

CITIES FORUM KRAKOW

17-19 JUNE 2025



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PT Breakout Room | Cities Forum 2025



Portugal **Urban Contact Point** for the EUI

Marta Magalhães (coordinator)
Directorate-General for Territory (DGT)



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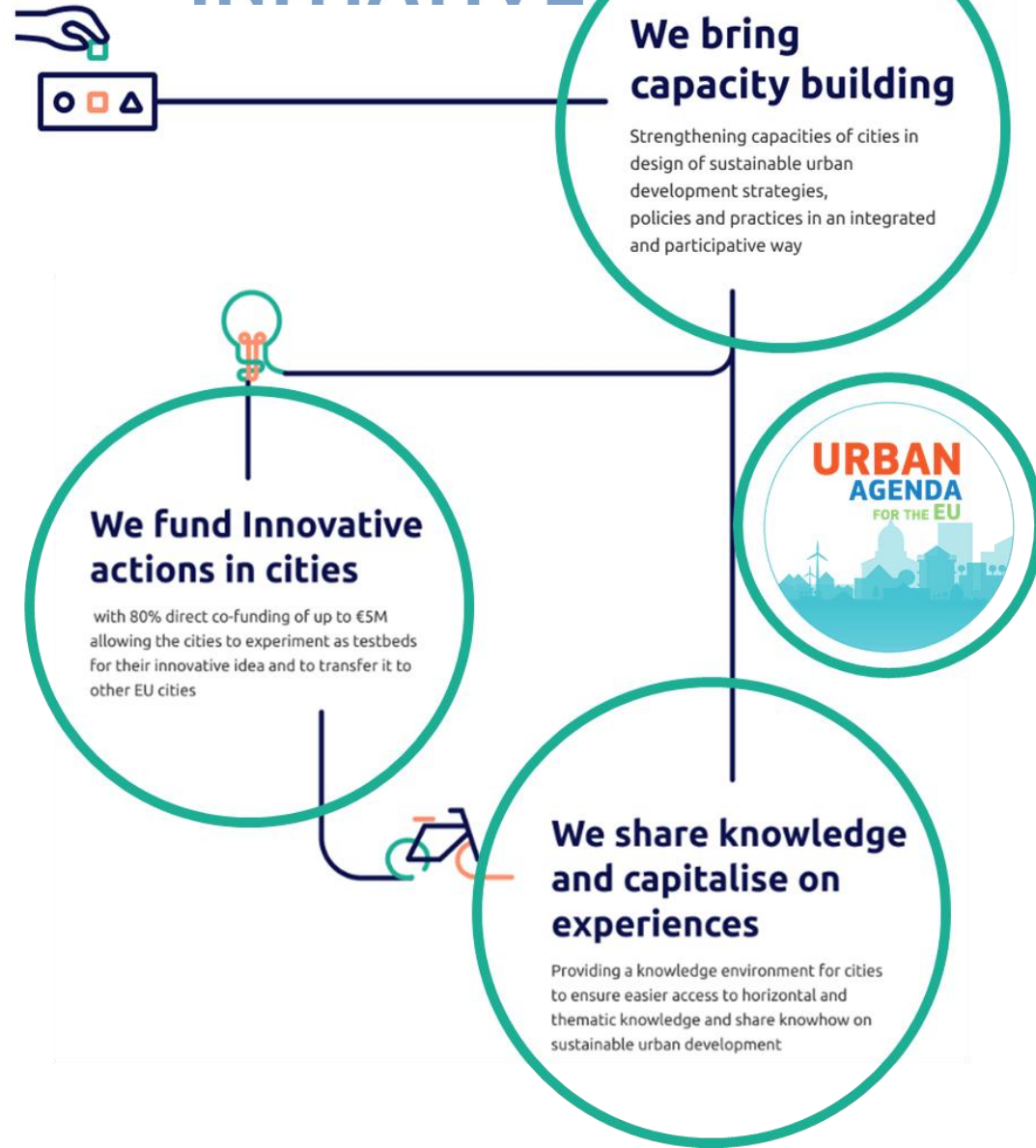
European Urban Initiative (EUI)

€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 consolidates initiatives from the previous programming period:
 - ✓ Integrates and continues the **Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)**
 - ✓ Incorporates the functions of the **Urban Development Network (UDN)**
 - ✓ Directly supports the implementation of the **Urban Agenda for the EU**

EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE



➤ The EUI is structured around **three key strands**:

- ✓ **Innovative Actions**
- ✓ **Capacity Building**
- ✓ **Knowledge & Communication**

By combining these strands, the EUI represents the most comprehensive framework for supporting urban innovation across the EU, offering **direct funding, technical support, and knowledge-sharing to cities**

**Our final goal :
sustainable urban
development in
Europe !**



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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



self-sufficient



Innovative Actions

➤ To date, **4 projects led by Portuguese urban authorities** have been approved under the first three calls for Innovative Actions. These projects reflect a broad thematic and institutional diversity:

- ✓ **Blue innovation and social inclusion** in *Viana do Castelo*
- ✓ **Sustainable tourism powered by artificial intelligence** in *Coimbra*
- ✓ **Climate resilience and sustainable urban agriculture** in *Câmara de Lobos*
- ✓ **Digital transformation of public services and citizen participation** in *Matosinhos*

Each of these projects functions as a **real-world innovation laboratory**, contributing to the design of replicable solutions with European added value

➤ The **next call (Call 4)** is expected in **early 2026**, with detailed information on thematic priorities and selection criteria to be made available from **November 2025**. An **information session** is also foreseen for that period, to present the rules and strategic framing of the call



**Capacity
Building**

The diagram features a central text element 'Capacity Building' in a bold, teal font. This text is enclosed within a circular loop formed by two arrows. The top arrow, colored teal, curves from the right side of the loop towards the left. The bottom arrow, colored dark blue, curves from the left side of the loop towards the right. Both arrows have a simple, outlined arrowhead. The entire circular structure is centered on a white background.

Capacity Building

City-to-city exchanges

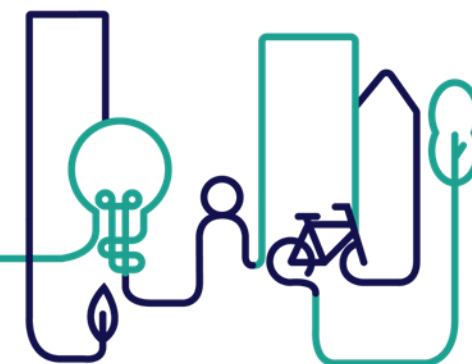
Bring together an urban authority facing an implementation challenge, and another one or two, who can help tackling this challenge with their expertise and experience

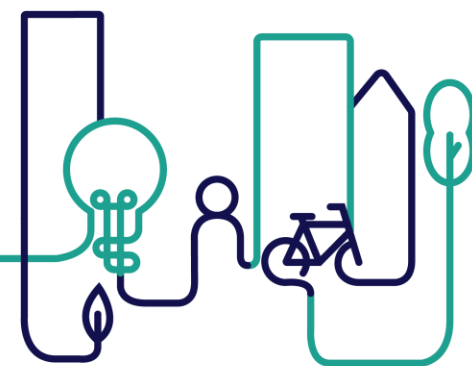
Peer reviews

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

Capacity building Events

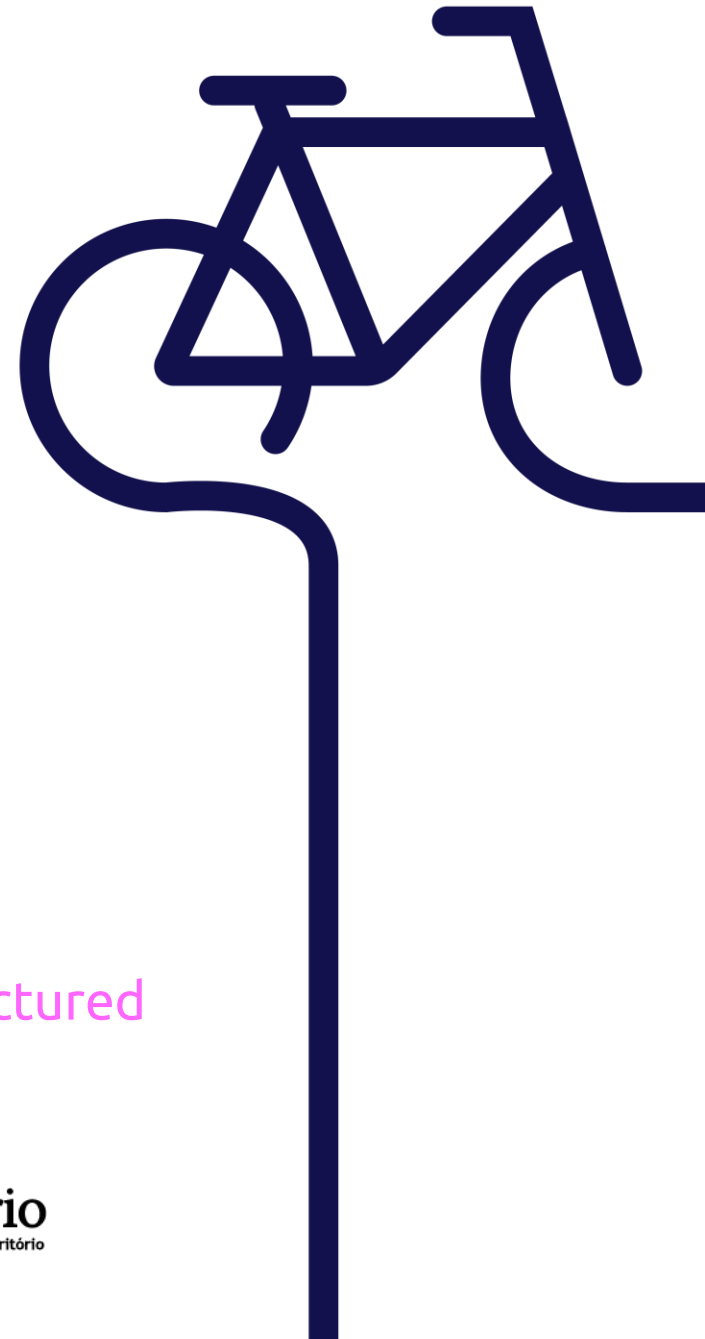
Country-specific events
EUI Capacity-Building Event in Portugal
14–15 May 2025, in Fundão





Capacity Building

- This support also targets cities that are **not yet active in European initiatives**, encouraging their gradual integration into cooperation and mutual learning mechanisms
- These opportunities are available **throughout the year**, notably the **City-to-City Exchanges call**, which remains **permanently open**
- Several **capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities** are already scheduled between June and December 2025, including:
 - ✓ **Policy Lab on Access to Funding** – *30 September to 2 October*
 - ✓ **EU City Lab on Active Mobility** – *week of 27 October*
 - ✓ **Policy Lab on Affordable Housing** – *18 to 20 November*
- The **next Peer Review call** will be launched in **autumn 2025**, with structured technical support available for urban authorities interested in applying



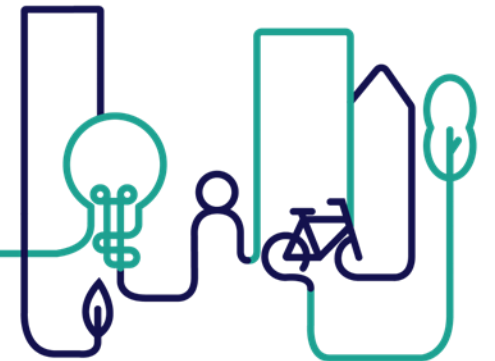


**Knowledge &
Communication**

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, colored teal, points clockwise from the right side towards the left. The bottom arrow, colored dark blue, points counter-clockwise from the left side towards the right. These two arrows meet at the left and right edges of the central rectangle, creating a continuous loop that encircles the text.

Knowledge & Communication

- **Ambition:** to **consolidate and disseminate useful knowledge** to support the design of urban public policies and improve the quality of programming within the cohesion policy framework
- This dimension encompasses several **complementary tools and actions** aimed at strengthening the knowledge base for sustainable urban development across the EU. This includes:
 - ✓ The **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
 - ✓ The **production and systematization of evidence** on sustainable urban development
 - ✓ The **network of national Urban Contact Points (UCPs)**



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 ?



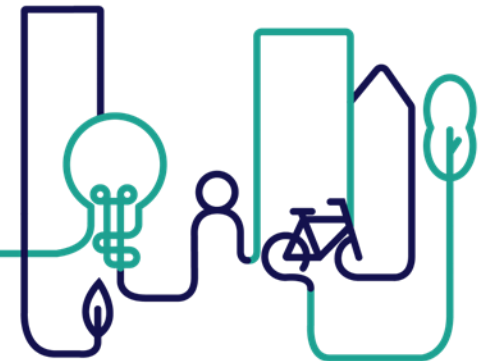
Build your skills and knowledge

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 Matchmaker

Urban Matchmaker

Portico's matchmaking tool for cities to find their peers and start partnerships

- Connect with peers facing similar challenges, share your experience and benefit from theirs
- Join an Innovative Action project as a Transfer Partner
- Apply together to receive EUI support

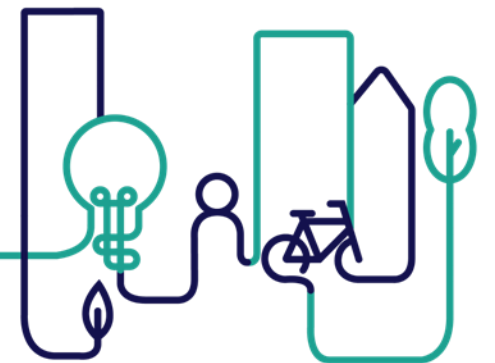
Discover the Urban Matchmaker



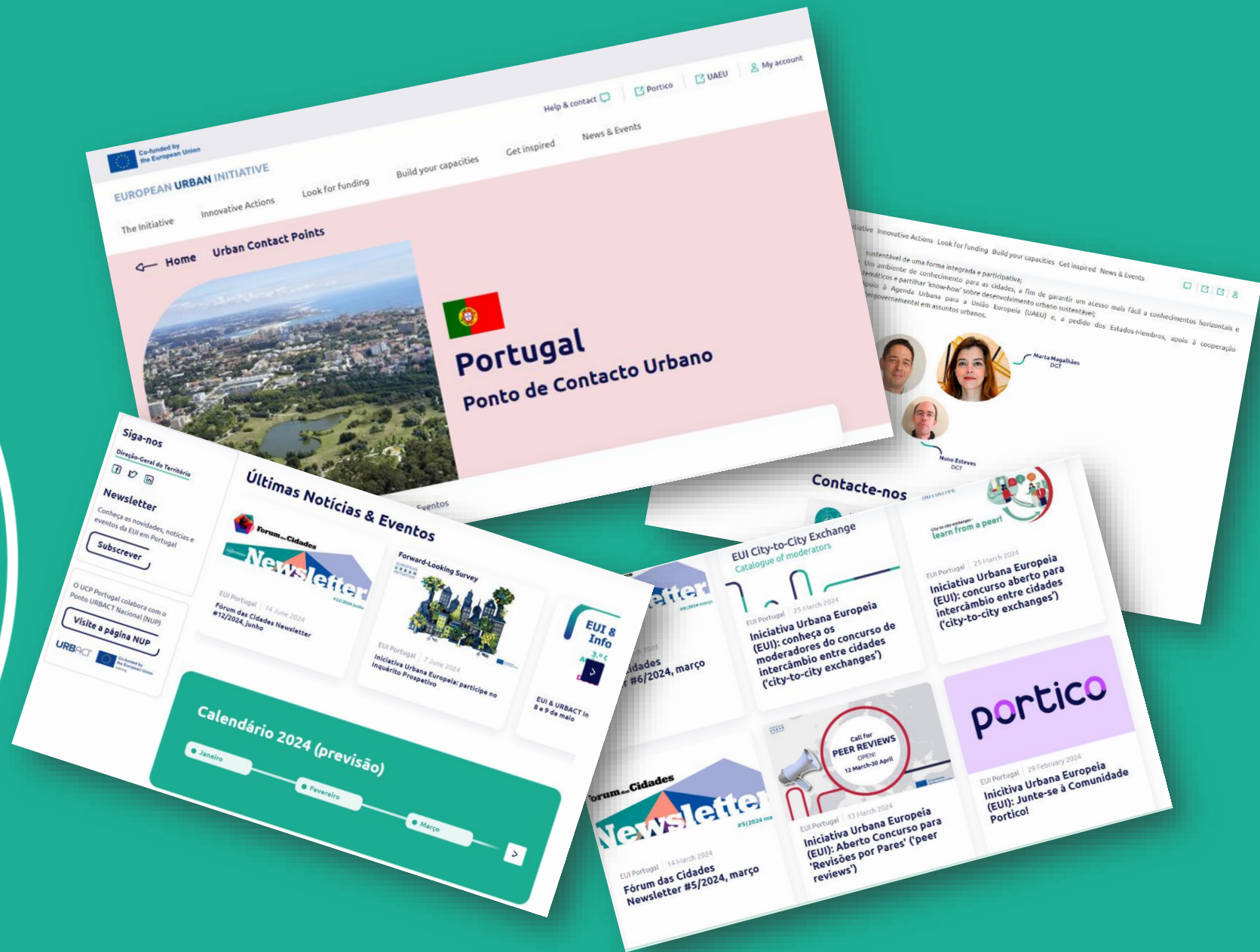


Portugal
**Urban Contact
Point**
for the EUI

- 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**
- The **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

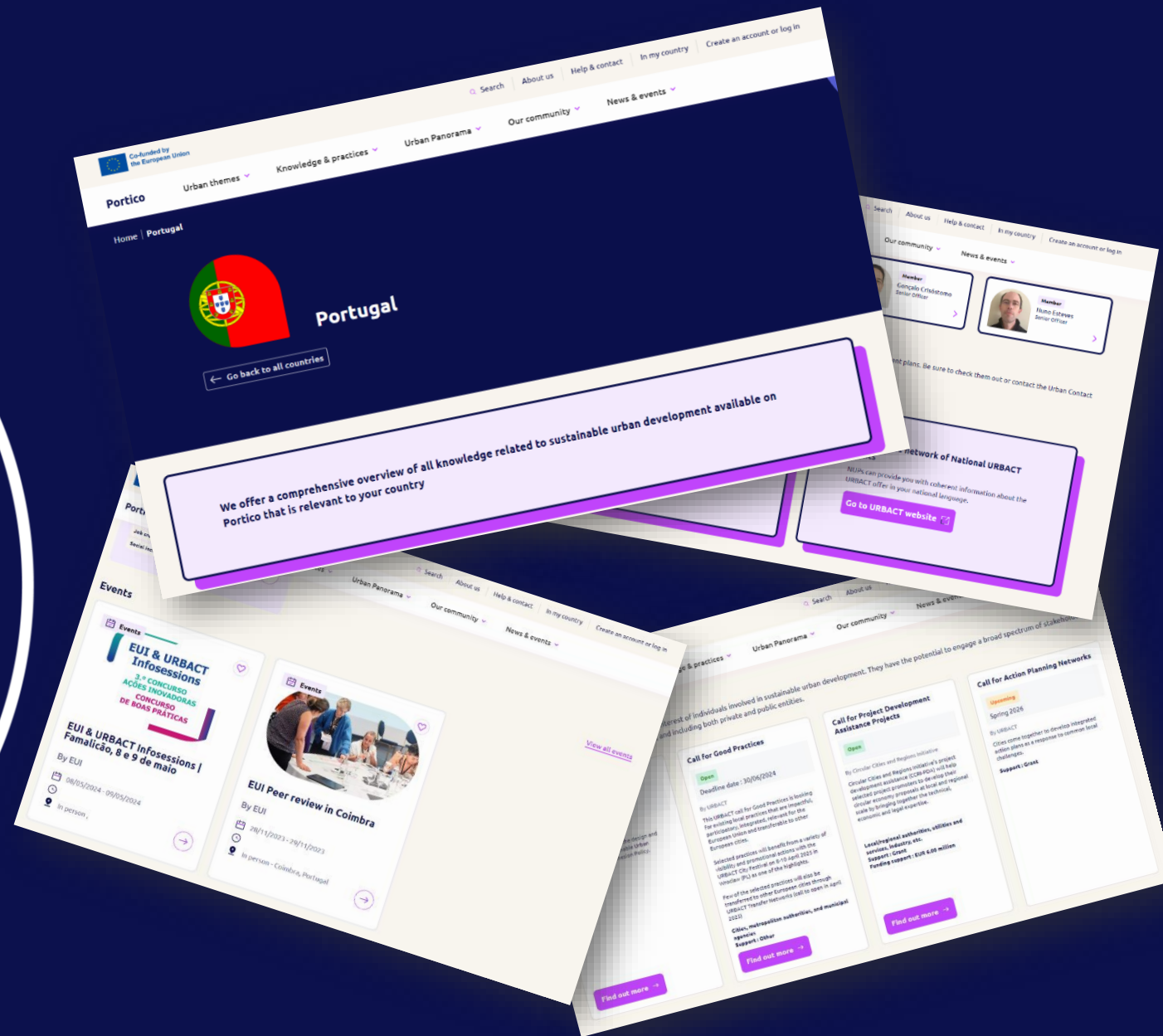


EUI Website UCP Portugal webpage



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

Portico's Country Specific Page Portugal



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



EU & URBACT: EU City Labs 2024

Laboratórios de Políticas Urbanas sobre Sistemas Alimentares Locais

A Iniciativa Urbana Europeia (EUI) e o URBACT estão a organizar em conjunto uma série de três Laboratórios de Políticas Urbanas da União Europeia ('EU City Labs') sobre Sistemas Alimentares Locais, para alavancar uma transição alimentar sistémica nas cidades europeias a partir de diferentes perspectivas temáticas. Marque na sua agenda estes Laboratórios de Políticas Urbanas da UE previstos para 2024:

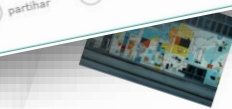
- **#1** EU City Lab on Local Food Systems: dias 21 e 22 de março, em Mouscron, França, dedicado ao tema 'Mudança de Hábitos para um Sistema Alimentar Saudável e Sustentável'. Consulte o [Programa](#) e [Inscreva-se!](#)
- **#2** EU City Lab on Local Food Systems: dias 29 e 30 de maio, em Liège, Bélgica, dedicado ao tema 'Contratos Públicos para uma Alimentação mais Local, Sazonal e Sustentável'. Detalhes sobre o evento e inscrições em breve.
- **#3** EU City Lab on Local Food Systems: Outono de 2024, dedicado ao tema 'Utilização Sustentável do Solo para o Sector Agroalimentar'. Local e data a indicar, fique atento às páginas do UCP Portugal e do NUP. [> saber mais](#)

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EUI-IA Call 3 Sessão Informativa online: no dia 6 de maio, das 13h00 às 14h30, participe na sessão informativa online sobre o 3.º Concurso para Ações Inovadoras da EUI, a abrir em maio. [> ler mais](#)

Novidades URBACT

Concurso URBACT de Boas Práticas: candidaturas abertas a cidades, vilas e entidades supramunicipais, até 30 de junho. As cidades e vilas escolhidas obterão o selo 'Boa Prática URBACT'. [> ler mais](#)

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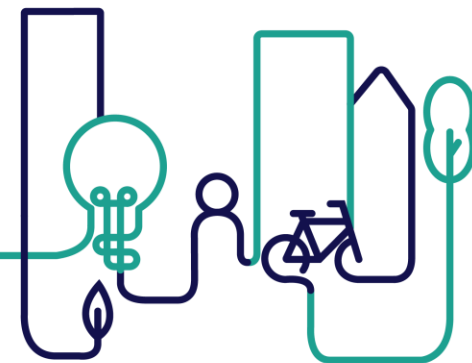
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Novidades URBACT

Articles and Interviews in the *Smart Cities* Magazine

- **Visibility and knowledge-sharing from the UCP Portugal:** in collaboration with the *Smart Cities* magazine — a quarterly publication dedicated to intelligent and sustainable cities — the **Directorate-General for Territory**, as the Urban Contact Point for Portugal, has contributed a series of articles and interviews addressing the different strands of the **European Urban Initiative (EUI)**
- These contributions aim to raise awareness of ongoing opportunities, share insights from Portuguese urban authorities engaged in EUI-funded actions, and promote the dissemination of innovative practices

All articles are available for viewing and download [here](#)

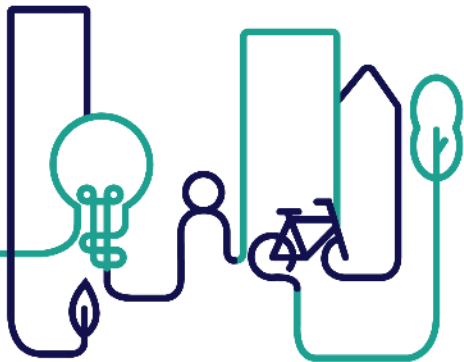


UCP Portugal

EUI Infosession

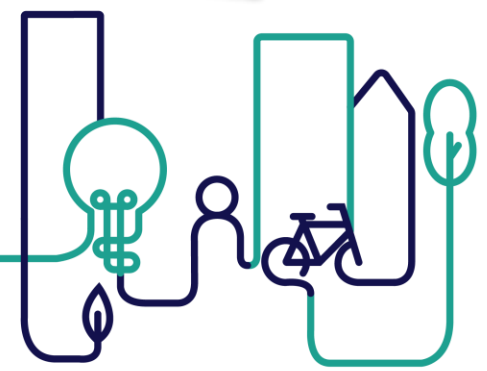
Past event

Lisbon, 6 May 2025



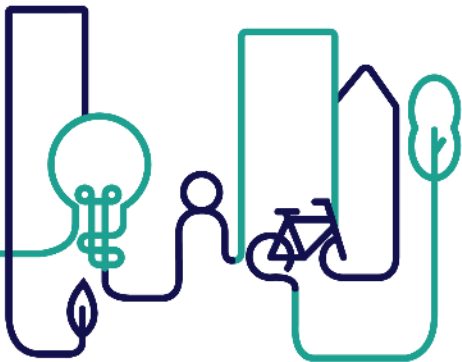
- Organised by the **Directorate-General for Territory** in the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon (AML) Auditorium
- Focus on **Thematic Partnerships and EUI support 2021–2027**
- Opening by AML and DGT high-level representatives
- UCP PT Presentation on UAEU and Portugal's participation
- Roundtable with 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](#)



UCP Portugal

Upcoming event



➤ Upcoming National Event – Save the Date

The **Urban Contact Point for Portugal** is preparing a **national EUI event** to take place **next semester 2025**

➤ This will be an opportunity to:

- ✓ Highlight **new opportunities** under the European Urban Initiative (EUI)
- ✓ Share **lessons learned** from Portuguese cities
- ✓ Promote **capacity-building and knowledge exchange** at national level

More details coming soon! Stay tuned through our communication channels:

- ✓ [UCP webpage](#)
- ✓ ucp-eui@dgterritorio.pt
- ✓ Fórum das Cidades - [Newsletter](#)
- ✓ Fórum das Cidades – [LinkedIn](#) & [Facebook](#) & [X Twitter](#)

UCP Portugal: Meet the Team



Gonçalo Crisóstomo
DGT



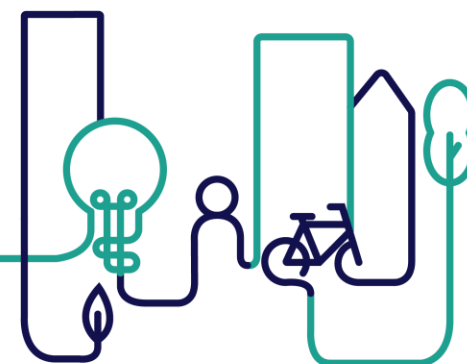
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