



# EUROTOWNS

## THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES

### WHO WE ARE

#### HISTORY

Eurotowns was first established in 1991. Since that time it has developed into a Europe-wide network of cities with populations between 50,000 and 250,000.

Towns and cities of this size play a significant role in the economic and social life of Europe. The Eurotowns network aims to ensure that this fact is properly reflected in the development of European legislation. Members are medium-sized cities from many different European countries, such as Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.

#### MISSION

Eurotowns supports medium-sized cities in Europe to strengthen their role as attractive, inclusive and sustainable places.

The network wants to give voice to medium-sized cities within the representative bodies of the European Union (European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Europe, and Committee of the Regions).

Our specific aims are to:

- reinforce the dialogue between cities from different European regions;
- raise awareness about the important role of medium-sized cities in the process of European Integration and European Legislation among our institutional, political, economical and civil society partners;
- develop concrete position papers, actions and projects;
- give voice to best practices and to innovative policy proposals developed and promoted by European medium-sized cities;
- contribute to the political discussions, to shape future European programmes in the best interest of medium-sized cities.



### OUR STRUCTURE

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly consists of all members of the network and meets once a year. It debates and approves the network's overall work programme and policy direction for the future, based on recommendations made by the Executive Council. The General Assembly also provides a forum for internal political debates among all members about the future priorities of Eurotowns.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council comprises the President, the two Vice-Presidents and a maximum of five other members of the Eurotowns network. It monitors the programme of work and ensures the implementation of all General Assembly decisions. The Executive Council meets on a trimestral basis and promotes networking actions and partnership enlargement.

#### TASK TEAMS

The main work of the network is delivered through Task Teams. They:

- carry out the work programme based on priorities and challenges agreed by the General Assembly and the Executive Council;
- develop and implement projects and activities focusing on specific thematic priorities through a variety of means including workshops, round tables, events and associated activities;
- identify and access external sources of finance for projects and activities.

Task Teams receive funding in order to develop project ideas, organise events and commission studies and other research activities.



## BECOME A NEW MEMBER

### CREATIVE AND CULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH TASK TEAM

This Task Team is exploring ways of unlocking the potential of the cultural and creative sector as a driver for innovation and growth in our respective municipalities as well as to collaborate on seeking European funding.

### INNOVATION TASK TEAM

The aim of the Task Team Innovation is to prepare innovation related urban development activities and projects aiming for European funding programmes.

### MOBILITY TASK TEAM

The Task Team addresses different mobility policy aspects related to our cities by exchanging knowledge, sharing best practices and participating in European Union funded projects.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION TASK TEAM

The objective of this Task Team is to work in line with the European Union goal “Growth for all” in focusing primarily on migration and social cohesion topics.

### STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP

The Strategic Policy Group aims to better promote the interests of medium-sized cities at the European level and to develop stronger linkages between European institutions and local authorities.

### WHY NETWORKING?

City networking is a well-recognised and valuable mechanism for reinforcing European cohesion. Participation in the Eurotowns network enables representation of local government at the European level and provides a firm framework for promoting innovation and exchanging transnational experiences.

The main benefits of the Eurotowns network are:

- exchange of experience and know-how;
- opportunities to engage in mutually beneficial partnership activity;
- sharing of information of common interest;
- promoting the interests of medium-sized cities at the European level.

### WHY EUROTOWNS?

Eurotowns is the only network for cities of populations between 50,000 and 250,000, which gives it a unique position within the European Union.

Cities of this size share similar problems and conditions, and the network promotes a rewarding and effective exchange of knowledge and experience that benefits member cities individually and collectively.

The Eurotowns structure enables politicians and municipal experts to work productively together in areas of common interest, and the united voice of the Eurotowns network helps to strengthen the position and influence of local authorities at the European level.

Eurotowns facilitates productive and mutually beneficial activities focusing on different thematic priorities through the Task Team structure.

Last but not least, it provides a valuable mechanism for building reliable partnerships, developing innovative and sustainable projects, and effective collaboration on European Union funding applications.

### MEMBERSHIP

Interested? Apply to become a new member and experience the benefits yourself! The first year's membership is free of charge, which gives you the opportunity to learn more about the network from the inside.

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT

From the second year onwards we ask for an annual fee of € 3500.

We use the principle of “return on investment” to stimulate members to become active.

All members benefit from the network by sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences and working together in European projects. Members who participate in Task Team activities also receive 50% reimbursement of travel and hotel expenditures.

### CONTACT

For more information please visit our website:

**[www.eurotowns.org](http://www.eurotowns.org)**

or contact the Secretariat of Eurotowns:

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