EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE

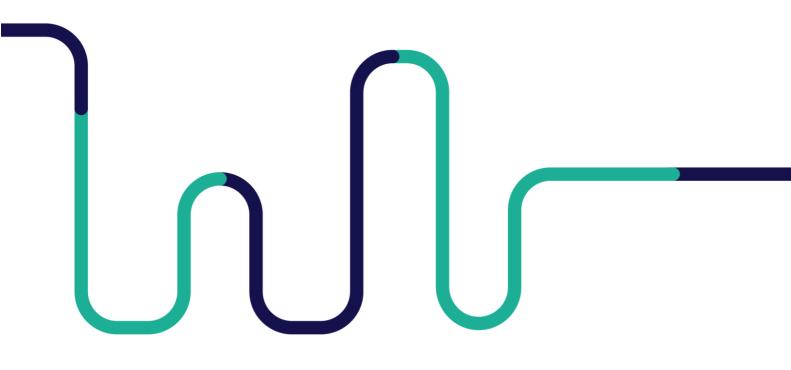# FORWARD-LOOKING SURVEY
COURTESY DOCUMENT

06.06.2024

INFORMATION ON THE RESPONDENT

1. **Which country and region are you from (country in which you are currently living or working)?**

   Dropdown menu with EU countries and NUTS2 regions

2. **Which type of organisation/community do you represent?**
   a. Representatives of urban authorities (municipality or union of municipalities, or metropolitan area)
   b. Representatives of regional authorities (NUTS2 or NUTS3 region, or union of regions)
   c. Representatives of national authorities (ministry or other national level public institution) dealing with urban matters
   d. Representatives of association/network representing local and regional interests at national or EU level (e.g. Eurocities, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, association of cities at national level, etc.)
   e. Representatives of the research and innovation community working in the sustainable urban development domain (e.g. experts)
   f. Urban practitioners, working for consultancy or a private professional service (e.g. urban planning studio)
   g. Civil society and associations representing the interests of citizens and/or specific citizens groups.

1.1 *Conditional question if they replied a to question 2* **- Who are you within the urban authority?**
   o Political representative (e.g. elected Mayor, council member)
   o Civil servant
   o Working in European affairs department
   o Working in urban planning department
   o Other, please specify department:……………….

1.2 *Conditional question if they replied a to question 2* **- What is the size of your city/urban area?**
   o Below 50,000 inhabitants
   o Between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants
   o Between 250,000 and 500,000 inhabitants
   o Between 500,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants
   o More than 1,000,000 inhabitants

1.3 Conditional question if they replied a, b, c or d to question 2 - **Is your organisation involved in Sustainable Urban Development of EU Cohesion Policy (art. 11 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund) ?**

a. Yes, my organization is an article 11 city
b. Yes, my organization is an intermediate body responsible for Sustainable Urban Development
c. Yes, my organization is a Managing Authority responsible for Sustainable Urban Development
d. No
e. I do not know

PRIORITIES AND NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

3. Which of the following are the top priorities for action in sustainable urban development today? If you represent an urban authority, please select the priorities nowadays for your city (or for the urban area you are representing). In all other cases you can choose the priorities from the point of view of your organisation (at any relevant level, e.g. local, regional, national or European). It is possible to select up to 3 priorities for each thematic area and to sort them in order of importance, starting from the first (TOP 1) to the second (TOP 2) to the third (TOP 3).

3.1 **Select the top three priorities for the thematic area "Productive, smart and connected"**
Definitions of the sub thematic areas are available here.

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Research and Innovation			
Digital transition			
Local production			
Mobility			
Transportation and logistics systems			
Sustainable tourism			
Circular Economy			
Job creation and entrepreneurship			

3.2 **Please explain the main issues at stake in your top 1 priority in this thematic area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select mobility as top 1 priority, the issue at stake could be for example active mobility; walkable cities; cycling; traffic management....

3.3 **Select the top three priorities for the thematic area "Green"**

Definitions of the sub thematic areas are available here.

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Sustainable soil and land use			
Food systems			
Resilient environments			
Climate adaptation			
Climate change mitigation			
Water management			

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Nature protection and biodiversity			
Energy transition			
Waste management			

3.4 **Please explain the main issues at stake in your top 1 priority in this thematic area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select climate adaptation as top1 priority, the issue at stake could be heat islands; Nature Based Solutions....

3.5 **Select the top three priorities for the thematic area "Just and Inclusive"**

Definitions of the sub thematic areas are available here.

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Social inclusion			
Affordable housing			
Education and employment			
Health and well-being			
Culture and cultural heritage			
Safe and secure urban environment			
Urban regeneration			

3.6 **Please explain the main issues at stake in your top 1 priority in this thematic area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select affordable housing as top 1 priority, the issue at stake could be social housing; homelessness; gentrification...

4. **Is there anything else that you consider as a priority topic for sustainable urban development and it is not listed before? (maximum 50 words)**

5. **Which of the following are most important operational needs for the successful implementation of sustainable urban development?** If you represent an urban authority, please select the operational needs that are most important for your city (or for the urban authority you are representing). In all other cases you can choose the most important operational needs from the point of view of your organisation. It is possible to select up to 3 operational needs for each area and to sort them in order of importance, from the first (TOP 1) to the second (TOP 2) to the third (TOP 3).

Definitions of the operational areas are available here.

5.1 **Select the top three operational needs for the area "Strategic policy process"**

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Data collection and analysis			
Strategic design and planning			
Synergies with regional and national policy frameworks			
Synergies with EU and global agendas and other policy frameworks			
Strategy implementation			
Sound monitoring and evaluation			

5.2 **Please explain what you find most challenging about your top 1 operational need in this area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select Sound monitoring and evaluation, the specific challenge could be for example establishing indicators for monitoring purposes, strategy assessment, localising SDGs…

5.3 **Select the top three operational needs for the area "governance and cooperation"**

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Cooperation with other layers of government (multi-level governance)			
Cooperation with stakeholders (multi-stakeholders approach)			
Citizen engagement			
Communication with beneficiaries			
Capitalising from existing experiences			
Scale-up and transfer of pilots and practices			

5.4 **Please explain what you find most challenging about your top 1 operational need in this area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select 'Cooperation with stakeholders' the specific challenge could be for example 'relevant stakeholders mapping'; 'partnership creation'; or 'stakeholder dialogue'…

5.5 **Select the top three operational needs for the area "funding and finance"**

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3

Access to public funding			
Access to financial instruments			
Combining funding sources			
Mobilizing private investment			
Ensuring financial sustainability of projects			
Enhanced public procurement			

5.6 **Please explain what you find most challenging about your top 1 operational need in this area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select 'Access to public funding', the specific challenge could be for example 'identification of funding sources'; or 'alignment with funding criteria'; or 'preparation of funding applications'...

5.7 **Select the top three operational needs for the area "territorial focus and scale"**

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Planning at the scale of functional urban areas			
Strengthening urban-rural linkages			
Territorial impact assessment			
Urban design			
Neighbourhood regeneration			
Urban development in small cities			

5.8 **Please explain what you find most challenging about your top 1 operational need in this area (maximum 50 words).** E.g. if you select 'Planning at the scale of functional urban areas' the specific challenge could be for example 'definition of the functional urban area'; or 'cooperation among partner municipalities'; or 'development of projects across administrative boundaries'...

5.9 Conditional question if Territorial impact assessment is selected: If you consider Territorial Impact Assessment to be an important operational need, please indicate which specific aspects you consider more interesting/relevant for your city/organisation:
- o Knowledge on Territorial impact assessment methodologies
- o Territorial impact assessment as a relevant mechanism to address spatial disparities in EU policies in the following thematic areas (Free text max 50 words)

6. **Is there anything else that you consider as an operational need for implementing sustainable urban development and it is not listed before? (maximum 50 words)**

URBAN DIMENSION OF EU INITIATIVES

7. **Which ones of the following EU initiatives and/or funds has your city/organization used to implement sustainable urban development strategies or broader urban policies in the past 10 years ?**
   - o National/regional operational programmes of European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund Plus, Just Transition Fund
   - o URBACT
   - o Urban Innovative Actions 2014-2020
   - o European Urban Initiative
   - o Interreg
   - o Next Generation EU – Recovery and Resilience Facility (supporting National Recovery and Resilience Plans)
   - o Horizon Europe for Research and Innovation (including predecessor Horizon 2020)
   - o Erasmus Plus
   - o LIFE Plus
   - o Connecting Europe Facility
   - o Digital Europe
   - o None
   - o I don't know
   - o Other (maximum 50 words)

8. **Which of the following are the three top priorities in terms of support that cities need to successfully use EU initiatives/funds for implementing sustainable urban development?** If you represent an urban authority, please select the current priorities for your city/urban authority and sort them in order of importance. In all other cases you can choose the priorities from the point of view of your organisation.

	TOP 1	TOP 2	TOP 3
Information on the different types of EU initiatives/funds and on how can be used to implement sustainable urban development			
Tutorials providing guidance for successful funding application			
Online tools for finding partners to apply to EU initiatives and funds			
Case studies, examples and good practices on how other cities used EU initiatives/funds to implement sustainable urban development			
EU Cohesion Policy Technical Assistance for urban authorities			

Specific support on how to design and implement Cohesion policy Sustainable Urban Development strategies			
Specific support on Cohesion policy integrated territorial tools (Community-led local development, Integrated Territorial Investment, Other Territorial Tools)			

9. Is there any other kind of support that cities need to successfully use EU initiatives/funds for sustainable urban development and that it is not listed before? (maximum 50 words)

10. Do you know what is the Urban Agenda for the EU?
- No, I don't know what is it
- Yes, I know what is it.

10.1 ***Conditional question if they replied Yes, I know what is it* - Where did you learn about the Urban Agenda for the EU?** *(Multiple choices allowed)*

- In a dedicated website for the Urban Agenda for the EU
- In other websites that were referring to the Urban Agenda for the EU
  - Please specify (not mandatory): (max 50 characters)
- Through articles and reports (e.g. scientific publications, policy briefs, etc.)
- During seminars, events and conferences (e.g. Cities Forum)
- Other, please specify: (max 50 characters)

THE EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE AND ITS SERVICE OFFER

11. How familiar are you with the European Urban Initiative - EUI?
   a. Not familiar
   b. Somewhat familiar
   c. Very familiar

12. *Conditional question if 11 it is not a* - When you hear about the European Urban Initiative EUI what are the 3 main key words that come to your mind?
   o Sustainable urban development
   o Innovation
   o Good practices
   o Funding opportunities
   o Knowledge sharing
   o Capacity building
   o Networking
   o Cohesion Policy
   o Policy support
   o Urban Agenda for the EU
   o Transfer of practices
   o Urban governance
   o Call
   o Partnership
   o City
   o Other:….. (max 50 characters)

13. Has your city or organisation ever been involved in one of the activities of the European Urban Initiative (EUI) and/or Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)?
   o Yes
   o No

   13.1   ***Conditional question If 13 is yes* - Which one(s)? You can select more than one option.**
   a. European Urban Initiative - Capacity building event
   b. European Urban Initiative – Peer review
   c. European Urban Initiative - City-to-City exchange
   d. Urban Innovative Actions Initiative applicant
   e. Urban Innovative Actions Initiative beneficiary (project approved or funded)
   f. Urban Innovative Actions Initiative knowledge capitalisation activities
   g. European Urban Initiative - Innovative Actions applicant
   h. European Urban Initiative - Innovative Actions beneficiary (project approved or funded)
   i. URBACT and European Urban Initiative - City Labs
   j. European Urban Initiative - Portico knowledge platform user

k. Urban Agenda for the EU Partnership

13.2   ***Conditional question if 11 is b, c -***   **Is your city or organisation planning to participate in EUI Capacity Building activities in the future (in 2024-2025) ?** *(multiple options allowed)*

o   Yes to European Urban Initiative - City-to-City exchange
o   Yes to European Urban Initiative - Peer Review
o   Yes to European Urban Initiative - Capacity-Building events
o   No

14. *Conditional question if in 13.1 a,b and c are not selected and if 13.2 is No -* If your city or organisation has never participated to EUI Capacity Building activities, nor is planning to do it in the future, what are the reasons? *(Multiple choices allowed)*

a. In my city/organisation, we do not know the EUI Capacity Building offer
b. In my city/organisation, we know the EUI Capacity building offer but the information available and/or the benefits of participating are not clear enough
c. The EUI Capacity Building activities do not correspond to the needs of my city/organisation
d. In my city/organisation, we do not have the sufficient time to participate in capacity building activities
e. In my city/organisation, we do not have the English skills to participate in capacity building activities
f. The funding provided for participating is not sufficient for my city/organisation to participate in capacity building activities
g. The application process is too complicated for my city/organisation to participate in capacity building activities
h. The eligibility rules are complex for my city/organisation to participate in capacity building activities
i. The types of activities offered by EUI are already available at national/regional level
j. Other (maximum 50 characters)

14.1 If possible, please indicate which Capacity Building activity your reply is about? *(Multiple choices allowed)*

o   To European Urban Initiative - City-to-City exchanges
o   To European Urban Initiative - Peer Reviews
o   To European Urban Initiative - Capacity-Building events
o   The reply of my city/organisation is generic and does not target any specific EUI Capacity Building activity.

***14.2 Conditional question if 14 c is selected* - What are your city's capacity building needs:**

……………………………………………………………………………….

15. On a scale from 0 to 5 (where 0 is not useful at all and 5 is very useful) which type of format is more useful in terms of capacity building for sustainable urban development?

- o Online trainings / courses
- o In-person trainings / courses
- o Technical assistance from experts
- o In-person events
- o Peer learning with a structured methodology such as Peer Reviews
- o Peer learning involving study visits such as EUI City-to-City Exchanges
- o Online tools and/or Handbooks
- o Other (please enter any other format that you deem as useful):……

16. What are the three main barriers preventing your city/cities from developing innovative solutions for urban challenges? (you can select up to 3 options)

- o Nothing specific, my city/cities is/are frequently developing innovative solutions
- o   Insufficient support from political mandate/leadership
- o   Insufficient knowledge of the state-of-the-art of urban innovation
- o Resistance towards changing
- o Limited network of innovation partners
- o Limited technical capacity to implement innovative solutions
- o Limited administrative capacity to implement innovative solutions
- o Pressure of day-to-day work preventing from dedicating resources to innovation
- o Lack of co-financing capacity
- o Limited human resources
- o Insufficient cross-departmental cooperation inside local administration that would be necessary for innovation
- o Other (e.g. lack of innovative ideas...):

17. How familiar are you with the features and capabilities of the <u>Portico knowledge platform</u>?
- o Not familiar
- o Somewhat familiar
- o Very familiar

18. Which features would you find most interesting on a centralised platform that aggregates all knowledge resources and information on sustainable urban development initiatives and organisations at the EU level? (select up to three options)

o   A directory of organisations and initiatives supporting sustainable urban development in EU
o   Interactive maps showing urban development projects and urban data in EU
o   Tools for collaboration and networking with other urban practitioners
o   Access to EU funding and grant information
o   Educational resources and training modules
o   Forums for discussion and exchange of practices
o   Customisable alerts for topics of interest
o   Other: (maximum 50 words)...