

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Dagur B. Eggertsson
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Kristinn Jón Ólafsson
- ▶ Population of municipality: 122,141 (2015)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: <https://reykjavik.is/en/reykjavik-smart-city/>

Spotlight on Reykjavik | My Neighbourhood

Reykjavik's **My Neighbourhood** is a collaborative project between citizens and the city administration for prioritising and allocating funds for new, smaller-scale projects and maintenance in the district of Reykjavik. The project is **based on ideas on deliberative democracy, participatory democracy, participatory budgeting**, promoting public participation in democratic discussions and decision-making beyond what is normally seen in a representative democracy. Experience from previous years is used to improve the process, together with expert services and input from other cities all over the world that have practiced participatory budgeting.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with 56% of cities surveyed, Reykjavik does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

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

Experimentation

Resident engagement

Approaches to innovation capacity

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

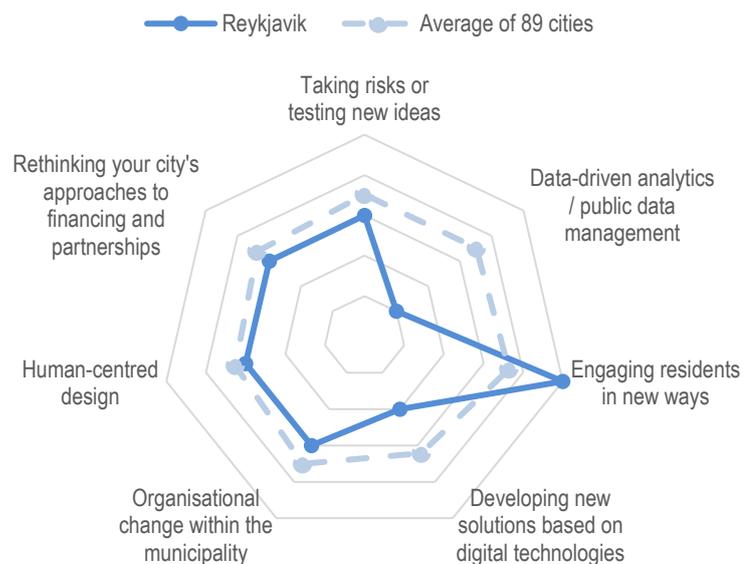
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Housing

Built environment

Most common innovation activities

Reykjavik's most common innovation activity is **engaging resident in new ways**. Its innovation activities also include **taking risks and testing new ideas; facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration; human-centred design; and rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**.



Funding for innovation capacity

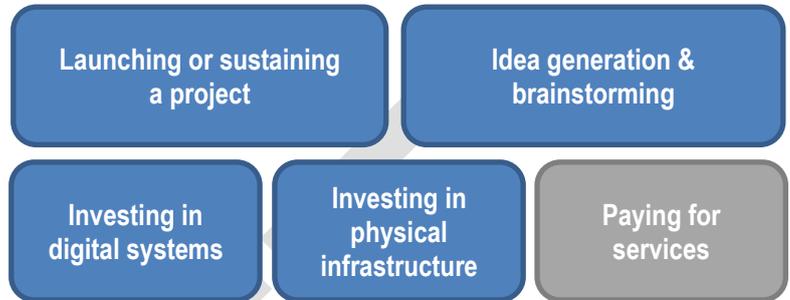
Funding to support innovation capacity

Like 77% of cities surveyed, Reykjavik has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:

- ✓ **Municipal budget**
(operating budget/grants)

Types of activities being funded

Reykjavik's 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. Reykjavik also **invests in digital systems and physical infrastructure**.



Organisational structure & staffing



As an independent body, Reykjavik's dedicated team for innovation – *Reykjavik Smart City* – is led by a project manager.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Designer**
- ✓ **Communication officer**
- ✓ **Sociologist**

Partnerships for innovation & data



Reykjavik has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with **other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations**.

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with the private sector, academia, and think tanks** to collect and analyse data, as well as **with other cities**.

Measuring outcomes

Policy areas that **benefit from sufficient data**, or **lack sufficient data**, to support innovation capacity in the city:



NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.

Innovation is **helping the city** to:

- ✓ **Generate new sources of revenue**
- ✓ **Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents**
- ✓ **Improve service delivery**

The most **critical success factors** in supporting the city's innovation work:

- ✓ **Human resource support**
- ✓ **Leadership from Mayor**