



E4C: E- skills for innovative cities

General information

Programme URBACT II. Priority: **Innovative Cities– 3. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility**

Lead Partner: **Consortium Red Local (ES)**

Partners: Agueda (PT), Ghent (BE), Sunderland (UK), Patras (EL)

Máx. project budget: 100.000 € (first phase); 700.000€ (second phase)

Project duration: 6 months (first phase), 27 months (second phase)

% co-financing: Up to 80% ERDF for partners from convergence regions
Up to 70% ERDF for partners from competitiveness regions
Up to 50% ERDF for partners from Norway and Switzerland

Assessment of the final application (second phase): End of November 2012

Project description

Justification

- Information society is rapidly developing and with it the importance of ICT for the European Economy in relation to innovative products and services. Consequently, the availability of the required e-skills on the labour market is crucial for contributing to the **innovation and competitiveness of European cities**. The European e-skills forum foresees an excess demand for ICT practitioners until 2015. In this context, European cities are facing the following challenges:
 - CHALLENGE 1: to improve the workforce's employability by overcoming digital illiteracy
 - CHALLENGE 2: to update the workforce's e-skills to overcome e-skills gaps on the labour market
 - CHALLENGE 3: to increase the number of ICT professionals to counteract the e-skills shortage
- There is an urgent need to promote proactive policies to foster ICT investments, improve the image of ICT related employments and assure the availability of the relevant e-skills demanded by the labour market.



E-skills refer to ICT practitioner skills as well as to ICT user skills. The European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) distinguishes three target groups:

ICT practitioner skills: capabilities required for researching, developing, designing, strategic planning, managing, producing, consulting, marketing, selling, integrating, installing, administering, maintaining, supporting and servicing ICT systems.

ICT user skills: capabilities required for the effective application of ICT systems and devices by the individual, they generally cover digital literacy.

e-business skills: capabilities needed to exploit opportunities provided by ICT, to ensure more efficient and effective performance of different types of organisations; to explore possibilities for new ways of conducting administrative and organisational processes; and/or to establish new businesses.

Objective

In order for European cities to stay competitive and innovative and to reinforce the employability of urban workforces, the E4C thematic network aims to promote employment related to E-SKILLS through the joint definition of integrated urban strategies, policies and practices in order to:

- enable the ACQUISITION OF E-SKILLS: ICT user skills, ICT practitioner skills and e-business skills,
- facilitate the UPGRADING OF E-SKILLS,
- PROMOTE ICT PROFESSIONS.

Project activities

The E4C project has been approved for the first phase (Development Phase- 6 months). At the end of this first phase, a final application will be submitted that will have to be approved in order to initiate the Implementation Phase of the project. In this context, we aim at including up to 7 new partners into the network.

1st project phase: DEVELOPMENT PHASE (6 months)

- 1. Develop and consolidate the project partnership:** For the submission of the proposal the partnership will gather 5 partners. During the first phase, the initial partnership will be completed with up to 7 additional partners.
- 2. Elaboration of a baseline study:** Project partners will jointly develop a baseline study that outlines the initial situation and the project objectives to be achieved during the implementation phase.

Baseline study (indicative list of contents)

- State of Arts on E-Skills and ICT jobs: situation analysis at EU level, trends, gaps and EU support policies
- Partner's profile and expectation from the E4C project
- Description of the related local problem/challenge that each partner is facing
- Description of national, regional and local Action Plans and initiatives already in place in order to meet the e-skills challenges
- SWOT analysis on the 3 challenges identified
- Identification of relevant stakeholders and members of the ULSG
- Identification of specific thematic topic of special interest for a transnational meetings and site visits
- preliminary identification of problems and topics to be addressed by the future Local Action Plan

- 3. Definition of the project implementation plan:** Jointly define the work programme and complete the final application
- 4. Consolidate Local Support Groups:** Each partner will constitute a Local support group on e-skills for innovative cities and organise a first meeting.

Local authorities
competent in the
field of ICT and
employment

Vocational
training and
lifelong learning
centres

Universities

Public
Employment
services

ICT professionals

Trade Units and
business
associations

Others

- 5. Define and organise the work with a thematic expert** previously selected by the lead partner.
- 6. Organise 2 meetings with the project partners.**

2nd project phase: IMPLEMENTATION PHASE (27 months)

In case the first proposal will be approved, the project will pass on to the implementation phase.

1. Coordination and management

- Coordination and technical management
- Internal communication among the partnership
- Financial management

2. Develop activities for the exchange of experience and mutual learning in the field of urban employment policies

- Coordination meetings
- Transnational thematic workshops
- Collective study visits and bilateral visits

3. Foster the impact of project activities on local policies and practices in the perspective of developing sustainable and integrated urban policies

- Initiation of local support group meetings on e-skills for innovative cities
- Production of Local Action Plans
- Elaboration of case studies

4. Participate in the European capitalisation process of the URBACT II programme

- Participate in thematic pole activities and URBACT conferences
- Contribute to the blog and URBACT information bulletin
- Collaborate with the URBACT national information point

5. Dissemination of project activities and results

- Elaboration of a Dissemination Plan applying the URBACT graphic charter
- Dissemination activities at local level

6. Project Evaluation

- Define a monitoring system
- Project evaluation

7. Promote the collaboration with the ERDF Managing Authorities in each territory

- Invite them to the local support group meetings
- Inform the managing authorities on the project's progresses