

OPENCities

Co operation on European
urban development: The first
year of Urbact II

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OpenCities is based on a concept developed
by British Council in collaboration with
a network of European Cities.



Definition

Explores the ways in which international populations can significantly contribute to city success. Open-ness is the ability of cities to attract and retain international populations over time...

We need to better understand why people decide to move to cities in Europe and what factors influence which cities they decide to move to?

We need to identify whether ‘open-ness’ is a key feature of some cities more than others and what constitutes open-ness for a city ?

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OPENCities – a driver for successful cities

OPENCities – What are we trying to achieve ?

- Consider the positive aspects of the attraction and retention of migrant workers
- International populations contribution to cities success
- In order to be attractive to international populations (migrant workers) cities need to be open
- Human capital is mobile and skilled workers can choose where they want to locate
- Immigration has central role to play in Lisbon agenda
- OPENCities will try to identify the links between migration and cities competitiveness

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OPENCities – how do we define it?

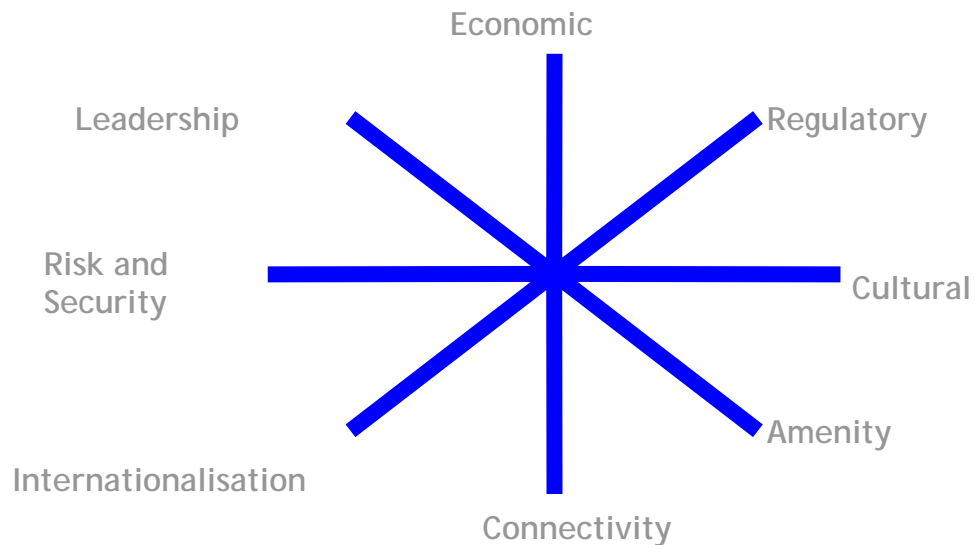
- What is an OPENCity ?
- What is it OPEN for ? Investment, new opportunities , growth, innovation, new cultures, integration of disparate populations, business
- Who is OPEN to ? Migrant workers, international population, refugees asylum seekers, foreign nationals, skilled and unskilled
- How do you plan to create more OPENCities ? Easier access to information, less regulations, more employment opportunities, social welfare support, targetted resources for disadvantaged groups
- OPENCities is also about the positive aspects of the social and economic integration of migrant workers

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OPENCities Concepts

Open-ness Factors



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Partners

Lead Partner – Belfast City

Nicosia (Cyprus)

Bilbao

Düsseldorf

Poznan (Poland)

British Council

Madrid

Vienna

Dublin

Sofia (Bulgaria)

Nitra (Slovakia)

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Achievements so far

- OPENCities concept paper
- Baseline reports for each city
- Local Support Groups set up
- Development of next phase (work packages)
- International Benchmarking – Bak Basel
- Photographic exhibition
- Strong working links with the European Commission
- Managing Authority links and draft work paper

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OPENCities Emerging themes

- Recent enlargement of EU has created flows of migrant workers across Europe
- Difficulties in some cities in tracking and measuring how many and which nationalities
- Economic growth creates demand for new arrivals
- Pressure on public sector budgets to support new arrivals
- Need to develop leadership resources for new groups to facilitate integration
- Language barriers to integration across generations
- Barriers to labour market and education
- Integration V Assimilation
- Different groups of migrants – EU and third country nationals
- Population decline in many larger cities amongst indigenous population

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Defined themes from Regions for Economic Change

30 Themes overall, of which

Seven "urban" themes to be treated within **URBACT II**:

- 1. Making healthy communities**
- 2. Integrated policies on urban transport**
- 3. Developing sustainable and energy-efficient housing stock**
- 4. Integrating marginalised youth**
- 5. Managing migration and facilitating social integration**
- 6. Achieving sustainable urban development**
- 7. Re-using brownfield and waste disposal sites**

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Links with Regions for Economic Change

- Focus on More and Better Jobs
- Integration, Employment, Enterprise, Education
- Economic and Social Integration
- More Open minded about the scope of opportunity – not just about managing a perceived problem

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What do we expect from the FTN?

- Help to identify priorities for networking linked to Operational Programmes (OPs)
- Assist with the Managing Authorities participating in the network
- Review and assist in delivering action plans through OP's
- Access to EU stats and white papers
- Strong links with relevant DG's within the Commission

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Experience with URBACT II

- Strong networking arena that allows the cities to address the issue of managing migration
- Allowed further access to the European Commission
- First time ever working with MA's in a network
- Hard working staff at the secretariat!
- Quick turn around of decisions on the project
- Better forward planning of events/training?

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