CENTRINNO

T-FACTOR

HUB-IN

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TOWARDS INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND CREATIVE HUBS IN EUROPEAN CITIES

MANIFESTO

CENTRINNO, HUB-IN and T-FACTOR are funded under Horizon 2020 Programme with grant agreements no 869595, 869429 and 868887.

TOWARDS INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE AND CREATIVE HUBS IN EUROPEAN CITIES MANIFESTO

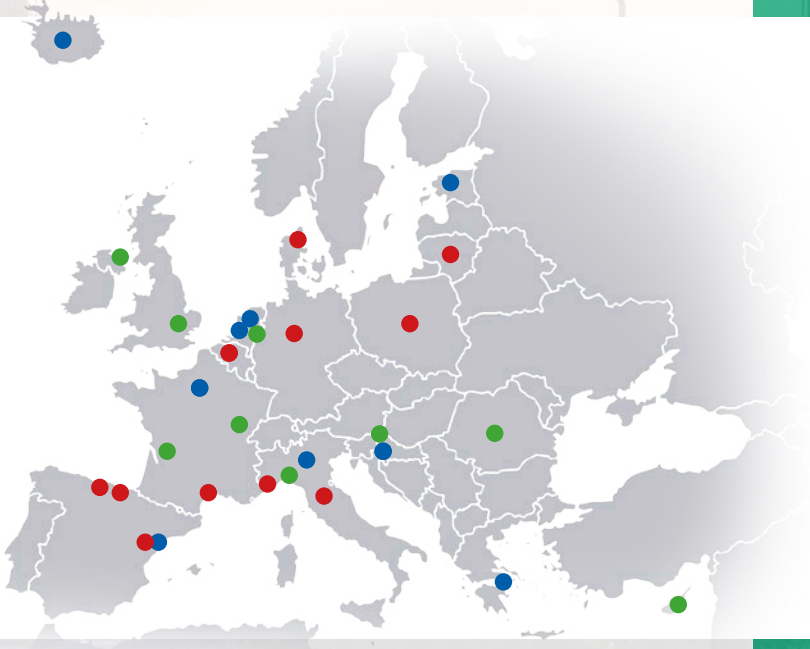
CENTRINNO[1], **HUB-IN**[2] and **T-Factor**[3] are three Horizon 2020 innovation actions committed to transform historic urban areas across Europe into hubs of entrepreneurship and socio-cultural inclusion. By collaborating as **sister projects** (SPs), they work as a **Cluster of Innovative, Inclusive and Creative Urban Hubs,** committed to advance novel **approaches to the regeneration of our cities and their historical heritage, and thus contributing to the transition to resilient, inclusive and vibrant cities across Europe.**

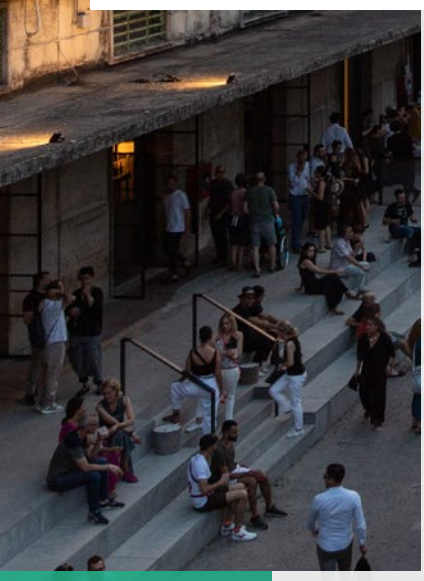
As a **Cluster,** the three projects involve a total of **26 European cities** (Figure 1). This represents a unique opportunity to test and scale up transformative regeneration across a diversity of geographies, cultures, socio-cultural capitals and connotations of heritage that make European cities unique.

Figure 1 - Cities involved as pilot location

- CENTRINNO in blue
- T-FACTOR in red
- HUB-IN in green

1. Amsterdam
2. Angouleme
3. Barcelona
4. Belfast
5. Bilbao
6. Blondous
7. Brasov
8. Copenhagen
9. Dortmund
10. Florence
11. Geneve
12. Genova
13. Kaunas
14. Lisbon
15. Lodz
16. London
17. Marseille
18. Milan
19. New York
20. Nicosia
21. Paris
22. Shangai
23. Slovenka Bistrica
24. Tallinn
25. Ultrecht
26. Zagreb





The following points of the Manifesto present the playing field of collaboration of the Cluster:

1. **Innovative hubs and heritage-driven urban regeneration have thepotential to unlock alternative economies and support human development.**
   Within the Cluster, each SP explores different connotations of this new economy through the transformation of historic urban areas into innovative hubs, in line with the **EU Green Deal**[4] and **EU Urban Agenda**[5]**.** Aligned with the **New European Bauhaus**[6], the SPs foster regeneration of urban spaces combining sustainability and aesthetics in a human-centred way. The cluster also seeks to contribute to the **European Skills Agenda**[7], exploring the role of urban regeneration in boosting new skills and knowledge for a new workforce, connecting local production with industry and societal challenges. **Fab-labs, Fab-Hubs, creative industries and other types of hubs** are leveraged to foster the alignment of industry, society and environmental needs.

2. **New urban regeneration models are tested and prototyped through networks of innovative hubs in different European cities, developing examples and methods for the future of other cities**
   Prototyping and experimentation approaches inform the way in which the SPs understand and practice urban regeneration with overall objectives of inclusive and quality spaces. Exchanges and learning across cities and SPs allow local findings to be compared and analysed, and to be potentially transferred to other cities.

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3. **Civil society and bottom-up processes can lead to productive and collaborative communities that play a key role in the transformation of historic urban areas**
   Place prototyping is developed through open innovation mechanisms and participatory processes that involve the local communities, contributing to goals of the **New Leipzig Charter** [8]. Experimentation is co-created with local communities, building agency and legitimacy for change in urban transformation.

4. **The development potential of heritage and local culture is key to co-define alternative economies**
   Understanding the past of historic urban areas, both in their material and immaterial aspects, is key to defining the values and core elements behind novel urban regeneration models. In order to foster climate resilience, collaborative and circular economies and an inclusive society, cities need to connect their existing and emerging values to their background and history.

5. **Sustainable urban transformations must be rooted in the endogenous potential of HUA**
   Understanding the layers of material resources, spaces and knowledge in historic urban areas is key to unlock restorative and regenerative economies. Experimentation in the three SPs supports the spread of the Circular Economy in Europe, in line with the **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative** [9], the **Intelligent Cities Challenge** [10] and the **EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities** [11].

6. **The long-term sustainability of new alternative economies and novel urban regeneration models in urban historic areas relies on strong international networks**
   Cities need wider networks' governance structures to further explore new urban regeneration models and support the sustainability of alternative economies. The SPs are part of bigger networks that foster dissemination and exploitation of their work, such as the T-FACTOR Think Tank, the HUB-IN Alliance and the Fab City Network.

Collectively, the three SPs are committed to achieve the following results:

- **New solutions and tools for place-based innovation** to re-activate and re-generate urban areas in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Creation and densification of innovative hubs** that can be replicated in other European cities, exploring new approaches to the creation of innovation hubs and alternative economic models; The role of socially innovative start-ups, cultural and creative industries, including from the digital technologies sector, small scale advanced manufacturing and local 'makers'.
- New methodologies and approaches for **impact assessment in transformative urban regeneration,** exploring novel theories of change and metrics rooted in systems thinking.

As an ultimate result, the SPs will propel the impact of the projects' results, by **connecting 46 cities** (26 city pilots + 20 follower cities) and will pave the way to a wider European Alliance of innovative, creative and inclusive cities. Through this **empowered network of Hubs of Innovation and cities**, the SPs will be in better conditions to test solutions and validate **policy recommendations**. A community of innovation actors will be mobilised through the joint actions of the three projects. Citizens will be strongly engaged and new collaboration networks across Europe will be promoted.

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1. **CENTRINNO**: New CENTRalities in INdustrial areas as engines for inNOvation and urban transformation. https://centrinno.eu/
2. **HUB-IN**: Hubs of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Transformation of Historic Urban Areas. https://hubin-project.eu/
3. **T-FACTOR**: Unleashing future-facing urban hubs through culture and creativity-led strategies of transformative time. https://www.t-factor.eu/
4. **EU Green Deal:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
5. **EU Urban Agenda:** https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda
6. **New European Bauhaus:** https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en
7. **European Skills Agenda:** https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en
8. **New Leipzig Charter:** https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/12/12-08-2020-new-leipzig-charter-the-transformative-power-of-cities-for-the-common-good
9. **Circular Cities and Regions Initiative:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/environment/circular-economy/circular-cities-and-regions-initiative_en
10. **Intelligent Cities Challenge:** https://www.intelligentcitieschallenge.eu/
11. **EU Mission for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en#more-information

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