



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
NETWORKING EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of lead organization	URBACT Programme
City and country where lead organization is based	Saint-Denis, France
Title of the event	Making my city a better place to live: lessons learnt from European local authorities
Date of Networking Event	10/18/2016
Networking Event room number	R4
Name of partner organizations with city and country where these organizations are based	There was no partner organisation
Number of participants	80
Percentage of women participants	40%
Background information on Networking Event (themes, issues, context).	<p>This event presented the methods, tools and know-how for sustainable urban development put in place over the last 10 years by URBACT, the networking programme for local authorities funded by the European Union. Hundreds of cities across the world are already implementing the principles and objectives of the New Urban Agenda but often this implementation and good practices remain isolated and unknown due to the lack of communication and cooperation amongst cities. Representatives from European municipalities like Nantes (France), Basingstoke (UK) and Mollet del Vallès (Spain) explained how cooperation with other cities helped them transfer, adapt and scale up local projects from other contexts using the URBACT method: -the integrated and, - participative approach to urban development, -monitoring actions and measuring results, -networking with other cities. The event closed with a presentation of how cities can benefit from URBACT networking opportunities and knowledge.</p>



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.</p>	<p>The four speakers presented their own experience as part of URBACT city networks. Albert Garcia from Mollet del Vallès, a town of 52 000 inhabitants closely connected to the surrounding rural area, explained how the city managed to adapt in their local context the diet policy of the City of Sodertälje in Sweden. The policy of Sodertälje consists of distributing healthy, balanced, organic, seasonal and locally produced food to all public canteens of the city. With no experience in local food policies before, Mollet del Vallès decided to gather local producers, school teachers, cooks, dieticians, private companies, politicians, and others, in order to improve the food quality and nutritional habits of people just as Sodertälje did. Together, they decided to change the public procurement model of the city introducing clauses for the companies distributing food in public canteens. These clauses included indicators and targets for Tasty and healthy food; Organically grown; Less meat, more vegetables and wholegrain; Seasonal food, Locally produced; and Reduced food waste. Basingstoke Council (UK) with a population of 178,000 decided to join the URBACT ESIMEC network and work with other cities on how to connect local workforce skills to the needs of employers. Following transnational meetings with other European cities, master classes, and meeting with local stakeholders, employers, universities, city staff and young people, Basingstoke gained a real understanding of business needs and skills shortages at local level and decided to create “Basingstoke Employment and Skills Zone” to match education with the local business needs. Nantes (FR) with 600 000 inhabitants decided to work with other cities on the prevention of school drop outs by mobilizing parents. Nantes set up a local group on this issue, gathering parents, teachers, students, associative and institutional partners working with youth or dealing with social issues. Together they came up with 11 recommendations for all the educational stakeholders of the city that were integrated to their respective workplans (meeting systematically the parents, developing digital technology, etc). Finally, the thematic expert of the URBACT Resilient Europe network presented some methods used by cities who wish to recover or thrive after a shock or a stress (usually from natural disasters). One of these methods is visiting vulnerable districts of the city together with different stakeholders to get a shared understanding of the challenges and co-develop experimental solutions. Even though all these cities have been working on different topics, the speakers pointed out the importance of using the same methods and tools like: -Local Groups with different stakeholders: Co-creation is a complex process that requires a structured method. Informal local groups gathering stakeholders from different policy areas and levels of administration allow for a more comprehensive understanding of local problems and therefore a more integrated design and implementation of local policies and projects. -Cooperation among cities: The development and implementation of these practices would have required more time or would have even not been possible without systematic networking, exchange and learning activities amongst different cities. -Result framework: Cities need to monitor and measure the progress and results of the policies and projects they put in place in order to be able to see the local changes, improve them or adapt them.</p>
<p>Recommendations emerged from discussions at the Networking Event .</p>	<p>There was no publication promoted at the event</p>



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Full name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker	Participants from other parts of the world (Israel, China, India) participated actively to learn about these European examples and the URBACT Method. Contacts between the European presenters and their peers from other continents have been created and will result in bilateral visits in the near future.
Full name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker	Albert Garcia Macian, Spanish, European Projects Manager, Municipality of Mollet del Vallès, Spain
Full name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker	Jean-Jacques Derrien, European Projects Manager, City of Nantes, France
Full name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker	Niki Frantzeskaki, Professor, Erasmus University of Rotterdam
Full name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker	Daniel Garnier, Economic Development Manager, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, UK,