



TWIN CITY LAB

“Twin City Booster”

Workshop-Series by Twin City Lab

The Twin City Lab enters the next stage. After developing innovative formats and future-oriented approaches to push twinning cities forward, we invite twinning cities from Belarus, Germany, Russia and Ukraine to apply for the “Twin City Booster” – our workshop-series.

The Twin City Lab

The Twin City Lab is a project by Brains & Bridges to boost twinning cities partnerships, enable urban communities, and push the level of international exchange beyond current standards. After establishing a BarCamp for Twin City-activities, we are developing a digital toolbox providing new formats, guides and best practices. For 2020, the Twin City Lab gives two twinning cities the chance to push their partnerships forward with a series of workshops and events in each partner city.

Our Mission Statement

Active town twinning is based on innovative ideas, resilient networks and committed communities. Our program provides the ideal framework to strengthen and accompany these twinning arrangements between cities!

It has long been clear that cities will play an even more significant role in the future. The challenges faced by people and their living spaces in a globalized world are manifold. They must and can only be solved locally and collaboratively. More than ever, town twinning is an ideal framework: it continues to create meeting opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding. Nevertheless, due to limitations and obstacles, they often do not take advantage of their potential - this is where our project comes in.

We know about the complexity of successful international twinning arrangements and cooperations. With our know-how in participatory exchange projects and agile citizen collaborations, the proven process moderation, as well as our experience in different countries and expertise in building strategic partnerships, we have a professional sense for ideas, opportunities and actors.

We develop new formats and cooperation models jointly with you, find and bind new players in your cities and complement and revitalize your existing activities – both locally and digitally.

In 2019, we laid the foundation for our Twin City Lab-activities. We started with a Twin City BarCamp in Minsk for an exchange of best practices, the development of innovative formats as well as screening and mapping the twin city landscape. Right now, we are working on our digital tool box, which will provide materials, guides and tutorials.

In 2020, we will enter the third stage with the Twin City Booster. The Twin City Lab is supporting and coaching twinning cities by providing incubator workshops, potential analyses and maker workshops in pilot cities.

Thus, with our call, we address cities with a well-established Twin City partnership as well as cities or initiatives which are about to build a new one.

Together with you, we will identify new topics, explore the potentials of your cities and urban communities and support you with implementing new formats and integrating new actors into your twin city work.

What you get:

- A fresh view on your local abilities and twin city effects
- Profound expertise in partnership development
- Adaptive mapping and network strategies to identify local potentials
- Analysis of your city's interests, potentials and necessities
- Matching of interests, potentials, needs and your ideas with your city partner
- Excellent opportunity to empower local players as well as to seek and integrate new actors
- Kick-off Workshop in each partner city
- Match & Sprint Workshop with makers from both cities
- Sprint & Succeed Workshop with makers from both cities

How will it work?

We offer four workshops to you and your existing or future twinning city. All workshops have an explicit focus on the knowledge, expertise and energy of the involved actors and initiatives. Our facilitation work is based on a mix of open space-, design thinking- and experience-oriented settings paired with profound expertise in partnership development, networking, process and event management, and intercultural exchange.

The working languages are English, Russian and German.

[1] Kick-Off Workshop in your city

With a **Kick-Off Workshop** in your city, we initiate our joint innovation and development process. With you and your reliable and experienced actors, we focus on your situation and potentials. We are going to face the current status of your twin city partnership and reflect our perspectives on the value and functions of twinning cities. We will map your urban potentials and find those makers, groups, initiatives and players who might be linked to twin city topics in the future. In addition, we will analyse the specific conditions and challenges in your city, develop a strategy and explore new fundings opportunities.

[2] Kick-Off Workshop in your partner city

The same process starts in your partner city so that both cities are well-prepared. See [1] for details.

[3] Match & Sprint Workshop

After the two kick-off workshops, the partner cities will meet for the first joint **Match & Sprint Workshop** to fire up joint activities. Here, we initiate the process to bring up and match the interests, topics, players and formats of both groups. With a first agile sprint, we support you to design and set up new projects.

[4] Sprint & Succeed Workshop

The last convention is a follow-up to the third workshop. The twin cities will continue their work with a **Sprint & Succeed Workshop**. Furthermore, we support both local actors and administrations to strengthen the new structures permanently.

Time-Line

- ▶ All Twin City Booster workshops will be completed by Nov 2020.
- ▶ The ideal time frame for all workshops is Feb 2020 – Nov 2020.

It's all about the money

Are costs covered? Yes and no.

- The Twin City Lab is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. All Twin City Booster workshops are covered.
- But we need appropriate convention rooms for the workshops with you.
- And we kindly ask for a provision of accommodations for four moderators and coaches for each workshop, as you may have better conditions
- The Twin City Lab Travel does not cover any costs and accommodation for participants. However, we are ready to assist you with the acquisition of additional fundings.

As you can imagine, some workshop results may lead to projects which need funding as well.

The good news: Alternative fundings can also be a topic of our workshop sessions.

Who can apply?

Our programme focuses exclusively on Belarus, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

This Call for Application addresses:

- ▶ Mayors / City administrations and their existing or yet to find twinning partners
- ▶ Private twinning city associations, societies and clubs
- ▶ Or any twinning city actors or initiatives with proven backup by one the aforementioned player.

To apply and take part, an involvement in the Twin City BarCamp 2019 is not required.

Application & Selection

Be creative and give us a proper impression of you, your city and twinning partner by at least answering our four questions and providing the requested data.

- (1) Who are you? Please introduce your two cities and your institution.
- (2) What are your hopes, expectations and wishes for your twin city partnership?
- (3) What is your motivation to participate?
- (4) Is there anything you would like to tell us?

Please provide the following details:

- Name of the applying city, institution, organization or initiative
- Your Name / Contact person
- Contact Details (Phone, Email, Social Media, etc.)

Please consider your local condition and sign the following self-declaration:

I hereby confirm that this application is supported and encouraged by either the officials responsible for twin city partnerships, the city administration or local authorities.

- ▶ Should you have any questions or want to discuss details, please, do not hesitate to contact us:
booster@twincitylab.net
- ▶ Please, send us your application as one single pdf to: booster@twincitylab.net **Deadline: Dec 31st, 2019**

The review and selection process will be completed by Jan 31st, 2020

We are not alone...



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