

MINUTES INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN BARCELONA

CAMELOT Project

28th and 29th of March 2022

In the meeting have participated the following partners from the project:

Zagreb	Ines Franov Beoković - <i>Head of Project Implementation Department</i> Mirna Ćosić Asan - <i>Expert advisor for project preparation and implementation</i>
Stuttgart Region	Frieder Oesterle - <i>Coordinator of European Affairs</i>
Craiova (on-line)	Roxana Pirsoi - <i>Inspector in the European Projects Department</i>
Metropolitan City of Milan	Carmine Pacente - <i>Head Coordination European Policies</i> Tatiana Negurita - <i>Project Manager</i>
Metropolitan City of Bari	Dario de Robertis - <i>Chief executive officer (councilor)</i>
Porto Metropolitan Area	Sara Lobão - <i>Vice-president of the municipality of Vila do Conde</i>
Gdansk Metropolitan Area	Agnieszka Rózga-Micewicz - <i>Climate and spatial planning coordinator</i> Michal Glaser – <i>Office Director</i>
Barcelona Metropolitan Area	Alba Fernández – <i>International Relations Officer</i> Xavier Tiana – <i>Head of International Relations</i>
ALDA	Alessandra Brigo – <i>Project Officer</i> Sofia Gatteri – <i>Project Officer</i>

28th of March

The morning and afternoon sessions took place in the AMB headquarters in Barcelona. The morning session was introduced by Xavier Tiana from the AMB and Carmine Pacente as representative from the leading Metropolitan City of Milan.

Afterwards, Diego Villalba (Deputy Head of Unit of Communication, DG Regio, European Commission) participated on-line to explain the importance of communicating Cohesion Policy projects giving some examples.

During the morning session two round tables were organized:

1. The first round table was focused on sharing experiences on urban and metropolitan EU Cohesion Policy projects with the participation of Stuttgart Region, Gdansk Metropolitan Area, Metropolitan City of Bari and Zagreb where a representative of each city explained different projects and initiatives regarding urban experiences on energy transition.
2. The second round table was focused on sharing experiences on urban and metropolitan EU Cohesion Policy projects with the participation of Porto Metropolitan Area, Craiova, Metropolitan City of Milan and Gavà (Metropolitan municipality from the Barcelona Metropolitan Area) where a representative of each city explained different projects and initiatives regarding urban experiences on urban and digital agenda

The morning session was an open session where experts from the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, metropolitan municipalities and other local entities attended and participated.

The afternoon was a closed session to the partners of the project. It was organized in a workshop structure where each metropolitan area/city was able to explain their projects and priorities regarding different topics such as mobility, digitalization, social affairs, housing, green, innovation, etc. Attached a summary of the interventions and proposals.

29th of March

This second day was focused on a visit to European funded projects in the metropolitan area municipalities. The partners have visited three different projects:

1. Vilawatt project in Viladecans municipality. An Innovative local public-private-citizen partnership project for energy governance) UIA funding programme call 2017.
2. Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy projects (from ERDF programme) in Sant Boi municipality. The field visit was focused on a neighborhood where a lot of transformation regarding social projects has been made.
3. Llobregat river, a project managed by AMB and cofinanced through ERDF OP Catalonia 2014-2020.

CAMELOT WORKSHOP

28th of March 2022

During the afternoon session of the CAMELOT meeting held in Barcelona held on the 28th of March 2022, the organization of the event prepared a workshop session where the participants from the different metropolises were asked to include some project proposals in different areas of interest defined in the cohesion policy strategy for the period 21 - 27 in order to find similitudes and synergies for future partnerships.

The activity worked through two round tables were circular diagrams with different thematic ideas were used in order to engage the participation of metropolitan representatives. The aim was to allocate some ideas in each theme writing brief sticky notes. After a brainstorming time participants explained their sticky notes similar interests cemented the beginning of new partnerships between institutions. Some participants took advantage of the activity by sharing projects already implemented in their cities, generating a discussion around those best practices presented.

The 4 circular diagrams were divided by general topics of interest such as:

- Social and inclusive Europe
- Digital, smarter and more competitive Europe
- Greener Europe
- Europe closer to citizens

The above-mentioned priorities were at the same time divided in smaller and narrower topics.

Below are detailed the outcomes of the session, with the ideas shared by the participants, and a reference to the potential synergies that can arise from this task.



- SOCIAL -

REFUGEEES

Around the refugee crisis management and possibilities to facilitate the relocation of people suffering this kind of displacement from their home countries some ideas that came up where:

From the perspective of Milano, we must work on reducing the procedure complexity for asylum requests to diminish the time of relocation.

AMB remembered the importance of supporting initiatives like “Mariupol Declaration” driven by Gdansk administration in moments of emergency like the one we are all currently living.

Zagreb highlighted the need for a better organisation of the inclusion of refugees through the educational system. Similarly, Alda advocated for the need of offering free language courses for those newcomers.

Gdansk went beyond the previous ideas and stated that a holistic refugee’s adaptation plan is needed.

INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKET

ALDA - Knowing the demand of local industries and supporting companies to hire people

PORTO - Improve social innovation

EDUCATION

ZAGREB - Space for more Kindergartens and elementary schools, they are working for make this shift possible.

GDANSK – Education on the importance of step up on adaptation and climate change mitigation.

MILANO & PORTO- Adapt educational system to labour needs and skills in order to tight school dropout.

MILANO – Include young people in the decision process.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

MILANO - Guarantee the access to people coming from different countries and cultures.

ALDA – Improve reproductive rights for all EU countries

HOUSING

ZAGREB - Social house for elder population of Croatian war veterans

PORTO - Social housing and house for young people

AMB – Improving energy efficiency through rehabilitation

AMB – Affordable housing

INCLUSION

BARI – Local youth Council meeting, generating a structured dialogue

MILANO – Foresee the cultural mediator or translator in the principle public bodies

ALDA - Eliminate gender pay gap

- DIGITAL -

SMART TECHNOLOGY & CONNECTIVITY

BARI – Implementing a project to provide free wifi on squares and principal public places

AMB – Implementing the 5G infrastructure in beaches and economic poles

MILANO – Utilise optic fibre for improving the connectivity

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

AMB – Strategic lines for AMB International Relations department. Aiming to create a Forum on International Metropolitan Knowledge

ALDA – Universities, industries and other actors in the field working together for a common goal.

MILANO – Introducing and regulating the artificial intelligence at European Level

ALDA – Improving funding for young researchers

COMPETITIVENESS & SMES

ALDA – The development of a 4.0 industry at EU level

PORTO – More marketplaces for local commerce

AMB – SMES support through the economic agency to achieve this competitiveness and internationalization

MILANO - Reduce the procedures and barriers to create start-ups

DIGITALIZATION

STUTTGART – Artificial Intelligence demonstrators and its implementation by companies

AMB – “Gavius” a project on the field of digitalization, already under implementation in the AMB municipality of Gavà / Digitalization in transport through new projects for ticketing and LEZ platform / implementing digital administration initiatives



- GREEN -

URBAN TRANSPORT

ZAGREB - Promoting clean and sustainable transport through more park and ride system, bicycle routes, better ticketing system, integrated transport

AMB – Low emission zone project implemented in Barcelona Metropolitan Area Metropolitana de Barcelona

BARI – E-micromobility and slow mobility

MILANO – Biciplan project for connecting the metropolitan territory

AMB – Bike and micromobility strategy

STUTTGART - Metropolitan bike infrastructure planning

MILANO - Green bus and metro

ENERGY

BARI – Biogas production

ZAGREB – Increasing energy efficiency and usage of renewable energy sources

BARI & MILANO – Energy efficiency in public buildings

GDANSK – Deep energy renovation program for buildings / Energy communities

AMB – Public buildings and private housing energy efficiency

STUTTGART – Increasing hydrogen usage

URBAN

BARI – Street art

ZAGREB – Improvement of entrepreneurship infrastructure focusing on innovation.

ZAGREB - Rehabilitation and reconstruction of already built city areas like Brownfield Area previously an industrial and military area

AMB – Inclusive public space

GREEN & BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE

BARI - Sea cleaning and biodiversity protection

AMB – Coastline protection

ZAGREB – River Sava infrastructure

AMB – Green infrastructure strategy

STUTTGART – Green industrial areas and compensation strategies for building industrial areas

ZAGREB – Environment and nature protection

STUTTGART – Not only protecting but upgrading landscape

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

GDANSK – Air quality monitoring

STUTTGART - Dealing with urban heat islands

ZAGREB - Development of crisis management system

AMB – Climate refugees

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

AMB – Circular economy in waste management

ALDA - Sharing social economy good practices

- CITIZENS -

SECURITY

ALDA - Improve incarceration system through promoting more actions for reintegration of prisoners within society

CULTURE

ZAGREB – Development of culture and creative industries

ALDA – Free museum entrance

BARI – Exchange art exhibitions

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

BARI – Promoting cyclotourism and Ecotourism

ALDA – More taxes for car rentals

BETTER GOVERNANCE

ALDA – Improve local democracy

MILANO – Involvement of municipalities in the strategy of cohesion policy of our region

AMB – Improving metropolitan identity and awareness among citizens

ZAGREB & AMB & STUTT GART – Increasing participative democracy in city planning development

MILANO – Support the participation of municipalities in the EU procedures and projects

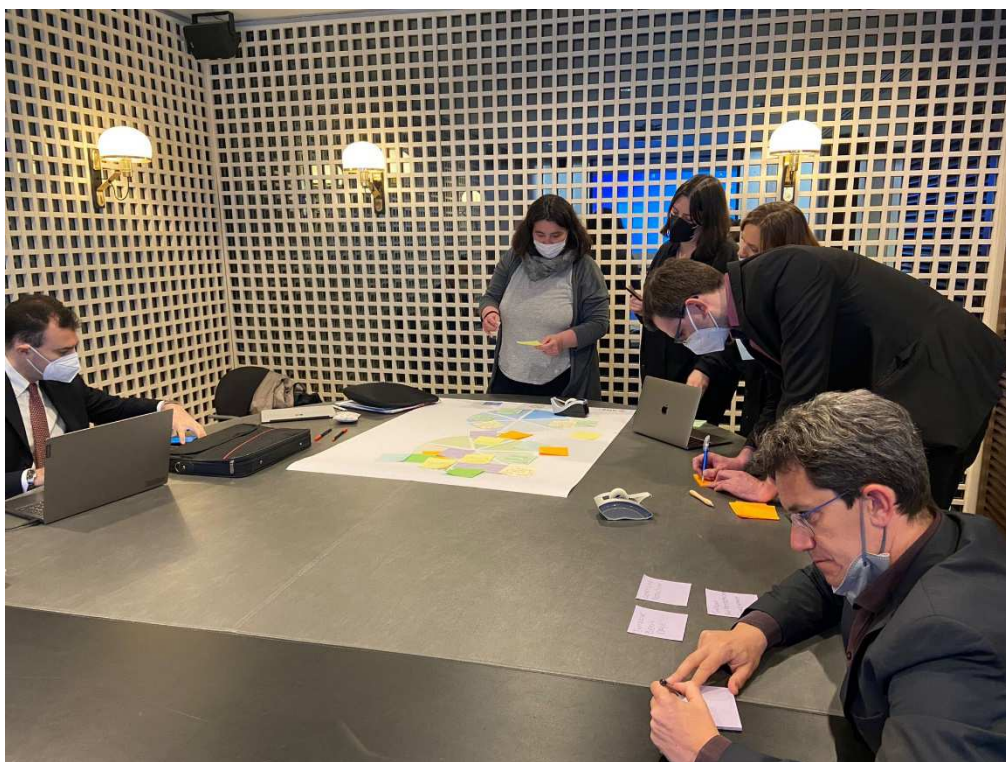
AMB – Improve metropolitan governance

EXTRA / FOOD & WATER MANAGEMENT

AMB & MILANO – Metropolitan Urban Agriculture

ZAGREB - Sustainable waste management system

ZAGREB - Improvement of water supply system



- CONCLUSIONS -

Overall, the session passed smoothly with a wide number of interventions and shared thoughts. Participants were able to discuss about the main topics of the new cohesion policy programme, what enabled them to find some common interests. For instance, on the improvement of local governance. More precisely, Zagreb, AMB and Milano demonstrated their interest to cooperate on finding solutions for increasing participative democracy in city planning development.

Moreover, other common priorities were reached when talking about Metropolitan Urban Agriculture or energy efficiency in public buildings, where almost every administration expressed their willingness to participate.

During the course of the session participants realized that, many topics can overlap and be aggregated, for the sake of more salient and fruitful projects. For instance, when developing projects aiming for better governance or a monitoring system of air quality, higher digitalization might be differential. In these regard, an assertive reflexion that was expressed by some participants in the final wrap up of the activity, was that merging different topics when designing EU projects is key to ensure their success.

The thematic areas where we found a higher volume of interest and proposals were those related with greening projects. Thus, urban transport stands out from the rest, with many synergies possible in the light of bicycle promotion and micromobility. It has been also demonstrated that another important area of intervention at the metropolitan level is blue and green infrastructure promotion where it is expected to be reached out collaboration for future projects.

A final consideration expressed regarding the focus and scope of future projects is that the possibility to present proposals with crossed interests gives to the administration many opportunities. Thus, when a proposal mixes aims, for instance, digitalization and better governance or social housing with energy efficiency, we must be able to shape those ideas in order to make them suitable for calls in both thematic areas. A great example is the case of Bari proposal on promoting bike mobility. This kind of proposals generally imply the development of digital supports (apps or webs) and, therefore, might be susceptible to also fit in projects and programmes aiming for higher digitalisation.

