# City networks and the socio-ecological transition
# A European inventory

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## Abstract

Area 5 focuses on the regional and local dimensions of the new European path to socio-ecological transition. Its central assumption is that any strategy developed to enhance a socio-ecological transition is unlikely to yield strong results unless the resources of regional and local actors are mobilised and the complex interactions between central policy initiatives and their regional or local implementation are taken into account.

In order to better understand how cities and regions initiate processes of change in relation to sustainability, this milestone focuses on networks of cities, regions and their communities around the issue of sustainable development. Indeed, those networks have often been described in the literature as a crucial element in implementing sustainable development at subnational and local levels and across borders.

This milestone takes the form of a short review of the relevant literature that introduces an inventory of the various sustainability networks involving cities and regions across Europe mapping them against a set of established criteria. Findings of the inventory's analysis are presented, some new avenues for research and policy-making being suggested.

## Contribution to the Project

The main contribution of this milestone is to direct the attention of research and policy-makers to rather new types of actors (networks) who play an important role in initiating and sustaining processes of transition at local and regional levels.

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# List of acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| C40 | C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group |
| CBO | Community-Based Organizations |
| CCI | Clinton Climate Initiative |
| CEMR | Council of European Municipalities and Regions |
| CIVITAS | City-Vitality-Sustainability |
| CoM | Covenant of Mayors |
| CoR | Committee of the Regions |
| CPS | City Protocol Society |
| EAH | Ernst-Abbe-Fachhochschule |
| ECOSOC | Economic and Social Council (UN) |
| EEA | European Environmental Awards |
| EFUS | European Forum for Urban Security |
| EGCN | European Green Cities Network |
| ENTP | European New Towns & Pilot Cities Platform |
| EPM | Environmental Planning and Management |
| EU | European Union |
| EUROPE2020MP | The Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform |
| FP7 | Seventh Framework Programme |
| GBDe | Global Business Dialogue |
| GCD | Global Cities Dialogue |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GUONet | Global Urban observatory Network |
| HPRs | High Political Representatives |
| ICLEI | ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability |
| ICT | Information and communication technologies |
| INTA | International Network for Urban Development |
| INTERREG | Innovation & Environment Regions of Europe Sharing Solutions |
| LA21 | Local Agenda 21 |
| LG | Local Government |
| LMP | Lisbon Monitoring Platform |
| LUO | Local Urban Observatory |
| MOST | Management of Social Transformations |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| NRG4SD | Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development |

| | |
|---|---|
| NUO | National Urban Observatory |
| METREX | Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| OWHC | Organization of World Heritage Cities |
| QeC-ERAN | Quartiers en Crise – European Regeneration Network |
| R20 | Regions of Climate Action |
| REVES | European Network of Cities & Regions for the Social Economy |
| RUO | Regional Urban Observatory |
| SCI | Sister Cities International |
| SCP | Sustainable Cities Programme |
| SEAP | Sustainable Energy Action Plan |
| SET | Socio-ecological transition |
| TAFTs | Task-And-Finish-Teams |
| TMNs | Transnational Municipal Networks |
| TSR | Socially Responsible Territories |
| UBC | Union of Baltic Cities |
| UCLG | Union of Cities and Local Governments |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNACLA | United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNITE | Undertaking intercultural exchange |
| UN-Habitat | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| USA | United States of America |
| WACAP | World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty |
| WMCCC | World Mayors Council on Climate Change |
| WWWforEurope | Welfare, Wealth, and Work for Europe |

# Executive Summary

## *Introduction and background*

Since 1990 the number of city networks related to sustainability has considerably increased. Such networks are often described as a crucial element of sustainable development as they provide numerous opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and innovation. Nevertheless, there exists relatively limited systematic knowledge of these networks. The only existing and rather comprehensive study on city networks for sustainability was published in 2007, which is rather old given the speed of change in this field. Such networks are defined here as an initiative or an organization based upon a membership of local and/or regional authorities and/or communities. The present inventory provides an up-to-date map of 46 sustainability-related city networking initiatives based on publicly available information online. In that sense it contributes to the WWWforEurope central research questions addressing institutions and actors in a socio-ecological transition (http://www.foreurope.eu/index.php?id=673).

## *Literature review*

Such networks have drawn the attention of scholars that have mostly focused on the issue of climate change. It is generally admitted that information is the "bread and butter" of city networking. Nevertheless, the literature has also identified numerous activities such as technical support, project coordination, funding, and advocacy. City networks are often understood as a component of multilevel and polycentric governance. Nevertheless, researchers have had difficulty to assess their real impact beyond a small number of city pioneers.

## *Findings.*

This study found out that a substantial share (18%) of the networks inventoried by Keiner and Kim in 2007 had disappeared by April 2013. While the median size of city networks is 120 members, size in general varies a lot from 7 to 4512 members per network. Three quarters of the networks are fee-based. They vary from loose coalitions to structured organizations with significant resources and activities. Overall, city networks are generally both technical and political, addressing European and international policies but also local practices.

A boom in creation of city networks has been identified between 1990 and 2003 (60%), which suggests that the 'market' has reached a saturation level. Beside cities such as Barcelona, Paris, Brussels, and Helsinki there is a very large number of cities (over 180) engaged in the governance of those networks nuancing claims that such networks only engage a small number of pioneers. However, Eastern Europe is considerably under-represented. Eventually, very little disclosure of financial information was observed.

City networks focus mainly on urban and environmental issues, but also social and governance aspects. Half of the networks are developing instruments to streamline local policy practices, which are sometimes appraised by awards. However, city networks keep away from certification activities.

The European Union (EU) has had an important role in supporting the creation of many networks through project funding. While networks continue to develop, networking is being blended in EU policy implementation in the sense of multilevel governance. First findings suggest that the EU Commission, as a powerful body, has started to implement with the Covenant of Mayors a system of 'carrot-and-stick' very well connected to multilevel actors (local and regional agencies, transnational networks, etc.). More research on the Covenant of Mayors would be necessary to assess the efficiency of such an approach and the opportunity to replicate it to other fields linked to a socio-ecological transition.

\* \* \*

# 1.  Introduction and background

Over the 1990s, subnational and local levels of government have been increasingly recognized as important actors of sustainable development. In 1992, the Rio Summit acknowledged the importance of local action for sustainable development through the Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21. This recognition resulted in the development of thousands of Local Agendas 21 worldwide, in particular thanks to national support policies and numerous national and global associations such as city networks (Lafferty 2001). Since then the attention for cities and regions as a key element of sustainable development has considerably developed.

Twenty years after the Agenda 21, the final Rio+20 declaration "The future we want" (United Nations 2012) contains significant reference to cities, regional and local governments as major actors of sustainable development. In particular, it "encourage[s] regional, national, sub-national and local authorities as appropriate to develop and utilize sustainable development strategies as key instruments for guiding decision-making" (United Nations 2012, p.19), and "recognize[s] that partnerships among cities and communities play an important role in promoting sustainable development"(United Nations 2012, p.26). Similarly, the Europe 2020 Strategy emphasizes the need to involve in its implementation national, regional and local levels of governments in order to bring the Union "closer to the people", and to reinforce the much needed citizens' ownership of the strategy (European Commission 2010).

### An increasing number of networks

This recognition of the regional and local levels can be seen as the result of scores of efforts to promote sustainability directly in cities. In this process, numerous horizontal networking initiatives (proper networks, campaigns, programs, etc.) have emerged with the aim to connect local authorities or communities around the issue of sustainability, irrespective of national borders. According to the most comprehensive inventory to date, the number of those collaborative initiatives rose from 8 to 49 between 1984 and 2004 (Keiner, Kim 2007). Early examples include the European based network Climate Alliance founded in 1990 (Climate Alliance) or the Cities for Climate Protection campaign launched in North America and Europe by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability in 1993 (ICLEI 2012b).

### A tool for the socio-ecological transition?

Such networking initiatives are regarded as an important channel for knowledge sharing on sustainability, and potentially play an important role in the learning process at local and regional levels. As a matter of fact, many of those networks and campaigns have as an ambition to build the capacity of their members to engage into sustainable development. At the same time, it is generally accepted that a considerable amount of learning (Fischer-Kowalski 2009), experimenting (Ostrom 2009) and reframing of existing problems (Bulkeley 2006) at all levels of government is required to enable the deep changes that would constitute a socio-ecological transition (SET) in Europe. We understand a SET as a fundamental and progressive change in the dominant socio-ecological regime (Fischer-Kowalski 2009), putting emphasis on an absolute decoupling between GDP growth and material consumption that ensures the sustainability and resilience of socio-ecological systems while improving levels of human well-being. As a consequence, networks and campaigns are seen as an important tool in the SET. It is also important to stress that those networks have pointedly aimed at connecting cities across

borders as the nature of the sustainability challenge is often characterized by trans-boundary issues such as climate change, ozone layer depletion, acid rains, biodiversity loss, and many more. Because of this trans-national feature, collaborative initiatives have found a fertile environment within the EU (Kern, Bulkeley 2009).

## *City networking in European sustainability policies*

This trend towards city networking has transpired in the way EU institutions now approach policy implementation. In 2008, the EU Commission launched the Covenant of Mayors in order to involve municipal authorities and their leaders in reaching the targets of the EU Climate and Energy Package. As of 17 April 2013, 4512 mayors had committed to reach or exceed the EU target of 20% $CO_2$ reduction by 2020 (Covenant of Mayors office 2013). This movement relies on a multitude of 'coordinators' and 'supporters' – often cities' associations, networks, regional energy agencies – who recruit the municipalities and support them in fulfilling their commitments (Covenant of Mayors office 2012). In a similar approach and building upon the Lisbon Monitoring Platform, a Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform (EUROPE2020MP) has been set up as an informal network of local and regional authorities operated by the Committee of the Regions (CoR). It aims to assess the EU2020 Strategy from the point of view of EU regions and cities (CoR. 2013).

## *The need for an up-to-date inventory and typology of networks*

In spite of a growing influence on European sustainability governance and sustained interest in the research community, little comprehensive studies have been conducted on those cities and regions' networking initiatives. Whereas old networks disappear as fast as new ones emerge, the latest inventory dates from 2007 (Keiner and Kim 2007). In addition, the diversity of the initiatives makes the assessment of their impact on local and regional sustainability difficult to conduct. Indeed, it is not always clear in the literature what is considered to be a city network. Various initiatives are often called 'networks' by the research community while they are of very different nature from each other. Thus, the Cities for Climate Protection *campaign* has often been referred in the literature as a network, while it is an initiative that has been administered by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and has never been concretized into a formal organizational entity. Similarly, the EU's CIVITAS is referred to as a sustainability-related city network by Keiner and Kim (2007). While it is arguable that CIVITAS contains many features of a city network (e.g. city members), it is a programme funded and managed by the EU, which is clearly different in nature from a network like ICLEI or Climate Alliance that are managed by the cities themselves.

The lack of clarity surrounding existing descriptions and typologies of networks calls for further research. By categorizing the networks along various criteria, this inventory aims to provide a clear and up-to-date map for navigating the great diversity of sustainability-related city networking initiatives. It will contribute to bring elements of answers to the overarching question of how to initiate and implement a socio-ecological transition in the EU by focusing on the synergies that can develop between cities and regions.

This inventory is a preliminary step to a series of 40 city case studies that will explore the progress of the socio-ecological transition in Europe, emphasizing the role of self-organized actors in facilitating local change.

## 2.   Literature review

In her doctoral thesis, Sofie Bouteligier (2011) provides an in-depth analysis of global city networks. She distinguishes two strands of literature around city networks. A set of contributions focuses on cities as *actors* and looks at city networks that have been established to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge between city governments. Another cluster of the literature examines more informal city networks where cities are strategic places for connecting actors, such as global environmental NGOs and consultancies.

As it better fits the aim of this inventory, and more generally, the research of the WWWforEurope research consortium, the present literature review focuses on the first strand of literature which considers the city or the region as an actor of global environmental governance, and where networks are formal and identifiable entities. From this perspective, and to our knowledge, the most comprehensive account of city and regions' networks related to sustainability is to be credited to Marco Keiner and Arley Kim (2007; cf. as well Schmid et al. 2007), as they have produced a rather systematic inventory of the formal city networks dealing with sustainability across the world and have elaborated a typology as a result (Annex 7.1.). Networks are understood as formal collaborative initiatives of information sharing and knowledge dissemination concerning urban policy, management and sustainable development.

### The Networks' aims and activities

In spite of their diversity, most city networks are focused around the three following aspirations: "(1) exchange information, knowledge, and best practices; (2) increase cities' capacity; and (3) voice cities' concerns in the international arena" (Bouteligier 2011, p.15).

This said though, the core of those networks' activities is information sharing and exchange of experience; it is their "bread and butter" (Kern, Bulkeley 2009, p.319). Thus, networks seem to be the natural answer to the challenge of the global dissemination of useful information for implementing sustainability at the local and regional level (Keiner, Kim 2007). At the same time flows of information and ideas play a vital role for city networks, as they sometimes generate material and financial resources (Bouteligier 2011). Bouteligier further stresses the fact that access to data (information) and the definition of the dominant discourse and best practices (knowledge) concentrate power struggles within and between the networks.

In terms of activities, many networks have gone beyond information sharing and have played an important role in supporting their members by developing and coordinating projects as well as channelling funding – in particular from EU sources, and encouraging cooperation between cities on common collaborative projects (Kern, Bulkeley 2009). Networks also often play the role of conveners, organizing events ranging from project colloquiums to larger conferences where urban stakeholders (science, business, policy, communities) meet on a regular basis, sharing results and exchanging news ideas. The most prominent of them in Europe is probably the conference organized by ICLEI every two years, as part of the Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign since its launch in 1994. Events are privileged places for information and knowledge sharing, but also the occasion for networks to deliver awards and prizes as they attract the attention of media and local governments' official. Kern and Bulkeley (2009) found that awards and certification initiatives are a type of networking that has the potential for motivating laggards to become more active. Nevertheless, the lack of authority of transnational municipal networks limits the scope and impact of approaches with coercive characteristics. Still, in a few cases

those networks have played an important role in the development of new standards, pioneering new methodologies, such as ICLEI through the Cities for Climate Protection campaign. For many networks advocacy and lobbying activities are an important activity.

Eventually, many networks have made a core mission to voice cities' concerns to national governments. Thus, Schreurs (2008) notes that proactive action from local governments and their networks have often influenced national climate policies. Networks have been particularly active in European and international policy fora where their agency – i.e. their legitimacy in representing their members – is generally recognized (Bouteligier 2011). For instance, ICLEI played an instrumental role in the very existence and content of the Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 in Rio in 1992 by drafting the document together with the conference secretariat (Labaeye 2010, p.43-44). Generally, the coalition of cities and regions into large alliances through their networks multiplies their influence and allows them to access policy meetings. For Toly (2008), through their networks, cities can secure significant influence in shaping norms.

### Networks as a component of multilevel and polycentric governance

Many scholars have tried to understand how those networks operate and what role they play in *global* environmental governance (as differentiated from inter-*national*) understood as a multilevel and polycentric process (Toly 2008). Such an understanding of governance has shown that municipal networks are important actors.

Multilevel governance is particularly relevant in the context of European policy which has integrated multiple levels or spheres of governance, including supranational, national, subnational and local policy arenas. In their account of the issue, Kern and Bulkeley (2009) note that multilevel governance can be understood in two ways: on the one hand, it is about a vertical transfer of authority from national to supranational (European) and to more territorial levels (regional and local governments); on the other hand, a wider understanding of multilevel governance also takes into account emerging forms of regulation that include public-private partnerships and non-state actors. Furthermore, the progress of decentralization processes in many European countries has led to an expansion of the role of regional and local authorities. This is reflected by the importance of the multilevel approach in several policy relevant documents emanating from the EU Committee of the Regions (2009), the European Environment Agency (EEA 2011; EEA 2012) or international institutions such as the OECD or the IEA (Corfee-Morlot et al. 2009; Jollands et al. 2009; OECD 2011). Early on, transnational municipal networks have been conceptualized as a component of multilevel environmental governance (Bulkeley et al. 2003).

While multilevel governance is anchored in the European context and its vertical distribution of competences as per the subsidiarity principle, the polycentric approach is based on the assumption that many governance scales overlap and interact in the governing of (local) resources. Local users as well as NGOs and private associations at multiple scales are fully recognized, going beyond the sole analysis of governmental action. Hence, "a polycentric analyst looks beyond the performance of a local government unit to consider the relationships among governance actors, problems, and institutional arrangements at different levels of governance" (Andersonn, Ostrom 2008: p.77). Elinor Ostrom has largely contributed to the development and recognition of this approach. In a paper for the World Bank (Ostrom 2009) she called for addressing climate change in a polycentric fashion. She stressed the fact that information networks (e.g. city networks) are crucial to generate the necessary commitment at subnational and local levels in addressing global problems of collective action such as climate

change. In addition, polycentricism is said to encourage experiments and learning, which is essential to ensure that solutions are fit to local ecosystems and avoid the one-size-fits-all (Ostrom 2009).

In this context, city or regions' networks play an important role as they allow various local and regional governments to develop projects that address specific challenges often overlooked by higher levels of governments that might follow different priorities. In the words of Keiner and Kim (2007) transnational city networks for sustainability have filled gaps of governance at national and international levels, and have shaped the framework of global sustainability governance. One should note that a significant part of the literature on city networks in environmental governance has aggregated around the issue of climate change. Andonova et al. (2009) point out that the global and trans-boundary nature of climate change provides a fertile ground to the emergence of such transnational networks. Eventually, a large number of contributions contend that transnational city or regional networks now form an important part of the climate governance landscape (Bulkeley, Newell 2010; Andonova et al. 2009; Kern, Bulkeley 2009; Toly 2008).

Dissecting the topic, Kern and Bulkeley (2009, p.319) have highlighted the fact that transnational municipal networks (TMNs) are involved into two types of governing: *internal*, describing operations within the networks such as project development and funding, cooperation, recognition and awards, benchmarking, and certification; and *external*, mentioning their influence on governmental organizations at various levels, the interdependence of networks through competition and cooperation, the intermediation between the network and the broader local policy networks.

### *Assessing the impact of city networks*

Beyond many optimistic claims, estimating the actual impact of those transnational networks on the local urban policies has proven difficult. In her assessment of the impact of those networks Bouteligier is reserved:

> *"Global city networks seem to perform well in terms of output, but less in terms of outcome and impact. They successfully set up a structure that enables them to organize their global activities, but there are mixed results with regard to achieving behavioral change and improving environmental conditions."* (Bouteligier 2011, p. 234)

Concrete outcomes are most often the product of long-standing relationships between the networks' permanent offices and the local officials (Keiner, Kim 2007; Kern, Bulkeley2009).The person or department who links the network to the local authority is crucial in determining the impact of the network locally. Thus, local political entrepreneurs have shown essential in disseminating information from the network to local administrations and in the implementation of solutions locally. Such individuals are also instrumental in scaling up the participation of local authorities in the network.

A sensible account of how subtle the outcome of participating into a network can be for local authorities has to be credited to Evans et al (2005):

> *"Meeting with other like-minded cities and learning from them reinvigorates local action for sustainability at home. Using national and international conferences as stages to present the experiences and good practices of a local authority builds up a positive*

*image of a municipality externally, and a demand for the continuation of sustainability policies even if political will and commitment are not constant. In this case, networking with other local authorities can offer local leading officials a forum to present themselves as sustainable development pioneers. This, in turn, creates a greater sense of identity and confidence and thus strengthens the local process."* (Evans 2005, p. 121)

For Schreurs (2008), there is a considerable diffusion of sustainability policy ideas among local governments. Nevertheless, it has been generally observed that city networks are often animated by a few key cities which are sustainability leaders or pioneers (Keiner, Kim 2007; Bouteligier 2011). More precisely, among transnational city networks, Keiner and Kim (2007) distinguish the 'giving end' – the frontrunner cities that figure prominently coordinating and undertaking responsibility – and the 'receiving end', which get involved only to access networking resources. Following this thread, various publications point that transnational municipal networks are often 'networks of pioneers for pioneers' (Kern, Bulkeley 2009; Alber, Kern 2008). A similar observation is made by Aall et al. who warn policy-makers of situations where an "island of 'best practice' is surrounded by a sea of 'business-as-usual,' and thus serve as a 'lightening rod' to distract attention from a passive national policy" (Aall et al. 2007, p. 99).

In conclusion of this short review of the literature, city networks are acknowledged for their important role in disseminating and even producing new knowledge, building local capacity in particular by providing tools and methodologies, and being rather efficient in voicing concerns of local and regional authorities in higher arenas of governance. This is confirmed by Bouteligier (2011) who underlines the fact that city networks are often better managed than one could first expect. Notwithstanding this, their action is limited in scope mainly to pioneer cities that are the real engine of those networking initiatives. In their inventory, Keiner and Kim (2007) had identified cities such as Brussels, Barcelona or even Dakar as being key connectors in those networks.

### *Further questions*

Stemming from this literature review sub-questions can be addressed in this inventory.

- Six years after Keiner and Kim study, are the leading cities still on the forefront? Are there new ones? Is the bias of these networks in favour of Western cities changing?
- Do new networks continue to mushroom as it has been previously shown?
- What kind of activities are those networks developing? What issues are they addressing? Are they moving beyond the dissemination of information and truly deliver services to cities?
- What is the nature of the interaction between the local and subnational governments with those networks?
- How homogeneous are those networks?
- Do the EU and other supranational bodies still play an important role in the development of those networks?

Answering those questions should help answer the overarching question of whether such a network approach could be further developed and integrated into a European strategy for a socio-ecological transition.

# 3. The inventory's criteria

Understanding cities' and regions' networks is a complicated task because of their diversity. Therefore, developing a set of criteria is crucial in conducting a relevant inventory. As previously mentioned, in their inventory Keiner and Kim (2007) have developed a typology of networks for sustainability, which aims to better understand the substance of their work and the potential for further improving the use of networking in the implementation of sustainable development. As it is the best existing development available, we used this typology as the basis of our own approach. Nevertheless, with the hindsight provided by the present review of literature as well as from our own experience in dealing with such networks we have adapted this typology and criteria.

From the initial five criteria categories as developed by Kim and Keiner (see Annex 7.1.) the proposed typology has transformed the category called 'founding/leading organizations' into one criterion included under another category (organizational environment). In addition, the category 'other' has been suppressed. This led to the creation of three new categories: 'Organization characteristics', 'Organizational environment' and 'Activities'. Three criteria were also slightly modified, mainly to regroup previous criteria under an umbrella one. Eventually six criteria were added to capture dimensions that were overlooked in Keiner and Kim's typology.

About the four categories:

- The category 'Members/membership' is not new. It gathers criteria that help to understand the size and composition of a network's membership.
- The category 'Organization characteristics' re-groups various criteria related to the factual description of the networks as organizations so the observer can better grasp what the networks are.
- The category 'Activities' re-groups criteria characterizing the activities of the networks. It aims at better understanding the differences between what the networks do.
- The category 'Organizational environment' re-groups various criteria that are related to the relations of the networks with other organizations.

About the new criteria:

- 'Political/technical membership': this criterion aims to distinguish the networks that are mainly experts' networks from those that are more political. The main indicator for the political nature of the membership is the involvement of mayors/governors in the activities of the network. Networks are expected to be either technical, or political and, for most of them, hybrid.
- 'Composition of the Board': as per Bouteligier (2011, p.46): "Identifying the relative positions of the cities involved should lead to a nuanced and in-depth understanding of functional and power relations within city networks for global environmental governance". This is a further justification of the criterion looking at the geographical location of the networks' headquarter (Keiner, Kim 2007). In our inventory we have extended our look at the members of the network Boards as "Board members are usually powerful representatives (for example a mayor or vice-mayor) of the most active cities who push innovative approaches at local level" (Kern and Bulkeley 2009, p.315). Looking at which cities are represented in these boards will refine our understanding of

the cities that are leading these networks and further evaluate the claim that they are "networks of pioneers for pioneers".

- 'Leading organization': this criterion is necessary in order to indicate whether a network is in reality a daughter branch of a larger organization or not. It was shown in the results of the NetCiRes project (Schmid et al., 2007) that many networks are strongly linked to other meta-networks and have therefore little independence.

- 'General focus/specialist': it occurs to us that one of the most basic traits to distinguish networks is their focus, which is a good indication on the type of activities the networks are engaged in.

- 'Standards/methodologies/tools': this criterion aims at singling out the networks that are engaging in developing standards, methodologies, and tools that may have a high impact on the local practices. This is what the urban expert and ICLEI founder Jeb Brugmann once described as "institutionalizing a standard of practice" (Labaeye 2010, p.54).

- 'Awards/certifications': this refers directly to the more 'hard' – with elements of coercion – approaches mentioned by Kern and Bulkeley (2009). Evaluating how often such approaches can be found would considerably refine the assessment of the networks' influence.

About the modified criteria:

- The criteria 'Eligibility', 'Spatial scope', 'Sectoral/thematic issues', and 'Founding patron/organization' are respectively re- grouping several criteria from Keiner and Kim into one criterion with selection options.

Marked with * are items modified from Keiner and Kim (2007) and marked with ** are the items added; others conform to the original typology.

Table 1    Customized typology of Regional/local governments' networks

| Members/membership | Organizational characteristics | Activities | Organizational environment |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of members (n) | Foundation year | **General/specialist focus (e.g. UCLG or ICLEI) | *Founding/patron organization (UN, EU, University, business, meta-networks…) |
| Membership requirements/fees | Organizational structure | Website information (content, accessibility) | Membership in meta-networks |
| Membership privileges/benefits | Location of headquarters | The network provides resources/ knowledge databases | Partner networks |
| *Eligibility (Cities/LG, scientific institutions/universities, business/private sector, NGO, individuals) | Budget size/type of resources | Type and frequency of communication/information exchange | **Leading organization Y/N (the network is dependent on another organization or network) |
| **Political/technical (members are mayors or departments) | **Cities in the Board (if applicable) | **Develops standards/ methodologies/tools | |
| | *Spatial scope (global, trans-regional, regional, national, twinning) | **Issues awards/certifications | |
| | *Sectoral/thematic issues covered (Ecology/environment, energy, policy issues, urban issues, social issues, cultural issues, communication/technology transfer | | |

Source: Modified by authors after Keiner, Kim 2007.

# 4. Results from the inventory

## 4.1 Overview

From 55 networks identified by Keiner and Kim in 2007, ten have disappeared; no website is available anymore. In other words 18% of the networks have disappeared between 2007 and April 2013. For almost all those networks the websites have been shut down; information and potential knowledge resources have by the same occasion purely and simply disappeared from the internet and are not accessible anymore. Among the ten networks we added to the inventory, four only were created after 2007 (Covenant of Mayors, Regions 20, Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform and the City Protocol Society). It seems that the development of networks is slowing down, with large networks (UCLG, Energie Cities, ICLEI) consolidating their position.

To Keiner and Kim's survey we have added some initiatives which are worth the attention. For this purpose, networks of regional governments have been included (NRG4SD and Regions 20) as they present very similar features to networks of local governments. One grassroots' movement, Transition Towns, has been added; however its members are not local or regional governments but local groups of people committed to a post oil transition. Notably, we added the Covenant of Mayors to the inventory as a significant and recent (created in 2008) EU-driven initiative that focuses on networking activities of local governments and mayors to implement carbon ($CO_2$) reductions. The Council of European Municipalities and Regions was added and complements the presence in Keiner and Kim's inventory of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Eventually, some networks were added as they might have escaped the attention of the two researchers (Cittaslow, C40, WMCCC, and ENTP).

In addition, we have also removed from our survey eight networks that were included in Keiner and Kim's inventory as they were not corresponding to our definition of a city network in the field of sustainability, i.e. an initiative or an organization which is based upon a membership of local and/or regional authorities and/or communities (such as Transition Towns). Thus, many organizations had nothing of a city network and often only showed a very loose connection to the issue of sustainable development (e.g. UNESCO's MOST database, Parliamentarians for Global Action, Solar City, Center for Development and Environment in the Arab Region and Europe). Similarly, we also excluded two approaches that were specific to a single country (Swiss National Association of Cities and Schweizerischer Gemeindeverband) as there would be many more of those national associations and the connection to sustainability is generally very secondary.
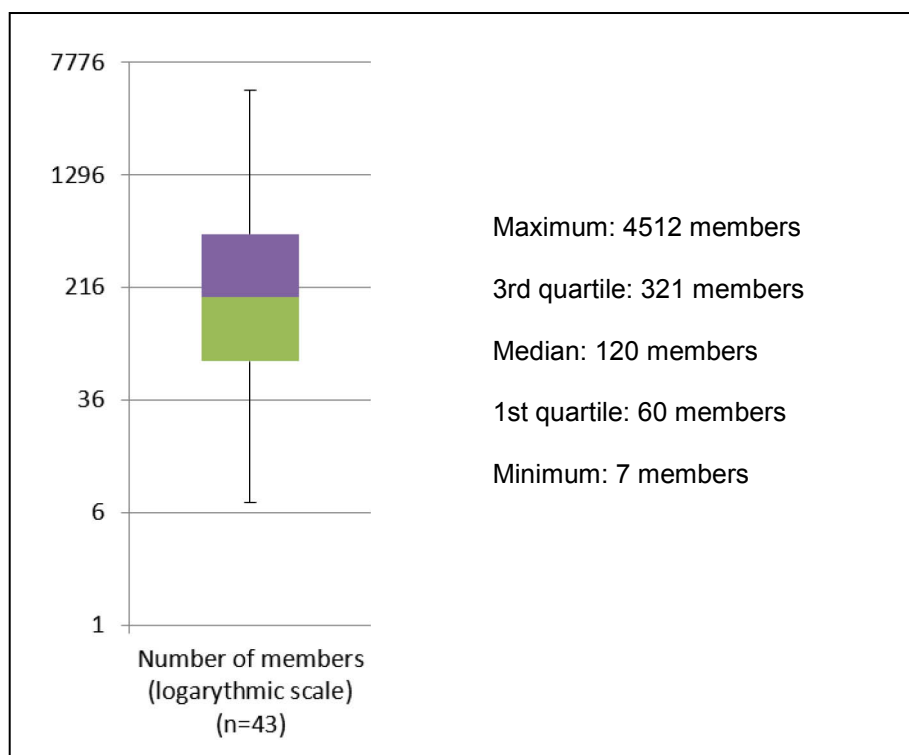
The data was collected between the beginning of January and the end of April 2013 from the networks' websites; in some cases information came from other online sources (e.g. official Facebook page). For each statistic proposed, we specify the population of the sample (n) for which data was available out of the 46 networks included in our inventory.

## 4.2 Members and membership

### Number of members

On average, networks have 420 members. Nevertheless, only 50% of networks count more than 120 members, and 25% more than 321 members. The largest membership is from the Covenant of Mayors with 4512 members and the smallest is from the European Edge Cities Network with only seven members. Five networks count more than a thousand members: ICLEI, UCLG, Covenant of Mayors, Forum European Energy Awards, Climate Alliance, all showing very different features (see compendium in Annex). The distribution of the networks as per their membership size is summarized in Figure 1.

Figure 1    Distribution of the networks by number of members (quartiles)



Maximum: 4512 members

3rd quartile: 321 members

Median: 120 members

1st quartile: 60 members

Minimum: 7 members

### Membership requirements

About three quarters of the networks surveyed (Figure 2) require their members to pay a membership fee. Becoming a member is generally not costless for the municipalities. It might be a sign that those networks are effectively providing a service or they would not manage to maintain their membership volumes. However, as spending from local governments is under increasing pressure in times of austerity, it would be interesting to observe the evolution of this number as local public spending decreases all over Europe. Beyond the intrinsic problematic nature of this lack of transparency around the financial resources of cities' networks we identify a potential risk: under increasing scrutiny in the context of the economic crisis and spending cuts, local and regional authorities which are members could rationalize their spending and

force those organizations to disclose publicly financial reports: the networks which would take too much time in adapting to this environment could see their membership basis erode quickly.

Figure 2    Proportion of networks asking for a membership fee (n=43)
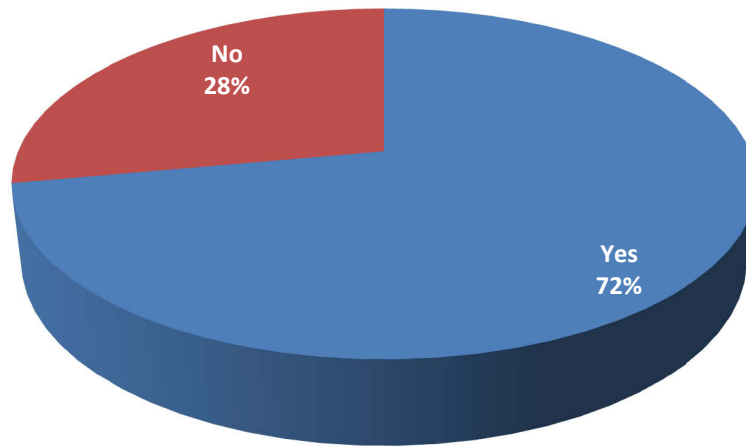


*Membership benefits*

The membership benefits offered by the networks (Figure 3) clearly show that information services are still their "bread and butter" (Kern, Bulkeley 2009, p.319). Networks are also conveners, organizing events for their members to meet regularly. An important proportion (38%) also offers access to funding which confirms the fact that they play an important role in the financing of local sustainability projects. In times of drying sources of funding, this is a double-edge characteristic: on the one hand, it could increase the value of networks' services as access to funding becomes more competitive; on the other hand, the competition between networks in securing position that allows them to channel funding could lead to increasing tensions and undermine collaboration between and within the networks.

Figure 3        Type of benefits offered to members (n=42)
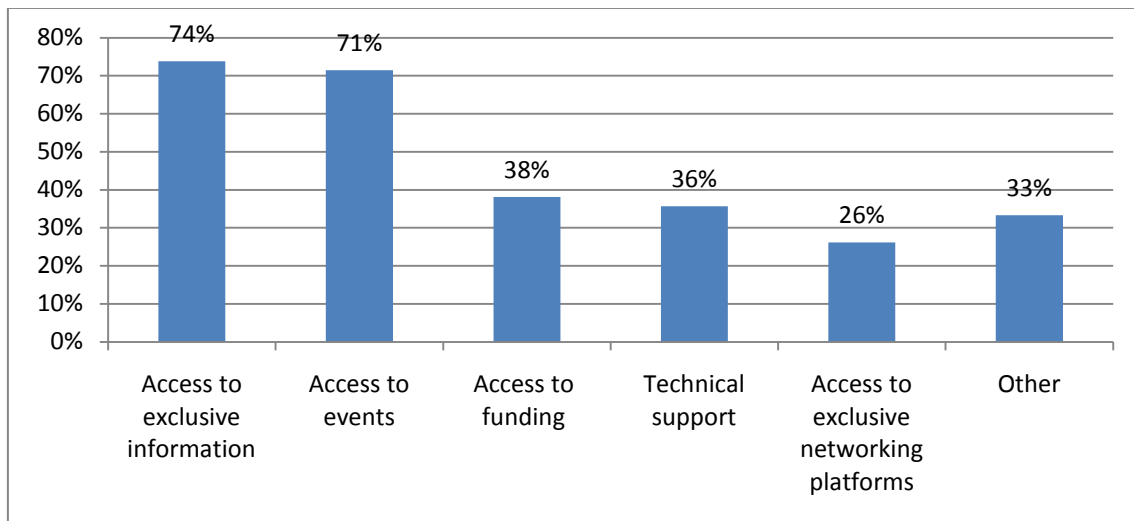


*Nature of the membership*

Figure 4 shows clearly that the membership to networks is often neither purely technical (members are represented by technical staff) nor political (members are represented by elected officials), but mostly a combination of the two. This confirms the idea that networks are a real component of multilevel and polycentric governance: networking initiatives aim both at influencing the policies and regulations as well as developing technical fixes to issues of sustainability. Most large networks (ICLEI, UCLG, Climate Alliance, and C40) incorporate the technical and political dimension in the definition of their mandates.
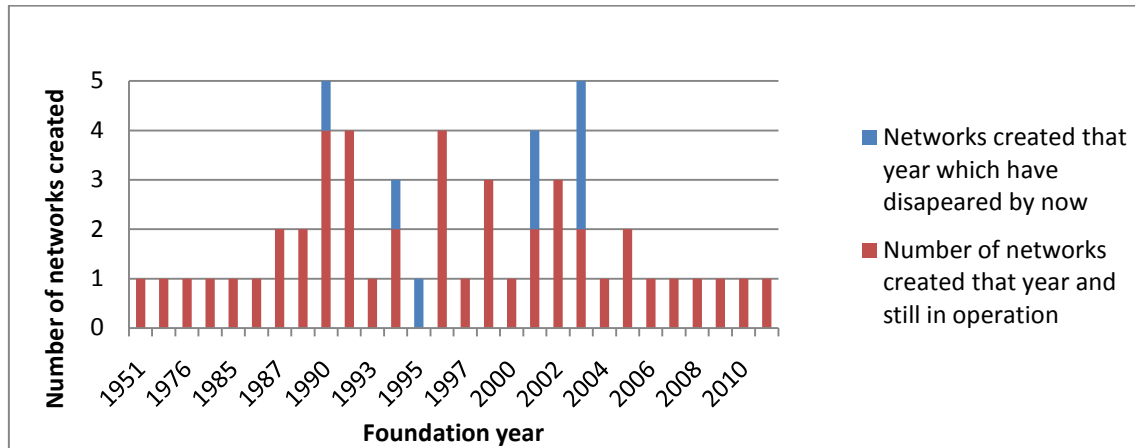
Figure 4        Nature of the membership (n=46)



13
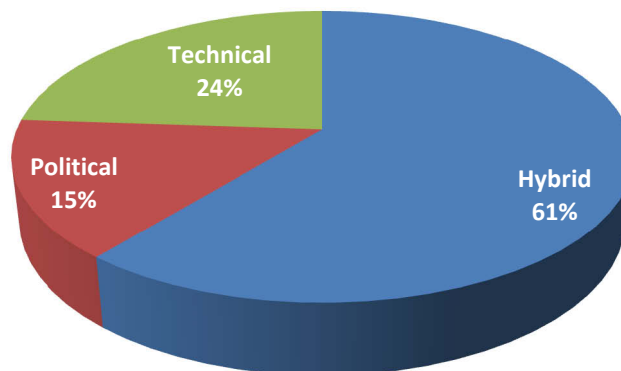
## 4.3 Organizational characteristics

*Networks in time*

Figure 5    Founding year of networks (n=58)[1]



The inventory brings an important finding. As shown in Figure 5, it seems that after the boom of the 1990s (until 2003) in the creation of new networks, we would have entered a quieter period. Between 2001 and 2003 twelve networks were created, but only eight of them are still in operation today. Did the 'market' of city networks reach its saturation point?

Two factors can be identified as explaining why so many (35 or 60%) networks were created between 1990 and 2003. On the one hand, it seems that most of the peaks correspond to large UN events, where cities have received quite a lot of attention, e.g. the two Earth Summits in Rio in 1992 and in Johannesburg in 2002, as well as the Habitat II conference in 1996. In the run up to those 'mega-events' local governments organize together to be able to influence those summits. During the summits themselves, new connections are established which may result in new collaborations. On the other hand, and as a more structural explanatory factor, the rapid development of information and communication technologies (e.g. internet) has made transnational networking activities much easier; it has 'shrunk' the world bringing cities closer to each other and enabling them to work together.

*Networks in space*

Keiner and Kim (2007) have shown the preponderance of a few regional capitals in the infrastructure of city networks. Cities like Barcelona, Brussels, Paris but also Dakar were among the most proactive in participating in those networks. Considering the criterion of the headquarters' location, this finding is confirmed. The apparition of Bonn is due to the new ICLEI global headquarters, which also hosts the WMCCC secretariat. This is an additional indication that, usually considered as second-tier cities, Bonn and its likes are playing an important role in transnational networks. It confirms Bouteligier's (2011) conclusions that those smaller cities are

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[1] Here the sample population includes "dead" networks which were still included in Keiner and Kim's inventory (2007).

important to understand global flows of information in general, and global environmental governance in particular.

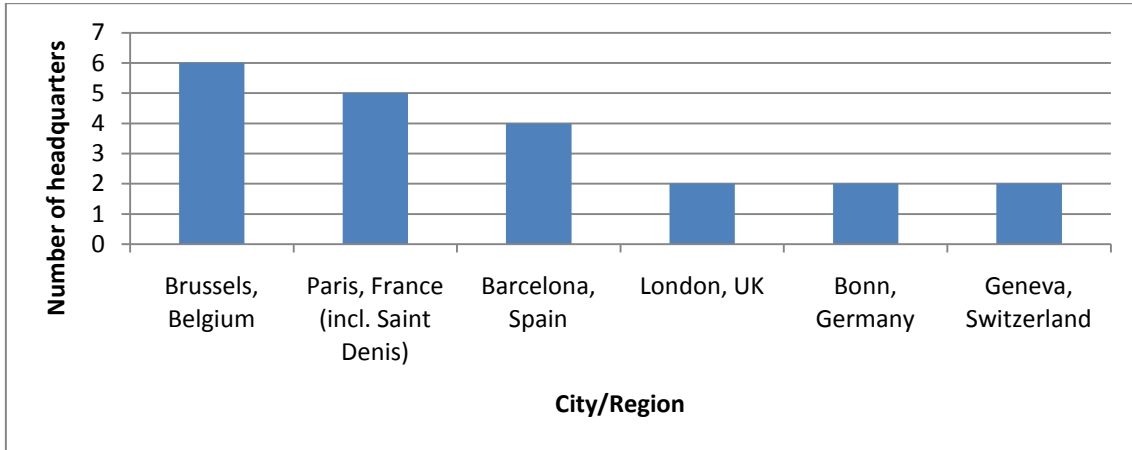Figure 6    Main location of networks' headquarters (n=46)



Figure 7 refines the picture as it shows the role of cities in the governance boards of the networks. While Barcelona and Paris/Ile-de-France (five together) confirm their prominent role (member of five boards), Helsinki (4) appears as being very active while it does not host any networks' headquarters. Apart from 16 cities/regions, which cumulate two or more board's positions, over 170 cities/regions occupy only one position among the boards of the 26 networks for which data was available. This would tend to temper the idea that those networks would be trusted by a small core of pioneers. But, on the other hand, it shows that only a handful of cities (Barcelona, Paris, and Helsinki) managed to be part of the governance of several networks at the same time. In addition, it shows that Eastern Europe holds a marginal position in the governance of city networks. Out of the total sample (over 185 cities/regions) less than ten Eastern European cities are represented, with only Warsaw with more than one seat in a board.

Figure 7    Top cities/regions by number of positions in networks' governance boards (n=26)
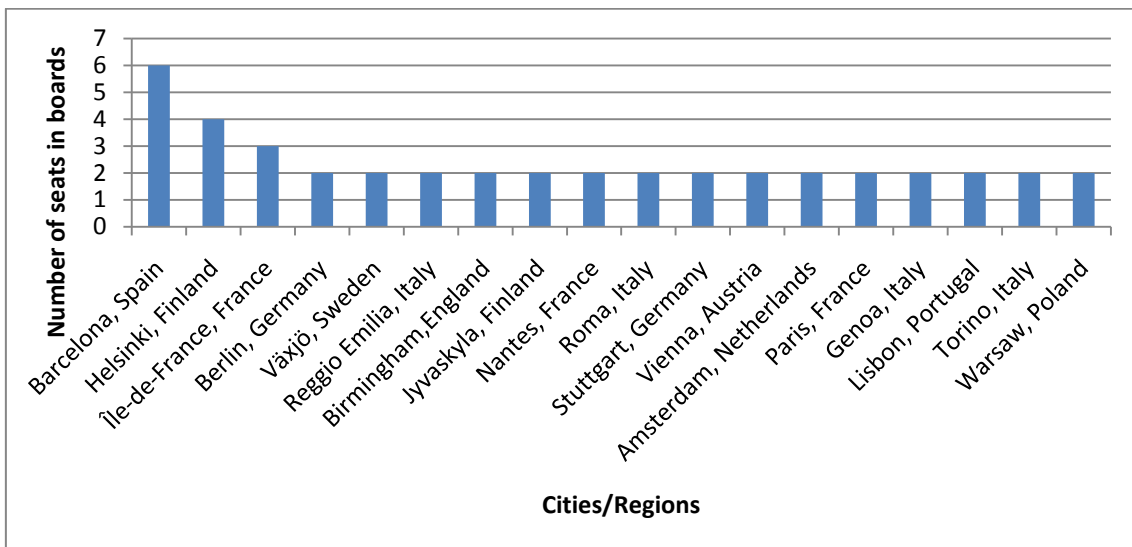
*The financial resources of networks*

Measuring the financial resources of city networks is a difficult task. As a matter of fact, among 46 networks surveyed, budgets' amounts for only three networks were available publicly. This is particularly interesting to see that this relative lack of transparency has been completely overlooked by the literature so far. While financial accountability has become a very sensitive issue for many non-profit associations, city networks lag behind. One could criticize such poor practice as most of the financial resources managed by those organizations are public money.

Figure 8    Combinations of financial resources in networks' budgets (n=34)
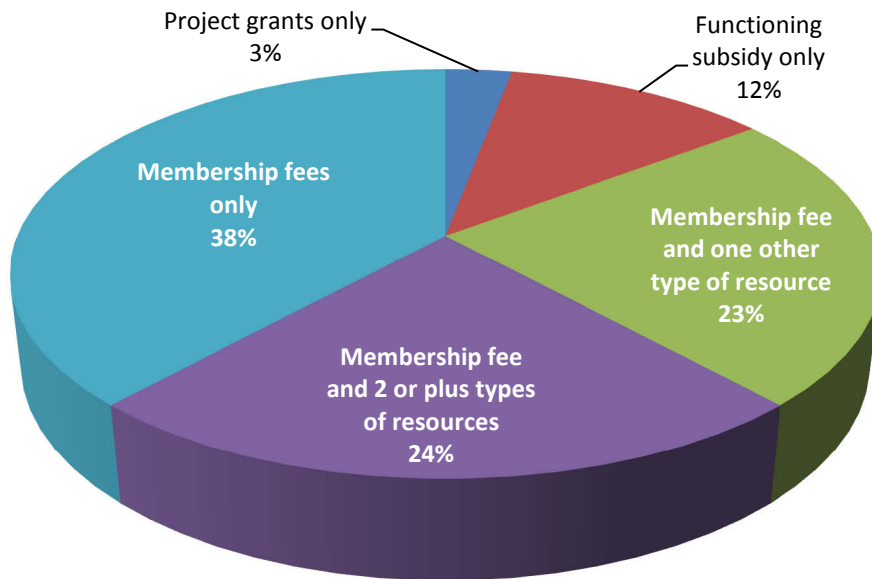


According to Figure 8, most networks rely on membership fees to fund their activities. Additional data shows that 38% of the networks exclusively rely on such resources. Given that membership fees are generally modest, this suggests that many networks are very limited financially, and membership fees serve mainly to administer the network and seldom allow conducting any concrete projects. Rather surprisingly though, 37% of the networks seem to benefit from functioning subsidy, a source of funding which generally provides more flexibility and discretionary power in the definition of the networks activities. In addition, 31% of the networks rely on project grants. This is a relatively low number when we consider that two third of the networks have not developed project activities as a way to fund their action, and remain therefore small structures or only representative bodies such as for instance the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, or the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

## 4.4  Activities

Figure 9          Themes addressed by the networks (n=44)
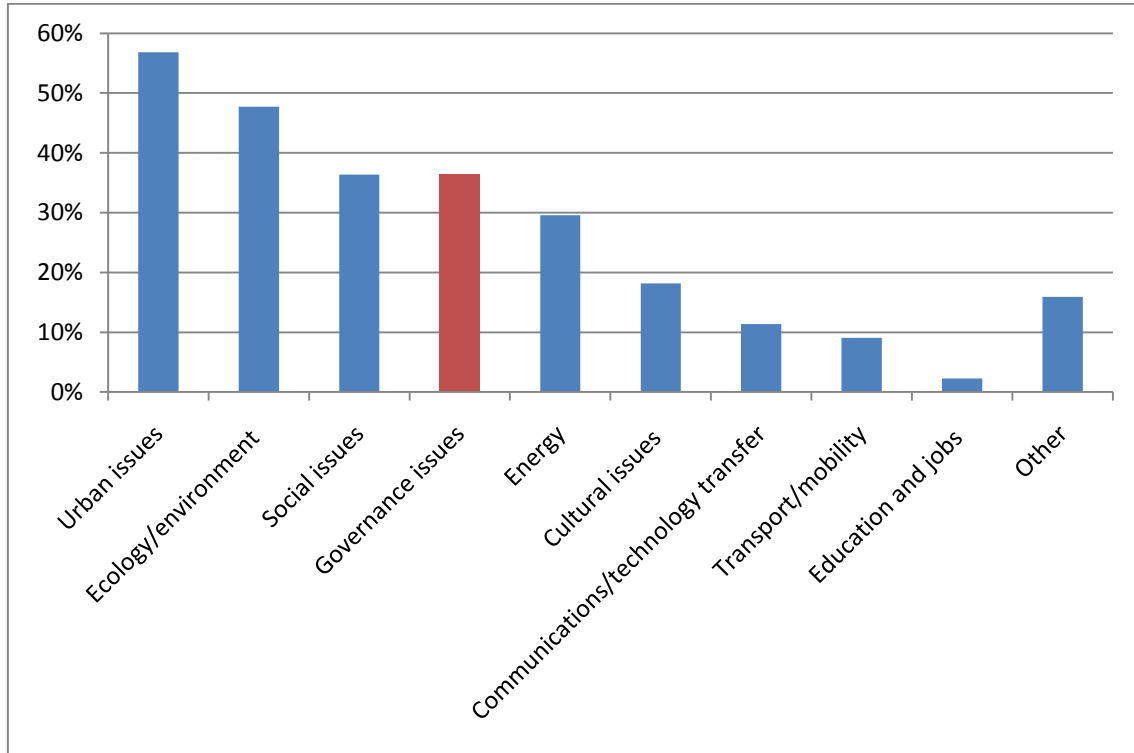


Predictably, environmental and urban issues are the main themes addressed by the networks. A large proportion also addresses social issues (36%) comforting the idea that networks bridge the environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. It is also interesting to note that governance issues (decentralization/subsidiarity) are a major focus (36%) of attention for the networks. It is an indication that networks have identified the need for systemic action, addressing the wider policy framework to have an impact on the state of sustainability. Those findings also show that most networks do not restrain their activities to one specific theme, but rather, tend to diversify their focus. The small proportion of networks focusing on communications (11%) is not new and was already shown in Keiner and Kim (2007). While information sharing is the core of the activities of networks, they seldom develop specific activities addressing the challenges of communications, which remain a means for an end.

Figure 10    Networks which develop methodologies, standards, tools (n=41)
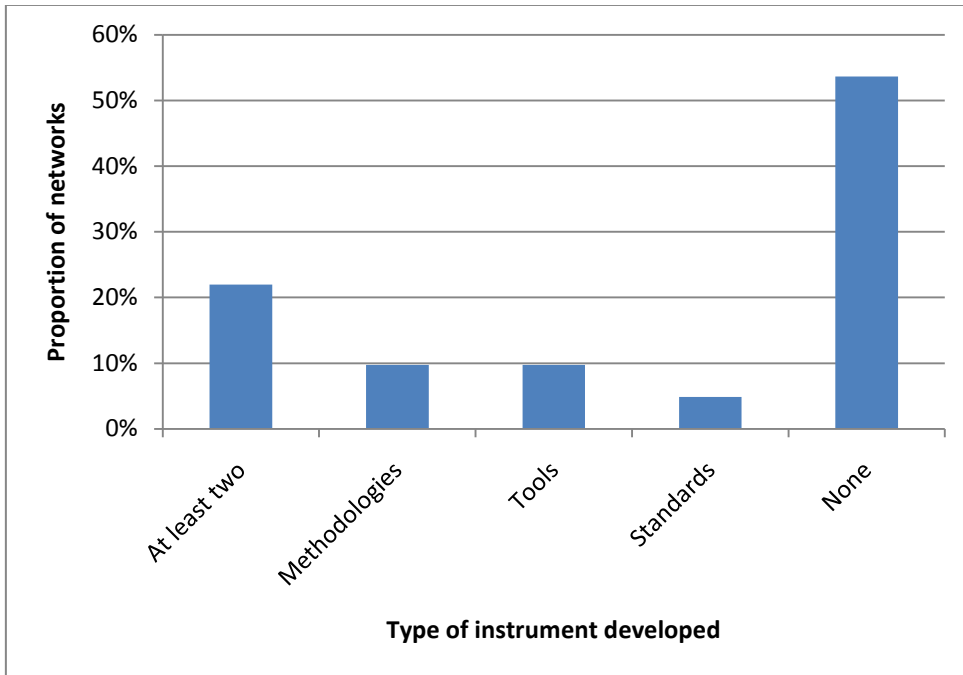


46% of the networks are engaged in the development of at least one of the following: methodologies, standards, and tools. This rather large proportion tends to support the idea that city networks have seriously engaged in activities that aim at the replication of good practices. Such finding brings additional evidence that city networks have the potential to influence local sustainability practices. Furthermore, it shows that large differences among these networks in the potential to influence local sustainability practices exist.

Among the few networks that develop methodologies, standards and tools, ICLEI is noticeable. Among others, it has led the development of the International Emissions Analysis Protocol (2009) and the Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions (2012) which both aim to define a standard approach for measuring greenhouse gases emissions at the local level (ICLEI 2012c). Eventually, such standards and methodologies are designed to simplify the implementation of concrete action at the local level. The most recently created network (2012) in this inventory – the City Protocol Society – has made the development of common methodologies and approaches for urban transformation its core mandate.

Figure 11    Networks which issue awards and certifications (n=46)
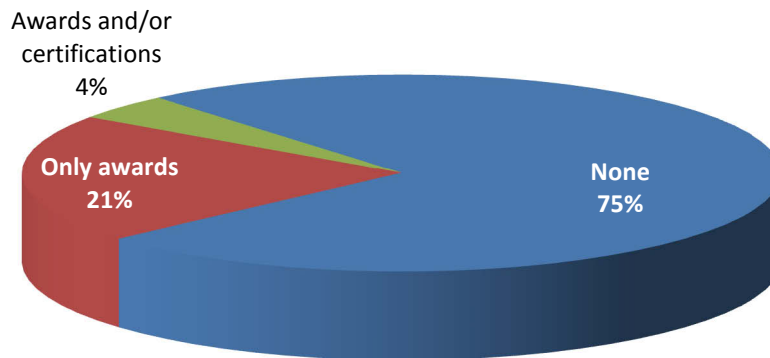


Only two networks (Forum European Energy Award and Energie Stadt) have engaged in the activities of delivering certifications. Forum European Energy Awards is not a classic network. Members are local or regional governments which have initiated the process of getting certified by the association, and the primary aim is to deliver certification and awards. This confirms the idea that networks have little 'hard power' to sanction cities or regions. However, 21% (10) of the 46 networks surveyed issue awards, which is a soft incentive for the cities and regions to take action. The fact that almost three quarter of the networks do not issue any certification or awards brings additional evidence that networks do not intend to 'sanction' their members but focus on more collaborative activities.

## 4.5  Organizational environment

The creation of the Covenant of Mayors in 2008 by the EC and of the EU2020 Monitoring Platform by the Committee of the Regions shows that the EU remains a key driver of the development of networks. While in the past, many networks emerged as a way to continue collaboration between cities after an initial EU-funded project, networking today seems to have penetrated the implementation and monitoring of European policies, in particular in the field of sustainability. As a rather recent initiative, the Covenant of Mayors has not yet been analysed and would deserve further study, in particular given the number of municipalities involved (4512), and the fact that non-complying members can see their participation terminated by the EC, losing opportunities to access funding, and making it a real tool of multilevel policy implementation.

## 4.6 Summary of results

*Membership*

The size of the membership of cities and regions' networks in our inventory varies from 7 to 4512, with a median number at 120 members. This diversity in the size of the membership is representative of a significant heterogeneity in the nature of networks. First, while three quarters of the networks ask their members to pay an annual fee, some don't, including the largest (Covenant of Mayors), thus making it easier to develop a large membership. Second, while some networks provide a wide array of benefits to their members (access to events, funding, exclusive information, methodologies and tools), others are only loose coalitions mainly consisting of a newsletter and an annual meeting. Sharing information and connecting peers remain the "bread and butter" of those networks. Nevertheless access to funding, and technical support also occupy an important place in the benefits offered. Third, from their membership, it appears that two thirds of the networks are neither exclusively political nor technical, but mostly hybrid, involving both technical departments of local/regional governments and the political level such as mayors and governors. This hybrid nature responds to the dual aim of many networks, to be able at the same time to influence the development of national and European policies as well as local practices.

*Organizational characteristics*

It appears from this inventory that the number of networks created is slowing down after a period of boom in the 1990s, which have seen the creation of major initiatives. Pioneers such as Brussels, Barcelona and Paris/Île-de-France are still very active networking local/regional governments, being involved in the governance of many organizations. But beyond these key players it appears that a rather large number (over 180) of cities/regions is active in steering the networks. This nuances previous claims that most initiatives involve only pioneers. However, we observed an overwhelming representation of western European cities which host the totality of the networks in our inventory and trust the governance boards, with Eastern actors remaining more passive members, holding less than ten seats in the boards of the 26 networks considered. Eventually, the inventory stresses the lack of disclosure regarding financial information, with networks appearing as relatively non-transparent organizations. While public information shows that membership fees are a very common resource, there is no detailed information available which would allow for instance to understand their budgets' structure and evaluate their overall volume.

*Activities*

In this inventory of sustainability networks, it is no surprise that most initiatives have a focus on environmental and urban issues. It is noticeable though that approximately 36% also address social problems. Of equal importance is the place given to issues of policy and administrative structures. This reminds us that networks are very often putting the promotion of the subsidiarity principle and government decentralization at the core of their activities. Energy issues are also addressed by 30% of the networks, the theme being systematically related to climate change, confirming the importance of the latter in the development of sustainability city and region's networks. Last but not least, almost half of the networks develop methodologies, tools and standards or at least one of the three. This shows that a significant share of networks seriously addresses the challenge of capacity building among their members by developing resources that can directly frame local sustainability practices. In addition, some forms of awards are

issued by a fifth of the organizations surveyed. Conversely, only two networks deliver certifications. This confirms the idea that networks operate as information clearinghouses and supporters of local and subnational governments, but do not enter the realm of sanctions where authority would be needed.

*Organizational environment*

The organizational environment of city and region's networks is difficult to map. Nevertheless, it appears clearly, and it confirms previous findings, that the EU has a strong influence on the emergence (some networks are the result of European projects that evolved in more permanent structures), and the development (many networks rely on various sorts of project grants from the EU) of city networks. The launch of the Covenant of Mayors in 2008 marked an evolution in this EU influence, with the EC taking a more active role and directly addressing the municipalities (their mayors), getting them to commit to the European energy and climate targets. In doing so, the Commission heavily relies on the diversity of existing sustainability networks and other agencies.

# 5.  Conclusion and Outlook

Networks of cities and regions play an important role in the dissemination of information relevant to sustainable development. While their development appears to have slowed down after a period of intense growth, new initiatives continue to emerge, in particular involving subnational levels of governments (regions). Information sharing remains the core of those networks, but a significant number have developed concrete activities in order to develop and shape local sustainability practices, as well as political activities directed to European institutions and policies. In that respect, networks are proper actors of the European multilevel governance. The relative overlap between the networks in membership and activities does not need to be seen as a problem. On the contrary, as per a polycentric approach, multiple initiatives might favour learning, and the emergence of innovative solutions. Nevertheless, it is still unclear whether this networking strategy has a significant impact locally beyond pilot initiatives. The task of evaluating the efficiency of those networks is further complicated by their relative lack of transparency surrounding their financial resources. Further research in this direction is needed.

The strong geographical imbalance in the participation of Western and Eastern European cities and regions is an important element to take into account. While cities from the former communist bloc are experiencing important environmental and social challenges, they seem not to have (yet) much access to the governance of those networks. Even if data was only available for 26 of the networks, this brings concerns whether existing networks will address issues specific to those cities in Eastern Europe. If networks are to occupy a significant role in the multilevel governance of the EU, the current situation is problematic and should be addressed by encouraging (funding) existing networks to build the capacity of Eastern European cities or by stimulating the creation of new initiatives specifically focusing on this geographical area. These options do not need to be exclusive, and synergies between established actors and emerging ones could be favoured, encouraging transfers of experience.

Eventually, the launch of the Covenant of Mayors is an interesting evolution in the way European policies are implemented. Through this initiative the EC directly involved local governments in reaching EU energy and climate targets putting to good use the existing infrastructure of networks and energy agencies in motivating the cities and their leaders to commit and implement ambitious objectives. The fact that the Covenant is now gathering over 4000 members is an indicator of the success of this strategy. While it has been noted that usually networks tend to remain in the realm of soft incentives and voluntary action, the Covenant is a formal commitment to action, and with its financial incentives and its official requirement for implementation, it introduces a system of 'carrot-and-stick' for local governments, targeting in particular their leaders who are personally committed. How far are these commitments monitored and effectively sanctioned would need to be further assessed.

By its design, the Covenant is a pure product of multilevel and polycentric governance as it involves a wide diversity of actors at multiple levels of governments. It could turn into a rather important step in the evolution of the action of the EU by increasing its direct engagement of local and subnational levels of governments, but also more hybrid actors such as various networks and community-driven initiatives. Such a development in the way European policies are implemented, but also designed, would quickly require the need for the supervision of representative bodies (beyond the EC) such as the European Parliament to bring democratic legitimacy.

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# 7. Annex:

## 7.1 Keiner and Kim's typology

Table 2      Keiner and Kim' typology of networks

| Spatial scope | Sectoral/thematic issues | Members/membership | leading founding/organisations | Other characteristics |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Global | Ecology/environment | Number of members | United Nations | Year founded |
| Transregional (i.e. EU, Latin America) | Energy | Membership requirements/ fees | European Union | Organisational structure |
| Regional (i.e. Islamic, Arab, Baltic Cities etc.) | Policy issues i.e. city management/capacity | Member privileges/benefits | University/research institutions | Location of headquarters |
| National | Urban issues (poverty/urban development/regeneration) | Cities/local governments | Other sponsors | Budget size /sources |
| City partnerships | Social issues (i.e. social inclusion and cohesion/ gender/human rights) | Scientific institutions/ universities | Membership in meta-networks | Website information (content/ accessibility) |
| | Cultural issues | Business/private sector | Partner networks | Databases/resources |
| | Communication | NGO/CBO | | Type and frequency of communication/information exchange |
| | technology transfer (e-/IT) | Individuals | | Projects/awards |

Source: Adapted from Keiner, Kim 2007.

## 7.2 Compendium of networks profiles

### 7.2.1 Networks of cities, regions and communities

# C40

# C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

http://www.c40cities.org/

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**Foundation year:** 2005

**Headquarters location:** London, UK

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 40 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

C40 is a network of the world's megacities taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.The C40 works with participating cities to address climate risks and impacts locally and globally.

C40 was created in 2005 by former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, and forged a partnership in 2006 with the Cities Program of President Clinton's Climate Initiative (CCI) to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency in large cities across the world. Under the leadership of then Mayor of Toronto David Miller, who served after Mayor Livingstone as C40 Chair, the organisation advanced programs and partnerships that drew international recognition for the role of cities as leaders in climate action.

The current chair of C40 is New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

The network is probably among the most prominent of its kind. In 2013, it published Wealthier, Healthier Cities Report.

**Contact:**

General Inquires: contact@c40.com

Press & Media Relations: media@c40.com

# Cities Alliance

**Cities Alliance**
Cities Without Slums

http://www.citiesalliance.org/

**Foundation year:** 1999    **Headquarters location:** Washington, USA

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 20 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; NGOs; multi-lateral organisation

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - social issues; governance; capacity building

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The cities Alliance is a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. The overall strategic objectives are to support cities in providing effective local government, an active citizenship and an economy characterised by both public and private investment.

The Cities Alliance's overall strategic objectives are to support cities in providing effective local government, an active citizenship and an economy characterised by both public and private investment. The Cities Alliance seeks to realise this goal by:

- Developing and/or enhancing national policy frameworks to address urban development needs;
- Developing and implementing local inclusive strategies and plans;
- Strengthening the capacity of cities to provide improved services to the urban poor
- Developing mechanisms to engage citizens in city or urban governance.

Cities Alliance is closely connected to the World Bank and UN-Habitat.

**Contact:**

Cities Alliance
1818 H Street, N.W.
Mailstop: MC 4-413
Washington, D.C. 20433 U.S.A.
Tel: (+1 202) 473-9233
Fax: (+1 202) 522-3224
E-mail: info@citiesalliance.org

# Cittaslow

http://www.cittaslow.org

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**Foundation year:** 1999

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 166 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - urban issues; life quality and food

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Headquarters location:** Orvieto, Italy

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**Description of activities:**

The main goal of the network is to spread the philosophy of Slow Food to local communities and to government of towns, applying the concepts of ecogastronomy in the practice of everyday life.

While its vision is global, member cities are generally from developed countries from Europe, North America, and Far East (Japan, South Korea), as well as Oceania (Australia, New Zealand).

**Contact:**

Cittaslow International
Palazzo del Gusto, via Ripa Serancia I,16
05018 Orvieto (TR), Italy
Tel: 0039(0)763341818

# CITYNET

## The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements

http://www.citynet-ap.org/

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**Foundation year:** 1987       **Headquarters location:** Seoul, Republic of Korea

**Geographical scope:** trans-regional; regional

**Direct membership:** 78 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; urban issues;

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal enitity

**Number of staff:** 5

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**Description of activities:**

For over 20 years, **CITYNET** (The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements) has committed itself to helping local governments improve the sustainability of human settlements. Starting with 26 members in 1987, CITYNET has members in more than 20 countries, most of which are cities and local governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Its activities are focused around:

- Priority clusters: Infrastructure, Disaster, Millennium Development Goals, Climate Change;
- City to city cooperation;
- Capacity building;
- Environmental awareness raising;
- Smart cities.

CITYNET organizes workshops and seminars, trainings, study visits. It provides technical advisory services, web portals, resources, publications and newsletters.

**Contact:**

CITYNET Secretariat
Seoul Global Center, 10F
38 Jongno, Jongno-gu, Seoul
Republic of Korea, 110-110
Tel: +82 2 723 0639

E-mail: info@citynet-ap.org

# City Protocol Society





http://cityprotocol.org

**Foundation year:** 2012          **Headquarters location:** Barcelona, Spain (temporary)

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 112 founding members (could reduce when it comes to pay the fees)

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; business; universities; other oranizations

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** 1 to 5

**Description of activities:**

The City Protocol Society (CPS) will be a membership-based organisation whose role will be to manage the City Protocol programme. Membership will be open to city councils, industry, academia and other agencies involved in city transformation.

The CPS mission statement is "To promote, guide, and accelerate the responsible transformation of cities for the benefit of all urban communities throughout the world." To achieve this mission, the City Protocol Society will carry out the following strategic actions:

- Enable better understanding and collaboration among the different constituencies (cities, industry, academia, and society);
- Foster a culture for international cooperation that enables 'self-governance' within the global community constituencies working and learning together;
- Develop a system's approach (City Protocol) to rationalize, under a shared basis, city transformation and provide documentary evidence in the form of agreements, recommendations and standards;
- Deliver a truly shared, trusted and universally useful 'Urban Anatomy' to frame the processes of adopting, adapting and implementing real city transformations;
- Support the creation of 'Task-And-Finish-Teams' (TAFTs) to create value-adding deliverables and  game-changing urban transformation initiatives;
- Facilitate the transformation of cities by accelerating city-to-city learning;
- Support knowledge creation and capacity building on urban matters;

**Contact:**

E-mail : secretariat@cityprotocol.org

# Climate Alliance

## Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples

www.climatealliance.org

**Foundation year:** 1990     **Headquarters location:** Frankfurt am Main, Germany

**Geographical scope:** trans-regional

**Direct membership:** 1385 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** communities; cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The member cities and municipalities of the Climate Alliance are committed to the protection of the global climate. They have set themselves the following goals:

- Reducing their greenhouse gas emissions;
- Supporting indigenous rainforest peoples;
- Conserving the tropical rain forests and their biological diversity.

The Climate Alliance is an alliance of European cities with Amazonian Indian peoples' organizations. Climate Alliance provides advice and services such as:

- Conferences, workshops and publications;
- Awards: e.g. European Climate Star Award and in various databases);
- Recommendations, aids and tools for local climate change policies;
- Lobbying for improved framework conditions for local climate change policies;
- Developing and coordinating European projects and campaigns and collaborate in practical partnership projects in the Amazonian region;
- Organises campaigns and political initiatives on the conservation of the tropical rainforests and the defence of indigenous rights.

**Contact:**

Climate Alliance
Galvanistr. 28
60486 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Tel: +49-69-717139-0
Fax: +49-69-717139-93
E-mail: europe@climatealliance.org

# Energy Cities

## Association of European Local Authorities Promoting a Local Sustainable Energy Policy

www.energie-cites.org

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**Foundation year:** 1990      **Headquarters location:** Besançon, France

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 189 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; local energy agencies; agencies;

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - energy; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** 21

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**Description of activities:**

Energy Cities is a very active European association of local authorities aiming for an energy transition. Its activities focus around energy efficiency, renewables, climate mitigation, regional policies and financing.

Main objectives are:

- To strengthen cities' staff role and skills in the field of sustainable energy;
- To represent cities' interests and influence the policies and proposals made by European Union institutions in the fields of energy, environmental protection and urban policy;
- To develop and promote local initiatives through exchange of experiences, the transfer of know-how and the implementation of joint projects.

Energy Cities provides the following:

- An annual conference for its members as well as regular events (workshops and seminars);
- Project acquisition and coordination in collaboration with its members (e.g. INTERREG, CONCERTO, Intelligent Energy Europe);
- Study tours and case studies;
- Policy proposals.

**Contact:**

Energy Cities
2, chemin de Palente
FR-25000 Besançon
Tel. : +33 (0)3 81 65 36 8
Fax : +33 (0)3 81 50 73 51

# ENTP

## European New Towns & Pilot Cities Platform

http://www.pilotcities.eu/

**Foundation year:** 2001        **Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 32 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; communities; scientific institutions and universities; NGOs

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; urban issues; social issues; cultural issues

**Organizational setup:** not possible to determine

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

ENTP - european New Towns & Pilot cities Platform - is an organisation representing pilot urban developments, new towns, and fast growing cities. Its purpose is to be a platform to exhange information for its members and be an advocacy body for New Towns.

Its activities are focused around three main themes: Sustainable development, urban renewal/regeneration, and social cohesion.

ENTP activities aim to:

- Promote exchange of information and experience trough workshops and conferences (General Assembly, Study Visit in Shanghai, etc.);
- Inform New Towns about the activities of the European Union and relevant programs, especially Structural Funds (Training Days, Newsletter, etc.);
- Encourage development of common concrete projects on urban regeneration, social cohesion and sustainable development;
- Participate in the dialogue with the European Institutions;
- Guarantee more visibility for New Towns;
- Act as an expert and coordinator of European projects (INTERREG, URBACT, etc.).

**Contact:**

Rue du Canal / Vaartstraat 63-65
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32-2-217.97.42
Fax: +32-2-217.97.48
E-mail: info@newtowns.net

# EUROCITIES

## The Network of Major European Cities

www.eurocities.eu

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**Foundation year:** 1986

**Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 111 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments (from Europe and with a population higher than 250.000)

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; policy issues; urban issues; social issues; cultural issues; economic issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal enitity

**Number of staff:** 43

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**Description of activities:**

EUROCITIES is a political platform for major european cities. It wants to ensure that urban affairs are placed high on the european Union's policy agenda. Its activities are organized around three pillars: climate, inclusion, and recovery. This includes a breadth of topics.

It activities are divided in three categories:

- Advocacy: EUROCITIES works with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and EU member states;
- Networking: through policy forums the network aims to promote exchange among its members and with external stakeholders;
- Visibility: EUROCITIES aims to raise awareness, influence policymaking and change behaviour both within municipal authorities and also among citizens.

**Contact:**
EUROCITIES
Square de Meeûs 1
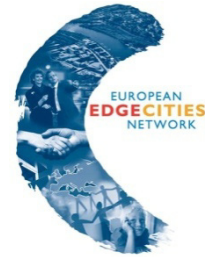B-1000 Brussels
Secretariat :
Tel: +32 2 552 08 88
 Fax: +32 2 552 08 89

# European Edge Cities Network

http://www.edgecitiesnetwork.com/

**Foundation year:** 1996                          **Headquarters location:** no headquarters

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 7 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; urban issues; social issues; good governance

**Organizational setup:** no legal entity

**Number of staff:** no staff

**Description of activities:**

The Edge Cities Network brings together towns and cities on the edge of the capitals of Europe. The Edge cities represented in the Network come from several different regions of the european Union. The Edge cities have identified that it is important to exchange knowledge and experiences, prepare best practices and to collaborate directly among the municipalities.

The vision of the Edge Cities Network partners is to improve and qualify the service delivery of each local partner organisation through the network collaboration to the benefit of citizens in the municipalities.

It does so by:

- Discussing strategies;
- Developing action plans;
- Carrying out common projects;
- Carrying out seminars, conferences etc.;
- Establishing thematic subgroups and networks;
- Developing bi-lateral linkages and wider links with other Edge City partners where synergies are identified.

**Contact:**

Only contact of members: http://www.edgecitiesnetwork.com/contact/

# European Green Cities Network

www.europeangreencities.com

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**Foundation year:** 1996                    **Headquarters location:** Copenhagen, Denmark

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 84 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:**

**Membership fee:** N/A

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy; housing

**Organizational setup:** N/A

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

*The last sign of activity dates from June 2012.*

The network aims to disseminate knowledge and experiences regarding sustainable urban housing technologies in order to stimulate market development and to help speed up innovation.

The EGCN aims to stimulate sustainable urban housing through targeted efforts via:

- Optimising dissemination of new developed technologies and experiences within European sustainable housing projects;
- Developing tools for monitoring and evaluating cities and specific urban districts regarding progress in sustainable housing direction;
- Training regarding sustainable urban energy management for key actors in the housing sector;
- Organizing sustainable urban housing conferences focusing on new technologies and latest innovative progress.

**Contact:**
EGCN Secretariat
C/O European Green Cities
Vesterbrogade 149
Copenhagen (DK-1620)

# EUROTOWNS

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**Foundation year:** 1991

**Headquarters location:** Reggio Emilia, Italy

**Geographical scope:** Europe

**Direct membership:** 16 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - social issues; urban issues; policy issues; transport/mobility; education and jobs

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Eurotowns network was established in 1991 as a Europe-wide network for towns and cities with populations between 50,000 and 250,000.

Eurotowns aims are to:

- Facilitate exchange, transfer of good practice, knowledge, connections between medium-sized cities in Europe by running projects, meetings, study visits, events, communications;
- Identify, communicate and represent the needs and interests of medium-sized cities in Europe;
- Support medium-sized cities in delivering EU 2020 goals by building knowledge, understanding and capacity to enable cities to maximise opportunities and to innovate;
- Help members understand and exploit the advantages and assets of medium-sized cities.

Eurotowns has set up three Task Teams around the issues of innovation, mobility, and social inclusion.

**Contact:**

**Secretariat Eurotowns**
c/o Centro Internazionale "Loris Malaguzzi"
42123 Reggio Emilia – Italy
E-mail: marianna.roscelli@reggionelmondo.it

# FESU/EFUS

## European Forum for Urban Security

www.fesu.org

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**Foundation year:** 1987

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 300 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; regional governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist: urban issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** 13

**Headquarters location:** Paris, France;

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**Description of activities:**

A European network to strengthen crime reduction policies and to promote the role of local authorities in national and european policies. It works on all major issues in urban safety and security and build up links between european local authorities through practices, information exchanges, cooperation and training.

EFUS' mission is to foster multilateral exchanges throughout Europe, but also with other continents, about locally-developed practices and experiences. Its website provides a wealth of resources which available publicly of after login (for members).

**Contact:**

10 rue des Montiboeufs
75020 Paris
Tel: +33 (0) 1 40 64 49 00
E-mail : contact@efus.eu

# Global Cities Dialogue

www.globalcitiesdialogue.com/

**Foundation year:** 1999

**Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 162 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - communication/technology transfer

**Organizational setup:** one legal entity; not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The global cities Dialogue on Information Society (GCD), is a non-profit international association of Mayors and High political Representatives (HPRs) who believe that the development of the Information Society should be for the benefit of all the citizens, communities and peoples of the world. They committed themselves to become actively involved in creating equal opportunities and access for all citizens built on the principle of sustainable development.

The Global Cities aims to:

- Help cities discover and learn about each other's Information Society experiences and know-how;
- Support cities to establish bi-lateral and/or multi-lateral relations and to choose the most appropriate blends of ingredients to hasten the development of the Information Society;
- Encourage cities to participate in a "dialogue of dialogues" e.g. along with the Global Business Dialogue (GBDe) or the Knowledge Society Forum (Eurocities) and to contribute to the solution of the problems that slow down the globalisation of the Information Society.

**Contact:**
1 boulevard Charlemagne
c/o Fondation EurActiv PoliTech
1041 Brussels
Belgium

# ICLEI

## ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

www.iclei.org

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**Foundation year:** 1990

**Headquarters location:** Bonn, Germany

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 1200 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; Federation of multiple legal entities

**Number of staff:** 57 (European Secretariat); over 200 worldwide

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**Description of activities:**

ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability is the largest (by staff) of the city networks. Its world headquarters are located in Bonn, Germany while the European Secretariat is located in Freiburg, Germany. Various secretariat and offices across the world makes up ICLEI.

Its activities are organized around eight so-called Urban Agendas designed to support cities and local governments to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, bio-diverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

Activities consist of:

- Events and training: it organizes conferences such as the ICLEI World Congress, Resilient Cities;
- New initiatives such as innovative projects or long-term programmes;
- Advocacy to national governments, European institutions, and within the United Nations system;
- Research and consulting: ICLEI publishes reports, briefing sheets, case studies, papers.

**Contact:**

ICLEI World Secretariat
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
53113 Bonn
Germany
Tel. +49-228 / 97 62 99-00
Fax +49-228 / 97 62 99-01

# INTA

## International Network for Urban Development

www.inta-aivn.org

**Foundation year:** 1976

**Headquarters location:** Paris, France

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 2784 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; scientific institutions and universities; business/private sector; NGOs; individuals

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist: ecology/environment; energy; urban issues; cultural issues; economic issues; transport/mobility

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

INTA is a global membership association where public and private policy-makers and urban practitioners come together to share knowledge, experience and tools for integrated urban development.

Its activities are organized around the following themes:

- Culture, creativity, cities;
- Innovation, knowledge, economy;
- Urban forms, architecture and design;
- Housing;
- Urban renewal;
- Inclusive cities;
- New mobility and infrastructure;
- Tourism and heritage;
- Sustainability and energy efficiency;
- Strategic regional development and economic planning.

**Contact:**

INTA Headquarters
18 rue Daval
75011 Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 58 30 34 52
E-mail: intainfo@inta-net.org

# Les Rencontres

## Association of European Cities and Regions for Culture

http://www.lesrencontres.eu/

**Foundation year:** 1994

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 120 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** Cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist: policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** 6

**Headquarters location:** Paris, France

**Description of activities:**

Les Rencontres is an open forum for debate and action, grouping together elected members from all levels of local government throughout Europe in order to actively take part in the setting up of European cultural policies. Half the membership is made of French speaking cities and funders are all from French-speaking countries (France and Belgium).

Actions include:

- An annual General Assembly and Conference in the European capital of culture on a theme in keeping with the cultural capital's programme
- National meetings every semester in the countries holding the Presidency of the EU
- Thematic meetings on current cultural policies such as books and reading, photography, visual arts, contemporary dance, operas, cinema, etc.
- A regional or bi-lateral meeting once a year

**Contact:**

8 villa d`Alesia
F-75014 Paris
Tel: 0033 1 56 54 26 36
Fax: 0033 1 45 38 70 13
E-mail: info@lesrencontres.org

# MCE

## Major Cities of Europe IT Users Group

www.majorcities.org

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**Foundation year:** 1982      **Headquarters location:** Bremerhaven, Germany

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 38 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; business/private sector; scientific institutions and universities

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - communication/technology transfer

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Major Cities of Europe IT Users Group is an independent association of chief information officers, IT managers and department heads of cities. The mission of the group is to promote a voluntary exchange of ideas, strategies, visions and experiences between members to encourage innovation and improve the performance of local governments by using leading edge information and communication technology.

Its activities mostly consists of disseminating a newsletter and organizing an annual conference around the theme of ICT and cities.

**Contact:**

Major Cities of Europe IT Users Group
Headquarter Office
Postbox 210360
D - 27524 Bremerhaven
Tel: +49 (0) 471 / 50 10 626
E-Mail: info@majorcities.eu

# MEDCITIES

## Network of Mediterranean Cities

www.medcities.org/default.htm

**Foundation year:** 1991      **Headquarters location:** Barcelona, Spain

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 28 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist: ecology/environment; urban issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

Medcities is a network of Mediterranean coastal cities. The Medcities network is a tool to strengthen the environmental and sustainable development management capability of local administration, but it is also useful in order to identify the domains were a common activation could be the most useful mean to improve the regional environmental conditions.

The network's normal working procedure is based on environmental audits and medium-term environmental plans followed by specific programmes to pursue the priorities that have been identified. Experts from northern cities take part in developing these programmes. Such activities are mostly funded by the cities themselves and the European Union, the World Bank, UNDP.

**Contact:**

General Secretariat
C/62 núm. 16-18 edifici B Zona Franca
08040 Barcelona
Tel/Fax: +34 93-2234169 /  +34 93-2234849
Email: desurb@amb.es

# METREX

## Network of european Metropolitan Regions and Areas

www.eurometrex.org

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**Foundation year:** 1996

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 54 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; business/private sector; NGOs

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; urban issues; social issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Headquarters location:** Glasgow, UK

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**Description of activities:**

METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, provides a platform for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience on metropolitan affairs, and joint action on issues of common interest.

The network has members from some 50 metropolitan regions and areas, and partners in many others. METREX contributes the metropolitan dimension to policies, programmes and projects on a European scale. The Network is a partner of European institutions, the research community, governmental organisations and other networks.

METREX is involved in several project focusing on the metropolitan dimension such as the InterMETREXplus Project (developing a model for greenhouse gas inventories at the metropolitan level) or the SocioMetrex Proejct aimed at identifying specific ways in which strategic planning can contribute to social sustainability.

**Contact:**

METREX
125 West Regents Street
GLASGOW, G2 2SD , UK
Tel: +44 (0)129 231 7074
Fax: +44 (0)129 231 7074
E-mail: enquiries@eurometrex.org

# METROPOLIS



## World Association of Major Metropolises

www.metropolis.org

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**Foundation year:** 1985                **Headquarters location:** Barcelona, Spain

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 121 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - policy issues; urban issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

Metropolis – World Association of the Major Metropolises, is an international organization that gathers cities and metropolitan regions with more than a million inhabitants. It manages the metropolitan section of UCLG.

It provides a framework for the exchange of technical skills and for the development of relationships between member major cities and their partners. Metropolis carries out many different activities:

- Initiatives and specific projects (e.g. Comparative study on Metropolitan governance);
- Training and technical assistance;
- Communication and outreach;
- Organization of a triennial congress;
- International representation (ECOSOC, UN-Habitat, World Bank, Cities Alliance, ICLEI) as manager of UCLG metropolitan section;
- Delivering the Metropolis Awards.

**Contact:**

Metropolis Secretariat General
Avinyo 15
08002 Barcelona, Spain
Tel: (+34) 93 342 94 60
Fax: (+34) 93 342 94 66
E-mail: metropolis@metropolis.org

## nrg4SD

# Network of Regional Government for Sustainable Development

http://www.nrg4sd.org/

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**Foundation year:** 2002                                 **Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 50 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist: ecology/environment; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

nrg4SD promote sustainable development at the level of subnational governments around the globe. The network consists of a series of working groups which enhance the 'network approach' of the organisation. The activities carried out by each working group contribute to positioning the network and its member governments in international initiatives, and to identifying project proposals for interregional cooperation.

Nrg4SD works in the following areas:

- Climate change;
- Biodiversity;
- Water resources and Sanitation;
- Sustainable development, as a cross cutting theme.

**Contact:**

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
Bvd. Roi Albert II, n°20/koning albert II-laan 20
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

# OWHC

## The Organization of World Heritage Cities

www.ovpm.org

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**Foundation year:** 1993        **Headquarters location:** Québec City, Canada

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 240 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist – culture and natural heritage

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

As an international non-profit non-governmental organization, the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) was created to assist member cities adapt and improve their management methods in relation to the specific requirements of having a site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The OWHC has the following goals:

- Contribute to the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the International Charter for the Protection of Historic Cities;
- Encourage, on both regional and international levels, cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise among historic cities throughout the world in close collaboration with other organizations pursuing similar goals while promoting action likely to support the efforts of cities located in developing countries;
- In cooperation with specialized organizations, ensure better links between research undertaken by specialists or experts and the needs of local management;
- Sensitize the populations to heritage values and their protection.

The network implements these objectives through specific projects and events.

**Contact:**

General Secretariat of the Organization of World Heritage Cities
15, rue Saint-Nicolas
Québec (Québec) G1K 1M8, CANADA
Tel: 1 418 692-0000
Fax: 1 418 692-5558
E-mail: secretariat@ovpm.org

# POLIS

## European Cities and Regions Networking for Innovative Transport Solutions

www.polis-online.org

**Foundation year:** 1989      **Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 58 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; other - local public transport corporations, local or regional transport authorities

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist: transport and mobility

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Since 1989, European local and regional authorities have been working together within Polis to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions.

It aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities.

Its activities include:

- Working groups on environment and health in transport, mobility and traffic efficiency, transport safety and security, social and economic aspects of transport;
- Advocay to European institutions with the publication of position papers;
- Participation in EU projects such as NICHES+ (innovative measure In urban transport);
- Organization of events.

**Contact:**

Rue du Trône, 98
B - 1050, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 500 56 70
Fax: +32 2 500 56 80
E-mail: polis@polisnetwork.eu

# QeC ERAN

## European Regeneration Areas Network-Quartiers en Crise



http://www.ludenet.org/

**Foundation year:** 1989

**Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 15 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; NGOs

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - urban issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

*The last sign of acitivity on the network's website dates back to June 2011.*

Qec-ERAN is a network of towns promoting the integrated approach to the revitalisation of disadvantaged areas, with the involvement of politicians, technicians and local residents in that process.

QeC-ERAN has a number of objectives:

- Developing programmes/projects which facilitate the exchange of experience and practise between such areas;
- Supporting initiatives based on greater participation of targeted groups;
- Promoting joint up working and thinking between local authorities and other key agencies, and in particular local NGOs;
- Undertaking research and evaluation in order to impact on existing and future Urban regeneration policies/programmes;
- Representing the views and needs of such localities within EU and EC groupings and networks;
- Creating a network which constitutes an European "think tank" regarding the issues of diversity, integration, social and economic exclusion and urban regeneration.

**Contact:**

QeC-ERAN
Rue Vieux Marché aux Grains, 48
B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 524 45 45,
Fax: +32 (0)2 524 44 31,
E-mail: h.saad@ludenet.org

## R20

# Regions of Climate Action

http://regions20.org

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**Foundation year:** 2010        **Headquarters location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 30 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** 5

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**Description of activities:**

The R20 is a coalition of partners led by regional governments that work to promote and implement projects that are designed to produce local economic and environmental benefits in the form of reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; strong local economies; improved public health; and new green jobs.

R20 activities include:

- R20 programs on technology, finance, and regional low-carbon projects implementation;
- Best practice sharing;
- Technical training;
- Outreach and communications (events, promotion of programs and projects, etc.).

**Contact:**

48 Chemin Du Grand Montfleury
CH 1290 Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland,
Tel: +41 22 755 65 45
Fax: +41 22 755 65 49
E-mail: secretariat@regions20.org

# REVES

## European Network of cities and Regions for the Social Economy

http://www.revesnetwork.eu/

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**Foundation year:** 1996      **Headquarters location:** Brussels, France

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** over a hundred members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; other - social economy organisation

**Membership fee:** N/A

**Thematic focus**: generalist - policy issues; social issues; cultural issues

**Organizational setup:** N/A

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

REVES is a European organisation based on partnership between local and regional authorities and territorial social economy organisations. REVES members are local authorities or social economy organisations that are presently developing or are willing to develop policies to promote social and solidarity based economy, for a more fair, inclusive, participative and responsible society; a network of social innovation in terms both of methods and procedures based on co-construction and shared capacities of the members and their territories.

The activities mainly consists in:

- Organization of events;
- Publication of guides, guidelines, and various reports;
- Coordination of projects such as "Territorial Quality Standards in Social Services of General Interest" or "UNITE - Undertaking intercultural exchange: joint and innovative actions for participatory integration";
- Development and dissemination of a methodology for local and regional participation (TSR – Socially Responsible Territories).

**Contact:**

Bvd Charlemagne 74
B-1000 Brussels
Tel: 0032 2 230 88 10
Fax: 0032 2 230 46 18

# The Glocal Forum

**Foundation year:** 2001                    **Headquarters location:** Rome, Italy

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 140 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; communities; scientific institutions and universities; business/private sector; NGOs

**Membership fee:** no

**Thematic focus**: specialist - policy issues; urban issues; social issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

*The last sign of activity dates back from 2009. This network does not seem active anymore.*

The Glocal Forum, and its sister foundation Glocal Forum Italy, are active in the field of city-to-city cooperation; it focuses on peace building and international development in the non-governmental sector. It further emphasizes the central role of cities in international relations through its "Glocalization" vision.

**Contact:**

Via G. Zanardelli
34, 00186 Rome – Italy
Tel: +39 06 688841
Fax: +39 06 68884232
E-mail: info@glocalforum.org

# Transition Towns

**Transition Network.org**

http://www.transitionnetwork.org/

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**Foundation year:** 2006          **Headquarters location:** Totnes, United Kingdom

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 195 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local government; communities

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy; food

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit, one legal entity

**Number of staff:** 12 (3 full-time and 9 part time)

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**Description of activities:**

Transition Network's goal is to inspire, encourage, connect, support and train communities as they self-organise around the transition model, creating initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions. Differently, from many other city networks, the Transition Network gathers local community groups, not local governments. Still it is probably the most dynamic and fast-growing of the networks in this inventory.

Its structure provides the following:

- A platform displaying the actions of the network and networking opportunities (forums, social media, etc.);
- Training with events, workshops, courses;
- Knowledge resources such as toolkits, methods, case studies;
- Publication: books, films, etc.

It receives funding from various foundations and trusts as well as donations from individuals.

**Contact:**

Transition Network
43 Fore Street
Totnes, TQ9 5HN, UK
Tel: 05601 531882

# UBC

## Union of the Baltic Cities

www.ubc.net

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**Foundation year:** 1991

**Headquarters location:** Gdańsk; Poland

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 101 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; energy; urban issues; social issues; cultural issues; communication; sports, tourism, business

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) aims to disseminate sustainable development within the Baltic region. It counts over 100 member cities in the ten countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

Today the UBC has thirteen different commissions on: business cooperation, culture, education, energy, environment, gender equality, health and social affairs, local safety, sport, tourism, transportation, urban planning, youth issues.

It organizes several thematic seminars and workshops a year as well as biennial conferences. The network also supports its members in identifying funding opportunities in the field of sustainable development in the Baltic region. A regular bulletin is the main publication of UBC.

**Contact:**

Union of the Baltic Cities
Secretariat
Wały Jagiellońskie 1
80-853 Gdańsk, Poland
Tel: +48 58 301 09 17
Tel: +48 58 301 91 23
Fax: +48 58 301 76 37

# UCLG

# United Cities and Local Governments

www.uclg.org

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**Foundation year:** 2004

**Headquarters location:** Barcelona, Spain

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** over 1000 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; international local government organisations and associations

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - urban issues; social issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

United cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage.It is with the largest network by its indirect membership (it includes many local governments' associations) and one of the main representatives of local governments in the UN system.

UCLG supports international cooperation between cities and their associations, and facilitates programmes, networks and partnerships to build the capacity of local governments. It promotes the role of women in local decision-making, and is a gateway to relevant information on local government across the world.

Through its various activities it focuses on:

- Policy and advocacy;
- Decentralization and local democracy;
- Cooperation;
- Urban sustainable development.

**Contact:**

United Cities and Local Governments
World Secretariat
Carrer Avinyó, 15
08002 Barcelona, Spain
Tel: + 34 933 428 750
Fax: + 34 933 428 760
E-mail: info@uclg.org

# WMCCC

## World Mayors Council on Climate Change

http://wmccc.org

**Foundation year:** 2005                    **Headquarters location:** Bonn, Germany

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 88 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** no legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The World Mayors Council on Climate Change is an alliance of committed local government leaders concerned about climate change. They advocate for enhanced engagement of local governments as governmental stakeholders in multilateral efforts addressing climate change and related issues of global sustainability.

The World Mayors Council on Climate Change has been advocating from its inception in the United Nations forums related to global sustainability, such as the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Operated by ICLEI, the network offers its members to pronounce speeches during the plenaries before national delegations negotiating the international climate regime. It also aim at building political momentum around initiatives such as the carbonn Cities Climate Registry.

**Contact:**

World Mayors Council on Climate Change Secretariat
c/o ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel: +49-228 / 976 299-20
Fax: +49-228 / 976 299-01
E-mail: world.mayors.council@iclei.org

# CEMR

# Council of European Municipalities and Regions

http://www.ccre.org/

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**Foundation year:** 1951                    **Headquarters location:** Paris, France

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 61 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** national associations of local and regional authorities of countries members of the Council of Europe (but CEMR general Assembly can admit any member: e.g. Israel Association of Local Governments)

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; energy; urban issues; social issues; transport and mobility

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal entity

**Number of staff:** 20

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**Description of activities:**

CEMR works to promote a united Europe that is based on local and regional self government and democracy. Its committees and working groups seek to influence draft EU legislation to make sure the interests and concerns of local and regional authorities are taken into account from the earliest stages of the EU legislative process. The CEMR aims to become a permanent institution of the European Union. With members from over 50 national associations of towns, municipalities and regions from 41 countries, together they represent some 150,000 local and regional authorities. Due to its unique town twinning network, today more than 26,000 twinning projects link towns from all over Europe.

**Contact:**

15 Rue de Richelieu
F - 75001 Paris
Tel: + 33 1 44 50 59 59
Fax: + 33 1 44 50 59 60
E-mail: info@ccre-cemr.org

# The Congress

## Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

http://www.coe.int/t/congress/

**Foundation year:** 1994      **Headquarters location:** Strasbourg, France

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 636 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** elected representatives of local and regional authorities from countries members of the Council of Europe

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: generalist - policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; one legal entity

**Number of staff:** 8

**Description of activities:**

The Congress of Local and regional Authorities was established on 14 January 1994 with the Statutory Resolution 94(3) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Its role is, in particular, to promote local and regional democracy and self-government, as well as human rights at local and regional levels.The Congress of the Council of Europe pays special attention to the application of the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government. It encourages the devolution and regionalisation processes, citizens' participation as well as transfrontier co-operation between cities and regions.

This is not a city network. It is an official institution emanating from the Council of Europe. Its members are organized in national delegations.

**Contact:**

Council of Europe
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
F-67075 STRASBOURG cedex
Tel: +33 3 88 41 21 10
Fax: +33 3 88 41 27 51
E-mail: congress.web@coe.int

Sabine Zimmer
Head of Stategic Communication, Planification, and Coordination
Division E-mail / Tel: + 33 3 88 41 25 97

# UNACLA

## UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities

www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=366

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**Foundation year:** 2000        **Headquarters location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 81 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** selected mayors, representatives of local authority associations

**Membership fee:** N/A

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; energy; policy issues; urban issues; social issues; cultural issues; communication/technology transfer

**Organizational setup:** no legal entity (UN committee)

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

UNACLA was formed as a formal channel to enable local authorities to influence the work program of UN-Habitat. It was also intended to vitalize the dialogue between local and central governments and the United Nations system, bringing to the fore important issues on sustainable urban development and strengthening of local governance. Each year the Committee focuses on, and works with, a specific thematic issue that is of importance to cities worldwide. The choice of working theme is based on a careful understanding of local authorities and their priorities, and the current global pressures at play.

**Contact:**

UNACLA Secretariat
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
Office for External Relations
P.O.Box 30030, GPO Nairobi 00100

Thomas Melin
Coordinator
Tel: +254 20 762 1691
Mobile: +254 714 636 358
E-mail: thomas.melin@unhabitat.org

# City Mayors

http://www.citymayors.com

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**Foundation year:** 2003
**Geographical scope:** global
**Direct membership:** no membership
**Membership eligibility criteria:** N/A
**Membership fee:** N/A
**Thematic focus**: generalist
**Organizational setup:** not for profit; no legal entity
**Number of staff:** N/A

**Headquarters location:** London, UK

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**Description of activities:**

There is no membership, it is not a network as such.

City Mayors encourages city leaders from across the world to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to long-standing urban challenges such as governance, society, housing, transport, education and employment. City Mayors also debates ways to meet the latest environmental, technological, social and security challenges, which affect the well-being of citizens.

Successful cities require strong and resourceful leaders and well-resourced administrations, reflecting the communities they serve. City Mayors backs demands to give local governments, who cooperate with one another, increased power and authority as well as additional resources.

City Mayors is mostly known for its World Mayor Award attributed every two year to a Mayor that has shown outstanding success and received popular support.

**Contact:**

City Mayors Foundation
London SW1, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7630 0615
E-mail: info@citymayors.com

# CIVITAS Forum Network

www.civitas-initiative.org

**Foundation year:** 2002                      **Headquarters location:** Szentendre, Hungary

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 216 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - urban issues; clean transport

**Organizational setup:** no legal entity (EU-funded programme)

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

CIVITAS is an EU initiative for supporting and evaluating the implementation of integrated sustainable and energy efficient urban transport strategies in European cities that should make a real difference to the welfare of the European citizen.

The goal of CIVITAS is to achieve a significant shift in the modal split towards sustainable transport, an objective reached through encouraging both innovative technology and policy-based strategies.

The CIVITAS Forum Network provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between all the participating CIVITAS I, CIVITAS II and CIVITAS PLUS demonstration cities, and other cities that are committed to introducing ambitious, clean urban transport strategies. Cities participating in the CIVITAS Forum Network benefit from the shared expertise of Europe's most advanced cities in the field of clean and sustainable urban transport.

Every European city can be a member of the CIVITAS Forum. By signing the CIVITAS Forum Declaration they join a community of over 200 cities that is pioneering clean urban transport in Europe.

**Contact:**

Mr Csaba MEZEI
The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)
Ady Endre út 9-
11 2000 Szentendre, Hungary

# CoM

## Covenant of Mayors

http://www.covenantofmayors.eu

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**Foundation year:** 2008                 **Headquarters location:** Brussels, Belgium

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 4512 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; energy

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit; no legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Covenant of Mayors (CoM) is the commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of the EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.

The CoM is managed by a consortium of European networks representing local and regional authorities, led by Energy Cities and composed of CEMR, Climate Alliance, EUROCITIES and Fedarene.

Members are expected to develop a Sustainable Energy Action Plan and to submit it to the CoM Secretariat. Regular monitoring and reporting on its implementation is part of the commitment.

**Contact:**

Covenant of Mayors Office
1, square de Meêus
B-1000 Bruxelles

Helpdesk on general inquiries: +32 2 504 7862
Helpdesk on technical and scientific inquiries: +39 0332 78 3587
Media Desk: +32 2 552 0851

# EEA

## Forum European Energy Award

www.european-energy-award.org

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**Foundation year:** 2003                    **Headquarters location:** Zürich, Switzerland

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 1026 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes (licence fee)

**Thematic focus**: specialist - energy; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** not-for-profit

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Forum European Energy Award e.V. is an association with members from different European national, regional and local authorities and institutions. The Forum supports the implementation of the European Energy Award® (EEA), a standardised certification and quality management systems for cities to improve their energy policy at the local level. The European Energy Award® is a methodology recognized by the European Commission in the context of the Covenant of Mayors. It is an implementation tool for the preparation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) and thus for achieving the 20% CO2 reduction target. The Forum European Energy Award e.V. aims to promote the Covenant of Mayors within its growing network of currently more than 1000 EEA-cities in 9 European countries.

**Contact:**

Forum European Energy Award e. V.
International Office c/o Communal Labels GmbH
Molkenstrasse 21
CH-8004 Zürich
Tel: +41 44 213 10 22
Fax: +41 44 213 10 25
E-mail: info@european-energy-award.org

# EUROPE2020MP

# The Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform

https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/

**Foundation year:** 2009

**Headquarters location:** No headquarter

**Geographical scope:** EU

**Direct membership:** 170 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** local and regional authority from EU countries

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: EU2020 policy issues; EUROPE2020 implementation and monitoring

**Organizational setup:** N/A

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The EUROPE2020MP is the successor to the CoR's Lisbon Monitoring Platform (LMP), set up in 2006 to track the implementation and development of the Lisbon Strategy at the regional and local level.

Via policy workshops, the EUROPE2020MP members are given the option to debate with representatives of the EU institutions, external observers and experts. The platform also uses questionnaires and surveys, which collect information on ongoing developments at the territorial level as well the members' views on their involvement in the Lisbon process and on the policy's implementation best practises. Another tool used by the EUROPE2020MP, is the Monitoring Reports addressed to the Committee of the Regions (CoR), the other EU institutions and bodies, the local and regional authorities and the general public. Last but not least, numerous thematic initiatives (such as working groups, animation of exchanges on specific topics, specific use of questionnaires and surveys), focusing on priority and emerging EUROPE2020-related issues with a view to feed into the ongoing activity of the CoR commissions are organized.

**Contact:**

Committee of the Regions
Bâtiment Jacques Delors
Rue Belliard 99-101
B - 1040 Brussels - Belgium
Tel: +32 22822211
Fax: +32 22822325

# GUONet

## Global Urban Observatory Network

ww2.unhabitat.org/guonet

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**Foundation year:** 2003          **Headquarters location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 134 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** local, national and regional urban observatories (LUOs, NUOs and RUOs)

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: specialist - social issues; urban issues; policy issues

**Organizational setup:** no legal entity

**Number of staff:** N/A

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**Description of activities:**

The Global Urban Observatory Network (GUONet) is a worldwide information and capacity-building network established by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) to help implement the Habitat Agenda at the national and local levels.

Establishing an LUO, NUO, RUOs does not imply the creation of a new body. In most cases, an existing entity can take on the functions: cities and local governments, scientific institutions and universities, business/private sector, individuals, an NGO or any other capable organization in the public or private sector.

**Contact:**

The Co-ordinator, Global Urban Observatory, Monitoring Systems Branch
UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-20-7623119
Fax: 254-20-7623080
E-mail: guo@unhabitat.org

# Sister Cities International

www.sister-cities.org

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**Foundation year:** 1956

**Headquarters location:** Washington, USA

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 600 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; individuals

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: generalist - urban issues; social issues; cultural issues

**Organizational setup:** N/A

**Number of staff:** 8

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**Description of activities:**

Sister Cities International facilitate city twinning aiming at devleoping cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges. President Barack Obama is the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International. It focuses on exchange at the citizen level between sister cities.

The focus of SCI varies from business and trade, to youth and education, and to community development. The annual and regional conferences provide foundation-building activities for younger programs while retaining substantive sessions for those more mature programs. In addition, *Sister Cities International* leverages the support of institutional partners such as the Department of Energy (USA), Global Giving and Child Leadership Project, to host monthly webinars for members to help develop skills and knowledge in areas ranging from advocacy, communications, online fundraising and organizing trade delegations.

**Contact:**

915 15th Street, NW, 4th Floor
Washington DC 20005, USA
Tel: 202.347.8630
Fax: 202.393.6524
E-mail: info@sister-cities.org

# Sustainable Cities Programme

**Foundation year:** 1990             **Headquarters location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** N/A

**Membership eligibility criteria:** N/A

**Membership fee:** N/A

**Thematic focus**: specialist: urban issues

**Organizational setup:** Un-Habitat programme

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) targets to build capacities in urban environmental planning and management. The SCP was started in the early nineties to support both the missions of UN-HABITAT and UNEP. The first phase concluded in 2001, and the current second phase runs from 2002 - 2007. Currently the SCP and its sister programme Localising Agenda 21 (LA21) operate in over 30 countries worldwide.

The focus of the program is to act as:

- A facility to package urban Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) approaches, technologies and know-how;
- An EPM (Environmental Planning and Management) capacity development infrastructure - facilitating sub-regional resource networks for wider impact.

**Contact:**

The Urban Environment Section UN-HABITAT
UN Complex, Gigiri. P.O. Box 30030
00100 Nairobi, KENYA
Tel: 254 020 7625404
Fax: 254 020 7623715/4264
E-mail: scp@unhabitat.org

# URBACT

http://urbact.eu/

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**Foundation year:** 2002

**Headquarters location:** Saint Denis, France

**Geographical scope:** regional

**Direct membership:** 500 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments; scientific institutions and universities; business/private sector; national and transnational city associations

**Membership fee:** none

**Thematic focus**: generalist - ecology/environment; policy issues; urban issues; social issues

**Organizational setup:** European programme

**Number of staff:** 15

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**Description of activities:**

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. It helps cites to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Its members, which are called partners, are 500 cities in 29 countries with an active participants' list of 7,000 people.

Urbact has four missions:

- Coordinating exchanges to make things happen;
- Analysing and capitalising on learning;
- Disseminating information and outputs;
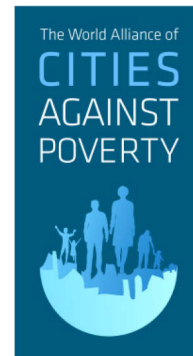- Funding project operations.

**Contact:**

5, Rue Pleyel
93283 Saint Denis
France
Tel: + 33 1 49 17 46 02
Fax: + 33 1 49 17 45 55

# WACAP

## World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

http://www.wacapnetwork.org/

**Foundation year:** 1997

**Headquarters location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Geographical scope:** global

**Direct membership:** 910 members

**Membership eligibility criteria:** cities and local governments

**Membership fee:** yes

**Thematic focus**: specialist - ecology/environment; policy issues; urban issues; social issues

**Organizational setup:** UNDP programme

**Number of staff:** N/A

**Description of activities:**

The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) claims that more than 900 cities have joined the network over the last 15 years to work together to confront development challenges collectively. The Alliance supports its member-cities to mobilize individuals, governments, and all sectors of society to confront the many challenges of urban poverty and to share successes – and failures – with other cities.

WACAP aims to reinforce the capacity of cities to improve public service delivery through evidence-based best practice solutions and through partnerships with other cities. In addition the network helps to design, pilot, upscale and advocate for innovative financing solutions, through - for example - decentralized and triangular cooperation and creative public private partnerships.

**Contact:**

World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty
c/o United Nations Development Programme
11-13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Geneva (Switzerland)
Tel: +(41) 22 917 85 46
Fax: +(41) 22 917 80 05
E-mail: info@wacapnetwork.org

# Project Information

## Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe

## A European research consortium is working on the analytical foundations for a socio-ecological transition

### Abstract

Europe needs a change: The financial crisis has exposed long neglected deficiencies in the present growth path, most visibly in unemployment and public debt. At the same time Europe has to cope with new challenges ranging from globalisation and demographic shifts to new technologies and ecological challenges. Under the title of Welfare, Wealth and Work for Europe – WWWforEurope – a European research consortium is laying the analytical foundations for a new development strategy that enables a socio-ecological transition to high levels of employment, social inclusion, gender equity and environmental sustainability. The four year research project within the 7th Framework Programme funded by the European Commission started in April 2012. The consortium brings together researchers from 33 scientific institutions in 12 European countries and is coordinated by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). Project coordinator is Karl Aiginger, director of WIFO.

For details on WWWforEurope see: www.foreurope.eu

### Contact for information

**Kristin Smeral**

WWWforEurope – Project Management Office

WIFO – Austrian Institute of Economic Research

Arsenal, Objekt 20

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