

# Alliance for Urban Sustainability



Supporting SDG 11 and the EU Approach to Urban Sustainability



# What is the Alliance?

The Alliance exemplifies the initiatives envisioned in the French and Swedish Strategic Partnership for Innovation and Green Solutions.

**The Alliance for Urban Sustainability is a platform to enable cities to identify and adopt innovative sustainable urban solutions by examining issues of common concern and exchanging ideas and experience.**

- We are composed of like-minded cities interested in sharing knowledge about what works and what does not work.
- We aim to foster international partnerships leading to learning, increased experience and improved support for sustainable solutions to problems in urban areas.
- We are a network of peers from urban areas that strive to exchange knowledge and find solutions to common challenges.
- Our partnerships provide a testbed and an opportunity for hands-on experimentation with innovative solutions.
- Our workshops enable in-depth discussions on topics of common interest and net-working, leading to long-term collaborative relationships.



## What do we do?

The Alliance members share a platform for knowledge exchange and learning.

- We provide a knowledge-sharing platform for cutting-edge initiatives in the field of sustainable urban development.
- We engage leaders from the participating, cities, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders.
- We work with political decision makers, urban managers, academic centres and businesses.
- We work collaboratively, sharing
  - Approaches
  - Methods
  - Tools
- University collaboration
- The network promotes exchange between universities in the network cities. Researchers collaborate to address specific challenges of concern to the cities.



# Sustainable solutions for urban areas through partnerships

## **Innovation gateways**

The focus of this topic is on sharing, testing and further developing methods for systematically driving innovation and involving a variety of different actors to support sustainable urban development. Network cities aim to share, study, test and adapt case studies, culminating in a best-practices report on systematic approaches to stimulating innovation that aims to improve urban sustainability.

## **Equity and environmental justice in urban efforts to address climate change**

Conventional approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban areas focus on the physical and technical dimensions of the challenge, often resulting in negative effects on vulnerable social groups. The objective of this work is to define a more humanized concept of mitigation and adaptation and to examine ways to design environmental justice-oriented methods for testing by network cities.

## **Sustainable Urban Development Indicators**

The network is developing a common set of indicators for exploring and communicating progress as leaders in sustainable urban development. Where are we leading, where do we need to do more work? The topic ties closely to the cities' efforts to address the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **Engaging citizens to promote sustainable behaviour**

The aim of collaboration on this topic is to identify and evaluate methods and tools for cities to engage citizens in dialogue, focusing on:

- Educating and motivating citizens to influence attitudes and behaviour
- Enabling citizens to contribute to urban planning and development, to create contexts that 'make it easy to do the right thing'.



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