

THE EU CITIES GATEWAY PROGRAM

2025-2028

Connecting cities and regions across the
Atlantic to address shared challenges



WHY THE EU CITIES GATEWAY PROGRAM?

What do the cities of **Toronto (Canada)**, **Atlanta (USA)**, **Barcelona (Spain)**, and **Tampere (Finland)** all have in common?

Their citizens are struggling to find affordable housing, and their local governments are working hard to create more livable spaces — all while facing new pressures such as rising heatwaves, heavier floods, and rapid digital transformation.

Now, imagine what happens when these cities learn from one another — when Toronto's approach to green building meets Barcelona's modular housing innovations, or when Tampere's digital tools inspire new solutions in Atlanta?

That is the power of EU Cities Gateway, which brings European, US, and Canadian cities and regions together to shape and share practical solutions for today's urban challenges.

Building on the success of the **International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) North America program**, EU Cities Gateway fosters long-term partnerships between local and regional governments, businesses, civil society, and knowledge institutions.



BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

How it works

EU Cities Gateway brings together cities and regions from both sides of the Atlantic in four thematic clusters to explore solutions and launch pilot actions.

Thematic clusters



Circular Economy



Nature-Based Solutions



Digitalization and Innovation



Affordable and Attainable Housing and Innovative Living Spaces

Benefits for cities and regions

EU Cities Gateway offers cities the space to connect, innovate, and lead on the global stage – opening doors to new ideas, partnerships, and impact.



Gain international visibility



Learn from colleagues around the world



Test and scale innovative solutions



Access knowledge and networks

Joint activities include

- Study visits in Europe and North America
- Webinars and workshops
- Online and in-person thematic cluster events
- Co-created pilot projects tackling urban challenges



OUR NETWORK OF CITIES AND PARTNERS

In the summer of 2025, **32 cities and regions** from the European Union, Canada, and the United States joined the **EU Cities Gateway Program** through an open call. Together, they form the heart of the initiative — a vibrant cohort working across four thematic clusters through study visits, peer learning, and hands-on pilot projects.

But the Gateway does not stop there. Beyond this core group, the **EU Cities Gateway Community** brings together a wider circle of cities, regions, and institutions eager to exchange ideas and collaborate across the Atlantic.

Since 2017, more than **150 cities** across North America and Europe have taken part in EU-funded cooperation programs. Building on this experience, the Community reconnects with past participants and welcomes new partners – even in other regions of the world through the ongoing **International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programs in Latin America and Asia/Australasia**.

Members can join webinars, thematic events, and knowledge-sharing sessions, gaining access to new ideas, practical tools, and inspiring examples from their colleagues. They can also take part in selected in-person exchanges, connecting directly with experts and practitioners who are shaping the cities of tomorrow.

Become part of the EU Cities Gateway Community to exchange knowledge, gain new perspectives, and access innovative solutions that make cities more livable and resilient.

Connect with peers across the Atlantic, share your experience, and take part in online and in-person activities that turn ideas into action.

Keep in touch



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