

Quarterly newsletter published by

## INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION PROGRAM

IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Program financed by the European Union



# INNOVATION THROUGH NETWORKING

## CITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Mission between South Bohemia (Czech Republic) and Federal District (Brazil) in June 2019

The **IUC-LAC** program promotes cooperation between cities, regions and local governments to achieve sustainable urban development and promotes local actions against climate change, in line with the Sustainable **Development Goals**, the **Paris Agreement** and the **New Urban Agenda**.

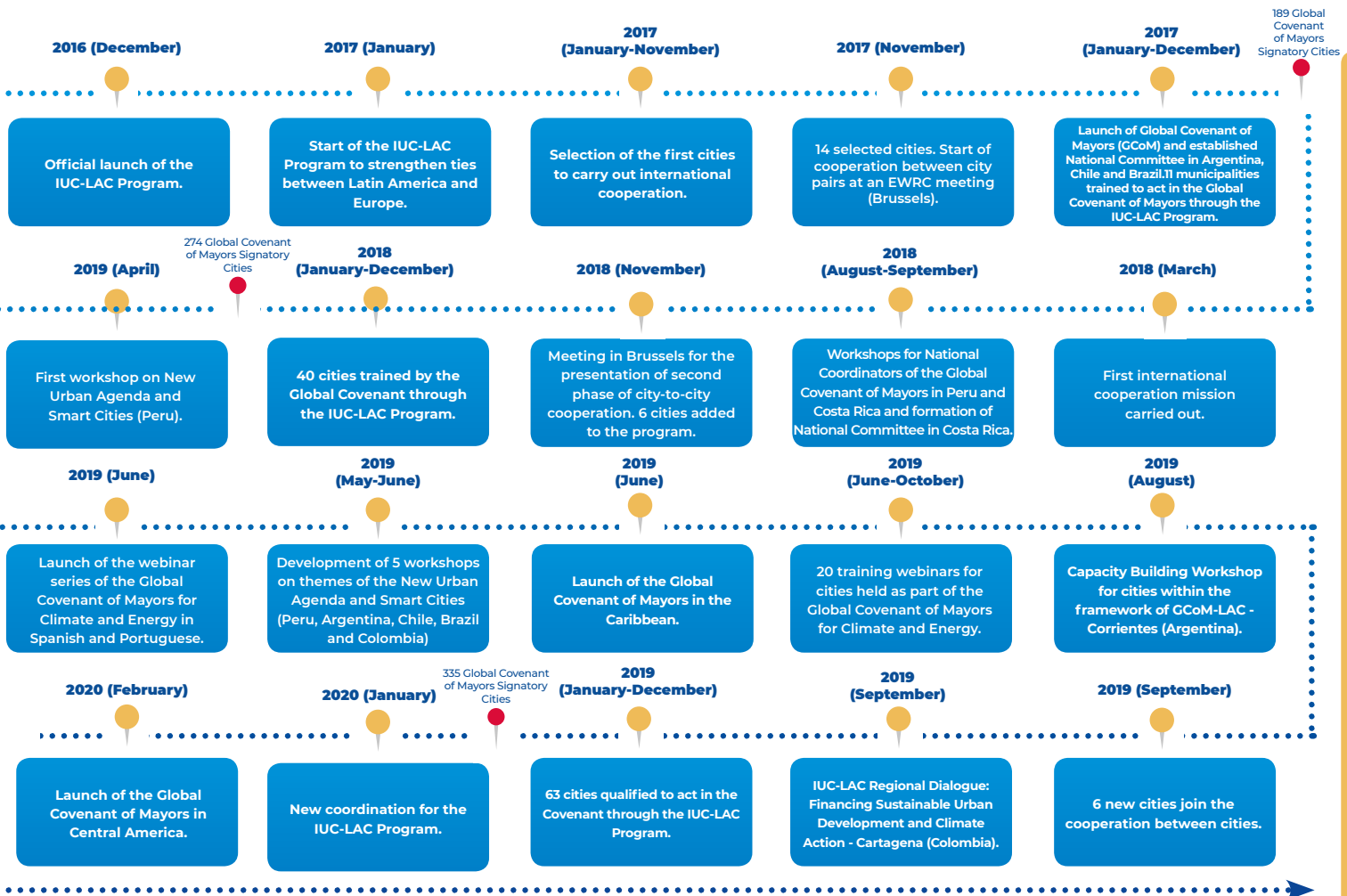
# IUC-LAC in numbers and timeline



+400 CITIES INVOLVED

+180 MILLION PEOPLE

9 MILLION EUROS INVESTED



## LEARN HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN A NETWORK OF CITIES COMMITTED TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a **global alliance of cities and local governments** voluntarily committed to combating climate change, reducing its inevitable impacts and facilitating access to **sustainable and accessible energy for all**.

In the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Cities, local governments are agents of change and leaders in climate action. Global Covenant of Mayors members serve as examples, to other local leaders to act local and impact globally.

The global climate is changing rapidly and nowhere is the impact felt more deeply than it is in cities around the world. When the Paris Agreement came into force, it represented a broader commitment by global leaders to jointly tackle the effects of climate change. Cities and local governments are taking significant and important steps to reduce the impacts of climate change and to strengthen communities for generations to come.

**Do you want to be part of this network committed to climate change? Click here to learn how: <http://pactodealcaldas-la.eu/en/join-us/>**

# COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIES

After the excellent results obtained in 2019, IUC-LAC started 2020 with the commitment to leave an importance legacy for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Throughout 2019, technical cooperation, missions and exchanges were formalized between 24 European and Latin American cities in 5 different countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru). During 2019, 5 workshops were also held to train cities that want to develop the international cooperation.

The main successes of the regions and cities participating in the program were the implementation of **pilot projects** and the finalization of **action plans** that allowed them to face the impacts of climate change in a sustainable manner. City representatives presented their successes in Brussels during a regional workshop last November.

2019 was a successful year in the production of knowledge and background materials to support professional training and institutional strengthening. A good example of this was the book on good practices in sustainable urban development in the 5 countries mentioned above, which brought together the best practices of Latin American cities in sustainable urban development and is available in [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#). The format combines the best actions on issues such as clean energy, sustainable transport, water, waste, environmental management, smart cities, green industries, sustainable construction, green finance, circular economy and low carbon urban planning.

To read more [click here](#).

# GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) is the largest global alliance of cities and local governments voluntarily committed in fighting climate change, with the reduction of its unavoidable impacts and the facilitation of access to sustainable and affordable energy to everyone. It was born in 2016 as a result of the merger of the Compact of Mayors and the European Covenant of Mayors, the two primary initiatives of local action tackling climate change.

With the establishment of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, in 2017 the signatories of the Compact of Mayors were automatically and progressively included the GCoM, with no need to re-commit, while it was deactivated. At the same time, the Covenant of Mayors became the GCoM regional chapter in Europe.

A commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy means a pledge not only to take bold local action, but also to work together with peers from other parts of the world to share innovative solutions that allow mayors to do more and faster. GCoM cities and local governments connect and exchange, learning and sharing with each other.

In the Latin American and Caribbean region, more than 400 cities are part of the initiative, at the forefront of the fight against climate change. When mayors and local managers take action to tackle change at the local level, they are also acting to ensure a climate-resistant, low-carbon future that benefits the health of their communities and sets the starting point for a prosperous economic future.

**+10.000 committed cities  
in the world +135 countries  
+800 million of people**



Want to know more? [Click here](#).



# THE CITIES SPEAK OUT: SÃO LEOPOLDO

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS AN IMPERATIVE: KEY TOOL TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Given the current turbulent situation, international cooperation focused on sustainable development and solidarity between people is not just an option, is an essential campaign. More than ever, a program is needed to generate debates, exchange of experiences and the creation of initiatives whose main objective is to expand freedoms and explore new possibilities for the delicate contemporary scenario.

In this sense, the International Urban Cooperation Program (IUC-LAC) contributes by offering the opportunities for cities to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, sharing solutions to common problems of sustainable development and acting in the construction of a greener future. Before that, it is essential to emphasize that one of the benefited municipalities is, therefore, São

Leopoldo, in Brazil, which since October 2018 has carried out its first international technical cooperation with an European city, recovering prominence in the production of strategic projects for the municipality. Thus, the Municipality of São Leopoldo was selected to participate on the International Urban Cooperation Program of the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean (IUC-LAC), holding a collaborative initiative with the city of Viana do Castelo (Portugal), and valuing the local experience and consolidation of the city on the international stage. The project, whose objective is to develop strategies to improve water management and urban sanitation in both municipalities, is also based on the exchange of knowledge about new tools for water management with minimum environmental impact.

Currently, there is evidence that the reality of globalization makes invisible individualized actions on the international stage, encouraging cooperative actions for collective development. International cooperation, symbolized by the IUC-LAC and the Global Covenant of Mayors, appears as an essential tool to fight climate change and achieve sustainable development that is accessible for all.

Want to know more? \_\_\_\_\_ and listen to the mayor's video message.



## THE IUC-LAC COMMUNITY FOCUS ON RAMCC

### WHAT IS IT?

The "Argentine Network of Municipalities Against Climate Change" (RAMCC, acronym in Spanish) is a network composed of 212 Municipalities and Communes in Argentina, distributed in 18 provinces, which coordinates and promotes local public policies to combat climate change. The Network covers a wide range of realities and includes cities with more than 1 million inhabitants, in addition to small towns in the interior of the country. This diversity allows it to address a heterogeneous variety of environmental issues and makes the challenges faced scalable and national. Its objective is the execution of municipal, regional or national projects or programs related to mitigation and / or adaptation to climate change, based on the mobilization of local, national and international resources.

### ACTIVITIES

The municipalities that adhere to the RAMCC share learning and socialization tools that allow them to increase the impact of their actions. For this, RAMCC: trains and collaborates in the elaboration of projects, programs and municipal plans (Ex: Local Climate Action Plan, Comprehensive Solid Urban Waste Management Programs, etc.); organizes face-to-face spaces (meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.) in RAMCC member municipalities, to present their proposals and publicize the results achieved; shares sources of funds and funding opportunities; organizes communications to disseminate good practices; articulates with provincial and national governments to facilitate dialogue and decision-making by consensus on issues of interest to the organization; organizes collective activities with which it seeks to show the impact of its articulated functioning; and also articulates with other municipal networks in other countries to exchange experiences.

### PARTNERSHIP WITH GCOM-LAC

On May,12,2017,the International Urban Cooperation Program appointed RAMCC as National Coordinator of the Global Covenant of Mayors in Argentina. The role of RAMCC is to promote the GCOM-LAC and to mobilize municipalities to join the Covenant and sign up to its commitment. Currently, 122 argentinian municipalities are engaged on actions against climate change as part of the Global Covenant of Mayors with the support by RAMCC.

# IUC-LAC PROMOTES KNOWLEDGE



PROJECT: **SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE (EUROPEAN UNION AND UNITED NATIONS)**

[SEE MORE HERE](#)



TRAINING: **FROM CLIMATE SCIENCE TO ACTION (BID)**

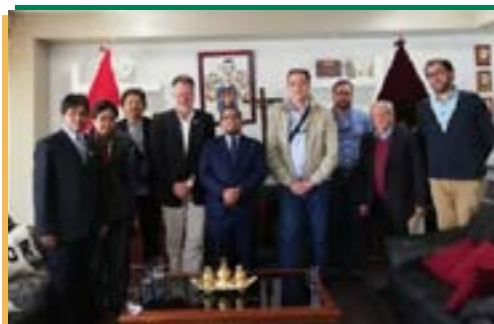
[SEE MORE HERE](#)



TRAINING: **UN-HABITAT CAPACITY BUILDING**

[SEE MORE HERE](#)

## ACHIEVEMENTS



**SPAIN AND PERU SEEK TO IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE WATER SYSTEM IN AREQUIPA AND PROMOTE THE REVITALIZATION OF THE HISTORIC CENTER**

The IUC-LAC Program aims to support cities and regions around the world to connect and share solutions in sustainable development. Through the IUC-LAC, the delegations of Granada and Arequipa exchanged knowledge and experiences to improve the development, transformation and innovation of the historic core of the city of Arequipa and its traditional neighborhoods.

The delegations of these cities, which have UNESCO's recognition as a World Heritage Site, also exchanged information, experiences and

possible solutions regarding problems of urban deterioration and sustainability, environmental pollution and high pressure from tourism. They have also discussed the important challenges in the areas of air quality and the water cycle, as well as alternatives for the implementation of the circular economy in the management of the water cycle and in the prevention of sludge and waste entrainment in local rivers.

To know more [click here](#).

**THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY IS HIGHLIGHTED AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN COLOMBIA**

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was presented as an opportunity for local authorities in the fight against climate change during the National Congress of Municipalities, organized by the Colombian Federation of Municipalities, which took place between 25 and 28 February in Cartagena das Índias (Colombia).

During the opening ceremony, the European Union ambassador to Colombia, Patricia

Llombart, highlighted the importance of the participation of Colombian cities in environmental issues. "How can we not talk about sustainable development in Colombia?", reflected the ambassador. The impact of the speech was felt in the growing interest in the GCoM by the mayors present at the event.

To know more [click here](#).



**IUC-LAC PROMOTES MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CITIES OF COLOMBIA AND IRELAND TO SHARE EFFICIENT STRATEGIES FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-CONFLICT PERIOD**

A Colombian delegation made up of members from Cali and Medellín met in Belfast, under the IUC-LAC Program, to learn firsthand the local strategies that transformed the city of Northern Ireland after three decades of conflict into an innovative, inclusive city and safe.

During the meeting, themes such as the prevention of violence in the city were exposed and worked through employment strategies related to peace building, creative

and cultural economy, the need for support and psychological support to the victims, regeneration of spaces for people, the development of restorative justice, innovation or youth inclusion strategies.

To know more [click here](#).

**THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS LAUNCHED IN COSTA RICA TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE THREATS**

The launch event took place on February 27 in San José (Costa Rica). It was attended by representatives of the national government of the host country, in addition to 100 authorities and leaders from different sectors, including local governments and associations of municipalities in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors in the region, the first meeting of its Regional Committee took place. Experiences were shared on

the work strategies for the implementation of the objectives of the Global Covenant of Mayors that have already been carried out in Costa Rica with the support of the IUC-LAC Program. Likewise, Costa Rican representatives met to validate a national portfolio of adaptation measures at the local level, part of the activities of the Global Covenant of Mayors in Costa Rica.

To know more [click here](#).



# THE TEAM BEHIND IUC-LAC



Meet the **multidisciplinary, multicultural** and **highly diverse** team of **IUC-LAC**.



**20 Professionals**  
Involved



**+7 Areas**  
of Specialization



Adding more than **+1760 hours**  
per month dedicated to **sustainable**  
**urban development**

The call for the **Support Network of the Global Compact of Mayors for Climate and Energy** is now open.

[CLICK HERE TO KNOW MORE](#)

## CITY-TO-CITY COOPERATION AND COVID-19

TRUJILLO (PERU) - PITESTI (ROMANIA)

CÓRDOBA (ARGENTINA) – ZAGREB (CROATIA)

VIÑA DEL MAR (CHILE) - ALMADA (PORTUGAL)

BARRANQUILLA (COLÔMBIA) - VELETTRI (ITALY)

TEMUCO (CHILE) – KAVALA (GREECE)

SÃO PAULO (BRASIL) - MILÁN (ITALY)

CARTAGERA (COLÔMBIA) – MÁLAGA (SPAIN)

QUILICURA (CHILE) – TBD

IUC-LAC is working with alternative dates to implement this agenda. Many of the aforementioned cities are celebrating their first virtual meetings.

[LEARN MORE: OFFICIAL STATEMENT  
IUC-LAC ON COVID-19](#)



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