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EU Cities Gateway North America: Information Session 1

30 July 2025
16h00 CET / 10h00 EST

What is the EU Cities Gateway North America project?

The EUCG is a European Union-funded initiative to foster cooperation between **cities in the EU, the USA, and Canada** in support of **sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient urban development** between 2025 and 2028.

It builds on the success of IURC and other EU funded urban and regional cooperation frameworks implemented over the last decade and aims to:

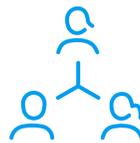
Promote **urban innovation** aligned with the European Green Deal

Support **peer-to-peer exchanges** between cities on green, digital, and social inclusion challenges

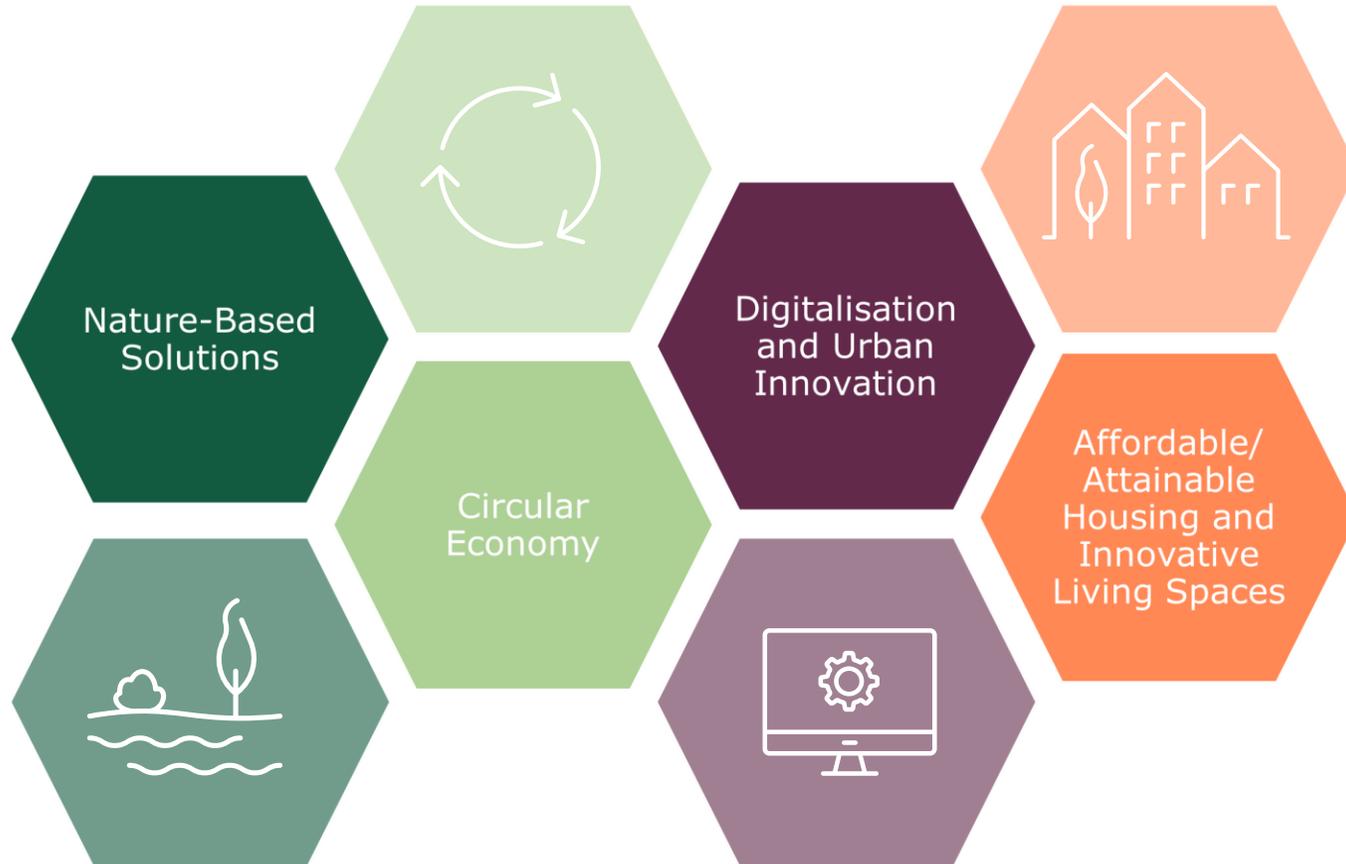
Strengthen **transatlantic networks and partnerships**

Provide access to **policy expertise, knowledge platforms, and pilot activities**

Empower **local leadership** in the transition to climate-neutral and smart cities



4 thematic areas will guide the implementation of the project



How does it work?

Call for cities

Deadline: 31 August 2025

Cities are invited to apply through an **open call**:

For EU Cities on the IURC platform
<https://www.iurc.eu/2025/06/03/global-cooperation-opportunity-for-eu-cities-and-regions/>

For North American Cities at
<https://eucg.iurc.eu/eucg-call-2025>

Selection of cities

Timeline: September 2025

A total of **32 cities** (from the EU, USA, and Canada) will be selected

Based on clear selection criteria, including:

- The proposal and benefits to different stakeholders
- Sustainability after funding
- Own resources allocated
- Can the action be implemented within the project period

Creation of thematic clusters

Timeline: March 2026

Selected cities will be assigned to 1 of 4 **clusters based on their broader thematic interest** around shared thematic interests.

Cities will work for a few months within thematic Clusters, including an in-person meeting/event

After 4-5 months establish working groups including 2,3 or 4 cities/regions



How does EUCG benefit cities?

Cities Work within **Thematic networks** to jointly address common challenges which form the basis of cooperation utilising a responsive and dynamic knowledge platform, including such as tools as webinars, masterclasses/trainings, podcasts and discussion groups.

Thematic Events: Four (4) thematic network events between the fourth quarter of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 as launching events of the Thematic Networks. Another 4 thematic events will take place in 2027 and 2028.

Study Visits: Bilateral or multi-pairings city-to-city activities will be activated. The EU Cities Gateway will facilitate and organise up to 32 study visits in 2026, 2027 and 2028

International Events: The project aims at ensuring the collaboration and participation of participating cities to high level international urban events taking in place in in Europe in 2026, 2027 and 2028. The Smart City Expo in Barcelona, the Polis Conference in Utrecht or Eurocities events that are annually organised could be valid options to be taken into consideration.

Why should cities apply?



Join a **vibrant network** of 32 EU and North American cities



Access **funding and technical assistance** for innovative urban solutions



Benefit from tailored **study visits, training, and knowledge-sharing**



Showcase your **city's leadership** in green, inclusive, and digital transitions



Influence global urban policy through EU-supported city diplomacy



Thank you

Colin Maddock
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