



Call for submission of bids

June 2025

Cities and regional governments are invited to express their interest in hosting the 13th European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) in 2026. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to place your city at the heart of Europe's urban resilience conversation.

A timeframe for bidding is detailed at the end of this document.

The European Urban Resilience Forum

Since 2013, EURESFO has grown into the leading European platform for local governments to discuss, exchange, and collaborate on strategies to build urban resilience and adapt to climate change. The Forum is co-organised by ICLEI Europe and the European Environment Agency (EEA), together with a growing number of institutional, national, and EU-level partners.

EURESFO offers a high-level yet practical setting for cities to engage in peer-to-peer learning, showcase their resilience efforts, and connect with technical experts, researchers, policymakers, and funders. The 13th edition in 2026 will build on previous events hosted in cities such as Bonn, Malmö, Athens, Cascais, Valencia, and Rotterdam. More at: www.urbanresilienceforum.eu

Background and purpose

Since 2013, EURESFO has grown into the leading European platform for local governments to discuss, exchange, and collaborate on strategies to build urban resilience and adapt to climate change. The Forum is co-organised by ICLEI Europe and the European Environment Agency (EEA), together with a growing number of institutional, national, and EU-level partners.

The Forum is designed as a dynamic space to foster peer-learning, networking, and co-creation between public authorities and a wide array of stakeholders. EURESFO supports the implementation of the EU Green Deal, the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, and other key policy frameworks. It connects science, practice, and policy.

Roles and Cooperation

ICLEI will lead the development of the 13th EURESFO in close cooperation with the host city and the European Environment Agency (EEA). ICLEI has been working on conference organisation for almost three decades and will therefore provide strong and valuable planning and implementation experience to the host. Tasks and responsibilities will be shared between ICLEI, the host and potential further partners, based on an agreed share of tasks.

The host is responsible for securing the financial framework (see below) including contributions from third parties. The host is also asked to organise with appropriate administrative means the local conference management and logistics, as well as the social programme. In its bid, the successful host will clearly demonstrate its overall capacity. This will include provision of a suitable venue, linguistic abilities and organisational skills to deliver the conference in cooperation with ICLEI.



Budget

EURESFO can only take place with the generous support of the host city or organisation. The host should therefore take responsibility for securing funding through their own efforts. Funding sources may come from a variety of local, regional, and national organisations from the public and private sector.

There are two key budget categories. One for strategy, programme development, speakers' travel and accommodation, catering marketing and participant management (to be covered by ICLEI). The other category is for local services, venue, technical equipment, exhibition space and study visits, etc. to be covered and managed by the host.

Participants

The European Urban Resilience Forum showcases best practices and cutting-edge strategies in urban resilience and climate adaptation from European and international cities. It brings together 350–450 participants from over 30 countries to exchange insights, build partnerships, and foster innovation.

Participants include local, regional and national governments, urban planners, resilience and adaptation officers, representatives from EU institutions and international organisations, civil society and academia, private sector stakeholders, and members of the media.

The event is free of charge for all participants.

Programme

The programme will be developed under the coordination of ICLEI in close cooperation with the European Environment Agency, the host city, and partner organisations. It will reflect the latest policy developments and practical approaches in the field of urban resilience.

Key elements will include high-level plenaries, thematic workshops, interactive labs, site visits to local best practices, and an exhibition marketplace featuring up to 30 booths. Social and cultural elements such as an evening reception and/or gala dinner will further enhance networking opportunities.

English will be the main language of the event. Simultaneous interpretation is not foreseen unless specifically requested and agreed upon with the host.

Indicative Timeline for the Bidding Procedure

31 July 2025	Deadline for submission of bids
29 August 2025	Decision on host city
Oct-Nov 2025	Contract finalisation
January 2026	Start of conference preparations

Bidding Package

For interested host cities, a bidding package will be available, including conference requirements and budget categories

Further information and to submit your bidding package:

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For further information on ICLEI's Resilience & Climate Adaptation activities and events, please visit: www.urbanresilienceforum.eu