Factsheet

Membership in the International Union of Cities THE HANSA

THE HANSA is a network of 180 towns and communities in 16 European countries, which promotes their Hanseatic heritage and identity, and develops cooperation between them.

Based on the cross-border Hanseatic philosophy and history, THE HANSA aims at contributing to the economic, cultural, social and state unification of Europe, and to the democratic exchange within and between towns and communities. Major fields of cooperation are trade, culture and tourism.

Today, THE HANSA is both an informal city network and an association. Read more.

For whom?

Any town/community that belonged to the historic Hanseatic League or was associated with it (e.g. as a trading post or through regular trade links) can become a member of THE HANSA.

What is the benefit?

You become part of an active network or towns and communities that exchange, meet once a year for the Hanseatic Days (a major cultural event with up to 500,000 visitors) and develop projects together.

City marketing

- Promote your town/community as a Hanseatic tourist destination: presentation at the Hanseatic Days (e.g. with a booth on the fair), presentation of current tourist offers and events on the hanse.org website.
- Be part of the HANSA Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

Branding & identity building

- Raise the awareness of the Hanseatic heritage among your inhabitants and benefit from the positive image of the historic Hanseatic League.
- Give young people the opportunity to expand their horizon in youth exchanges (youthHansa).

Projects and working groups

- Get informed on current projects and cooperation opportunities.
- Learn about good practice examples in other cities.
- Participate in cooperation projects and get access to external funding.
- Cooperate with other Hanseatic cities in working groups.
- Promote local artists as part of the annual HANSEartWORKS exhibition.

What does it cost?

In 2018 the assembly of THE HANSA decided to professionalize the network in order to advance the cooperation. This is done by the HANSA Office, which supports the network in communications, project development, applications for funding and fulfilling the obligations in connection with the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. Related staff costs are shared among the member cities; the annual contribution depends on the size of the town/community (allocation key of 0.0085 € per inhabitant, minimum contribution 150 €, maximum contribution 2000 €).

If you are interested in participating in cooperation projects, it is strongly recommended to join both the network and the association. Membership in the association is not subject to any additional fees.

How to become a member?

The application for admission should be done in writing through the relevant bodies of the town/community to the HANSA commission. The assembly of delegates decides on the membership on advice of the commission. Any member city of THE HANSA may also become a member of the association HanseVerein. To join the association, a written application for admission should be sent to the HANSA Office. The decision on admission is taken by the board.

Any questions?

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