

Onboarding session

Thursday, 16 April 2026 – 11:00-12:30h CEST (online)

This learning programme is designed to help you strengthen your work on social housing and homelessness through peer learning, practical exchange, and structured reflection. Over the year, you will take part in online and in-person activities that will help you better understand your challenge, learn from other cities, and develop a realistic Action Plan for your own local context. The programme combines shared learning for the whole cohort with moments to work on each city's own priorities.

The overall programme includes an onboarding session, a number of webinars, a policy transfer study visit, a challenge-based learning event, and a final peer review and graduation moment within the Social Innovation Lab. Across these activities, the Action Plan will be the main learning thread. You will not be expected to complete it all at once. Instead, you will develop it step by step during the programme, moving from understanding your challenge to identifying the change you want to achieve, possible solutions, resources, and first implementation steps.

The onboarding session is the first step in this process. It will introduce the overall logic of the programme, explain what to expect from the learning journey, and give you a first opportunity to share the local challenge you would like to address. In the Year 1 work plan, this session is also meant to help cities begin the first parts of the Action Plan, especially context and baseline, and focus challenge.

By the end of the session, you should:

- have a clear understanding of the purpose, structure, and main milestones of the programme
- know what will be expected from you during the year
- understand the role of the Action Plan in the learning process
- start identifying the main local challenge you want to work on
- get to know the other participating cities and their priorities
- Understand the tools we are going to use, in particular the Eurocities Academy's e-learning space
- know the next steps after the session

Agenda

11.00-11.10 Welcome by Eurocities

Introduction to the programme and its overall purpose.

11.10-11.25 Quick round of introductions

A short introduction by each city: who you are, your role, and why you are joining the programme.

11.25-11.45 Programme presentation and Q&A

Presentation of the programme structure, the different learning activities, the Action Plan process, and what to expect from the year ahead. Time for questions and clarifications.

11.45–12.20 Participating cities' quick introduction and open discussion

Each city will be invited to briefly (3 minutes in total) present:

- the main challenge you would like to address through the programme
- your main expectations from the learning process

12.20–12.30 Wrap-up and next steps

Closing remarks, immediate next steps, and preparation for the next milestone in the programme.

How to prepare?

To help the session run smoothly, we will ask you to prepare a few short points in advance:

- a very short introduction of your city and your role
- a brief presentation on the specific challenge you would like to work on through the programme
- one or two main expectations you have from the learning journey

We also recommend to have a quick look at the Action Plan template, especially the first sections on context and baseline, and focus challenge, to make sure everything is clear.

You do not need to prepare slides. A short spoken contribution will be enough. The purpose of this first session is not to present work, but to help you start the process clearly and confidently.

Contact persons

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Solal Billon, SAF Project Officer (Solal.billon@eurocities.eu), and/or Guillem Ramírez Chico, Eurocities Academy Coordinator (guillem.ramirez-chico@eurocities.eu), should you have any questions.



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