



Program of the Network of Towns

Europe in the future-Multifaceted and Unified



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What is the Network of Towns Programme?

Network of Towns Programme is a formal, partnership between two and more towns that is characterised by mutual cooperation and responsibility for the achievement of agreed goals. Working together provides benefits to their citizens.

Network of Towns is an approach that enables exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices between partners. Network partnerships typically focus on selected performance areas.

Network of Towns Programme is created in the frame of the project “Europe in the Future Multifaceted and Unified” co-funded for Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union.

For the purpose of the documents, **town is** city, municipality, local authority and each organization that work in the field of local self-government.

Overall Aim of the Network of Towns

The purpose of the network of towns is to make our cooperation more sustainable. We work together to fostering European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process, its history and diversity and promoting opportunities for social and intercultural engagement. In future we will work to solve our problems through exchange best practices and experience.



Network of Towns aims to promote sharing of ideas, skills and learning from each other through exchange of information, and technology transfer. The approach provides opportunities for peer support in the field of self-government in the local level and cultural exchange.

Characteristics of Network of Towns

- **A mutually beneficial exchange started on an equal footing.** No town is giving and no town is taking. Each have to give and each have to take. It is not about how many resources a partner has, and it is not a donor - receiver relationship. Neither is it a big sister - small sister relationship.
- **Formal** - There is a written agreement between the towns.
- **Substantive** - That the interaction is significant and lasts for a period of time i.e. it is not only a one-time interaction.
- **Collaborative** - The towns work together on a specific project, to exchange information and skills. The period of interaction, the areas of exchange and the actual processes are determined by the towns. The relationship is about acknowledging differences and making the best out of them. It involves creating common ground for sharing ideas and experiences.

Types of Network Activities

Network of towns activities can take various forms including but not limited to the examples below:

- **Training exchanges** can involve internships; on-site training or study tours e.g. one or more persons from one town visiting the partner town for a period of time to learn or impart information and skills.
- **Study visit** involve the visiting of several expert policy-makers or stakeholders of the town for the purpose of providing or receiving training.
- **International meeting** involve meeting between partners for the purpose of collaboration events exchange experience of specific topic.
- **Collaboration** on project initiatives involves towns agreeing to work together to establish a particular programme to address an issue that affects them.
- **Cultural exchange** involve international events aims to present cultural differences and traditions of partner country.

Benefits of participation of the Networks of Towns

- **Capacity Building** - Partnership strengthens the towns involved through a transfer of skills, technologies and knowledge.



- **Sharing best practice** - Network provides opportunities to identify successful policies, techniques and interventions and to promote them between the network members as well as other stakeholders. Learning about these best practices saves organization`s time and effort;

- **Building relationships** – Participation of the Networks of Towns will encourage collaboration and help build strong relationships. Towns can mutually support each other and can turn to their partner for support or they can work together on a specific issue or project;

- **Effectiveness:** Networking that involves collaborating on a specific initiative results in stronger and more effective programmes.

- **Broadening horizons** - Networks of Towns will be a way to reach out to others, break down barriers and learn about other cultures and tradition;

- **Building a global movement** - Partnership knows no geographical boundaries; it affects people all over the world. Partnership will help build an even stronger movement and create a feeling of belonging to a global family;

- **Solidarity:** Network helps to create a feeling of belonging to a larger community. Towns involved in Network are often inspired by the work of their partners.

- **Achieving measurable results** - The results of a partner relationship could for example be the creation of a new project, increased membership, identifying new funding sources to implement ideas in reality.

Pre-requisites for effective association to Network of Towns

According to literature and from our experience there are some aspects that must be present for a Network partnership to work. These include:

- **Equal participation** on level ground.
- All interactions are based on **mutual respect, honesty, trust and transparency**.
- There should be organizational **integrity with each town** honouring its side of the agreement. There needs to be recognition by both parties that everyone has something to learn and everyone has something to offer.
 - Prior to beginning the process the associations **agree on the form of Network**.
 - Must be **equal contribution** to all activities, which are based on a jointly prepared and mutually agreed action plan. This action plan should address agreed challenges and include a budget breakdown that is based on areas needing development in each association.
- A **written commitment** is strongly suggested to avoid any misunderstanding between the network`s members.
- **Working across cultures**. Culture is what motivates people to behave and act in the way that they do. This can also be at individual or group level. Towns engaged in Network of Towns should allow for adequate time to discuss, understand and deal with cross cultural issues. There needs to be insights and a thorough understanding of such issues as there can be a real threat to the viability of the relationship without first acknowledging and working through real or potential cultural barriers.



Who can take part of Network of Towns?

Cities, municipalities, local authorities, each organization of local self-government field who work to prosperity of their local place and their citizens.

Each local authority, which believe that the power is in the union.

We will become more strongly in future if we explore history and culture of each of us.

How to join to Networks of Towns?

If you share our ideas, please follow next step:

Step 1. Express interest in Network of towns

Please download and fill application form which is published on the site of Network of towns <http://europeinfuture.eu/?page=6&lang=en> and send it /scanned/ to us on the following e-mail: office@europeinfuture.eu

PARTNER INFORMATION SHEET

Please provide the following information:

Please briefly present the partner organisation (e.g. its type, size, scope of work, areas of specific expertise, specific social context)

Provide three reasons why Network will be useful for your organization;

Provide three benefits your organization hopes to gain from the Network of towns

What are the main topics which you like to exchange the experience?

Do you have twinning cities? Please write the names of cities if applicable

Legal representative (name, adress, phone number, e-mail)

Activity contact person (name, adress, phone number, e-mail)

TOWN of /name of city, municipality, local authority or organisation/
has expressed interest in participation of Network of Towns

Representatives of organisation:

1. Name, position, sign
2.



Step 2. Formalizing the relationship

Legal representative of organization have to sign the agreement of Network of Towns

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OF NETWORK OF TOWNS

The City of [NAME] and the Cities of Network of Towns, do hereby agree to promote, support, and encourage exchanges and cooperative activities between the citizens of each community.

These exchanges and activities shall be based on shared goals of economic development, cultural understanding, and improved municipal governance and administration.

In pursuit of these shared goals, our cities shall:

- Encourage study abroad programs between our respective schools;
- Explore cooperation and exchange between local development agencies, chambers of commerce, and tourism departments;
- Perform inbound/outbound youth exchanges;
- Provide support for exchanges of art and cultural products between our respective museums, galleries and cultural institutions;
- Prioritize municipal exchanges in the areas of transportation management and water management, environment;
-/

In all activities each side will endeavor to ensure mutual benefit for each city, and shall draw on its institutions, social organizations, and citizens to promote cooperation.

The agreement has been made in English, each one being equally authentic.

We hereby pledge to cooperate with each other as Member of Network of Towns on this [DATE].

[SIGNATURE]
 [NAME OF ELECTED OFFICIAL]
 [TITLE]
 [DATE]

Step3. Future initiatives – Strategic Action Plan - Annex 1



Step 4. Monitoring and evaluation of the Programme

At agreed intervals /annual/ an evaluation will be completed by member of network. The evaluation might include some of the following elements: commitment of each member, relevance of the project to the needs and constraints of the municipalities, benefits of the initiative; sustainability of the proposed initiatives, likely short- and long-term impacts and multiplier effects of the project; networking benefits relating to the type of links that have been established with various partners; transferability of the initiatives so that any lessons learnt can be shared with others for additional positive outcomes.

Annex 1

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

for example

Vision	Work together to fostering European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process, its history and diversity and promoting opportunities for social and intercultural engagement				
Strategic objective	1. to solve our problems through exchange best practices and experience. 2. to promote sharing of ideas, skills and learning from each other				
Output	Activities	Timelines	Responsible	Resources finance	Other
Youth exchange	Strategic partnership	26 April 2017	Nughedu Santa Vittoria, Aksakovo	Erasmus +, KA2	
Local administration peer-peer exchange	Strategic Partnership in the field of education, training and youth	2018	Aksakovo	Erasmus +, KA2	