

## ICP-AGIR Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What countries/territories participate in the programme and what are the topics?

There will be four cities selected from Canada, and four cities selected from South Africa. In addition to Singapore and Hong Kong, there will be a selection of two South Korean cities and two Taiwanese cities in Asia. From Europe, there will be a total of 14 cities selected from different Member States.

The programme covers the following themes:

- **EU-Canada** urban policy cooperation on **inclusion of migrants and refugees** – 4 EU cities with 4 Canadian Cities.
- **EU-South Africa** urban policy cooperation on integrating **circular economy and nature-based solutions for their key benefits in terms of just energy transition** – 4 EU cities with 4 South African Cities.
- **EU-Asia** urban policy cooperation (Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea) **on circular economy (including energy transition) and air quality** - 6 EU Cities with 2 cities in South Korea, 2 cities in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

### 2. What is the programme about in one paragraph?

The programme seeks to develop urban cooperation and initiate city-to-city partnerships between EU and non-EU local authorities in Canada, South Africa, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The cities will work online and will participate in 1 study visits abroad and will receive and organize a study visit in their respective city.

### 3. What's the goal and expected results?

The goal is to facilitate the sharing of information and transfer of good practices and lessons learned on sustainable and integrated urban practices and policies between participating cities.

The results expected are cooperation action plans with economically viable pilot projects and partnerships agreements, as well as collection of best practices.

### 4. Who can participate?

Applicants should be local/regional authorities in the countries/territories. The teams from each city can be complemented with firms, public and private agencies, universities, and research centers.

### 5. How many people will take part in the cooperation? Can we cover more than 4 participants?

Each city will nominate 4 core team participants. Those are expected to take part in the study visits and online working meetings. Extended delegations are expected to participate in the reception of cities. Extended delegations can participate in the visits to the EU and non-EU cities by covering their costs. This should also be agreed with the partner city to avoid overburden the logistical capacities.

## **6. What are the requirements to participate in the programme?**

The 4 members of the core team should all have a working level of English. All online meetings will take place in English.

## **7. What does the project cover? What support will I receive during the project?**

The project will cover the travel and accommodation for the 4 core team members to their respective study visits. Pairing and Cluster Managers will facilitate the online cooperation.

We will accommodate, to the extent possible, the needs of the delegations regarding travel choices, routes, and flexibility. The programme will work in a case-by-case basis and will find the best solution for each city delegation.

## **8. What resources does the city need to provide?**

Besides time from the core team, it is expected that cities participating in the programme will contribute with their best practices and experiences, perhaps mobilizing experts outside their core team that can contribute to the online discussions. This is especially relevant for the thematic cluster meetings.

Cities hosting the study visits are expected to provide in kind support for the logistical arrangements, suggesting the agenda and to the extent possible, and on a voluntary basis, provide some of the venues, transportation, or hospitality during the visits.

## **9. What is the timeline of the project? When are the study visits planned?**

The project will last until March 2023. The study visits to the non-EU countries are planned between end of March 2022 and early June 2022. The visits to the EU are planned for October 2022. The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in each country/territory might alter those plans.

## **10. How are the pairings decided? Can I select a city?**

The pairings will be decided by DG REGIO based on the best match possible according to the descriptions provided in the questionnaire. Cities cannot be selected a priori (except for Hong Kong and Singapore that are set by DG REGIO).

## **11. How are the cluster themes selected?**

The cluster themes will be selected upon consultation of the cities participating in the programme and during the online guidance sessions, where cities will be divided up by interests dedicated to specific topics in Canada, South Africa and Asia.

## **12. Can my city participate in more than one pairing?**

Cities will be assigned one pairing. Depending on the themes of cooperation and logistics, multiple pairings could be explored. Cities can participate in more than one cluster.