International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC):

North America

IURC
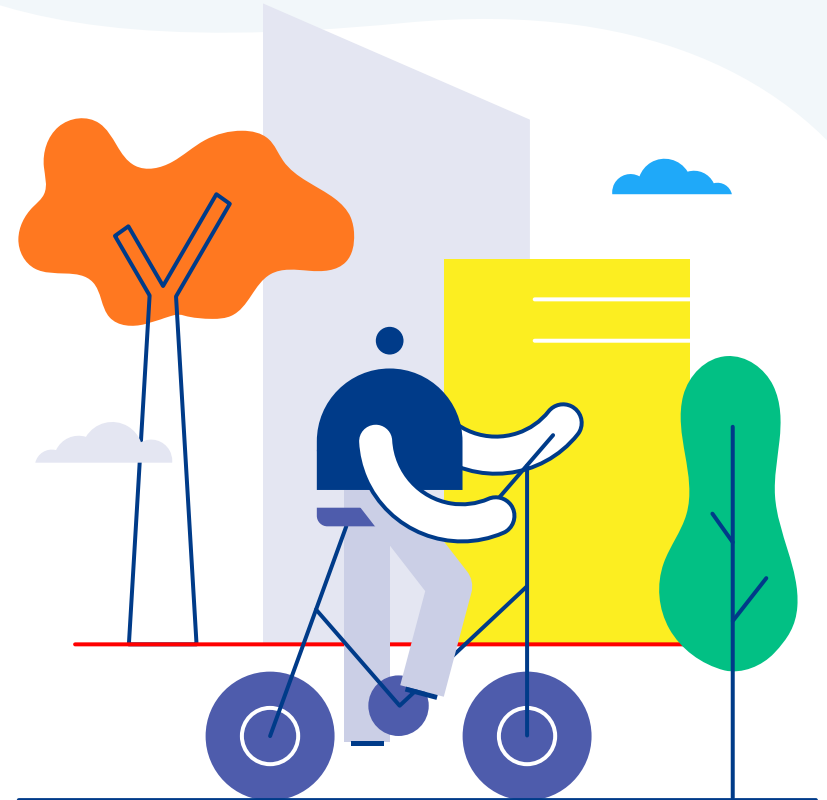INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Funded by the
European Union

What is IURC?

Implemented since 2017, the **European Union's International Urban and Regional Cooperation** (IURC) program contributes to the objectives of the New Urban Agenda, the Agenda 2030 (SDGs), the Urban Agenda for the EU, and the political goals of the European Cohesion Policy, through city-to-city diplomacy to overcome shared challenges.

The new phase of the IURC North America program launched in early 2024 aims to capitalize on the results and lessons learned from the first phase to optimize the added value of international cooperation, reinforcing the program as an **international network of reference for urban innovation and sustainable urban development.**
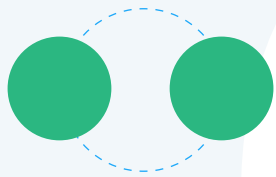
The program is financed under the EU Partnership Instrument and benefiting from the strategic support of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission.
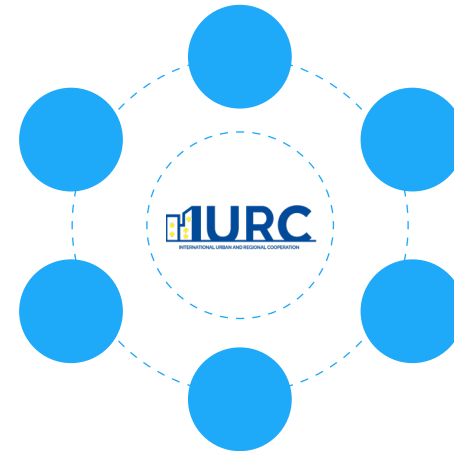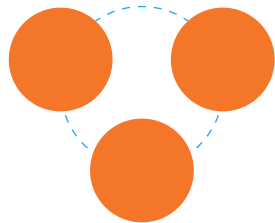
How does it work?

IURC North America (IURC-NA) partners European cities with US and Canadian cities tackling similar sustainable urban development challenges. The project facilitates knowledge exchange through a combination of online tools and face-to-face support such as study visits, thematic and networking events, and capacity-building activities. IURC cities become part of a wide community of local and sub-national governments and stakeholders from academia, business, and civil society who benefit from international cooperation through:
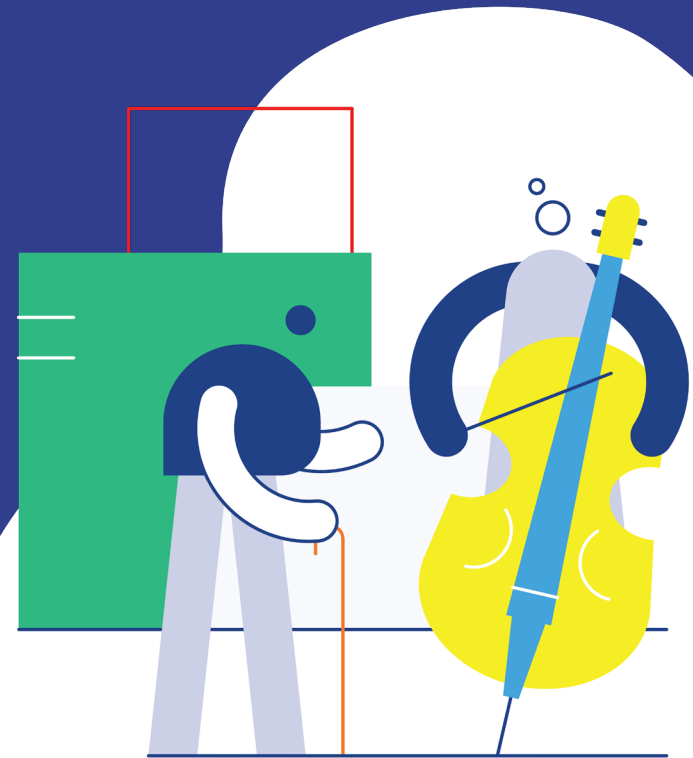
City-to-City

Pairs or trios of cities working together for two years on one or more thematic cooperation areas.
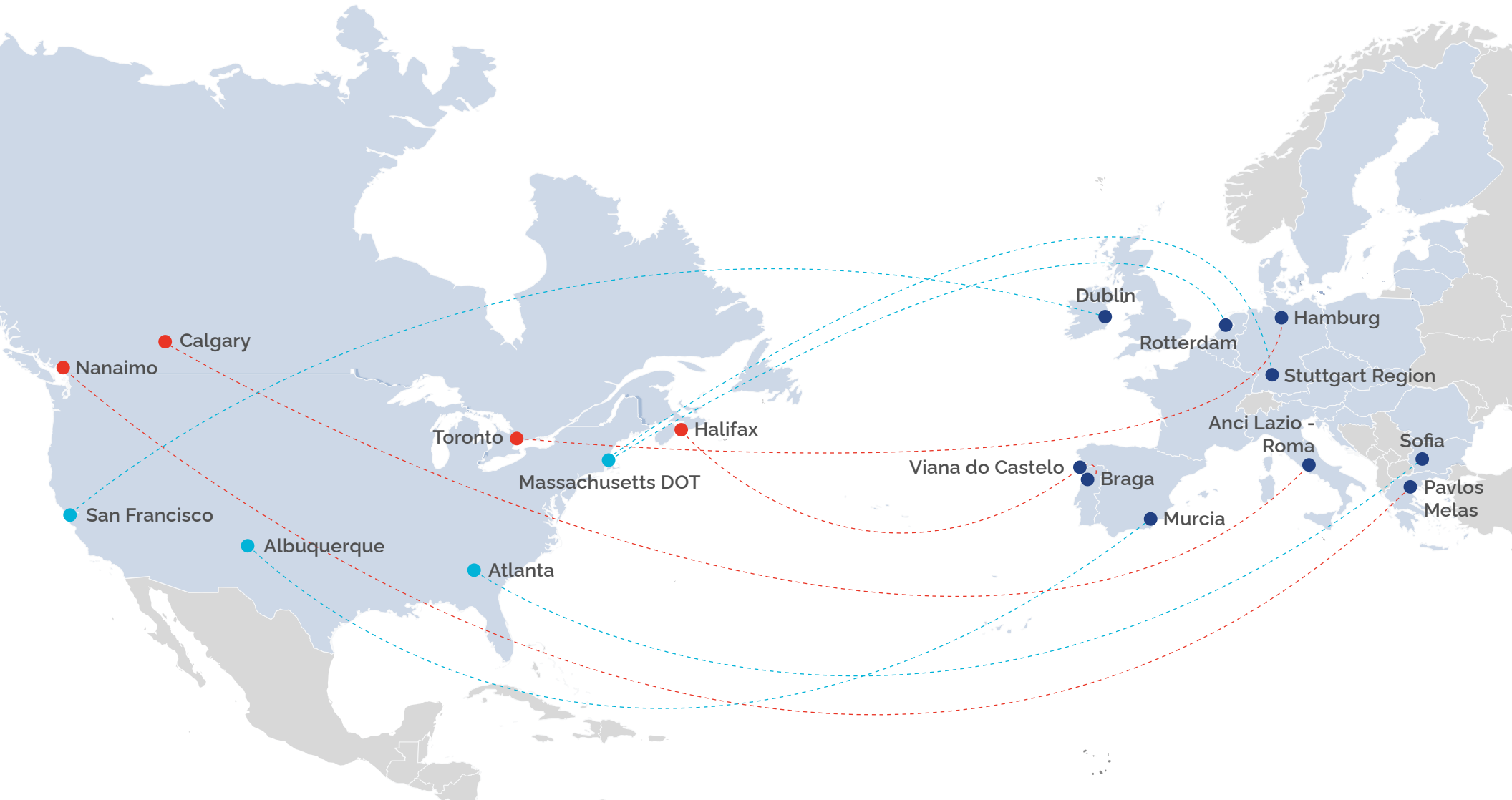
Global Network

Cities and stakeholders from our network participating in virtual and in-person thematic events, technical sessions and trainings.

IURC cities commit to cooperate with international peers, allocate human resources and time to develop a successful cooperation which will last beyond the lifetime of the program.

Calgary

Nanaimo

Dublin

Hamburg

Rotterdam

Stuttgart Region

Toronto

Halifax

Massachusetts DOT

Anci Lazio - Roma

Sofia

Viana do Castelo

Braga

Pavlos Melas

San Francisco

Murcia

Albuquerque

Atlanta

City-to-City Pairings and Trios Phase 3

18 Cities, 10 Countries

Areas of Cooperation

NA City/Metro Area	EU City / Metro Area	Thematic Area	Topics
Calgary, Canada	**Anzi Lacio-Roma,** Italy	🟩 **Nature Based Solutions** 🟧 **Renovation Wave** 🟩 **Sustainable Agriculture** 🟪 **Urban Agenda & Planning**	— Water and Waste Management — Energy Efficiency in Buildings — Food Systems - Urban Gardens — Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, Digitalisation
Halifax, Canada	**Braga,** Portugal **Viana do Castelo,** Portugal	🟩 **Nature Based Solutions** 🟩 **Sustainable Agriculture** 🟥 **Innovative Strategies for Economic Development**	— Water and Waste Management — Food Systems - Urban Gardens — Talent Attraction and Corporate Innovation
Nanaimo, Canada	**Pavlos Melas,** Greece	🟪 **Circular Economy & Waste Management** 🟥 **Innovative Strategies for Economic Development** 🟦 **Urban Regeneration**	— Strategies for Implementing Circular Economy Plans and Projects — Innovation Centers — Redevelopment of Abandoned Areas, Changes in Use, and Access to Mobility and Transport
Toronto, Canada	**Hamburg,** Germany	🟦 **Sustainable Urban Mobility & Transport** 🟪 **Urban Agenda & Planning** ⬛ **Urban Poverty**	— Data Management — Data Management- Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, Public Space, Urban Models — Data Management - Deprived Neighbourhoods - Housing - Social Cohesion

Areas of Cooperation

NA City/Metro Area	EU City / Metro Area	Thematic Area	Topics
Albuquerque, USA	**Murcia,** Spain	■ **Circular Economy & Waste Management** ■ **Nature-Based Solutions** ■ **Urban Agenda & Planning**	— Food Systems, Packaging, and Community Engagement — Urban Heat Islands, Climate Shelters and Climate Adaptation — Deprived Neighbourhoods, Public Spaces and Access to Mobility and Transport
Atlanta, USA	**Sofia,** Bulgaria	■ **Circular Economy & Waste Management** ■ **Sustainable Agriculture** ■ **Urban Agenda & Planning**	— Strategies for Implementing Circular Economy Plans and Projects — Food Systems - Urban Gardens — Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, Digitalisation
Massachusetts Department of Transportation, USA	**Rotterdam,** Netherlands **Stuttgart,** Germany	■ **Sustainable Urban Mobility & Transport**	— Zero-Emission Zones for Freight and Decarbonising Ports — Shared Mobility and Mobility as a Service (MaaS) — Active Mobility and Modelling/Simulation — Smart Mobility and Autonomous Vehicles — Transportation Development Plans and Impact Indicators — Transit Oriented Development — Public Outreach and Engagement — Exploration of AI in the Transportation Ecosystem — Expertise Regarding Transportation-Related Tourism and/or Economic Development-Related Transportation
San Francisco, USA	**Dublin,** Ireland	■ **Circular Economy & Waste Management** ■ **Nature-Based Solutions**	— Food, Built Environment, Consumer Products, Training and Job creation — Natural Refrigerants in Residential and Commercial Buildings

What cities are saying...

"IURC has been an amazing tool to align the International Strategy of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area with our priority to foster cooperation with North American metropolitan governments. Our metropolis are facing the same challenges in terms of climate change, resilience, urban regeneration, housing or sustainable transport. However, the way to approach them is quite different."

XAVIER TIANA, AMB

"This program was fantastic in terms of bringing together two different perspectives on common issues facing municipal service delivery. I am grateful for the opportunity to have broadened my world view on such issues and am confident that the experiences I had will enhance and inform my decision-making in the future."
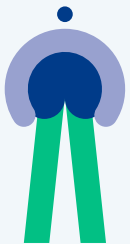
KARINA RITCHERS, CITY OF WINDSOR

What cities are saying...

"The IURC program is very motivating from the beginning since it arises from sharing urban problems and concerns with colleagues. Together, we can share both our successes and our lessons learned, creating a lasting impact in our cities and maintaining a fluid professional relationship."
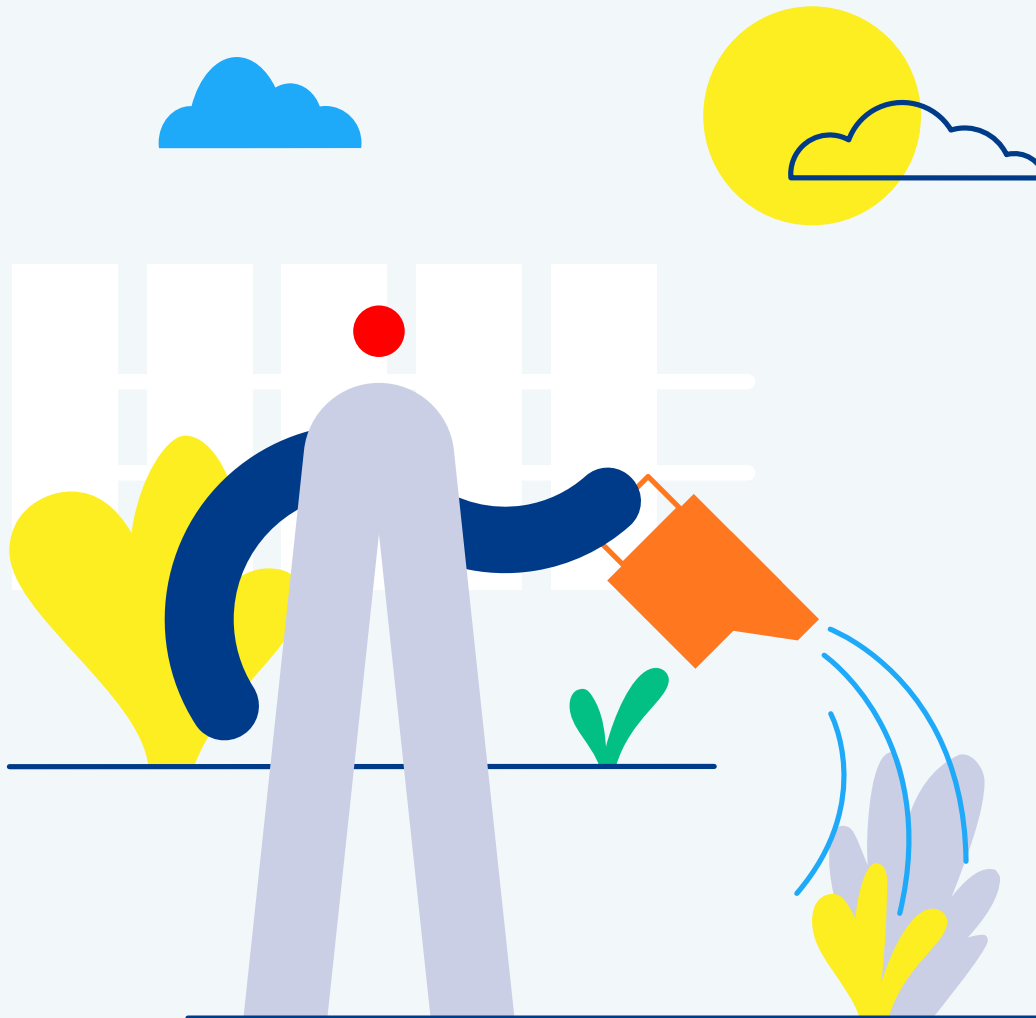
PEDRO FERNANDEZ, CITY OF MADRID

"The IURC program has provided not just my City, but myself as a Director in a large U.S. City, the opportunity to not only vision what we need to do to transition to a more sustainable future, but also observe and experience real-world solutions."

ALYSSA MUTO, CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Learn more about IURC NA

iurc.eu/na

For more information

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