



RegrowTown

The network for the small towns of Europe

Mission and Goals

RegrowTown as a network was launched in May 2021 by eight mayors of small towns and cities. Their municipalities exchanged working practices to tackle stagnation and decline through an URBACT funded project that started in 2018. To support the continuation of the exchange and to share their expertise more widely the mayors gave their support to the establishment of this network. At their international conference they presented a mayoral declaration which called for better recognition of smaller towns in European and national policy.

Mission

Smaller towns and cities make up the majority of urban settlements in Europe but their influence is not strong enough to ensure that policy initiatives are sensitive to the distinctive challenges they face. The RegrowTown network aims to support European settlements with less than 50,000 inhabitants in learning about new working practices and to raise their profile in European as well as national policy.

Goals

Small towns are attractive places to live but many suffer from declining populations and economic activity which erodes their capacity to provide essential services. Supporting the exchange of practices to escape from a downward spiral of decline is the first goal of the RegrowTown network. The second goal is to support the development urban policy that is inclusive of the distinctive social, economic and environmental contexts that characterise small towns. This includes promoting initiatives that support solutions at scales which are accessible to municipalities which have very limited staff and financial resources.

Actions

RegrowTown is about sharing practical actions that small municipalities can take for themselves to tackle the complex challenges arising from stagnation and long term decline. The founding members of RegrowTown have proven expertise in adopting and sharing simple practices that can be introduced in contexts of severe resource constraint, meaning that little if any additional external funding is required to introduce them. On becoming a



