



Melbourne Centre
for Cities

CITY NETWORKS MEMBERSHIP DATASET

ReadMe annex





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Disclaimer

This dataset has been developed by University of Melbourne, University of Michigan and University College London researchers. It is intended to inform research, policy and public discussions on the present and future of cities. The authors have sought to ensure the accuracy of the material in this dataset, but they, the Melbourne Centre for Cities and the three universities above are not be held liable for any loss or damage incurred through the use of this information.

As detailed below, the authors of the dataset would particularly stress to its intended users that the city networks membership represented here is a snapshot of late-2017 and accurate as of January 2018, and should be considered as such in more contemporary use of its data.

Focus

City networks are formal organizations whose main membership is comprised of city government representatives, and whose function is to enable improved municipal governance via formulating and providing access to a range of resources to their members. This dataset focuses specifically on *internationally* active city networks. This definition includes both transnational municipal networks established 'bottom up' by cities or non-governmental entities as well as state/multilaterally sponsored networks. These are considered 'international' if active and with membership covering two or more countries, and include 'regional' (e.g. European, Southeast-Asian) networks too.

Dataset

This dataset represents the number of concurrent memberships, as of late-2017, of city governments in all (84) city networks observed collectively (Column F, "TMN") and a subset of the number of concurrent memberships specifically within the 31 environmentally focused networks observed (Column G, "ETMN"). The networks represented in each category are listed in Table 1 below. Figures 1 and 2 visualize the data geographically as graduated symbols representing relative concurrent memberships (Fig. 1) and network ties formed by network secretariat-member city connections (Fig 2). Total geographic coverage includes 10,343 cities in 208 countries.

Method

The dataset builds on a prior original pilot database of city networks, developed at the University of Oxford and University College London (Acuto and Rayner, 2016)¹, which reviewed 202 networks, including a sample of 100 internationally focused networks. This global review of city networks has been carried out by researchers at University College London's City Leadership Lab first and at the Melbourne Centre for Cities at the University of Melbourne after, led by Michele Acuto, in collaboration with and Benjamin Leffel at University of California Irvine (between 2015 and 2017) and then at the University of Michigan. It includes data derived both from desk research on these networks, survey responses (102 networks), and from interviews (49) directly with network managers and network secretariats.

¹ Acuto, M., & Rayner, S. (2016). City networks: breaking gridlocks or forging (new) lock-ins?. *International Affairs*, 92(5), 1147-1166, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2346.12700>



Analysis


Data from the TMN column is analyzed in Acuto and Leffel (2020),² which describes the full global landscape of memberships, and data from the ETMN column is analyzed in Leffel (2022),³ which shows an association between urban greenhouse gas emissions reductions and concurrent ETMN memberships. See footnotes for full citations.

Table 1. TMN and Environmental TMNs (ETMNs) represented in dataset

TMN	ETMN
100 Resilient Cities	100 Resilient Cities
African Food Security Urban Network (AFSUN)	Asian Network of Major Cities 21
Alpine Pearls	Cities Alliance
Arab Towns Organization (ATO)	Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)
Asian Network of Major Cities 21	Cities for Mobility
Assembly of European Regions (AER)	City Protocol
Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)	CityNet
Cities Alliance	Climate Alliance
Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)	Climate Leadership Group (C40)
Cities for Local Integration Policy (CLIP)	Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (CoM)
Cities for Mobility	Energy Cities
City Protocol	Eurocities
CityNet	Global Compact Cities Programme
Climate Alliance	Global Parliament of Mayors
Climate Leadership Group (C40)	IADB Emerging and Sustainable Cities (ESC)
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities	International Solar Cities Initiative (ISCI)
Connecting Cities	Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)	Local Renewables Initiative
Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (CoM)	Mediterranean Cities Network (MedCities)
DELGOSEA - Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia	Nordic City Network
Energy Cities	Polis
Eurocities	Sharing Cities
European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)	Sustainable Cities International (SCI)
European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD)	UNIDO Eco-Cities Network in Southeast Asia
European Coalition of City Against Racism (ECCAR)	Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)	URBACT - Agri-Urban
European Network Child Friendly Cities (ENCFC)	URBACT - CityMobilNet
European Walled Towns (EWT)	URBACT - Resilient Europe
Eurotowns	World Association of Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS)
Fem Cities	World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WCMMM)

² Acuto, Michele, and Benjamin Leffel. 2021. "Understanding the Global Ecosystem of City Networks." *Urban Studies* 58 (9). 1758–74. doi:[10.1177/0042098020929261](https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098020929261).

³ Leffel, Benjamin. 2022. "Toward Global Urban Climate Mitigation: Linking National and Polycentric Systems of Environmental Change." *Sociology of Development* 8 (1): 111–37. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2021.0018>.



Global Compact Cities Programme
Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN)
Global Parliament of Mayors
Hungry Cities Partnership (HCP)
IADB Emerging and Sustainable Cities (ESC)
International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC)
International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
International Solar Cities Initiative (ISCI)
Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment
League of Historical Cities

Local Government Network of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC-LOGON)
Local Renewables Initiative
Mayors for Peace
Mediterranean Cities Network (MedCities)
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)
Nordic City Network
Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
Polis
Sharing Cities
Strong Cities Network (SCN)
Sustainable Cities International (SCI)
UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA)
UNESCO Creative Cities Network (CCN)
UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)
UNIDO Eco-Cities Network in Southeast Asia
Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI)
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
URBACT - 2nd Chance
URBACT - Agri-Urban
URBACT - Arrival Cities
URBACT - BoostInno
URBACT - Change!
URBACT - CityCentre Doctor
URBACT - CityMobilNet
URBACT - Freight TAILS
URBACT - In Focus
URBACT - Interactive Cities
URBACT - Maps
URBACT - Procure
URBACT - Refill
URBACT - Resilient Europe
URBACT - Retail link
URBACT - Smart Impact

URBACT - Suburban
 URBACT - TechTown
 URBACT - Vital Cities
 URBACT Gen-Y City
 WHO Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC)
 WHO Global Network of Age-friendly cities
 World Association of Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS)
 World Cities Culture Forum
 World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WCMMM)

Fig. 1. Landscape of concurrent city TMN memberships

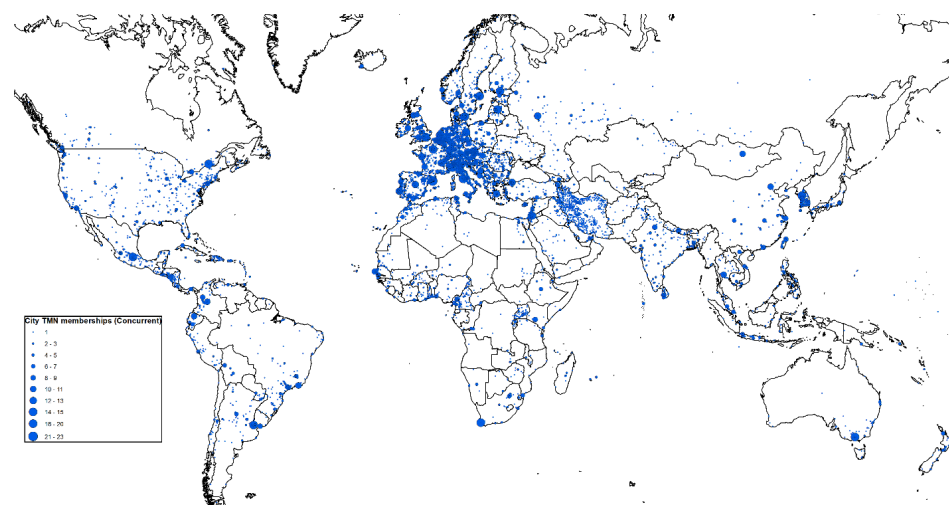


Fig 2. Inter-city ties via formed via TMN memberships

