



Urban Innovative Actions



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Main objectives



Art.8 ERDF: “...*To identify and test new solutions which address issues related to sustainable urban development and are of relevance at Union level.*”

- To provide urban authorities with resources to test how new and unproven solutions work in practice and how they respond to the complexity of real life
- To draw lessons and share knowledge with other urban authorities across Europe



Management structure



European Commission (DG Regio): represents the European Union. In charge of implementing resources allocated to Innovative Actions under indirect management.

Entrusted Entity: Region Hauts-de-France. In charge of the implementation of the UJA Initiative on the basis of the Delegated Act and the Delegation Agreement signed with the EC.

Permanent Secretariat: Based in Lille. In charge of the daily management of the UJA Initiative. It is the “one-stop-shop” for all urban authorities and stakeholders.



Key figures & funding principles



UIA budget:	EUR 372 Mio ERDF
ERDF per project:	max. EUR 5 Mio ERDF
ERDF rate:	max. 80%
Partner contribution: <i>private/public</i> <i>in-kind/in cash</i> <i>own resources or not</i>	min. 20%
Project duration:	max. 3 years (+1)
ERDF advance payment:	50% on signature of the subsidy contract 30% when expenses reach 35% of budget 20% max. after closure (= pre-financing)

Thematic coverage



- Thematic alignment of UIA with the urban topics identified in the framework of the EU Urban Agenda
- Limited number of topics selected by the Commission for each UIA Call for Proposals
- Detailed description of the topics selected for each Call in the specific Terms of Reference



Main features of UIA projects



Requirements:

- Be related to sustainable urban development
- Be of relevance at EU level
- Support the thematic objectives and investment priorities for ERDF

Characteristics:

- **Innovative:** *To what extent the project proposal is a new solution that has the clear potential to add value?*
- **Built and delivered in partnership:** *To what extent is the involvement of key stakeholders relevant for the implementation of the project?*
- **With measurable results:** *To what extent will the project deliver measurable results?*
- **Transferable:** *To what extent will the project be transferable to other urban areas across Europe?*
- **Of good quality:** *To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent? To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?*

Focus on Innovation



- Agreed definition: « **Products, services and processes able to add value to the specific policy field and never been tested before in Europe** »
- 2 main elements:
 - Focus on **products, services and processes**
 - **Never been tested before in Europe** (spot, support and capitalize on most innovative projects in Europe)
- 2 typologies:
 - **Revolutionary**: totally new approaches never tested before
 - **Evolutionary**:
 - ✓ Building on and combining traditional elements to create new meanings
 - ✓ Changing scale
 - ✓ Testing traditional approaches with different target groups
- **Complex set of actions**
 - Average number of actions proposed: between 5 and 10
 - Not all actions can be innovative
 - Challenge 1: ensure the centrality of innovative elements
 - Challenge 2: ensure the overall coherence and integration

Focus on Partnership

Delivery Partners:

- ✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations that will have an active role in the implementation of the project
- ✓ Able to bring knowledge and expertise into project design and implementation
- ✓ Responsible for the delivery of specific activities and the production of the related deliverables/outputs
- ✓ Dedicated budget and local co-financing
- ✓ To be selected through fair and transparent procedures

Wider group of stakeholders:

- ✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations without an active role but that can be involved in the design and implementation of the project
- ✓ No dedicated budget
- ✓ No official status of partner
- ✓ Urban authorities shall design mechanism to ensure their involvement

UIA partnership at a glance



Wider group of stakeholders

Associated
Urban
Authority A

Main
Urban
Authority

Associated
Urban
Authority B

Delivery
Partner 1

Delivery
Partner 2

Delivery
Partner 3

Delivery
Partner ...

Delivery
Partner X

Wider group of stakeholders

Focus on measurability



- ✓ Measurability part of the philosophy of creating urban laboratories in each selected city
- ✓ Importance of defining parameters and indicators (especially at the level of results)
- ✓ Monitoring and measurement to be designed as part of a learning loop (continuous improvement of strategy and actions being implemented) for urban authorities
- ✓ Methodologies and techniques can be particularly innovative (e.g. theory of change, Randomised Control Trials, use of big data, etc.)



Next Call



- ✓ Call 4: October 2018-January 2019
- ✓ 4 Topics: Digital transition
Sustainable use of land, nature based solutions
Urban Security
Urban Poverty
- ✓ Budget: EUR 80-100m ERDF



For more information



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