expected outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with a much better-supported development of both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the unbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates addressing similarly relevant urban problematic, resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	ATP	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Marathon	EL	Conv
PP	Florence	IT	Comp
PP	Penacova	PT	Conv
PP	Tecuci	RO	Conv
PP	Kato Polemidia	CY	Comp

Project summary

Creation of a communication system with: 1.Urban development, 2.Cultural heritage, 3.Tourism promotion. Addressing socio-economic & environmental needs of partners through practical actions; emphasizing sustainable development and involving all levels of stakeholders. The mainframe for new activities and jobs will be to transform the city and rural area of Marathon to a theme park attraction. The objective is to attract attention to the lifestyle of ancient times - create an educational, creative and fun space bridging present moment of reality to the past.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	6
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	6
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	8
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	7
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	30

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project ATP wishes to analyse and exchange experiences on “alive thematic parks” and aims to contribute to the “enhancing urban planning and efficient public administration”. Nevertheless, the “alive thematic parks” topic does not appear to be an issue in all partner cities, except in the lead partner city. It is evident that the project responds to the needs of the lead partner, showing little evidence of the issues and challenges in the rest of the partners. Moreover, the declaration of interest does not mention existing projects in other cities that might be the “example” of how a successful “alive thematic park” would be implemented. The proposal does not demonstrate how it will bring about innovation at the EU level.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The quality of the strategy is very limited: The issue tackled by the project, the objectives and expected effects (outputs and results) are not clearly defined. The project does not show how the exchange of experiences would happen. The work packages are merely indicated, almost reproducing the standard information that exists in URBACT programme documents.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal does not provide much detail on the expected outputs of the project. There is little evidence that the role of LSG has been understood in a coherent manner by all partners. The details of future actions to be implemented by partners are scarce. Some basic information is missing (for example, the table of expected deliverables, section III.7, is not fully completed).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The proposal provides some evidence that there has been an effort made by the lead partner to find interesting partners to respond to local needs, involving cities from Competitiveness and Convergence regions. However, the lead partner does not explain the wide range of organisational capacities that are needed to manage an URBACT partnership. There are doubts whether the lead expert is aware of his “nomination” to become involved in the partnership (it would have been of benefit if the lead expert would have been more consulted and actively involved in the preparation of the DOI).

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget provides standardised information, very similar to the “example” of DOI provided by the URBACT programme for this 3rd call for proposals. Therefore, the amounts dedicated to each heading in the budget could be considered as adequate. Nevertheless, the exercise of linking budget to activities of the development phase has not taken place.

Concluding remarks

The project seems to respond primarily to the needs of the lead partner. The issue tackled by the project, the objectives and expected effects (outputs and results) are not clearly defined. The quality of the partnership is poor. It is strongly recommended that the lead partner continues developing this project, but with other tools that could be more suitable (for example, a benchmarking exercise, specifically designed for the situation of Marathon).

Project Assessment Sheet	BEEAT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Catania	IT	Conv
PP	Alba Iulia Association for Intercommunity Dvpt - Local Transport	RO	Conv
PP	Krushari	BG	Conv
PP	Torbay Borough	UK	Comp
PP	Bournemouth Borough	UK	Comp

Project summary

NEET refers to youngsters (aged 16- 29), that are not attending school, nor are employed or in training, as well as are not looking for a job (in 2010 7.4 million of young people in the EU were NEET). This project aims at tackling the problem of NEETs at European level, through the exchange of good practices and acquisition of knowledge on policies applied across Europe. The present action addresses the URBACT topic 'inclusive cities – promoting the active inclusion of specific groups'.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	9
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	48

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project aims to exchange practical know-how and seeks to acquire partner knowledge in the topic of “Not in Employment, not in Education and not in Training” among the partner cities. Although the analysis of this problem is undertaken in the DOI, it is only done so in very general terms. Some information is only available for some of the partner cities, not all.

Furthermore, being this a topic which impacts upon national, regional and local governments, the role of the latter, in each one of the specific cities could have been evidenced in more depth.

Another fact which deserves attention is the absence of analysis of previous URBACT achievements in this field (as the project “My Generation”), as well as the incomplete references to cities that have successfully implemented local policies to tackling the problem of NEETs.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

Compared to other proposals of this third call of URBACT II, the quality of the strategy is not very high: although the issue tackled by the project is suitable, the objectives are too broad. The partnership does not show the identification of successful experiences / cities, either within or outside the network (although in page 9 of DOI, the possibility of a "partners' field trip to a city outside the partnership with specific expertise or experience in the issue addressed by the network" is mentioned).

The work packages for the implementation phase and the development phase are detailed, and some interesting (and suitable) tools and methodologies have been identified.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The commitment to implement the results of the project at a local level, through respective Local Action Plans, is quite visible (although some disparities are noticeable in partners). The identified activities and outputs remain largely underdeveloped (with minor adaptations added to the URBACT guidelines).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

There seems to be a clear will by all partners to participate in an URBACT project, and the proposal has been successful in including partners from both Competitiveness and Convergence regions. In comparison to other DOIs, there is however little detailed evidence of the organisational capacities of lead partner to successfully manage an URBACT partnership. The lead expert seems to have more experience in policies related to old age, rather than young people, and does not provide a sufficient background in employment policies.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget covers all the chapters required for the development phase, although the percentage of the budget managed by the lead partner seems a bit disproportioned (around 2/3 of the budget) and the addition between personnel and expertise (around 49% of the budget) is probably too high. The chapter dedicated to “external experts” (15.000 euro) would have deserved more details, and its explicit connection with the actions foreseen in Development Phase, especially in work package 2, should have been given.

Concluding remarks

The topic is of substantial interest at the European level, and the partners evidence an interest in working together on this issue. Nevertheless, compared to other DOIs of this third call for proposals of URBACT II, the coherence of the proposal and the quality of the expected results do not reach the required levels to demonstrate sufficiently that a successful development phase could be undertaken.



Project Assessment Sheet	BIP	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Vicenza	IT	Comp
PP	Czestochowa	PL	Conv
PP	Arad	RO	Conv
PP	Arta	EL	Conv
PP	Bilbao	ES	Comp

Project summary

To help reducing air pollution and CO2 emissions, it is necessary to encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative to car travel, especially when short. Currently, the use of bikes is often discouraged because of the insecure and inadequate parking systems. The BIP project wants study and analyze existing parking and storage systems for bicycles in order to draw up guidelines and assumptions of feasibility improving these kind of systems in European medium size cities.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	64

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposal, BIP, focusses on the provision of bike parking and storage facilities in order to increase cycle use in medium size cities. The Declaration of Interest analyses the nature of the problem, however the explanation of the issue addressed would have benefitted from evidence to demonstrate the importance of cycle parking safety as a factor in encouraging people to cycle in order to justify this very focussed approach. While it is recognised that this is one factor in discouraging people to cycle, BIP could have demonstrated greater ambition by focusing on more than just one aspect. The problem is demonstrated to exist in all of the partner cities and the project clearly builds on the stated experiences and needs of the partners. The expected results could be meaningful and have EU level interest, however, this was not convincingly evidenced.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal is concisely presented, however, in places it lacks coherence. The project activities for the implementation phase are organised into work packages, however the deliverables for work package 2 do not clearly relate to the proposed activities. For example, the proposed 'manual/guide' that is mentioned among the activities is not listed as a 'deliverable' and the 'deliverable' lists includes outputs such as site visit reports, thematic reports etc. whereas they don't seem to be activities that will lead to these e.g. site visits. Work package 4 meets the requirements of the call, however, little detail is provided. Although transnational meetings are foreseen and partners have existing experiences to share with the partners, it is not clear the extent to which the partners will focus on the exchange of experience in the development of their Local Action Plans (LAPs). The proposal would have benefitted by more accurately relating deliverables to the activities.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results for the development phase are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals. However, their quantification is not always correct and some items are missing. The potential of this project to produce meaningful results is good. There is commitment to implement the results among the partners through their LAPs. However, given the limited scope of the thematic focus the project can only expect to have a limited impact on future policies and actions of the cities involved. There is a commitment to implement the results among the partners through their LAPs.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has experience in the development of cycle networks and has a good success record in increasing bicycle usage. The proposed Project Coordinator has experience of coordinating LIFE+ and IEE projects, however, does not seem to have experience specific to the theme. While there is a named political representative, it is not explained how this person will be involved in the project activities. While the lead expert has experience in providing thematic expertise to URBACT projects, and in integrated urban development policies he does not seem to have expertise specific to sustainable transport/mobility. The involvement of the MAs is addressed for the lead partner, but not for the other partners.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget seems to cover most of the compulsory activity foreseen for the Development Phase of the project, however it is over-complicated in its presentation which does not take into consideration the Programme guidance on simplification. Some inconsistencies are apparent:

- The costs for travel are disproportionately high whereas meeting costs are potentially insufficient
- The communication costs of 6000€ are not explained

Concluding remarks

The BIP proposal deals with a very relevant theme that can have a meaningful impact on sustainable urban mobility. Better situating the proposal in the wider urban sustainable mobility planning context would have made for a more meaningful action with greater impact.

Project Assessment Sheet	C&P.GOV	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Livorno	IT	Comp
PP	Heraklion	EL	Conv
PP	Siracusa	IT	Conv
PP	Cartagena	ES	Conv
PP	Portoferraio	IT	Comp

Project summary

Focus of the project is the role and urban planning performance of port cities in the Mediterranean area. The aim is to strengthen governance and integrated planning of urban and port systems, in view of the objectives of defining pertinent renewal and revitalisation policies for Mediterranean city-ports and promoting institutional cohesion through collaborative governance processes, finalised to improve the partnership between institutions and the participation of local communities.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	13
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	51

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The relevance of this project, which is based on both the geographical as well as on each local urban and administrative good connectivity for small scale port-city systems, lies in its multidimensionality. The project aims at covering different topics, from joint strategic envisioning to accessibility and waterfront renewal, out of the main topic.

In these circumstances, the selected approach is quite relevant and fits well into the European agendas. The main issues presented on the five case-studies, despite the different territorial situations and scales, seem relatively similar, bringing the partners together and supporting the exchange of transnational experiences.

However, there are some considerable limitations in the presentation of the project, with some analysis made only at a superficial level, leaving the thematic structure of the proposal too fluid, and the added value of the project with some substantial uncertainties.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy and concepts are relevant and explained through a number of expected operational outputs for each partner. The plan is to promote the engagement of several local agents and local communities, anticipating the setting of cooperation processes between agents and urban society.

However, the activities of the work packages are not sufficiently detailed, this seems to show insufficient strategic visioning and commitment for what is expected. Likewise, the expected effects of the implementation were not clearly defined. This leaves the coherence of the proposal too fragile.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The outputs and impacts to be generated by the implementation of operations are yet to be determined. In fact, the work plan for the development phase was not thoroughly detailed, only identifying a limited amount of expected outputs and results. The communication outputs do not seem to justify the high amount of budget allocated for communication activities.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership seems to be well-balanced, with partners showing a similar degree of problems and future challenges. This could bring them together well and could support the transnational exchange of experiences.

The lead expert has proven competences in project management, but it is not certain that the respective knowledge of the project theme is well covered. The project does not demonstrate well that there is a strategy to involve new members in the partnership.

The relationship and the articulation between managing authorities of different kinds shows to be of fundamental importance to the project, however, this has not been clearly identified in the proposed strategy. Also, previous URBACT projects such as Sud-est and CTUR have not been taken into consideration.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget seems to cover the compulsory activity foreseen in the Development Phase.

The costs linked to project management in personnel and expertise represent more than 40% of the overall budget which is considered too high for this phase. The costs for ULSG meetings seem to be very high considering the planned activity.

Concluding remarks

C&P. GOV proposes a valuable topic with an interesting multidimensional focus. The proposal, however, has several areas where its presentation seem underdeveloped and too vague in approach. This leaves the proposal exposed to uncertainty regarding its effective development and its expected outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with a well-supported development of both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the unbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates addressing similarly relevant urban problems resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.

Project Assessment Sheet	CERIC	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Amsterdam	NL	Comp
PP	Acs	HU	Conv
PP	Murcia	ES	Conv
PP	Malmö	SE	Comp
PP	Goteborg	SE	Comp

Project summary

CERIC focuses on the development of new strategies and tools to address issues of social exclusion using cultural and creative education, focusing on addressing exclusion in recent migrant and Roma communities. CERIC will develop and share new approaches that create effective partnerships between education, youth, inclusion and arts and cultural departments, leading to sustainable change within cities.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	53

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The topic of developing new strategies and tools to address the social inclusion of Roma communities and recent migrants is relevant and demonstrates potential to contribute to the URBACT Programme. The intention to use creative education to address this issue is innovative and well-explained. All involved partner cities are concerned with inclusion problems, but the description of their concrete needs could have been further detailed. Furthermore, the application provides only limited insight into existing good practice experience of other European countries and cities. Previous URBACT projects are briefly mentioned and the proposed project plans to build on their experiences.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

In comparison to other project submissions, the proposal remains underdeveloped which results in a limited coherence overall. The implementation strategy, for example, should have been elaborated further detailing the exchange of experience of all partner cities more adequately (e. g. regarding the planned study visits). The development phase would also have benefited from further planning regarding the baseline study. And the establishment of the ULSG.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Expected outputs and results have been specified in a general manner, however missing to fully reflect the needs of the partners. There are elements of good quality, for example the final meeting of the development phase which includes an international seminar related to the topic of the project. The political level and management authorities have been identified, however, related activities could have been planned in further detail in order to demonstrate and ensure impact on local policies and future actions.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership involves partners interested and committed to the topic of inclusion and to build-up local support groups. The lead partner demonstrates a strong and credible background as well as political backing in relevant areas. The named officer could have provided further evidence, though, regarding her qualification in an English European format CV. The lead expert also demonstrates experience in relation to the project issue at the national levels, but could have included further information regarding his transnational background.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget presented is incoherent and does not allow for the compulsory activities necessary in Phase I to be financed. The total budget is only 66k€ and more than half of this is dedicated to personnel costs. There are no costs presented for the kick off and final meeting. Costs for an internal communication site are presented and are not eligible. Other expertise costs are shown which are unclear.

Concluding remarks

In summary, CERIC explains the project issues well, but is not very successful in demonstrating how the issues relate to the planned activities. A number of aspects of the proposal remain underdeveloped, such as the appropriate integration of previous good practice and how this would influence the partnership and exchange activities. Importantly, the planned work programme represents a very general approach in comparison to other project proposals. Furthermore, there was only limited information provided for the team of the named officer and the lead expert. This leads to questions over their capability to support transnational teams adequately. Some elements of good quality have not sufficiently counterbalanced the identified weaknesses of the proposal.

Project Assessment Sheet	CHORUS	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Fostering regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods and combating poverty
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Partnership

LP	Bucharest	RO	Conv
PP	Athens	EL	Conv
PP	Bologna	IT	Comp
PP	Lisbon	PT	Comp
PP	Lyon	FR	Comp

Project summary

CHORUS is developing a thematic network, composed of major EU cities aiming to design plans and policies that promote inclusive strategies for urban regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods in inner city areas. CHORUS fosters multilevel and multi-sectorial models, created by participatory design for advanced, comprehensive and sustainable urban regeneration, applied to significant abandoned public spaces to be re-used as catalyst for innovative urban economies that sustain inclusive and open places

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	61

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project topic is to foster integrated urban regeneration dynamics, through combatting poverty, in deprived neighbourhoods in inner city areas. The project's objectives and processes seem to contribute to main sectors relevant to the European agendas as well as to specific URBACT objectives, themes and expected outcomes.

However, the nature of the different problems and dimensions to be tackled as well as the main directions to be followed, is not clearly identified in the proposal. This weakens the effective demonstration of the relevance of the proposal and its problematic. There is also evidence that between the partners there is a considerable imbalance in terms of experiences, problematics, scales of approach and consequent objectives, throughout the different partner cities and on each specific urban areas proposed. These substantial differences between the different partners, although showing possible diversity on contributions, also cast doubt if substantial added value can be generated for each partner city.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The project presents a good focus on the exchange and transfer of experiences amongst the different cities. This is based on a relevant and well identified problematic, as well as from some good experience in development experiences and programmes in urban regeneration, at least in some partners. However, the issues to be tackled, especially when faced by such a cross-thematic proposal, are not sufficiently demonstrated and clarified.

Even if the project proposes quite a concrete focus on public spaces, mostly abandoned, as catalyst for urban regeneration in central deprived areas, most issues remain too general. Likewise, the activities proposed in the work packages are not very detailed, remaining too general and almost similar to the guidance templates of the call (although some detail on the enhancement of the LSGs and its consequent LAPs is evident). This seems also to show insufficient overall strategic visioning for what is expected.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected activities seem generally interesting and in line with what is outlined in the call. However, the proposal is not effective in demonstrating operational outputs. It is relatively difficult to find explicit interrelationships in the proposal. The commitment from the different partners, including the lead partner, seem to be high, but even here the expected impact of the anticipated networking driven project seems relatively unclear and unbalanced.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

There is a relative balanced partnership in terms of size and relative importance of the different partners, most relevant cities for the EU scale. There is expectation for good commitment on the part of the initial partners, and notably on the part of the lead partner. The lead partner addressed most of the problematic. Whilst this might be advantageous for a strong project management, it is at the same time potentially limiting in terms of a more equitable share and ownership of topics. The experience from project coordinator and lead expert seems to be adequate. However, there are critical and substantial differences between the different partners, both in terms of types of urban areas and its issues, of types of approaches, and of types of objectives; this does not indicate well that added value and mutual benefits can be created for the entire network.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget seems to cover the compulsory activity foreseen in the Development Phase.

The costs linked to project management in personnel and expertise represent nearly 45% of the overall budget which is considered too high for this phase. The costs for travel seem to be insufficient for the required activity.

Concluding remarks

CHORUS proposes a relevant topic and focus for urban Europe present issues regarding urban regeneration and poverty in inner city neighbourhoods. The cities proposed for the initial network are strong and dominant European cities. The lead partner shows effective commitment in managing and tackling the project's main challenges. The proposal, however, leaves several areas of its presentation substantially underdeveloped and based on a too general an approach. Including the relatively different situations in each of the partner cities leaves the proposal, when seen in a global and integrative manner, with substantial uncertainty regarding its effective development and likely achievements. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with a much better supported development of both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the unbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates addressing similarly relevant urban problems resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	Cities of Excellence	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Bilbao	ES	Comp
PP	Tallin	EE	Conv
PP	Plock	PL	Conv
PP	Mannheim	DE	Comp
PP	Milan	IT	Comp

Project summary

"Cities of Excellence: European Network of Cities for the Excellence in the Public Management for a sustainable local development" aims to tackle the importance of having effective and efficient management in local public administrations which can guarantee the provision of basic municipal services and dealing with the numerous needs of the different collectives and neighbourhoods of the city and also keep-on investing in projects that are key for the development of the city.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project addresses the issue of excellence in public management, which is an important policy issue and a relevant theme for an URBACT network and it also fits to the chosen URBACT priority field. While new management tools and investments are needed to improve public administration, the proposal tackles it rather generally and broadly. It is a broad topic and relevant sub-themes would have helped to focus it down to manageable sections.

A strong element of the proposal is that the project reflects the crisis by aiming to achieve a more effective public administration.

However, the described challenges for the partner cities have been too general and focusing on financial management and not on public management related problems. At the same time Bilbao, Mannheim and Tallin show previous policy experiences in the given field, thus improving the networking opportunities of the project.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, and a clear strategic plan for the implementation phase. There are plans to create four working groups on 1) effective and competency-based management 2) strategic policy planning 3) monitor and evaluation tools of public policies 4) transparency and citizen's participation. This strategic vision is valuable, although also shows the weaknesses of the proposal. The present scope of the partnership is too wide and is unlikely to provide a successful and creative atmosphere for exchange, which is visible from the diverging partner presentations and the issues, topics, interests within the partnership. Selecting a single issue from the different potential public management issues could have benefited the proposal. For example, human resource management or financial management of cities are in themselves good project themes on what to build up a coherent and focused partnership.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The plans for the development phase are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals. The expected outputs of the network are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals, but, being the challenges of the partners quite wide ranging, the result is that local action plans (LAPs) are quite different.

The baseline study is not an integral part of the work programme, there is no mentioning that it will be presented to LSGs and is not being discussed, agreed upon at the final meeting of the development phase. It rather seems that it is viewed as an obligatory exercise which has to be accomplished, without understanding its key function in the partnership.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is geographically balanced and partners are committed to the project to exchange and share experience and to build up Local Support Groups, although Milano seems to have a more general interest.

The lead partner is experienced in strategic budgeting but has less familiarity with other issues related the other thematic priorities.

The project has a strong political commitment, which helps ensuring implementation.

Local Support Groups are understood as a cross-sectoral board of the municipalities rather than a multi-agency group, involving both private and public bodies, as well as NGOs and interested citizens.

The lead expert has experience in European projects and can support transnational groups in general, but she seems to have little background in public administration processes (like strategic budgeting, citizens' involvement, evaluation etc.).

There is minor contradiction in the fact that while the project intends to achieve excellence in the public management for a sustainable local development, many partners are represented by European Affairs staff, which usually has less capacity to implement results in public management.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears to cover the compulsory activities foreseen in the Development Phase. The balance between Lead Partner and project partners is adequate and reflects the requirements placed on the project leader. There remain some unexplained budget issues within the communication costs and for external expertise.

Concluding remarks

The Cities of Excellence project aims to tackle the importance of having effective and efficient management in local public administrations and the topic relates well to the economic crisis and thus has European relevance. There are some areas which are less well developed, overall however, the project theme seems too broad to be practically tackled by the partnership.

However, the experiences and realities are fairly different among partners; from financial management to public management and participative planning, consequently there are also different expectations from the network. Led by the different interests of the partners the project loses its focus.



Project Assessment Sheet	CITIMORPH	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Hackney Borough	UK	Comp
PP	Milan	IT	Comp
PP	Seia	PT	Conv
PP	Francavilla Fontana	IT	Conv
PP	Viimsi	EE	Conv

Project summary

The CITIMORPH proposal seeks to develop local action plans and guidance that will assist cities and regions to adapt and reduce their vulnerability to the consequences of climate change, whilst simultaneously reducing their carbon footprint. The proposal will include an assessment of how this transition to low carbon and climate-proofed cities can generate sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity for all.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	58

Comments

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added

The CITIMORPH proposal intends to develop local action plans and guidance that will assist cities and regions to adapt and reduce their vulnerability to the consequences of climate change, whilst simultaneously reducing their carbon footprint. The proposed action is very relevant, but because of the large diversity of geographic and climatic circumstances amongst the partners, the difference in city sizes and divergent needs of the partner cities the opportunity for meaningful exchange of experience is considered to be limited. The scale at which the proposal is working is unclear - city or neighbourhood level. Overall the proposal is well structured and coherent and demonstrates a clear understanding of EU climate policies.

Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal

The proposal lacks a clear focus - the themes to be worked on are diverse ranging from climate adaptation, carbon-footprint reduction, climate technologies, community gardens, thus a meaningful exchange and learning experience is made difficult. Likewise, experience exchanges between large cities such as London and Milan and small municipalities such as Seia and Frankavilla Fontana (with around 25 000 /35 000 inhabitants) are unlikely to be meaningful as challenges and solutions will be considerably different. A work plan is developed, but is not elaborated much beyond that prescribed by URBACT requirements with respect to activities and deliverables.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Outputs are defined, but the expected results and outcomes are not made clear. The expected impact of the project on the policies and future actions of the partners is not clearly demonstrated. The baseline study is missing from the development phase description, thus the role of the final meeting and the ULSGs in the project are not clearly demonstrated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The level of commitment between the partners varies considerably. The lead partner is experienced. The Project Coordinator has relevant project management experience, but not so much related to the topic of climate change. Political support for the project is evidenced. The lead expert is very experienced in urban planning and management, but less so specifically on climate change issues.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears to cover the compulsory activities foreseen in the Development Phase. The balance between Lead Partner and project partners is adequate and reflects the requirements placed on the project leader but does not take into consideration national variations in staff costs. There remain some points for clarification:

- Project coordination costs require explanation
- Personnel costs for the Lead Partner appear low

Concluding remarks

The proposed action is very relevant in the context of the URBACT programme and EU policy. Overall the proposal is well structured and demonstrates a clear understanding of EU climate policies. However, because of the large diversity of geographic and climatic circumstances amongst the partners, the difference in city sizes and divergent needs of the partner cities, the opportunity for meaningful exchange of experience seems greatly diminished. Furthermore, the baseline study, which is the key document to be prepared during the development phase is not discussed in the Declaration of Interest, thus detracting from the integrity of the proposal.



Project Assessment Sheet	CitiZen Planning	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Dudelange	LU	Comp
PP	Varberg	SE	Comp
PP	Alba Iulia	RO	Conv
PP	Vaslui	RO	Conv
PP	Communauté de Communes du Canton de Ségré	FR	Comp

Project summary

<p>The development of urban planning in cities is often restricted to a few decision-makers without large consultation or dialogues with people who live in the city. The project aims to promote and foster actively the integration of the population into the design and planning process of new eco-districts built in cities and especially in brownfields regeneration. The participation of citizens should allow the development and implementation of new methodologies to design and plan new eco-districts.</p>
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	64

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

This project aims at fostering new methodologies for citizenship participation and procedural integration in the eco-planning of brownfield areas. It is, therefore, a quite interesting and relevant approach that supports the improved collaboration between technical and administrative urban planning processes, physical brownfields, and its social surroundings. The improvement of urban planning performances through wider local civic participation is a problematic that fits well with regard to the expected modernisation developments of urban policies and territorial cohesion in urban Europe.

In this sense, the proposal is fairly detailed in order to understand the intention to undertake a participative project, based on a bottom up logic, and to achieve suggested challenges.

However, and considering that the themes of civic participation and brownfield site redevelopment are not new in the EU context, the declaration of interest could have gone deeper regarding what the main issues of this theme are in connection to the wider European agendas. Furthermore, the proposal could have been more explicit regarding previous and existing project experience elsewhere and how this project would build on this.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

There are two main issues in the proposal: the interest between the partners in developing more participative and efficient planning methods; and the concrete territories at stake (disqualified brownfields) relevant spaces for social inclusion, economic revitalisation and the implementation of environmental sustainable solutions.

The present strategy is minimally coherent and the activities of each work package, from the implementation to the development phase, are in that sense detailed. However, the proposal remains quite theoretical and seemingly a bit distanced from the realities in the initial partner cities. There are no clear linkages and explanations as to how the priority development issues in each city relate to the key stakeholders, the citizens. This makes the proposed strategy more akin to a scientific research project on participatory methods in planning.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The link between new planning methods and the brownfield development sites in the partner cities is poorly developed. All the partner cities are dealing with brownfield site issues to some degree, but eco-districts as such do not appear to be the priority of most partners. Segre will deal with a new health centre, Dudelange is planning a new cinema industry, Varberg with an abandoned industrial port area, and the other partners have not defined specific redevelopment priorities.

It is unclear what the substantive results of the project will be. The content for the proposed Local Action Plans (LAPs) are also not clearly defined, as well as the impacts on future actions on each partner, not quite demonstrated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership shows to be interesting, although as a whole not clearly demonstrating a guaranteed networked commitment to the effective implementation and development of the project. Nevertheless, the partners made a clear commitment to the setting up of Local Support Groups. The political representative of the lead partner, the project coordination and the lead expert are appointed, showing overall experience with EU project management, show to be able to meet the challenges of the project. However, there are uncertainties arising from effective knowledge in the proposed thematic for the project. It is not clearly evidenced that the lead partner has coordinated a project as a lead partner in the past.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears to cover the compulsory activities foreseen in the Development Phase.

Travel and meeting costs appear disproportionately high for the activity proposed. Some personnel costs have been placed in Project coordination budget category which is incorrect. The costs foreseen for personnel for the Lead Partner appear insufficient.

Concluding remarks

CitiZen Planning proposes a relevant topic and focus for urban Europe present issues, the problematic of deeper citizen participation on transformation planning processes upon brownfield areas, towards new sort of urban eco-districts. The proposal, however, leaves several areas of its presentation underdeveloped and too general or theoretical in its approach. The combination of this with the relatively different situations in each partner city leaves the proposal, when seen in a global and integrative manner, exposed to quite some uncertainty regarding its effective development. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with a better and well-supported development of both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the unbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates addressing similarly relevant urban problems resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	CITY ANTISOMA	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Fostering regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods and combating poverty
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Partnership

LP	Thessaloniki	EL	Conv
PP	Alba Iulia Municipality	RO	Conv
PP	Lecce	IT	Conv
PP	La Spezia	IT	Comp
PP	Alicante	ES	Comp

Project summary

City Antisoma intends to formulate a model of urban regeneration based upon the premise that territories interact as living organisms within a complex city structure. The aim is to increase the efficiency of local government interventions by shifting from top down towards a bottom up approach that envisages micro-projects. The impact appears both on the neighbourhood level by stimulating self healing reactions but also provide vital information when it comes to devise policies at a larger scale.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	11
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	9
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	45

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

This innovative project idea has, in principle, the potential to contribute to new forms of urban regeneration policy with a solid bottom-up approach involving citizens as actors. Related problems and challenges exist in all partner cities, but the proposal could have been further specified in order to create a more robust basis for the exchange and transfer of experience between the partner cities. The chosen approach how to address the issues at the micro-level is deemed appropriate. However, the application provides overly general, and at times overly complex information which has only limited success in demonstrating how the project themes will relate to more concrete activities. The proposal could have elaborated more on the extent to which existing good practice will be utilised within and beyond the URBACT project.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The implementation strategy is described in very general terms. Similarly, the work packages seem underdeveloped making it difficult to identify the link to the desired objectives. In comparison to other project submissions, the work programmes for the implementation and development phase are described in a too general manner. The specific challenges of the involved cities differ to some extent and there is some uncertainty as to the extent to which planned activities are linked with the envisaged exchange of experience.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Although the project deliverables and outputs are listed, the application could have been further elaborated including the more detailed specification and quantification of the expected results. There are some missed opportunities in providing more detail about the baseline study and the ULSG. The work programme includes some elements which have the potential to impact on policies and further actions of partners (e. g. involvement of politicians and managing authorities in local support groups).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership disposes of a strong southern dimension and the proposal does not clarify how it plans to expand to allow for the potential exchange of experience regarding other parts of Europe. The background of the lead partner regarding urban generation as well as related to the management of EU projects fits the requirements of the call well. However, the lead partners' experience in deprived neighbourhoods could have been further detailed in order to demonstrate how appropriate guidance and support for the whole partnership will evolve. The lead expert only provided limited information regarding his specific background in deprived neighbourhoods.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget presented is generally acceptable but presents several points which require clarification:

- The costs for personnel appear to be very low, if the project management costs are in expertise the personnel budget then becomes very high.

Overall, the budget reflects the central role of the lead city and would need some readjustments to ensure sound financial management.

Concluding remarks

The project provides an interesting approach targeted at micro and nano interventions in urban surroundings. However, the project theme is presented in a very broad and general manner and could have benefited from an increased focus regarding its implementation strategy and work programme. An indication could have been provided as to how the balance of the partnership would be enlarged beyond the Southern European perspective during the development phase. There are some weaknesses in the proposed budget representing in an insufficiently balanced approach.



Project Assessment Sheet	Citylogo	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centres management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Utrecht	NL	Comp
PP	Genova	IT	Comp
PP	Coimbra	PT	Conv
PP	Zaragoza	ES	Comp
PP	Krakow	PL	Conv

Project summary

CityLOGO is a transnational learning experience on city branding and -marketing in modern urban politics. It is about better positioning cities in the post crisis economic arena and reinforcing the communication dimension in the chain of strategic planning. The project will cover four sub-themes: i) shaping city branding in local governance; ii) partnerships and stakeholder involvement in city branding; iii) different targets-businesses, visitors, locals, talent; iv) new channels of communication

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	21
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	23
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	18
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	80

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

This innovative project proposal addresses city branding with the means of integrated approaches which is relevant to the URBACT Programme. The application provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and has outlined a number of appropriate sub-themes which will be addressed. The proposal further explains the main problems related with branding activities in cities. The partner cities are experienced and demonstrate convincingly how their local needs will form the basis of the project for further development. The theme is relevant to European policies, however, the project could enhance more how this relationship is established. Examples from other cities are well-integrated in the rationale and related to the project theme.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

Meaningful objectives have been defined with a clear relationship to the needs and challenges of the partner cities. The good quality work programme provides a sufficient insight into the overall approach incorporating a good operational structure. The Local Action Plans are well defined and provide further insight into the envisaged project design. The transfer of experience is the clear focus of the proposal. However, the quantity of exchange activities is relatively low and should be increased, in order to ensure a wider exchange of experience and related dissemination.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results are meaningful and have been defined adequately. The deliverables related to the development phase are specified and explained with high quality ensuring a good quality output. The project time plan and relevant quantifications are appropriate and in line with the needs of the partnership. The high-quality activities for the integration of decision makers and management authorities is likely to impact well on future action and related urban policies.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The well-balanced and committed partnership is aimed at sharing experience. The lead partner disposes of real and evidenced long-lasting experience in the key topics of the project proposal. However, the named officers' experience concerning the management of transnational partnerships has not been well outlined. The lead expert provides added value to the partnership regarding his previous URBACT experience, but further evidence should be provided related to his city branding background. Furthermore, the lead expert has been involved in other URBACT project proposals of this call which might result in the need for selecting an alternative expert.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is generally acceptable however a review is required to clarify a few points:

- Is the Lead Partner budget sufficient to ensure an efficient project management
- There is an additional expertise budget which requires explanation
- Genova does not have a budget allocation for hosting the meeting planned in the work programme
- Only 5 baseline study visits are programmed – the new partners need to be visited so the travel budget may be insufficient.

Concluding remarks

The project Citylogo demonstrates a high quality approach to further develop innovation in city branding. The project partnership seems committed and well-balanced in its aims contribute to the objectives of the URABCT Programme. Whilst the quality of the implementation strategy is high, the development of an increased focus on exchange activities between partners is recommended. This should also be linked with the experience of the lead expert. Further consideration should be given extending the duration of the planned study visits. These recommendations should be taken into account during the development phase.



Project Assessment Sheet	CitySenior	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Tampere	FI	Comp
PP	Aalst	BE	Comp
PP	Usti nad Labem	CZ	Conv
PP	Misterbianco	IT	Conv
PP	Arendal	NO	PS

Project summary

<p>CitySenior promotes active involvement of elderly people in planning the city structures. The project enhances the quality of daily life of elderly people by seeking solutions to good housing and accessible services in the city. Innovative collaboration between service providers in public, private and 3rd sector is encouraged. The project exchanges knowledge of an urban living environment, suitable for all generations, which enables safe and happy living in your own home all through your life</p>
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	18
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	66

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposed project contributes to the objective of the URBACT Programme as it addresses the need for a further involvement of seniors in city planning in order to create new services and better quality of life for the elderly. The proposal is also clearly connected to European level activities, and the project is relevant to one of the key challenges of European policy – namely the demographic change.

The project also contributes to the three cross-cutting issues of the call for proposals, as it addresses the issues of integrative approaches taking into consideration multilevel governance processes (e. g. national action plans related to the topic). Furthermore, financial considerations are also covered (cost-effective measures) thus a clear connection has been made to the framework of the crisis.

The application provides a comprehensive outline of the nature of the problem to be tackled. The problem exists in all partner cities and their need is convincingly demonstrated.

However, the application does not provide sufficient information regarding the use of the results of previous URBACT II projects related to the topic – namely Active A.G.E.

The needs of the partner cities are covered by the proposal, however, the identified themes are relatively broad and diverse between the partners.

The proposal could have benefited from an increased focus which would have contributed to a more coherent presentation of the project. Various aspects regarding care services, housing solutions, the integration of elderly people into the planning process, or any other sub-theme of elderly friendly policies could have been presented more clearly and more structured which could have produced a clearer approach and higher quality of expected outputs.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The application includes a comprehensive overview of the potential to produce the desired effects. The development phase is planned for according to the requirements of the call and the proposed activities are in line with the objectives and are likely to have the potential to create the expected effects.

The project focuses on the exchange of experience and of reciprocal learning. The proposed work plan includes several good approaches like the opening conference and the online learning platform (work package 2) or the exploitation plan (work package 4). The related work package 2 disposes of a good communication plan outline and a good approach regarding the selection criteria for further partner cities joining.

The draft Local Action Plan (LAP) is well-structured and includes a time plan. Some of the elements outlined, however, lack further information (e. g. like an indicative lists of topics for the thematic learning). The content and structure of the baseline study could have been provided in more detail.

While the development phase clearly shows concrete actions and outputs, the implementation phase misses methodological clarity.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs for the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call for the proposal. The outputs are concrete and specified. Activities and outputs are interrelated, but the time dedicated to the development of the baseline study is too short (especially also regarding the baseline studies for the new partner cities joining).

The activities foreseen will allow the involvement of politicians as well as of Managing Authorities and, therefore, a clear impact on urban policies and future actions can be expected.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The application provides evidence that the partners are committed to the implementation of the project, its topics as well as to establish and run a local support group.

The lead partner is experienced in the topic and runs related ongoing programmes – the same applies for all the partner cities.

The local team of the lead partner is experienced in European projects as well as in the relevant thematic of the proposal.

The political decision makers are identified and named from the application and have initiated local programmes related to the topic of the project.

The lead expert is experienced in transnational cooperation activities and supporting cities (e. g. URBACT II project “ACTIVE A.G.E” lead expert). Furthermore, she disposes of related research background.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The project presents a detailed budget, but the equal budget breakdown between the partners does not fully reflect the central role of the Lead Partner, since there are high levels of personnel costs for partner cities.

The share of personnel costs is more than 50% which is not appropriate. Travel costs for the Lead Expert appear to be insufficient for the required activity.

Concluding remarks

A well-designed project targeted at creating elderly friendly cities. The project has the potential to have European level interest in its work. The lead partner disposes of real and evidenced experience in the topic and runs related ongoing programmes – the same applies for all the current partner cities. However, the proposal has not sufficiently demonstrated how the diverging thematic interest of the partner cities (from housing policies, to participatory planning with elderly people and the provision of care services) can be successfully accommodated by the project.

A high level proposal that, in terms of coherence, but which unfortunately scored less than other, more focused proposals.



Project Assessment Sheet	Creative SpIN	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Birmingham	UK	Comp
PP	Mons	FR	Conv
PP	Wroclaw	PL	Conv
PP	Sevilla	ES	Conv
PP	Rotterdam	NL	Comp

Project summary

Culture and Creative Industries (CCIs) are recognised as an important sector for economic growth. The challenge now is how to best connect CCIs with other sectors to stimulate “spillover” (or indirect) effects. Cities can act as a “testbed” for culture as a new source of innovation and inspire a sustainable and integrated model of socioeconomic development. Partners will identify beneficial complementarities between economic sectors and develop tools to support cross-industrial collaborations.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	21
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	23
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	18
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	84

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project aims to analyse the creative industries as engines of growth in European cities, and to connect them with other economic sectors to stimulate “spillover” (or indirect) effects. The lead partner is aware that “creative cities” have already been the object of URBACT projects (and so this is explicitly mentioned in the DOI) and suggests that the analysis of spillover effects would bring innovative added value to the programme as a whole (which is certain). The proposal suggests that this spillover effect is analysed and implemented in three areas (finance, universities and creative agents) which seems well focused and based on a convincing rationale. There is also a very good analysis on EU key references on this issue. The application outlines convincingly how the involved city partners will address the issue which is based on previous commitment to CCI in general and related to concrete further developments. The problems and challenges in the cities are outlined in general and related to the local needs.

The relevance to EU agendas and URBACT development themes and objectives is well demonstrated.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy is of very good quality: the issue tackled by the project, the objectives and the expected effects (outputs and results) for the implementation phase are clearly defined and meaningful. There is detailed information on each one of the work packages. There is a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and, in addition, there is an identification of “good practices” outside the network, to be analysed. Finally, the involvement of Managing Authorities has been analysed and specific (fine) details are given. Nevertheless, if the project goes to development phase, each one of the partners should describe their focus more clearly in the three sectors that have been identified by the proposal (finance, universities and creative actors).

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The Declaration of Interest provides concrete (visible and measurable) outputs. There is a clear commitment to implement the results among the partners through the specific Local Action Plans. The work packages of the development phase are well written and very concrete. The political level is also systematically integrated in the work programme.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is robust. There is a genuine interest in all partners, and a substantial commitment to implement the results of the partnership. The political decision-maker nominated from the lead partner guarantees political commitment and interest for the topic of the project.

The lead partner provides a good organisational capacity to lead a URBACT project, although the project coordinator has not yet been appointed (DOI states this appointment will

be done during the early stages of the development phase). The lead expert has a wide experience in the topic and all the skills to lead the expertise of this partnership, although it should be clarified the workload that would be directly undertaken by him and the activities that may be implemented by his team.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is balanced, with the lead partner assuming the main responsibilities and a good share of the expenditure among the rest of the partners. Some points require clarification:

- Costs for Kick Off and Final meeting are not listed
- Communication costs need to be explained

Concluding remarks

The hypothesis that cities could act as a “testbed” for the analysis of spillover effects of cultural and creative industries to other sectors is very good. This topic would bring added value to URBACT as a whole. In the development phase, each one of the partners should focus in the three sectors that have been identified (finance, universities and creative actors) and should not widen the thematic to the whole economy of the city to maintain the clear focus of the approach.



Project Assessment Sheet	CREW	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting entrepreneurship
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Partnership

LP	Hertogenbosch	NL	Comp
PP	Valetta	MT	Conv
PP	Almeida	PT	Conv
PP	Piran	SI	Conv
PP	Fermo	IT	Comp

Project summary

Throughout history town walls had to protect their citizens from (wars and) disasters. In emergencies, walled towns were self-supporting. Both physical and social structures were of great importance providing safety and securing quality of life. Today, the economic vitality of European walled towns is under increasing pressure and SMEs are disappearing. Learning from their unique intrinsic qualities, walled towns can reverse the downward spiral, by supporting entrepreneurship in Walled Towns.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	13
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	11
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	52

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The economic viability of smaller European towns is an important issue for the convergence and competitiveness of the European regions and also could foster a more balanced territorial division, thus the topic of the project CREW is of European relevance.

It is also valuable that the partner cities are interested in breaking out from monothematic development and the displacement of locals from city centres by the tourist trade; they fight against “disneyfication”.

The cities' profiles provide a short description of the problems and issues to the local economy, but no common theme is unfolding from these issues, thus there is no common problem analysis.

Historic city centres of small and medium sized cities have been the focus of previous URBACT projects, although the distinctiveness of walled towns has not been demonstrated sufficiently, which could lead to misunderstanding in the thematic focus and in difficulties attracting other towns from joining the partnership.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, but without an in-depth elaboration that goes beyond the URBACT template. The Declaration of Interest states that there will be a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but, compared to other URBACT proposals, this application does not provide enough details to demonstrate clearly how it will achieve successful results.

The partner cities have identified many different issues of their concern, ranging from housing, to recreation, from parking to tourism development. Whilst it is acknowledged that these themes are important for the local partners, for the purpose of the exchange project it is difficult to see how the coherence of the work plan can be maintained without a clearer focus for the network of partners.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners all commit to developing a Local Action Plans (LAPs). These plans would build on existing initiatives or policies in place in each city. However, the outlined initiatives or policies are not always well explained in a comprehensive and meaningful way. No details are given on the elaboration of the baseline study, and a limited amount of information is provided on the composition and the methodologies to set up the ULSG.

The information provided concerning expected activities and deliverables is just standard information from the call for proposals. This seems to show insufficient strategic envisioning and commitment for what is expected from the project.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

It is clear that each partner is committed to create an ULSG and to develop the related action plan according to the specific realities of each case. The involvement of private entrepreneurs in the ULSG and thus ensuring financial viability of the plans is an important initiative of the project.

The project proposal builds on an existing network of the partner cities, partners are coming from an ongoing and existing partnership which –on one hand- could help smooth project implementation, but – on the other hand – could represent a risk of limiting access to the partnership for other cities.

The lead expert is more familiar with project implementation and project management than with promoting entrepreneurship and business development.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget is not in line with the proposed activities of the project. The overall personnel budget is too high, leaving a limited scope for international exchange of experiences.

External project coordination has not been indicated in the work plan; it only appears in the budget.

Concluding remarks

The economic revitalisation of small and medium sized cities with a strong and characteristic historic urban core has been the chosen topic of the present partnership. It builds on a clearly established and ongoing network, and the project could have strengthened this partnership if the focus of the project could have been more clearly maintained on the chosen topic of economic revitalisation.

While the project clearly establishes the local needs of the partners, the link of these problems to the stated aim of economic revitalisation has not always been made clear.

In many respects, this proposal remains under developed when compared to other proposals.



Project Assessment Sheet	CSI Europe	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Manchester	UK	Comp
PP	Porto Vivo SRU Sociedade de Reabilitação Urbana S.A.	PT	Conv
PP	Poznan	PL	Conv
PP	The Hague	NL	Comp
PP	Ancona	IT	Comp

Project summary

The Network will focus on the involvement of cities in Urban Development Fund (UDF) structures and the way these instruments can be more effectively embedded in future city planning and governance. It will also strive to demonstrate the role that financial instruments can play in efficiently planning, progressing and administering urban development priorities, particularly in the context of the current economic and financial crisis.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	19
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	75

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project's objectives and processes target a greater effectiveness and embeddedness of Urban Development Funds (UDFs) with urban regeneration policies and programmes. This is mainly proposed through the demonstration and sharing of best practice in models for the delivery of sustainable investment in cities through financial instruments. There is a particular focus on learning from the experience of the current (2007-2013) programme period and applying this to the development of UDFs in the forthcoming period (2014-2020). The proposal demonstrates how the project will contribute in a relevant manner to several main sectors contributing to the European urban agendas as well as to the URBACT objectives and expected programming dynamics, both locally and globally. The proposed results, although apparently quite specific and mainly driven by financial effectiveness, are expected to be broad in its application and at the same time innovative regarding urban planning, urban governance, and urban socioeconomic global development. There is, therefore, a clear European as well as local level high interest.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The coherence and quality of the project is well detailed and well demonstrated. The project is very well focused on the possibilities of exchange and transfer of experiences between the different cities, urban actors and in relation to their specific situations. The nature of the issues is thoroughly analysed and is relevant to the experience and needs of all partners. The issues to be tackled are considerably clear and very well assumed, representing a strong governance-focused embeddedness for the project. The description of the work packages is sufficiently detailed, albeit being a little vague in some areas.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected activities are well expressed according with the area under work, and in line with what is outlined in the call. This shows effective commitment from the network towards the objectives, as well as a good balance between joint analysis and local approaches. However, there seems to be little explanation on the type of urban programmes and projects, and their respective city impact. This, however, might be an effective and interesting subject for the innovative financial partnerships and respective solutions.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

There is evidence of a substantial commitment expected from each partner, and specifically from the lead partner. All partners have some experience related to UDFs. The reported experience from the project coordinators and the lead expert shows also to be sufficiently robust. This is a good indication that the potential for effective and committed project and networking management is high. The nature and specificities of the different partners also seems to show as a whole a good equilibrium for the entire network. Management Authorities and the ULGs are fully integrated into the project activities.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget is unbalanced and requires some attention. The Lead partner is taking more than 90% of the overall budget so it is assumed there is some centralisation of travel and meeting costs otherwise the project cannot deliver the compulsory activities of the Development Phase.

Management costs are very high representing 44% of the total budget and travel costs appear to be insufficient for the required activities.

Concluding remarks

CSI Europe is a well-developed and well-detailed application, on a highly relevant instrumental area for the strengthening of European urban regeneration dynamics. There is a clear European as well as local level high interest. The coherence and quality of the project is detailed well and convincingly demonstrated. There is evidence of a substantial commitment expected from each partner.

Notwithstanding, this positive global appraisal, during the development phase the project should pay attention to the following points, these needing to be addressed in the full application:

- As previously said, the project seems to be too brief regarding some explanation on the type of urban programmes and projects, and the respective impact on the cities. This might be an interesting and effectively subject to explore so that stronger and innovative financial partnerships and solutions can be found in an integrative manner. The project needs, therefore, to envisage and explain better what concrete sectors and policies of urban regeneration it will contribute to and affect. Questions such as, which expected urban results, which actors and governance dynamics, which expectations on urban regeneration, might be expected to be addressed and tackled so that robust results can be achieved in the medium and to long term.
- The project also needs to provide more detail with regard to the different work packages, not only during the implementation phase itself, but also for a robust development phase.
- Although one of the strengths of the application is the presence of a good experience amongst the first partners, the project should now include relevant cities with difficulties or even no UDFs experience, to help to improve on a wider scale urban Europe's capacities in these dimensions.



Project Assessment Sheet	DID-RFSC	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Umea	SE	Comp
PP	Zalau	RO	Conv
PP	Communauté d'Agglo La Rochelle	FR	Comp
PP	Hradec Kralove	CZ	Conv
PP	Communauté urbaine du Grand Nancy	FR	Comp

Project summary

DID-RFSC aims to develop and implement a joint framework to monitor local strategic plans to engage stakeholders/citizens in an integrated and sustainable approach. The aim is to disseminate the project results at strategic events during the course of the project. One starting point for the project will be the Monitoring progress tool, developed within the EU Reference framework for sustainable cities as a local contribution to relevant EU 2020 objectives.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	16
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	75

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The declaration of interest describes the nature of the issue to be tackled, but its immediate relevance could be more demonstrated. The nature of the problem is analysed institutionally, but not conceptually (not in terms of what sustainable urban development is today). The DoI refers to the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) which will be launched in Aalborg in May 2012. But the proposal does not explain in depth the contents of this RFSC. To optimise their urban planning performance and also ensure an efficient public administration the five initial partner cities have identified monitoring of the progress as a key element for the development of the Local Action Plan (LAP). All five cities were part of the testing phase of the EU RFSC in 2011 and will use the Monitor Progress tool as a common starting point for the joint work in DID-RFSC. The proposal makes reference to the previous URBACT project related to the issue (LC-FACIL). The title of the DoI refers to "engage citizens and other stakeholders", however the inclusion of citizens still needs to be discussed further within the DoI. Similarly, the composition of the ULSG does not reflect a strong involvement of stakeholders. The DoI mainly focuses on "the technical development of the monitoring system of indicators of RFSC". Nevertheless, this action has clear added-value because it would result in the new framework being implemented locally.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The objectives and expected outputs and results for the implementation phase are defined and meaningful. The exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice are at the centre of the proposed action, however the activities are less well elaborated. The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages with well specified objectives, activities, an indication of the timing of implementation and a delegation of responsibility. However, the overall approach does not seem innovative. More detail would have been appreciated on the methodology to be employed particularly with respect to the involvement of citizen stakeholders. An excellent "declaration of principles" of the lead partner is presented in the implementation phase section (page 6).

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are in line with the call content. Activities and outputs are well aligned. The outputs (LAPs) and the process of their development could have a positive impact on strategic planning practice in the partner cities. The partners have been dealing with the thematic on an on-going basis, however less eagerness or enthusiasm is shown to implement results through LAP, which will need to be addressed.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is well balanced with all partners demonstrating good and generally equal commitment to the proposed action. LAPs will be produced through the involvement of relevant municipal department stakeholders although community stakeholders are poorly referenced. The lead partner has relevant experience in the topic of sustainable urban development and has experience of leading exchange of experience projects in similar themes. It is unusual that it is not mentioned, nor used as an asset (the relation between

culture and sustainability) that the lead partner Umea will be European Capital of Culture in 2014. The project coordinator of the lead partner has experience in this type of action. Political support of the lead partner is clearly evidenced. The lead expert has relevant and progressive experience (URBACT thematic pole manager for cities and integrated urban development) to support project implementation. The contribution of the lead expert to project development is well elaborated.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is well balanced and covers the compulsory activities foreseen in the Development Phase.

Concluding remarks

The proposed action is relevant to the partnership and as a flagship at the EU level. The experienced lead partner and a lead expert who is highly knowledgeable in the thematic should ensure quality implementation and meaningful results. Broad stakeholder involvement in the ULSG should be addressed to ensure that the implementation of the RFSC framework has local support and reflects the sustainability needs of community stakeholders.

The acronym DID-RFSC is very technical in nature and does not provide the reference framework with a clear identity/ positive image. To facilitate communication concerning the reference framework and to improve its visibility, a change in the project acronym should be given serious consideration.



Project Assessment Sheet	DIHI	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Velje	DK	Comp
PP	Manchester	UK	Comp
PP	Rosiorii de Vede	RO	Conv
PP	Ayuntamiento de Quart de Poble	ES	Comp
PP	Mezdra	BG	Conv

Project summary

Cities across Europe grapple with various types of gaps – both anchored at a physical and intellectual level - between the city and its citizens. The 'Digital House of Innovation' project addresses gaps manifested in the digitalization of European cities. By addressing the gaps created by digitalisation, the project will help promote social cohesion, not only within the partner cities but between the cities, contributing to a stronger social cohesion in Europe

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	8
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The topic of the project is relevant to the Lisbon Strategy and represents a clear European interest by addressing the digital gap among citizens and urban e-Government initiatives. The EU level perspective of the proposal is addressed well and it is related to the Europe 2020 strategy (Digital Agenda).

The topic of the proposal has been clearly imbedded into the three cross-cutting themes of the URBACT programme.

A clearer vision on the urban consequences of the digital divide and on the role of cities in narrowing the digital gap would have benefited the application.

The general problem analysis is appropriate providing a convincing overview of the challenges in this specific field, while also providing a complex description of defined goals and target groups for all partner cities. It is clearly demonstrated that all partners are concerned with the problem of digital exclusion.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The lead partner has experience in addressing innovative approaches regarding the digital divide and has been successful in implementing the Digital House of Information concept. However, the proposal seems restricted to transferring knowledge in a relatively narrow conceptual approach. There is a risk that by restricting the URBACT network to a one-way knowledge transfer of the experiences of the Digital House of Information only, the scope of action for this partnership remains too narrow.

It might have been more beneficial if Digital House of Information had been managed as a possible tool rather than the concept for tackling the digital divide. A project with a more complex policy tool structure would have had more European relevance.

More attention on the working methodology and on the expected outcomes for the implementation phase could have considerably improved the proposal. This could have been achieved through identifying a number of sub-themes through which to tackle the issue, or by providing a more detailed work plan, including number of transnational meetings, the role of the LSG and some outline of the communication activities.

The strategic vision on the possible future use of the Local Action Plans and their incorporation into the general management of the cities, thus the potential for mainstreaming the project results was underdeveloped.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The activities set out for the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call for proposals and there is a detailed and comprehensive plan for the development phase. Some elements of the work package 2, like the communication plan and the outreach

activities regarding further stakeholders, have good potential to generate clear added value. The outputs of the development phase are concrete, to a large extent specified and realistic.

However, it could have been more thoroughly explained how the planned activities will concretely impact on local urban policy.

More clarity regarding the extent of some activities, such as data gathering would have made the proposal more concrete.

The time management of the project is excellent.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner is clearly a forerunner in digital policies, and has also shown good experience in project management; however the project manager is not a specialist in social/digital exclusion – the theme of the project – but rather works in the field of international cooperation and has more general project management skills.

The partnership covers a good mixture of cities, with cities from different backgrounds and challenges which is a good starting point for a successful network, however, it also shows that the replication of the successful practice of the lead partner might not work in every circumstance. A more thorough consideration of the suitable policy tools would have been helpful in this context.

The thematic expertise of the lead expert in digital inclusion and on the current EU policies on social inclusion, integration is not evident from her CV.

The proposed thematic expert disposes of long lasting experience in the field of ICT, but her experience in digital inclusion and current EU policies on social inclusion and integration are not evident, as well as her abilities in working in a transnational environment.

The Managing Authorities are identified and named which is a good starting point for a sound related cooperation.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget on a whole is reasonable, but it does not reflect the central role of the lead partner in the development phase. A clear focus on management costs (personnel and external expertise) might hinder the extent of networking in the project.

Costs for website and overheads require review to check eligibility.

Concluding remarks

Generally, a good proposal focusing on a key issue for social inclusion and European growth and development, that is narrowing the digital gap and advancing municipal e-services.

The lead partner has notable experience in working in this field and also of managing transnational exchanges. The partnership has also good potentials and partners are clearly committed to learn and share experiences.

However, the proposal seems to focus too much on one concept and its transfer to other cities. A more multi-dimensional exchange of experiences might have benefited the proposal and would have clearly opened up the policy tools for tackling digital divide in European societies.

The proposal is very developed and specific on the development phase, but lacks a more strategic vision for the implementation phase, thus expected outputs are less concrete.

The application demonstrates that the partners are willing to contribute to and to implement Local Support Groups; however the mainstreaming of these action plans are lacking.



Project Assessment Sheet	E4C	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
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Partnership

LP	Consortium Red Local	ES	Comp
PP	Sunderland	UK	Comp
PP	Ghent	BE	Comp
PP	Patras	EL	Conv
PP	Agueda	PT	Conv

Project summary

In order for European cities to stay competitive and innovative and to reinforce the employability of urban workforces, the E4C thematic network aims to promote employment related to E-SKILLS through the joint definition of integrated urban strategies, policies and practices in order to:

- enable the ACQUISITION OF E-SKILLS: ICT user skills, ICT practitioner skills and e-business skills,
- facilitate the UPGRADING OF E-SKILLS,
- PROMOTE ICT PROFESSIONS.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	22
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	22
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	17
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	84

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The theme clearly fits within the 'promoting employment and supporting labour mobility' sub-theme of the URBACT II programme, and is in line with the aims of Europe 2020. It is also a theme of European relevance. The declaration of interest also explicitly addresses how it supports the programme's three horizontal criteria. The issue is also sufficiently focussed and the application provides a detailed description of the starting situation in each of the partner cities evidencing their needs with regard to e-skills and also their commitment to developing this sector through existing initiatives. The expected results provide added value compared with existing or previous URBACT II projects.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal is coherent and presented clearly and in good detail. There is a clear focus on the exchange of experience between the partners with a range of exchange activities foreseen. The issue and the objectives and expected outputs and results are clearly defined and meaningful. The proposed activities are in line with the proposed objectives. The work program has a logical structure with well-developed work packages. The organization and content of the proposed work are clearly elucidated. Different partners assume responsibility for the work packages. ULSG membership is defined and relevant. MAs are fully engaged in the project. Additional funding opportunities are to be investigated. Partner tool-kits are to be developed to better organize the work of the partnership. Highly diverse communication and dissemination activities are planned, which is commendable.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The defined outputs are relevant and the expected results highly meaningful to project partners and the wider EU E-skills community. The project intends to develop appropriate policies and practices to: improve the workforce's employability by overcoming digital illiteracy; update the workforce's digital skills to fight e-skills gaps on the labour market; and to increase the number of ICT professionals to counteract the e-skills shortage. While there is a commitment by each of the partners to develop a Local Action Plan (LAP) and precise membership for each LAP is proposed, the proposed content of the LAPs is not very detailed. It is also not clear why a specific 'Political Board' is proposed. While this political involvement is welcomed it may be better to integrate the political involvement with the ULSG membership so as to ensure full engagement and endorsement of the LAP. Policies are to be developed for the three defined objectives.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is very competent and balanced in relation to skills and experience. The partners demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the project and in the setting up of a ULSG. There is also different leadership proposed for each of the work packages. The lead partner and the project coordinator are highly experienced and skilled in relation to the proposed project. The proposed lead expert has URBACT experience and is an expert in cluster policies, but does not seem to have direct experience in the digital economy or in skills strategies. Further explanation for this choice of lead expert, therefore, needs to be provided. The commitment to engaging Managing Authorities in the project is clear and

three have already confirmed their support to the project. Political backing at a high level is confirmed. The required competences beyond city partners to successfully implement the project have been identified.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget proposed covers the compulsory activity foreseen in the Development Phase. External expertise costs require some explanation.

Concluding remarks

E4C presents a comprehensive proposal to develop appropriate policies and practices to improve the workforce's employability by overcoming digital illiteracy, updating the workforce's digital skills to fight e-skills gaps on the labour market and by increasing the number of ICT professionals to counteract the e-skills shortage. The theme clearly fits within the 'promoting employment and supporting labour mobility' sub-theme of the URBACT II programme, it is in line with the aims of Europe 2020 and it is also a theme of European relevance.

The proposed lead expert has URBACT experience and is an expert in cluster policies, but does not seem to have direct experience in the digital economy or in skills strategies. It is recommended that careful consideration be given to the final selection of lead expert for the project to ensure that the partnership receives qualified and relevant support during project implementation. The proposed lead expert has also been proposed as lead expert in other projects in the URBACT II 3rd Call.

It is not clear why a specific 'Political Board' is proposed. While this political involvement is welcomed it may be better to integrate the political involvement with the ULSG membership so as to ensure full engagement and endorsement of the Local Action Plan. The need for a separate "Political Board" should be reconsidered in light of the previous comments.



Project Assessment Sheet	EcoBlocks	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Santa Coloma de Gramenet	ES	Comp
PP	Modena	IT	Comp
PP	Vaslui	RO	Conv
PP	Kaunas	LT	Conv
PP	Kerkrade	NL	Comp

Project summary

EcoBlocks project aims to avoid degradation and to improve quality of housing blocks, improving urban eco-efficiency for reducing energy consumption, and improving urban landscape, as well as promoting employment, SMEs creation and economic activity related with construction and rehabilitation. That kind of policies contributes to reactivate the construction economic sector. Partner cities will also pay special attention to citizen participation and the establishment of public-private partnerships

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	68

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project objectives – to improve the quality of housing, eco-efficiency and at the same time the reactivation of the construction economic sector - are quite inclusive and demanding. The proposal aims at contributing in a most relevant manner to most of the main vectors deriving from the European agendas as well as from the URBACT objectives and expected dynamics. However, the nature of the myriad of problems and issues to be tackled arising from this general challenge are not sufficiently clarified by the project, weakening the overall justification for the proposed network. The project is relevant for all partners as evidenced by their previous activities in the field, and the problem has been analysed and a common thread exists between all partners. However, the project somewhat overlaps with the on-going project CASH (Cities Action for Sustainable Housing), although the focus is not on social and affordable housing as it is in CASH.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The project proposes some issues for the exchange and transfer of experiences amongst the different cities. However, the issues to be tackled are not sufficiently focussed. The future business model with energy service companies is inadequately specified. Although the proposed approach is generally coherent, the activities proposed in the work plan are insufficiently detailed. There is a good division of responsibility between project partners in the execution of project activities. Cities hosting events are responsible for ensuring relevant content. Establishment of a road map outlining the main tasks to be performed and a work plan for the ULSG in each partner city is proposed, which is good.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected activities and outputs are generally in line with what is outlined in the call although greater elaboration would have benefitted the proposal. Consequently, the expected impact of the project remains uncertain. However, the commitment from all the partners to the implementation of the Local Action Plan (LAP) is high.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is generally quite strong and balanced and each partner shows commitment to the project through their previous experience and active involvement and leadership in project activities. An action developed example is to be prepared by all partners during the development phase. The lead partner has the required experience to lead the action and the project co-ordinator has relevant experience. The experience and skills of the lead expert are appropriate.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains several inconsistencies and requires significant attention. It is not possible to determine if the compulsory activity required for Development Phase can be covered by this budget. There appears to be a very high proportion of costs dedicated to project management and insufficient budget allocated to travel and meetings.

Concluding remarks

The proposal deals with an issue that is relevant to all partners and at the EU level. However, the work plan is inadequately developed and detailed to convincingly demonstrate a viable action leading to meaningful results for partners and in terms of EU-wide capitalization. The proposal would have benefited from an increased elaboration of a number of relevant areas of the application.



Project Assessment Sheet	ECO-CITY	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Pecs	HU	Conv
PP	Namur	BE	Comp
PP	Lendava	SI	Conv
PP	Halle	DE	Conv
PP	Lathi - Lathi region environmental service	FI	Comp

Project summary

<p>Our main concept is, that analyzing the main city resources, and eliminating resource inefficiencies can create a win-win situation for the “Eco-cities” of the future. In our “Eco-City” concept the following topics should be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy consumption and need; • air quality, noise and greenhouse gas emission; • management of water, waste, green space; • sustainable transport and architecture network; <p>To promote this idea we would like to organize the European “Eco-City” network.</p>
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	10
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	9
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	8
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	42

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project intends to work with the Eco-City concept which has been developed and is being used by the lead partner. Four very broad themes (energy efficiency, partnerships and sustainability, water and green space management, resource efficiency and urban planning) are the subject of the proposed experience exchange which is too broad and leads to a lack of focus. Problems and challenges exist in all partner cities which are evidenced with the description of strategies and ongoing activities, however the needs of the partners differ considerably. The project is less built on the needs of the partners, but the interest of the lead partner. The project does address a topic which is high on the agenda in the European context, however in its present form does not demonstrate added value.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal lacks coherence. Clear objectives are not defined, consequently activities are not focussed towards achieving concrete results. The work programme is poorly elaborated with respect to the content of activities and their organization and sequencing. However, the work programme does focus on the exchange of experience and transfer of good practice which is appropriate. Work package 1 "project management" is not planned in a way to allow the project partners full integration in the decision-making and regular meetings have also not been planned for. Work package 3 lacks of further information on the functioning of the local support groups and provides no information about the Local Action Plans (LAPs). Regarding the development phase the project management also lacks appropriate involvement of the partner cities. Furthermore, the baseline study has not been planned in sufficient detail and lacks a time plan.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs are in general in line with the requirements of the call for proposals. Some outputs are specified and quantified, others lack adequate specification. Some outputs are not related to activities. The involvement of political representatives is mentioned and some involvement of them is planned for in the project which contributes to achieving impact. The Managing Authorities have been identified and will be invited to meetings of the project and to the ULSG which is appropriate. Due to the lack of concrete project objectives and a weak work plan relevant results and meaningful are less likely to be realized. Impact on future policies and actions is not clearly evidenced.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is committed to the project, willing to share experience and to set-up and run ULSGs. The lead partner has experience in the wide field of ecological city development and has many years of experience with transnational European projects. The project co-ordinator was responsible for two URBACT projects. The lead expert has long standing experience in waste management issues, but lacks of background regarding other ecological questions which are relevant for the partnership. He is experienced with large EU projects, but clear information is not provided regarding his experience with the supporting of transnational groups of cities. Political decision-makers are named and committed.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The whole available budget is not forecast and no explanation is provided. The splitting of budget between all the partners does not adequately reflect the central role of the lead partner. Personnel costs are not adequate taking into account the work programme which has to be implemented. The meeting costs for the ULSG are not sufficiently justified. External support budget (External expertise) lacks of splitting to the different partners. The splitting between the two work packages is not adequate, as the share of budget dedicated to project management is too limited in order to guarantee high quality implementation of the work package 1.

Concluding remarks

Eco-City, as a project with a lead partner from a Convergence Zone country, demonstrates considerable potential to foster an integrated approach to urban sustainability. Unfortunately, an insufficiently focussed action is proposed to ensure relevant results for the partners and meaningful capitalization at the EU level.



Project Assessment Sheet	ENTER.HUB	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Reggio Emilia	IT	Comp
PP	Ciudad Real	ES	Conv
PP	Craiova	RO	Conv
PP	Ulm	DE	Comp
PP	Creil Agglomeration	FR	Comp

Project summary

ENTER.HUB promotes the role of railway hubs/multimodal interfaces of regional relevance in medium cities as engines for integrated urban development and economic, social and cultural regeneration. The network of local actors will redefine territorial/functional systems around these hubs, by exploiting these “agglomerates of flows” to strengthen connectivity at a local/ regional/ EU level for cities to become more competitive, to attract population and business in the face of the economic crisis.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	22
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	21
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	17
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	8
Total (out of 100)	85

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

A thorough analysis is provided on the impact of train stations and in particular high speed train lines in medium size cities. The starting situations and specific challenges of the partners are clearly explained. The partners have varying experiences which will add to the richness of the exchange. However it seems that the challenges faced by Craiova may be quite different from the other partners and it needs to be ensured that a win-win exchange with this partner is possible (see Criterion 4). The application demonstrates knowledge of existing/past projects that have worked in this field and which will widen the results of these projects. The application demonstrates the policy relevance of the topic and it can be considered of European wide relevance, particularly due to the growing importance of high speed rail networks.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The plans for the Implementation Phase are generally well detailed and go beyond the requirements of the Call. For work package 2 it needs to be ensured that the methodology remains manageable and meaningful for the partners. Firstly, while it is good that a range of 10 sub-themes are identified to frame the exchange, it may not be relevant that each partner develops their Local Action Plan in accordance with this sub-theme and it needs to be ensured that new partners joining the project are not restricted by this framework. It also is not clear if more than one partner can focus on the same theme within the framework. Secondly, it is proposed to develop a 'finalised assessment grid' with 'indicators of performance and triggers to activate each dimension' as an outcome of the exchanges, however, this output is not sufficiently clear and needs to be explained further. Also, the proposed 'enter.hub network conceptual model' needs to be more fully explained and it needs to be ensured that this will be of practical use to cities. The full application also needs to explain in more depth the connection between the presence of high speed rail stations and urban planning. Furthermore, it needs to be explained how technical instruments in urban planning will be taken into consideration.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected impact of the project is quite well demonstrated with the proposed Local Action Plans being already quite well defined. However, in the full application the more advanced partners in the network need to more clearly explain the added value of their proposed Local Action Plans compared with existing strategies as well as demonstrate the anticipated local impact of the exchange and learning process. The work packages for the development phase are well defined with clear, quantified outputs that are in line with the Call for proposals. There seems to be strong commitment to engage the MAs in the ULSGs.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has experience relating to the theme of sustainable transport as well as experience in managing territorial cooperation projects (e.g. INTERREG IVC). They have also been partner in the URBACT II thematic network, 'Creative Clusters'. The lead partner proposes a team of very relevant personnel experienced in the field of high speed trains. The lead partner also demonstrates strong political commitment to the project, having

developed the proposal over the last two years and already conducted study visits to a range of European cities. The Mayor of Reggio-Emilia supports the project and the Project Coordinator reports directly to the Mayor which will help to ensure impact.

The proposed lead expert has substantial experience in relation to the theme of the project and also in transnational cooperation programmes including URBACT. The lead partner has conducted a professional approach to designating the lead expert by carrying out an interview to determine suitability. Partners have demonstrated commitment in involving their MAs in ULSG meetings. The contribution and benefit of Craiova's participation in the project needs to be further analysed and explained to ensure complementarity with the aims of the project.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget is well detailed and all necessary costs are foreseen. For a simplified management the Lead Partner could consider reducing the number of budget lines created.

Concluding remarks

ENTER.HUB is a well developed and well detailed application on a topic that is very relevant to medium size cities with major / high speed rail infrastructure. Although the proposed workplan for the implementation phase is generally well developed, it needs to be ensured that certain proposed outputs are practical and meaningful for the partners. The proposed Local Action Plans are also well defined. The lead partner demonstrates very strong commitment to the project.

During the development phase, the partners should pay attention to the following points :

- While it is good that a range of 10 sub-themes are identified to frame the exchange for the implementation phase, this framework must not be applied too rigidly and some flexibility needs to be maintained so that new partners joining the project can contribute ideas or themes which they may wish to focus on. Where relevant it also needs to be possible for more than one partner to focus on a particular theme.
- It is proposed to develop a 'finalised assessment grid' with 'indicators of performance and triggers to activate each dimension' as an outcome of the exchanges, however this output is not sufficiently clear and needs to be explained further in the full application.
- The proposed 'enter.hub network conceptual model' needs to be more fully explained in the full application and it needs to be ensured that this will be of practical use to cities.
- The full application also needs to explain in more depth the connection between the presence of high speed rail stations and urban planning and how technical instruments in urban planning will be taken into consideration.
- In the full application the more advanced partners in the network need to more clearly explain the added value of their proposed Local Action Plans compared with existing strategies as well as demonstrate the anticipated local impact of the exchange and learning process.
- The contribution and benefit of Craiova's participation in the project needs to be further analysed and explained to ensure complementarity with the aims of the project and a fruitful exchange.



Project Assessment Sheet	EUniversities	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Delft	NL	Comp
PP	Aachen	DE	Comp
PP	Aalborg	DK	Comp
PP	Lublin	PL	Conv
PP	Varna	BG	Conv

Project summary

University cities are key engines of Europe’s knowledge economy. Cities and universities increasingly realise that they can benefit both from more strategic and effective forms of co-operation. This network takes an integrative perspective, covering several aspects of the city-university nexus. International exchanges and peer-reviews will inspire local working groups in the partner cities to explore and develop “next generation” partnerships and get mutual gains.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	74

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The theme of the project proposal - the promotion of innovation and knowledge urban economies - is highly relevant for the global European strategies. The proposal is of fundamental relevance for European cities as a whole, not only to university cities and focuses on the strengthening of knowledge urban governance geared to higher territorial quality, competitiveness and coherence. In addition, the proposal relates well to the role performed by universities and knowledge hubs in urban political and interpretative environments and in expected catalytic and innovative spill-overs.

All partner cities experience similar issues regarding governance and respective difficulties, although in varying degree and with different strands and priorities.

Although not being a quite innovative topic, the project is well presented and shows clear approaches as well as a strong commitment from the part of the respective partners and their expected innovative results.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy is clear and coherently laid out. The scope(s) of each partner's Local Action Plans are directed towards cooperation, being the interface between cities and universities, engaging on heterogeneous groups of interlocutors and stakeholders in the project development phase. In that sense, a clear focus is depicted in exchange of experiences and good practices.

Nevertheless, the work packages (at the implementation and the development phase) will require further elaboration and description to demonstrate more strategic and operational focus.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The project is expected to impact on urban policies and actions of the different partners and a number of future results are articulated (employment generation, entrepreneurship initiatives, environmental indicators, etc.). However, the outputs and impacts could be defined further. It is recommended that they should be pointed out more clearly during the next stage.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is strong and coherent and all the partners believe in the generation of positive results through network operations and the exchange of transnational experiences. All partners share common interests, namely regarding the exchange of transnational experiences, strengthening the balance of the network partnership.

The political decision-makers of the lead partner organisation have been identified to follow this project. These are the mayor and the vice-mayor of Delft. There is a good indication that this could be beneficial for good political involvement and for the promotion of the network's goals.

The extent of participation of the various partners and participants could be explained further and although each partner is clearly committed to an involved knowledge exchange in urban governance, this could be more clearly stated particularly in the context of the urban economy dimensions.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget seems to cover the compulsory activity required in the Development Phase. A number of minor points should be clarified:

- The number of budget lines could be reduced taking into consideration the simplification suggestions in the guidance documents
- The costs for equipment are included which are not appropriate for the Development Phase
- All the partners have the same budget allocation which does not take into consideration all the national variations in costs

Concluding remarks

Euniversities is a good and sufficiently detailed application on a highly challenging and demanding topic including the deepening of knowledge regarding governance dynamics between cities and universities. There is a clear interest at the European as well as the local level. The coherence and quality of the project is well detailed and well demonstrated. There is evidence of a substantial commitment expected from the part of each partner, and notably from the part of the lead partner.

Notwithstanding this positive global appraisal, during the development phase the project should pay further attention to the following points:

- As a most relevant topic, and precisely because of that, the project will benefit from improving its focus, thereby improving its precision from its starting phases through to the directions proposed for each the ULSG and the LAP. This will help the project to demonstrate more clearly how it will effectively function and go ahead;
- The project also needs to consider that there is already some European experience in this topic, and namely on URBACT previous projects. The project needs therefore to include and improve what has been achieved by other similar networks in the past;
- In this sense, the project needs to detail further the different work packages;
- More detail is also necessary on how to specifically develop university-city partnerships, namely upon the basis of concrete urban issues as well as on concrete urban governance tools;
- Although one of the strengths of the application is the commitment amongst the first partners, the project should now expand and include more medium size university cities facing difficulties (or even with no experience) in joint governance. This will help to improve urban Europe's capacities in these relevant topics on a wider scale.

Project Assessment Sheet	(Ex)change	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	The Hague	NL	Comp
PP	Brno	CZ	Conv
PP	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	IE	Comp
PP	Stara Zagora	BG	Conv
PP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	UK	Comp

Project summary

All over Europe, cities wrestle with serious nuisance and crime by youth groups or gangs. The problem is expected to become much worse as a result of the economic recession in Europe. Cities want to share experience and knowledge as a means for developing sustainable local solutions. Main focus is on the development or improvement of integrated approaches involving smart combinations of punishment, care and prevention that not only combat the symptoms but also tackle the underlying problems.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	17
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	67

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project has a very clearly defined topic to tackle: youth nuisance and youth gangs. The project has a complex approach and this problem is not only perceived as an urban security problem, but it is tackled through an “integral approach that includes prevention, care, punishment and re-integration”. The chosen URBACT theme was not explicitly justified and supported in the work programme.

It is valuable that partnership working at local level is understood as an important success factor to combat youth delinquency.

The Declaration of Interest provides a good analysis on the common characteristics of the partner cities, but it lacks clear partner-based problem analysis and descriptions.

The topic of the partnership is clearly defined and focused, however the descriptions of the partner cities are not as specific as the one for the lead partner, and the challenges in the partners' cities remain at a more general level.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, but without an in-depth elaboration that goes beyond the recommendations written in the documents provided for URBACT. The proposal states that there will be a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but, compared to other URBACT proposals, this application does not provide enough details to demonstrate clearly how successful results can be achieved. The potential sub-themes could have been described in more detail.

Partners have different depth in their understanding of Local Support Groups. These participative policy making tools should be understood widely, and should also include young people, and affected people from the neighbourhoods involved.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners all commit to developing a Local Action Plan (LAP); these plans would build upon existing initiatives or policies in place in each city (but these initiatives or policies are not always well explained in a comprehensive way). No details are given on the elaboration of the baseline study and how the different actors will use it.

There is a clear focus in the development phase on the establishment and working of the Local Support Groups. Good elements include a newsletter targeted at potential future members, a guideline on its establishment and discussions on how to involve them in the transnational meetings.

The communication elements of the development phase are very clearly planned and detailed.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner is committed to combat security problems and has been chairing the Eurocities Working Group on Urban Security, which gives a strong thematic support to the project and ensures good international working skills from the side of the lead partner. The lead partner demonstrates capacity in leading international exchange projects.

The lead expert is a distinguished academic on the topic of the network and could be a strong thematic support for the project.

Also most of the partnership is committed as it is evident from the contact details; they show that suitable departments will be involved in project implementation.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

On the whole the budget is clear and well documented; the lead partner has not fully assumed its responsibilities for the development phase by decentralising management costs.

The budget is balanced, and ensures enough resources for the international exchange activities. Some questions remain concerning the project expertise.

Concluding remarks

The relevant project idea of nuisance and crime by youth groups or gangs in urban areas has been clearly presented. The breadth of the project is good and the leadership skills of the lead partner clearly established. However in the fierce competition among projects, the proposal did not present clearly enough the partners' commitment. Furthermore, a more detailed presentation of the various sub-themes would have helped this proposal, also with respect of providing a clearer vision for the implementation phase.



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Project Assessment Sheet	FACT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Agia Varvara	EL	Conv
PP	Chiaravalle	IT	Comp
PP	Larnaca	CY	Comp
PP	Vaslui	RO	Conv
PP	Sentjur	SI	Conv

Project summary

Community-led smart initiatives to enhance urban mobility of citizen groups seriously affected by the crisis (unemployed, flexi-workers, bankrupt). These initiatives will aim at making urban travel more collective and, hence, more sustainable. Municipal authorities will act as leverage to these initiatives. Final aim is to re-integrate deprived citizens into social life through solidarity & collective action and re-generate favourable development conditions in a scope of sustainability.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

While the topic can be broadly considered to be of European relevance and in line with the aims of Europe 2020, very little detail is provided of the specific challenge that FACT is addressing and no statistical backing is provided to demonstrate the need. While some information is provided describing the starting situation in the lead partner city, no information is provided for the other four partners in section II.2. The theme is of relevance to the programme, however it seems more suited to the 'low carbon economy' topic 5 than to the selected sub-theme of 'promoting active inclusion'. This is reinforced by the proposal of a lead expert who is specialised in urban/transport policy.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The plans for the work packages are in line with the requirements of the call documentation. However, some of the deliverables aren't clearly linked to the proposed activities, e.g. the production of case studies is not mentioned among the activities even though they appear as outputs. It is stated that 'the final structure and organisation pattern of the meetings plan will rely a lot on the good practices of completed URBACT projects' and while this is to be encouraged, no particular projects are mentioned. The proposal envisages to have representatives of other cities' ULSGs and MAs to participate 'depending on the budget'. This seems quite arbitrary and a more strategic approach to encouraging their involvement could have been proposed. Work package 3 states that the FACT policies and measures are 'by definition short term so as to respond to the emergency of the crisis', however this is not coherent with the ambition stated in section II.2 that there should be 'sustainability of modal shifts after the end of the crisis period'. Indeed sustainable measures should be promoted.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners' aims for the Local Action Plans (LAP) are quite divergent and lack coherence with the aims of the project. For example, the main aim for the City of Chiaravalle is to develop a EuroAdriatic cycling path to make the region more attractive for tourists and local inhabitants which does not seem to be sufficiently in line with the aims of the project. On the other hand the proposed LAP for Vaslui includes plans for improving social services, including migration issues etc and they do not propose any transport/mobility organisations as members of their Local Support Group.

The SUMP context is referred to several times in relation to the LAP, and it is stated that the LAP should be prepared 'according to the guidelines and specifications of the ELTISPLUS project (IEE)', however it isn't ever properly explained how this would work and it seems there could be a risk of double funding. The intention to prepare five draft LAPs as part of the development phase of work package 2 does not seem realistic and might demonstrate a misunderstanding of the process required in developing these outputs.

There is a strong intention to involve the MAs in the project's meetings and the aim to 'incorporate' the LAPs into the existing and future Operational Programmes, this seems unrealistic.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner organisation states it has a long tradition in social inclusion policies. There is also some evidence of international working through EQUAL, LEONARDO and URBACT I programmes. However, it is stated that this is limited as normally collaboration projects are taking place through a different organisation. The designated lead expert also has relevant experience, however the project coordinator seems to have limited experience of working in urban mobility policies. The lead partner ensures political commitment to the project through the involvement of the Deputy Mayor in project meetings.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget presented is generally acceptable but requires some clarification. It isn't clear what the proposed external expertise costs are, for both the lead partner and the partner cities (total of EUR 25,000). Only 8% of the budget is allocated for WP1 of the development phase which does not seem realistic.

Concluding remarks

FACT addresses an important issue particularly in the current economic crisis. However, compared with other applications, the plans for partners' Local Action Plans are not sufficiently in line with the overall aims of the project and the link with the Intelligent Energy Europe ELITISPLUS project needed to be better explained. Overall, the proposal is not as coherent as would be desirable at this stage.



Project Assessment Sheet	FIATOP	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Ferrol	ES	Conv
PP	La Carene Saint Nazaire	FR	Comp
PP	Cartagena	ES	Conv
PP	Gavle	SE	Comp
PP	Burgas	BG	Conv

Project summary

FIATOP main aim is to give back to the city and the citizens an area of the city isolated not only in terms of physical space, but also economic. The main objective is to convert these areas in an engine for the development of the local economy, while it's structured from an urbanistic and sustainable point of view, applying innovative sources of business as well as developing new poles of touristic attraction, looking for low-cost business in terms of economic resources and energy consumption.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	12
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	56

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The issue addressed by FIATOP is insufficiently explained and would have benefited from an increased focus. The project seeks to tackle many different issues, including urban planning, sustainable transport, re-use of old buildings, developing tourism and new employment areas etc. This approach reduces the scope for meaningful exchange among the partners to some extent. It is mentioned that there are links with CTUR and REPAIR, however, it is not explained how FIATOP will build upon the results of these projects.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities proposed for the implementation phase, particularly in work package 2 are quite well developed and go beyond the basic requirements of the call. However, the proposed working groups for this work package ('Sustainable Cities' and 'Innovative Cities') are very wide and far-reaching in their aims, reinforcing the limited focus of the project. Work packages 3 and 4 are in line with the requirements of the call although more attention could have been paid to the target audiences for the proposed communications activities. There is some overlap between the work package activities, for instance, the final conference to be held in Brussels is included as an activity in work package 2 even though it is also an activity and deliverable of work package 4.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs/results for the development phase are in line with the call for proposals and a good level of detail is provided, including what will be covered in the project Kick Off meeting. The establishment of the transnational 'Group of Counsellors' is quite innovative, however, more detail could have been provided to explain the precise role of this group, which seems to be quite research oriented (rather than a policy-based group). The partners demonstrate commitment to try to engage their Managing Authorities in the project.

The plans for the lead partner's Local Action Plan (LAP) mirror the policies and actions developed so far, but it would have helped if it would have been made clearer how this project would add value to existing plans. The proposed LAPs for the cities of Cartagena and Burgas are very wide in scope (including training, job creation, creation and consolidation of companies etc) and may be over-ambitious. The LAP proposed for Gavle is very vaguely described.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner organisation has quite limited experience of transnational working and of working on projects related to the theme. The proposed project coordinator does, however, have some experience through INTERREG IIIB and the URBACT 'SUITE' project. It is explained that the project coordinator and communications officer would be 'hired ad hoc' for the project implementation, which is not clear as a continuous contract would be required to ensure effective management of the project. The project has political support within the lead partner administration as well as national support through the plans for the Ferrol military arsenal site.

The proposed lead expert has relevant experience in revitalisation strategies and spatial economic development as well as experience of international working, through URBACT in particular.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some inconsistencies and several items are not clear. Firstly all four of the partners (not the lead partner) have an identical budget which does not take into account national variations in costs. In table 5, the costs allocated for the 'Baseline Study' under 'Personnel' (EUR 440), Travel and Accommodation (EUR 2,580) and Communication and Dissemination (EUR13,665) are not clear. It does not seem that travel and accommodation costs for the lead expert have been included or for the additional partners to participate in the final development phase meeting. There are also no costs included for hosting one of the meetings. Overall, it seems that the link between the budget and the work packages has not been understood well.

Concluding remarks

The plans for the development phase of the FIATOP project are well described and go beyond the requirements of the call. However, the topic addressed by the project lacks focus, which is also reflected in the partners' LAPs which are wide-ranging and divergent. Compared with other proposals, FIATOP is not sufficiently coherent to demonstrate how a meaningful transnational exchange could be achieved leading to fruitful results for the partners.



Project Assessment Sheet	FUTURE MAKERS	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Obidos	PT	Conv
PP	Vara	SE	Comp
PP	Siena	IT	Comp
PP	Grand Angoulême (Communauté d'agglo)	FR	Comp
PP	Ersci	HU	Conv

Project summary

The specialization profile of several cities around Europe, namely small and medium-sized cities is based in sectors of the traditional economy (agriculture, tourism, furniture, etc.). The current collapse of these industries in an era of economic crisis is leading to unemployment, poverty and urban decline. The FUTURE MAKERS network intends to demonstrate that creativity and innovation can contribute to the development of traditional industries and the reconversion of local economies.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	18
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	66

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project wishes to analyse how “creativity and innovation can contribute to the development of traditional industries and the reconversion of local economies” by the means of open innovation processes involving the citizens. The declaration of interest identifies the topic of “Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy”, which is appropriate. There is a very good analysis on EU key references on this issue. The lead partner has already been the lead partner of an URBACT network (Creative Clusters), but there is no explicit capitalisation of the learning of this project explained; other URBACT networks that have addressed similar topics are not sufficiently identified. Although it is clear that this network would bring added value at a local level (the partner cities), not enough evidence is demonstrated regarding the added value at a European level that this project would bring. The proposal does not develop the “open innovation” method sufficiently.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy that this networks presents has several elements of good quality. The objectives and the expected effects (outputs and results) for the implementation phase are clearly defined and meaningful. The time plan is appropriate and the proposed activities are in line with the objectives and the expected effects. The involvement of Managing Authorities has been analysed. There is a clear focus in the exchange of experiences (thematic seminars, key study visits of cities outside the network, observers from other countries, a winter school for LSG members, Mayor's summit...). Nevertheless, a successful exchange of experiences can only take place if the cities share a good range of topics, which is not made sufficiently evident in the proposal, neither in the baseline situation of the partners nor in the thematic content of Local Action Plans (LAPs). For example, an element could have been integrated to the work package 2 to elaborate the concept of open innovation among partners.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal provides concrete (visible and measurable) outputs. There is a commitment to implement the results among the partners through the specific LAPs.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The DOI evidences a strong political involvement of the lead partner. The capacity to deliver of lead partner has been made evident in the Creative Clusters project (funded in URBACT), but the current proposal does not seem to provide significant added value. The lead expert has a wide experience in European Cohesion policy as well as local and regional development, but further information regarding his experiences in creative industries as such and in open innovation processes as well as spill-over related projects is limited.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is balanced, with the lead partner assuming the main responsibilities and a good share of the expenditure among the rest of the partners. The budget is detailed, but more specific figures could have been given to the chapters on the baseline study and the organisation of transnational meetings.

Concluding remarks

Creativity and innovation can contribute to the development of traditional industries and the reconversion of local economies, but a successful exchange of experiences on this field can only take place in an URBACT network when the cities share a good range of interests and specific topics, and this is not made evident in this declaration of interest.

The current proposal has not demonstrated sufficiently if and how it will provide significant added value, going beyond the achievements of the previous URBACT network (Creative Clusters) led by the same city.



Project Assessment Sheet	Future Proof Cities	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Eindhoven - Samenwerkingsverband Regio Eindhoven (SRE)	NL	Comp
PP	Braila	RO	conv
PP	Bielefeld	DE	Comp
PP	Sassari	IT	Comp
PP	Agueda	PT	Conv

Project summary

The Future Proof Cities project will help cities to build an innovative, sustainable structural framework for urban authorities to cope fast with future market tendencies. Future markets tend to be less predictable, while being more influential for the economic, financial and social ecosystem. The framework to be developed should sustainably strengthen cities' economic structure in order to level down negative effects of future volatile economic situations.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	13
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	51

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The Future Proof Cities project aims to “help cities to build an innovative, sustainable structural framework for urban authorities to cope fast with future market tendencies”. The proposal chooses the URBACT topic of “Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy”, which seems suitable. The declaration of interest does, however, not provide a good analysis of the problem (with 10 topics; each one could have been the origin of a focused URBACT project...), and it does not explicitly describe what “future market tendencies” mean. There is an evident lack of focus, and compared to the quality of other URBACT proposals, it is unlikely that the development phase of this project could be successful.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal lacks coherence. The "innovative, sustainable structural framework" that the project intends to develop is not supported by a coherent work plan. The proposal does not provide a clear definition of the expected results of the project. There is a lack of focus in the exchange of experiences. Almost all the paragraphs dedicated to the explanation of the work packages have the standard content that is provided in the URBACT documents, and they lack elaboration.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal only provides scarce details on the elaboration of the baseline study and the creation of the ULSG, which are crucial components of the development phase and could have been developed much further. The expected impact of the project on the policies and the future actions of the partners is not clearly demonstrated, although some (general) policies that are already being implemented by the partner cities have been identified in the table of section III.3.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has experience of the problem being addressed and has experience in leading exchange of experience projects in fields close to the proposed project. A strong political support for the action is ensured by the lead partner. The lead expert brings relevant experience in supporting transnational activities and relevant expertise in relation with the issue. This appears to be a lead partner driven proposal (for example, in the section II.2, which has to be dedicated to explain the “Starting situation and main challenges faced by the five initial partners in relation with the issue” only content related to the lead partner is presented).

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget assigns a central role to the lead partner, which corresponds with the guidelines provided by URBACT. The rest of the partners have the same budget, which probably means the lack of consistent analysis on the real expenditure to be done in the development phase. The budget devotes a chapter to External expertise (18.000 euro), but an explanation is not provided.

Concluding remarks

In comparison to other applications, this proposal seems substantially underdeveloped and does not provide a good analysis of the problem (there are too many topics –ten–), and it does not explicit in depth what “future market tendencies” mean. The proposal would have benefited from more focus. The explanation of the work packages provides the standard content that is found in the URBACT documents, and they lack consistent elaboration. The quality of the partnership is also poor.



Project Assessment Sheet	GOV&ACT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Otranto	IT	Conv
PP	Abanto-Zierbena	ES	Comp
PP	Amadora	PT	Comp
PP	Porto	PT	Conv
PP	Strovolos	CY	Comp

Project summary

Project aims to identify the conditions for good multilevel governance in different European political frames, urban and social contexts. We expect, by a deep exchange of experiences in field, obtain: i) an urban governance process guide; ii) a set of guidelines for selection and implementation of social innovation strategies in urban areas/social issues; iii) recommendations and tools to improve good governance; iv) recommendations for urban policy in Europe.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	13
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	8
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	8
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	45

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project aims at addressing social innovation processes in the framework of multilevel governance and disposes, therefore, in general of potential to contribute to the objectives of the URBACT Programme. The topic is also relevant in context of European policies and future challenges. Yet, the proposal does not go much further than the description of the main issues and basic strategic goals, and it does not develop the prime governance issues along with the promotion of social innovation.

The problems of the partner city are outlined, but cover too wide a range of different topics and approaches. The challenges and experiences of the different cities is relatively diverse, having reached different levels of development. In this sense, the application only has very limited thematic focus.

The application disposes also of some elements to reduce the carbon food print (e. g. regular video conferences) which creates added value.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The quality of the proposed strategy is not clearly demonstrated. The issues, the objectives and the expected effects are outlined in too vague a manner. The project focuses on the exchange of experiences and aims at transferring good practices, but lacks of presenting further good practical examples already implemented elsewhere.

The information provided in the work packages does not go much further from the standard information from the call for proposals and it is not directly linked to the objectives of the proposal. This seems to show insufficient strategic visioning and commitment for what is expected. No indication is given concerning participants and intervention mode. The proposal also is very limited in demonstrating convincingly how these issues will be tackled in the course of the project implementation.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The overall structure of the work packages and deliverables is in line with the call for proposals. The outputs and results are generally defined and they lack of more specific information regarding contents and quantities (e. g. expected numbers of participants in local support groups). Activities and outputs are in general interrelated. But follow-up of activities and related time plan are not adequate and related with the development of the baseline study (finalisation of baseline study before the visits to the partner cities). Regarding the impact on the future policies upon partner cities, the proposal fails to demonstrate convincingly how the results of the activities will be used to influence local policy in the future. Related actions lack of more accurate and detailed planning demonstrating how the political level and/or management authorities will be concretely integrated in the process.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

It can be expected that the partners are in general committed to the project and its implementation. But as the lead partner coordination seems to be commissioned to an external consultancy, the application lacks of providing further evidence that the commitment of the local administration is guaranteed. Activities have been foreseen to ensure that the partners will set up local support groups during the development phase. The lead partner and the coordinator only seem to have limited experience regarding previous concrete and in depth initiatives relevant to the chosen topic. This is deemed insufficient to guide and moderate a related process between different European cities. Political responsibility is named but the application provides not sufficient evidence that the foreseen activities will allow the direct integration of the decision makers. The lead expert disposes of scientific background which could be in general related to the concrete topic to be further decided on.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget is very confused and presents costs in the wrong categories as well as costs which are not eligible for the Programme. There is a heavy focus on staff costs and there is no clear link between the budget and the proposed activities.

Concluding remarks

GOV&ACT proposes a valuable topic with an interesting focus. The proposal, however, leaves several areas of its presentation substantially underdeveloped and too vague. This leaves the proposal insufficiently clear regarding its effective development and on its expected outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be improved considerably regarding the development of both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the unbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates working on similarly relevant urban problems, resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	GREEN URBAN PPPs	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Ascoli Piceno (Municipality)	IT	Comp
PP	Anderlecht	BE	Comp
PP	L'alcudia	ES	Comp
PP	Brasov Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Dvpt	RO	Conv
PP	Crotone	IT	Conv

Project summary

EU cities belonging to this Network are Covenant of Mayors signatories or are willing to sign it. They will examine how to combine city development with the achievement of 20-20-20 objectives at the light of the crisis of public finance. The expected results are to save energy in suburban housing, to improve peripheries landscape, to return reclaimed brown-fields to the city and to implement low environmental impact mobility network, by the definition of every form of public/private agreements.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project has a relevant focus on how cities can raise sound governance networks and feasible resources (namely financial resources) through public/private partnerships, to provide effectiveness to foster integrated and sustainable approaches to urban development in a threefold direction: suburban landscape improvement; return to the city of reclaimed "brown-fields"; development of eco-mobility.

It relates to a relevant urban problem, and is based on experiences and programmes of urban regeneration of the different partners.

The main added value of the project is that it intends to focus on PPPs as a mechanism for financing urban redevelopment in an energy efficient manner in the context of the financial and economic crisis. In this regard the three cross-cutting issues are interestingly addressed and there should be a EU level interest in the action.

Notwithstanding the relevance of the proposal, the problematic remains relatively underdeveloped or even vague in some instances of its overall presentation, namely in the clarification of the more specific sectors of urban policy to tackle.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The objectives of the proposal and the major areas to confront with are provided in the proposal. Considering the proposed thematic, the project presents well the dynamics for the exchange and transfer of experiences amongst the different cities. In this sense, the operational issues to be developed and tackled are considerably clear and embedded.

However, the work programme remains too vague in terms of the effective urban dimensions to tackle and is only very limited in detail. This leaves the proposal, when seen in a global and integrative manner, as well as in its full coherence, with some weaknesses in its effective development.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected activities and dynamics are relatively well presented when considering the organisational procedural approach, although it is less comprehensive regarding the expected effective quality of outputs and results, presenting here not much more than limited or standard quality explanations.

An effective commitment from the network towards the objectives is demonstrated, as well as an interesting balance between joint analysis and local approaches. However, the proposal remains, once again, limited in delivering some more in-depth explanation on the pragmatic support for effective implementation of the desired innovations.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

There is evidence of a good commitment expected from the part of each partner, and notably the lead partner. The experience from the lead partner, project co-ordinator and from the lead expert seems also to be relevant and realistic for the effective management of the topics and networking proposed. The composition of the ULSGs, for each initial partner, is not clearly described in the proposal, which leaves the local embeddedness relatively uncertain.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The proposed budget seems to cover most of the compulsory activities foreseen in the Development Phase. There remain a number of points which require clarification:

- There appear to be expertise costs in the communication budget category
- There is 24k€ presented for expertise for the baseline study which is unclear as such costs are covered at Programme level.

Concluding remarks

Green Urban PPPs proposes a relevant topic for urban Europe, although leaving several areas of its presentation underdeveloped and too broad and general in approach. The lack of focus and limited detail provided regarding how to tackle effectively the urban dimensions to be tackled, leaves the proposal wanting in terms of better transparency and clarity of its approach and an effective project development. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, will need to be brought better in line with both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the underdevelopment of fundamental areas of the proposal in comparison with other candidates working in similarly relevant urban problems, resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	GreenMilSit	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Tapolca	HU	Conv
PP	Turnhout	BE	Comp
PP	Murska Sobota	SI	Conv
PP	Este	IT	Comp
PP	Paola	MT	Conv

Project summary

GreenMilSit Network conveys small cities to exchange know-how, expertise on how to redefine functions of their derelict military sites to achieve local growth and social cohesion in a period of shrinking public and private budgets with sustainable energy, transport and environment as main drivers in development goals. Results include good practices, models and tools and more streamlined & integrated LAPs that facilitate cities' access to Structural Funds to fund complex reconversion projects.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposal GreenMilSit does not bring forward a new issue in its focus on derelict military sites. However, the proposal does approach the issue from a slightly different perspective emphasizing the importance of intervention on territories that are economically depressed and socially apart from the urban centre, and when confronted with the current economic context can be impacted more acutely.

GreenMilSit is thematically similar to a previous URBACT project 'Repair', but intends to elaborate on some findings and conclusions from the 'Repair' project in particular those linked to the triple helix approach on job creation and ideas on sustainable mobility and accessibility of these military brownfield sites.

The starting point and experience of each member of the partnership is very different and they appear to be at quite different stages of development on the issue, which could impact variably on the planned exchange of experience. The novelty of the proposed approach to a long-standing issue is, unfortunately, not clearly evidenced, in particular the link to "developing low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies" which within the proposal remains at the level of "intention".

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The overall approach is appropriate. Despite the different degrees of experience of partners and maturity of the former military sites, these spaces are relevant for the economic revitalisation and the promotion of social inclusion within the urban spaces they belong to. The objectives are quite clearly specified and expected outputs and results are precisely defined and meaningful. Three work packages are defined and well elaborated as to content, methods and process. The proposed activities in the work packages are in line with the objectives and expected effects. The Managing Authorities' involvement is appropriately stressed.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Overall the outputs are concrete and meaningful in relation to the objectives. In most cases the partners clearly demonstrate an interest in implementing the results of their Local Action Plan (LAP).

The actions to be developed are identified for each work package together with the tasks that integrate into them. The manner and timing of involvement of the lead partner and other partners is specified. However, there is no quantifying of the impacts or results in terms of employment generation or energy reduction targets.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is well-balanced, positively in favour of Convergence Zone countries. Different leadership and participation in the proposed work packages is evidenced. There is evidence that each partner commits to set up and run an ULSG. The lead partner has relevant experience and expertise to coordinate the action, but has not led an experience exchange action previously. The project co-ordinator has the required qualifications and experience. Skills required to achieve the expected results have been identified and are integrated in the partnership. External expertise will be secured for specific tasks. A political decision-maker within the lead partner organisation, the mayor of Tapolca, has been appointed to follow up this project. The lead expert has the required experience and expertise to meaningfully guide and contribute to project implementation.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

GreenMilSit proposes to deal with the long-standing issue of derelict military sites from a more integrated perspective in the context of the crisis. However, the novelty of the proposed approach to a long-standing issue is not clearly evidenced, in particular the link to "developing low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies" which within the proposal remains at the level of "intention" without being sufficiently concrete.



Project Assessment Sheet	GREEN-URBS	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting entrepreneurship
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Partnership

LP	Lefkara	CY	Comp
PP	Communauté de Communes du Pays de Sorgues et Monts de Vaucluse	FR	Comp
PP	Alba Iulia Association for Intercommunity Dvpt - Local Transport	RO	Conv
PP	Daugaspils	LV	Conv
PP	Leszno	PL	Conv

Project summary

The GREEN URBS network intends to help different European cities to design and compare Green and Soft local economic policies and experiences, to create smart green hubs able to foster green economy by re-establishing interactive relationships between cities' productive forces and the countryside surrounding them; and by ensuring limited environmental impacts and optimal use of resources, while creating new urban-rural synergies and restoring local communities' resilience in a time of crisis

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	11
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	50

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The overall presentation of the issue addressed by GREEN-URBS would have benefited from a more coherent approach demonstrating a more concise and focussed explanation of the project. While the overall subject of the project can be considered broadly relevant to the URBACT II programme (e.g. in the context of urban-rural linkages through urban planning) it is not entirely clear why the 'promoting entrepreneurship' sub-theme is selected as the aims of the project do not explain their relation to entrepreneurship in more detail.

Section III.3 reveals that some of the challenges the project seeks to address are primarily rural/agricultural (e.g. tackling ageing farmers' population and sector decline; reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture), which diminishes the city focus to some extent.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The plans for the implementation phase are in line with the requirements of the call documentation and some additional activities are proposed and additional detail is provided to supplement this. However, due to the limited focus of the project, the coherence of the proposal suffers. This is demonstrated both through the description of the issue addressed and through the partners' Local Action Plan proposals, which are in comparison to other proposals less clearly described.

Crit 3 – Quality of expected results

Plans for the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call and include additional activities such as training sessions, project handbook etc. The work plan for the development phase is well elaborated.

However, the partners' proposals for the Local Action Plans (LAP) are wide ranging in scope and it is not clear if all the intended aims are achievable, for example developing 'short chain processes, developing green energy and reducing energy consumption, developing slow tourism' (Partner 2); developing bike-tourism and bio agricultural products (Partner 3) and more at the same time. The expected impact of the project on policies and future actions of the partners is not clearly demonstrated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner explains their experience in relation to the theme through the development of local business systems which seems relevant to the project. They have experience of collaboration projects through transnational programmes (e.g. INTERREG IIIB). The proposed project coordinator has experience of working in collaboration projects as well as thematic experience in a range of themes (employment, rural development, culture etc).

The Mayor of the Municipality of Lefkara is named as the political representative of the project who, it is explained, will involve decision-makers, practitioners etc in the project. It is

not explained, however, if or how he will be directly involved in any of the activities. The designated lead expert has relevant thematic experience as well as experience of being an URBACT II lead expert (Urban N.O.S.E.). It is intended to involve the partners' Managing Authorities in the project development phase and details are provided for each of them.

Crit 5 – Budget and Finances

There are some questions concerning the budget: All the partners (except the lead partner) have an identical budget for the Development Phase and it will need to be ensured that national variations in salary costs have been taken into consideration. Small costs have been included under the 'ULSG' and 'MA' budget lines which is not recommended for the Development Phase. The allocation of EUR 8,000 for 'Communication tools' seems quite high for the activities foreseen (updating of URBACT mini-site, development of logo and elaboration of communications plan). The Travel and Accommodation budget for the LP seems low and it seems that the Lead Partner will not accompany the Lead Expert in the partner visits.

Concluding remarks

The aims of the GREEN-URBS project are very broad and wide-ranging and the project would have benefited from an increased focus or a more succinct description of the issue it is addressing. The breadth of the project's thematic coverage brings into question the relevance of the project to the URBACT II programme. It also means that the partners' plans for their LAPs are wide ranging and it is not clearly explained how this will contribute to a meaningful transnational exchange and learning leading to useful results for the partners.



Project Assessment Sheet	IANGUS	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Marseille	FR	Comp
PP	Malaga	ES	Conv
PP	Roma	IT	Comp
PP	Thessaloniki	EL	Conv
PP	Benevento	IT	Conv

Project summary

The aim of the project will be cross through a new territorial governance, the opportunities in each partner city by the needs of management and facilitation of these spaces to create new activities, jobs, integrating trade and local services (markets, street food, ..), cultural and recreational activities, maintenance and security with a process of co-production of these services by residents and users and develop a social approach to participatory community : empowerment and community organizing

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	10
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	8
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	2
Total (out of 100)	41

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project identifies relevant urban cross-cutting issues and presents the social innovation processes through new governance shaping, on urban public spaces and activities that can be created and recreated on location. The project topic is relevant for the URBACT Programme and for the EU 2020 strategies.

However, the application demonstrates less convincingly how the project could produce concrete contributions in line with the framework of the call for proposals. The submitted proposal does not elaborate well on social innovation, neither is it clear on its relationship with the strategy for the enhancement of urban public space. The challenges are outlined in a very general manner without outlining further detail regarding the concrete problems of the municipalities.

Expectations between partner cities vary considerably and related needs are not described in sufficient detail. Project partners' experiences are mainly related to environmental issues and social innovation. Background to this information is only available to a limited extent.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The implementation strategy is not provided in adequate quality and lacks of more detailed information on how the planned activities will relate to the content-related objectives of the project. The focus of the project is related to transnational exchange and learning, but the application is very limited in providing further information on how these general goals will be achieved. Activities are listed, but the work programme indicates less well how the related specific objectives and appropriate time planning will be accomplished. The information provided is standard information from the call for proposals and has not been elaborated sufficiently, demonstrating insufficient strategic visioning and commitment for what is expected. No indication is given concerning participants and intervention mode. The effect of the proposed activities will, therefore, be very limited with regard to the aims of the project.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs are not sufficiently outlined and lack of providing comprehensive overviews including all deliverables with their draft content. The outputs remain to a large extent too vague and are not sufficiently quantified. Activities and outputs are in general interrelated, but the actual status of planning will not ensure efficient production of results. Some impacts on the financing of future actions can be expected by the means of previous contacts with the managing authorities.

Previous projects in the framework of the Med-Programme are mentioned, but the application lacks of providing further information regarding related outcomes and how these will be integrated in the new project.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The applications does not convincingly outline the substantial commitment of each partner as most of the proposed partner inputs to the project remain very general or not directly related to the thematic approach.

There is only little information available regarding the appropriate experience of the lead partner in the field addressed by the proposal – the social innovation processes. The proposed project co-ordinator is an expert for European projects which is appropriate. Some political support is mentioned from the applicant, but without providing further concrete evidence of supporting actions from the political field. The lead experts' CV relates to urban and economic development in general, however, social innovation expertise is not sufficiently available.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is very unclear and does not link to the activities proposed in the work plan. There are several actions with no costs associated to them and number of budget lines does not reflect the simplification measures suggested by the Programme guidance documents. The costs do not clearly present the compulsory activity foreseen for the Development Phase as only 2 new project partners are mentioned for additional costs. Some costs have been placed in the wrong budget category.

Concluding remarks

LANGUS proposes a valuable topic with quite an interesting focus. The proposal, however, is in most areas substantially underdeveloped and far too vague in its approach. There is considerable uncertainty about how the project will achieve high quality project development and expected outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with both the activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the imbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas of the application has weakened its quality in comparison with other candidates dealing with similar urban problems. This resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	IASMIN	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Firenze	IT	Comp
PP	Jelgava	LV	Conv
PP	Alytus	LT	Conv
PP	Madrid	ES	Comp
PP	Limerick	IE	Comp

Project summary

IASMIN addresses the theme of inclusive cities, with the aim of improving provision of integrated social services for single mothers. In line with URBACT II objectives, partners exchange needs, know-how and experiences. With support from local policy makers and practitioners, they define and apply an improved social services model, before producing an Action Plan for each local area. The plan promotes improved design, delivery and coordination of policy and practice concerning single mothers.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	17
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The phenomenon of lone parenthood (both mother and father) is increasing in Europe, and lone parents are facing multiple problems in employment, child raising, and time management. IASMIN aims to improve the provision of social services and to facilitate social and labour market inclusion of single mothers.

The topic clearly fits the scope of the 'Promoting active inclusion of specific groups' sub-theme of the URBACT II programme. However the proposal would have benefited from an increased focus on the labour market inclusion of single mothers rather than remaining at the more general level regarding the improvement of social services.

The project shows clear understanding of global processes and is relevant to other European cities and to the EU2020 agenda.

The need for the project is demonstrated for each of the partners although the amount of evidence available varies considerably between the partners.

The expected results represent added value compared with existing or previous URBACT II projects.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal provides a detailed outline of the implementation phase. A detailed working methodology has been provided with indicative work packages with actions and time frame; however, the description of some of the deliverables and activities and how they are interlinked has not always been clearly stated. The timing of the production of the Local Action Plans (LAPs) seems over-ambitious, and the implementation of small scale pilots might not be appropriate since not all partners would be able to find external sources for finance. The organisation of the multitude of activities for work package 2 is comprehensive.

Some indication on the possible sub-themes of how to improve social services for lone mothers would have been beneficial and would have provided a clearer thematic vision for the proposal.

It is welcomed that work package 1 of the implementation phase includes self-evaluation activities.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Despite some concerns regarding the overall coherence of the implementation phase plan, the expected outputs and results are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals for both the development phase and the implementation phase and they are quantified.

While there is a clear working methodology outlined for the implementation phase, there was much less attention given to the design of the development phase.

The baseline study should be the cornerstone of the project, discussed and accepted by both the partner cities and also their Local Support Groups. The opportunities created by the baseline study have not been fully exploited, its creation has been planned, but the proposal failed to demonstrate how the study can become an integral element of the project implementation. The proposal seems to perceive the baseline study as a scientific document rather than a policy paper with clear inputs into the operation of the partnership.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The proposal could have benefited from a stronger guiding principle regarding the selection of the cities, this also could have benefited the selection process of the new partners.

The Local Support Group is well thought through in all partner city, however the applicability of the Local Action Plans are not well-documented.

Although the proposed lead expert does not have direct experience of the inclusion of single mothers in the labour market, she does have relevant experience in relation to labour market integration of excluded groups (particularly youth employment), and also of transnational working through the URBACT II programme.

The project has a clear leadership structure and the proposed project coordinator is a specialist in social services with experience in European project management. He is head of the sector for European Projects for social services, while there is also a clear political commitment from the lead partner. The applicant lead partner is experienced in partnering and leading international projects.

Some of the chosen managers for the partner cities are from EU project departments and not from relevant labour market or social services departments, which could lower the potential of the project to influence policy.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

The project IASMIN has the aim to improve the provision of social services and to facilitate social and labour market inclusion of single mothers. While the topic is of relevance, and the proposal has a detailed work plan, there was only limited thematic coverage and focus on employability presented in the proposal. A clearer vision on the partnership and a more efficient integration of the baseline study could have benefited the project.



Project Assessment Sheet	Inclusive Growth	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Celje	SI	Conv
PP	Jyvaskyla	FI	Comp
PP	Baia Mare	RO	Conv
PP	Offenbach am Main	DE	Comp
PP	London Borough of Ealing Council	UK	Comp

Project summary

EU2020 has a goal of promoting Inclusive Growth. This proposal seeks to develop an exchange of experience to share ways in which local authorities have supported the development of social enterprises which provide routes for the active inclusion of the most vulnerable groups: people with disabilities, homeless people, ex-offenders, ex-substance users, households in which no one is working.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	9
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	9
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	8
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	49

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project has chosen a relevant issue for the project by focusing on raising the chances of employment of disadvantaged groups. It has European level interest as it clearly contributes towards the EU 2020 strategy and also the EU Social Business Initiatives. It is also clearly in line with URBACT thematic coverage.

The Declaration of Interest analyses the nature of the problem to be tackled well and provides a valuable overview of related policy action as well as how the topic links to the three cross cutting issues.

There is a discrepancy between the clearly established problem analysis and the project partners' expressed interests; the partnership is more explicit on social services, and on inclusion policies, and only one partner (UK) has interests and experiences in promoting social entrepreneurship as a clear-cut and distinctive employment instrument.

While the policy theme is well outlined, the policy field of social entrepreneurship is not well represented in the partnership.

It would have been beneficial to see how the project could build on the outputs and results of the WEED URBACT project– led by the same lead partner - which was developing strategies on improving employability for disadvantaged groups (women).

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, but without an in-depth elaboration that goes beyond the recommendations written in the documents provided for URBACT. The proposal states that there will be a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but, compared to other URBACT proposals, this application does not provide enough details to demonstrate clearly how successful results can be achieved.

The implementation strategy of the project is not of appropriate quality as all the work packages lack further information and more detailed outline how the project will be implemented.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal clearly expresses that the lead partner has good experience in managing URBACT projects; it was the lead partner of the previous URBACT WEED network. However, this advantageous situation has not been used to inform better the work plan, higher level of understanding on the role of the different actors, and how to expand the partnership has not been provided. The success of mainstreaming the results of the previous WEED project for the lead partner has not been presented.

The outputs of the development phase are concrete, to a large extent specified and realistic. Although the baseline study lacks of a further outline of content, the related time plan is appropriate. The project does make it sufficiently clear how the expansion of the partnership will relate to the baseline study.

The partners all commit to developing a Local Action Plan (LAP); these plans would build on existing initiatives or policies in place in each city (but these initiatives or policies are not always well explained in a comprehensive way). It seems that the concept of Local Support Groups is understood in a fairly narrow way, i.e. only 4-6 partners per Local Support Groups are planned.

The application fails to provide further evidence how the involvement of politicians will be ensured and how the planned activities will concretely impact the local urban policy.

The Managing Authorities are identified and the applicant provides some outlines regarding the exchange with these institutions.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

Although the lead expert has considerable experience in managing international projects and also in regenerating deprived areas his experience regarding the social economy and employment policies is less evident from the proposal.

The commitment of the city of Celje, (lead partner) is less evident, presumably as it will be represented by an NGO that will manage the project on behalf of the municipality.

The project clearly demonstrates that the lead partner and the project partners are experienced in the theme of the project and exhibit long lasting experience with European projects on the local and transnational level.

However, the thematic focus of the proposal could be jeopardized by the lack of relevant municipal experts and civil servants from the partnership, as the project is planned to be managed by EU department staff.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

Every partner has an identical budget for the development phase, which is not realistic as the lead partner budget will need to be higher than that of the other partners due to additional responsibilities in leading and coordinating the project. The budget also includes costs for 'Project coordination, and 'ULSG's which is not recommended for the development phase. It is also not clear why EUR 7,000 is required for a 'webmaster' when only the mini-site needs to be completed. Also EUR 24,000 for ULSG set up does not seem justified and it isn't clear what this will be spent on.

Concluding remarks

Boosting employment of vulnerable groups through social entrepreneurship is an interesting and innovative topic, one which could have clear European relevance. There is also a clear understanding of the problem both at the European level and also at the local level. Despite the good initial idea, the project does not have a clear vision for the implementation phase focusing less on social entrepreneurship. The Local Support Groups are not planned to be real policy actors.

In terms of implementation capacity and demonstrating clear understanding of the URBACT methodology, the proposal could have been considerably more explicit considering that the lead partner has already been leading an international URBACT network.



Project Assessment Sheet	INNOCARE	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Amadora	PT	Comp
PP	Baia Sprie	RO	Conv
PP	District of Charlois - Rotterdam	NL	Comp
PP	Roquetas de Mar	ES	Conv
PP	Sandwell	UK	Comp

Project summary

The financial crisis is having a disproportionate impact on deprived neighbourhoods. Austerity measures means cuts in services whilst demand is growing. Local authorities are responding to this reality by supporting social innovation in the delivery of health and social care services. This network will create an exchange of experience in respect of how social innovation is creating new ways to tackle health inequalities, informal care needs and new ways of measuring well being.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposal has as a focus on “social innovation in health care”, but a confusing structure prevents a good understanding of the topic. The nature of the problem is not similar in all partner cities - they share a deprived district, but little else. The economic dimension of the project is marginal, not explicit. “Social innovation” is innovative “per se”, but there is scarce substance in the proposal regarding how innovative the expected results would be. The added value of the project is not clearly demonstrated.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The cities want to learn, and the declaration of interest mentions several interesting programmes on the topic that has been implemented in other European cities. However, no clear focus in exchange of experience is developed by the proposal. The proposal clearly defines relevant themes to be studied by the partnership, however, specific objectives are not defined other than to exchange experience on how social innovation is working with respect to the defined themes.

Due to clear differences in the partner cities, this topic requires to be more thought through in the proposal and related to more specific proposals written into the development phase and implementation phase. The work plan is weak as it is simply a reproduction of the URBACT guidelines. The DOI explains (table III.3) several local policies already in implementation, which is good.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The quality of the expected results is low. Sections III.6, III.7 and III.8 of the proposal almost completely reproduce the URBACT guide without providing meaningful substance. No details are provided regarding the baseline study nor concerning the work of the ULSG. Future policies and actions are to be derived from partnership, which is good, however the roadmap to this end is not sufficiently elaborated by the proposal.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has wide European experience in the topic - leading networks and partnerships. Partners of the project have been already in close relation with lead partner in former projects. Political commitment is shown by the lead partner. The lead partner has organisational skills for a successful URBACT partnership, however, no contact details are provided for the communication officer nor finance officer. The project co-ordinator is experienced in the topic and in international exchanges. ULSG would be created quite fast and there is evidence that each partner already has very good partnerships between public and social organizations. The lead expert is a researcher without demonstrating substantial experience in leading transnational partnerships.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

Every partner has an identical budget for the development phase, which is not realistic as the lead partner budget will need to be higher than that of the other partners due to additional responsibilities in leading and coordinating the project. The budget also includes costs for 'Project coordination, and 'ULSG's which is not recommended for the development phase. Also EUR 24,000 for ULSG set up does not seem justified and it isn't clear what this will be spent on.

Concluding remarks

The INNOCARE proposal demonstrates good potential with respect to the issue of social innovation in health care to tackle health inequalities, informal care needs and new ways of measuring well-being. However, the issues confronting the partnership differ considerably and the work plan is inadequately developed to convincingly demonstrate a viable action leading to meaningful results for partners and EU level capitalization.



Project Assessment Sheet	INNOVA	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Tomares	ES	Conv
PP	Viborg	DK	Comp
PP	Monza	IT	Comp
PP	Santa Cruz	ES	Comp
PP	Molfetta	IT	Conv

Project summary

<p>Because of the crisis, key economic sectors of partner cities have disappeared and caused serious problems of economic destructurement and high unemployment rates. They need a new productive sustainable model. The partner cities will obtain a Local Action Plan focused on job creation with innovative solutions and joint strategies, through the creation of poles of innovative enterprises and participatory governance and socially responsible models (economic, social and environmentally).</p>
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	20
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	17
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	15
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	8
Total (out of 100)	80

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The INNOVA partnership intends to develop Local Action Plans (LAPs) focused on job creation with innovative solutions and joint strategies, through the creation of poles of innovative enterprises and participatory governance and socially responsible models. This is a well-prepared and argued proposal that addresses the three cross-cutting issues. All partners face a similar challenge related to the crisis whereby key economic sectors of partner cities have disappeared and caused serious economic challenges including high unemployment rates. The project builds on the demonstrated needs of the partners. Good analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of partners is provided. The proposed action advances a comprehensive strategy to deal with the common issues that is both innovative and well-targeted. The proposal provides sufficient detail to demonstrate the relationship between the parts and the ambition to achieve the planned outputs. The topic is well framed and relevant in the framework of European policies and future challenges. The proposed action has added value at the EU level as approaches, experiences shared and lessons learned will be relevant to a broad spectrum of EU cities sharing the disorientation of the prolonged crisis and the need to find a way forward.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal is of high quality both in content and presentation. Key questions to be addressed by the action are identified based on an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses in the cities in the context of the theme. The proposed strategy has a threefold focus: Design strategies that will strengthen, via local policies, the creation of new companies, based on innovation, knowledge and sustainability; Strategies for reintegrating workers from declining sectors and/or at risk of social exclusion into jobs; Strategies for guaranteeing sustainability and social inclusion. Based on these main themes the action is structured into four logical work packages led by different partners. The work packages are well elaborated both in terms of content and methods and approaches to implementation. The proposed activities in the work packages are in line with the objectives and expected effects. The proposed work methodology is clearly linked to the needs of the partners, is based on intense exchange of experience and learning from good practice, and the activities logically feed into the LAPs. The project co-ordinator will organise the lead expert's work plan. Two new cities will be incorporated into the final network. Three of the new partners will be chosen from among universities, innovation centres, technological centres and centres of excellence, which will carry out investigations or cutting edge activities in the network's areas of work. A good communication strategy is drawn up which is focussed on specific target audiences.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are concrete and they are specified precisely. The activities and outputs are explicitly interrelated. The expected impact of the project on the policies and future actions of the partners is clearly demonstrated as most partners expect to take the LAP forward as their main strategy for implementing actions in the future.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is well-balanced and committed to the action. Partners are clearly committed to set up of ULSG. The lead partner does not have EU level project management experience, but the project co-ordinator has considerable and varied relevant professional experience. The lead partner will secure experienced project and financial management support to augment their limited capacity. Political support from the lead partner is evidenced. The Lead Expert has the right experience and expertise in relation to the theme of the proposed action. He has relevant URBACT experience. The skills required to undertake this ambitious project have been identified. The Managing Authorities are well integrated into the action.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and well balanced. It covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

The proposal INNOVA demonstrates a strong and consistent partnership with a high level of commitment between partners. The proposed action advances a comprehensive strategy to deal with the common issues that is both innovative and well-targeted. Good definition of the network's challenges and operation is provided. The issue is well framed and relevant in the framework of European policies and future challenges.

The partnership should ensure that a focus is maintained on the key issues and that the outputs and results are concrete and relevant to the specific needs of the partners. Additional city partners should be chosen carefully to ensure their commitment and capacity to work with the relatively complex issues of the project.

Project Assessment Sheet	INNOVMUSE	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Covilha	PT	Conv
PP	Mons	BE	Conv
PP	Girona	ES	Comp
PP	Kifissia	EL	Conv
PP	Struer	DK	Comp

Project summary

Facilitate exchange of experience and learning in the field of innovative and digitalized municipal museums; Disseminate among the partner's cities good results about use of ICTs in the municipal museums. Later on share it with other local and regional authorities through public events and participation in networks (Eurotowns, Eurocities...); Involve and assist local and regional policy makers in the culture sector. As a final note, in order to give sustainability to the project at the end, it is envisaged to set up a technological platform of innovative municipal museums with a direct link to the EUROPEANA initiative : <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/> The funding will come from the ICT-PSP programme : http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	7
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	6
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	6
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	7
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	30

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The aim of the Innovmuse project is to “Fostering Innovative Territorial Urban Development through the use of ICTs by municipal Museums”. The partners chose the topic “Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy” which is appropriate. The project's main topic is crucial for a knowledge-based society, and in line with EU Strategy and URBACT II policies. Nevertheless, the application lacks substantially a solid and detailed analysis of the concrete local challenges and problems and how these could be addressed based on stated experiences of the project partners. Compared to other DOIs, it is not demonstrated well how the project could have an innovative impact at a European level.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

While the main challenges for “the use of ICTs by municipal museums” are identified, the quality of the strategy to develop a real network of exchange is poor, compared to other DOIs. The work packages for the implementation phase lack of specific objectives, actions and time frames. The integration between the issue, the objectives and the results is not well-developed. Only limited information is presented. Due to the lack of further description of the work programme, it cannot be ensured that the project will dispose of a clear focus on exchange of experience and transfer of good practice. The development phase has been planned for into further detail, but they still lack of further structured outlines.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The explanation provided in the proposal does not clearly demonstrate that the actions would have a clear, sustainable impact on local policies. The Declaration of Interest gives very limited (and mainly standardised) information as far as outputs and results are concerned. The baseline study and the creation of ULSG, which are fundamental elements of the development phase, are not explained.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The project creates a network including partners from both Competitiveness and Convergence regions. The proposal states there is a will of all partners to participate in an URBACT network. Nevertheless, in comparison to other applications, the lead partner shows very limited experience in leading international exchanges, and it does not evidence the wide range of organisational capacities that are needed to manage an URBACT partnership. The project co-ordinator provides a valuable CV, but it does not demonstrate well the experience required to lead international partnerships. The lead expert disposes of background in ICT and local development as well as on political level and related to networks, but the CV lacks of providing further information regarding a concrete experience regarding the use of ICT to promote the innovation in local economies. The required details of First Level Controllers are not completed by all partners.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

Every partner has an identical budget for the development phase, which is not realistic as the lead partner budget will need to be higher than that of the other partners due to additional responsibilities in leading and coordinating the project. The budget also includes costs for 'Project coordination, and 'ULSG's which is not recommended for the development phase. Also EUR 25,000 for ULSG set up does not seem justified and it isn't clear what this will be spent on.

Concluding remarks

The application lacks a solid and detailed analysis of the concrete local challenges and problems and how these could be addressed based on stated experiences of the project partners. Compared to other applications, the proposal did not present well how the project could have an innovative impact at a European level. The partnership seems weak and underdeveloped. The integration between the issue, the objectives and the results is not well-developed: only very limited information is presented.



Project Assessment Sheet	Jilted Generation	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
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Partnership

LP	Leicester	UK	Comp
PP	Sevilla	ES	Conv
PP	Timisoara	RO	Conv
PP	Kielce	PL	Conv
PP	Amiens	FR	Comp

Project summary

<p>The Jilted Generation Thematic Network will focus on how local authorities and other stakeholders have responded to the impact of the current crash and the preceding decade in respect of the rapidly changing situation facing young adults in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Vocational training routes -which sectors?-(green jobs; care sector; creative industries)-Enterprise Development-Work experience (Quality Internships; Apprenticeships,)-Civic, social and political engagement-Health and Housing
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	23
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	9
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	62

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposed project has a clear potential to contribute to the objective of the URBACT Programme as it addresses the topic of youth unemployment in urban areas. It is also relevant for the themes of the present call for proposals – namely to overcome the effects of the crisis by the means of integrated approaches based on an effective partnership.

The application provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges which will be addressed and outlines convincingly the current status of related problems and needs of all partner cities. The partnership is established in a way that different experiences available will be used to further develop urban policies based on the needs of the partner cities.

The expected results are innovative as the topic is integrated in a wider framework not only focusing on purely job related activities, but relating this issue with the lacks of civic participation and health problems. The project does not duplicate previous projects but builds on former URBACT experience (e. g. related to project management or to women participation in the labour market). The relationship to the current EU strategies is evident as the furthering of employment is one of the major pillars of the EU 2020 strategy.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The management foreseen for the implementation phase of the project is planned in a general manner: for example, steering committee meetings should have been scheduled more frequently. The framework of transnational exchange activities is integrated: the peer visits and as well as visits to other cities is adequate, but the proposal lacks in information on the methodologies to be used. The development phase of the project includes the standard elements required, but provides only limited further information regarding the content of the meetings as well as of a more detailed time plan (including milestones).

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results are aligned with those required by the call for proposals. They are quantified, but they lack specification. Activities and outputs are interrelated, but the descriptions provided lack of ensuring that the proposed activities will create the outputs in the desired quality.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The political focus on the topic in the lead partner is evidenced. There is information provided concerning local needs and experiences. The lead partner has long lasting experience on the topic, and it has the potential to generate added value for further exchange between the cities. The staff listed on the contact details mainly represents the international departments, and this fact does not provide evidences on the actual involvement of the respective employment services. Political representatives are planned to be involved, but the application lacks of further outlining how this involvement will be achieved in practice. The lead expert profile demonstrates relevant knowledge in the field and good skills in the management of international exchanges.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

The key role of the lead partner is not fully reflected in the distribution of the total budget, which attributes equal budget shares to all cities for the development phase. Personnel costs are planned for in an appropriate manner. The budget includes costs related to ULSG meetings (24.000 euro), which are not detailed, and are not justified at the current stage. The cost of a financial controller (11.625 euro) is not duly justified. Nor communication costs are sufficiently explained.

Concluding remarks

The proposed project has a clear potential to contribute to the objective of the URBACT Programme as it addresses the topic of youth unemployment in urban areas. The application provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges which will be addressed and outlines convincingly the current status of related problems and needs of all partner cities. However, the work packages for the development and implementation phases of the project lack the detailed information that it would have led this proposal to the next phase. The budget presents several problems (key role of the lead partner is not fully reflected, some expenditure not detailed).



Project Assessment Sheet	JOBTOWN	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
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Partnership			
LP	Cesena	IT	Comp
PP	Parish of Gondomar	PT	Conv
PP	Latsia	CY	Comp
PP	Moschato-Tavros	EL	Conv
PP	Thurrock council	UK	Comp

Project summary

JOBTOWN seeks to address structural youth unemployment and poor employment, and local development strategies, as two sides of the same coin, by establishing Local Partnerships driven by city administrations, of local stakeholders, to advance youth employment and opportunities; this is an approach to the development and maintaining of a competitive and sustainable local economy and social model.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	19
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	15
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	73

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

JOBTOWN tackles the very important and relevant issue of youth unemployment. The Declaration of Interest provides thorough evidence of the challenges faced in relation to the topic. It is clearly in line with the selected URBACT sub-theme and with the European policy context. If both projects are approved JOB TOWN would complement 'My Generation at Work'.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposed activities for the implementation phase are clearly defined and meaningful. The activities are mainly the 'standard' actions as proposed in the call documentation, however, some thought has been given to the format and content of the transnational meetings. The project proposal represents an integrated and well rounded approach to urban development.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

All of the partners commit to producing a Local Action Plan and all partners have contacted their Managing Authorities. It is anticipated to invite the relevant Managing Authorities to the final development phase transnational meeting, demonstrating a strong commitment to try to get them on board. Some additional partners for the implementation phase have already been identified, although it is not clear on what basis additional partners have/will be selected.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has experience of working in projects within the field as well as international working through LEONARDO and EuroCities. There is, however, little detail provided on the experience of the proposed coordinator and further information is needed to confirm the coordinator's expertise both in relation to the topic and of interregional working.

The proposed lead expert has very relevant experience having led two URBACT projects in the past and with expertise relevant to the theme. There are details of the political support of the project by the lead partner, however, it isn't explained how this person will practically get involved in the project.

There may be capacity issues with two of the partners, Latsia and Moschato-Travros, in implementing the project. Although both these partners acknowledge and to some extent address these short-comings (e.g. through accompaniment by other organisation such as Nicosia Development Agency and the University), it will be important that capacity building sessions are incorporated into the development phase to ensure their ability to participate fully and to meet URBACT reporting/contractual requirements.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

Overall the budget appears to cover all the compulsory activity outlined for the Development Phase, however, there remain some aspects of the budget which require clarification. Firstly, only 80k€ has been budgeted for phase I and this has not been fully explained. It is stated that the lead expert will hire communications support services (WP2), but it isn't clear why this wouldn't be contracted by the lead partner. In addition, the project coordinator is to be contracted through external expertise, but it isn't clear if public procurement rules have been followed as this person is already named. The costs of the final transnational meeting are high, but this is in part explained by the fact that all MAs will be invited and due to this there will be translation into three languages. There is EUR 12,000 of external expertise costs for ULSG animation which is not clear.

Concluding remarks

JOBTOWN is a well elaborated application tackling a very important issue for European cities. The project adds value compared with past or existing URBACT II projects.

If JOBTOWN is approved for the development phase, it is recommended that:

- Capacity building/training sessions are built into the development phase work programme to ensure that the partners (Latsia and Moschato-Tavros in particular) are able to participate fully in the project as well as to comply with URBACT reporting and contractual requirements.



Project Assessment Sheet	Living Cities	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Aviles	ES	Conv
PP	Emmen	NL	Comp
PP	Rho	IT	Comp
PP	Haskovo	BG	Conv
PP	Pyrgos Municipal Public Benefit Enterprise	EL	Conv

Project summary

The LivingCities project intends to analyse and share local experiences of integrated social policies for active inclusion. The project pays attention to some critical and innovative issues in social integration policies:

- *Integration of social and employment policies
- *Participation and engagement of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- *Social housing for social integration
- *Social enterprises
- *Public procurement as a tool for active inclusion
- *Social Innovation and Social Responsibility

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	8
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	9
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	48

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project proposal addresses the topic of social policies in a broad way but could have benefited from a more focussed approach in order to demonstrate better how it relates in more detail to the URBACT Programme. The partner cities demonstrate a good level of interest and concern in the overarching theme. However, the local challenges and needs of the various partner cities differ considerably which leads to questions as to the extent to which there is a common basis for the related exchange and transfer of experience. Furthermore, the proposal could have build more on previous URBACT projects in the field of active inclusion. The relationship of the project to European strategies and policy is addressed adequately.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The good quality implementation strategy provides a structured overview of objectives and expected results but could have integrated a clearer thematic focus in order to demonstrate its potential contribution to the objectives of the proposal. The focus of the activities relates well to the exchange of experiences and to transfer of good practice. The work packages are described in detail and include objectives, actions, deliverables and support – which is adequate.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The deliverables and outputs of the project are provided in a systematic manner reflecting the requirements of the call. The outputs are specified. But some results are defined too broadly (e. g. the LAP) in order to generate more concrete achievements. Several activities are targeted at the political level including the Managing Authorities presenting a good potential for impact on policies and future actions.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The project partners seem to be committed to the project as well as ready to set-up and run local support groups. The lead partner has long lasting experience in social inclusion policy and transnational cooperation. The named officer also has experience related to the topic and regarding the management of EU projects. Political decision makers are involved and committed to the project. The project could have benefited from a lead expert disposing of more relevant experience in social policy and active inclusion.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget presented is generally acceptable but requires some clarification :

- Personnel and expertise costs together represent nearly 50% of the total costs this needs to be clarified
- Travel costs are below average and could be insufficient to cover all the compulsory activity requested in the Development Phase
- Communication costs are high for the activity described in the work programme

Concluding remarks

In summary, the project 'Living Cities' presents a very broad approach to the chosen theme which could have benefited from an increased focus to improve the likelihood of achieving concrete and targeted results. Most importantly, the proposal did not succeed in presenting a clear and joined up interest between the partner cities and how project activity would capitalize on previous project experience. Whilst the work programmes for the implementation and development phase dispose of a good and adequate structure, the lead expert could have provided further evidence regarding his background related to the topic of the project in order to ensure the appropriate support for the lead partner and the partnership.



Project Assessment Sheet	MaGiC	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Wycombe District Council	UK	Comp
PP	Eindhoven - Samenwerkingsverband Regio Eindhoven (SRE)	NL	Comp
PP	Jyvaskyla	FI	Comp
PP	Oliveira de Azemeis	PT	Conv
PP	Benevento	IT	Conv

Project summary

There is now a consensus that the economic recovery of Europe will be driven by a small group of High Growth Enterprises (HGE's) many of which are likely to be Medium Sized Businesses (MSBs). MaGiC aims to stimulate the growth of HGMSBs in key European City Regions by helping policy makers exchange 'best-practice' in HGMSB support; and implement a number of innovative public policy reforms that enable increased growth and help these firms overcome the barriers to growth that constrain them.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project addresses a highly relevant topic targeted at the development of urban support policies of high growth small sized enterprises. However, the proposal could have benefited from a more detailed analysis of the topic and the needs in a more structured and targeted approach. Further information and evidence could have been provided to demonstrate the concrete needs and challenges of the local companies and how these relate to urban policies. The concrete relationship of the project proposal regarding the European policies is addressed generally but not in detail. The project does not describe sufficiently how previous URBACT projects will be taken into account and will influence the way in which the project will be implemented.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The implementation strategy – although incorporating well some relevant elements – is less well defined with regard to the anticipated project activities. It is, therefore, less clear how the project will achieve against its objectives. General economic questions at the urban level are well-addressed and there are some high-quality elements integrated (e. g. the intended involvement of local companies). However, the work programme seems very general in its outline primarily focusing on the exchange and transfer of experience, but without sufficient detail in comparison to other proposals. For the development phase a more structured approach could have been advantageous to demonstrate the potential for tangible outcomes.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs of the project are named, but could have been better structured and quantified. Also the deliverables could have been further specified. The application provides some good elements regarding the way in which the decision makers, politicians as well as the managing authorities will be involved which demonstrates the potential for impact on the local urban policy.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The well-balanced partnership demonstrates interest on the topic of the application and willingness to share and exchange their experience. However, the detail in which the background and expectations of the cities regarding specific high growth SMEs have been described is limited and could have benefited from a more concrete and focussed input. Further evidence regarding the transnational project management competences could also have been provided regarding the named officer. The lead expert is experienced in business development as well as in the management of transnational projects (including INTERREG IVC) which creates added value for the partnership.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears to cover all the compulsory activity requested for Development Phase but is lacking in some detailed explanation. The budget for expertise needs further explanation.

Concluding remarks

The theme of local economic development policies targeted at high growth economic sectors are relevant for the involved partnership and the proposal focuses on relevant exchange of experience. However, in order to be successful, the application would have needed to present a more targeted and detailed approach in a number of areas, including the analysis of the theme, and a further specification into a number of sub-themes. The work programmes remained underdeveloped and limited with regard to its detailed operations, and tangible results.



Project Assessment Sheet	Micro-CHiP	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Lecce	IT	Conv
PP	Murcia	ES	Conv
PP	Bucharest - District 2	RO	Conv
PP	Chalons-en-Champagne	FR	Comp
PP	Karlskrona	SE	Comp

Project summary

The overall aim of this network is to look at ways in which local authorities and other agencies have supported households and small businesses to adopt innovative micro-initiatives towards a low carbon and resilient economy. The focus will be on micro-renewables and ways of changing household behaviour in the production and consumption of energy, resources and food at the community and neighbourhood level.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	17
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	62

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project topic focuses on micro-energy efficiency measures aimed at households and SMEs. Whilst the proposal provides an analysis of the issue to be addressed to some extent, it is less clearly presented how the majority of partners are addressing or are planning to address low-carbon, micro-initiatives at the household level. The partner profiles seem underdeveloped and it is not clear if and how the partner cities have worked with small businesses in the past. It is, therefore, difficult to identify the added value of the proposed experience exchange. Although the issue is universally relevant, the presented needs and priorities of the partners do not seem to relate well to this topic.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal would have benefited from a clearer focus regarding the issues it will work with. Defined themes are quite diverse and are either very specific or all encompassing (Local food: procurement and distribution; Low emission households, and SME's; Measures to address behavioural change and empowerment of stakeholders at the micro level; Carbon Mapping). The application provides a long list of relevant questions to be addressed by the project. Mainly due to some underdevelopment of the proposal, there are, however, doubts if these questions will be the focus point of the exchange of experience. Work package 2 would also benefit from further detail and closer linking between the deliverables and the activities. The number of exchange activities foreseen between all of the partners seems quite low with just two transnational seminars planned, and two transnational cluster seminars envisaged (with some partners), as well as bilateral exchanges.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The plans for the development and implementation phases are in line with the requirements of the call although, compared with other applications, remain fairly underdeveloped. However, given the lack of pioneering experience among the partners, there might be limitations as to how many high quality results can be derived from the project. As a consequence, the plans for the Local Action Plans are quite vaguely described and don't clearly build upon existing initiatives. It seems less likely that there will be a strong commitment to mainstream and implement the results in their local policies and strategies.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has experience in cross-border INTERREG programmes however experience with regard to transnational/interregional working or of working on projects in this thematic field seem limited. The way in which the budget for the development phase has been allocated suggests that the lead partner may not be aware of the responsibilities and roles of being a lead partner (as they have the same share of budget as the other partners). The project coordinator's prior experience and expertise in relation to the project theme is not clearly demonstrated. The proposed lead expert has relevant experience in a range of sustainability fields (behaviour change, urban mobility etc) as well as in European projects.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

Every partner has an identical budget for the development phase, which is not realistic as the lead partner budget will need to be higher than that of the other partners due to additional responsibilities in leading and coordinating the project. The budget also includes costs for 'Project coordination, and 'ULSG's which is not recommended for the development phase. It is also not clear why EUR 6,000 is required for a 'web steward' when only the mini-site needs to be completed. Also EUR 23,000 for ULSG set up does not seem justified and it isn't clear what this will be spent on.

Concluding remarks

While Micro-Chip addresses a very important need with regard to developing low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies this proposal does not convincingly demonstrate how it will achieve meaningful exchange and results in this theme. Furthermore, the partners do not sufficiently demonstrate their experience in this theme and it remains, therefore, not clear how the exchange process between the partners will maximise benefit for the partner cities.



Project Assessment Sheet	My Generation at Work	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
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Partnership

LP	Rotterdam	NL	Comp
PP	Gdansk	PL	Conv
PP	Antwerp	BE	Comp
PP	Riga	LV	Conv
PP	Glasgow	UK	Comp

Project summary

The main objective of My Generation at Work is to promote the employability of young people in a changing labour market, with special focus on enterprising skills and attitudes. The network will produce three sets of practical results: reduced drop-out and brain drain with new connections between education and work, (self) employment for young people in identified economic sectors and creation of hubs and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships in co-creation with young people.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	17
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	22
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	18
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	9
Total (out of 100)	83

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

My Generation at Work tackles youth employability, a clearly very relevant topic which is well evidenced in the Declaration of Interest. The topic is of European relevance and it contributes to Europe 2020.

The related issues have been well demonstrated in all partner cities and relevant expected results have been identified.

Whilst the project does not duplicate any previous project, it is surprising that there is no explanation provided as to how this project builds upon and adds value to the previous 'My Generation' project. While the 'My Generation at Work' project is more focussed there are nevertheless clear links and results to be built upon. This is particularly important given that this application brings together five of the 'My Generation' partners.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The overall quality of the strategy is very good. The objectives are clear and the outputs and results are clearly defined. The activities in the work programme are set out as indicative work packages. Work package 2 for the implementation phase is well detailed and goes beyond the requirements of the call. The coherence of the proposal is strong.

Crit 3 – Quality of expected results

The partners' local action plan proposals complement existing initiatives where there are relevant ones in place, although further detail could have been provided to explain how they will build on what is being done already, to reinforce the added value of the project.

The activities and deliverables of the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call, however the partners propose to replace the first transnational meeting of the development phase with monthly online meetings. Given the partners already know each other and have worked together before this seems reasonable, but with regard to widening the partnership this might need further consideration. There will be criteria for selecting the additional partners although it is not explained what these will be.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has strong experience of working in the field addressed, as well as in international projects including URBACT (My Generation). The proposed coordinator also has the necessary experience and skills to manage an URBACT project in this theme. There is also evidence of political commitment from the lead partner through the involvement of the Vice Mayor of the City of Rotterdam. The lead expert has relevant experience of working in this theme and is experienced with URBACT (and was also the lead expert for My Generation).

Overall there is strong political commitment from each of the partners in taking part in the project and in setting up a local support group. Even the seven additional partners will be encouraged to hold a ULSG meeting during the development phase.

It is recommended that the extended partnership includes newcomers to the partnership as all the current partners have already worked together in the 'My Generation' project.

Crit 5 – Budget and Finances

The budget is very clearly presented and well balanced. It covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase and describes the links between the activities and the costs. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

My Generation at Work tackles the very relevant and current issue of youth employability and is clearly a topic of significant relevance across Europe. The proposal is well elaborated and developed.

If the project is approved, it is recommended that:

- The extended partnership includes partner cities that were not part of the previous 'My Generation' project so as to add value to the exchange process.
- The full application needs to clearly set out how My Generation at Work builds upon the results of 'My Generation'.
- The full application needs to provide concrete proposals for the partners' local action plans that clearly add value to the partners' existing strategies and initiatives.



Project Assessment Sheet	OLACITY	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Murcia	ES	Conv
PP	Lakatamia	CY	Comp
PP	Potenza	IT	Conv
PP	Farkadona	EL	Conv
PP	Bra	IT	Comp

Project summary

The objective of this thematic network is to rethink urban policy making in order to ensure the permanence of elderly people in the urban environment where they have spent their adult life and where they are integrated in their local community, perceived by them as a network of multidimensional support. The aim is to maintain senior citizens active and happy, staying in their “adapted” homes and allowing them to make relevant contributions to the social capital of the urban areas where they live.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	10
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	17
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	8
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	55

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project topic of further involving elderly in urban policy is relevant for the URBACT Programme and addresses a number of European strategies related to this important policy field. However, the proposal analyses the theme in a very broad manner which makes it difficult to identify the common challenges between the partner cities. Similarly, the three cross-cutting issues of the call are addressed in too general a manner. Although all partner cities are concerned with the theme, the application would have benefited from further information about the partner cities. Whilst previous URBACT projects have been identified, related outcomes do not seem to have influenced the design of the project proposal.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The implementation strategy is well presented, but provides insufficient thematic focus limiting its ability to demonstrate the potential of contributing to the objectives of the proposal. The project activities regarding the development phase have been elaborated into considerable detail and related work packages are concrete. ULSG related support activities for project partners are of good quality.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The planned outputs have been specified, but further, more detailed quantitative input would have been useful. Activities and deliverables are interrelated and the design of the work programme demonstrates the potential to generate impact on policies and future actions (e. g. by the means of the integration of the Managing Authorities).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The identified partners are committed to the theme and to develop and operate the respective ULSG. However, the partnership and the exchange of experience would have benefited from further involving the social affairs departments from the partner cities to operationalise the theme of the project further. The lead partner disposes of urban development experience, but further evidence could have been provided regarding relevant background in the topic of the project. The named officers' competence to manage transnational groups in English is not evidenced from the information provided. The political level is committed to the project, but the selected lead experts could have further outlined her background related to urban policies for senior citizens.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears to cover the compulsory activities requested in the Development Phase but requires some clarification :

- Personnel costs with the expertise budget for management represent more than 50% of the overall budget – this need to be clarified
- The costs for meetings and travel are the same for kick off meeting and final meeting which is not realistic
- The budget is over complicated the Lead Partner did not follow the instructions about simplified budget

Concluding remarks

In summary, the OLACITY proposal represents a very broad approach in its discussion and analysis of the project theme. The information about the partner cities and their challenges remains largely underdeveloped. The project suffers from a lack of sufficient focus which would have been useful to demonstrate the project's feasibility and operational potential. Although the structure of the work programme is robust, the involved team of project officer and lead expert could have provided further evidence regarding the management of transnational groups as well as related to the project theme.

Project Assessment Sheet	OURSpace	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Salerno	IT	LP
PP	Cascais	PT	PP
PP	Zaragoza	ES	PP
PP	Bari	IT	PP
PP	Marseille	FR	PP

Project summary

Partner cities explore how to connect their sustainability policies with decisions involving public spaces. The quality, use and maintenance of this common asset depend on this connection, which may enhance a sense of belonging and support urban governance. We shall explore how to plan sustainability (renewables, local mobility networks, citizen involvement, MSW, cultural facilities) ALONG WITH PUBLIC SPACE. The project is closely linked to the Public Space Biennial www.biennalespaziopubblico.it

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	10
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	8
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	6
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	9
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	37

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project aims at "exploring how to connect the sustainability policies of the partners with decisions involving public spaces", a concept which is certainly relevant within the third call for proposals of URBACT but most likely too broad (as illustrates in page 4, section on the nine "objectives" of the project) to be considered practical in the context of the programme. The declaration of interest does not mention experiences of other European cities in this topic, and it does not capitalise at all the learning that URBACT has accumulated so far.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

In comparison with other applications, the quality of the strategy is not very high and substantially underdeveloped. The strategy relies heavily on the realisation of a Public Space Biennial, and there is an imbalance between the topic (certainly interesting) and the expected effects (outputs and results) which are not very well developed. There are doubts whether all the partners have a sufficiently shared understanding of the strategy of the project.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal provides a list of the expected outputs for the development phase, but the details on the elaboration of two basic components (the baseline study and the beginning of Local Action Plans) lack substantial details and do not include sufficient evidences that all partners have a shared and agreed approach to these components. The baseline study is presented narrowly and not consistently integrated within the situation of the partners. The analysis of the impact of the project on the policies and future actions of the partners has not a very high quality.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The project provides details of the municipal departments that would be in charge of the D development phase, and they all belong the urban planning (which is coherent with to topic chosen and the aims of the project). In addition, the lead partner expresses convincingly its experience in transnational exchanges. However, the paragraphs dedicated to the scope of Urbact Local Support Groups do not provide sufficient details to present the likelihood for a successful work programme in the development phase. Furthermore, the lead expert shows very limited experience in the topic and the CV lacks detail in the social or organisational skills that are required to lead a partnership on this specific topic.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget has a good balance among all the partners, although the fact that four partners that are not lead partner have the same budget shows some lack of specific analysis on the exact needs of each one. The chapter dedicated to “technical assistance and consulting” (20.400 euro) would have deserved more details, and explicit connection with the actions foreseen in development phase, especially in work package 2. The same can be said for the Communication chapter of the budget, devoted to “External expertises and supplies” which is not detailed (10.000 euro)

It is not clear how the costs link the activities described.

Concluding remarks

The project aims to connect the sustainability policies of the partners with decisions involving public spaces, and this concept is relevant within URBACT, a very broad theme to be addressed by the project. Compared to other applications, the quality of the strategy is low: the expected effects (outputs and results) are not very well developed and the project too heavily relies on the realisation of a Public Space Biennial. The budget presents several problems, and the content of some chapters could have been presented in much more detail.



Project Assessment Sheet	PESL	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Nantes	FR	Comp
PP	Antwerp	BE	Comp
PP	Sofia	BG	Conv
PP	Gijon	ES	Conv
PP	Stockholm	SE	Comp

Project summary

In its strategy 2020, the European Union recognizes early school leaving (ESL) as a major challenge with an aim to reduce it below 10%. Education researchers and practitioners consider crucial the role of parents in the prevention of ESL. Through a range of policies, local authorities can play a key role to better involve parents. The PESL project proposes to share experience related to the involvement of parents in the prevention of ESL and bring policy recommendations for future implementation

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	20
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	8
Total (out of 100)	79

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

Involving parents to prevent Early School Leaving is an interesting and concrete network topic. Thus, the project addresses a topic which has relevance – employability of young adults - in the European context and which has a strong potential for dissemination.

The project is in line with the aims of the URBACT programme and with the selected sub-theme. The cross-cutting issues of the Programme are related well to the problem. Integrated and multilevel governance processes are being addressed by the project.

The Declaration of Interest briefly, analyses clearly the nature of the issue to be tackled. The issue is a priority in all partner cities based on previous activities and existing commitments and defined needs

Problems and challenges exist in all partner cities. This is evidenced by the description of strategies and ongoing activities for each city. Furthermore, their needs and expectations are sufficiently defined.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

There is a well-conceived and comprehensive plan for the implementation phase. The objectives are clearly defined and in line with the expected outputs and results.

The quality of the chosen project implementation approach is appropriate. The proposed action has a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice as evidenced in the work programme and expected results.

In particular the proposal draws on the different experiences of the partners demonstrating how they will learn from each other's experiences.

The overall coherence of the proposal is well established.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The project is ambitious and developed in a clear manner demonstrating how it will achieve concrete impacts within the partner cities.

The expected results and output are appropriately outlined and comprise the key deliverables as requested by the call for proposals. The outputs are in general concrete, but the application could have further detailed and specified some products (e. g. like further outlining the content of the baseline studies). The activities and outputs are well interrelated. The impact on the policy level can be expected to be relevant through the involvement of politicians in ULSG and by the means of the policy recommendation activities.

While the project has a clear work plan for the development phase, the role of the baseline study in the development phase is less visible; and the connections between actions and institutions could be more clearly described.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is balanced, with a good geographical coverage.

The lead partner has experience in the topic of the proposal and has a long track record of previously implemented European projects. The coordinator of the lead partner is experienced in the topic. Political representatives are committed to the project, are named and are furthermore active in related European networking committees related to the topic. The lead expert has professional background in education policy and related EU transnational cooperation and was involved in URBACT activities.

The partners demonstrate high levels of commitment to the project and are committed to set up LSG.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and well balanced. It covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

The PESL project addresses the objectives of the URBACT Programme well – namely the social inclusion of young people concerned with early school leaving (ESL). There is a good description how the project will develop preventive local urban policies to better integrate parents. The EU level and the related EU 2020 strategy are addressed clearly which is also convincingly demonstrated throughout the application form.

The project has defined the aims well and a sharp and targeted project theme is in place. There are some recommendations for the improvement of the project management for the development phase:

- Implications from the diversity in the role of local authorities in education policies should be addressed in the baseline study
- More attention should be given to the creation of the ULSG, these policy making actors should involve associations of parents in each city in order to ensure appropriate planning with the major target group
- ULSGs should also focus more on local content rather than on reporting of results from transnational meetings
- The baseline study should clearly be the main policy instrument for the Implementation Phase and therefore its role in the development phase should be central: it should be discussed and approved at ULSG meetings and by the partnership as well.



Project Assessment Sheet	PIKE Tech	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Roma	IT	Comp
PP	Aveiro	PT	Conv
PP	Aachen	DE	Comp
PP	Galati	RO	Conv
PP	Sevilla	ES	Conv

Project summary

The overall aim of PIKE Tech is to ponder and share practices between the public sector, private industries and Universities and Research Centres, enhancing local synergies among actors operating in different sectors and promoting the local development with adequate and effective training policies, to support a continuously changing work environment in accordance with new occupational needs.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	15
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project fits well with the promotion of innovation and knowledge economy triggers on European cities and its urban milieu, mainly regarding more traditional sectors. The development and use of technological innovations for the promotion of local development and for the economic revitalization of cities, particularly in a crisis context, is relevant for the current challenges of the EU 2020 Strategy.

However, the issues addressed, although relevant, are not stated in a clear manner, leaving uncertainties on the effective focus of the project. There is, for instance, little concrete evidence provided to demonstrate the need, both at global and local scales, thus leaving unclear what effective problems the project wants to tackle, and how it proposes to do so.

Overall, the project needs to clarify its focus and explain better how it will build upon the results of existing/past projects and add value to them.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy seems relevant according to the current economic situation.

The information provided concerning work packages represents standard information provided by the call for proposals, which has not been further elaborated. This seems to show insufficient strategic visioning and only limited commitment for what is expected.

The challenges experienced by the partners demonstrate a wide range of ICT-related issues (knowledge transfer from research to traditional industries; skills and training mismatch; poor ICT skills among the elderly; business support) and it seems unlikely that the project can effectively tackle all of these. However, notwithstanding the imbalanced starting point of each partner, this might make the transnational exchange of experiences and lessons learnt even more important and potentially productive for the generation of innovative ideas and solutions for local development.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The contributions of each partner and their representative moments are identified and duly divided by activities. The expected outputs (mostly basically in line with what was generally outlined in the call for proposals) are part of the challenges established by each partner with goals to achieve during the implementation of the project.

The partners Local Action Plans (LAPs) mainly focus on providing ICT support to local businesses, particularly in traditional sectors so as to improve their competitiveness. Three of the partners are able to build upon experience of the FIN-URB-ACT project (e.g. Build on the existing ULSG). It is not clear why the value for the 'baseline study' is 5+ as this should be one comprehensive report.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The candidate lead partner has experience of working in initiatives and services related to the theme of the project but not necessarily directly within the topic of the project, quite demanding considering the strong dichotomy between innovation and technological knowledge and its integration on traditional urban economic activities.

The lead partner also has considerable experience in interregional networking particularly through URBACT projects. The proposed project co-ordinator also has relevant experience in relation to URBACT networks (project coordinator for Rome's participation in Active Age). However, it is not clear if he has relevant experience in relation to the topic of PIKE Tech. There is a named political representative for the lead partner, stated will be directly involved in project activities, however, this is not well described in what capacity he will be involved.

The designated lead expert has appropriate experience in the theme of the project as well as substantial experience of providing expertise to URBACT projects. The partners have used a sound set of criteria for selecting the lead expert.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned however the proportion of staff costs is perhaps a little high.

Concluding remarks

PIKE Tech proposes a relevant topic and focus considering the tackling of problematic on traditional economic urban activities. The proposal, however, leaves some areas of its presentation underdeveloped and is too general in its approach. The combination of a limited focus, namely in terms of the effective work packages as well as in terms of urban economic dimensions to tackle, and the relatively different situations in each partner city does not demonstrate sufficiently how this project will achieve an effective partnership with high quality results.

As the competition for this call was very high, the imbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in the application in comparison with other candidates dealing with similar topics, resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	REACT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting entrepreneurship
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Partnership

LP	Faenza	IT	Comp
PP	Kedainiai	LT	Conv
PP	Tirgu Mures	RO	Conv
PP	Pezenas	FR	Comp
PP	Plovdiv	BG	Conv

Project summary

REACT is an URBACT project to define innovative policy and tools for EU historic towns to better exploit their heritage resources for regenerating economic activities in city centres. This is conceived as a reaction of city governments to actual crises, promoting heritage driven entrepreneurship, as parameter of sustainable and integrated urban development, through convergence of available national, regional, local policies against crises, in cultural industry for city centre heritage clusters.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	62

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

REACT is the acronym of “Regenerate Economic Activity in Heritage Towns”. The project aims at defining “innovative policy and tools for EU historic towns to better exploit heritage resources for regenerating economic activities in city centres”. The “heritage economy” can certainly be used as a “synthesis” concept for the project: the proposal states that “anti-crisis programmes do not include heritage economy yet”, and that “heritage protect programmes miss economic dimension”. The URBACT theme selected "promoting entrepreneurship" is well chosen. The proposal briefly analyses the issue, with few academic references and with few references of successful cities that have already implemented policies on this issue. The declaration of interest does, however, not descend to analyse in-depth the policies that already exist in the partner cities. There are doubts that the network would bring added-value to URBACT as a whole: the relation to other URBACT partnerships on this topic (Hero, Repair, Links), should have been explained in more detail.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The project demonstrates a limited strategic approach. The work packages in the implementation phase lack quantification; although some interesting tools are suggested, like the “interaction workshops” and the “thematic learning seminars”. The coherence is not fully demonstrated particularly with regard to the logical sequence and interlinking between the work packages: for instance, the transnational meetings should be outputs of work package 2 rather than work package 1; the Local Action Plans (LAPs) and ULSG meetings should be activities and outputs of work package 3, not work package 2. In any case, the level of detail goes beyond the information provided in the documents of URBACT.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs of the network are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals, but, being the challenges of the partners (as described in section III.3) quite wide ranging, the result is that LAPs are quite different. The plans for the development phase are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals (but, again, there is some overlap in activities and outputs between work package 1 and work package 2: the baseline study is mentioned as an output in both work packages which is not required).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

This is a partnership whose proposal was selected in a previous call of URBACT, but which did not delivered a successful project in the final phase, and therefore could not proceed to the implementation phase. The group of cities has not varied and they have decided to try again. The lead partner's experience is not properly elaborated (in section III.1, some projects are listed, which indicate experience of transnational/interregional working but the institution's thematic experience is not clearly demonstrated). The proposed project co-ordinator seems to be experienced in European project management, but much less so in

the theme tackled by the project. The nominated lead expert has relevant experience both in relation to town planning and cultural heritage as well as experience of working as an expert in URBACT projects.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is well detailed, but it probably allocates too few resources to project management. In the Travel and Accommodation budget it isn't clear if it includes the costs for the new city partners to participate in the final Development Phase meeting. It also isn't clear why there are both 'lead expert travel' and 'lead expert participation to project meetings' items of expenditure under this budget line. The chapter on communication is very high.

Concluding remarks

A “heritage economy” project, aiming at defining “innovative policy and tools for EU historic towns to better exploit heritage resources for regenerating economic activities in city centres”, fits well into the scope of URBACT.

The DOI does not analyse in-depth the policies that already exist in the partner cities, and the presentation of the work packages is confused which creates doubts that the network would bring added-value to URBACT as a whole. The project lacks a strategic approach. The budget presents several problems.



Project Assessment Sheet	RE-Block	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Fostering regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods and combating poverty
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Partnership

LP	Budapest 18° district Pestszentlorinc-Pestszentimre Local Gvt	HU	Comp
PP	Iasi	RO	Conv
PP	Komotini	EL	Conv
PP	Malaga	ES	Conv
PP	Gelsenkirchen	DE	Comp

Project summary

RE-Block demonstrates how introducing a smart model building on innovative public-private partnership and participatory cooperation contributes to integrated social and economic development of deprived urban areas. The model elaborated in the frame of intensive exchange (peer review sessions, Urban Idea Hub) follows two thematic (physical & social) and one overarching (governance) axe. Main outputs are LAPs with spin off project ideas, Smart Urban Governance Guidelines, Policy recommendations.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	20
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	16
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	8
Total (out of 100)	80

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The issue addressed by RE-BLOCK is clearly stated and it is also explained how it fits in with the European policy context as well as how it supports the URBACT programme's horizontal criteria. The starting positions of the partners are explained in a concise way in section II.2, as are the main challenges that they have in common. The project has links to the URBACT SURE project and it is stated that the project will capitalise upon the results of this project. While this is welcomed, more precise details of how this will be achieved is needed in the full application.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

Work package 2 proposals for the implementation phase are well structured and detailed, with exchange based around a central Transnational Urban Idea Hub. However, the number of exchanges listed in the 'Deliverables' section is quite limited with just two workshops and one symposium over the 27 month period. It seems that the peer review sessions could be added to these deliverables. The plans for work packages 1, 3 and 4 are also well detailed, and they are coherent and go beyond the requirements of the call.

Crit 3 – Quality of expected results

The partners' local action plan (LAP) proposals are concrete and are sufficiently complementary that the partners will be able to share their learning and experiences and support each other in an effective way. The LAP plans also build upon existing initiatives and policies in place in the partner cities. There is a strong involvement of Managing Authorities anticipated in the process with the Mas being responsible for giving final validation of the LAPs which may increase the potential for mainstreaming. The relevant Mas have already confirmed their support for the project.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner demonstrates a strong commitment to the topic of the project particularly with regard to the 'Havanna Programme' for which it has secured funding through the ROP. These projects have demonstrated the need for an integrated approach to policy making which the lead partner hopes to achieve through RE-Block. While the Municipality has expertise relating to the theme, the organisation's experience of cooperating in European networks is more limited.

The proposed project co-ordinator is in a senior position and has experience relevant to the 'physical' regeneration aspects of the project, however does only seem to have limited European project management experience. In acknowledgement of this, the lead partner proposes to work with external experts in transnational cooperation project management. Also, some of the partners (e.g. Komotini, Iasi) have direct experience of participating in URBACT II projects and may be able to provide some support to the lead partner if needed.

There is strong political commitment to the project by the Mayor of the 18th District who initiated the project idea and who will participate in all major transnational meetings as well as in the ULSG. The designated lead expert has experience in the theme of the project as well as in international collaboration projects (although little detail of this is provided in the CV); she was also involved in setting up the ROP which may help with mainstreaming project results.

Crit 5 – Budget and Finances

The budget is generally well detailed and the costs are clearly explained and justified. However the arrangement for sharing costs between the partners is extremely complicated and it is recommended that the shared costs structure is reviewed with the URBACT Secretariat. It is also not clear why the External Expertise cost for the lead partner's thematic expert support for setting up and facilitating the first ULSG meeting is so much higher than for the other partners. (EUR 6,300, compared with EUR 1,350).

Concluding remarks

RE-BLOCK is a well developed project proposal aiming to integrate social and economic development of housing blocks in deprived areas. The proposed plans for the implementation phase are well developed.

If the RE-BLOCK is approved, it is recommended that:

- The full application explains how it will capitalise upon the results of the URBACT II SURE and REGOV projects.
- The full application includes a comprehensive set of deliverables for the work packages and that in particular sufficient exchanges among the partners are envisaged.
- The full application makes clearer the vision that the project aspires to achieve in the deprived neighbourhoods in which it will focus.
- The budget for the development phase needs to be reconfigured in association with the URBACT Secretariat.



Project Assessment Sheet	RECONOMY	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Genova	IT	Comp
PP	Gdansk	PL	Conv
PP	Delta	EL	Conv
PP	Alzira	ES	Comp
PP	Dobrich	BG	Conv

Project summary

In light of the ongoing impact of the financial crash, it is clear that generating innovation and growth has to be the key priority in delivering EU2020. This project seeks to support weak market cities to learn from good practices as to how they can generate growth and innovation through accessing available ERDF/ESF resources within a framework of sustainable development which integrates bioeconomy to support economic, social and environmental dimensions.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	13
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	54

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

This project seeks to support sustained growth of so-called 'weak market cities', to learn from good practices as to how to generate wealth and innovation through accessing available ERDF/ESF resources within a framework of sustainable development which integrates bio-economy, to support economic, social and environmental dimensions.

This cross-cutting project integrates in a good manner into the current challenges within the EU 2020 Strategy and in particular the Cohesion Policy.

However, the main issues of the proposal are not clearly developed. Albeit the relevance of the main proposal, it remains vague which makes it difficult to envisage how the project wants to move forward on the convergence of bio-economy with urban development.

Similar URBACT thematic projects have been implemented previously (OP-ACT) and the present proposed does not clearly elaborate on a methodology for a new way forward that would have significant added value.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The concepts proposed regarding the networking development are relevant, considering the conjugation between "weak market cities" standings and possible territories of intervention for "smart urban growth" and urban innovation.

However, the major challenges and the expected effects for the implementation of the project are not clearly defined.

The information provided in the work packages is mainly just standard information from the call for proposals. This seems to show insufficient strategic visioning and commitment for what is expected. The overall work plan shows to be not tied to the economic realities and needs of the partners.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners and their interests differ considerably, and a coherent work plan is not evidenced. Consequently, the proposal does not convincingly demonstrated that outputs and results for partner cities and capitalisation purposes will be meaningful. In this sense, the outputs and results are not clearly presented, specified or quantified. There is no clear demonstration of the effects of the projects implementation in the policies.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The motive that connects partners and turns the partnership cohesive is relevant. Partners seem committed to the set-up of respective URBACT Local Support Groups, although not assuring for now an effective involvement of local agents as well as society and civic entities.

The lead partner shows to have experience with EU project managing and exchange, although not showing specific knowledge within the theme of the proposal.

The project co-ordinator has relevant project management experience in EU projects, but also not specifically on the thematic proposed.

The lead expert has substantial experience in EU projects, although also not specifically within the theme of the proposal.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget contains some errors and inconsistencies. Several projects were submitted with this standard budget format containing the same inconsistencies:

Every partner has an identical budget for the development phase, which is not realistic as the lead partner budget will need to be higher than that of the other partners due to additional responsibilities in leading and coordinating the project. The budget also includes costs for 'Project coordination, and 'ULSG's which is not recommended for the development phase. Also EUR 24,000 for ULSG set up does not seem justified and it isn't clear what this will be spent on.

Concluding remarks

RECONOMY proposes a valuable topic with interesting focus. The proposal, however, remains substantially underdeveloped and very vague in approach. It is uncertain if and how the project will achieve effective partnership development and high quality outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought much better in line with both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the imbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas of the application in comparison with the work of other candidates, resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	S3 CITIES	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Terni	IT	Comp
PP	Aarhus	DK	Comp
PP	Sabadell	ES	Comp
PP	Aveiro	PT	Conv
PP	Ventspils	LV	Conv

Project summary

In the next future cities will be called to play a more active role for regional economic development while fighting with budget/fiscal constraints and fierce competition from the outside. S3_CITIES aims to transfer the brand new Smart Specialization Strategy approach at city level contributing to shaping new economies based on competitive advantages. S3_CITIES aims to complement a new place-based effective regional action within post2013 cohesion-policies strengthening the role of cities and maximizing their contribution towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	14
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	13
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	68

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

S3 Cities intends to transfer the brand new Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) method at the city level in order to produce more focused and stronger intervention programmes at the urban scale resulting in better positioning of cities in the post-crisis global arena. The problem analysis is comprehensive and the issue is the priority of all partners. There is a good definition of what the partners are contributing and what their challenges are. The project is building on the stated experiences and needs of the partners. However, the rationale for cities S3 strategies requires further explanation as it is not entirely clear why regional S3 strategies are not capable of effectively meeting the needs of cities. Furthermore, the complementarity between the regional and city S3 strategies is not clear. Similarly, it is unclear why the themes of culture and creative industry, green growth and social innovation are selected as the key issues since surely it depends on specific areas for smart specialisation by the cities. A further concern is that the focus in each city is different and it is uncertain whether an URBACT partnership would give added-value to each city, although learning from different strategies the partners are using to overcome economic crisis, through their specific approach to specialization, in itself has added value. An exchange of experience focused primarily on the process of S3 methodology and not the content would also have added value for partners. In relation to EU2020 the thematic of S3 Cities has a high relevance - "S3 is being broadly promoted by DG Region, DG Enterprise and Industry and other related bodies like EURADA".

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal is generally well prepared and coherent. Objectives are clearly defined and activities are appropriately organized and structured to reach intended results. The project has a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice. The work programme is well elaborated in relation to objectives, activities and intended results. work package 2 is quite well-detailed, however, some deliverables are not in line with the activities (e.g. peer review exercise/reports). The preparation of reports in advance of the meetings to frame the exchanges is good practice, but it is uncertain how the topics were chosen. Topics do not relate to the interests of partners or their Local Action Plans (LAPs). Overall the six sub-topics with six thematic reports that are proposed are overly broad, since each one by itself could be the subject of a separate URBACT network. The composition of ULSG is diverse and Managing Authorities are actively included in project activities, which is good.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Well-detailed activities and outputs are proposed for the development phase, which go well beyond those prescribed by URBACT. Outputs and results are precisely defined. In addition to the LAPs of each partner, the "Guide on S3 at the city level" could be a valuable tool for other cities interested in developing a S3. The focus of the LAP for some partners is vague (e.g. "work on promotion of SMEs" in Ventspils), whereas others sound quite theoretical (e.g. 'exploring the role of clusters in S3 strategies...'). Aarhus and Sabadell have a very impressive ULSG membership. For Sabadell there could be some overlap with their URBACT ESIMeC LAP.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partners are committed to the project as evidenced by past experience and activities on the issue. The partnership is competent and generally well balanced. The lead partner demonstrates appropriate experience in exchange projects, but not related to the topic of the proposal. The project co-ordinator has very good credentials in terms of his expertise and experience, however due to his existing double posting as city planner and city manager it is unlikely that he will be able to devote sufficient time to the coordination of the S3 Cities project. High-level political support by the lead partner is evidenced. The lead expert has relevant skills and experience having been lead expert in the URBACT Creative Clusters project.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is generally clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. Some questions require clarification concerning the amount of travel costs foreseen which appear a bit high and the expertise budget category requires some explanation.

Concluding remarks

S3 CITIES presents an interesting proposal for cities within the logic of Smart Specialization Strategies. The overall approach seems viable, however, the diversity within the partnership cities in terms of experience, interests and needs does not convincingly argue for a relevant exchange of experience between the partners and meaningful outputs. Similarly, the issues to be considered in the context of the exchange of experience are not sufficiently justified in terms of their relevance to the partners and the LAPs being produced.



Project Assessment Sheet	SEROIP	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Roosendal	NL	Comp
PP	Hasselt	BE	Comp
PP	Swinoujscie	PL	Conv
PP	Taranto	IT	Conv
PP	Varberg	SE	Comp

Project summary

Many cities derive their original wealth largely to their relationship with the water. Now many old inner city ports are deserted. This is due to two mechanisms, namely through economies of scale in the shipping industry and the transformation of the industry. The old ports are in a kind of 'sleeping-situation' now. This situation is reinforced by the current economic crisis. These old port areas often are located close to downtown which means that the quality and vitality of the inner-city also is under pressure. Cities need ideas and inspiration to revitalize the old ports into new hotspots!

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	60

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

All partner cities have the common issue of wishing to rejuvenate the abandoned port and/or industrial area in the heart of the city. As such the thematic is relevant to many old port cities in Europe. Despite different territorial frameworks (the waterfronts differ considerably) the problems that affect them are also at the root of their urban space functions. This situation draws the partners together in the context of transnational experiences. To various degrees the partner cities have started dealing with the issue on their own, however, most are still in the initial stages of conceptualization, consequently, most of the partners have more to learn than to share. Furthermore, considering the nature of the problems, the proposed action does not clearly demonstrate novelty, even considering its specific local application. The added value for the majority of partners and at the EU level is, therefore, somewhat limited. Additionally, no mention is made of similar or related projects on the theme and the approaches used elsewhere, for example, the thematically related URBACT project CITUR (Cruise activity and the recovery of urban and harbour building heritage: Strong elements of the common interest of sea towns to develop and strengthen the urban tourism sector). The proposal does not in a meaningful way deal with the three cross-cutting issues that are relevant to URBACT and Europe at this time, although the EU2020 strategy is referenced.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposed approach or strategy to address the issue is elaborated only in general terms mostly in relation to deliverables specified by URBACT. This demonstrates insufficient strategic envisioning and commitment. A detailed methodology is not presented. Indicative work packages are presented, however specific objectives, actions and a time-frame are not provided. Details concerning responsibilities and the organisation of the work are lacking. Proposed activities are not elaborated in any detail, therefore, their relation to objectives and expected results are not evidenced.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposed activities are not elaborated in detail, therefore, their linkage with outputs is not well evidenced. Outputs are defined appropriately in relation to URBACT requirements, but expected results are less precisely defined and quantified. The issue is relevant to all partners, but urgency of the issue is not demonstrated. Partners are looking to learn, but it is less clear whether and how the Local Action Plan will fit in with the local development policies. The Managing Authorities are included in the action, but are not given meaningful role in the exchange of experience process (work package 2).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership does not evidence a spirit of commitment to the proposed action. The lead partner and the project coordinator do not demonstrate relevant progressive experience on the issue and do not have experience in leading exchange of experience projects in a field close to the proposed project. The proposal indicates that the lead partner wishes to learn to manage a EU project, but much of the work is proposed to be done by hired external expertise. Furthermore, two seminars organized by URBACT will be attended by the external coordinator and the lead expert and not representatives of the lead partner. A political decision-maker has not been nominated within the lead partner local authority to guarantee a strong political backing to the project. The lead expert is generally well qualified in the issues addressed by the proposed action.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is generally clearly presented and appears to cover the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. The proportion of staff costs remains reasonable even if presented in the wrong budget category for the Lead Partner. There may be insufficient resource for budget categories meetings and travel.

Concluding remarks

The partnership is generally well balanced and all the partners have, at their scale, the same type of problems and future challenges appropriate for a transnational exchange of experiences. However, information provided in the proposal concerning expected activities and deliverables is simply standard information specified by URBACT and not an elaboration of specific activities and results of the proposed action. The proposal demonstrates insufficient strategic envisioning and commitment for what is expected.



Project Assessment Sheet	SING	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Viladecans	ES	Comp
PP	Botkyrka	SE	Comp
PP	Salford	UK	Comp
PP	Misterbianco	IT	Conv
PP	Salaspils	LV	Conv

Project summary

The project seeks to activate the resources available in individuals, community groups and local authorities deriving from their participation in shared local networks. Local networks (including e-networks), involving local stakeholders and citizens will be enhanced by the project to approach several problems of social inclusion as employment for young people, elderly people care, coexistence and social conflict management, social economy, housing, etc.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	50

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project has the potential to contribute to the objectives of the URBACT Programme – namely the need for a better integration of stakeholders and citizens in urban development in order to create more integrated approaches and innovative urban development actions. However, the theme and the general approach to this proposal has remained somewhat shallow in comparison to other proposals. The proposal would have benefited from a more in-depth development of the issue and an increased focus of the theme. Furthermore, the needs of the partner cities could have been reflected more adequately. In addition, a systematic integration of existing experience in other cities and within previous URBACT projects could have contributed to the elaboration of the subject matter and its implementation.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The implementation strategy could be improved by further developing a more focused approach, for example via the identification of concrete sub-themes related to the overarching general topic. This would have helped to provide a more specific addressing of the objectives of the project. The structure of the work programme and the activities is appropriate. The baseline study development is well prepared and appropriate. The main focus of the project relates to the exchange and transfer of experience, but in comparison to other project proposal seems underdeveloped.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs are appropriate and include some innovative good practice elements (e. g. the virtual local network). The development phase includes the development of appropriate frameworks for the baseline study as well as for the establishment of the ULSG. However, a more careful time planning could have supported the description of a more realistic delivery programme for some of the project activities. It remains unclear how certain activities targeted at the decision makers will guarantee a substantial impact on local policy and future action.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The documentation shows that the partnership is committed to the project and to develop and operate ULSGs. Based on the information provided, it seems that the partner cities will be able to rely on adequate background of the lead partner. Other involved team members are also experienced in EU projects. The project would have benefited from a more detailed description of how representatives from the policy level could have been involved more intensively demonstrating a sufficient linkage to project objectives and impacts. The lead experts' background provides added value to the project due to his experience in social innovation.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase, however, some elements would need to provide further explanation:

- There is an unbalanced split between the two work packages which is not explained
- There is 23k€ in the expertise budget category which is not explained

Concluding remarks

The topic - using social innovation for furthering urban social inclusion policy - addresses the objectives of the URBACT Programme with the means of some new concepts. However, the application would have benefited substantially from a more structured approach with a clear thematic focus. This could have informed the demonstration of a more systematic implementation strategy leading to a higher potential in achieving practical and relevant project results.



Project Assessment Sheet	SMART CITIES	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Coimbra	PT	Conv
PP	Gdynia	PL	Conv
PP	Santurtzi	ES	Comp
PP	Gualdo Tadino	IT	Comp
PP	Mizil	RO	Conv

Project summary

In line with the EU Strategy 2020, the project intends to foster Smart Cities (and communities) that promotes social innovation and inclusiveness together with economic innovation and environmental sustainability. The main objective of the project is to develop a different picture of how public services could be organized through an open innovation process. The citizens are in the core of the system and the local authorities support their ideas to create new tools for improving their well-being.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	20
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	21
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	16
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	74

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The topic of fostering Smart Cities that promote social innovation is based on a solid analysis addressing well the URBACT cross-cutting issues. Added value is created by the means of inter-relating the smart development with the promotion of social innovation instead of the pre-dominant practice to relate to smart technology related development. The application would have improved from further detailing good practices from other cities and linking to previous URBACT projects. Similar problems and challenges are identified in all partner cities, which is evidenced by the means of examples. The partners rely on relevant experience in the field. EU strategies and policies – linked to the theme of the application – are outlined.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities of the work programme have been clearly set out in work packages which rely on the objectives of the project as well as on the needs of the partnership. The activities are clearly related to the exchange of experience between the partners and with further cities outside the partnership. Work package 3 reflects the participative approach needed for enabling open innovation processes, the outline of the local action plan is of appropriate quality. Activities targeted to the policy level and the managing authorities are well planned. The draft communication plan also includes innovative elements (e. g. TV broadcasts). However, the use of more web 2.0 activities - which would have added value potential regarding the topic of open innovation - should be further addressed. The development phase work packages are of high quality.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs are in line with the requirements of the call for proposals. The outputs are concrete and specified, but could have been further quantified. Activities and outputs are clearly interrelated. The work programme integrates several concrete activities (mayors' summits and meetings with the managing authorities) which have the potential to impact on policies and future actions of the partners.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The application provides evidence that the partners are committed to the project, to share and exchange experience. This is also well demonstrated regarding the establishment and operation of the URBACT local support groups. The lead partner is experienced in the topic and currently engaged with related municipal programmes. The named officer of the lead partner could have provided more systematic information on his previous experience regarding the management of transnational groups and could have provided an English CV in European format. The lead expert disposes of relevant experience and was URBACT thematic pole manager for Social Inclusion and Governance.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is complicated and has not taken into consideration the simplification measures presented in the guidance documents. Overall the project foresees 88.000€ total cost and there appear to be some elements missing for the compulsory activities necessary during the Development Phase.

The budget should be reviewed to simplify and ensure all necessary activities can be covered.

Concluding remarks

In summary, the SMART CITIES project provides a systematic analysis which relates well to the challenges and needs in the partner cities. These are also addressed well through an appropriate work programme including innovative elements of high quality. However, the development phase could be also used to ensure the sound management of the transnational partnership, to further develop innovative communication elements as well as for integrating good practice from a wider European perspective. If approved, these aspects should be elaborated in more detail.

Project Assessment Sheet	SMART PARK	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Braganca	PT	Conv
PP	Tartu	EE	Conv
PP	Pitea	SE	Comp
PP	Trieste	IT	Comp
PP	Laval Agglomeration	FR	Comp

Project summary

SMART PARK project is focused on identifying and exploring the roles that Science and Technology (S&T) structures may have in the promotion of integrated urban development in small and medium sized European cities. Considering the challenges of Europe 2020 strategy and the objectives of the URBACT II programme, SMART PARK will share practices, disseminate lessons and build up policies and guidelines for the design of integrated urban development strategies where S&T structures play a major role.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	18
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	18
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	65

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The application of Smart Park aims to support small and medium size cities to develop integrated urban development strategies that maximise the presence of their science and technology parks. The precise issue that the project is tackling is not explicitly defined (apart from for the lead partner) with only limited evidence provided regarding the need for the project in sections II.1 and II.2. The declaration of interest identifies a range of existing URBACT projects which it will build upon (e.g. RunUp, Creative Clusters, ESIMeC, REDIS). The theme is relevant to the European policy environment and supports the aims of Europe 2020. The proposal provides a good analysis on the common characteristics of the partner cities, but there is no explicit explanation of the differences between the cities (which may prevent the realisation of a successful exchange of experiences).

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions. For example the plans for the implementation phase include a range of transnational exchange activities including proposed topics/themes for the exchange; three partners are identified as leading work package 2 and the lead partner will lead work package 3 (it seems a good split of responsibilities). But, in terms of support for work package 2 and work package 3, the lead expert is not mentioned. In the 'deliverables' for work package 3 it is proposed to develop a 'SMART PARK collaborative toolkit' however this is not mentioned among the project activities and it isn't clear what this output is. Work package 4 proposes a range of outputs, however, there is no reference to target audiences for the C&D activities.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners all commit to developing a Local Action Plan (LAP); these plans clearly build upon existing initiatives or policies in place in each city; in general they will seek to foster triple helix relationships as well as local stakeholder linkages more generally. No details, however, are given on the elaboration of the baseline study.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner shows strong political commitment to the topic, as it has carried out European study visits for the formation of the local Ecopark strategy. The lead partner has experience of cross-border INTERREG projects, and recognises the need for additional skills for an URBACT project (and, therefore, it has contracted external expertise to support them). A deputy mayor is proposed to become the project co-ordinator (he has experience in relation to the field and in co-ordinating projects; he would be supported by external expertise). The designated lead expert has expertise in a wide range of topics, mainly relevant to the topic (his CV provides experience of international working and of projects financed through the Framework Programmes, but he does not seem to have experience in European Territorial cooperation programmes); in fact, it is not clear that the role of the lead expert has been properly understood, as this function is not mentioned in any of the work packages and external expertise is foreseen for supporting the baseline study.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget for the development phase is reasonable and the costs are generally well detailed. However a few items of expenditure are not clear or seem over-estimated: (1) it is not clear what is meant by 'report development' under 'Personnel'; (2) it is not clear what costs are foreseen for the 'support to the lead expert visit' for the LP and another project partner; (3) under Travel & Accommodation, it isn't clear which costs are for the lead expert, and which are for current partners and/or the additional partners; (4) it is normally the LE who is responsible for preparing the baseline study and it is therefore not clear why EUR 3,500 is planned for 'supporting the preparation of the baseline study'.

Concluding remarks

The theme is of European wide relevance and supports the aims of Europe 2020. The DOI provides a good analysis on the common characteristics of the partner cities, but there is no sufficiently explicit explanation of the differences or commonalities between the cities (which may prevent the realisation of a successful exchange of experiences). The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, but the proposal has several problems regarding its coherence: the function of the lead expert is not mentioned in any of the work packages, no details are given on the elaboration of the baseline study... The budget also presents several problems.



Project Assessment Sheet	SURPRISE	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Preston	UK	Comp
PP	Dresden	DE	Conv
PP	Gdansk	PL	Conv
PP	Coevorden	NL	Comp
PP	Oslo	NO	PS

Project summary

The aim is to strengthen the involvement of the private and non-profit sectors in areas of our cities in need of regeneration. Innovative approaches with limited funding will be a central goal for the project. We will investigate how cities can involve and contract with private and non-profit sector resources, learn from positive and negative experiences with different forms of cooperation, and strengthen integrated multi-level governance to achieve long-term positive results.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	11
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	6
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project contributes to the objectives of the URBACT Programme as it addresses the topic of urban regeneration with enlarged involvement of non-profit and for-profit private partners through the sustained development of long-term city governance partnerships on multi-level areas. It also contributes to the three cross-cutting issues (crisis, integrated and multilevel governance approach). The topic is relevant, related to the objectives of the programme, the cross-cutting issues and related EU policy and has been well outlined and analysed in general and on the level of the partners.

The nature of the problem is well analysed and the problems exist in all partner cities. Related activities are under way and have proven to be challenging which created the need and will for further related transnational exchange. However, more detail could have been provided with regard to the problems to be tackled. It would have been also advantageous if more detail would have been provided regarding the possible common problematic and subsequent objectives of the different partners. These aspects remained underdeveloped.

The expected results have the potential to be innovative as some new financial instruments are addressed. The project does not duplicate previous URBACT projects.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The quality of the implementation strategy seems in general appropriate. Despite the common questions regarding deprived urban areas, the starting position of each single partner is fairly different. The partners have different contributions to give and to receive from the partnership and the transnational exchange of experiences. However it remains unclear how a common strategy will be developed which will be beneficial for all the partners and bearing real outputs during all the process and for its future. The network could show more clearly how it will be developed and address the embeddedness to go beyond each local on-going projects.

The project presentation lacks of integrating know-how and experience from outside the partnership (work package 2) and of further planning regarding the sustainable integration of the private sector in the ULSG (work package 3). The application lacks furthermore of providing more in depth information regarding the communication activities (work package 4). Regarding the development phase, the application provides a good and comprehensive outline for project management, but lacks of further defining the content and detailed time plan of the baseline study. The focus of the project is the exchange and transfer of experience and the proposed activities are in line with the planned objectives.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected procedures are generally in line with the requirements of the call for proposal. The outputs seem to be concrete-driven, but there remain important lacks in the further specification and more detailed time planning (e. g. baseline study). The overall time plan regarding the delivery of results is appropriate. The activities are interrelated with the outputs

and the expected impact on the future policy of the partners has been demonstrated. The local politicians and the managing authorities are planned to be integrated on local as well as on transnational level.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The different partners (territories, specific goals, future challenges) could provide added value to the diversity of the partnership and to the productive exchange of experiences during the process, however more effort could have been taken to identify the commonalities between them. The application provides evidence that the partners are committed and that the relevant departments of the cities will be involved. Partners are also committed to run local support groups. The lead partner is experienced in urban regeneration and financial instruments, which is in general appropriate. There is, however, little evidence of direct previous experience in transnational cooperation projects.

Furthermore, the administration is experienced with EU Cohesion Instruments, but lacks of providing further information regarding the concrete experience with previous transnational projects. Related training activities for the staff involved are of added value. The local political representative has been named and he is in charge of policies related to the topic of the proposal. The lead expert lacks of further detailing her concrete experiences regarding private public partnerships and alternative financial instruments.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget proposed appears to cover the activities foreseen in the Development Phase, however, it is very complicated and the applicant has not taken into consideration the simplification measures suggested in the guidance documents.

There is an imbalance between the work packages and there appears to be a large budget programmed for translation which requires explanation.

Concluding remarks

SURPRISE proposes relevant political and administrative topics and focus for urban Europe present issues, the sustained development of long-term city governance partnerships, on multi-level areas. The proposal is, however, in many areas underdeveloped and too general or partial in its approach. The combination of the relatively different situations of each partner leaves the proposal, when seen in a global and integrative manner, with considerable uncertainty regarding its effective development of expected outputs. The coherence of the proposal, as well as the quality of its expected results, has to be brought in line with both activities and contents.

As the competition for this call was very high, the imbalance and underdevelopment of fundamental areas in comparison with other candidates working in similar areas of relevance resulted in a position for this application below the mark for URBACT funding.



Project Assessment Sheet	Sustainable Food for Urban Communities	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Brussels Capital Region	BE	Comp
PP	Bristol	UK	Comp
PP	Messina	IT	Conv
PP	Athens	EL	Conv
PP	Amersfoort	NL	Comp

Project summary

Exchange on innovative initiatives for more sustainable food production, sale & consumption in urban communities: to make such food more widely available & appreciated and promote low carbon & resource-efficient urban economies; to increase demand for sustainable food through changes in behaviour of final consumers & public administrations; to foster short supply chains by facilitating transition of existing food market actors & emergence of new ones; to promote small-scale urban agriculture.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	21
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	72

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The issue of food sustainability addressed by 'Sustainable Food for Urban Communities' is clearly explained and evidenced in section II.1 of the Declaration of Interest. The theme is of relevance to Europe 2020 and the expected results provide added value compared with existing or previous URBACT II projects. Section II.2 provides a comprehensive overview of the nature of the challenge in the cities and of their experiences in the topic. It seems that all partners have some experience and commitment to the theme although this is less evident for Athens and Messina.

The approach proposed by the project through four areas (consumer behaviour, public procurement, short food supply chains and urban food production) is, however, relatively broad which may limit the potential for a meaningful exchange process. A more focussed approach is, therefore, recommended.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities of the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages with actions and deliverables. The proposed activities for the implementation and development phases are logical and coherent. They are also in line with the requirements of the call, although few additional activities or deliverables are offered beyond those. The project has clear focus on experience exchange and transfer of good practice which is evidenced by the work programme and expected results. There has been some consideration as to how to ensure the effectiveness of activities, e.g. through proposing interactive 'micro-presentation happy hours' to make the ULSGs more engaging; and through proposing reports in the form of 'one picture for each 500 words principle'.

Crit 3 – Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are in line with what has been outlined in the call for proposals for both the development and implementation phases. The expected outputs are concrete and precisely quantified. Each partner commits to preparing a local action plan (LAP), however the proposed plans for the LAPs in the Declaration of Interest are quite disparate, reflecting the relatively wide range of themes within the topic of sustainable food that the project is addressing as well as the diverse experiences of the partners. These different thematic approaches to the LAPs could limit the potential for interregional exchange and learning between the partners and ultimately could reduce the overall impact of the results. As highlighted under criterion 1 it is recommended that a more focussed approach is adopted in the full application. The project intends to involve the Managing Authorities (MA) in the project activities.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner organisation has a wealth of experience in the field of sustainable food initiatives, as well as experience of interregional working through, for example, INTERREG programmes. The named project coordinator also has relevant thematic and interregional experience. There are several strategies and initiatives which demonstrate the political will and commitment of the lead partner to support the topic covered by this project, however no named political representative is provided and assurance of political involvement in the project's activities is not confirmed. The Managing Authority for the lead partner is, however, named and has close contact with the project manager.

The lead expert does not seem to have expertise of direct relevance to the theme of the project. Although he has experience of international working (Framework programmes), his thematic experience seems to be primarily on sustainable innovation rather than the food sector. For the full application partners are encouraged to be sought from new member states.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The overall budget is within the recommended limit of EUR 100,000. However the proportion of expenditure allocated to WP1 seems high (42%). In addition, in table 5, it is not clear why there are costs for 'travel and accommodation' in addition to the other two T&A budget lines. The Travel and Accommodation budget for the lead expert seems low (EUR 2,500) considering the lead expert will be visiting all of the partners. The cost of EUR 6,000 stated for 'logo design' seems high and needs further justification. It is also not clear what the EUR 4,500 is for under 'external expertise'.

Concluding remarks

'Sustainable Food for Urban Communities' is a well developed proposal on a very relevant theme. The proposed work plan is generally well developed and coherent.

If the project is approved, it is recommended that:

- A more focused approach is adopted for the full application so as to ensure a more meaningful exchange process and concrete results.
- The full application provides more concrete details of the partners' proposed plans for the LAPs, as these are quite vaguely defined in the declaration of interest.
- It needs to be made clearer in the full application how the partners with less experience in the topic, from Athens and Messina, will contribute and benefit from the exchange process.
- The full application demonstrates more concretely the lead partners' political commitment to the project and to the integration of the project's results.
- The wider partnership includes partners from new member state countries.
- The suitability of the designated lead expert is reconsidered for one with more relevant experience in the topic of sustainable food.



Project Assessment Sheet	UD-Inno	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Seinajoki (Frami Ltd)	FI	Comp
PP	La Courneuve	FR	Comp
PP	Alytus	LT	Conv
PP	Los Santos de Maimona	ES	Conv
PP	Castro	IT	Conv

Project summary

Structural changes in the municipality sector and public services have changed individual citizens' role in local decision making and service development. Parallel decline of manufacturing industries has forced municipalities to renew their industrial policies. Both approaches have created a need for new and creative ways to participation of the real service users (in different age and user groups) and user driven innovation processes combining together partners in municipality development.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	12
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	10
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	10
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	47

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

User driven innovations in municipality development, as the basic theme of the project, have the clear potential to help the promotion of innovation and the knowledge economy. Thereby, the proposal states that users themselves are an important source of information for service management and should participate more to improve municipal services. The project could clearly attract European interest.

However, the proposal outlines very broadly the involvement of users in participatory processes and the range of potential topics is very wide (from participatory decision making, to citizen information and social entrepreneurship). This broad-brush approach has diluted the focus of the proposal to considerable extent. The proposal has further only made limited or no use of previous URBACT project experience with no indication how to capitalise from this know how. This potentially lowers the dissemination capacity and learning potential of the project.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

Although all partners are clearly demonstrating some innovation capacities, the understanding of innovation is very different among partners, ranging from technological to social and even broader terms. This could hinder the international exchange of experiences.

The project was unable to sufficiently demonstrate a clear vision for the implementation phase, although some attempt was made with the identification of quantifiable deliverables.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

Although there are quantifiable deliverables outlined for the development phase, the work packages are weakly designed, the URBACT recommendations of the provided template have not been expanded sufficiently and not adjusted to the local needs. The proposal is not clear how the actions will build on each other and how synergy between the actions will be created.

The function of the Local Support Groups is only briefly established.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is balanced in terms of size – small and medium sized municipalities - and geographical coverage; they also share interest in innovation and technology.

Higher managerial capacity and commitment from the lead partner would be needed for managing an international exchange network than the one suggested by the proposal. Relevant named municipal officers could have underlined the importance of transparency in

municipal management; while at the same time could have supported the work of the development company. The named part-time officer from the management company as project manager does not suggest a high level commitment from the lead partner.

External expertise to the network is not well established: the management company in charge of does not show clear expertise in the proposed topic, while the lead expert has only limited international communicational skills, and thematic expertise.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The focus of the budget is not on the international exchange, but rather on project management, with high level of management and external expertise costs. Budget for travel and accommodation does not seem to include a high level of networking potential, while the Lead Expert is calculated to only visit 5 partners. Cost for final meeting is not sufficient for the extended partnership.

Concluding remarks

The proposal is based on a good project idea looking at innovative ways to promote user involvement in developing public services, which clearly would draw European interest. However the proposal remains under developed in many parts and is lacking cohesion among the partners' needs and ideas, which have not been sufficiently integrated into a coherent proposal.



Project Assessment Sheet	URBACT Markets	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Barcelona	ES	Comp
PP	Westminster	UK	Comp
PP	Torino	IT	Comp
PP	Plovdiv	BG	Conv
PP	Suceava	RO	Conv

Project summary

The project's aim is to acknowledge and fully explore the potential of local markets as drivers for local economic development and regeneration. The core project idea is to explore the links between local sustainability and successful markets and is based on the assumption that markets play a central role within the towns and territories from an economic, cultural, social and touristic point of view, as well as in spatial and local development planning. Markets generate footfall, economic activity, increase trade in the surrounding areas, incentivise tourism and reinforce local cohesion.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	21
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	21
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	17
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	16
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	82

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project is in line with the aims of the URBACT programme and with the selected sub-theme. The topic of urban markets as drivers for regeneration and competitiveness has European level interest and the topic is addressed in an integrated way, also incorporating the horizontal criteria of the programme. The declaration of interest clearly analyses the nature of the issue to be tackled. The issue is a priority in all partner cities based on previous activities and existing commitments and defined needs. It is also evidenced that the partners want to learn from each others' experiences. The expected results are innovative as the action will develop an integrated approach, analysing the catalyst effect that urban markets have in the areas of Town Centre Regeneration, Low Carbon Economy and Local supply, Employment and entrepreneurship.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The strategy for implementation is well thought out and presented. The objectives are clearly defined and are in line with the expected outputs and results. The proposed action has a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice as evidenced in the work programme and expected results. The work programme is well elaborated and includes working groups dealing with specific themes which are led by different partners. However, it is unclear whether partners will be able to take part in more than one working group. Additionally, clarification is needed on how often these working groups meet. ULSG are expected to be very committed and have very explicit requirements placed on them in terms of performance. A detailed framework has been developed to guide the development of the Baseline study. A common, but adaptable framework is proposed for the work of the Local Action Plan (LAP). The interregional character of the project is demonstrated. In particular the proposal draws upon the different experiences of the partners demonstrating how they will learn from each other's experiences. More elaboration would have been welcome regarding the management of the project.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected outputs and results are concrete and are precisely specified and the activities and outputs are explicitly interrelated. The project is ambitious and clearly developed to achieve concrete impacts on the ground within the partner cities including: influencing policy making processes; financing capacity/ new funds and how to push take-up of project proposals at local authority, national and EU-level, also bringing them to the attention of policy makers and other EU bodies. To sustain the momentum of the action following formal completion a Network and Follow-up Committee will be developed that will focus on capitalising the project goals in the long-term and a permanent Discussion Forum on city retail commerce will be established.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The core partners show substantial commitment to the action. Different partners assume responsibility for leading the three working groups and commit to run an ULSG. The lead partner has relevant experience in the thematic and has experience of leading exchange of experience projects in similar themes. The project co-ordinator of the Lead partner has experience of this type of action. Political support of the lead partner is evidenced with a named elected representative who is president of the 'Institute of Markets' and responsible for 'City Commerce' committing to be active in implementing project conclusions. Better elaboration of the input of the lead expert would have benefitted the proposal. The lead expert has relevant experience in supporting transnational activities, including within URBACT projects, although specific experience within the theme of urban markets is not evidenced.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and appears to cover the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase even if there is a question about the amount dedicated to city visits. Some questions remain about the possible externalisation of staff costs, additional expertise for the baseline study and 10.000€ for ULSG meetings.

Concluding remarks

The proposal URBACT Markets is a well prepared and focussed proposal on a relevant topic with a dense transnational exchange and learning process. The project has a high capitalisation potential.

To ensure appropriate support is provided to the project during the development and implementation phase, it must be assured that the designated lead expert has the appropriate experience and expertise.

The plans for the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call documents. However, there is no 'description' provided for the deliverables in the table in section III.7. This shortcoming should be addressed.

The proposal (page 19) states "Before starting work on the LAP, every working group will draft a set of good and best practices and its translation to generic policy recommendation. Only the cities that expressly commit to implement the working groups conclusions in the Action Plans will be engaged in the project Implementation Phase". Clarification is required on the meaning of this point.



Project Assessment Sheet	Urbenergy	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Developing Low carbon and energy-efficient urban economies (e.g. sustainable transport, housing, climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting the environment, brownfields redevelopment, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Avrig	RO	Conv
PP	Tulln	AT	Comp
PP	Durham County Council	UK	Comp
PP	Szentes	HU	Conv
PP	Slagelse	DK	Comp

Project summary

<p>URBENERGY develops an integrated framework for improving EE and optimal utilisation of RES by offering an innovative model for creating a sustainable EE urban environment. The model is based on 5 pillars (technology, governance, local business, financial and social) and will be elaborated in the frame of City Implementation and Solutions Labs. Major outputs: LAPs with spin-off project ideas, best practices, case studies and policy recommendations.</p>
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EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	16
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	12
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	8
Total (out of 100)	63

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The issue addressed by URBENERGY is in line with the URBACT II programme and with the selected sub-theme. The need for the project is sufficiently explained, as is the European policy context. However, section II.2 does not provide sufficient detail about the specific challenges relating to the issue for each of the individual partners. The precise nature of the challenges in relation to blocks of housing is also not clearly specified (compared with housing in general). It also is not entirely clear that every partner commits to focus on housing blocks in the elaboration of their local action plan. The topic is, nevertheless, broadly relevant to other European cities.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities for the implementation phase are clearly structured into work packages. URBENERGY proposes quite an innovative approach to the exchange process with 'City Labs' of groups of partners as well as additional actions such as master classes to ensure learning is shared between all the partners. The work packages are well detailed and go beyond the proposals in the call documentation. There is also strong interrelation between the work packages. However, in work package 3, only three local support group meetings are planned which may not be sufficient and is less than the recommended number by the programme.

Plans for the development phase are in line with the call documentation and build upon the previously financed development phase for URBANENERGY.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners have a range of strategies in place and commitments to energy reduction which URBENERGY will complement or build upon. While the Local Action Plans (LAP) are sometimes concrete, proposing technical and financial plans linked to future investments funded through the Operational Programmes, this is not the case for all of the partners and the plans are quite divergent. For example, the City of Szentes would like to prepare its LAP on sustainable development, the so-called Agenda 21 and would like to share its best practices and educational methodologies in the field of geothermal energy as heating; the Municipality of Slagelse would like to produce a LAP on a wide range of issues (including housing organisations related to unemployment projects); the city of Tulln's interests in the network include traffic calming and reduction, waste water treatment plants etc. while the plans for Durham are very vaguely defined. Given this breadth in interests of the partners the expected impact of the project on the policies and future actions of the partners is not clearly demonstrated.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner institution demonstrates experience in a range of European funding programmes (including URBACT II - REPAIR) as well as experience of working in energy efficiency projects. The proposed project coordinator seems to have relevant experience in managing projects, however, her experience in relation to the topic is less evident. The Mayor of Avrig is the named political representative of the project for the lead partner, however, it is not explained how concretely he will participate in project activities or be informed by them. The designated lead expert has expertise in relation to European project management and animation however he has no relevant expertise in relation to the topic of the project.

There is a strong commitment to the engagement of Managing Authorities who will take part in local support groups, City Labs (in own city and one elsewhere), Master Classes and main events. It is stated that the MAs have confirmed their intention to support the project and follow its progress.

Crit 5 – Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

URBENERGY is a reasonably well elaborated project on a relevant theme and the work packages are well structured and detailed. However, the focus of the project is not sufficiently reflected in the aims and ambitions of the partners. The partners have quite divergent plans for their local action plans, and a wide range of interests and expectations for the network. This reduces the potential impact of the project and the quality of the exchange process. The proposed lead expert also does not seem to be experienced in the theme of the project.



Project Assessment Sheet	Urb-Hubs	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
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Partnership

LP	Espinho	PT	Conv
PP	Blackpool	UK	Comp
PP	Pescara	IT	Comp
PP	Minoa Pediadas	EL	Conv
PP	Vigo	ES	Conv

Project summary

The Urb-hub concept is based on a 'golden' rule of our society: "(what is important) is not what you have, is what you have access to". Applied to cities the Urb-Hub is a well linked city acting as gateway to a vaster region, while providing a differentiated, high-quality offer of added-value services for those in transit. An Urb-Hub is like a large-scale airport, symbolizing the opportunity for free flows of knowledge, ideas, different perspectives, expertise and innovation from and into the city

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	8
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	10
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	45

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The development of tourism including its inherent employment potential is a relevant objective in the framework of URBACT and related the European policies. However, the project is presented in a too general manner not sufficiently inter-relating the topic with more concrete actions targeted to employment and labour mobility. Furthermore, the specific challenges and needs of the partnership are not fully reflected in the basic analysis of the project.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

While some common challenges are addressed, the concept of hub-cities and the related implementation strategy remain too general to ensure the achievements of the objectives of the project. The concept of hub-cities is not sufficiently detailed and related sub-themes are not inter-related with concrete activities. The need to address inter-actions with the close and bigger driver cities is not sufficiently reflected in the proposed work programme.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The Declaration of Interest provides some basic information regarding expected outputs, but the development phase needs to be more structured and specified. The related time planning is not detailed enough and allows not sufficient margin to discuss results appropriately within the partnership. The planned involvement of decision makers and managing authorities is addressed in general, but the related work programme has only the potential to generate only basic impact for future urban policies.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The application provides evidence that the partners are committed to the project and that the lead partner disposes of relevant background. But there is little evidence regarding the named officers' experience concerning the management of transnational partnerships. The background of the lead expert regarding innovation policy and in the framework of URBACT generates added value. Furthermore, the outlook regarding new partner cities is of good quality.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget of the project needs some major readjustments regarding personnel costs and cost items related to the project management of the lead partner which represent more than 50% of the total budget.

Some ineligible costs are presented for web design and costs for meetings and travel appear to be insufficient.

Concluding remarks

The topic of tourism innovation of hub-cities is relevant for urban development in Europe. However, the application provides substantially insufficient evidence regarding a focused and straight-forward approach, which should have been based on detailed planning related to the desired outputs as well as project objectives. The committed partnership can rely on appropriate experience from the lead expert. Further structure and adaptation is needed for the financial planning of the project. Due to these weaknesses the project has scored lowly.



Project Assessment Sheet	USE ACT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Naples	IT	Conv
PP	Athens	EL	Conv
PP	Barakaldo	ES	Comp
PP	Baia Mare Metropolitan Area	RO	Conv
PP	Dublin	IE	Comp

Project summary

How to achieve opportunities for people and businesses to settle in existing locations, without consumption of further land, through new planning and partnership approaches: at the same time developing the construction and real estate economies, making the most of the historic building heritage and related character, reducing energy consumption in buildings and cutting back on further infrastructure building/management costs.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	17
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	17
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	75

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project seeks to develop integrated urban planning frameworks, both regulatory, economic and cultural, driven to the reduction as far as possible of consumption of land and excess energy. Firstly, it aims to combat urban sprawl by fostering urban planning strategies that encourage re-use of existing buildings rather than new build on new land; secondly, it aims to upgrade existing housing in the historic centres of cities so that they are energy efficient and accessible. This is, on the whole, a very strong and hugely demanding endeavour. In an integrated sense, the project will contribute in a most relevant manner to most of the main objectives of the European agendas as well as from URBACT objectives and expected dynamics. The theme is clearly of European wide relevance to cities of a range of sizes, as represented by the partnership. However, the nature of the myriad of problems and issues to be tackled arising from this general challenge, would benefit from a clearer explanation of the specific sectors and relevant subthemes.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal adopts an integrated approach to urban planning and it addresses the programme's horizontal criteria. The project proposes some focus on the exchange and transfer of experiences amongst the different cities. However, the issues to be tackled, especially regarding the cross-thematic proposal, could be clearer. Most issues remain general. The activities proposed in the work packages could be more detailed, remaining too general in some relevant areas. Some deliverables are not sufficiently quantified (e.g. frequency of ULSG meetings) or are not detailed e.g. 'contributions to the transnational exchange and learning' and 'other outputs aiming to achieve the aims defined for this work package'. There are places where the 'CTUR' project is referenced instead of USE ACT.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected activities and outputs are in line with what is outlined in the call. Detail is provided on each city's needs, capacities, aims and objectives, but it's relatively uneasy to find explicit interrelationships, the expected impact of the project remaining therefore relatively open. The project focuses well on the exchange of experiences, some of the partners have slightly different priorities with regard to their approach to the project (e.g. focus on energy efficiency versus urban sprawl). Most partners link their Local Action Plan (LAP) to current policies or strategies which are either in place or under review, which should support the integration of the results into future city activities and investments. However this is less apparent in some partners (e.g. Athens, where the LAP proposal is very vaguely described and it isn't clear how it will build on or link to the redevelopment plan which has just been finalised for the city). Finally, plans for the development phase are in line with the requirements of the call. The outputs are well quantified and detailed in the work plan.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

There is good evidence of an elevated commitment expected from the part of each partner, and notably the lead partner. The lead partner has very relevant experience both in relation to the theme and in relation to transnational cooperation. The city of Naples was the both partner and lead partner of previous URBACT networking projects. The proposed project co-ordinator is an URBACT thematic expert in themes relevant to USE ACT, also representing Naples in the previous URBACT II thematic networks. The political representative of the lead partner is named and is the Councillor for Urban Planning. He will co-ordinate the other Councillors that will need to be involved in the project in order to ensure an integrated approach. The proposed lead expert shows to have relevant experience of transnational working and seems to specialise in transport policy and logistics, leaving not clear to have relevant expertise for the USE ACT aims.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Some equipment costs are presented which are not appropriate for Phase I.

Concluding remarks

USE ACT is a well detailed application, on a highly challenging and demanding endeavour as is the combat of urban sprawl by fostering urban planning strategies that encourage a new type of urban production and reproduction. In a broad sense, it aims at a steady change of the urban planning and management culture, also compelling for social, cultural and economic major changes. There is, therefore, a clear European as well as local level high interest. The coherence and quality of the project is well detailed and well demonstrated. There is evidence of a substantial commitment expected from the part of each partner, and notably from the part of the lead partner.

Notwithstanding this positive global appraisal, during the development phase the project should pay higher attention to the following points, these needing to be addressed in the full application:

- As a most relevant or even threshold topic, and precisely because of that, the project needs clearer focusing right from the beginning. The project needs to be more precise, even at its starting phases, in which main directions to go, both generally and proposed in each LSG/LAP;
- In this sense, the project also needs to detail in a much developed manner the different work packages, not only during the implementation phase itself, but now for a solid development phase;
- Clear and effective detail is also necessary at supra-local level on each ULSGs, crucial for these topics to effectively function and go ahead;
- Although one of the strengths of the application is the commitment amongst the first partners, the project should include now relevant cities with high difficulties or even no experience in tackling urban sprawl, to help to improve in a wider scale urban Europe's capacities in these most relevant dimensions.



Project Assessment Sheet	USER	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration (e.g. shrinking cities, linkages urban-rural, city-centers management, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Grenoble Alpes Métropole	FR	Comp
PP	Malaga	ES	Conv
PP	Pescara	IT	Comp
PP	Barakaldo	ES	Comp
PP	Lublin	PL	Conv

Project summary

In the context of metropolisation and increasing complexity of cities, urban planning and management are challenged. A new strategy is needed to create the Sustainable City of tomorrow. USER wants to build new processes and partnerships, by integrating expertise of uses from inhabitants and field workers on urban regeneration processes. USER wishes to work on innovative tools to find new ways to conceive and manage the City to improve efficiency of the urban governance of the Sustainable City.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	19
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	16
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	14
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	7
Total (out of 100)	75

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

USER stands for “Urban Sustainable & Efficient Regeneration” and aims at building new processes and partnerships, by integrating expertise of users from inhabitants and field workers on urban regeneration processes”. The theme selected for URBACT third call is “Enhancing urban planning performance and an efficient public administration”, and it is coherent with the topic chosen. The project aims to work on innovative tools to find new ways to conceive and manage the city. The problem is analysed, and it exists in all partner cities, but the evidences which are provided (current policies, examples at a local level) have a degree of heterogeneity: the scope of the project is broad, and, if the project is selected to proceed to development phase, the partners should seriously work in finding a more specific focus to the project which is totally shared by all partners.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal is coherent and elaborated in considerable detail. The objectives and expected outputs and results for the implementation are clearly defined and meaningful. There is a very good list of deliverables in both the implementation phase and the development phase. The activities in the work programme are set out as indicative work packages that include specific objectives, description and timing of activities, proposed methods and involved participants and their responsibilities. A high level of participation and commitment is expected of all partners and other participants working in the ULSG.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected impact of the project on the policies and future actions of the partners is shown to a certain degree; more elaboration would have been an asset. Emphasis is placed on defining already during the development phase the scope and focus of the Local Action Plan (LAP). Members of the ULSG, as relevant local stakeholders, are key players in the action and are expected to participate actively and with considerable commitment. A ULSG manual is to be prepared to provide common guidance to all ULSG in the preparation of the LAP. The lead partner and other external expertise will spend considerable time and effort in guiding the work of the ULSG.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The lead partner has relevant experience working with the issue, both at a local level and as international actors in the exchange of experiences. The lead partner provides very convincing organisational capacities to manage a URBACT network. The lead expert has in depth experience in urban planning, and he also has the required experience in organizing and animating collaborative processes related to urban regeneration.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget does not reach the maximum ceiling authorised for the development phase, which is a good indicator that the budget seems to have been elaborated to respond to specific needs of each one of the partners.

The budget is clearly presented and covers the compulsory activities foreseen for the Development Phase. There is a clear presentation of partner costs linked to the activities planned and the proportion of staff costs remains reasonable.

Concluding remarks

USER aims at building new processes and partnerships, by integrating expertise of users from inhabitants and field workers on urban regeneration processes. The need to capitalise the knowledge of “inhabitants and field workers” is presented in a very convincing way, and creates an added-value for URBACT as a whole. The problem exists in all partner cities, but with heterogeneity; the partners should seriously work during the development phase to guarantee that all local experiences are explained to become transferable to other cities (within and outside the network).



Project Assessment Sheet	WOOD FOOTPRINT	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Paços de Ferreira	PT	Conv
PP	Sternatia	IT	Conv
PP	Larissa	EL	Conv
PP	Wycombe district council	UK	Comp
PP	Yecla	ES	Comp

Project summary

Manufacturing and selling big items requires big spaces as factories and large showrooms. During the prosperity years of manufacturing sector in Europe, industry dependent cities have witnessed a pop-up of such buildings along the main road axis and suburbs, strongly marking urban development. Nowadays the rapid transformation of these sectors led to the abandon of most of these, leaving a giant urban footprint that is a serious challenge to cities that have inherited it and a warning to others.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	19
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	18
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	15
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	72

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project Wood Footprint aims to address the challenge of the “urban footprint” left in European cities specialised in furniture. The declaration of interest provides a very good analysis of the problem: the furniture industry is being transformed at a global level (with clear impacts in national and local markets), and the cities that were specialised in these activities have to react. The proposal explains how this reaction could take place: finding new competitiveness of the manufacturing sectors, addressing the existence of warehouses and industrial buildings at the outskirts of cities (“ghost buildings, of doubtful architectural taste and decrepit appearance”) and developing new urban policies in terms of sustainable development involving the citizens. The proposal provides evidence that the problem exists in all the cities. The DOI also identifies cities which have been successful in transforming its furniture industry (High Point, North Carolina, USA) which could be used as examples. Therefore, the goal “to develop and share methods and practices for assessing the industrial ecological footprints of European cities, starting with the wood furniture sector and in particular with its heavy urban inheritance of abandoned showrooms” seems suitable and feasible, but the goal to “sequentially extending to other ecological and sustainability aspects of the footprint and also to other manufacturing sectors” is not realistic.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The proposal provides a convincing relation between the issue, the objectives and the expected effects. There is a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice. For examples there is a clear plan to capitalise at a local level (within the ULSG) the experiences learnt with the visits and seminars. Another example is the creation of five thematic groups, each led by one of the initial partners. The creation and animation of an online mutual knowledge platform is also a very good example.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The proposal presents a clearly structured and comprehensive plan for the development phase. There is a good development of each work package, with ownership and true conscience of what a URBACT project needs. Nevertheless, the list of deliverables of work package 1 for the development phase does not correspond to the guidelines provide by URBACT documents. Moreover, the work package 2 offers scarce details on the elaboration of the baseline study and the initial steps of ULSG.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The DOI shows a substantial commitment of each partner in the implementation of the project. The lead partner has an evidenced experience of the problem being addressed; the composition of the partnership is very strong because all the partners share the same problem. Nevertheless, the DOI does not attach the CV of the project co-ordinator but the political leader of the lead partner (which is not in EU format, makes comprehension difficult and shows disregard to procedural issues), and there are no details on finance and

communication officers. The appointed lead expert provides all evidence of thematic and methodological competences.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget appears requires some clarification:

- Staff costs appear to be high representing more than 50% of the total budget
- Travel costs appear to be insufficient for the trips necessary
- Costs are included in project coordination but these are not explained
- 10.000€ have been included for ULSG meetings which appears high for the activity required

Concluding remarks

The goal “to develop and share methods and practices for assessing the industrial ecological footprints of European cities, starting with the wood furniture sector and in particular with its heavy urban inheritance of abandoned showrooms” seems suitable and feasible for the project, and should be “enough” for a successful URBACT network; it is recommended that the goal to “sequentially extending to other ecological and sustainability aspects of the footprint and also to other manufacturing sectors” is abandoned; focus must be kept in the furniture sector. The proposal provides a convincing relation between the issue, the objectives and the expected effects, and there is a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice. The budget presents several problems that need to be solved if the project is selected to be funded for the development phase. The elaboration of the baseline study and the initial steps of ULSG should also be given more attention.



Project Assessment Sheet	WSCN	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting innovation and the knowledge economy (e.g. local economic development, open innovation, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	San Sebastian	ES	Comp
PP	Mafra Ericeira	PT	Comp
PP	Hossegor	FR	Comp
PP	Newquay-Cornwall	UK	Conv
PP	Viana do Castelo	PT	Conv

Project summary

Development of a City Surf Network. The global aim of the project is to strengthen joint project links and go into greater depth into the knowledge of the Surf industry and sector promotion strategies in each city, based on the concept of "Surf Cities".

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	6
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	4
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	4
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	5
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	22

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The innovative economic potential of the surf sector are relevant for the development of cities in Europe. These activities can also contribute to the further development of Innovation and the Knowledge Economy – one of the priorities of the URBACT Programme. But the application would have needed a much clearer analysis how the issue of innovation by the means of sport will be concretely addressed in order to further develop related local policies on the basis of an integrative and participative approaches.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The Declaration of Interest provides only limited information in order to reach the objectives of the project. Furthermore, the chosen approach is not fully anchored in the URBACT philosophy. The indicative work packages are described, but the implementation phase should have been built on the proposed achievements made in the development phase. It should be also better ensured that the main focus of the project builds on the exchange of experience.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The project does not fully reflect the expected outputs of the call for proposals (e. g. regarding a complete list of deliverables or the quality of the baseline study). In order to impact on policy and future urban action, the application would have needed to further develop concrete actions targeted to decision makers and managing authorities.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The partnership is well-balanced and shares the interest for the common topic. The lead partner is experienced related to the topic and regarding transnational projects. But there is little evidence regarding the named officers' experience concerning the management of transnational partnerships. The lead experts' CV provides not sufficient evidence of previous experience related to the projects' theme and regarding the support of transnational groups.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget is substantially under-developed and requires readjustment. The costs are not linked to the activity in the work plan and many of the compulsory activities are not budgeted.

Concluding remarks

The topic is generally relevant for the URBACT Programme as well as for furthering innovation in Europe, but the proposal does not score highly due to the insufficient analysis of the theme and a too general approach risking the achievement of concrete results. The potential for involving decisions makers is not appropriately addressed. The partnership disposes of adequate balance, but the expected results of coordination and financial planning remain limited.



Project Assessment Sheet	Y&E	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting social innovation (e.g. innovative services, human capital, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Pisa	IT	Comp
PP	Altena	DE	Comp
PP	Blaj	RO	Conv
PP	Nova Gorica	SI	Conv
PP	Vinaros	ES	Comp

Project summary

A rising number of people encounter difficulties in finding a house at market price and in maintaining it. Elderly people live alone in property houses but economic difficulties impede them to improve conditions of their lodgings and they experience a poor social life. Young people have problems in finding a house at an affordable price. The project aims at identifying innovative models of cohousing between young and elderly people. One of the tools we intend to test is the Equity Release Scheme.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	15
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	15
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	8
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	5
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project addresses the housing problematic of young and elderly people which is relevant for the URBACT programme. The application outlines adequately its relationship with the three cross-cutting issues of the call. Partner cities are all concerned about the related problems and challenges, although the related needs differ considerably. Furthermore, the partnership would need more and longer-lasting experience on which a transfer of know-how could be built on. The relationship of the project to European policies is adequate and relates mainly to the active ageing agendas.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The work programme integrates some elements of good quality (e. g. the ULSG related activities). But the implementation strategy applied is too broad and general approach not allowing building up a concrete step-by-step development methodology which will ensure appropriate impact on the objectives of the proposal. The development phase has been designed in good quality. The focus of the project is on exchange and transfer of experience.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The expected results and outputs are in line with the requirements from the call for proposals. But the outputs should have been further specified as well as quantified. Activities and deliverables are interrelated. The work programme includes some elements which have the potential to impact on policies and further actions of partners (e. g. involvement of politicians and managing authorities in ULSG).

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The project partners are interested in the topic and are committed to the building up as well as running of ULSG. The named officer disposes of experience related to the topic of the project, but should have provided further evidence regarding her capability to moderate transnational groups in English language. A political representative has been identified, but the proposal does not sufficiently outline the concrete commitment of the councillor. The lead expert is experienced in URBACT (ACTIVE A.G.E. lead expert) and in the moderation of transnational groups. She disposes furthermore of relevant research background.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The budget covers all the chapters required for the development phase, although the percentage of the budget managed by the lead partner seems a bit disproportioned (around 2/3 of the budget) and the addition between personnel and expertise (around 49% of the budget) is probably too high. The chapter dedicated to “external experts” (24.000 euro) would have deserved more details, and its explicit connection with the actions foreseen in Development Phase, especially in work package 2, should have been given.

Concluding remarks

In summary Y&E is a substantially underdeveloped proposal and does not score well due to insufficient experience related to the topic of the proposal available in the partnership. Furthermore, the proposal has not convincingly outlined a solid implementation strategy ensuring appropriate reaching of the intended objectives and outputs. In addition, the involved team should have provided further evidence regarding the needed language skills. Some elements of good quality which were identified have not sufficiently counterbalanced the identified weaknesses of the proposal.



Project Assessment Sheet	Y4C	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	London Borough of Lewisham	UK	Comp
PP	Alba Iulia Intercommunity Association for Dvpt	RO	Conv
PP	Copenhagen	DK	Comp
PP	Patras	EL	Conv
PP	Local gvt & municipality of district 11 of Budapest - Ujbuda	HU	Comp

Project summary

To promote and develop methods of engaging young people from diverse backgrounds in local democratic/civic processes. Responding to austerity and recession the network will share experience and best practice using diversity as a platform to create greater opportunity for young people to find new innovative areas of employment and self employment. The network aims are to use democratic engagement as path to employment, active citizenship and a mutual understanding of the benefits of diversity.

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	14
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	14
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	13
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	12
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	4
Total (out of 100)	57

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The project "Youth for Cities - Y4C" aims "to use democratic engagement as path to employment, active citizenship and a mutual understanding of the benefits of diversity". The URBACT theme chosen is "Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups" is appropriate. The problem exists in all five cities (as well as in the vast majority of European cities), but with different emphasis (which is not a good guarantee of a successful exchange of experiences). The range of topics to be addressed is probably too wide. Focus is lacking. The results of the project might bring innovation at a local level, but it is not likely there is added value at a European level.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

The activities in the work programme have been set out as indicative work packages, with specific objectives and actions, but without an in-depth elaboration that goes beyond the recommendations written in the documents provided for URBACT. The proposal states there will be a clear focus on the exchange of experiences and transfer of good practice, but, compared to other URBACT proposals, this application does not provide enough details to guarantee a successful result.

Crit 3 - Quality of expected results

The partners all commit to developing a Local Action Plans (LAPs); these plans would build upon existing initiatives or policies in place in each city (but these initiatives or policies are not always well explained in comprehensive way). No details at all are given on the elaboration of the baseline study, and very few information is given on the composition and the methodologies to set up the ULSG.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

Three of the cities belong to the Intercultural Cities programme of the Council of Europe (Lewisham as Lead partner, Patras and Copenhagen), although this (important) fact is not duly explained in the Presentation of the Proposal (it only appears tangentially, in the sections devoted to the current policies of the partners). Moreover, the DOI evidences that these three cities understand the issue in a shared manner, but the other two partners do not present the same evidences. The lead partner has experience in the problem (youth – diversity - employment), but not much in leading international exchanges of experience. The project coordinator is related to the EU office (not in an operational department). The lead expert has a vast experience, her CV shows expertise in civic engagement and diversity, but it does not provide evidences of involvement in projects related to employability or entrepreneurship.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

The lead partner assumes its responsibilities for the development phase and has more than the half of the project. The budget devotes almost 1/3 of the budget to external expertise (it is not clear what this expenditure is for); in fact, the ratio of budget for personnel (13.000 euro) and external expertise (31.388 euro) probably shows a too high degree of external dependence. Moreover, the activities related to the foreseen (high) communication expenses (9.000 euro) are not explicitly justified in the application.

Concluding remarks

The Youth for Cities project addresses a topic that exists in all partner cities, but with different emphasis (which is not a good guarantee of a successful exchange of experiences). Also, the range of topics to be addressed (diversity, employment, civic engagement) seems too wide, and more focus would have resulted in a better, higher scoring proposal. The results of the project might bring innovation at a local level, but it is not likely there is added value at a European level. No details at all are given on the elaboration of the baseline study, and very few information is given on the composition and the methodologies to set up the ULSG. There are problems in the quality of the partnership and in the budget.



Project Assessment Sheet	YOUTH CLAPS	III Call for Proposals
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Priority Topic	Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)
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Partnership

LP	Perugia	IT	Comp
PP	Plock	PL	Conv
PP	Granada	ES	Conv
PP	Lakatamia	CY	Comp
PP	L'Aquila	IT	Comp

Project summary

Many European cities are characterized by the presence of high numbers of young people living only for short periods within urban areas (mainly university students). Such richness needs strategic policies meant to increase the potentials of this 'human capital'. The project will focus on local youth services and policies. The expected result is to develop local action plans for youth policies within partner cities, involving directly the young generations in inclusive analysis

EAP Assessment

Crit 1 - Relevance of proposal and European value added (out of 25)	11
Crit 2 - Coherence of proposal (out of 25)	16
Crit 3 - Quality of expected results (out of 20)	11
Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner (20)	7
Crit 5 - Budget and Finances Development phase (out of 10)	3
Total (out of 100)	48

Comments

Crit 1- Relevance of proposal and European value added

The proposal describes a multitude of themes to be addressed, however, the description of the various issues could have been more clearly explained in section II.1 of the application. Overall, from section II.2 and III.7, it seems that the specific challenges of the partners are quite divergent. This results in limited clarity regarding the project's main focus on the 'active inclusion' theme of the URBACT II programme (there is a strong urban planning dimension to the project as well as references to the promotion of culture and tourism, employment etc). The European policy context is not addressed. The relevance of the proposal and its European value added remains, therefore, underdeveloped.

Crit 2- Coherence of proposal

Work package 1 for the implementation phase does not include all of the necessary activities and deliverables as outlined in the call for proposals and some of the deliverables for work package 3 are not listed (e.g. participation in capacity-building seminars, focus groups etc). However, work package 2 is quite well elaborated and includes relevant transnational exchange activities and outputs. A sound approach to the organisation of the ULSGs is foreseen with young people taking part in focus groups and feeding into the consultation group. The proposal envisages that monthly ULSG meetings are held, this might be over-ambitious as it could be hard to engage the members for meetings this often.

Crit 3 – Quality of expected results

The aims of the partners' Local Action Plans are quite wide ranging and would have benefited from an increased focus and coherence in the project's topic. The activities of the development phase could have been further elaborated in the Declaration of Interest, for example Work package 2 activities and deliverables are not sufficiently described, even if these are included in tables 7 and 8. It is positive that the engagement of Managing Authorities has been anticipated and that they will be invited to every other transnational meeting.

Crit 4 - Quality of partnership and lead partner

The Declaration of Interest brings together five partners with a range of different challenges they seek to address. However, the project proposal could have explained better how their aims for the project are complementary to each other. The geographic coverage of the initial partnership could also have been better as three partners are included from the same country, Italy. The lead partner demonstrates experience of transnational cooperation projects through programmes such as EQUAL, CULTURE and CIVITAS, as well as experience in participatory planning processes. The project coordinator also demonstrates experience of European project management and in themes relating to tourism, cultural activities, urban marketing etc. The lead partner demonstrates strong political support for the project through the Mayor of Perugia who intends to ensure national and transnational dissemination of project results, however it is not explained how he will concretely be involved in project activities or how he will facilitate local impact of the project.

Crit 5 - Budget and Finances

Identical budgets are proposed for the project partners (except the lead partner) and it does not seem that national variations in costs have been considered. The budget includes 'Coordination', 'Equipment', 'ULSG' and 'Managing Authority' costs which are not recommended in the URBACT guidance for the development phase. In addition, the project coordination costs seem high compared with the personnel costs (EUR 5,000 compared with EUR 10,000). Although an effort has been made to break down the costs in table 5, they do not all clearly relate to the budget line in which they have been allocated (e.g. 'LP coordination and support' under 'Equipment'; 'Final meeting' under 'Equipment'; 'ULSG meetings' under 'Communication' etc).

Concluding remarks

Overall, Youth C.L.A.P.S. would have benefited from an increased focus on the issue of student integration in cities. The aims and objectives for the partners are quite divergent without sufficient detail provided as to how the partnership will gain from each other. This is also reflected in the plans for the Local Action Plans which are wide-ranging. This results that the scope for effective transnational exchange between the partners might be reduced. In comparison to other proposals, the plans for the development phase remain underdeveloped (particularly for work package 2). The geographic spread of the initial partnership is limited with three partners coming from the same country (Italy). Finally, the project budget does not follow the recommendations of the programme and several costs seem to be placed under the incorrect budget line.