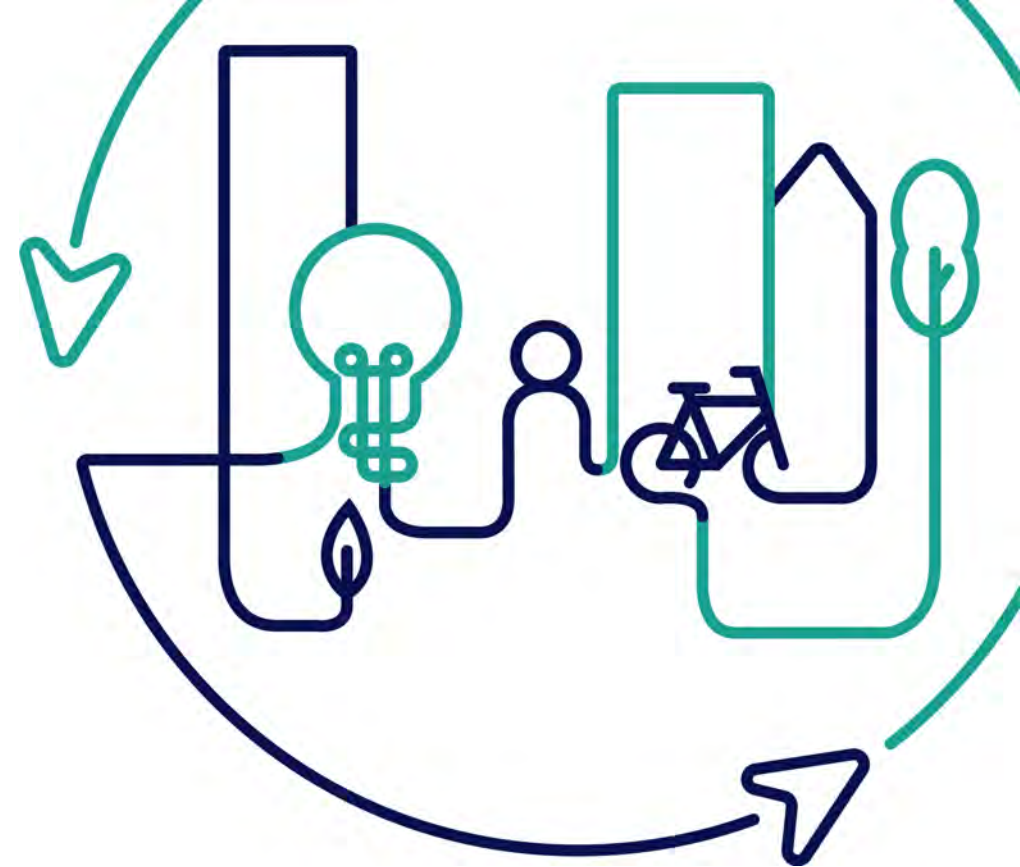


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

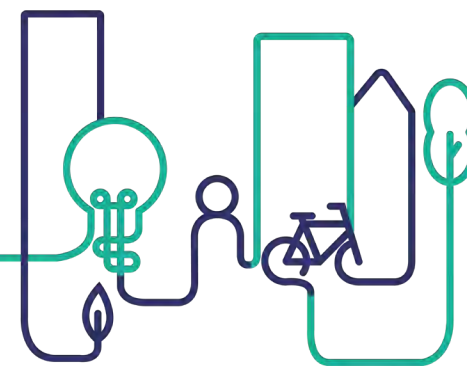


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ACCESS TO FUNDING: Practical tools for urban change

Welcome to day 3!

02 October 2025




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➤ **Our 3 day journey**
3 DAYS, 3 GOALS


Day 1 – Mapping the ecosystem




- What kind of funding is available to cities?
 - What kind of Innovative Financing Schemes are out there?
- 

Day 2 – Unlocking access & strategies



- How to overcome challenges & barriers
 - How to access and combine funding sources to support investment strategies.
- 

Day 3 – Brining it all together

- Applying new learning & insights to funding challenges outside and within your city
- 



The diagram features a central circle containing the text "QUICK CHECK-IN". Two arrows form a continuous loop around this circle. The top arrow is teal and points clockwise from the right side to the left side. The bottom arrow is dark blue and points clockwise from the left side to the right side. Both arrows extend horizontally to the edges of the frame.

**QUICK
CHECK-IN**

The diagram consists of two circular arrows forming a loop. The top arrow is teal and points from the bottom question to the top question. The bottom arrow is dark blue and points from the top question to the bottom question. Both arrows have a tail that extends horizontally to the left and right edges of the frame.

Our challenge for
Today?

How can we translate
what we've learned into
practical roadmaps and
solutions for our own
city funding challenges?



What's on Today?

09:15

City Funding Clinics

10:15

Building Your Funding Roadmap

09:15 –
12:00

Coffee is always available

11:30

Closing Plenary

12:00

Farewell Lunch



**Remember EUI
City-to-City
Exchanges?**

Capacity Building Get involved!

City-to-City Exchanges

- Short **visits** between 2-3 cities.
- Depends entirely on **city needs**.
- **Simple** application form.
- **Quick & easy** to implement.
- **Matchmaking, expertise & funding** available.
- **For support**, contact us at capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu or your Urban Contact Point.



Ongoing open call
Apply whenever you want!





**EUI is here to
support you!**

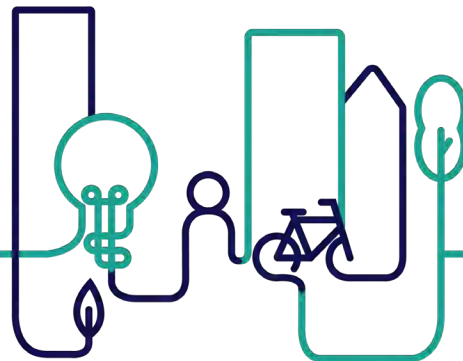
Contact a Capacity Building officer:
capacitybuilding@urban-initiative.eu

City Funding Clinics

Let's meet the cities!

Ms. Stefania Gyftopoulou,
Chalandri, EL
Hydro-Heritage Cities
URBACT ITN

Mr. Rob van der Sande,
Den Helder, NL
Daring Cities
URBACT ITN





Chalandri City Snapshot

1

~ 77,000 residents (2021 census)

2

Rich natural environment: Rematia stream and extensive green areas

Cultural assets: Euripides Theatre and summer festival

Advanced urban planning with pedestrian and cycling networks. Strategic location within the Athens basin.

3

Decentralized system but heavily dependent on central government financing

4

Innovative Urban Governance



Unique value proposition of investment plan

In Chalandri, a lack of a data monitoring and management mechanism, combined with a silo operational culture, hinders informed decision-making, integrated planning, cross-sectoral collaboration, and participatory governance. Our **independent structure** will act as a **facilitator** of data-based policy design and cross-departmental collaboration, connecting the administration with inhabitants and civil society. By developing digital tools and co-creation processes, this external body will align city services, research institutions, communities, and local stakeholders. This will strengthen local democracy and accountability, improve governance efficiency, and create more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive neighbourhoods — enhancing long-term quality of life and sense of belonging.



Key actions we need to fund

1

Innovative Institutional Framework and Training

(Design a participatory governance model / Training municipal staff and citizens in new tools and working practices)

> **Legal Innovation & Capacity Building**

2

Data Collection and Digital Tools for Policy

(Collect and manage urban data through multiple methods / Develop digital dashboards and policy tools to support evidence-based decisions and transparency)

> **Data informed policy and Integrated approach**

3

Dedicated Staff and Neighbourhood Space (s)

(Establishing a dedicated team and a physical hub within the neighbourhood (s) / Providing continuity, coordination, and a direct interface with citizens.)

> **Continuity and Citizen Engagement**

4

Build while practicing: Repurpose Zervos

(Transform a historic industrial building reclaimed by the community, into a digital innovation citizen training centre and info point for urban transition.)

> **Integrated Planning at a Neighbourhood scale & Stakeholder alignment**

Questions for the audience

- How to secure sustainable funding for dedicated staff and local hubs, beyond short project cycles?
- Is there any experience on how to fund institutional innovation and training processes for capacity building?
- How can digitisation and AI-embedded data management and governance tools (e.g. for policy design and decision-making) be financed as part of broader urban investments?
- Has there been involvement of systemic commercial banks or actors from the social & solidarity economy (i.e ethical banks) in financing such initiatives?





**Let's hear from
Chalandri**

Key takeaway?



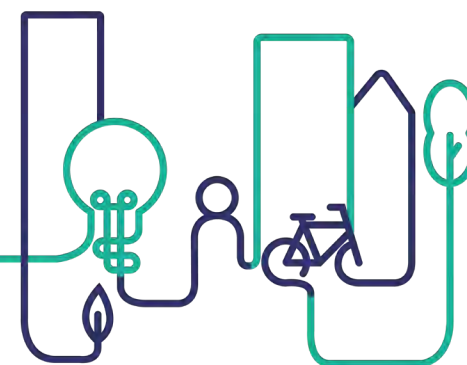
**Next Up:
Den Helder**

**Mr. Rob van der Sande
Den Helder
Daring Cities ITN**

I never realized I grew up in a Vulnerable Neighborhood...

So how can present day children know?

Rob van der Sande
Municipality of Den Helder



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den Helder, NL

1

Population: 56.432 (nov '24)

2

Average capital/household is at 25% of its surrounding municipalities

3

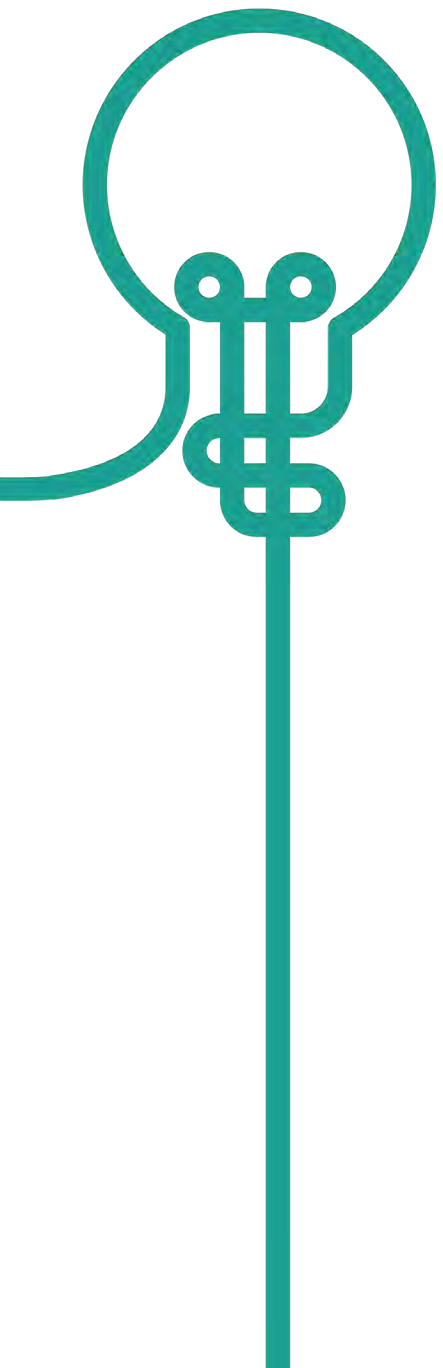
Subregional Capital, National Navy base (harbour and airport), Offshore harbour in transition related to the energy transition, former fishing village

Decentralized financing structure

4

Why ITN: we needed a different perspective





Let's make Den Helder a Child Friendly City

- Current neighborhoods are build in a period when there were little to no cars.
- Our city has 7 km of clean beaches and is surrounded by beautiful nature.
- But the neighborhoods don't allow children to safely play in their own neighborhood.
- In the evening some neighborhoods are not safe and the parents neglectant.
- So the children stay at home in their room or go to the city center.

- While we have many sites for children to go to ...
- and many of organisations trying to do an effort.





Key actions we need to fund

Just take the first step

1

Build your network, find your peers, visit successful projects and learn!

2

Create a plan inspired by the knowledge you've gained from the ITN.
From DARING: Artists, Digital Platform, Participation
From URBACT: Storytelling, Testing, Data Collection
From Peers: Fix Broken Promises, Appreciate your 'Assets'

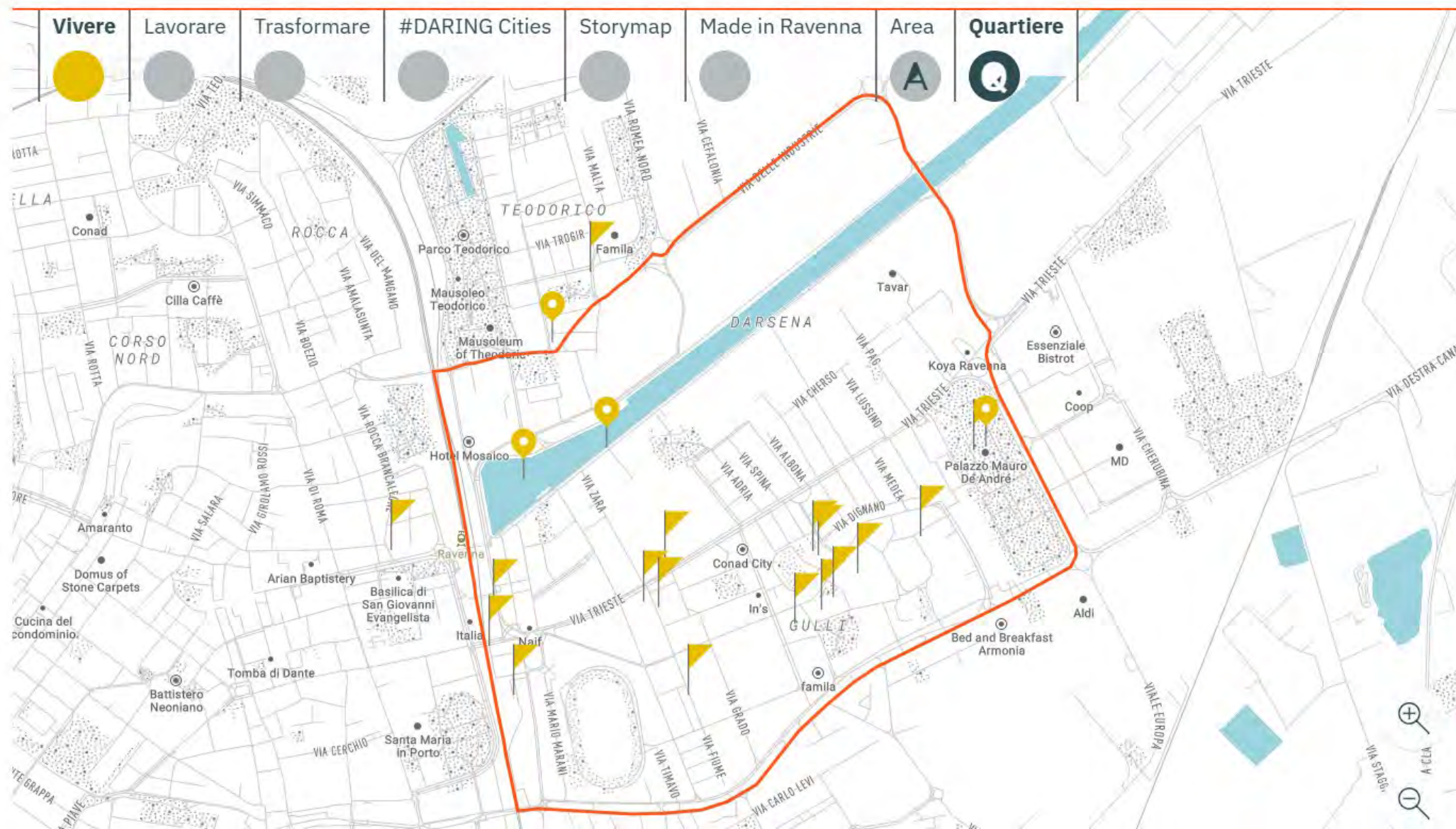
3

CHALLENGE: is to find the funding to solve city specific issues

National, Provincial and Local programs are managed by ministries, focussed on either 'Housing' or 'Care'. Bounded by policies and laws.

Therefore our aim for EU funding for our innovative solution to make Den Helder the most Child/Youth friendly city of ...

Home | Eventi | **Scopri** | Collabora | Adopera | DARE | Cerca



Questions for the audience

- How can we deal with the juggling between various policy bounded fundings?
- How do you arrange for staffing? As this is often not covered by funding.
- How do you convince your city council to allocate budget/resources?





**Let's hear from
Den Helder**

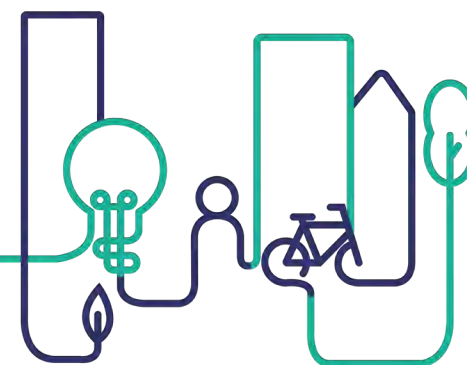
Key takeaway?

10:15 – 11:30

Building a funding roadmap workshop

2nd October 2025

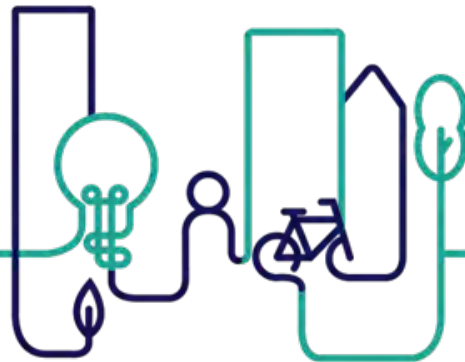
Marion Cugnet - EUI expert



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Objectives

- Apply the knowledge that you gained over the last 2 days
- Work on your own city case / city project
- Gain further collective insights and exchange on building a funding roadmap



City Funding Roadmap Canvas

City / Department: _____ Date: _____

Project title & objective

What is your project called? What challenge does it address?

Project type

 Buildings /  Infrastructure /  Mobility /
 Green transition /  Circular Economy /
 Digital transformation /  Social Innovation /
 Culture & Heritage /  Economic Development

Estimated budget (€)

Readiness



Priority



Funding sources

List at least 3 funding options (EU, national, private, etc.)

Why did you select these options, why do they fit?

Co-financing / Match-funding

How will the remaining % be covered?

Timeline & Key steps

Application dates, approvals, phases

Key partners & stakeholders

Stakeholders, city departments, funders



EXERCISE - INSTRUCTIONS

1

Individually, complete the road map canvas, using one of your project or programme ideas

(15 mins)

2

In pair of cities, share and reflect on the funding and resourcing that you have selected, and why?

(15 mins)

3

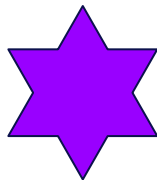
In pairs of pairs, share and further reflect on the funding and resourcing that you have selected, and why?

(15 mins)

4

Restitution in plenary

(15 mins)



YOU CAN USE THE CHEAT CARDS TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THE CANVAS AND THE DISCUSSIONS

11:30 – 12:00

Closing reflections & Next steps

What's next?

2 October 2025

➤ **OUR 3 DAY JOURNEY**
3 DAYS, 3 GOALS – EXCHANGE, LEARNING & IDEAS

**DAY 1 – MAPPING
THE ECOSYSTEM**

- What kind of funding is available to cities?
- What kind of Innovative Financing Schemes are out there?



**DAY 2 – UNLOCKING
ACCESS & STRATEGIES**

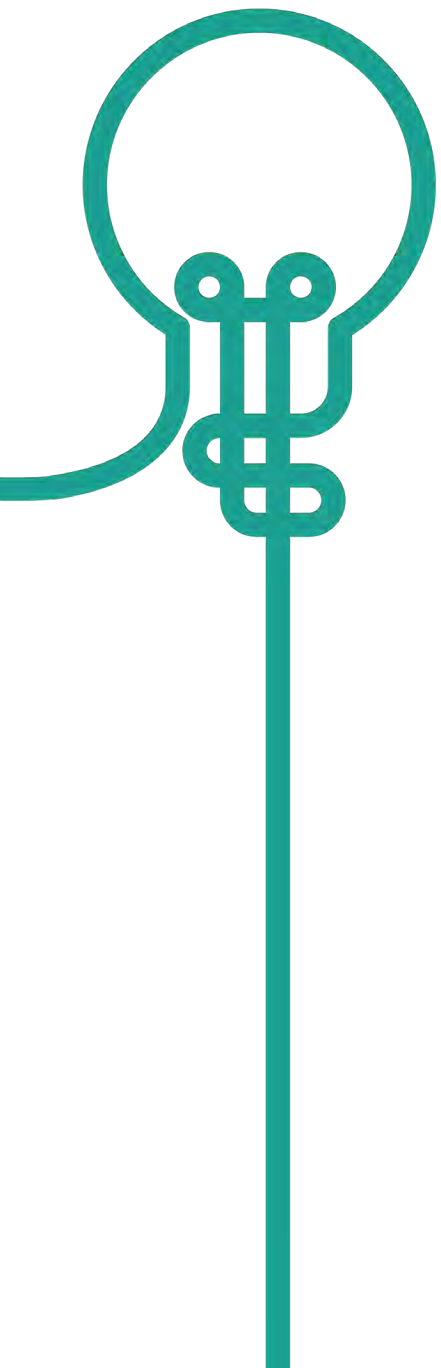
- How to overcome challenges & barriers
- How to access and combine funding sources to support investment strategies.



**DAY 3 – BRINING IT
ALL TOGETHER**

- Applying new learning & insights to funding challenges outside and within your city





Discuss in pairs
and then we will ask you to share your reflections

1

What's your biggest insights from these three days?

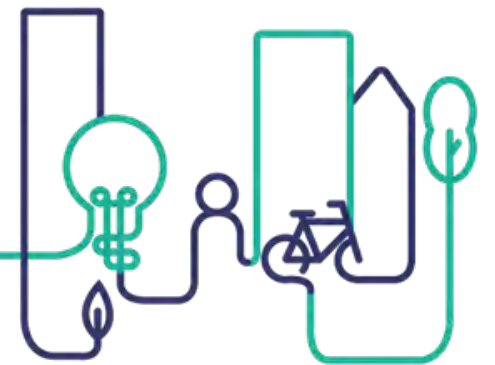
2

One action you'll take when you go back home?

The journey continues at EUI...

Reyhaneh Yeganeh

Knowledge & Capitalisation Officer
European Urban Initiative



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the European Union

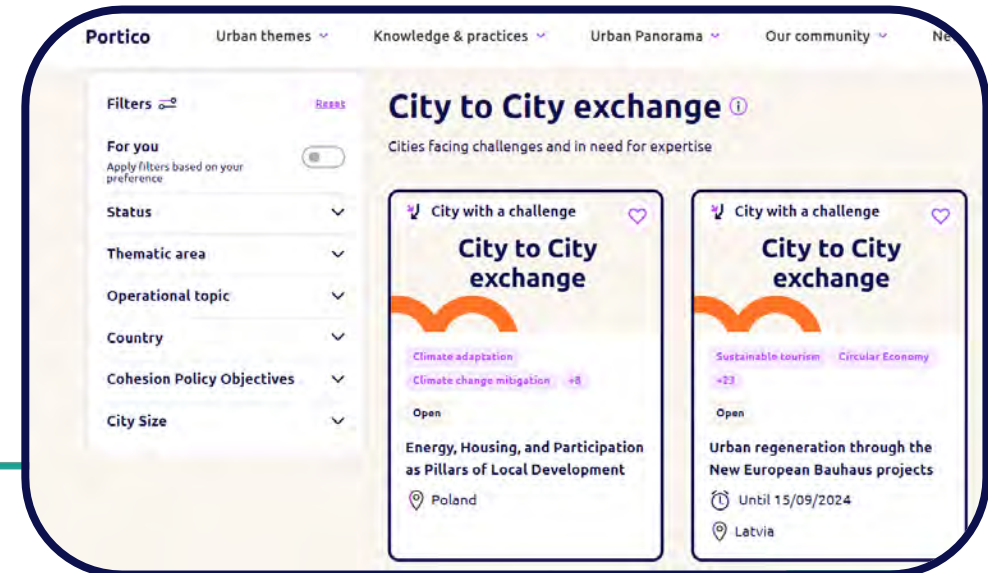
...With City-2-City Exchanges

Still looking for the perfect fit?

➤ Explore the [Portico Urban Match Maker](https://www.urban-initiative.eu/news/sign-city-city-exchange-assistance-service)

➤ Tool that helps cities match with each other to share knowledge & expertise

➤ Ask the Capacity Building Unit for support in finding a match: <https://www.urban-initiative.eu/news/sign-city-city-exchange-assistance-service>



....With Portico

➤ Online report on 'Access to funding: Practical tools for urban change'

➤ [+1500 resources online](#)

➤ [29 resources](#) on 'access to funding'

See the report: [Bridging the gap: Exploring Innovative Financing Schemes in European cities](#)

➤ [44 resources](#) on 'strategy design'



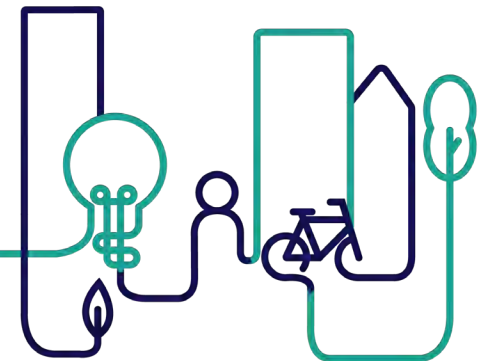
...With EUI and the Urban Agenda for the EU

➤ EUI opportunities

- Join us at EWRC 2025 – visit EUI stand and participate to sessions
- Innovative Actions - Call 4 – **Stay tuned!** More information at EWRC 2025
- Peer review call – Open from 7th October

➤ Urban Agenda for the EU

- Join UA EU team in two sessions at EWRC 2025



Let's meet again!

> EUI events

- EU City lab on 'Active Mobility' in collaboration with URBACT JS – **Hamburg, DE, 28th & 29th October**
- EUI Focused Policy Lab, 'Cities for housing – making affordable housing work' - **Fuenlabrada, ES, 18th & 19th November**



Register to EU City Lab on **Active Mobility**



Register to Focused Policy Lab on **Housing**

