

Transfer Partners IDENTIFICATION FORM

EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE - INNOVATIVE ACTIONS
EUI03-157 - PULSE-TWIN



Co-funded by
the European Union



1. IDENTIFIED TRANSFER PARTNERS

1. TRANSFER PARTNER "A"

TRANSFER PARTNER IDENTIFICATION		
Organisation name (Original):	Stad Genk	
Organisation name (English):	City of Genk	
Member State:	Belgium	
NUTS 2 region (more developed / transition / less developed):	Transition	
Number of inhabitants: * please indicate using the figures from the EUROSTAT Correspondence Table. https://www.urban-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/EUI-IA_Correspondence_table.xlsx	66759	
MAIN CONTACT PERSON		
Position:	[Redacted]	
Title:		
First name:		
Last name:		
Email:		
Department/unit/division concerned:		
Relevance of the solution for the Transfer Partner – urban challenges addressed Please describe the main urban challenge(s) that the Transfer Partner is facing in relation to the main urban challenge(s) addressed by the EUI-IA project. They should present the context of the urban area by describing the extent of the challenge to be addressed, its breadth and depth at local level and its potentially different dimensions (social, economic		

and environmental dimensions of the challenge).

Criminality- and urban safety phenomena always have a multitude of causes and implications and are therefore complex problems. As a multicultural and post-industrial city with a unique constitution of socioeconomic and demographic factors, the city of Genk faces a few important urban safety challenges.

1. **Socio-economic vulnerability**

Genk has a relatively high proportion of households with low income, youth unemployment, and economic insecurity. These factors increase the risk of social tensions, distrust in institutions, and a heightened sense of insecurity in certain neighborhoods.

2. **Diversity and social cohesion**

With more than 100 nationalities, Genk is a super-diverse city. This richness also requires strong efforts in intercultural dialogue, the prevention of segregation, and the promotion of shared citizenship. A lack of connection between communities can lead to polarization or mutual misunderstanding.

3. **Youth and risks**

A small group of young people may be vulnerable to criminal networks or extremist ideologies. Prevention and early detection of (online) polarization, isolation, and deviant behaviour are essential.

4. **Digital safety and disinformation**

The growing reliance on digital communication, also in vulnerable communities, exposes the city to risks such as misinformation, cyberbullying, and the spread of extremist content. This can undermine trust in local governance and fuel social tensions.

5. **Perception of safety and quality of life in disadvantaged neighbourhoods**

In some areas, there is a gap between actual safety levels and the perceived sense of safety. Nuisance, vandalism, or a lack of accessible public spaces can foster discontent and reinforce the feeling of being neglected.

6. **Organised and undermining crime**

Due to its geographic location, industrial history, and logistical infrastructure, Genk is vulnerable to organised and subversive criminal networks. These include drug trafficking, illicit trade, and the use of legal businesses and real estate to conceal criminal activities. Such forms of crime undermine democratic institutions, distort the local economy, and erode citizens' trust in public authorities. Tackling this requires close cooperation between local government, law enforcement, and civil society, as well as effective data sharing and early warning systems.

The city of Genk is thus confronted by “undermining” crime, in part due to its social and economic circumstances. Genk’s key urban challenge therefore lies in addressing those systemic social and economic parameters to tackle safety issues.

The project aims to empower Genk’s fight against organised and undermining crime and goal to enhance livability and social cohesion by supporting the city’s Social Safe approach with cutting-edge data-driven technology. At this moment the approach to organised and undermining crime is focused primarily on putting up barriers for certain economic activities and sectors, which is not enough. Due to a lack of organizational capacity, due to a lack of awareness in the organization and within citizens about organised and undermining crime and a lack of a data-driven approach, the current approach isn’t effective in tackling the

systemic causes. Replicating the Social Safe approach with cutting-edge data-driven technology, should enable better informed decision-making and tailored frontline interventions, increasing the quality, efficiency of public services. Also the collaboration with local stakeholders and citizens to enhance awareness and improve societal factors should be enhanced.

These challenges underline why Genk is a valuable partner city in the PULSE-TWIN project. Genk's experience with neighbourhood-based strategies, participatory governance, diversity management, and preventative safety policies can serve as a useful reference for other urban contexts facing similar transitions and societal dynamics. The city doesn't have any experience with digital twins, but has some experience in big data analysis for the social policy aspects.

Relevance of the solution for the Transfer Partner – innovative solution proposed

Please describe the main elements of the innovative solution proposed by your project that the Transfer Partner is particularly interested in replicating / transferring to its local urban contexts. Include a description explaining the rationale behind the Transfer Partner's interests.

The City of Genk is highly motivated to participate as a transfer city in the PULSE-TWIN Project. As a medium-sized, super-diverse, and post-industrial city, Genk is confronted with a complex set of societal safety challenges that closely align with the ambitions and learning objectives of the project. Genk has a long tradition in improving urban safety and liveability with a department "Maatschappelijke Veiligheid", but lacks experience with innovative technological and social solutions. The city is currently in the progress of building a policy on "smart safety", so this project should provide a framework to further build on. There is available data about safety and liveability on a city- and neighbourhood level, but the integration in a model could be the next important step.

Genk has extensive experience with integrated, neighborhood-oriented safety policies that combine social prevention, urban development, and community engagement. But the focus was never on organised and undermining crime, so that's a challenge the city faces today. The city has developed innovative approaches to fostering trust, improving local resilience, and tackling issues such as youth vulnerability, social polarization, and perceptions of insecurity in disadvantaged areas. Moreover, Genk faces growing risks related to organised and subversive crime, including criminal infiltration in the local economy and the misuse of urban infrastructure. These challenges make Genk an ideal testing ground for smart, cross-sectoral safety interventions and early-warning mechanisms — core components of the PULSE-TWIN methodology.

Through participation in the project, Genk aims to:

- Strengthen its capacity to detect and respond to emerging societal threats;
- Learn from the data-driven and collaborative approaches tested in the lead city (Heerlen);
- Share its own good practices related to governance, inclusion, and community-based prevention;
- Contribute to the development of scalable safety strategies that are both socially just and technologically innovative;
- Developing a digital urban twin to monitor and simulate complex safety dynamics;

- Applying data-driven early warning tools to detect signs of social unrest, polarisation, and subversive crime;
- Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration between local government, law enforcement, civil society and residents;
- Increasing resilience at the neighborhood level by combining digital innovation with social interventions.

As a city in transition, Genk strongly believes in the power of European collaboration and knowledge exchange to build safer, more cohesive urban environments for all citizens. Specifically, Genk is interested in:

- Exploring how urban data and digital modelling can support early detection of tensions or criminal activity;
- Strengthening its own local safety governance model through participatory and evidence-based decision-making;
- Exchanging experiences on tackling undermining crime, including the infiltration of legal structures by criminal networks;
- Enhancing community resilience through integrated, people-centred interventions informed by real-time insights.

The social digital twin with data engine is very interesting for all crime phenomena, not only organised and subversive crime. Centralising, analysing and smartly use data to enhance local policy and initiatives. Specially for undermining crime and more hidden phenomena of criminality, the app-based community engagement mechanism is very interesting. Genk has a city app in which citizens can report safety problems, but this is limited to very visible problems like waste. The strong emphasis on community engagement into highly complex technological solution co-creation, particularly involving underrepresented groups such as youth, is possible for the city of Genk due to the already available mechanisms, being a department focused on community outreach and participation.

2. TRANSFER PARTNER "B"

TRANSFER PARTNER IDENTIFICATION	
Organisation name (Original):	Ajuntament de Sant Boi de Llobregat
Organisation name (English):	Sant Boi de Llobregat City Council
Member State:	Spain
NUTS 2 region (more developed / transition / less developed):	ES51
Number of inhabitants: * please indicate using the figures	83.755

from the EUROSTAT Correspondence Table. https://www.urban-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/EUI-IA_Correspondence_table.xlsx	
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Relevance of the solution for the Transfer Partner – innovative solution proposed

Please describe the main elements of the innovative solution proposed by your project that the Transfer Partner is particularly interested in replicating / transferring to its local urban contexts. Include a description explaining the rationale behind the Transfer Partner's interests.

Being a transfer city offers a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn from the innovative solution implemented by the project partners, committed to safety. Through this exchange, Sant Boi can learn from the experiences and successes, adapting them to its own reality and specific needs.

Sant Boi, in its challenge of fighting crime to improve the habitability and social cohesion, would be interested in having a better understanding of the city's incidents in order to be able to respond more quickly and carefully to them. Furthermore, it is very important for the city to correctly allocate police resources, having a prediction of potential crime hotspots and suggesting proactive interventions. Police data combined with social welfare data from different areas of the city can help detect these hotspots. Finally, this data, along with the identification of areas with potential social tensions, could help us improve social integration programs in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods and with the greatest risk of social exclusion.

In short, being part of this European project offers a unique opportunity for the city of Sant Boi to enrich its decision-making based on data and citizens' insights, and consolidate itself as a modern, safe, inclusive city committed to the well-being of its inhabitants.

3. TRANSFER PARTNER "C"

TRANSFER PARTNER IDENTIFICATION

Organisation name (Original):	Δήμος Πειραιά
Organisation name (English):	Municipality of Piraeus
Member State:	Greece
NUTS 2 region (more developed / transition / less developed):	less developed
Number of inhabitants: * please indicate using the figures from the EUROSTAT	EL307 163.688

Correspondence Table. https://www.urban-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/EUI-IA_Correspondence_table.xlsx	
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direction, particularly in supporting social inclusion, safety, and citizen engagement at the neighborhood level.

Relevance of the solution for the Transfer Partner – innovative solution proposed

Please describe the main elements of the innovative solution proposed by your project that the Transfer Partner is particularly interested in replicating / transferring to its local urban contexts. Include a description explaining the rationale behind the Transfer Partner's interests.

The Municipality of Piraeus is highly motivated to participate in the **PULSE-TWIN** project as a Transfer Partner due to its strong strategic focus on enhancing urban safety, social cohesion, and data-driven governance. Building upon recent experiences in the UIA-funded **Be Secure – Feel Secure (BSFS)** project and the current **URBACT IV CITISENSE** initiative, Piraeus is actively pursuing innovative, participatory and digital solutions to address social vulnerabilities and undermine crime in urban neighborhoods. The city has already tested digital tools for community safety and environmental design but aims to deepen its capacity to integrate big data, artificial intelligence, and citizen engagement into a comprehensive governance framework.

PULSE-TWIN offers a unique opportunity to expand this vision by transferring a set of interrelated technological and social innovations that are fully aligned with Piraeus' urban development agenda. In particular, the **Social Digital Twin (SDT)** and **Data Engine** components are of significant interest, as they provide an advanced method of mapping and modeling socio-spatial dynamics in real-time, enabling proactive and targeted public interventions. Piraeus is especially keen to adopt data integration practices that support evidence-based decision-making in fields such as urban security, public health, and social policy—sectors which currently rely on fragmented or siloed data.

Moreover, the mobile app-based citizen engagement mechanism resonates with the city's experience in participatory urban planning and reflects ongoing efforts to co-create public safety policies with vulnerable communities. Piraeus recognizes the value of integrating community-sourced data and feedback loops into operational urban management. This is particularly relevant given the city's complex demographic profile and economic diversity, which demand tailored and inclusive responses.

The **ELSA** methodology (Ethical, Legal, Societal Aspects) proposed in **PULSE-TWIN** is another critical feature for Piraeus, as it supports the responsible use of AI and ensures compliance with GDPR and ethical standards in data governance—an increasingly important requirement in the city's digital transition strategy.

By adopting and adapting the PULSE-TWIN innovations, Piraeus aims to:

- Strengthen its capacity to combat organized and petty crime through predictive, community-aware interventions,
- Expand its digital infrastructure for urban resilience and inclusion,
- Build stronger trust between citizens and public institutions through transparency and co-creation,
- Contribute actively to the EU-wide dialogue on ethical AI and data use in urban governance.

In short, PULSE-TWIN offers a scalable and ethically grounded framework that matches Piraeus' ambitions to become a safer, smarter, and more socially cohesive city. The transfer of this solution represents a strategic step toward realizing that vision.

2. PARTNERSHIP AS A WHOLE

1. RELEVANCE OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE BROADER TRANSFERABILITY OF THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Please explain how the Partnership is balanced and complementary in terms of variety of cities involved – their size and localisation, in order to explore transferability of your solution in different urban settings.

The Transfer Partnership brings together a diverse and complementary group of urban authorities that reflect the heterogeneity of European urban realities, ensuring a robust testbed for the transferability of the PULSE-TWIN solution.

- City size and typology: The partnership includes medium-sized cities (Genk and Sant Boi) and a larger urban centre (Piraeus), enabling the solution to be tested across different scales of complexity and governance capacity.
- Geographical and socio-economic diversity: The cities represent three different EU Member States and cover distinct regional classifications—Genk (transition), Sant Boi (more developed), and Piraeus (less developed). This geographic and socio-economic variety increases the representativeness of transfer conditions and the relevance of the findings for broader EU replication.
- Thematic variety and depth: Each city brings a different angle to the urban safety challenge. Genk focuses on undermining crime and systemic vulnerabilities; Sant Boi on cohesion and efficiency in addressing minor urban crime; and Piraeus on coordination, citizen feedback loops, and ethical data use. This diversity supports comprehensive learning across social, technical, and institutional domains.

The partnership is therefore well-positioned to test the scalability and adaptability of the PULSE-TWIN solution in varied urban settings and governance ecosystems.

2. QUALITY OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN RELATION TO MULTIDIRECTIONAL EXCHANGE

Please describe how selected Transfer Partners can support and contribute to the development of the innovative solutions (as peers interested in proposed approach and facing similar challenges) and to a general transferability of the solution (as Partners willing to test it in their local contexts).

The quality of the partnership satisfies the aims of engaging proper Transfer Cities: 1) diverse in terms of regional development and size, 2) having sufficient capacity & level of preparedness to adopt the innovative solution and 3) with interesting practices of their own allowing for mutual learning.

- Genk contributes advanced expertise in neighbourhood-based safety strategies, community resilience, and early data use in social policy, while seeking to enhance its capacity in digital safety and organised crime response.
- Piraeus offers experience with pilot participatory tools, digital platforms, and ethical data governance. The city is a valuable contributor to discussions around citizen engagement mechanisms, integration of fragmented data, and responsible AI use.
- Sant Boi, while less advanced in digital safety integration, brings a strong focus on proactive policing and coordinated intervention with multi-level actors. With tailored guidance, it has the potential to pilot simplified forms of the digital twin or data engine and contribute valuable insights on scalability and simplicity in mid-sized municipalities.

Together, the partners can exchange knowledge across a wide spectrum—from technological implementation and organisational change to community co-creation and data ethics—which enhances the collective innovation potential of the group.

3. SELECTION OF THE TRANSFER PARTNERS

Please describe how you identified and selected each of your Transfer Partners (which tools you used, what were you paying attention to, what was the rationale behind selecting these particular Partners, etc.).

The selection of the three Transfer Partners was guided by the goal of ensuring a balanced, committed, and complementary group of cities that could both benefit from and contribute to the PULSE-TWIN approach. The process included:

- Targeted Internet research/outreach and matchmaking discussions already in the phase of the development of the project, particularly focusing on cities previously engaged in urban safety and digital innovation projects.
- Contact with cities from previous cooperation projects of the City of Heerlen (Urbact, Interreg Europe, UIA projects), e.g. the cities showing interest already at the time of the promotion of the results of Heerlen's previous UIA project "WESH", interested and advanced in the urban topics of public safety, crime prevention, improvement of liveability, and social cohesion.
- Mobilization of the partner city network of the external consultant supporting the development of PULSE TWIN
- Selection criteria included:
 - Geographic spread and eligibility under the EUI criteria
 - Relevance of local urban challenges to PULSE-TWIN's objectives

- Motivation to adopt and test innovative tools such as the Social Digital Twin and community-based co-creation
- Existing capacity and openness to learning, paired with a track record or strategic interest in urban safety governance

Each city demonstrated interest and institutional readiness through preliminary exchanges, leading to mutual agreement on alignment and complementarity. In particular:

- Genk was identified for its strategic alignment on tackling undermining crime and its strong neighbourhood-based governance.
- Sant Boi was selected for its strong local networks and integrated prevention approach, and as a test case for mid-sized cities aiming for technological uptake.
- Piraeus, as a key port city and commercial hub, facing unique security challenges related to traffic and tourism, was chosen due to its experience with digital safety pilots and ambition to integrate ethical AI governance into city management.

This careful selection process ensures that the transfer activities will be relevant, feasible, and impactful across a variety of urban environments.



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Toelichting grondslagen

In dit document kunt u secties vinden die onleesbaar zijn gemaakt. Deze informatie is achterwege gelaten op basis van de Wet open overheid (Woo). De letter die hierbij is vermeld correspondeert met de bijbehorende grondslag in onderstaand overzicht.

J Art. 5.1 lid 2 sub e

Het belang van de openbaarmaking van deze informatie weegt niet op tegen het belang van de eerbiediging van de persoonlijke levenssfeer van betrokkenen