

The International City Partnerships: Acting for Green and Inclusive Recovery is a project of the European Union and managed by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission. The project will be implemented from October 2021 – March 2023 and originate in a pilot project of the European Parliament. The objective of this project is to contribute to the improvement of quality of life in participating cities, by promoting sustainable and integrated urban development, through the identification of innovative policies and programmes. There will be four cities selected from Canada, and four cities selected from South Africa. In addition to Singapore and Hong Kong, there will be a selection of two South Korean cities and two Taiwanese cities in Asia. From Europe there will be a total of fourteen cities selected from different Member States.

What are the objectives of the ICP Programme?

The project seeks to develop urban cooperation and foment city-to-city partnerships between EU and non-EU local authorities in Canada, South Africa, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The goal is to facilitate the sharing of information and transfer of good practices and lessons learned on sustainable and integrated urban practices and policies between participating cities, in order to contribute to a learning process based on concrete examples and best practices, as well as facilitate business cooperation and local economic development, including low-carbon development. International responses and experiences will be pooled for the benefit of participating cities on the challenges faced by cities worldwide on the themes of 1) circular economy, 2) air quality, 3) energy transition, and 4) integration of migrants and refugees.

Ramboll is the selected contractor supporting the delivery of the ICP AGIR project





How will the ICP Program be implemented?

The programme will prepare, run and evaluate working meetings and study visits in both EU and non-EU countries. A collaborative on-line platform will be established to facilitate the exchange of information and good practices. In addition to regional and local authorities and, on the basis of the European experience, the project focus will be concrete and operational and involve as much as possible stakeholders from both EU and non-EU countries such as firms, public and private agencies, Universities and research centers.

The intervention areas will be decided by the involved cities with strong support of the project team, and in coordination with the EU commission (DG REGIO), the EU Delegations and offices in the respective countries and territories and national authorities of the non-EU countries where relevant.

What does the network knowledge exchange timeline look like?

October-December 2021

January-March 2022

April 2022

Selection of cities and operationalisation of the cooperation

The cities from Canada, South Africa, Asia and the EU will be selected, and an online platform will be designed. During this period, meetings will be held for the EU & non-EU cooperating cities for thematic clustering and identification of priorities.



May-December 2022

Consolidation of the cluster cooperation/pairing

The selected cities will work online consolidating the cluster cooperation and will start to meet their paired city.

Cluster Managers will facilitate meetings, and capture the best practices shared. Each city will have a pairing manager appointed that will facilitate the online meetings and guide the participants through the preparation of the cooperation plans.

October 2022

First working meeting and study visit in non-EU country

The first working meeting will establish a collaborative approach and provide an overview of the programme objectives and outline the requirements of the participants.

The study visits will have proposed duration of six days. They will provide participants the opportunity to engage with current best practices through lens provided by the integrated sustainable urban development framework.

February 2023

Continuous online cooperation

From May to December 2022 the work will be carried online, using the cooperation platform. The online interaction with the cities will be focused in the pairing and thematic cluster meetings.

The thematic cluster meetings will also become main tool to share best practices and will include presentations from the participating cities but also from guest speakers, thus changing from internal project meetings to "open online events" where Europe experts can showcase their expertise and promote international cooperation.



Second working meeting and study visit in Europe

The second working meeting will take place in Europe and will have a proposed duration of six days. It will comprise plenary and roundtable sessions that explore the advances made on the themes explored in the first working meeting. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the elements that contribute to the successful transfer of good practices.

Closing conference in non-EU country

The closing conference will focus on dissemination whereby participants will report their plans to diffuse the best practices identified in the program in their home cities; where they see these plans might be adopted by others more broadly; and where the plans might need to be adapted for specific city contexts



If you are representing a city interested in participating in the project, please fill the <u>online questionnaire</u> and submit your candidature before 15 November.









