

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Georgios Kaminis
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Amalia Zepou
- ▶ Population of municipality: 665,000 (2016)

Spotlight on Athens | Bring citizens in decision-making

Athens has made efforts to bring civil society in decision-making, and in expanding the city's collaborations with various stakeholders such as universities, the private sector, philanthropic foundations. This collaborative decision-making has taken place throughout a wide range of projects such as the use of school buildings, platforms for collaborating with initiatives related to refugees and grass-root community groups, etc.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with 44% of cities surveyed, Athens has an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Human-centred Design

Resident Engagement

Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to over one-third of cities surveyed, Athens approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas/domains**.

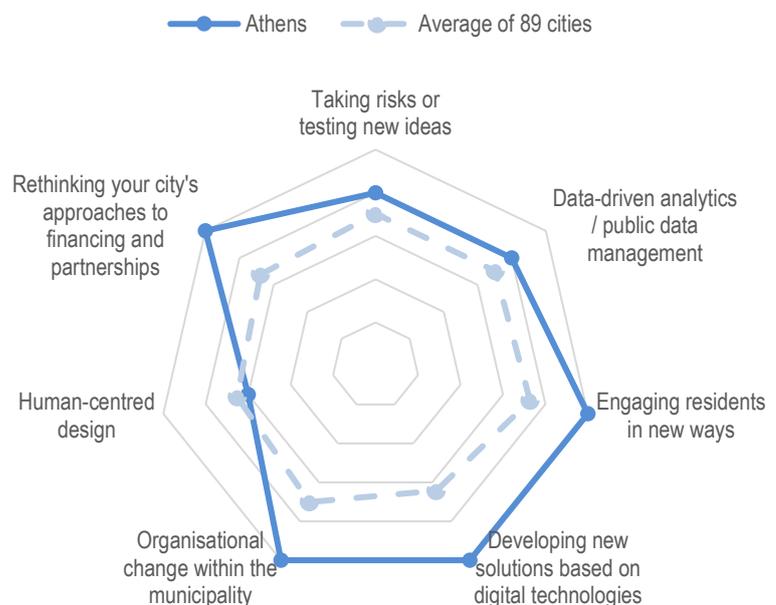
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Social Inclusion and Equity

Culture

Most common innovation activities

Athens' innovation activities often include **engaging residents in new ways; developing new solutions based on digital technologies; facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration; and rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**.



Funding for innovation capacity	
<p>Funding to support innovation capacity</p> <p>Like 77% of cities surveyed, Athens has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ International/multilateral institution budget ✓ Municipal budget (operating budget) ✓ Non-public funding (private sector/philanthropic) ✓ Non-financial resources (in-kind contributions) 	<p>Types of activities being funded</p> <p>Athens' funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards launching or sustaining a project, and generating ideas & brainstorming. These are the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed. Athens pays for services with dedicated funding to support innovation.</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p>Launching or sustaining a project</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; width: 45%;"> <p>Idea generation & brainstorming</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>Investing in digital systems</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>Investing in physical infrastructure</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0056b3; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>Paying for services</p> </div> </div>

Organisational structure & staffing	Partnerships for innovation & data
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Athens spreads its innovation capacity in many sectors such as Refugee, Children, Urban Planning, Digital, Culture, Tourism and the city hires external advisors to manage innovation initiatives.</p> </div> <p>Staff skills and profiles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project manager ✓ Engineer ✓ Data scientist ✓ Communication officer ✓ Community engagement staff 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Athens has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with city residents/resident associations, the philanthropic sector and academia. In particular, Athens has shown its innovation capacity in involving its citizens in solving and co-designing pilot programs.</p> <p>To improve data use, the city has also developed data partnerships with the private sector, academia, philanthropy, and other cities.</p> </div>

Measuring outcomes	
<p>Policy areas that benefit from sufficient data, or lack sufficient data, to support innovation capacity in the city:</p> <div style="display: grid; grid-template-columns: repeat(5, 1fr); gap: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Transport / mobility</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c00000; color: white; text-align: center;">Economic development</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Housing & built environment</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Policing & law enforcement</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Health</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c00000; color: white; text-align: center;">Water</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c00000; color: white; text-align: center;">Waste and sewage</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Labour markets & skills</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Environment & climate change</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Education</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Culture</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Social inclusion, equity</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center;">Public works</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Tourism</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #6aa84f; text-align: center;">Digital governance</div> </div> <p><i>NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.</i></p>	<p>Innovation is helping the city to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve internal government operations ✓ Improve resident outcomes ✓ Improve efficiency in the public sector ✓ Simplify administrative procedures ✓ Anticipate and manage future challenges <p>The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dedicated innovation team ✓ Leadership from Mayor ✓ Engagement with partners ✓ Support from outside city administration