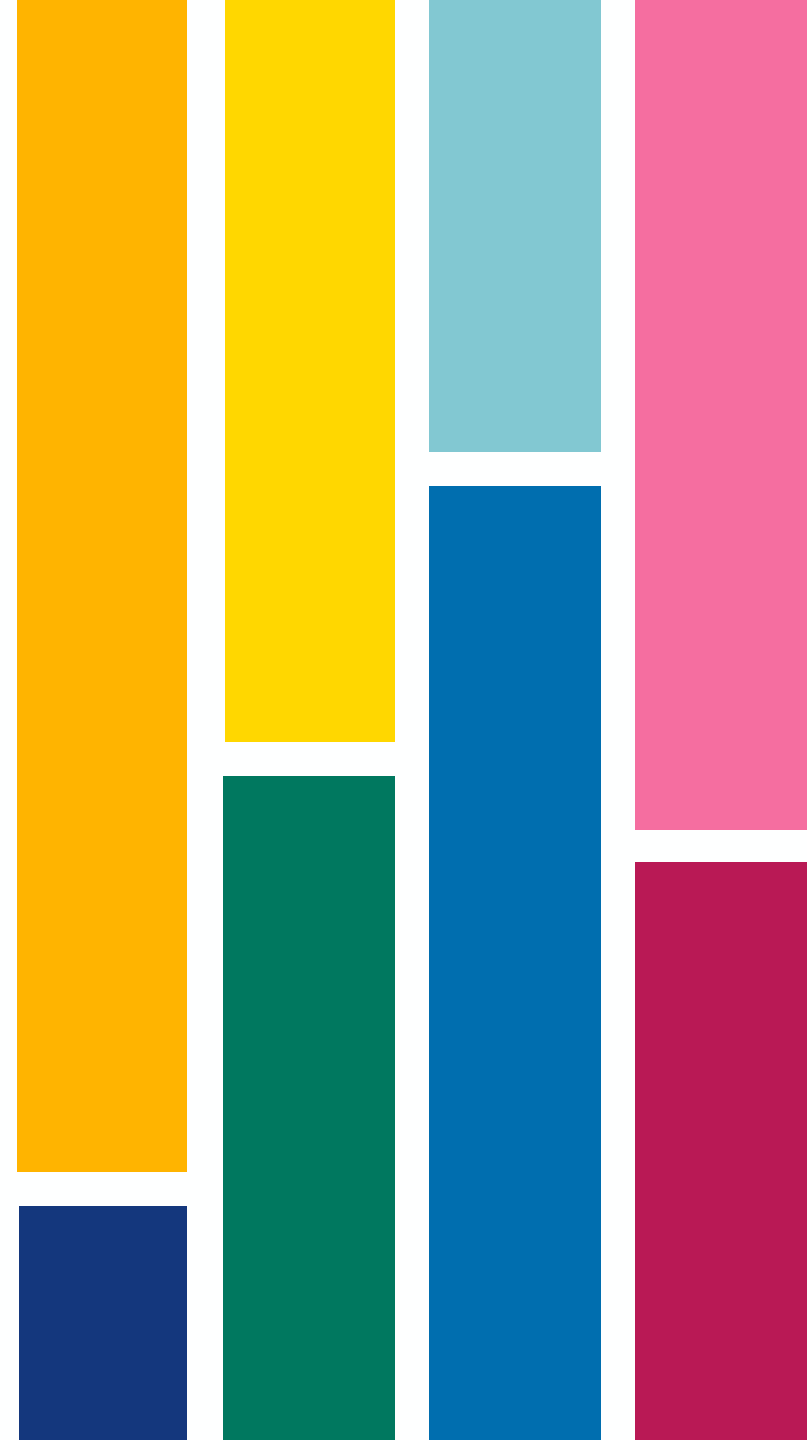


City administrations and EU affairs

Workshop for cities to assess their strengths and weaknesses in successfully engaging with EU affairs



Summary of the session

- **Brief presentation of the report – 10'**
- **Presentation and completion of the self-assessment grid – 20'**
- **Peer learning session on the 3 pillars of cities' engagement in EU affairs - 45'**
- **Wrap-up - 5'**
- **Learnings and next steps for Eurocities capacity building activities in this area - 10'**

How do cities structure their engagement with EU?

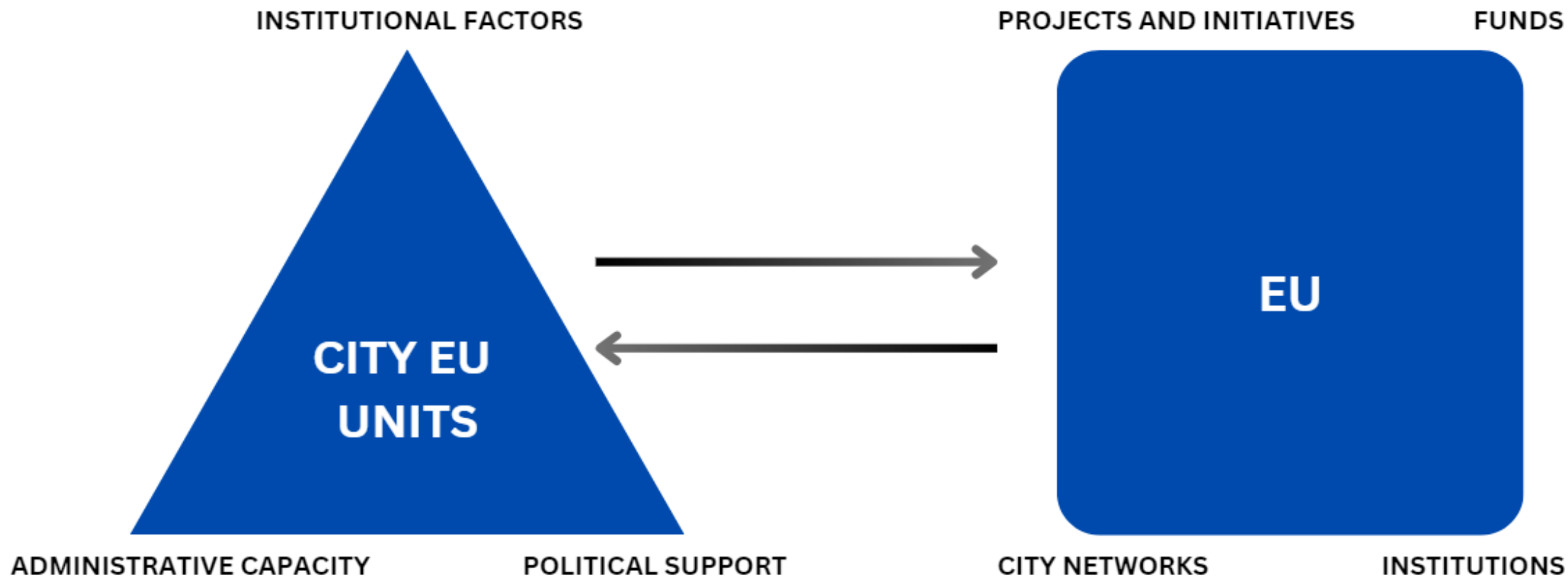
- A **joint research** between Eurocities and UNIL
- drawing on expert interviews, survey results, and a validation workshop, the report compiles **evidence and data from 25 cities**
- analysing the main determinants that drives successful engagement strategies at city level
- focusing on **three core dimensions**: institutional organization, administrative capacity, and politics.



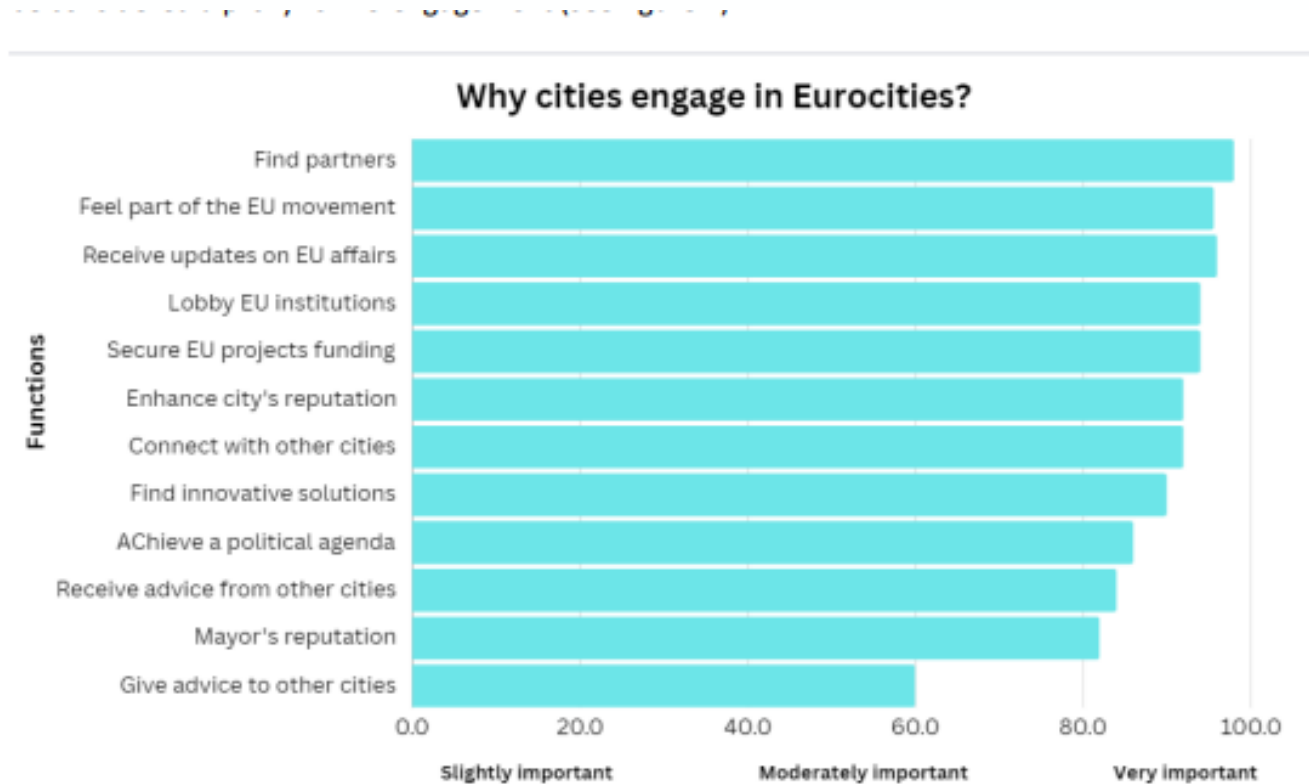
City administrations and EU affairs

How are city administrations working on and engaging with EU developments?

3 key drivers for EU engagement



Top areas for EU engagement (through Eurocities)



Key results

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP AND ORGANISATION



Team dedicated to EU affairs

Most cities have a structured approach to EU affairs (88%) with 37% having a dedicated EU team or, 25% an EU unit within an international relations department, 21% an EU team within Mayor's office, and 17% an EU team in another department.

Brussels delegation

33% of surveyed cities have a delegation in Brussels, an additional asset to hold direct political relation with EU institutions and convey information on new EU legislations and opportunities



Size of EU units



EU units have heterogenous size, with no apparent correlation with the size of the city but rather with strategic priorities

Inter-department collaboration

52% of cities think that colleagues in other departments can deal with EU affairs in an autonomous and decentralized way.



ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

Staffing levels



70% of cities feel they have a lack of staff in the wider administration to deal with EU affairs which is often not perceived as a priority and lacks a framing strategic approach.

Language Proficiency and EU knowledge

More than 50% of cities shared the lack of specific EU knowledge of EU affairs and English proficiency as an important obstacle to engage with EU.



Knowledge and capacity gaps are unequal, national capitals and larger cities as well as cities' geographically close to EU institutions tend to have stronger EU affairs and language command.

POLITICS

Political support



Securing political support is crucial, even if involving politicians who do not prioritize EU affairs was raised as an important challenge.

Mayor's influence

Mayors' influence depends on each city, their role is perceived differently from central figures in EU engagement (37%) to one of many influences to better engage with the EU.



Milan example

Comune di Milano

Department for Strategic Planning and monitoring/ managing authority

Other planning
and monitoring
units

EU Direct Fund
Unit

Recovery and
resilience fund-
NOP Metro fund

- Monitoring and participation to EU-funded Calls, and strategic matching with Cities' needs and plans
- Support to Departments in the implementation and reporting of EU-funded projects
- Liaison IR area to build link with European actors or European funding opportunities

Cabinet of Mayor

EU Affairs Unit

City to city
cooperation unit

International
partnership unit

- Coordination of Milan's participation to Eurocities
- Advocacy and liaison with European institutions for the strengthening of international positioning of the City of Mila,
- Liaison with EU Direct Funds Unit to build partnerships with European actors on European funding opportunities



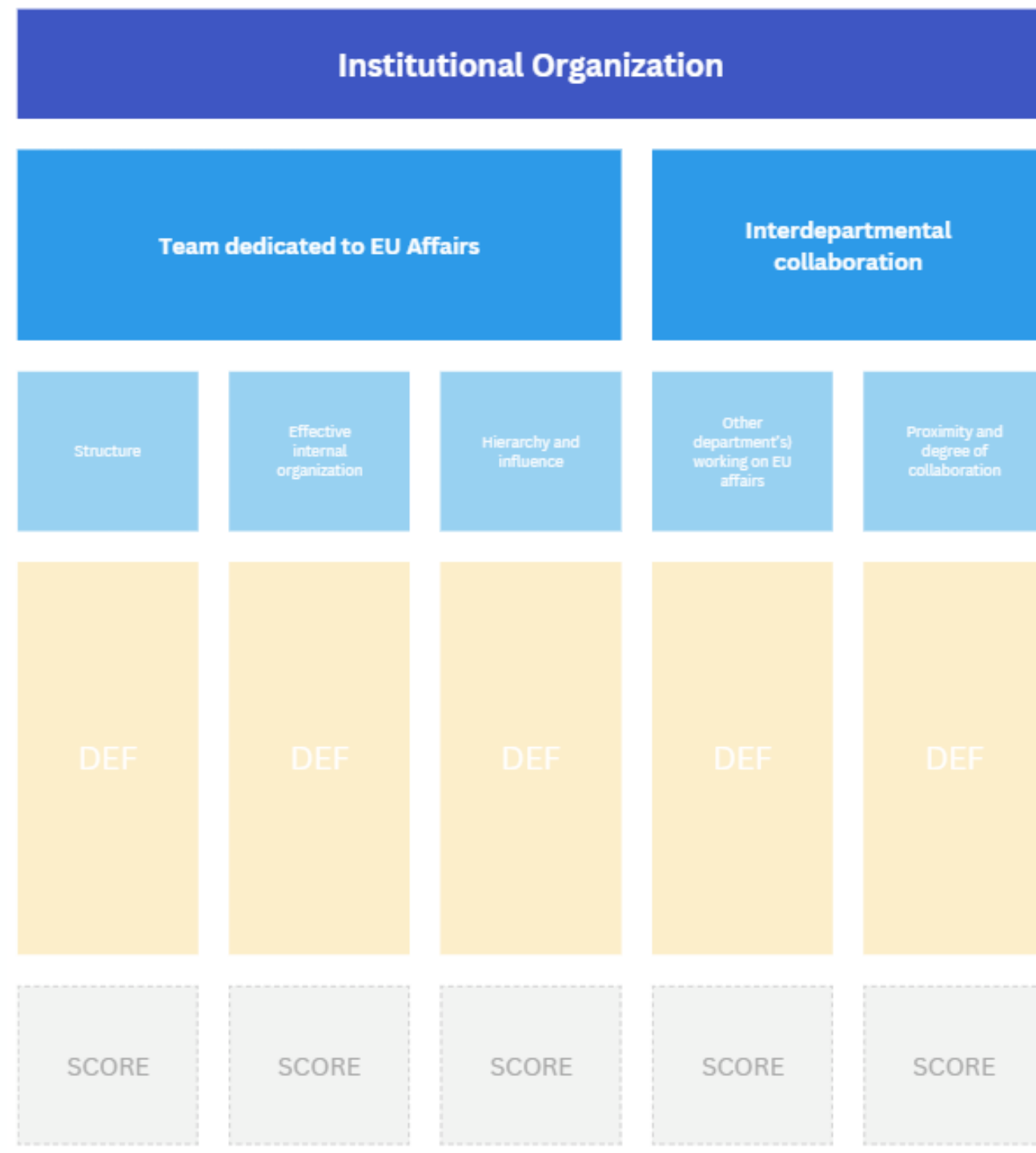
Other
departments

Your turn to assess your city's engagement with EU affairs!

Institutional Organization					Administrative Capacity				Politics			City networks	
Team dedicated to EU Affairs			Interdepartmental collaboration		Staffing levels		EU skills		Political family		Alignment with EU policies	Formal networks & activities	Independent city diplomacy activities
Structure	Effective internal organisation	Hierarchy and influence	Other departmental working on EU affairs	Proximity and degree of collaboration	Size of the EU team	Expertise	Language Proficiency	EU knowledge	Pro-EU mayor	Influence of pro-EU party within the local government	At the city and regional level	Memberships and degree of engagement	Interaction with EU institutions, bodies and cities
DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF	DEF
SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE	SCORE

Pillar n°1: Institutional organisation

- **Structure and Location of EU teams:** internal organisation of EU and international relations teams within the city administration
- **Effectiveness of institutional arrangements:** degree of proximity and influence with other city departments



Administrative Capacity

Staffing levels

EU skills

Size of the EU team

Expertise

Language Proficiency

EU knowledge

DEF

DEF

DEF

DEF

SCORE

SCORE

SCORE

SCORE

Pillar n°2: Administrative capacity

- **Staff capacity and resources:** staffing level and language proficiency
- **EU knowledge and engagement:** degree of knowledge and commitment to EU affairs within the EU team and across political class and the city's administration

Politics

City networks

Political family

Alignment with EU policies

Formal networking activities

Independent city diplomacy activities

Pro-EU mayor

Influence of pro-EU party within the local government

At the city and regional level

Memberships and degree of engagement

Intercation with EU institutions, bodies and cities

DEF

DEF

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DEF

DEF

SCORE

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SCORE

Pillar n°3: Politics

- **Local Political Engagement:** Political will of your mayor and influential political party within your administration
- **Multi-level governance context:** regional and national European positions and alignment with EU policies

Creating 3 groups with diversified city profiles

If you scored high in:

- Institutional Organization
- Administrative Capacity
- Politics and City networks



Objectives of collective discussions

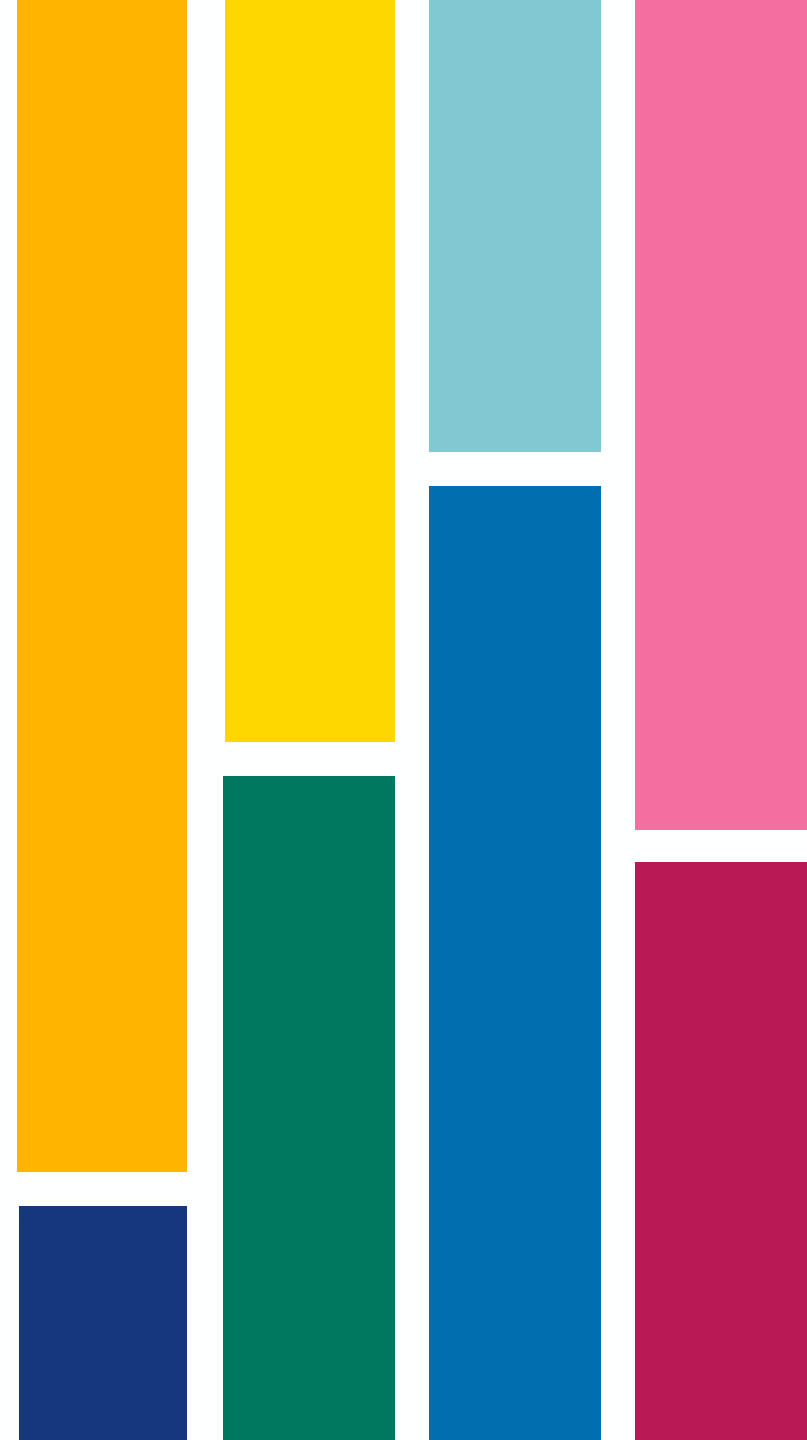
- Collectively identifying **common structural, administrative, or political challenges** to cities' effective engagement with EU affairs
- Sharing **best practices** to enhance cities' capacity to interact with EU institutions
- Raising **resource-efficient improvement pathways** and actionable solutions
- Discussing **your capacity building training needs**



Step 1 – 15mins

Identifying challenges and actionable solutions for the “institutional organisation” pillar

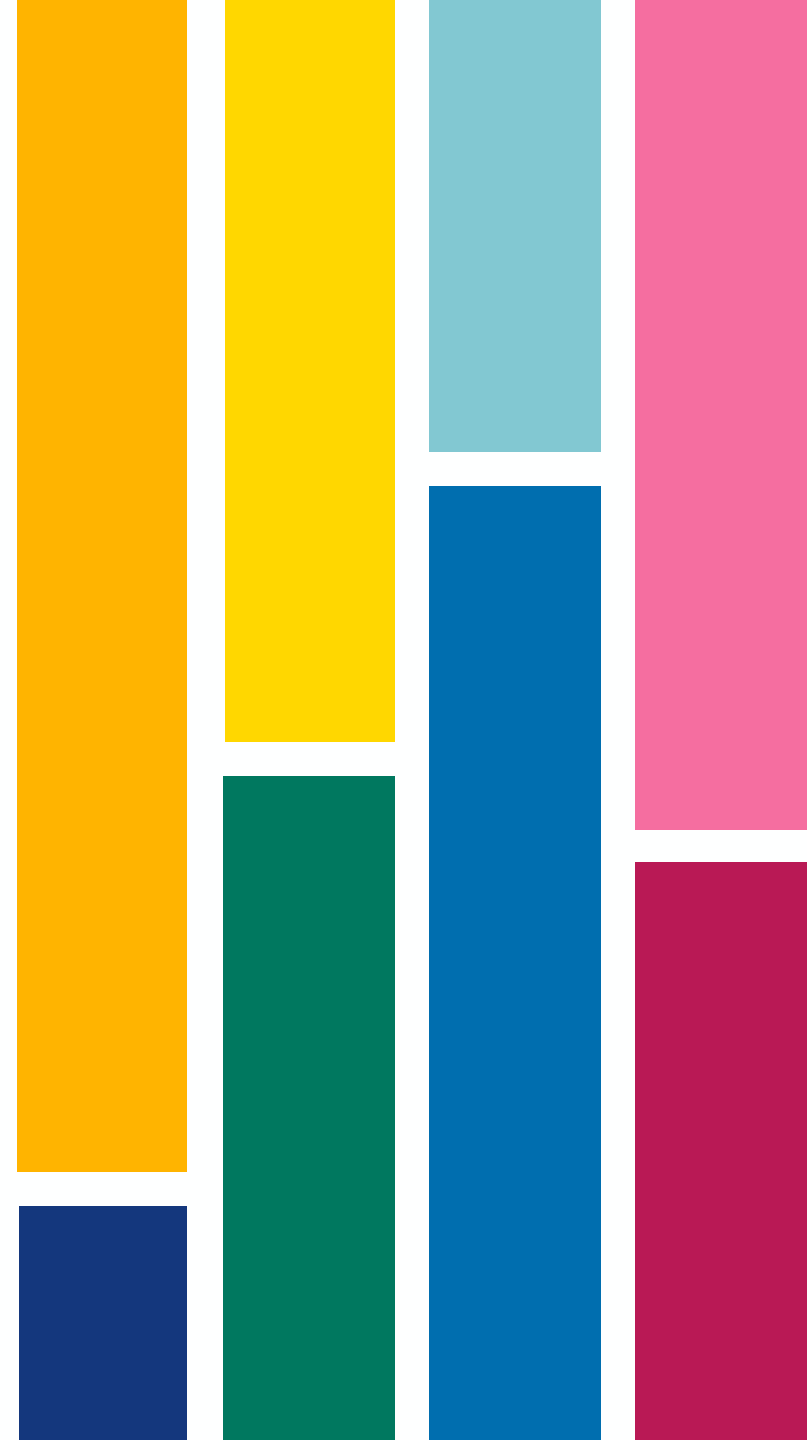
- **What is the structure of your EU affairs entity?**
- **How influent is it within your administration?
Do you have an EU strategy?**
- **How well do you collaborate with other departments? Do you have a dedicated strategy?**



Step 2 – 15’

Identifying challenges and actionable solutions for the “administrative capacity” pillar

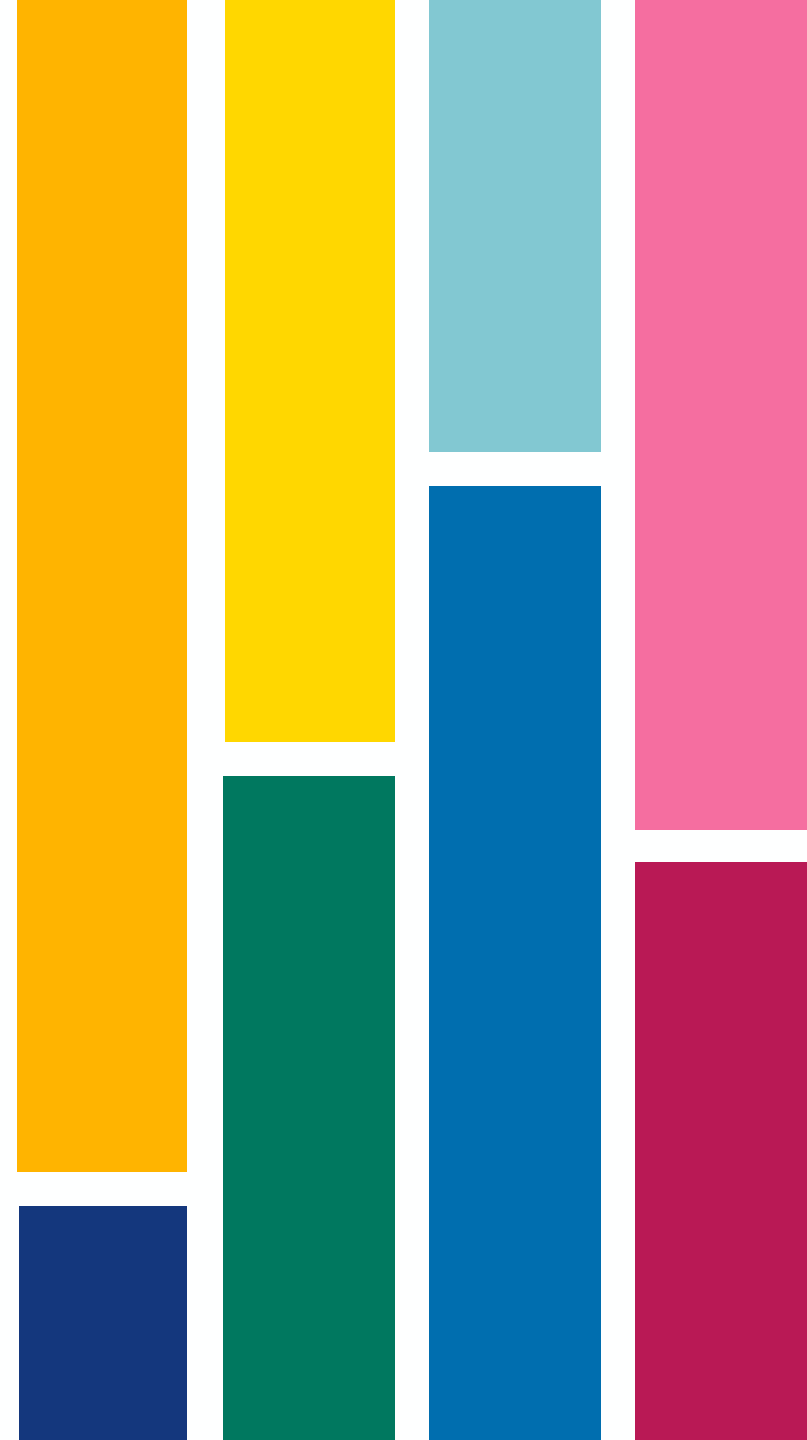
- How many people are dedicated to EU affairs within your administration?
- Is language proficiency a barrier for other departments to engage in EU affairs?
- What is the level of EU knowledge in your administration? Do you have any EU expertise?



Step 3 – 15'

Identifying challenges and actionable solution for the “politics” pillar

- **Is your mayor’s political support critical in engaging with EU?**
- **What strategies do you employ to engage your politicians?**
- **Does changing political cycle disrupt your city’s capacity to engage with EU?**

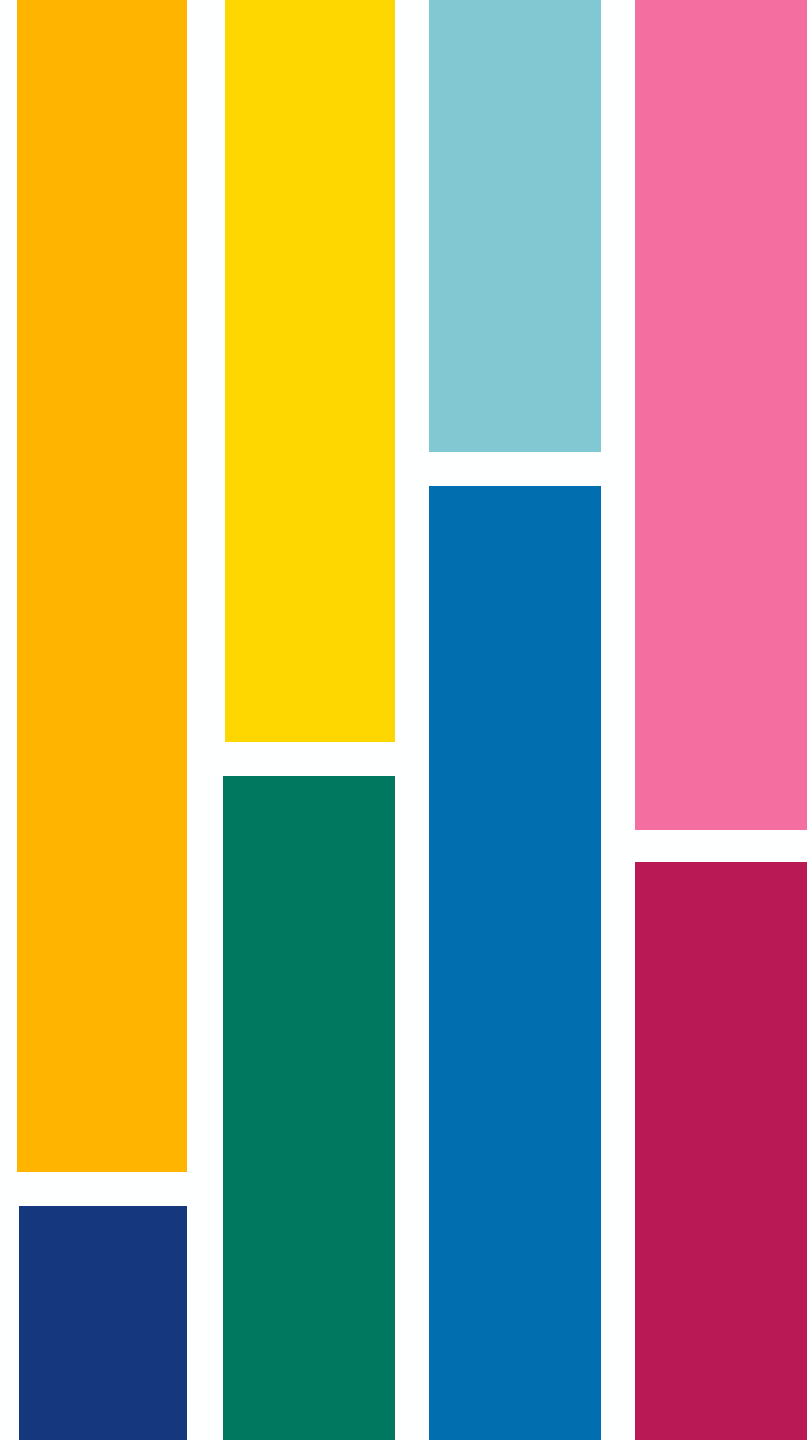


Time to wrap-up!

Table 1 – Pillar 1 “Institutional Organisation”

Table 2 – Pillar 2 “Administrative Capacity”

Table 3 – Pillar 3 “Politics”



What kind of capacity building training would you need?

- Which training format?
- Focusing on which lever of engagement?
- Who would be trained?
- How will you disseminate this knowledge across departments?



Thank you for your participation!

Cécile, Krista and Milena

