

Brainstorming on International Urban Cooperation with Eurocities.

Eurocities Annual Conference, Espoo – 8-10 June 2022



34 city practitioners gathered in Espoo for an IURC side event and speed-networking session to brainstorm on their international cooperation experience, discussing expectations, achievements, good practices to showcase, and opportunities for improvements.

TAKEAWAYS

1 The involvement of stakeholders under a quadruple helix approach, which is still a challenge for the programme, can be enhanced if a pre-identified existing ecosystem is linked to the concrete actions that cities are pursuing within the scope of the cooperation.

2 Engaging the private sector and justifying involving one company over another remains a challenge for the cities. Cities have highlighted that relying on third parties, such as Chambers of Commerce, to involve private sector entities can ease up the selection process.

TAKEAWAYS

3 The type of actions that may succeed in international cooperation are those with a long-term perspective, strategically funded and with a mature level of implementation.



Why cities get involved in international cooperation?

Thinking out of the European box! Expectations seem to be linked to the level of international experience each city has.

As starting point cities might seek international visibility, new connections and networking opportunities, which might lead to building future partnerships and pursuing funding opportunities.

For cities that have longstanding international cooperation ties, objectives tend to become more concrete. Cities have highlighted the importance of exchanging good practices to improve specific policies, growing awareness of societal issues and showcasing project ideas.

Getting inspiration from lessons learned and insights on other ways of facing common challenges outside Europe remain a key priority, while opening new markets opportunities for their stakeholders was also identified as important (although is not a primary objective for 31% of the participants).

