**Become partner of the City of Ghent (Belgium) in ROOF, a new URBACT exchange project   
on eradicating long term homelessness in European cities**

Is your city struggling with eradicating homelessness? Would you be interested in hearing about innovative solutions of other European cities guiding people from homelessness to adequate affordable housing? Or could you share expertise that would benefit other European cities in making the shift from shelters to housing? Join the City of Ghent as partner in our URBACT project ROOF, to reinvent housing opportunities for vulnerable groups.

**Background**

The city of Ghent (Belgium) recently joined the UN initiative [The Shift](https://persruimte.stad.gent/168450-city-of-ghent-joins-international-initiative-for-the-right-to-adequate-housing) which promotes making the shift from viewing housing as a commodity to viewing housing as a human right. However, it’s becoming more and more difficult to ensure that right. Due to an increasing population (almost 260.000 official inhabitants, tens of thousands of students and an unknown invisible population) the city is being confronted with a lack of adequate affordable housing and a growing number of homeless people, more and more of them children. In addition the homelessness services and night shelters are being confronted with a rise in homeless people with complex, multiple problems. This due to the modern day policy that the community is a better place for care than institutions and also due to migration. Ghent more and more favours the model of housing the homeless rather than sheltering the homeless, but the lack of decent housing hampers making this shift.

**Focus of ROOF**

Our interest for cross national exchange lies in innovative housing strategies to combat homelessness:

1. innovative solutions for homelessness, specifically regarding
   * Policy development
   * New structures to ‘socialise’ the private housing stock
   * Examples of innovative practices
   * Cooperation models of public and private sector (commercial) and civil society organisations
   * Different solutions for different groups within the homeless population
   * Humane models to work with groups without residence permit
2. improving data collection and analysis about the homeless population to steer policy

We will offer our expertise on the creation of private-public cooperation in the field of homelessness and innovative approaches to use the private housing stock for social purposes.

**URBACT ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS**

[URBACT](http://urbact.eu/urbact-glance) is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.  Networking with other European cities within URBACT will allow you to exchange and share your experiences, challenges, problems, and possible solutions with peers across Europe. The final product of an Action Planning Network is that each city delivers a Local Action Plan to tackle a local problem or a specific challenge.

The program is specifically aimed at cities. This means your organisation needs to comply with the following URBACT definition:

* Cities, municipalities, towns;
* Infra-municipal tiers of government[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Metropolitan authorities and organized agglomerations[[2]](#footnote-2).
* Local agencies as defined as public or semi-public organisations set up by a city,

A city can only be partner in max. 2 Action Planning Networks, so please if your organisation is involved in other proposals.

**BUDGET**

Partners from developed regions: 70% ERDF-funding

Partners from less developed regions: 85% ERDF-funding

Max. 750.000€ per partnership

**TIMING**

* 7/01/2019: URBACT launches [call for Action Planning Networks](http://urbact.eu/urbact-last-call-action-planning-networks-now-open)
* **20/02/2019:** deadline expression of interest by sending back the questionnaire
* 1/03/2019: selection of partner cities
* 17/04/2019: submission bid

**EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST**

Are you interested in joining this URBACT proposal, please express your interest by filling out the questionnaire and sending it back by Wed **20/02/19** to

Patricia Vanderbauwhede - [Patricia.Vanderbauwhede@stad.gent](mailto:Patricia.Vanderbauwhede@stad.gent) – 0032 9 266 72 68

Ariana Tabaku – [Ariana.Tabaku@stad.gent](mailto:Ariana.Tabaku@stad.gent) – 0032 9 266 57 36.

1. such as city districts and boroughs in cases where they are represented by a politico-administrative institution having competences for policy-making and implementation in the policy area covered by the URBACT network concerned in which they are willing to get involved. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. in cases where they are represented by a politico-administrative institution having delegated competences for policy-making and implementation in the policy area covered by the URBACT network concerned [↑](#footnote-ref-2)