

	URBACT III Programme Manual	Fact Sheet 4A Capitalisation
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1. Main objectives and expected results

As stated in the URBACT III Operational Programme¹, URBACT shall “ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels (EU, national, regional and local) have increased access to URBACT thematic knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban policies” (Specific Objective 4).

URBACT III is expected to facilitate the access and up-take of URBACT results and knowledge at all relevant levels playing a role in the design and implementation of sustainable urban policies. Facilitated access to knowledge and know-how on integrated and sustainable urban development is key to develop a common understanding and to enable efficient multi-level governance. It is expected that the programme develops actions to consolidate and share knowledge on sustainable urban development (good practices, policy recommendations, etc.) so that it is widely used by relevant players in the field (URBACT III OP – Section 2A3/1d).

URBACT III will thus put a strong emphasis on capitalization activities, understood as the production of new knowledge building on existing experience and knowledge coming not only from the URBACT partners but also from similar or complementary European and international projects/ programmes. These capitalisation activities shall aim to “reach urban players beyond the URBACT beneficiaries: cities not involved in URBACT networks as well as the different levels of government involved in sustainable urban development (regional, national, European)” (URBACT III OP – Section 2A3/1d).

¹ URBACT III Operational Programme, section 2. Priority Axes

2. Capitalisation activities

Capitalisation activities shall be initiated by the URBACT Secretariat taking into account the needs of URBACT beneficiaries and sponsors (Member and Partner States, European Commission, programme Managing Authority). They shall support successful delivery of networking and capacity-building activities to be developed by the programme (both in terms of thematic content and methods). They shall also contribute to priorities defined at European level in relation to urban development (eg European Urban Agenda). While knowledge coming from URBACT networks will be at the core of the capitalisation process, the programme shall also capitalise on content coming from non-URBACT sources such as other EU initiatives and networks (eg the Urban Development Network, Eurocities, EnergyCities, etc.), European and international organisations dealing with sustainable urban development (eg UN-Habitat, OECD), etc.

Capitalisation activities and tools will include:

- **Studies**

Studies will be used to support URBACT network's activities and ensure capitalisation and dissemination of their results, to support the delivery of capacity-building activities, and more generally to respond to specific needs from beneficiaries and sponsors that may arise in the course of the programme implementation. Studies may focus on specific urban topics, as well as on the results of programme activities (networking, capacity-building, etc.). Studies will normally be outsourced to service providers selected by means of open calls for tender.

- **Thematic clustering**

Thematic clustering will be implemented in a flexible way to capitalise on results coming from URBACT networks, to foster capitalisation across URBACT networks working on similar/ close topics, and to ensure exchange of knowledge and capitalization between URBACT networks and relevant organizations/ networks/ programmes outside of URBACT. Thematic clustering may take the form of thematic workstreams (groups of experts, practitioners, etc. commissioned to deliver thematic outputs), thematic seminars, thematic publications, etc. Related projects may be delivered by URBACT experts (eg network experts, Programme level experts, etc.) and/ or outsourced to service providers selected by means of open calls for tender/ calls for applicants.

- **Programme level experts**

Programme level experts will support the programme with the development and delivery of capitalisation activities at programme level. They will more especially be commissioned to work on URBACT themes, to capture knowledge coming from URBACT networks and foster dissemination of their results, to support URBACT networks with thematic input, to produce new urban knowledge in the format of reports, articles, blogs, etc., to contribute to URBACT and non URBACT events dedicated to sustainable urban development, etc. Programme Level Experts shall be recruited by means of open calls for applicants, with the support of an

external service provider commissioned to support the URBACT Secretariat with the selection process.

- **Ad hoc capitalisation experts**

The programme may also commission experts to deliver ad hoc capitalisation products (eg articles, blogs for the web, contributions to thematic seminars, etc.). In particular, network experts (Lead experts and ad hoc experts²) will be expected to contribute to such capitalisation activities. Ad hoc capitalisation experts shall normally be commissioned from the URBACT III pool of validated experts.

Additional capitalisation activities will be developed over the course of the programme implementation. Capitalisation actions and related budget shall be approved on an ongoing basis by the URBACT Monitoring Committee.

Capitalisation activities shall be delivered using the resources available under:

- Managing Authority Operation 1 – Expertise for networks and coordination (Programme experts, Strategic expertise)
- Managing Authority Operation 2 – Capitalisation

3. Budgetary elements

The URBACT programme budget is split between networking activities (52% of the programme ERDF) and programme level support activities (42% of the programme ERDF).

All activities linked to capitalisation shall be covered in the programme level support budget. Individual actions and related budget shall be approved on an ongoing basis by the URBACT Monitoring Committee.

² See Fact Sheets 2B, 2C and 2D