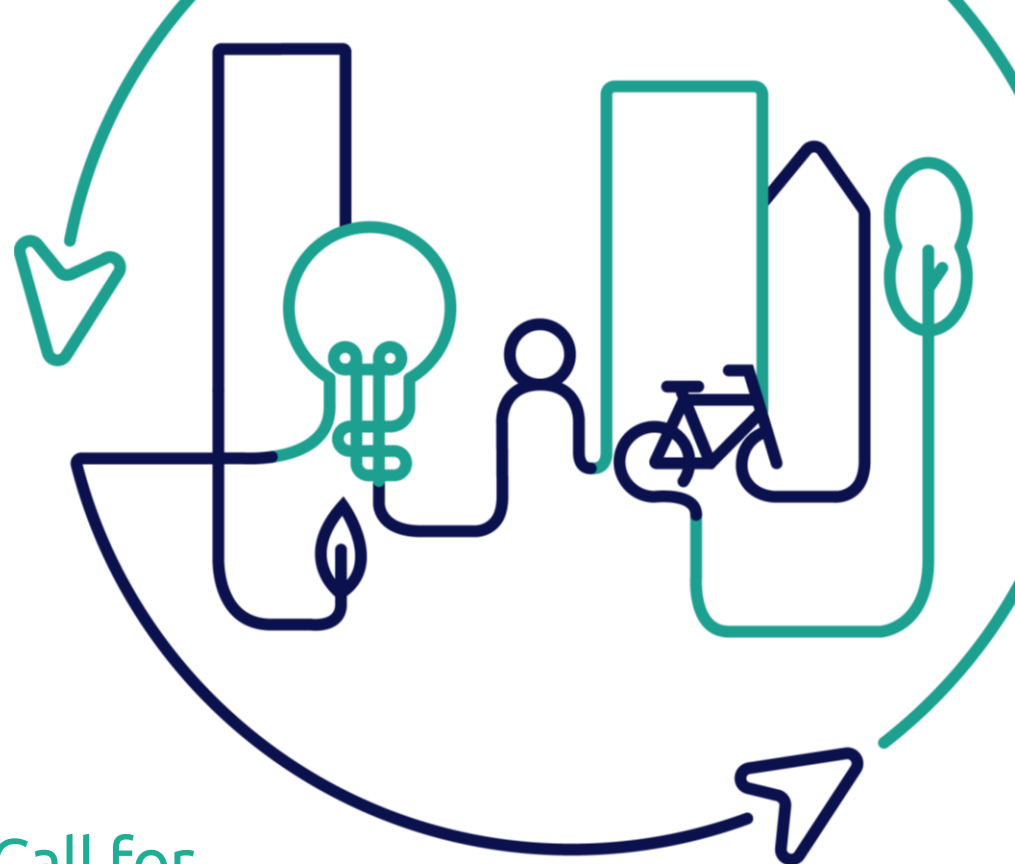


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

All you need to know about the upcoming Call for
Innovative Actions Projects!

European Week of Regions and Cities – 14 October 2025

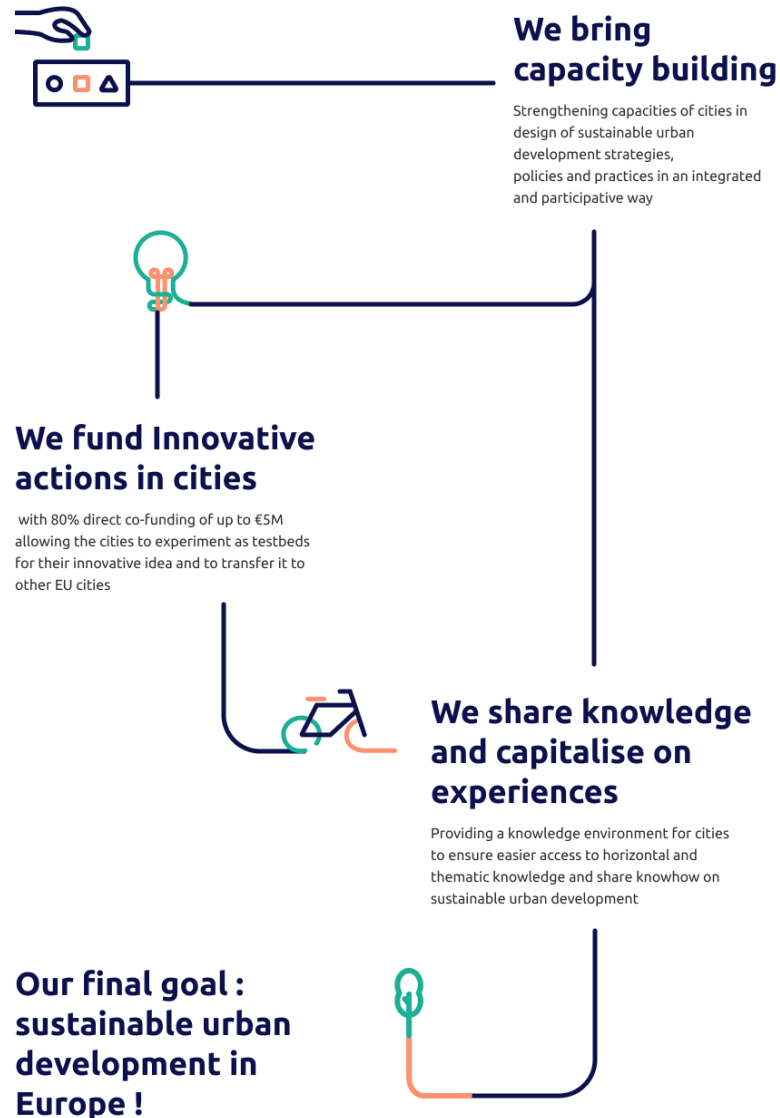


Co-funded by
the European Union



What is
the European Urban Initiative ?

A coherent support to EU cities



- Tool to support 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
- Building on the legacy of previous period:
 - Urban Innovative Actions,
 - The Urban Development Network,
 - Urban Agenda EU, ...
- A total ERDF budget of €395 million for 2021-2027.

3 main intervention areas

FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECTS

- **Innovative Actions.** Identify and test innovative, transferable and scalable solutions to sustainable urban development challenges of particular relevance at EU level

MEASURES TO SUPPORT & STRENGTHEN CITIES' CAPACITIES

- **Capacity building.** Building cities' capacity for sustainable urban development

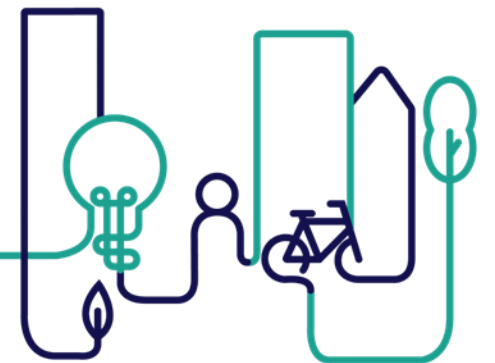
ACTIVITIES AIMED AT DISSEMINATING AND EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE

- **Knowledge.** Communicating, disseminating knowledge from implemented projects and further building on the lessons learnt and their experience

EUI Innovative Actions (EUI-IA)

Ambition: to foster the **deployment of proof-tested urban innovations** across the EU and to provide opportunities for cities, as enablers of innovation, to **take the risk** to **turn ambitious and creative ideas** into **pilot projects** that can be tested in real urban settings

- Projects on **sustainable urban development**
- **Local pilots** (experimental character, implementation aspect)
- **City-led**, participative character (partnership led by an urban authority)



WHY innovations?

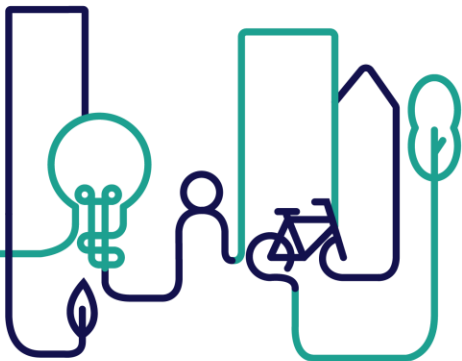
Complexity, nature and scale of urban challenges requiring going beyond traditional policies and services

—————→ innovative thinking

Many ideas but potential solutions are not always put into practice [risks, lack of budget to pilot the ideas, cities accountable to local communities]

EUI offers an **opportunity to test innovative ideas for 'real'**, at urban scale **with all the associated risks and complexities**

To reach the ambitions of sustainable urban development.

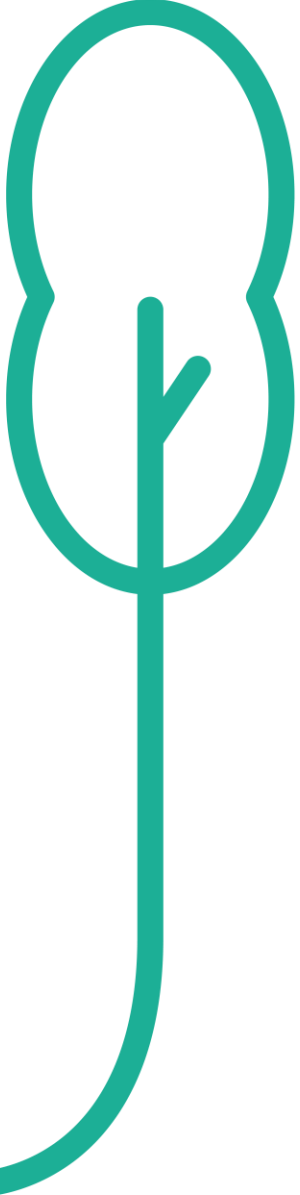




Key things you need to know about Call 4

Driving Innovation at the Local Level

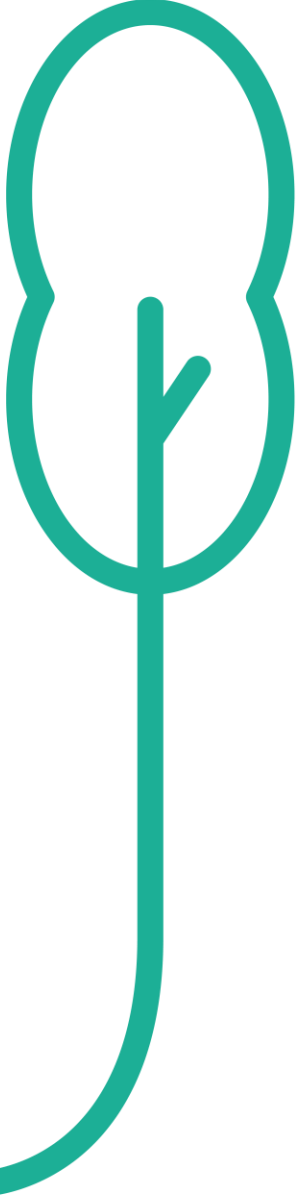




Call 4 in a nutshell

- Call to launch **early 2026**
- Total budget allocation: around **EUR 60 million ERDF**
- Updated framework of support for cities

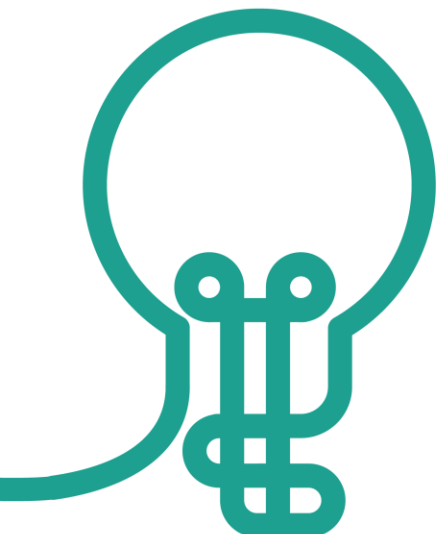
All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development



What is different

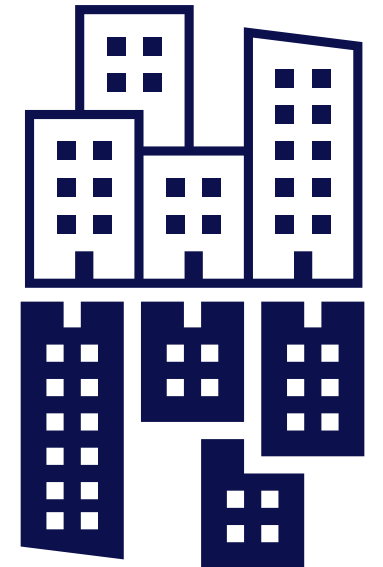
- Modified **eligibility criteria** for applying urban authorities: **smaller cities** are now eligible
- Redefined urban **innovation requirements**: **local innovation**
- **Broader choice** of the **thematic focus**
- **Smaller scale** of the financed projects
 - up to 2 million Euro per project
 - shorter timeframe (2 years)
- Simplified financial framework

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development

A large teal outline of a lightbulb with a stylized base, positioned on the left side of the slide.

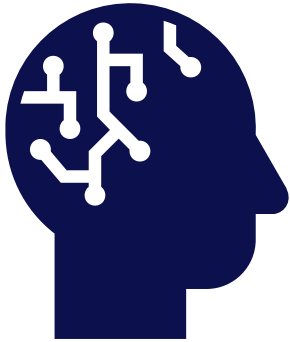
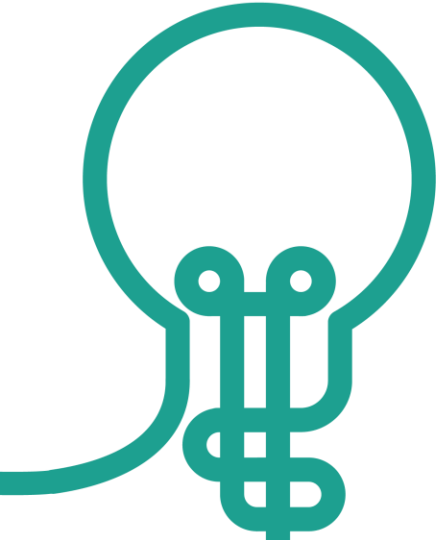
Who can apply ?

- Urban Authorities above 25 000 inhabitants
or a group of Urban Authorities applying together
- We particularly encourage applications from:
 - Small and medium-sized cities
 - Cities with limited experienced with EU funds
 - Dynamic urban authorities eager to experiment with
new solutions, but with less experience in the field of
innovation
- Only open for MUA/AUA not already funded under Calls
1, 2, or 3



All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development

Urban innovation requirements



new, bold, creative and experimental in the local context

go beyond business as usual in the city

urban solution which can be products, services, processes

The Call welcomes both:

- Solutions that are **entirely new at the EU level**
- Solutions that have already been tested elsewhere in the EU (fully or partially), but **have not yet been adopted locally** (a context-specific approach)

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development

Key features



Respond to a local challenge

Implemented by a project partnership

Go beyond local practices

Lead to a more effective way of addressing an urban challenge

Strengthen internal innovation capacity



All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development



Thematic focus

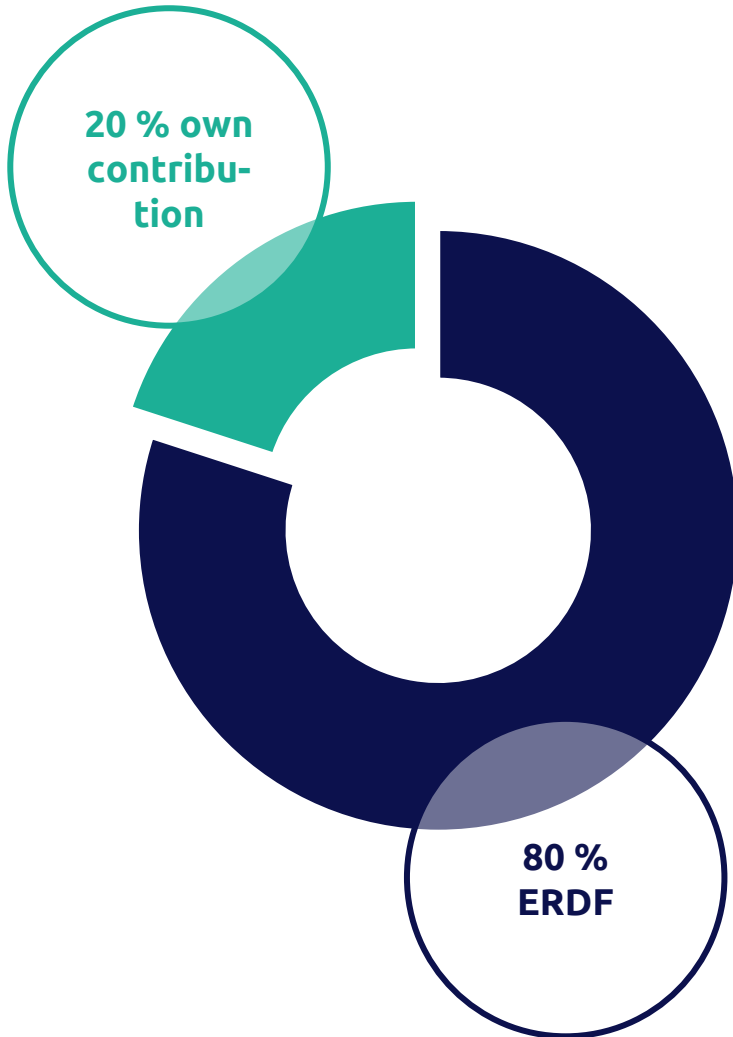
Call 4 topics will follow key proposed policy areas as planned in the Cities Agenda – such as:

- economy, competitiveness and prosperity;
- housing;
- climate action, environment and clean energy;
- mobility;
- digitalisation;
- social inclusion and equality;
- security, public safety and preparedness.

Cities Agenda to be published towards the end of 2025.

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development

Financial framework



- Max budget per project: EUR 2 million ERDF
- ERDF co-financing rate of 80%
- Investments supported
- Advance payments & simplified costs options
- Flexibility in the forms of Project Partners contribution

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development



Next steps for applicants



Indicative timeline

Early 2026
Call opens



Autumn 2026
Start of projects

All information is indicative and subject to change pending further development



What to do next ?

- ☐ Share this information within your network – who might be interested?
Potential Partners?
- ☐ Identify if there is a project in your city that could be a good fit.
- ☐ Consider whether this Call could be relevant for your city.

Stay connected

- ☐ Follow us on social media
- ☐ Subscribe to our newsletter
- ☐ Stay tuned for future updates on Call 4

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