

FOURTH EUROPEAN MEETING: TOWARDS A FINAL DRAFT OF THE NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER

Dialogue process on the further development of the Leipzig Charter within the Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt) project “Possibilities and strategies of the German EU Council Presidency 2020”

Date: 27 and 28 November 2019

Place: European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, B-1040 Brussels
Room JDE51

The **Leipzig Charter adopted in 2007** under the German EU Council Presidency brought long-lasting impetus to the European understanding of integrated urban development. The Charter’s principles are as relevant today as they were back then. However, the framework conditions have changed: the EU and its Member States are facing significant socio-political challenges. At the same time, new political frameworks exist, such as the Urban Agenda for the EU, from which much can be gained.

It is therefore time for the Leipzig Charter to be developed further in view of the German EU Council Presidency in 2020. For this reason, the project “**Possibilities and strategies of the German EU Council Presidency 2020**” was initiated. The project is being implemented under the auspices of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, as well as the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. Themes, principles and trends in integrated urban development in Europe are to be presented in detail and reviewed in terms of their future relevance for a **new Leipzig Charter** – based on a dialogue process at national and European level, as well as a scientific baseline study.

The **fourth European meeting** will allow for a full discussion of the new Leipzig Charter draft among European stakeholders. A particular focus will be placed on reflecting the existing **feedback on the draft** resulting from a range of recent European and national consultation activities, including the UDG and DGUM format.

Understanding and reflecting possible linkages between the Leipzig Charter and the Urban Agenda for the EU is of utmost importance for the process leading towards the German Presidency in 2020. In particular, a comprehensive and open discussion on the **future of the Urban Agenda for the EU** is key in further strengthening and developing the role of urban development policy in Europe. This topic will constitute another focus of the meeting.

A short Background Paper summarising the main milestones and leads for the debate will be shared with all participants beforehand and will guide the discussions.

Wednesday 27 November 2019

12:30 *Coffee reception (Foyer 5)*

Opening and progress status

13:00 **Opening and welcome**

Monika Thomas, Head of Department Urban Development Policy and Housing, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

13:10 **Welcome by host**

Kieran McCarthy, Cork City Council, European Committee of the Regions

13:20 **Welcome by consortium and presentation of the programme**

Mart Grisel, European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) EGTC

Goals and Dimensions

13:30 **Presentation of progress status and the draft text of the Leipzig Charter (parts A and B)**

Project consortium

14:00 **Plenary discussion on the draft text of the Leipzig Charter (parts A and B)**

Moderated by Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

15:00 *Coffee break with sweet and savoury snacks (Foyer 5)*

Empowerment of Cities, part 1

15:30 **Presentation of study findings on municipalities' capacity to act**

Moritz Heuberger, Chair for Political Science, Public Administration and Organization, University of Potsdam

16:00 **Q&A on study findings**

Moderated by Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

16:15 **Presentation of the draft text of the Leipzig Charter (part D.1), followed by plenary discussion**

Project consortium; moderation: Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

17:30 **Wrap-up and outlook on day 2**

Tilman Buchholz, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

17:45 **End of day 1 of the meeting**

Thursday 28 November 2019

09:00 *Coffee reception (Foyer 5)*

Opening of day 2

09:30 **Opening and welcome**

Dr. Oliver Weigel, Head of Unit General Urban Development Policy, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

09:40 **Recap of day 1 and outline of the programme of the day**

Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

Principles and Empowerment of cities, part 2

09:45 **Presentation of the draft text of the Leipzig Charter (parts C and D.2)**

Project consortium

10:00 **Plenary discussion on the draft text of the Leipzig Charter (parts C and D.2)**

Moderated by Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

The future of the Urban Agenda for the EU within the framework of the new Leipzig Charter

11:00 **Presentation of the preliminary results of the assessment on the Urban Agenda for the EU**

Thomas de Béthune, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

11:20 **Commentaries on the future of the Urban Agenda for the EU**

Olli Maijala, Finnish Ministry of the Environment/Council Presidency

Kieran McCarthy, Cork City Council, European Committee of the Regions

11:50 **Coffee break with sweet and savoury snacks (Foyer 5)**

12:30 **Presentation of the Background Paper – main elements and questions for the discussion**

Project consortium

12:45 **Plenary discussion on the future of the Urban Agenda for the EU**

Moderated by Mart Grisel, EUKN EGTC

14:45 **Concluding remarks and farewell**

Dr. Oliver Weigel, Head of Unit General Urban Development Policy, German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community

15:00 **End of the meeting**