



RegrowTown

The network for the small towns of Europe

Aims and Objectives

RegrowTown was launched in May 2021 by eight mayors of small towns from different European countries. Their municipalities had successfully introduced new working practices to tackle stagnation and decline with the support from URBACT. To share the benefits more widely and to give small towns a stronger voice in Europe they agreed to establish the RegrowTown network.

Aims

Small towns make up the majority of urban settlements in Europe but their access to resources and influence over policy is limited. The RegrowTown network aims to support European settlements with less than 50,000 inhabitants in introducing new working practices and to raise their profile in European as well as national policy.

Objectives

Small towns are attractive places to live but many suffer from shrinking populations and declining economic activity which erodes their capacity to provide essential services. Supporting small towns in adopting new practices that assist in breaking the cycle of decline is the first objective of the RegrowTown network. The second objective is to support the development of urban policy that is inclusive of the distinctive social, economic and environmental features that characterise small towns. The third objective is to boost the self-esteem of small towns, asserting a positive identity and promoting the benefits associated with working and living in small towns.

Actions

RegrowTown enables municipalities to take a pro-active approach towards tackling the complex challenges arising from 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. Our experience shows that once a town demonstrates its ability to pro-actively deal with difficult problems governmental funding tends to follow.



