

Urban Poverty, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Housing, Social Cohesion

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Mobility & Transport, Street for People, Superblocks, Metropolitan Connections

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

A harbor city on the Adriatic Sea, Bari is the capital of the Puglia region in Southern Italy. Home to the Basilica of Saint Nicholas, Bari is one of the best-known centres of the Orthodox Church in the West.

Bari has a solid mercantile and entrepreneurial tradition. As the second most important economic centre of Southern Italy and a university city, Bari has the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, three universities, 11 national research centres, one Fine Arts Academy, one Conservatory of Music, 10 production districts and the second industrial park of the Adriatic area. Bari has a strong tertiary sector as well as outstanding manufacturing and agro-industries, including automotives, mechanics, mechatronics, chemistry, food processing, ICT, construction, energy and publishing sector.

The city has focused its urban development efforts on revamping its waterfront (the longest in Italy and an immensely precious resource), converting brownfield and former barracks into parks and cultural centres, enhancing archaeological and architectural sites, and strengthening dialogue between the city and universities. At the heart of the Bari urban strategy are people, organisations and collaborative networks within a framework of community governance, that emphasize the value of participation and active citizenship.

Bari



330,000



116 km²



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Good Practices

The city of Bari wishes to share its expertise and experience in urban regeneration through effective models of civic participation and engagement. In particular, Bari has developed solid know-how in polycentric urban development. Focusing on individual neighbourhoods, it has stimulated and strengthened communities by introducing comprehensive policies for public space enhancement (Open Space), improving infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, libraries, cultural centres), creating community hubs (SPAZIO13, Officina), supporting innovative enterprises (URBIS), and empowering civic networks between neighborhood organisations (RCU). Bari's participatory tools are related to the implementation of the URBACT method, which help create models with great replication potential. It engages residents and stakeholders in co-designing the post-Covid city and implementing innovative actions in several areas, such as tactical urbanism, collaborative reuse of public spaces and engagement of deprived groups.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Urban regeneration and cohesion through community engagement, with a focus on enhancing public space via active citizenship. Bari is designing new pedestrian areas using tactical urban planning and superblocks. Public space and neighbourhoods are the key themes of Bari's urban development.
- The city of Bari believes that, without social justice, there can be no real urban development. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Bari prepares itself for the post-pandemic period from overcoming the public health crisis to prioritising the promotion of rights, skills and opportunities for the most deprived groups of the population.