

European Capital of Democracy

European City Network

The European Capital of Democracy (ECoD) initiative has built a strong network of 27 cities from 15 countries that fosters participation and provides a platform for cities 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 European City Network?

The European City Network (ECN) is an exclusive group of dedicated cities that are frontrunners in democracy promotion. All participating cities have successfully submitted applications for the ECoD Call. Cities nominate representatives from departments dealing with questions of democracy and civic participation who actively participate in network activities.

Our twenty-seven City Network members come from fifteen countries across Europe:

Ankara (TR), Antwerp (BE), Barcelona (ES), Bologna (IT), Braga (PT), Bratislava (SK), Brussels (BE), Burgos (ES), Cascais (PT), Denizli (TR), Durrës (AL), Gdańsk (PL), İzmir (TR), Krakow (PL), Kyiv (UA)¹, Leipzig (DE), Linz (AT), Maia (PT), Metz (FR), Opole (PL), Rotterdam (NL), Rzeszów (PL), Sarajevo (BiH), Sofia (BG), Tirana (AL), Valongo (PT), and Vienna (AT).

European City Network members benefit from:

- **Collaboration:** Network members host regular in-person meetings, as well as online workshops, which foster and strengthen pan-European collaboration.
- **Training:** Knowledge sharing, peer learning and capacity building enable our members to gather new skills and provide opportunities for professional development.
- **Access:** International expertise for mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as ECoD Programme Year events to showcase their work.
- **Exchange:** Sharing best practices creates a supportive environment which inspires the development of impactful interventions in their communities.
- **Participation:** Contribute and be a part of the Programme Year in the title-holding ECoD City, as well as the online and in-person City Network meetings.

Timeline:

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

¹ Kyiv is a full member of the European City Network, but currently with a special status due to the on-going Russian war of aggression against the country.

- **Network meetings in 2024:**
 - 25-27 March in Brussels (Belgium): Climate Adaptation & Green Cities
 - 14-16 May in Antwerp (Belgium): Youth Participation
 - 15-17 October in Braga (Portugal): Senior & Intergenerational Participation
- **Network meetings in 2025:**
 - 26-28 Feb in Cascais (Portugal): Inclusive, Social City Development (ECoD 2026)
 - 15-17 April in Bologna (Italy): Diversity & Inclusion
 - 04-06 May in Vienna (Austria): A Just Transition (Democracy Year 2024/25)
 - 16-17 September in Vienna (Austria): Innovation in Politics (Democracy Year 2024/25)
- **Network meetings in 2026:**
 - 10-12 May 2026 in Cascais (Portugal): ACT NOW Mayors' Conference
 - 30 October 2026 in Cascais (Portugal): The Innovation in Politics Awards

The ECN was co-funded by the European Union's CERV / Network of Towns Programme. For more information, please refer to our website: capitalofdemocracy.eu or contact us at office@capitalofdemocracy.eu.