

ATLANTIC CITIES

Innovation as a boost for urban development

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“Structural Funds tackle now Innovation challenges, there is no need to reinvent the wheel” stated Corina Cretu, European Commissioner for regional policy¹.

The Atlantic Cities network was created in 2000 with the main aim of giving voice to the local authorities at European level. A goal to be achieved by linking together its common challenges and finding common solutions through innovative development.

All along these 19 years of existence the Atlantic Cities has worked on territorial development inside the European Territorial Cooperation framework.

All the works developed all along this time shown the importance of going further strengthening innovation links within European territories. To this extent the Atlantic Cities network:

- ✓ Embraces innovation at local level as a territorial development driver by bringing its own activities such as the study on the future strategy for the Atlantic Cities after 2020.
- ✓ Stresses the importance of ECORIS3 project, focused on promoting the smart specialization not only in the academic, public and business spheres (the triple helix) but also in the framework of civil society (quadruple helix).
- ✓ Calls on the importance to keep Urbact programme in its current form, as it is a programme established to help cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable and that integrate economic, social and environmental urban topics in order to fulfil the European Urban Agenda.
- ✓ calls on the importance to maintain the Interreg Europe programme is key in order to keep a major level of territorial cohesion and therefore,

accomplish with EU Treaty targets as it is enshrined in the article 174 of the EU Treaty.

- ✓ invites the European Commission to foster Atlantic Area by maintaining Atlantic Area Programme and developing the corresponding macro region as an innovative territorial instrument.
- ✓ underlines the need to develop a structured dialogue by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission in the next programming period aimed at gathering territorial urban networks.
- ✓ Today approves the strategic priorities for their future, and thus we expect European Institutions work hand in hand with our territorial challenges.

ⁱ <https://www.interregeurope.eu/ecoris3/news/news-article/2485/structural-funds-tackle-now-innovation-challenges/>