

European Capital of Democracy

ECoD City Network

The European Capital of Democracy (ECoD) Initiative has built a strong network of thirteen cities that fosters participation and gives cities a platform to showcase how we can change our world for the better. Representatives of the cities come together regularly to share their expertise and best practices in democracy promotion at the municipal level.

Who is part of the ECoD City Network?

The ECoD City Network is an exclusive group of dedicated cities that are frontrunners in democracy promotion. The thirteen participating cities have successfully submitted applications for the ECoD Call. The cities nominate two members of staff dealing with democracy issues who will actively participate in all activities of the network.

Currently, the following cities are members of the network: Antwerp (Belgium), Barcelona (Spain), Bologna (Italy), Braga (Portugal), Brussels (Belgium), Burgos (Spain), Cascais (Portugal), Linz (Austria), Metz (France), Opole (Poland), Rzeszow (Poland), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Valongo (Portugal).

ECoD City Network members benefit from

- **Collaboration:** The members of the network meet for in-person meetings every 3 months for two-and-a-half day intensive workshops. Different network cities host the workshops to enable onsite visit of exemplary democracy projects.
- **Training:** Knowledge sharing, peer-learning and capacity building to gather new skills and foster professional development for city leaders/managers.
- **Access:** Mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, access to international expertise and cooperation and the opportunity to participate and showcase their work in the ECoD Programme Year.
- **Exchange:** Increase the reach and impact of current and completed democracy projects through a fruitful exchange with citizens and international visitors. Sharing best practices will inspire other cities to create impact in their communities.
- **Participation:** All member cities are invited to contribute to and be a part of the Programme Year in the title-holding ECoD City. Member cities can stay in the ECoD City Network to contribute, coach and mentor newcomers.

Timeline

- **Kick-off Meeting** in October 2022 in Vienna, Austria
- **Network meetings in 2023:**
 - 22-24 February 2023 in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
 - 10-12 May 2023 in Warsaw (Poland)
 - 28-30 June 2023 in Valongo (Portugal)
 - October 2023: meeting in Barcelona, the first European Capital of Democracy

For more information on the **ECoD City Network**, refer to our website www.capitalofdemocracy.eu or contact: **Martina Furrutter**, mf@capitalofdemocracy.eu, +43 670 2086 889.