



# Urban Innovative Actions

## 1st Call for Proposals

Madrid 16/02/2016



European Union  
European Regional Development Fund



RÉGION  
NORD-PAS DE CALAIS

# Main objectives



**Art.8 ERDF:** “...*To identify and test new solutions which address issues related to sustainable urban development and are of relevance at Union level.*”

- To provide urban authorities with resources to test how new and unproven solutions work in practice and how they respond to the complexity of real life
- To draw lessons and share knowledge with other urban authorities across Europe

# Main features of UIA projects



## Requirements:

- Be related to sustainable urban development
- Be of relevance at Union level
- Support the thematic objectives and investment priorities for ERDF

## Characteristics:

- **Innovative:** *To what extent the project proposal is a new solution that has the clear potential to add value?*
- **Of good quality:** *To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent? To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?*
- **Built and delivered in partnership:** *To what extent is the involvement of key stakeholders relevant for the implementation of the project?*
- **With measurable results:** *To what extent will the project deliver measurable results?*
- **Transferable:** *To what extent will the project be transferable to other urban areas across Europe?*

# UIA Experts



- UIA Expert to provide approved project with:
  - Advice and guidance on the substance of the action, especially regarding the innovative content
  - Assistance in the development of documentation and outputs that will capture and disseminate lessons learnt, good practice, etc. to the wide audience
  - Support to ensure that the action remains on track and is in line with the agreed proposal
  
- Selected through Calls for Applications (linked to the Call for Proposals)
  
- In depth expertise on the selected topics and urban innovation
  
- Allocated to approved projects by the Permanent Secretariat
  
- Up to 40 days of expertise over 4 years (3+1)
  
- Costs for expertise and travel & accomodation covered by UIA Initiative

# Key figures



- UIA budget: EUR 372 Mio  
ERDF
- Co-financing per project: max. EUR 5 Mio ERDF
- Co-financing rate: max. 80%
- Project duration: max. 3 years

# Eligible authorities



UIA Delegated Act:

- Any urban authority of a local administrative unit defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb comprising at least 50.000 inhabitants
- Any association or grouping of urban authorities of local administrative units defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb where the total population is at least 50.000 inhabitants; this can include crossborder associations or groupings, associations or groupings in different regions and/or Member States





Any **urban authority** of a local administrative unit defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb comprising at least 50.000 inhabitants

- ✓ **Local administrative unit:** democratically elected administrative body relevant to the urban area concerned (eg. city council, municipality, borough)
  
- ✓ **Degree of urbanisation:** classification based on a combination of geographical contiguity and minimum population threshold applied to 1km<sup>2</sup> population grids –classification elaborated by Eurostat
  
- ✓ **Number of inhabitants:** based on figures provided by Eurostat

**EUROSTAT Correspondance table LAU2-NUTS2010, EU28 (2012)**



Any **association or grouping** of urban authorities of local administrative units defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb where the total population is at least 50.000 inhabitants

- Associations with a **legal status of organised agglomeration**, recognised as tiers of government by national legislation (Communautés d'Agglomeration, Città Metropolitane, etc.)

- ✓To be recognised as tier of government by the national law
- ✓To have competences delegated by the municipalities
- ✓To have a political and administrative structure
- ✓To have at least 50.000 inhabitants
- ✓To be composed mainly by municipalities recognised by Eurostat as cities, towns or suburbs (according to the degree of urbanisation)
- ✓To have the majority of the population living in the urban area





Any **association or grouping** of urban authorities of local administrative units defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb where the total population is at least 50.000 inhabitants

- Associations without a legal status of organised agglomeration, created on a voluntary basis by the urban authorities involved (already existing or created for the purpose of the UIA Initiative)

*In this case, main and associated urban authorities shall be designated and a limited number of urban authorities with territorial contiguity is recommended.*

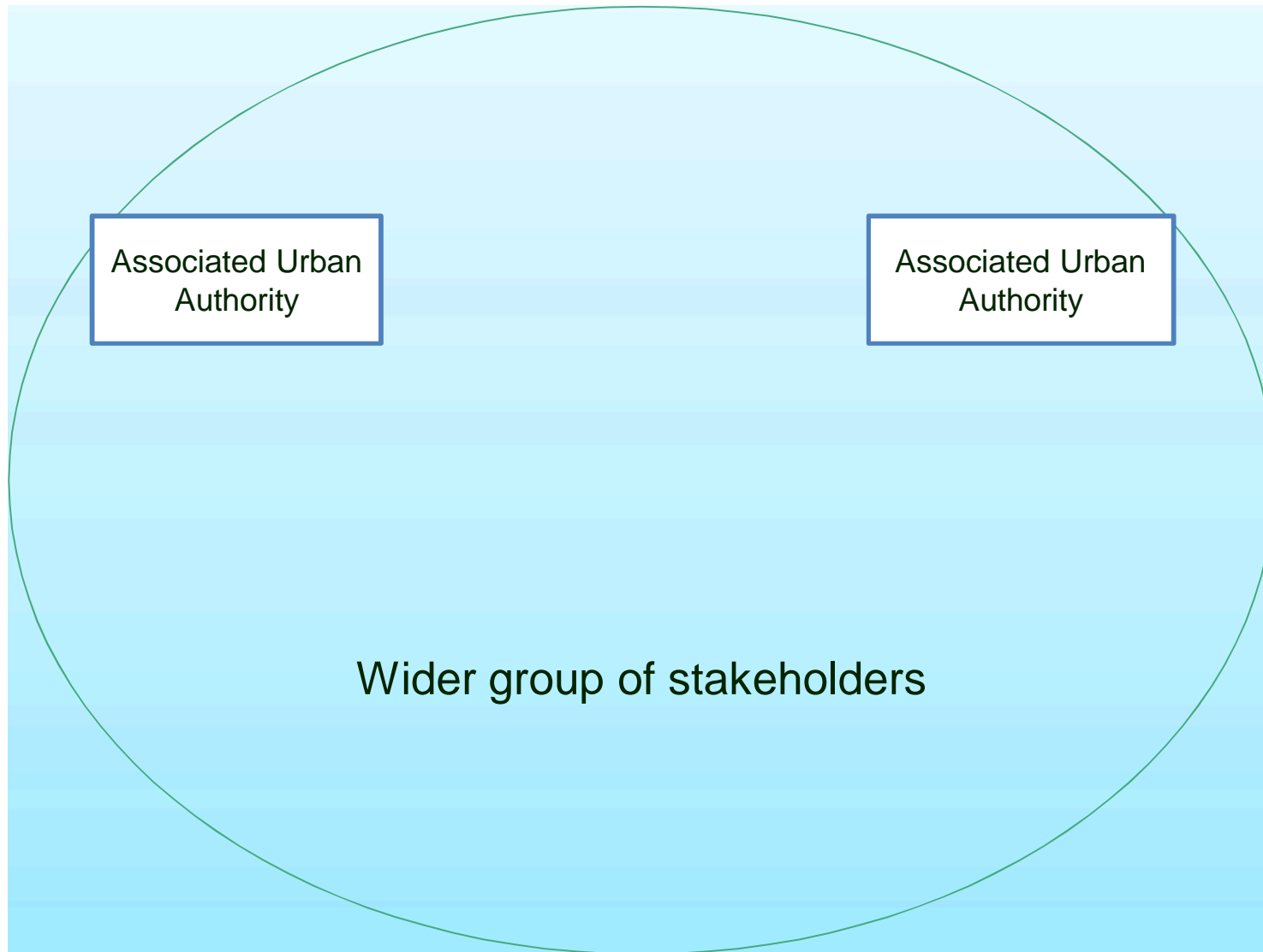




- ✓ All Urban Authorities shall be located in an EU Member State
- ✓ An Urban Authority or an association/grouping can submit only one project proposal in the framework of each Call for Proposals



# Partnership for UIA projects



# Funding principle



## Total Costs

- ERDF co-financing: max. 80%
- Partner contribution: min. 20%
  - Own resources or not
  - Private or public (the latter is encouraged)

## ERDF advance payment

- 50% on signature of the subsidy contract
- 30% when project expenditure reaches 70% of 1<sup>st</sup> instalment
- Remaining ERDF paid on closure of the project
  - = pre-financing by project



# Management structure



**European Commission:** represents the European Union. In charge of implementing resources allocated to Innovative Actions under indirect management. UJA selected projects are agreed by the European Commission.

**Entrusted Authority:** Region Nord-Pas de Calais-Picardie. In charge of the implementation of the UJA Initiative and selection of projects on the basis of the Delegated Act and the Delegation Agreement signed with the EC.

**Permanent Secretariat:** Based in Lille. In charge of the daily management of the UJA Initiative. It is the “one-stop-shop” for all urban authorities and stakeholders.

# UIA – TOPICS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CALL



- UIA will seek to operate within the framework of the 12 EU Urban Agenda topics
- Topics will be covered on a rolling basis i.e. a few topics per call
- Allows for more strategic choices, the avoidance of overlaps and a more focussed approach. New knowledge is the driving force.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Call – 4 topics
- Description of the topics selected for each Call detailed in specific Terms of Reference

# 1st Call for Proposals: 4 topics



1. Urban poverty – with a focus on deprived neighborhoods

1. Integration of migrants and refugees

1. Jobs and skills in local economy

1. Energy transition



# Application Process



- Call for Proposals:
  - ✓ **Launched: 15/12/2015**
  - ✓ **Deadline: 31/03/2016 at 14h00 CET**
  
- Documents to be submitted (via Exchange Electronic Platform EEP):
  - ✓ **Application Form**
  - ✓ **Signed Confirmation Sheet**
  
- Reference documents:
  - ✓ **Terms of Reference**
  - ✓ **UIA Guidance**
  - ✓ **Application Form – Working Document**





Application Forms can be submitted in any EU language **BUT** applicants are strongly recommended to do it in English

Application Forms not submitted in English shall be translated by the Secretariat for the assessment and the quality of the translation cannot be guaranteed



# 3-step Selection Process



# Admissibility and eligibility

<p>1</p> <p>Carried out by permanent Secretariat</p> <p><b>check</b></p>	
<p>The Application Form has been submitted electronically via the EEP before the deadline indicated in the Terms of Reference of the Call for Proposals</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>The Application Form is completely filled in</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>The applicant is an urban authority of a local administrative unit defined according to the degree of urbanization as city, town or suburb and comprising at least 50 000 inhabitants</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>The applicant is an association or grouping of urban authorities of local administrative units defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb where the total population is 50 000 inhabitants</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>(If applicable) In case of an association or grouping without a legal status of organised agglomeration, a Main Urban Authority and the Associated Urban Authorities are presented</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>Time limits are respected: the end date of the project respects the Call and the Initiative requirements</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>The maximum budget requirements and the co-financing principle are respected</p>	<p>✓</p>
<p>A signed confirmation sheet shall be uploaded in the EEP system and attached to the Application Form by the end of the Call</p>	<p>✓</p>

# Strategic assessment



Carried out by the Panel of External Experts:

- Composed of around 20 experts
- With in-depth knowledge on the 4 topics and proven track record in assessing urban innovative projects
- Recruited through Call for Applications (currently open)
- Four eye approach

Focus on 4 selection criteria:

- Innovativeness (40%)
- Partnership (15%)
- Measurability of results (15%)
- Transferability (10%)



# Operational Assessment



Carried out by the Permanent Secretariat

## •Quality (20%)

- How well is a need for the project justified?
- To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent?
- To what extent are management structures and procedures in line with the project size, duration and needs?
- To what extent does the project budget demonstrate value for money
- To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?
- To what extent are the communication activities proportionate and forceful to reach relevant target groups and stakeholders and help achieve the project activities

# Application Form contents



- **Part A – Project Summary**
- **Part B – Partnership**
- **Part C – Project Description**
- **Part D – Work Plan**
- **Part E – Project Budget**
- **Urban Authority confirmation sheet**

# Eligibility rules - Driving principles



- Sound financial management
- Simplified rules
- Reduced administrative workload

Additionally:

- Projects must still comply with EU, national and organisation rules
- Expenses must relate to activities listed in the AF
- Costs in line with the principles of efficiency, economy and effectiveness
- Expenses invoiced between partners are not eligible
- Revenues generated by project activities must be reimbursed

# Next steps



- 31/03/2016 – Deadline submission of Application Forms
- 10/2016 – Indicative date approval of projects







# Questions & Answers





## For more information:

-UIA website: [www.uia-initiative.eu](http://www.uia-initiative.eu)

-Email: [info@uia-initiative.eu](mailto:info@uia-initiative.eu)

-Main documents:

- Terms of Reference 1st Call for Proposals

- UIA Guidance

- Application Form Working Document





**Thank you for your attendance!**

