



WHO WE ARE

HISTORY

Eurotowns was first established in 1991. Since that time it has developed into a Europe-wide network of cities with populations between 50,000 and 250,000.

Towns and cities of this size play a significant role in the economic and social life of Europe. The Eurotowns network aims to ensure that this fact is properly reflected in the development of European legislation. Currently, seventeen medium-sized cities from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom are members of the network.

MISSION

Eurotowns supports medium-sized cities in Europe to strengthen their role as attractive, inclusive and sustainable places.

The network wants to give voice to medium-sized cities within the representative bodies of the European Union (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, and Committee of the Regions).

Our specific aims are to:

- reinforce the dialogue between cities from different European regions;
- raise the awareness of institutional, political, economical and civil society partners about the process of European integration and European policies (Europe 2020) that are of particular relevance to the network;
- develop concrete actions and projects;
- give voice to best practices and to innovative policies proposals promoted by European cities;
- contribute to the strategy, to the debate and to the preparation of cities for new European programmes.



OUR STRUCTURE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly consists of all members of the network and meets once a year. It debates and decides the network's overall programme of work and policy direction for the future, based on recommendations made by the Executive Council. The General Assembly also provides a forum for policy debate and establishes the basis for the definition of the network's political agenda.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council comprises the President, the two Vice-Presidents and a maximum of five other members of the Eurotowns network. It monitors the programme of work and ensures the implementation of all General Assembly decisions. The Executive Council meets on a trimestrial basis and promotes networking actions and partnership enlargement.

TASK TEAMS

The main work of the network is delivered through Task Teams. They:

- carry out the work programme based on priorities and challenges as agreed by the General Assembly and the Executive Council;
- develop and implement projects and activities focused on specific thematic priorities through a variety of means including workshops, round tables, events and associated activities.
- identify and access external sources of finance for projects and activities.

Task Teams receive network funding in order to develop project ideas, organise events and commission studies and research.



EUROTOWNS
THE EUROPEAN NETWORK
FOR MEDIUM SIZED CITIES

BECOME A NEW MEMBER

CREATIVE AND CULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH TASK TEAM

The European Union has affirmed the importance and the potential of the cultural and creative sector as a

source of economic growth and jobs. This Task Team is exploring ways of unlocking the potential of this sector as a driver for innovation, economic inclusion and growth in our respective cities, and is collaborating on seeking EU funding to support the delivery of agreed shared priorities.

INNOVATION TASK TEAM

The aim of this Task Team is to prepare innovation-related development activities and projects within the current EU programme period. We want to learn through study visits, identifying best practice as well as testing online methods for sharing knowledge and dialogue between members.

MOBILITY TASK TEAM

Mobility is a priority on the policy agenda of most of the Eurotowns cities. We work on achieving the right balance between safety for our cities' residents and visitors, transport choices and, of course, sustainability and financial viability. The Task Team addresses different mobility policy aspects relating to our cities by exchanging knowledge, organising master classes and participating in EU funded projects.

SOCIAL INCLUSION TASK TEAM

The objective of this Task Team is to work in line with the EU goal "Growth for all". We focus on migration, combating poverty and social exclusion.

WHY NETWORKING?

City networking is a well recognised and valuable mechanism for reinforcing European cohesion. Participation in the Eurotowns network enables representation of local government at the European level and provides a firm framework for promoting innovation and exchanging transnational experiences.

The main benefits of the Eurotowns network are:

- exchange of experience and know-how;
- opportunities to engage in mutually beneficial partnership activity;
- sharing of information of common interest;
- articulating the priorities and concerns of medium-sized cities at a European level.

WHY EUROTOWNS?

Eurotowns is the only network for cities of populations between 50,000 and 250,000, which gives it a unique position within the EU.

Cities of this size share similar problems and conditions, and the network promotes a rewarding and effective exchange of knowledge and experience that benefits member cities individually and collectively.

The Eurotowns structure enables politicians and municipal experts to work productively together on areas of common interest, and the united voice of the Eurotowns network helps to strengthen the position and influence of local authorities at a European level.

Eurotowns facilitates productive and mutually beneficial activity focusing on a range of thematic priorities through the Task Team structure.

Last but not least, it provides a valuable mechanism for building reliable partnerships, developing innovative and sustainable projects, and effective collaboration on funding applications.

MEMBERSHIP

Interested? Apply to become a new member and experience the benefits yourself! The first year's membership is free, which gives you the opportunity to learn more about the network from the inside.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

From the second year onwards we ask an annual fee of € 3500.

We use the principle of "return on investment" to stimulate members to become active.

All members benefit from the network by sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences and working together in EU projects. Members who participate in Task Team activities also receive 50% reimbursement of travel and hotel expenditures.

CONTACT

For more information please visit our website:

<http://eurotowns.org>

or contact the secretariat of Eurotowns:

info@eurotowns.org