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Portugal's Urban Agenda Engagement and EUI Opportunities – The Role of UCP



National **Urban Contact Point** for the EUI

Marta Magalhães

Directorate-General for Territory (DGT)



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Urban Agenda for the EU

Urban Agenda for the European Union



◆ A political commitment by EU Member States (2016)

The **Urban Agenda for the European Union (UAEU)** is an intergovernmental declaration signed by EU Member States, launched with the **Pact of Amsterdam** in 2016. It proposes a new way of working together on urban policies, based on cooperation across different levels of governance and sectors.

◆ Political reinforcement and continuity (2021)

The UAEU was reinforced in 2021 by the **Ljubljana Agreement**, an initiative of the EU Council Presidency Trio of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, which renewed the Member States' commitment to its principles and objectives.

◆ Joining efforts to address urban challenges

The UAEU promotes an **integrated approach** and **multilevel governance**, involving local, regional, national authorities and European institutions around key themes **of sustainable urban development**

◆ New implementation support: European Urban Initiative (EUI)

Since 2023, the implementation of the UAEU has been supported by the **European Urban Initiative (EUI)**, which provides technical and logistical support to the Thematic Partnerships



Strategic References of the UAEU



Pact of Amsterdam (2016)

Foundational document of the UAEU. Sets out its **objectives, principles and priority themes**



New Leipzig Charter (2020)

Adopted under the German EU Council Presidency. Sets out a shared vision for **sustainable urban development** in Europe



Ljubljana Agreement (2021)

Strengthens Member States' political commitment to the UAEU and defines priorities for the 2021–2027 period, including **alignment with the EU**



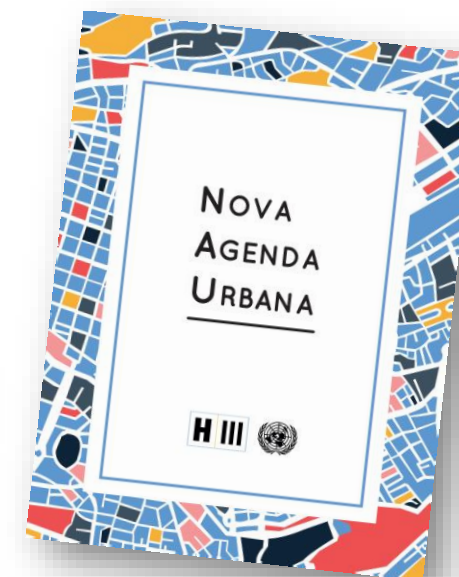
Territorial Agenda 2030

An intergovernmental commitment for territorial cohesion, linked to both **urban and rural policies**



New Urban Agenda (UN, 2016)

The UAEU directly contributes to the implementation of the **commitments made under the UN's NAU-Habitat III**





Thematic Partnerships

Thematic Partnerships: the driving force of the UAEU



- ◆ The Thematic Partnerships are the main operational instrument of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Created to address concrete urban challenges, they foster structured collaboration between urban authorities, national governments, EU institutions and other stakeholders.
- ◆ Each partnership focuses on a priority theme of sustainable urban development proposing concrete measures to improve regulation, access to funding, and technical knowledge
- ◆ They are platforms for collaborative work, based on a model of multilevel and cross-sectoral governance that brings together all levels of governance
- ◆ They strengthen the role of cities and regions as strategic actors in European governance by:
 - ✓ Enabling the exchange of experiences and good practices between urban authorities from different Member States
 - ✓ Promoting institutional capacity-building and mutual learning
 - ✓ Creating European cooperation networks, often lasting beyond the formal end of the partnerships
 - ✓ Feeding into the EU policy cycle with evidence-based contributions rooted in territorial realities



20 Thematic Partnerships since 2016



◆ 8 ongoing partnerships, launched between 2019 and 2024:



◆ 12 completed partnerships, with action plans published between 2016 and 2022:



Interactive Map of the UAEU Thematic Partnerships

◆ **Interactive Map** now available, with detailed information about:

- ✓ Discover who is involved in each partnership
- ✓ Search by country or theme
- ✓ Visualise national and local stakeholders across Europe

<https://urbanagenda.github.io/UAEU-Thematic-Partnerships/>



Portuguese Participation

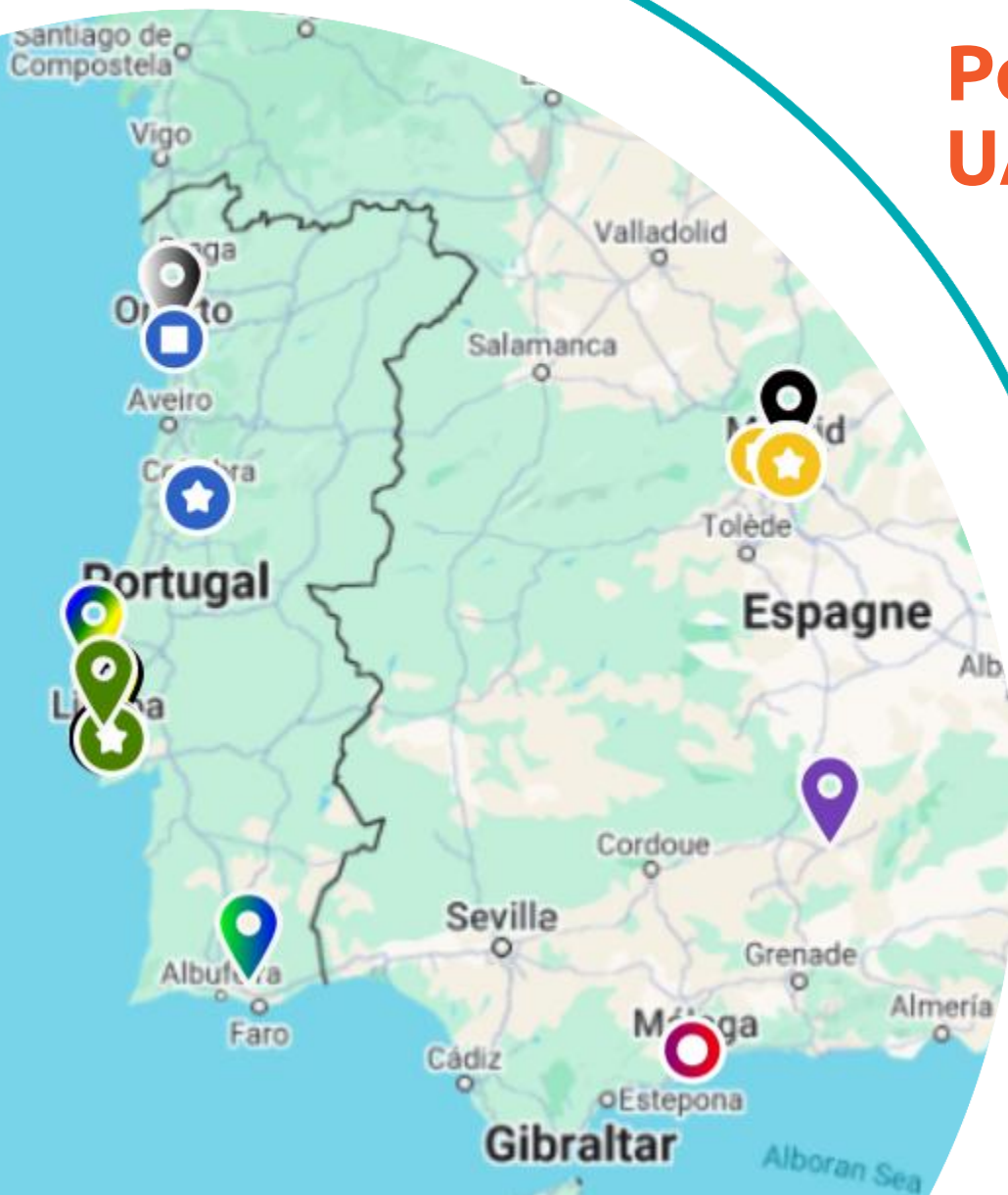


Portuguese Participation in the UAEU Thematic Partnerships

◆ 12 out of 20 Thematic Partnerships with active participation from Portuguese authorities

◆ 2nd most represented Member State, tied with France, only surpassed by Italy

◆ Diversity of participants: municipalities, 1 metropolitan area, 1 intermunicipal community, national authorities and others



Urban Authorities and Other Portuguese Participants



◆ Participation in ongoing partnerships

- ✓ **Lisbon Metropolitan Area** – Food (coordinator) and Greening Cities (partner)
- ✓ **Coimbra Region Intermunicipal Community** – Water-Sensitive Cities (coordinator) and Sustainable Tourism (partner)
- ✓ **Águas e Energia do Porto** – Water-Sensitive Cities (partner)
- ✓ **Central Administration** – Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (partner)

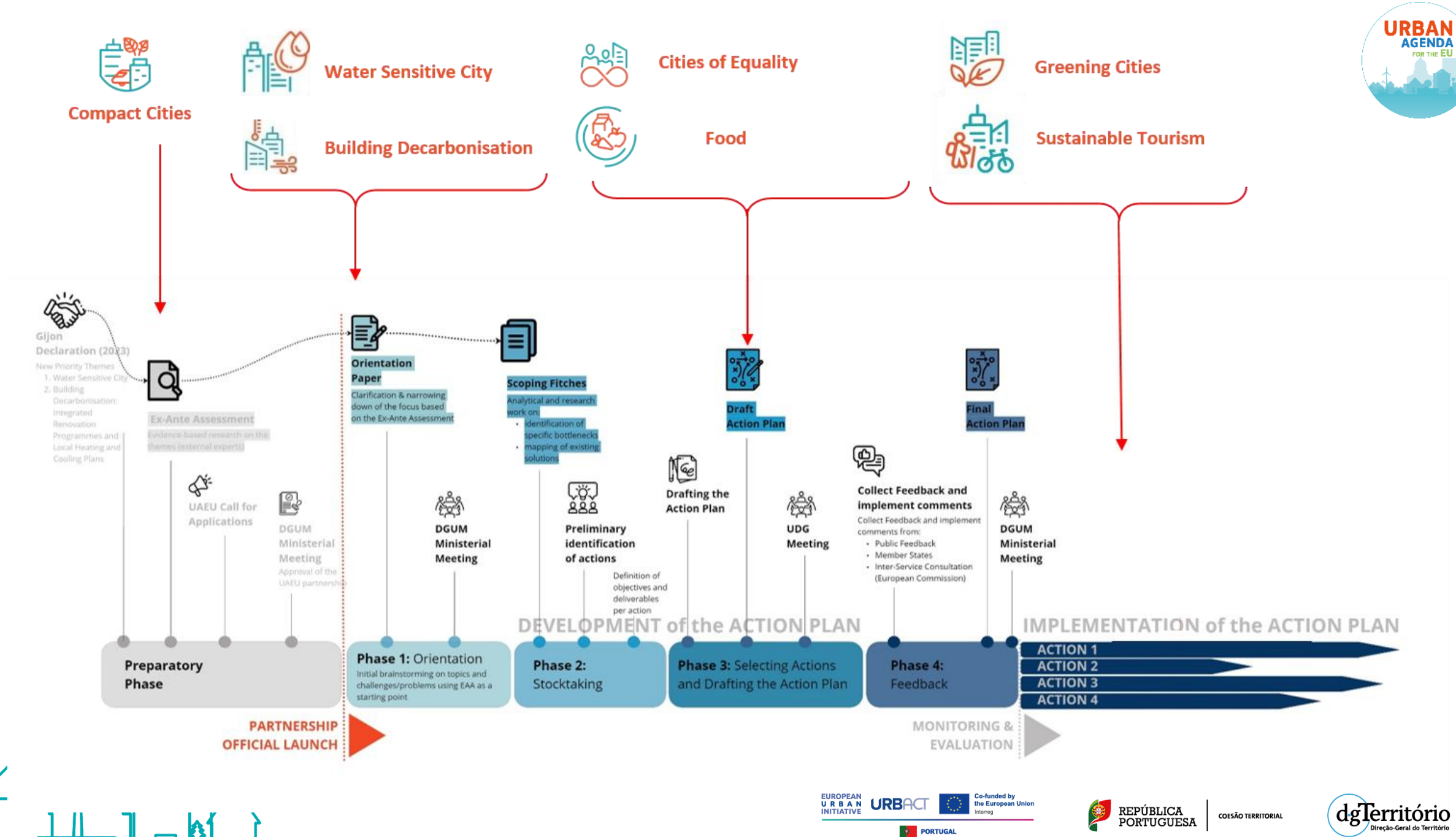
◆ Participation in concluded partnerships

- ✓ **Coimbra Region Intermunicipal Community** – Culture and Cultural Heritage (partner)
- ✓ **Municipality of Lisbon** – Housing (partner)
- ✓ **Municipality of Porto** – Circular Economy (partner) and Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy (partner)
- ✓ **Municipality of Torres Vedras** – Urban Mobility (partner)
- ✓ **Municipality of Loulé** – Climate Adaptation (partner)
- ✓ **Central Administration** – Sustainable Land Use (partner)





Ongoing Thematic Partnerships





European Urban Initiative (EUI)

€450 million ERDF
for **2021–2027**

The European Urban Initiative (EUI)

- The European Urban Initiative (EUI) is an **EU instrument managed by the European Commission's** Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
- The EUI has a total budget of **€450 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the 2021–2027** programming period
- The EUI **supports cities of all sizes, to build capacity and knowledge, to support innovation and develop transferable and scalable innovative solutions to urban challenges of EU relevance**
- The EUI provides a **renewed model of support for the Thematic Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU**, aiming to:
 - ✓ Ensure **more stable and predictable working conditions**
 - ✓ Guarantee **greater continuity** in results delivery
 - ✓ **Reduce the operational burden on partners**

Institutional Reinforcement of the UAEU Model

- The **implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU is supported by a European consortium coordinated by the EUI Permanent Secretariat**, encouraging more cities and regions to join new partnerships, highlighting the strategic role of urban authorities and strengthening the link between European policies and territorial realities.
- **Services provided by the EUI to the Partnerships:**
 - ✓ Technical coordination by **Technical Partnership Officers (TPOs)**
 - ✓ External expertise for **methodological and thematic support**
 - ✓ **Logistical support** and **travel reimbursements**
 - ✓ Production of **technical materials and thematic reports**
 - ✓ **External communication**, coordination with the European Commission and synergies with other European initiatives

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Innovative Actions

budget: EUR 315 million

Innovative solutions

new, bold, creative and experimental

not previously implemented in EU → benchmarking!

urban authorities

[single urban authority, an organised agglomeration or a grouping of urban authorities]

at least 50 000 inhabitants

[in case of grouping of urban authorities: total combined population]

Max budget per project: EUR 5 million ERDF

Co-financing: 80% ERDF from EUI-IA

Advance payments & simplified costs options

20 %
own
contri-
bution

80 %
ERDF

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dgTerritório
Direção-Geral do Território

Key features

local experimentation

strong project partnership

test in a real urban setting

scalable and transferable

self-sufficient





**Capacity
Building**

Capacity Building

Target: EU cities of all sizes

Ambition: improve the capacities of cities to design and implement sustainable urban development (SUD) strategies, policies and practices in an integrated and participative way



Capacity building Events

Country-specific events

EUI Capacity-Building Event in Portugal
14–15 May 2025, in Fundão

City-to-city exchanges

Bring together an urban authority facing an implementation challenge, and another one or two, who can help tackling this challenge with their expertise and experience

Peer reviews

Art. 11 and Art. 7
Cities review their SUD strategies and get recommendations from peers during a 2-day event. Experts guide cities during the whole process



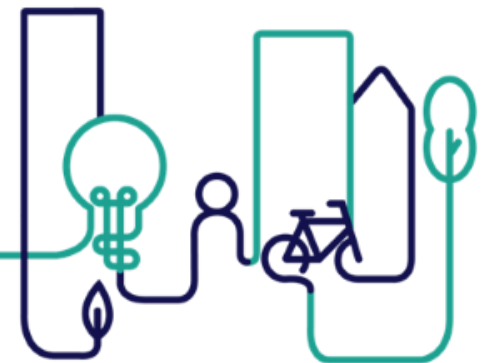


**Knowledge &
Communication**

The diagram features a central text element, 'Knowledge & Communication', enclosed in a rounded rectangle. This central element is surrounded by a circular path defined by two arrows. The top arrow, rendered in a teal color, curves from the right side of the central box, over the top, and points towards the left side. The bottom arrow, rendered in a dark blue color, curves from the left side of the central box, under the bottom, and points towards the right side. These two arrows together create a continuous clockwise loop around the central text. Additionally, a horizontal teal line extends from the right side of the top arrow, and a horizontal dark blue line extends from the left side of the bottom arrow, suggesting connections to other parts of a larger system.

Knowledge & Communication

- **Ambition:** to share and capitalise on knowledge on sustainable urban development, and to provide accessible information and knowledge on sustainable urban development
- Promotion of **policy labs** that will capitalise on the results of EUI activities and foster their effective incorporation into urban policies
- **Online platform 'PORTICO'**, for the collection and dissemination of knowledge from innovative practices, providing information and support to cities to strengthen urban policies across Europe



portico

PORTICO.URBAN-INITIATIVE.EU

The gateway to urban learning

We connect urban actors with knowledge, people and initiatives to achieve sustainable urban development in Europe.

What are you looking for ?



Build your skills and knowledge

Improve your knowledge and capacity learn from inspiring practices, methods and tools

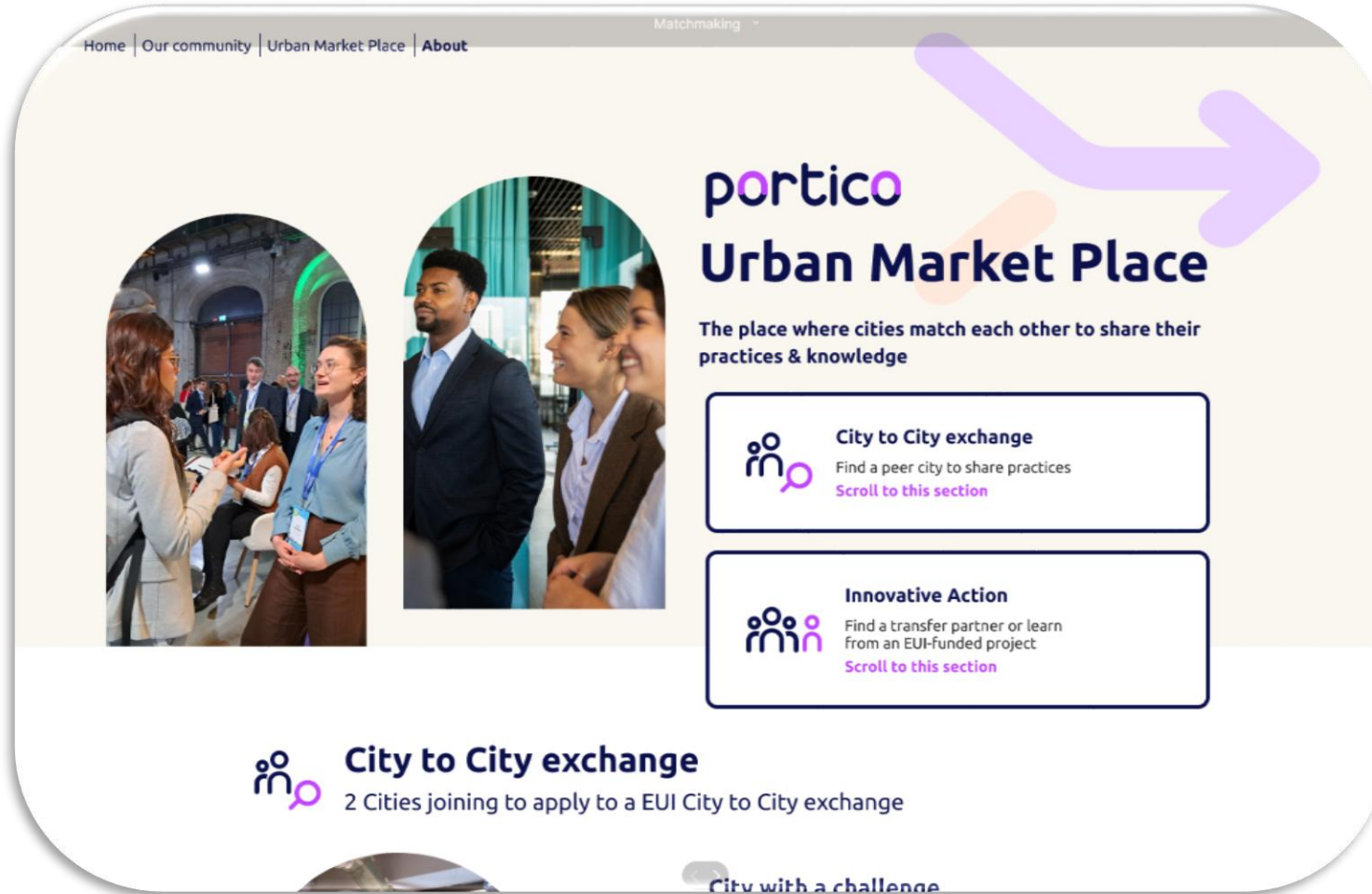


Discover the urban panorama

Connect to the EU initiatives that can guide you in implementing sustainable urban development



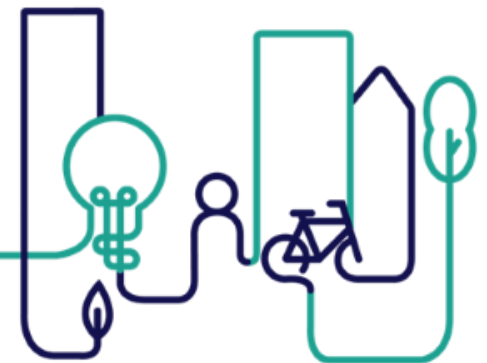
Portico's Matchmaking tool: the Urban Market Place



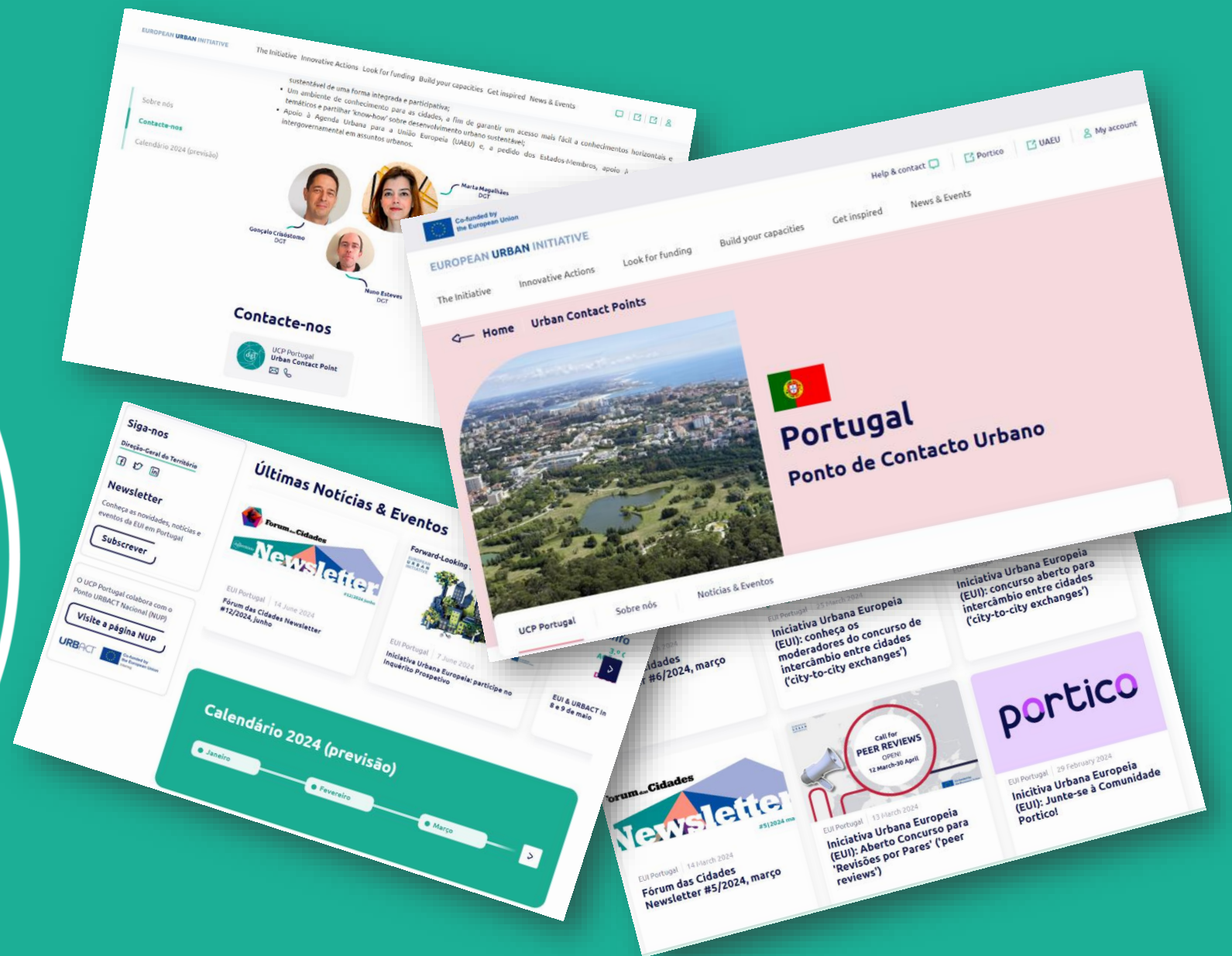


National
**Urban Contact
Point**
for the EUI

- Implementation of the **European Network of Urban Contact Points (UCPs)** for the European Urban Initiative:
- The **Directorate-General for Territory (DGT)** is the **Urban Contact Point for the EUI in Portugal**
- **UCP Portugal facilitates all EUI-related activities**, including: disseminating information about the initiative and the UAEU Partnerships, customizing content for the different national audiences and organizing EUI events in Portugal, promoting synergies and collaboration between stakeholders

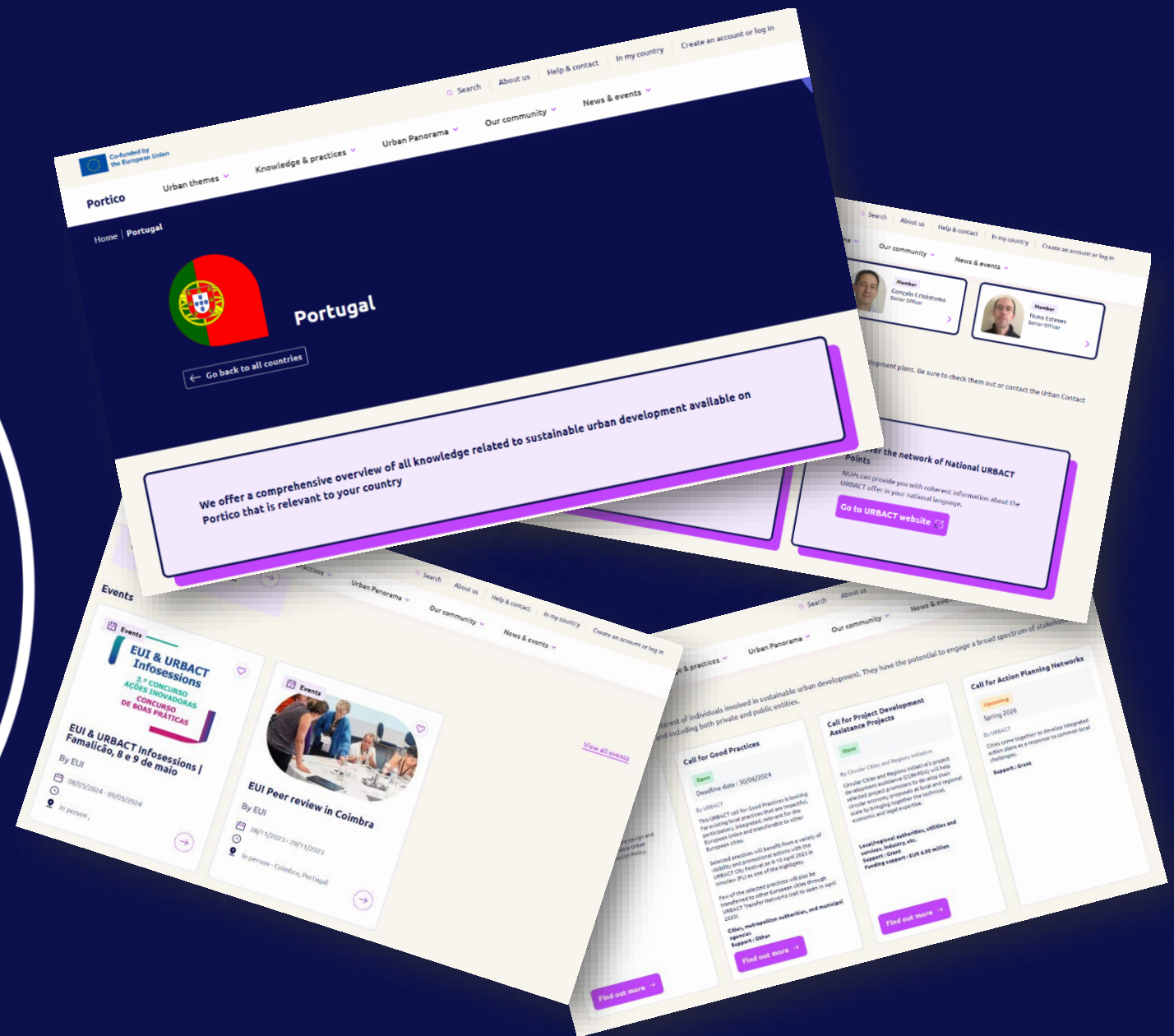


EUI Website UCP Portugal webpage



<https://www.urban-initiative.eu/urban-contact-points/portugal>

Portico's Country Specific Page Portugal



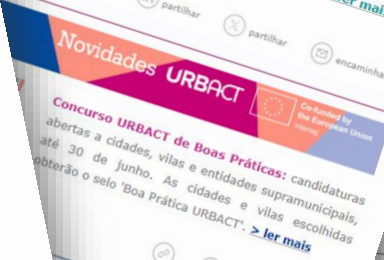
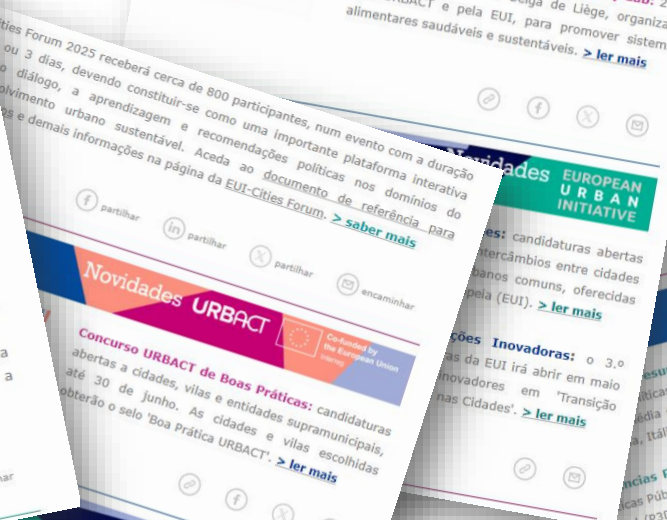
<https://portico.urban-initiative.eu/country-info/PT>



Newsletter

Stay up to date with the latest news, updates and events from the EUI in Portuguese

[Subscribe!](#)



<https://www.forumdascidades.pt/content/newsletter-forum-das-cidades>

Articles and Interviews in *Smart Cities* Magazine

- Collaboration between the **Directorate-General for Territory and *Smart Cities* magazine**, a quarterly publication dedicated to smart and sustainable cities



Smart Cities #46 – January/February/March 2025
Article on the **Water Sensitive Cities Partnership**
Author: Marta Magalhães
Interview with: Jorge Brito,
Secretary-General of Coimbra Region CIM

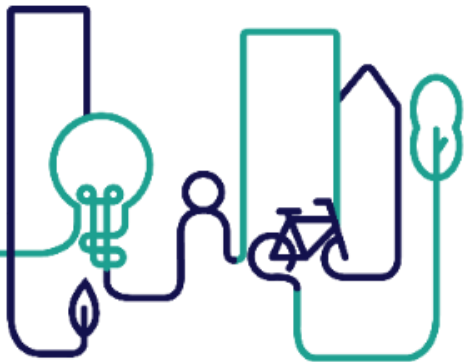


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EUI Infosession – Urban Agenda for the EU Partnerships

Past event

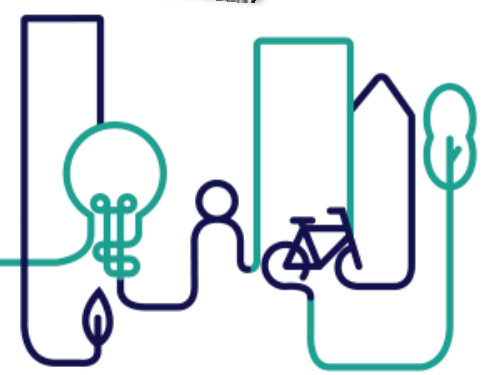
Lisbon, 6 May 2025



- Organised by the **Directorate-General for Territory** in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon (AML) Auditorium
- Focus on **Thematic Partnerships and EUI support 2021–2027**
- Opening by AML and DGT high-level representatives
- UCP PT Presentation on UAEU and Portugal's participation
- Roundtable with Portuguese partners:
 - **AML** – Food (coord.) & Greening Cities Partnerships
 - **Coimbra Region CIM** – Water Sensitive Cities (coord.), Tourism, Culture and Cultural Heritage Partnerships
 - **Municipality of Lisbon** – Housing Partnership
 - **Municipality of Torres Vedras** – Urban Mobility Partnership

 Session recording available [here](#)

**EUI & URBACT
Infosessions**
PARCERIAS DA AGENDA
URBANA PARA A UE
CONCURSO PARA REDES
DE TRANSFERÊNCIA
Lisboa, 6 de maio de 2025



UCP Portugal

Upcoming dates



- **EUI Capacity-Building Event in Portugal**
14–15 May 2025, in Fundão

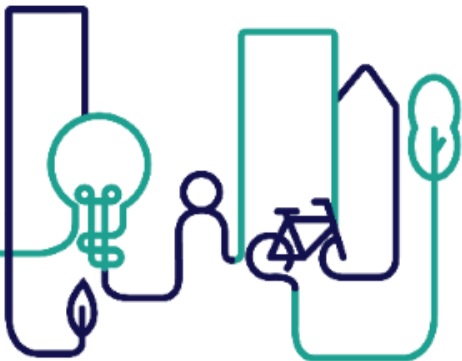
👉 free participation, register [here](#)



- **Atlantic Axis European Conference – Funding Opportunities to Innovate the Way We Think about Our Cities**
29 May 2025, in Betanzos, Spain

- **Cities Forum 2025**
17–19 June 2025,
in Kraków, Poland

👉 free participation, register
citiesforum2025.eu



UCP Portugal: Meet the Team



Gonçalo Crisóstomo
DGT



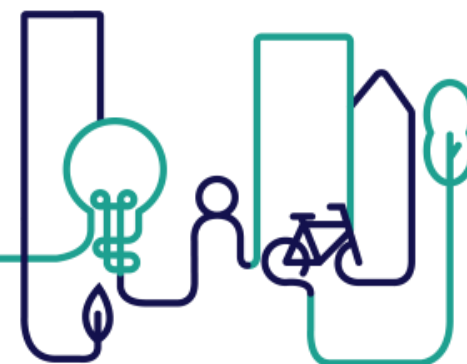
Marta Magalhães
DGT - coordinator



Nuno Esteves
DGT

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