

**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

PROXIMITIES

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Objectives, main activities, project's rationale



Reggio Emilia
città
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FONDAZIONE

E★35

PER LA PROGETTAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

PRoMoting accessible services, livable spaces and sustainable connections in peripheral urban territories

Thematic objective - Europe closer to Citizens

Interregional cooperation project: policy learning among EU regions to improve the performance of regional development policies

www.interregeurope.eu/PROXIMITIES



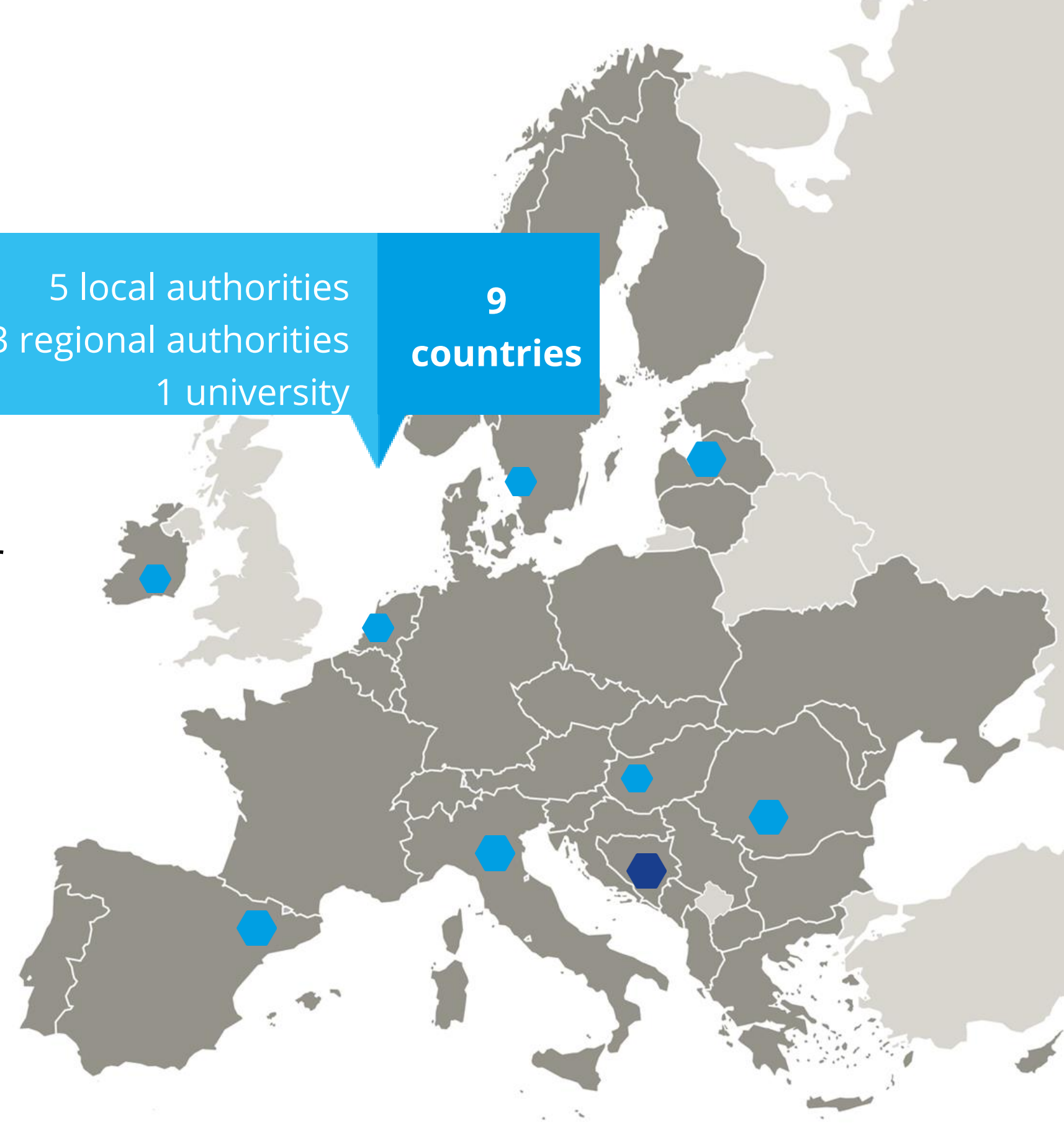
PROXIMITIES Map

1. Municipality of Reggio Emilia – Lead Partner*
2. Erasmus University of Rotterdam – Advisory Partner
3. Southern Regional Assembly - Communication manager
4. Municipality of Manresa
5. Riga Planning Region
6. Regional Development Agency of South West Oltenia
7. Municipality of Veszprem
8. Municipality of Varberg
- 9. Municipality of Centar Sarajevo - Discovery partner**

*with the support of E35 Foundation

5 local authorities
3 regional authorities
1 university

9 countries

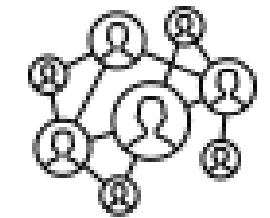




Other Interreg Europe projects

Prospera - Varberg

Resolve - Erasmus UTP



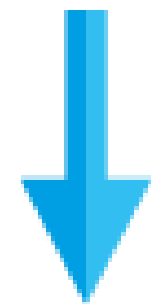
Networks of towns

Eurotowns - Manresa

Urbact - Veszprem

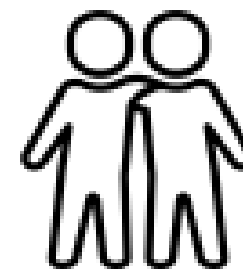


Reggio Emilia



Twin cities

Sarajevo Centar



New partners!

SRA Irland

RDA SWO Romania

Riga Planning Region



The origins of PROXIMITIES

- Reggio Emilia's attention to periurban/peripheral areas from other EU projects: connections between inner city - external areas mainly approached from a mobility perspective
- General Urban Plan of Reggio Emilia describing the 2030 City's vision on urban planning, agriculture, climate, sustainability, social and economic development. The Plan implemented studies and analysis on 15-minute city concept, but without a cross-sectoral focus
- Need to strengthen the concept of proximity by considering the distance to services as an element for the quality of life
- Covid emergency showed the vital role of neighbourhood services to provide basic functions (economic, social, environmental.)

“PROXIMITIES investigates peripheral areas on multiple territorial levels (city/regional) and dimensions (social/economic/environmental) to find public common approaches to restore centrality of neighbourhood dimension, people-centred, place-based solutions. It tackles cross-sectorial policy solutions to redesign urban peripheral areas as sustainable & resilient places and communities.”

**Smaller municipalities outside
the metropolis**

Old historic areas

City villages

Suburbs

PROXIMITIES

Isolated urban areas

peripheral areas

Urban countryside

**Neighborhoods outside the historic
center**

Brownfield areas

Newly established villages

PROXIMITIES Common assumptions

- EU peripheral urban areas, regardless of their configuration, experience **lower concentration of services/opportunities** for citizens
- The EU trend of implementing 15-min approaches on inner centers worsened the possibility for peripheral urban areas to reach a **people-center dimension in terms of urban spaces, access to services, livability and quality of life**
- Covid period showed the importance of investing on **Proximity and relationships** to improve social capital, cultural opportunities, connections with inner areas
- **Integrated vision of “proximity”** as a way to broaden the discussion on “15-minutes city” by integrating social, economic, environmental, landscape, governance challenges
- **New models of governance**, multi-stakeholder process and co-planning of interventions in peripheral areas by engaging local authorities, social actors, cultural actors, business, services, neighborhood/citizen associations

PROXIMITIES Leverages

- **Proximity economy** – leverage on trade, crafts, farms by focusing on the multifunctionality of services to generate social, environmental and economic value
- **Sustainable mobility** - bring people back to the center, strengthen the connections between the suburbs and the urban center and improve the livability and attractiveness of peripheral areas (in particular focused on walkability and cycling)
- **Quality of public spaces and livability** - resilience and naturalness of urban environments, care of green and blue spaces, quality of public spaces
- **Social dimension** - community involvement, recreation of social ties, youth engagement, integration of public proximity services
- **Governance and territorial services** – building new partnerships between local authorities, businesses, social and cultural actors, citizens associations to make peripheral areas places of community regeneration and socio-economic innovation

PROXIMITIES Objectives

- To **include peripheral areas in strategic planning** as key “driver” for sustainable city development
- To **increase policy makers and stakeholders’ capacities** to implement an integrated vision to the sustainable development of peripheral urban area, according to the 5 PROXIMITIES leverages
- To **change citizens’ mindset** about peripheral urban area towards livable places of community regeneration, socio-economic innovation and environmental promotion
- To **investigate and compare different scenarios of peripheral urban areas** in Europe, contributing to the assessment of their specific evolutions across EU regions

PROXIMITIES Target

- **Policy makers** at local and regional level
- **Partners' staff members** - engagement of relevant departments: urban planning, participation policies, welfare policies, green/sustainability..
- **Peripheral urban stakeholders**- retailers, CSOs, schools, community centers, associations, service providers, business associations, universities, research centers..
- **Citizens**
- **EU policy makers** and technicians

PROXIMITIES Expected results

- Identification of at least **24 Good Practices from 8 countries**
- **Interregional exchange learning process** based on study visit and knowledge exchange sessions
- Improvement of **7 policy instruments** according to project's learnings
- Improvement of **48 organizations' capacity** thanks to their participation in the project
- **Dissemination** of project's results and findings



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Thank you!

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