



Background document for applicants

Thematic Partnership Sustainable Tourism



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1 Context of the Call and selection process

This Call for expression of interest for Partners aims at establishing the **Partnerships** under the Urban Agenda for the European Union (UAEU) on (i) **Greening Cities** and (ii) **Sustainable Tourism**.

This Call is preceded by **Ex-Ante Assessments (EAA)** on the Greening cities and Sustainable tourism themes ([Urban Agenda for the EU: Ex Ante Assessment | Futurium \(europa.eu\)](https://urbanagenda.europa.eu/)). The EAA was proposed as a new step towards the creation of Partnerships and Other forms of cooperation in the scope of the new phase of the UAEU established by the Ljubljana Agreement. The EAA were launched in January 2022 as an exploratory process, to deploy a pragmatic, effective and result-oriented approach aiming at increasing the impact of future UAEU deliverables. The EAA has the purpose to optimise focus, timing and activities of the multi-level cooperation, as well as safeguard suitable level of partners' thematic and procedural expertise, in view of proposing an analysis and recommendations as to the conditions to launch a Call to create two new Partnerships of the UAEU.

Both reports highlight the importance of a launch of the Partnerships and propose recommendations for a possible thematic focus of the Thematic Partnerships in relation to Better Knowledge, Better Funding and Better Regulation pillars. The final EAA reports were welcomed during the meeting of the **Directors General on Urban Matters (DGUM) in Paris on 24 June 2022** and a decision was taken to launch the Call for the selection of Partners and to give the Urban Agenda Technical Preparatory Group (UATPG) a mandate to manage the Call.

As per the Multiannual Working Programme accompanying the [Ljubljana Agreement](#), urban authorities, Regions, Partner States, city consortiums and national city umbrella organisations are able to apply to this call. Moreover, Member States and other stakeholders (Managing Authorities for EU funds, experts/academia, NGOs, economic and social partners, civil society organisations and private sector representatives) are also able to apply to the Call. The eligible categories of Partners are specified under each priority theme, in the corresponding section below.

The Call will remain open from **20 July until 16 September 2022** and the (initial) list of applicants will be presented at the occasion of the Urban Development Group (UDG) meeting on 14 September 2022. The **assessment of applications** will be conducted by the experts responsible for the EAA of themes, in agreement with the UATPG. The presentation of the assessment of applications will be held at a dedicated UDG online meeting on 14 October 2022. The selection criteria used to assess the applications were discussed and agreed in the UATPG meeting on 13 July 2022. These are presented in the relevant section of this note. The Call materialises into two EU surveys to be filled in by applicants, one for each theme.



For the Sustainable Tourism theme, the link is:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/UAEUSustainableTourismTP2022>.

The survey questions are based on the selection criteria described later in this document.

Once the Call is closed, a **proposed list of selected partners** will be presented by the Urban Development Group to the **Directors General on Urban Matters on 26 October 2022**, seeking for their decision. If the DGUM's decision is positive, the Partnerships on Greening cities and Sustainable tourism will be officially established.



2 Background information on the UAEU and partners' responsibilities

2.1 What is the Urban Agenda for the EU?

The following sections aim at identifying the **key objectives and features of the Urban Agenda for the European Union (UAEU)**. Applicants who wish to have more in-depth knowledge on the UAEU may read the following relevant material which contain more comprehensive information and details.

- [Pact of Amsterdam](#)
- [Assessment study of the UAEU](#)
- [New Leipzig Charter and Implementation Document](#)
- [Ljubljana Agreement and Multiannual Working Programme](#)
- [Urban Agenda for the EU: Multi-level governance in action \(2021 Update\)](#)

The Urban Agenda for the EU is an **innovative multi-level governance initiative on urban policy**, developed in the scope of intergovernmental cooperation on urban matters, and officially established by the [Pact of Amsterdam](#) in 2016. It enables cities, Member States, city networks, the European Commission, other EU institutions, the Union's advisory bodies, and other stakeholders to come together to **jointly tackle pressing urban matters** and deliver concrete outputs for the benefit of EU citizens. The Urban Agenda for the EU is **boosting the role of cities** in national and EU policymaking to better connect the EU with citizens' needs. It is a key delivery mechanism at EU level for the [New Urban Agenda](#).

Making **multi-level governance** tangible has been recognised as one of the most important successes of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Multi-level governance is crucial beyond this initiative and at the EU level, it is widely promoted through **Cohesion policy** in order to target the investments in the most efficient and balanced way.

'The main aim of the Urban Agenda for the European Union is to **identify and tackle urban challenges** by bringing together Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders, into a framework for dialogue and finding solutions on policy initiatives that affect urban areas (Pact of Amsterdam, 2016). The Urban Agenda proposes to use a new multi-level, multi-stakeholder working method to better achieve the objectives of the Union and national policy by involving urban authorities in both the design and implementation phases of policy making. This in turn is intended to **strengthen the urban dimension of policies** as well as facilitate their uptake, ultimately leading to a more efficient and effective policy making and implementation process. [...] The Urban Agenda seeks to stimulate action along three key objectives (or "pillars"): **Better Regulation, Better Funding and Better Knowledge**. In addition, the UAEU aims to address

several cross-cutting issues and thematic priorities'. [...] 'The Pact of Amsterdam led to the selection of an initial list of 12 priority themes for challenges to be addressed in Thematic Partnerships. In 2018, two more themes were added, and two Thematic Partnerships launched accordingly' (Assessment study, 2019).

1. Urban Poverty
2. Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
3. Housing
4. Air Quality
5. Urban Mobility
6. Digital Transition
7. Circular Economy
8. Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy
9. Sustainable Land Use
10. Public Procurement
11. Energy Transition
12. Climate Adaptation
13. Culture/Cultural Heritage
14. Security in Public Spaces

'The 14 Partnerships have brought together 25 Member States, 82 cities and/or metropolitan regions, 12 regions and 15 Directorate-Generals of the European Commission, and no less than 44 institutions, ranging from European umbrella organisations, programmes and networks, to civil society organisations and private companies. In total, **326 partners work together**, embodying the principle of shared ownership and multi-stakeholder involvement' (Brochure, 2021). All 14 Partnerships have finalised their (initial) actions plans, comprising in total 139 actions. From the last update of the monitoring table used for tracking the activities of the Partnerships of September 2021, 46 % of the actions were finalised.

As per the Pact of Amsterdam, a Partnership achieves results in about three years but the partners may agree to prolong their activities. Each Partnership is tasked to prepare an **action plan which contains actions** (and possibly recommendations) that aim at addressing issues that hamper urban development in the specific thematic area and that are meant to be implemented after. The actions target one (or more) specific pillar(s) of the UAEU on Better Regulation, Better Knowledge and/or Better Funding and are addressed at the local level, national level and/or EU level. As for the type of actions, these may include the development of (new) data and indicators, guidance documents and handbooks, roadmaps/strategies, the design of a new governance structure, impact assessments, policy recommendations, toolkits etc. Each action has an action leader and contributors. Each action describes the issue at stake and explains what action is needed to solve this issue, including how it will be concretely implemented, by when and by whom.

In order to reach the final action plan, the Partnership enters a **scoping phase** that includes brainstorming on the themes and challenges, elaborating the objectives



of the Partnership etc. This materialised with a scoping or orientation paper. As the two themes on Greening cities and Sustainable tourism have been subject to an **Ex-Ante Assessment**, the scoping phase will be reduced in time and scope. The EAA represents a major contribution to the scoping phase and could be considered as the **baseline document for this phase**. Partnerships will have the flexibility to choose the specific topics they will be working on, considering **the recommended thematic focus**, and will draft an orientation paper that will explain the rationale of their choice.

After this phase, the Partnership enters into the **stocktaking phase**, which entails analytical and research work on the identification of specific bottlenecks, mapping existing solutions and an initial brainstorming on themes and challenges. After this, the Partnership establishes a **shortlist of possible actions** to work on, and they decide jointly, as Partnership, which actions they select to be included in the action plan. Partners identify the objectives and deliverables per action and draft the **action plan**. Actions should be new, address a real need, be implemented, have visible impact, and concern several cities and Member States.

The action plan goes through a **public feedback** (consultation) on a dedicated portal and relevant colleagues in the European Commission are consulted. The Partnership revises the action plan following comments received and the document is presented to the Urban Development Group who may provide additional feedback. The Partnership revises the action plan accordingly. The action plan is considered final once presented at the meeting of Directors General on Urban Matters (which takes place one time per semester) and the implementation of actions may begin. All these phases, including the implementation phase that follows the finalisation of the action plan, entail a number of Partnership meetings as well as work in between these meetings. The number of meetings depends on the working method of the Partnership.

As mentioned in the Pact of Amsterdam, the UAEU ‘will be taken forward by Member States together with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the European Investment Bank (EIB), representatives of the European Urban Authorities and other relevant stakeholders.’

‘The strategic steering of the UAEU is provided by the **Directors-General Meeting on Urban Matters (DGUM)**, which is the high-level decision-making body initiated prior to the Urban Agenda for the EU. The DGUM is composed of all Member States, the Commission and city representatives and associations (European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Eurocities, Council of the European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), and is co-chaired by the country holding the EU Presidency and the Commission (European Commission, 2017). The DGUM meetings may include a range of organisations as observers, such as representatives of Partner States, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Parliament (EP), European Investment Bank (EIB), URBACT,



ESPON and European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) (European Commission, 2016)' (Assessment study, 2019).

'The **Urban Development Group (UDG)** (expert working level) is made up of representatives of the Member State ministries responsible for urban issues, as well as other representatives of the multiple levels of governance (EC, EP, EIB, CoR, EESC, city representatives Eurocities and CEMR). Several organisations and networks may act as observers and / or be invited to participate in a particular relevant session, such as Partner States, URBACT, ESPON, JPI Urban Europe and EUKN. The UDG is an informal advisory body to Directors-General's meeting on Urban Matters (DGUM). Its role is to both review the progress of the Partnerships and discuss issues pertaining to the UAEU at the intergovernmental level (European Commission, 2016). In principle, DGUM takes decisions based on the opinion forming process at the level of the UDG' (Assessment study, 2019).

'It was considered that the work of the Partnerships requires "operational guidance and interpretation of aspects of the Pact of Amsterdam and its Working Programme in between UDG meetings." (Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council, 2018) [...] The mandate, scope, responsibilities tasks of an **Urban Agenda Technical Preparatory Group (UATPG)** was thus created as a non-decision-making body, to act "as a technical executive group, supporting the actual Presidency of the Council in preparing UDG and DGUM meetings only with respect to the items related to UAEU", and coordinate the technical issues related to the preparation of UAEU Partnerships (ibid). The UATPG is composed of 10 members, including: six Member States at a time – representing the rolling Presidencies (the two past Presidencies, the current one and the three succeeding ones); Commission (with the UAEU Technical Secretariat until available); three members in total from the European Committee of the Regions, Eurocities and CEMR' (Assessment study, 2019).

In 2021, the **renewal process of the Urban Agenda for the EU** started, in line with the directions provided by the New Leipzig Charter and its Implementing document. The renewal of the UAEU was concluded by the adoption of the **Ljubljana Agreement on 26 November 2021**, which lays out the updated parameters for its implementation over the period 2022-2026. It materialised the start of a new phase of the Urban Agenda for the EU, including its operational parameters, work method and steps. The agreement also comprises the addition of four new themes: **Greening cities, Sustainable tourism, Food and Cities of equality**. The Pact of Amsterdam remains valid as a framework document for this intergovernmental multi-level governance initiative.

The Ljubljana Agreement emphasises some new features of the UAEU. The **ex-ante assessment (EAA) of priority themes** is a new step put in place prior to the establishment of the Partnerships to raise the impact of the work developed by the Partnerships, and to better correlate it to the EU policy and regulatory framework. Moreover, **Other forms of cooperation** can be established, besides Partnerships, with a more flexible approach (shorter duration, targeted on a specific angle or

question, smaller group etc.). Finally, more attention will be paid to the role and participation of **small and medium size cities**.

2.2 Role of Partners within the Partnership

The following sections aim at capturing some of the expected roles of the partners in the scope of the Partnership in a succinct and non-exhaustive manner. The Pact of Amsterdam and the Multiannual Working Programme contain more comprehensive information and details on these roles.

Cities

Urban authority representatives are at the heart of the UAEU. They identify the challenges they face at the local level and act as partner by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings. They also liaise with other cities to create bigger impact on the implementation of actions.

City organisations (European and national) and URBACT

City organisation such as the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), EUROCITIES, other bodies representing Urban Authorities at European and national level, as well as EU programmes dedicated to sustainable urban development such as URBACT, bring their expertise and experience on the exchange of good practices and knowledge. They act as partner, by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings. They disseminate the outcomes of the UAEU to the cities which are part of their networks and promote synergies with a second circle of cities, who may in turn, contribute to the Partnership.

Member States

Member States ensure that the UAEU outcomes reach the local authorities in their Member State, e.g. by sharing the outcomes with cities that are not directly participating in the UAEU. Member States may provide financial resources to the implementation of the UAEU, e.g. through the organisation of meetings/events, the translation of documents in their national language, the support for the participation of cities etc. They act as partner, by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings.

EU Institutions

The **European Commission** acts as facilitator of the UAEU by providing EU funds to support the Partnerships' activities and by making the link with the Secretariat. The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy coordinates the EU support and helps to connect to relevant services within the European Commission to support the design and implementation of actions. The European Commission services act as partner of the Partnership, by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings.

The **European Parliament** may consider the results and recommendations of the Partnerships for the agenda of relevant Committees when discussing relevant new and existing EU legislation and the Urban Intergroup is may play an advisory role in the UAEU process.

The **European Committee of the Regions** and **European and Economic and Social Committee** may act as partner by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings. They may contribute to the outreach of the UAEU, with dedicated activities aiming to involve a broader range of local authorities and civil society organisations.

The **European Investment Bank** (EIB) acts as partner by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings.

Other stakeholders

Other stakeholders act as partner, by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings.

Coordinators

Coordinators are responsible for the overall coordination of Partnership activities and are the main contact person for internal and external communication and outreach. They organise and chair Partnership meetings, organise and coordinate the work in between meetings, send e-mails to partners, reach out other Partnership Coordinators, represent the Partnership in conferences, monitor and report on the Partnership's activities etc. Coordinators act as partner, by contributing to the work on the actions and to their implementation (also as action leader), by bringing inputs, by making the link to relevant activities or resources and by taking part in meetings.

2.3 Support to the UAEU

The **support to Partnerships and Other forms of cooperation** is described in the Multiannual working Programme, namely:

Requirements for technical support for Partnerships and OFC:

- Providing templates of Action Plans, securing consultation method for draft Action Plan and facilitate reporting to UDG/DGUM;
- Maintaining a website and social media communication effort for Partnerships/OFCs follow up;
- Providing adequate expert support in cooperation with Partnership/OFC;
- Providing specific support in defined cases, for example in regards to small and medium-sized cities and towns or deprived cities, in order to secure the participation of members in the Partnership/OFC;
- Organising ideally an annual coordinators' – and if relevant – action leaders' meeting (CALM).

Other potential elements of technical support required by Partnerships:

- Translation of finalised Action Plans into national language when organised by an individual Member State;
- Calls for contributions, evaluations;
- Administrative support for Partnerships/ OFC;
- Support for communication and outreach activities, such as:
 - Providing a visual identity for UAEU and corresponding materials to be used by Partnerships/OFC;
 - Hosting webinars and online outreach activities;
 - Surveys and peer reviews;
- Case studies

As stipulated in the Cohesion policy regulatory framework for 2021-2027, the [European Urban Initiative \(EUI\)](#) shall support the UAEU, and upon request from one or more Member States, it may also support intergovernmental cooperation on urban matters. The support will be delivered by the EUI Secretariat, hosted by the Region Hauts de France. It will build on the outputs from the previous years of work and implementation, and will seek to integrating as much as possible elements of the relevant urban-related initiatives and programmes as well as the work streams of the EUI. The UAEU will benefit from wider support in the context of the EUI, notably National Contact Points that will assist in the communication, dissemination and capitalisation activities of the UAEU and support relevant outreach.

The support to be provided by the EUI will include, among others:

- (i) the setting up of new Partnerships (including the ex-ante assessments of Partnership proposals), and possibly other forms of cooperation on an ad-hoc basis;
- (ii) the implementation of the UAEU and delivery of actions, with expertise support; and
- (iii) the setting up of capitalisation, communication and dissemination activities on the outcomes/results of the UAEU.

3 The new Thematic Partnership on Sustainable Tourism

The objective of this call for Expression of Interest is to select suitable and motivated partners for the UAEU Thematic Partnership on Sustainable Tourism.

The ex-ante assessment, also based on the consideration of the post-pandemic resurgence of urban tourism, confirmed a positive evaluation on the opportunity for such a Partnership. The new Thematic Partnership will be established within a complex policy scenario characterized by a method of collaborative, “co-creation” process, to be followed by an equally collaborative “co-implementation” phase, as described in the European Commission’s 2022 document on the [Transition Pathway for Tourism](#).

A multi-level governance approach appears to be necessary to tackle the multiple issues of sustainable urban tourism and this is confirmed by bottom-up instances of collaboration among a variety of actors (such as the networks of cities). A need also emerges for greater inclusivity especially with regard to small and medium size cities.

This theme is aligned with the strategic priorities of the EU emerging in the time of the post-pandemic recovery. More specifically urban tourism is engaged by several “[green deal](#)” strategies and related targets. Concerning the contribution of tourism to local socio-economic development, the competitive sustainability approach has been integral to the EU tourism policy for years. Significant inputs for the tourism industry will come from the [New European Urban Mobility Framework](#), the programme [Creative Europe 2021-2027](#), and the [short-term rental initiative](#) launched in 2021. Tourism-related issues are dealt in various programmes within the urban policies at EU level, such as the [Urban Innovative Actions](#) initiative and will be among the topics of the new [European Urban Initiative](#).

With regard to the regulatory environment, a number of legislative initiatives will characterise the green transition of tourism in the years ahead. Regulatory efforts are to be expected also in other areas impacting on urban tourism, namely multimodal travelling and digital interoperability. The industry will be certainly affected by two important forthcoming acts such as the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act.

With regard to trends and evidence about EU cities, emerging issues concern the use of land and of public spaces, the excessive specialisation in tourism of some territories, product innovation, and the new entrepreneurship and tech start-ups. A major and cross-cutting issue concerns the availability and appropriate use of data.

3.1 Thematic focus

The new Thematic Partnership will be based on a working definition of sustainable tourism, following the recital 27 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund:

“Sustainable tourism requires a balance between economic, social, cultural, and environmental sustainability. The approach to supporting sustainable tourism should be in accordance with the Commission Communication ‘Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism’. In particular, it should take into account the welfare of tourists, respect the natural and cultural environment and ensure the socio-economic development and competitiveness of destinations and businesses through an integrated and holistic policy approach.”

The new Thematic Partnership will focus on the specific issues related to tourism **in cities** as a crucial component of a sustainable development of the urban economies.

The new Thematic Partnership will also **build on the results of previous Thematic Partnerships** on Digital transition, on Housing, on Urban Mobility, on Jobs and skills in the local economy and on Culture and Cultural heritage. The new Thematic Partnership may follow up the work of previous Partnerships, e.g., by expanding its scope and /or realising pilot implementation but will not overlap it.

The following tables provide a tentative and non-exhaustive list of potential issues that may be the object of the Partnership’s thematic focus.

Table 1 – Sub-themes and issues related to sustainable urban tourism

Sub-themes	Issues
Environment <i>The environmental impact of the tourism industry in cities</i>	The reduction of environmental footprint
	Climate change
	Land use
	Circular economy
	Good practices; certifications
	Planning and design of sustainable tourism
Development <i>The contribution of tourism to urban socio-economic development</i>	Vulnerability and resilience
	Post-pandemic changes in tourism markets; diversification of tourism products; seasonality
	Renovation of tourist infrastructures and physical assets
	Mono-functional areas
	Mobility (green mobility, multimodality, intermodality, shared mobility)
	Small and medium-sized cities
	Culture and creativity
	Alternative hospitality; short-term rentals
	Smart cities, smart destinations, digital services
	Labour, green sustainable labour, up-and re-skilling, entrepreneurship
	Digitalisation of tourist services
	Accessibility – Tourism for all
	Social inclusion
	Social innovation
Unbalanced growth <i>The congestion of tourism flows in cities (overtourism)</i>	Redistribution of flows
	The limits to growth
	The impact of cruise ports
	The policy toolbox; good practices
	Product innovation for urban travellers

Table 2– Potential sub-themes for future thematic focus emerging from the EAA

	Thematic field	Why
Better Regulation	Short-term rentals	- a critical problem but also an opportunity for urban tourism - a new framework being developed under the SME strategy
	Eco-certifications	- urban tourism is engaged by strategies and targets under the European Green Deal - adoption by tourism companies of EU tools can be improved
	Cross-border transportation	- common regulations and standardization of sustainable cross-border transportation means
	Digital interoperability	- a crucial issue to realise “smart city / smart destination” models
	Data collection	- role of private businesses in tourism data collection and growing collective relevance of data for tourism governance



Better Knowledge	Data “smart” use	- capitalising on the efforts by public bodies and private actors to produce data, investigating their integration in the management of destinations
	Tourism congestion strategies	- the state-of-the-art management of cities and areas within cities being confronted with overtourism is constantly evolving through different experimentations and newer implementation of technologies - the post-pandemic scenario appears to be characterized by a resurgence of overtourism problems but also by opportunities
	Collaborative governance of tourism destinations	- networking, good practice exchanges and promotion focused on similar attractors and themes, itineraries, common challenges etc.
Better Funding	Enhanced guide to funding	- a pragmatic and effective approach to funding tourism-related projects whose visibility and accessibility could be improved
	Urban mobility for tourism	- mobility has a major impact on sustainability (e.g., on the management of congestion) - specifying the challenges of mobility on the tourism dimension
	Digital destinations, digitalisation of tourism services	- a crucial issue for the competitiveness of destinations and companies - insufficient development of digital skills for SMEs
	Innovation in tourism (destinations and businesses)	- responding to the emerging trends of post-pandemic tourism, by providing new products targeting “slow tourism”, “urban travellers” etc. - opportunities to support implementation of technologies for the green transition - tourism vulnerability and policies for tourism moderation
	New entrepreneurship and technological start-ups	- focus on supporting a dynamic factor in the tourism eco-system, as emerging from national and international cases



4 Categories of partners

Eligible applicants include:

- Member States through relevant national level ministries/agencies;
- Partner States;
- Regions and Regional Development Agencies;
- Urban authorities;
- European and national city umbrella organisations;
- Other stakeholders, such as:
 - o Managing Authorities of EU Structural Funds
 - o economic and social partners at European and national level;
 - o relevant agencies and authorities at national, regional and local level (e.g. Destination Management Organisations, transport and port authorities, environmental protection agencies);
 - o higher education and research institutions;
 - o private sector representatives;



5 Selection criteria

5.1 Horizontal selection criteria applicable to the Partnership

The Partnership will represent a diversity of members at different governance levels.

The horizontal selection criteria aim at guaranteeing a composition of the Partnership consistent with the objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU and of the new Partnership on “Sustainable Tourism”. These will be considered once the specific selection criteria described below are assessed, in order to make a selection amongst the highest scoring participants.

- i. **Multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach:** As per the [Pact of Amsterdam](#), the Partnership will be composed of about 15 to 20 partners from all levels of government and from different types of organisations. In order to ensure the representativeness of the local level, the Partnership will include *at least* five cities (urban authorities), as well as European and national city umbrella organisations.
- ii. **Size of cities:** *at least* one ‘small-sized city’ and one ‘medium-sized city’ will be part of the Partnership. As per the [Ljubljana Agreement Multi Annual Working Programme](#), ‘if no small and medium-sized urban authorities are selected in the open call, a nomination of small or medium-sized urban authorities can follow. Nominations can be proposed by Member States, Committee of the Regions and URBACT (upon approval of the Monitoring Committee) to the DGUM.’ As the horizontal criteria will not be scored, the small and medium-sized cities with the highest assessment score(s) on the specific selection criteria will be selected.
- iii. **Geographical balance:** During the selection process, one of the aims will be to ensure a relative geographical balance between the members.
- iv. **Diversity of types of tourist regions** where cities are located (metropolitan / coastal / mountain / rural)¹
- v. **Prior involvement in the UAEU:** Prior involvement in the UAEU is not required. The selection should give the opportunity to new cities/organisations to be involved as far as possible.
- vi. **Coordinators:** maximum two, at least one from an urban authority. In their expression of interest, applicants should indicate if they would like to be considered for the role of a Coordinator.

¹ Typology based on Batista e Silva, F., Barranco, R., Proietti, P., Pigaiani, C., & Lavalle, C. (2021). A new European regional tourism typology based on hotel location patterns and geographical criteria. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 89, 103077.

5.2 Specific selection criteria for applicants as Partners

The specific selection criteria below will be assessed on the basis of a 0-3 scale.

- i. **Motivation** to become partner, to be involved in the UAEU in the specific theme, possibly with reference to one or more specific sub-themes and issues. Motivation may include, for instance, the need for assessing sustainability problems experienced by the applicant, some significant experience to be tested and validated at a larger scale, pilot implementations etc. (Applicants should show awareness of [previous activities in UAEU Partnerships](#) that may be related to the sub-themes and issues of their concern.) Applicants need to demonstrate willingness to participate in meetings, share experience and disseminate knowledge; willingness to participate in EU policy dialogue etc.
- ii. **Expertise** and qualifications of the applicant with regard to at least one of the sub-themes and issues included in Tables 1 and 2. In the case of small and medium-sized cities, the expertise may be limited to specific aspects of the issue concerned and may have been developed through cooperation agreements with local, regional or national stakeholders. In case applicants possess knowledge/experience other than the ones mentioned above, they should clearly state it in the expression of interest. Expertise should be clearly demonstrated through description of past projects and initiatives.
- iii. **Outreach** to relevant stakeholders and participation in networks and cooperation programmes at local, regional, national and EU level, also based on previous experiences, with reference to sustainable tourism and/or urban policy issues, as well as the sub-themes and issues included in Tables 1 and 2.
- iv. **Readiness to participate with own human and financial resources:** availability and commitment of human and financial resources throughout the duration of the Partnership. As per the [Multi Annual Working Programme](#), this will not be the prevailing criterion for small and medium-sized cities.

5.3 Specific selection criteria for applicants as Coordinators

All the above specific selection criteria (i-iv) and in addition:

- v. **Project management expertise:**
 - a. specifically concerning projects and initiatives in multilevel governance and European/international contexts, based on evidence from previous experience
 - b. including expertise in dissemination and institutional communication at EU and national level

- vi. **Commitment of adequate allocation of human and financial resources** throughout the lifecycle of the Partnership
- vii. **Proposal of a plan** for the kick-start of the Partnership's work based on the outcomes of the Ex-Ante Assessment and for the management of the new Partnership

