



URBinclusion

*Combating poverty
in deprived urban areas*

Newsletter

Issue 01 – March 2017

URB-inclusion is a project funded by the EU **URBACT programme** and it is focused on the **co-creation of new implementation solutions to reduce poverty in deprived urban areas**. Integrated strategies addressing social inclusion will be implemented by the nine partners cities composing the Network.

This is the project first Newsletter that contains a description of

- URBinclusion project
- The Partner cities and their projects
- Past and future steps

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Barcelona (Spain)
Copenhagen (Denmark)
Krakow (Poland)
Timisoara (Romania)
Trikala (Greece)
Glasgow (UK)
Naples (Italy)
Lyon (France)
Turin (Italy)

URBinclusion contact details:

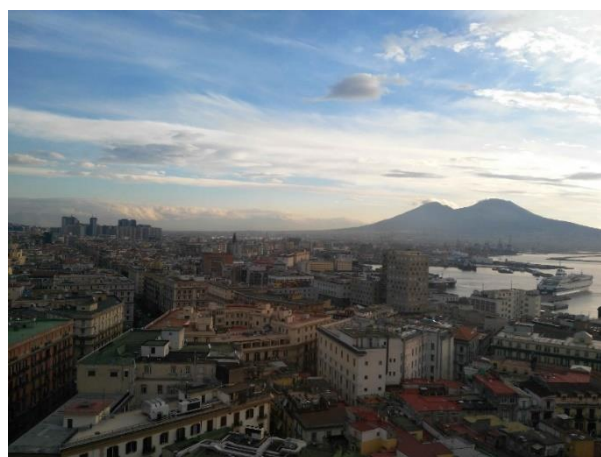
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www.urbact.eu/urbinclusion



URBinclusion Kick-off Meeting Paris 8-10/03/2017



Panorama of Naples, URBinclusion partner city



City of Barcelona Landscape

 **URBACT**
Driving change for
better cities



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

The URBinclusion project

The proposal has chosen two optional implementation challenges that are shared by most of the partners: **moving from a strategy to operational action-plan** and **Innovative methods of exchange and collective learning**.

Socioeconomic disparities and other form of inequalities are a major issue in European cities, which hinder citizens from achieving a **decent quality of life**. The economic and financial crisis has further intensified the concentration of poverty and social exclusion in cities. European cities are threatened by the increase of **social polarisation**, which is a consequence of many parallel processes: an increasing income polarisation since the 1980s, an **increasing volatility of employment** and a **huge recent increase immigration** to Europe and its cities. These factors are complemented by a progressively **retreating welfare state and privatisation of services** in several countries leading to higher costs for basic needs.

It has been increasingly observed that poverty does not only create **social differences** between people and groups; it also leads to **spatial differences**. Recent independent studies have demonstrated that "the widening gap between rich and poor is **leading to social divisions and segregation** in more and more European cities. The rich and the poor are living at **increasing distance** from each other, and this can be **disastrous for the social stability and competitive power of cities**".



Turin with the Mole Antonelliana

In this regard, URBinclusion Partners agree that the **level of integration and cross-fertilization of different approaches** is crucial to determine the success or failure of the



The Central Bridge on the Litheos River - Trikala

implemented policies. Specifically, the common policy challenge addressed by URBinclusion is founded on an **"area-based approach"**, concentrated on specific (deprived) geographic areas, with essentially place-based policies. They do not focus on individuals but on a specific **geographical unit or a set of units**. This area-based approach is in some cases articulated, both **with a sectorial approach regarding different dimensions related with poverty** like employability, education, health care, housing, citizens' empowerment, social economy, and **with a demographic approach, regarding different social groups** like ethnic minorities, migrants, women, youth, older people, long term unemployed, Roma people, etc.

Some cities of this Network include **physical regeneration actions, linked to social inclusion measures**, mainly dealing with the recovery of public spaces and public buildings allocating social and cultural activities. Thus, **URBinclusion Partners plan to address the policy challenge through integrated strategies composed by different combinations of actions**, but always focused on the same aim: **fostering social inclusion and reducing poverty in deprived neighbourhoods of their cities**. In short, local actions included in the strategy should demonstrate their contribution in reducing poverty and improving social inclusion in the area.

The Partner cities and their projects

As part of the wider **Barcelona** Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (**EDUSI**), in this project Barcelona will focus its attention on the **Social Inclusion Strategy in the Besòs Area**, the most deprived area of the city. The strategy aim is to work intensively in those areas that show relevant inequalities in essential aspects of life **to combat segregation and achieve greater equity among all citizens.** The



strategy includes two fundamental intervention frameworks the **“Neighbourhoods Plan”** an extraordinary policy intervention by the City Council, aimed to reduce disparities among the districts of Barcelona by favouring access to income, services, urban quality and welfare for all citizens. And secondly, the **Shared Strategy for an Inclusive City**: the roadmap for institutions and social entities committing to work collaboratively to face social aspects of the

financial crisis and, in general, towards a more inclusive city.

COPENHAGEN will focus its attention on the South Harbor district (Sydhavnen) with the aim to expand participation and increasing social inclusion in urban and commercial life. This area is characterized by: Small flats and flats which lack basic installations, residents outside the labor market, with low income and with low or no education. The policy challenges to be addressed are unemployment, lack of functional public spaces, lack and weakness of the retail sector and poverty threats.



The overall objective for the related Neighborhood Plan is to reduce poverty, promote job creation, social

cohesion and a vibrant urban life in a carbon free future. In a co-creative process, Sydhavnen has developed a Neighborhood Plan that integrate the vision and these overall objectives in three thematic targets: life between buildings, energy and resources and social and cultural life.



GLASGOW focus on the Action Plan of Govanhill, an area with unique features at both city and national level. Despite the close proximity to the city centre and high levels of connectivity, the demographics and concentration of people has led to Govanhill becoming a distinct area with great social, economic and physical challenges. The area is an extremely ethnically diverse neighbourhood, unemployment levels are slightly higher than across the city. Some of the major challenges are housing and the physical environment, challenges associated with language barriers, literacy and employment, high levels of poverty experienced by children and families. The Action Plan



focuses on a small number of priority outcomes which can be achieved through partners working together. The plan objectives are to create a resilient community and make it an attractive place to live and work.



Krakow will focus on the Local Action Plan for Azory housing estate, which is an integrated urban strategy that has to be operationalized at local level. The challenges faced in this area are different and interrelated such as: poor accessibility to health and education services, an high unemployment rate, poor quality of houses



and public spaces, lack of a sense of community and integration, crime and uncivil behaviours. The overall objective of the Azory LAP is to develop small and large scale projects to

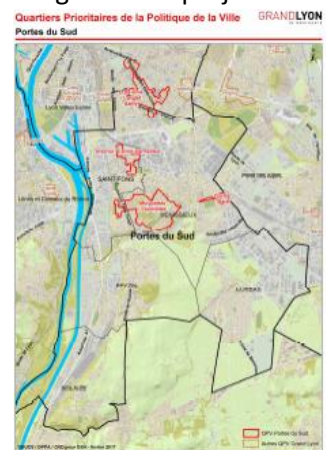


transform its housing estate into a place for all residents to experience a good quality of life, access local services and enjoy a high quality physical environment. The challenge is to properly connect the district to other parts of the city and make this area an integrated part of it.

Lyon will focus on the Conférence Territoriale des Maires “Portes du Sud” with the project Break down the barriers between urban policy and social support policy to promote human development. The three overall challenges of the project are:



innovation in the production and management of social housing; updating of public services for social action; economic insertion and/or circular economy in the area of economic development. The integrated strategy and action plan objectives aim to use goal-oriented means to improve living conditions for residents, in particular the



most unstable, reinforce social cohesion and promote economic development through job creation. This project represent an opportunity to update the services for residents in order to make them more appropriate to respond to resident’s needs; they should be understood as a set of integrated services for the territory. It also provided an opportunity for vertical integration and coordination between the intercommunity and municipal levels.

Naples will focus the attention on Porta Capuana Neighbourhood considered one of the most degraded areas of the city. The local policy challenge that the city’s action plan addresses is the social inclusion and combating poverty. The general strategic objective for the area in this action plan is the regeneration of this part of the historical centre through creativity, innovation and



"smart" solutions, energy efficiency and reuse of declassed and abandoned



properties. The three specific objectives of the city’s integrated action plan are promoting social and economic development; improving context conditions for urban renaissance; requalifying public/private building heritage and infrastructures.

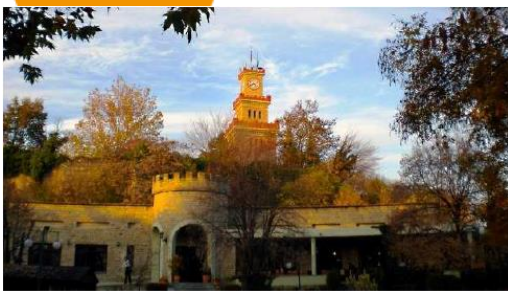


Timisoara will focus on the development strategy of the city social services (2017-2022) and the general challenge the project will focus on is to increase the capacity of social services to support employment and labour measures on vulnerable groups in the social economy. More in the details, the city strategy focus on the following key challenges: increase the community internal ties;

improve and facilitate the accessibility to services such as social housing, health and education; and to support the integration of refugees and ethnic minorities. The first four strategic objectives refer to public social services at the local level. They are: increasing the capacity of the social assistance public service to identify and assess the needs and circumstances requiring their intervention; improving the functionality of social services provided at the local level; enhancing the degree of responsibility of the public service in providing social welfare; and ensuring to provide services through adequate human resources with appropriate skills.



The city will focus on the strategy **Trikala 2025: “Trikala Smart & Resilient City”**. The local policy challenge of the Municipality of Trikala (MoT) focuses on an “Open City” accessible to all the citizens. Long-term unemployment and low employment opportunities for youth and young adults are one of the major challenges in the local strategy. At the same time, poverty and social exclusion have risen over recent years, affecting particularly the working age population and, by extension, children. One of the objectives of the strategy is the reduction of social exclusion and the smooth social integration of vulnerable social groups, such as Unemployed and economically weaker citizens, elderly people, refugees and Roma.



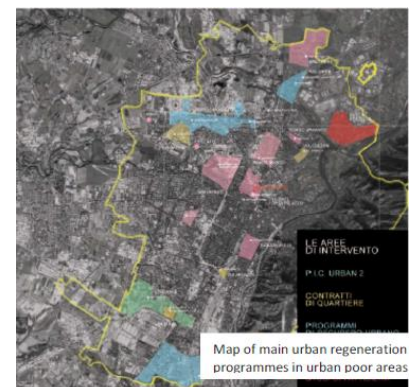
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Turin has recently approved the NOP-Metro Torino as part of a National programme supporting joint efforts and cooperation among 14 Italian Metropolitan Cities with the aim of improving urban services and social inclusion for the most fragile population. NOP-Metro is composed of more than 40 actions and some of them have been designed to develop new forms of local community development to face local social challenges in urban poor areas. The core activities composing NOP-Metro Torino - Axis 3 are oriented to: develop new social innovative services to face social local problems; support community welfare with the aim to create open/local communities of residents and local actors fostering active citizenship and giving efficient answers to local challenges; and activate generative processes of social innovation to meet social needs of the deprived areas to reduce social exclusion.



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Steps already implemented

- ✦ Kick-off meeting with representatives from all partners cities and the URBACT Secretariat between the 8th and 10th of March 2017
- ✦ Visits of the URBinclusion Lead Expert Fernando Barreiro and the project Coordinator Txema Castiella Viu to partners cities:

✦ Turin	19-20/12/2016	✦ Copenhagen	16-17/01/2017
✦ Naples	21-22/12/2016	✦ Timisoara	23-24/01/2017
✦ Lyon	9-10/01/2017	✦ Krakow	30-31/01/2017
✦ Glasgow	13-14/02/2017	✦ Trikala	7-8/02/2017

- ✦ Implementation of a selection and evaluation process among partners in order to choose the project Logo and Tag-line.

- ✦ Creation and implementation of:

- ✦ Webpage: www.urbact.eu/urbinclusion
- ✦ Facebook: URBinclusion EU project
- ✦ Twitter: #URBinclusion_EU

- ✦ Drafting the **“State of the Art” document**, first part of the **Baseline Study**. The 1st section includes an analysis of the main and recent tendencies that explain the different dimensions of urban poverty and it analyses urban segregation and how poverty tends to concentrate in some parts of the city. The 2nd section analyses the implementation challenges and the bonds between them and the topics tackled by cities of the network. The key challenges are: integrated approach, participation of stakeholders, and evaluation. Also the following challenges will be tackled: moving from strategy to operational action-plan, and enhancing funding of urban development policies through financial innovation.

- ✦ Preparation of the 9 **Partner’s Profiles** of the URBinclusion partner cities. They present: the cities; the action plan or strategy the cities will focus on; the policy and implementation challenges they will try to tackle during the project.

Organization of the first phase **URBinclusion transnational meeting in Barcelona** on the 23rd and 24th of February 2017 where it has been discussed the implementation of the first phase and the preparation of the second phase proposal.

Next steps

- ✦ Meeting with URBACT secretariat in Paris on the 8, 9 and 10 of March 2017
- ✦ Preparation of the Application for the second phase of the project



Sydhavnen area in Copenhagen



Govanhill in Glasgow



Timisoara



First Transnational Meeting - Barcelona