



URBACT IV, the call for Action Planning Networks and Irish interest!

Spanish Info Day
8th Feb 2023

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URBACT



Co-funded by
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Irish target audience

31 local authorities

Irish urban areas in URBACT vary drastically in size and context;

Examples of past participants

Cities such as Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford

Compartments of larger urban areas, e.g. Dún Laoghaire

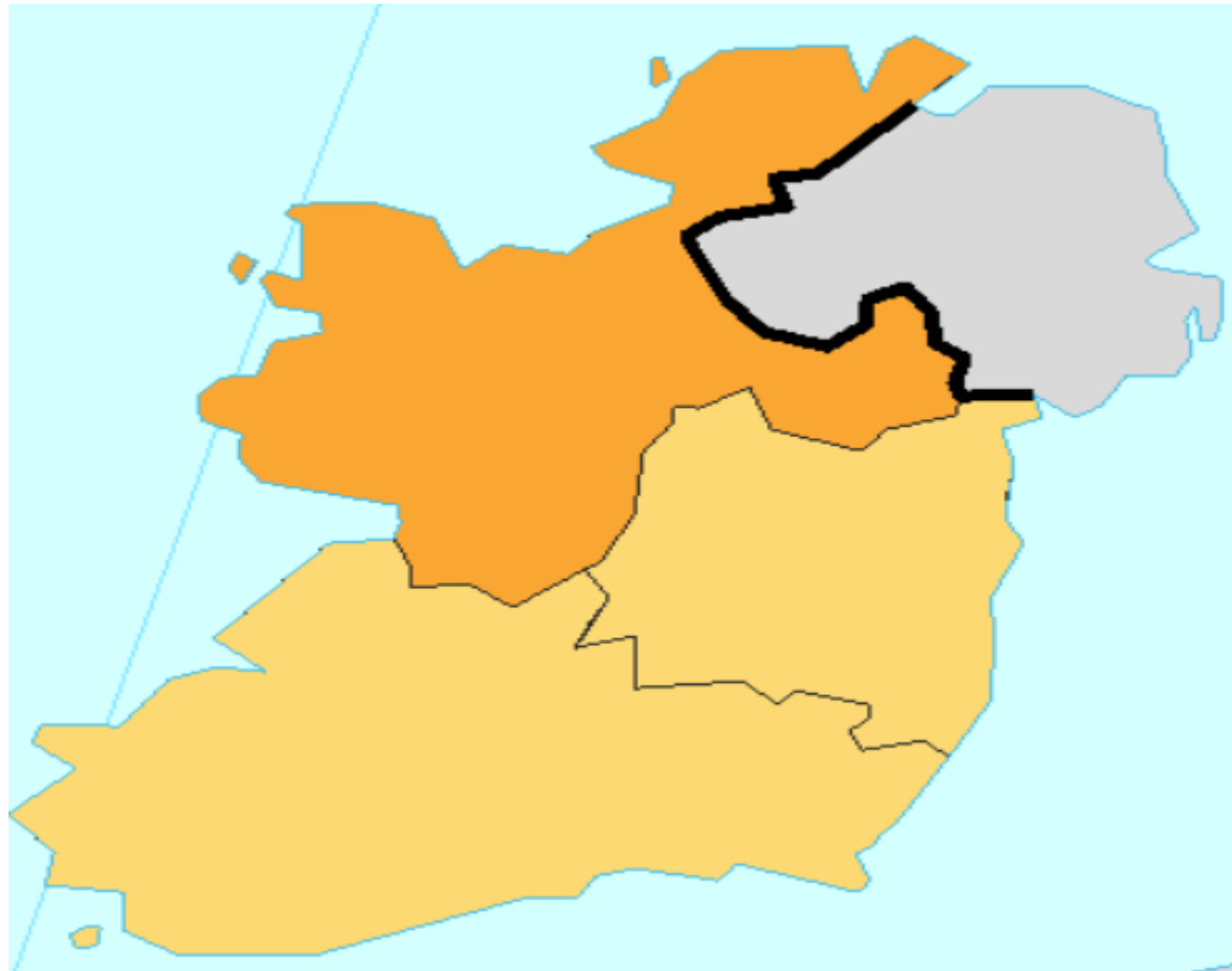
Large regional towns such as Balbriggan, Naas, Athy, Kilkenny, Carlow, Portlaoise, Sligo and Longford

Smaller towns like Trim, Donegal, Rathdrum

Irish Reach

- Geographical spread improved under URBACT III
- 17 Irish Networks
- Especially seeking to encourage applicants from those Local Authorities not yet involved





Driving change for better cities

**Brief examples from
Irish partners during
URBACT III**

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Urban agriculture for resilient cities

RU:Rban's Good Practice is the Management model of Urban gardens in Rome to be transferred to newcomer cities that are geographically, historically and socio-culturally distant from each other.



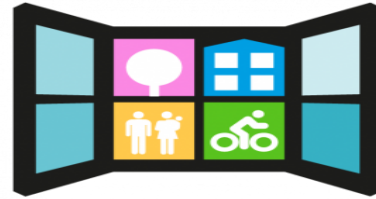
Linking green infrastructure design and management to urban health policies and practices

The project focuses on physical and mental health benefits of urban greenspaces, as well as their role in improving social health and air quality and reducing heat stress in cities. Actions targeted by the network are linked to both physical changes to the urban environment and the promotion of social activities such as community, cultural, education and physical activity programs in green areas.



Military Assets as Public Spaces

The Action Planning network MAPS (Military Assets as Public Spaces) was focused on enhancing former military heritage as key elements for sustainable urban strategies, combining both functional and social aspects. Highlighting the potential of the dismissed military areas can be deemed as the new symbols of a more conscious and participatory urban planning.



[National Practice Transfer Initiative (NPTI)

NPTI functions similarly to URBACT Transfer networks

Our lead city of Cork (best practice) (pop. ~160k) transferred the *Playful Paradigm* good practices to our partner towns

Partner towns

- Rathdrum: pop. 1,663
- Donegal Town: 2,618
- Rush: 9,921
- Sligo Town: 19,199
- Portlaoise: 22,050

Initiative occurred for 18 months (June 2021 - December 2022)



Limerick City and County Council

- In the South West of Ireland
- Most Developed Region
- Past URBACT participants

Interested in projects on enhancing the physical and mental well-being of (sub)urban residents by enhancing green/blue space and infrastructure.

Key words; place-making, nature based solutions, community, green blue infrastructure, biodiversity, climate change, education, learning, physical and mental well-being, physical activity.

[Cork City Council and Cork County Council

- One of two local authorities in County Cork.
- Geographically largest county in Ireland
- Most Developed Region
- Past URBACT participants
- Food and Urban Agriculture: Cork Food Policy Council is exploring the development of a Food Innovation Hub – a cooperative for sustainable and healthy food growing in the city. At very early stages of this and feeling is that an URBACT Action Planning Network would help in learning from or with other cities.
- **Healthy Ireland Themes-positive Mental Health-Smart Healthy City**

Clare County Council

- In the South West of Ireland
- Most Developed Region
- Not a past URBACT participant

Clare's Community Food and Health Project.

Building capacity in community for 'growing', 'cooking' and 'eating'

Encouraging local food production- highlighting it's benefits (health, climate and economic)

Promoting 'food sharing' reducing food poverty and food waste

Longford County Council

- Northern Midlands
- Most Developed Region
- Past URBACT participants

Interested at looking at Town Centre First, addressing vacancy and dereliction and affordable housing.

Our town centres have a changing role in society and in order to bring activity back into the town centres

Would like to explore opportunities around affordable housing and other initiatives that would encourage people to live, work and socialise in our town centre. This may also look at the social infrastructure.

Meath County Council

- Just outside of Dublin
- Most Developed Region
- Past URBACT participants

Interest in the the area of energy transition to renewable energy.

A potential policy challenge is how to empower local communities to create & sustain community owned renewable energy schemes.

Fingal County Council

- **One of 4 Dublin Local Authorities**
- **Most Developed Region**
- **Past URBACT participants**
- **Economic Corridor: network is kind of closed.**
- **Sustainable Urban Tourism-based on a town within Fingal. Yet to be more defined**

Wicklow County Council

- **Just outside of Dublin**
- **Most Developed Region**
- **Past URBACT participants**
- **Activity Healthy Smart City**
- **Bray is a large town with approximately 33,000 inhabitants.**
- **Selected as 1 of 19 sites in Ireland to become a 'Healthy Community'.**
- **An evidenced based process identified local areas in which health and wellbeing risk factors are particularly concentrated and where particular initiatives will be delivered to help promote and improve overall health and wellbeing**

Roscommon County Council

- North-West of Ireland
- Region in Transition
- Not a past URBACT participant

An Bealach - Digital Creative Entrepreneurship and Education Hub

Over the past five years Ballaghaderreen has identified the creative industries as its vision for regeneration and sustainable growth. Regeneration of the town through digital innovation and inclusion.

The Creative Hub will provide the Western Region with a collaborative work environment incorporating a mixture of dedicated and shared/open plan workspaces, together with Visual creation + Co-Creation Spaces.

It is hoped the reconfigured facility will attract and retain young talent with transferrable skills to the region

Sligo County Council

- North-West of Ireland
- Region in Transition
- Past URBACT participants

Play as means of enhancing social integration between different groups in society, be it kids from disadvantaged areas or international migrants

**North-West of Ireland
Region in Transition
Not a past URBACT participant**

The Great Yellow Bumblebee is classified as 'Endangered' on the Irish Red List, and 'Vulnerable' at European level. Connected to the loss of flower rich habitats affecting these and other pollinators.

Farmer actions include delayed mowing, no summer grazing on flora rich habitats such as machair and traditional managed flora rich meadows and leaving linear features ungrazed/unmowed till later in the summer.