

## *EUROCITIES Funding Officers Meeting 2025*

### *Navigating EU Funding: Insights, Opportunities & Collaboration*

15-16 April 2025

Perspective Brussels,  
Rue de Namur 59, 1000 Brussels

#### **Tuesday, April 15**

**12:30 – 14:00**      **Brussels Urban Talks over lunch organised and hosted by Lyon Metropole, Amélie Smethurst – Lyon Metropole**

Brussels Urban Talks is an initiative launched jointly by four French metropolitan area representations to the EU, namely Lyon Metropole, the city and Eurometropole of Strasbourg, Amiens Metropole and Lille Metropole. Each local authority takes turns in organising a session bringing together representatives of European cities and metropolitan areas to discuss ongoing projects and collaboration opportunities.

**Are you looking for new partners for a European project or allies to advocate with you on a given topic?** The Brussels Urban Talks are your opportunity to pitch an idea, an initiative or a project to our participants! Should you be interested in taking the floor please reach out to Emmy Guipon: [eguipon@grandlyon.com](mailto:eguipon@grandlyon.com).

**14:00 – 14:15**      **Welcoming introduction, Gert Nys – Deputy Director General at Perspective Brussels**

**14:15 – 16:00**      **Multi-Annual Financial Framework and the Future of the Urban Agenda, Louise Coffineau & Thomas Lymes – Eurocities**

This session will focus on two key elements shaping the future of cities in Europe: the **policy agenda for cities** and the **next EU budget**.

As many of you know, **President von der Leyen has asked Executive Vice-President Fitto to develop an ambitious policy agenda for cities**. While Eurocities is actively engaging with the European Commission, and with the members of the WG on Urban Agenda, to help shape this agenda, we are eager to gather your inputs and reflections to ensure that your priorities are fully represented.

At the same time, **the European Commission is preparing its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework** (the EU's seven-year budget) which is expected in July 2025. Although the proposal is still under preparation, negotiations are already well underway. Eurocities is working closely with many of you and your political leaders to secure continued and improved access to EU funding for cities. But this shouldn't be taken for granted. During this session, we will update you on the latest developments and discuss together the key messages, strategies, and tactics.

**16:00 - 16:30**      *Coffee break*

**16:30 -17:10**

**NEB Facility, Borut Cink – European Commission, Joint Research Center**

Curious about how the New European Bauhaus (NEB) can boost your projects? In this session, you'll discover the key NEB tools, dive into its framework, and understand the approach behind it. This is a great opportunity to get practical insights that will help you respond confidently to the upcoming calls expected in late April.

**From 18:00**

**Networking drinks**

Participants can continue networking at a venue that will be announced closer to the event date. Please note that drinks will be at their own expense.

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**Wednesday, April 16**

**09:30 – 10:30**

**EU Funding Untangled, Cécile Houpert – Perspective Brussels and Marie-Julie Jacquemot – Berlin**

Join an honest conversation and practical session where we will share experiences of EU funding officers' roles, tools, and needs. Exchange on best practices, process improvements, and recommendations to enhance your work and collaboration with your colleagues outside the EU funding world.

**10:30– 11:00**

*Coffee break*

**11:00-11:30**

**Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) calls, Gaëlle Hubert and Marie-Carmen Bex – Innoviris**

Stay up to date! In this session, you'll get the latest updates on the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) calls. Find out what's new, what to expect, and how your city can get involved. This 30-minute session, including time for Q&A, will give you a clear overview to help you navigate the next steps and make the most of upcoming opportunities.

**11:30-12:00**

**DUT funded project, Justine Gangneux – Eurocities**

Discover *FORTHCOMING*, a DUT-funded project helping cities rethink urban mobility and proximity. This session will explore how *FORTHCOMING* is testing innovative 15-minute city models in suburban areas, using digital solutions like to build more climate-neutral, livable communities.

**12:00 - 12:40**      **Digital Europe opportunities for cities, Maximilian Strotmann – European Commission DG CONNECT (TBC)**

Join this session to discover the latest funding opportunities under the Digital Europe Programme, designed to support public administrations and local authorities. With the new work programme launching in April, this is the perfect time to highlight upcoming calls that can help cities boost their digital transformation.

**12:40**                **Closing**