



Community of Cities

Insights from Meeting #4 (24 Sept 2025)

About the Community of Cities

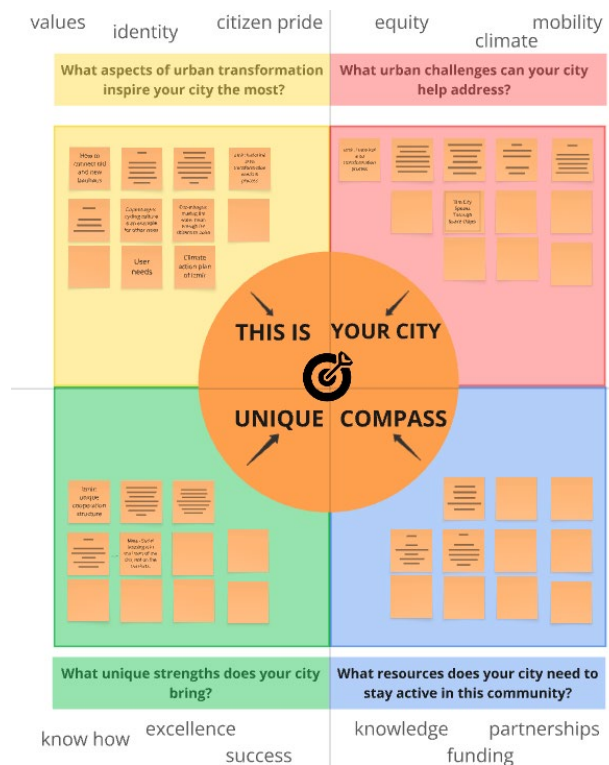
This network is part of the Eyes Hearts Hands Urban Revolution (EHHUR) project. This initiative brought together more than 45 cities to learn about the New European Bauhaus (NEB) by sharing ideas and addressing urban challenges. Through four meetings, city representatives heard about lessons from pilot cities, provided feedback on the Decision Support System Tool (DSS Tool), and had the opportunity to network. This final meeting invited cities to reflect on their collective journey and to articulate their unique contribution within their community.

Insights from the Meeting

Unlike previous meetings, which focused on the refinement of the DSS Tool, this meeting used the Ikigai framework¹, adapted for cities, as a reflective and forward-looking exercise. Each city explored four guiding questions:

- **What inspires us?** (values and passions in urban transformation)
- **What are we good at?** (strengths and expertise)
- **What challenges can we help address?** (contribution to global urban needs)
- **What do we need to sustain our role?** (resources, partnerships, support)

This structure helped participants distil their 'urban ikigai': the intersection of values, strengths, contribution and sustainability.



¹ imagine.jhu.edu/resources/ikigai



Insights and Results

Cities expressed their unique roles through short statements, for example:

- **Izmir (Turkey):** integrating sustainable energy, cultural identity, and community co-design into a transferable model.
- **Maia (Portugal):** creating a sustainable living environment through social engagement and co-creation.
- **Kozani (Greece):** applying a multidisciplinary approach and working with citizens to meet local needs.
- **Copenhagen (Denmark):** advancing strong practices in recycling, reuse systems, and public consultations; serving as an international hub to connect public authorities, industry, and citizens in urban sustainability.
- **Osijek (Croatia):** developing participatory urban spaces that reflect community voices.

Across contributions, common themes emerged: **equity, climate, mobility, participation and heritage transformation.**





From reflection to community identity

The session highlighted that the Community of Cities is more than a testing ground for tools, it is becoming a network of peers with distinct yet complementary strengths. By articulating their 'urban ikigai', each city clarified how it can both give and receive within this community, reinforcing sustainability beyond the project.

What's next?

With this fourth and final meeting, the Community of Cities comes to a close, at least in its current shape to provide feedback on the Decision Support System Tool which is now finished. The next phase will focus on maintaining momentum by joining forces with the Irresistible Cities Lab, and ensuring that the network continues to evolve as a shared resource for sustainable urban transformation.

The EHHUR Project team