



Sustainable land use and Nature-based Solutions: the EU urban agenda partnership

Working in partnership with cities to improve
EU policy making and implementation

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KEP Nurturing nature for sustainable cities and regions,
European Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 29 May 2018

@eurocitiestweet



EUROCITIES

The network of major European cities



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Introducing EUROCITIES



Who are we?

- Represent major cities of **250,000+** since **1986**,
- **142 members**, **40+ partners**, counting **130 million** citizens in **38 countries**

What is our aim?

- Involve the cities' perspective in EU policy-making and strengthen the urban dimension of EU policies

How?

- **Building and sharing evidence** via common projects and in thematic forums and working groups
- **Influencing** via ongoing dialogue and cooperation with EU institutions
- Campaigns, political events





CITYkeys



ICTFOOTPRINT EU

GREEN DIGITAL CHARTER



EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK
16-22 SEPTEMBER

Create

Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy

SHARINGCITIES



CULTURE
for Cities and Regions



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URBAN



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR BETTER CITIES

AGENDA FOR THE EU

A general introduction

- *objectives*
- *tools*
- *progress*
- *EUROCITIES' role and involvement*

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU - PACT OF AMSTERDAM



IT'S ABOUT

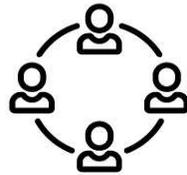
Boosting the role of cities for a stronger EU



Realising the full potential and contribution of urban areas



Involving cities in policy making



Improving coordination of policies with an impact on urban areas

FOCUSES ON

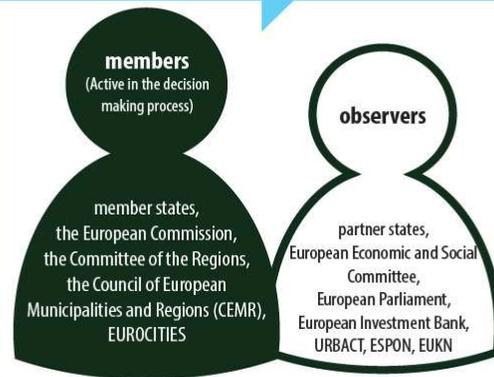


TO OBTAIN

BETTER REGULATION
FUNDING
KNOWLEDGE BASE AND
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



WITH



- ⚙️ thematic partnerships*
- ⚙️ mapping the urban related Commission initiatives
- ⚙️ EU one-stop-shop on urban (web portal)
- ⚙️ urban impact assessment
- ⚙️ Urban innovative Actions
- ⚙️ URBACT
- ⚙️ Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe
- ⚙️ European Observation Network, Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON)
- ⚙️ biennial CITIES Forum

* a key delivery mechanism within the Urban Agenda for the EU. The aim is to develop a multilevel and multi-dimensional approach. Each partnership is made up of member states, the European Commission, cities, experts, European organisations and relevant stakeholders.

USING



- EU policies **prepared and adopted at national and supranational level** (EC, Council, EP and national Parliaments)



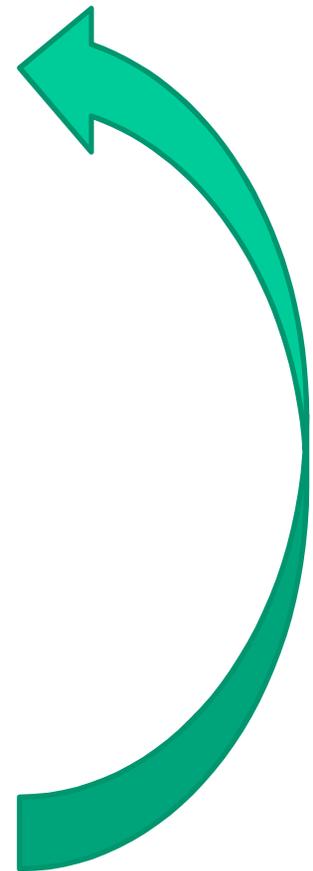
- Most EU policies are **implemented locally** and have strong relevance to urban areas (e.g waste, water, air quality, energy, mobility, migration)



- Cities possess **practical experience** and **tested innovative solutions**



- **Lack of mechanism for feedback and influence of cities** on policy priorities and funding at European level





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Objectives of the urban agenda

Pact of Amsterdam (30 May 2016)

Agreed by MS under NL EU presidency

The overall objective is

to **improve EU policy making and delivery** through

- Better regulation
- Better funding
- Better knowledge base and exchange

To achieve this the urban agenda aims to:

- **Improve coordination** of policies with urban impact
- **Involve cities** in policy making
- **Maximise cities' potential** in delivering EU policies



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What are the instruments?

Thematic partnerships (12)

Urban impact assessment

One-stop-shop for cities (online portal)

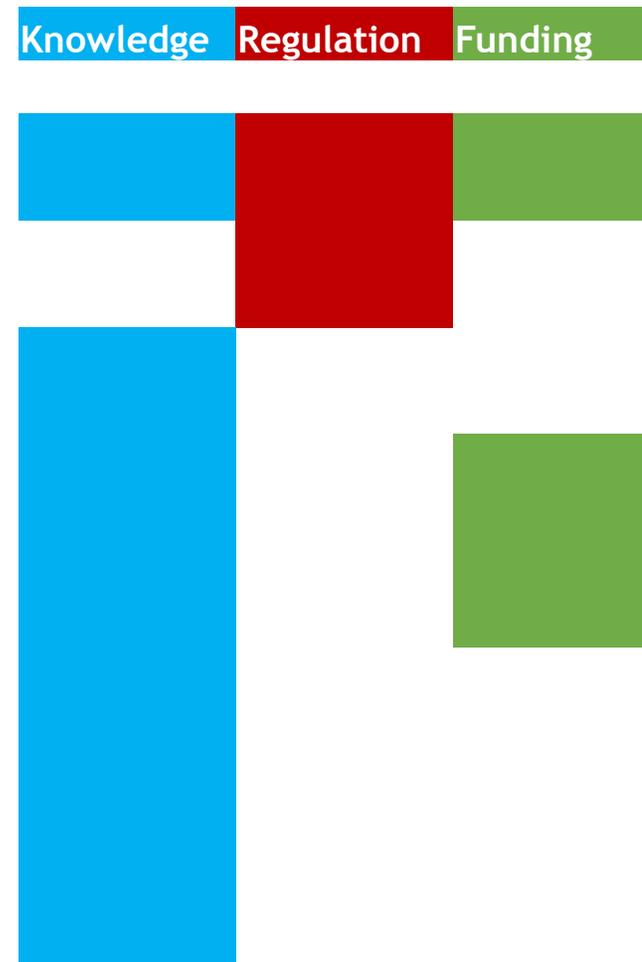
Urban Innovative Actions initiative

URBACT programme

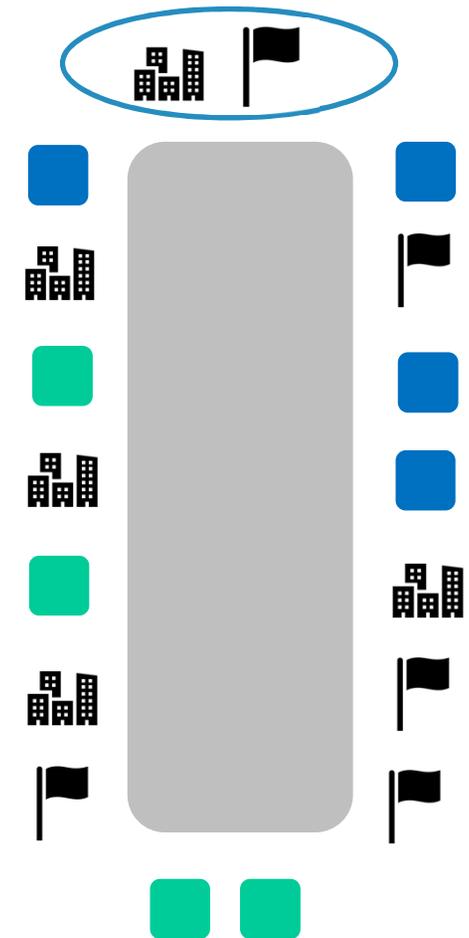
JPI Urban Europe

ESPON 2020 programme

Cities Forum



- **Informal multi-level collaboration** bringing together **cities, Member States and EU Commission** representatives and stakeholders
- on various urban challenges (priority themes) to work in a holistic way towards **better regulation, better funding and better knowledge sharing**
- group of ca. 15-20 experts, led by **coordinator(s)** (MS/city member), supported by **technical secretariat**
- 3-year mandate to **draft and implement action plan**
- Works in sub-groups at and in between meetings
- Reports on progress to Council (Urban Development Group and DG meeting on Urban Matters)





Thematic partnerships

Pilot “Amsterdam” partnerships, launched end 2015/early 2016

Air Quality

Inclusion of
migrants &
refugees

Urban poverty

Affordable
housing

“Bratislava” partnerships, launched Jan 2017

Urban mobility

Digital transition

Jobs & skills

Circular economy

“Malta” partnerships, launched Jul 2017

Climate
adaptation

Energy
transition

Public
procurement

Sustainable use
of land and
nature-based
solutions



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HO

J&S

DT

UM

AQ

CE

UP

ET

CA

IMR

SLU
NBS

PP

Thematic partnerships

Cross-cutting issues for all partnerships

- Integrated and participatory approach
- Sound strategic urban planning (place and people-based)
- Innovative approaches, incl Smart Cities
- Impact on societal change (gender =, equal access to info)
- Governance across administrative boundaries (urb-rur, cross-border)
- Citizen participation
- C&O for small and medium size cities, polycentricity
- Urban regeneration (soc, econ, envi, physical, spatial and cultural)
- Adaptation to demographic change
- Provision of adequate public services
- Link with New (global) Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement and SDGs
- Thematic links with other UA partnerships

Our engagement in the Urban Agenda for the EU

EUROCITIES contributes to the success of the UA in the following ways

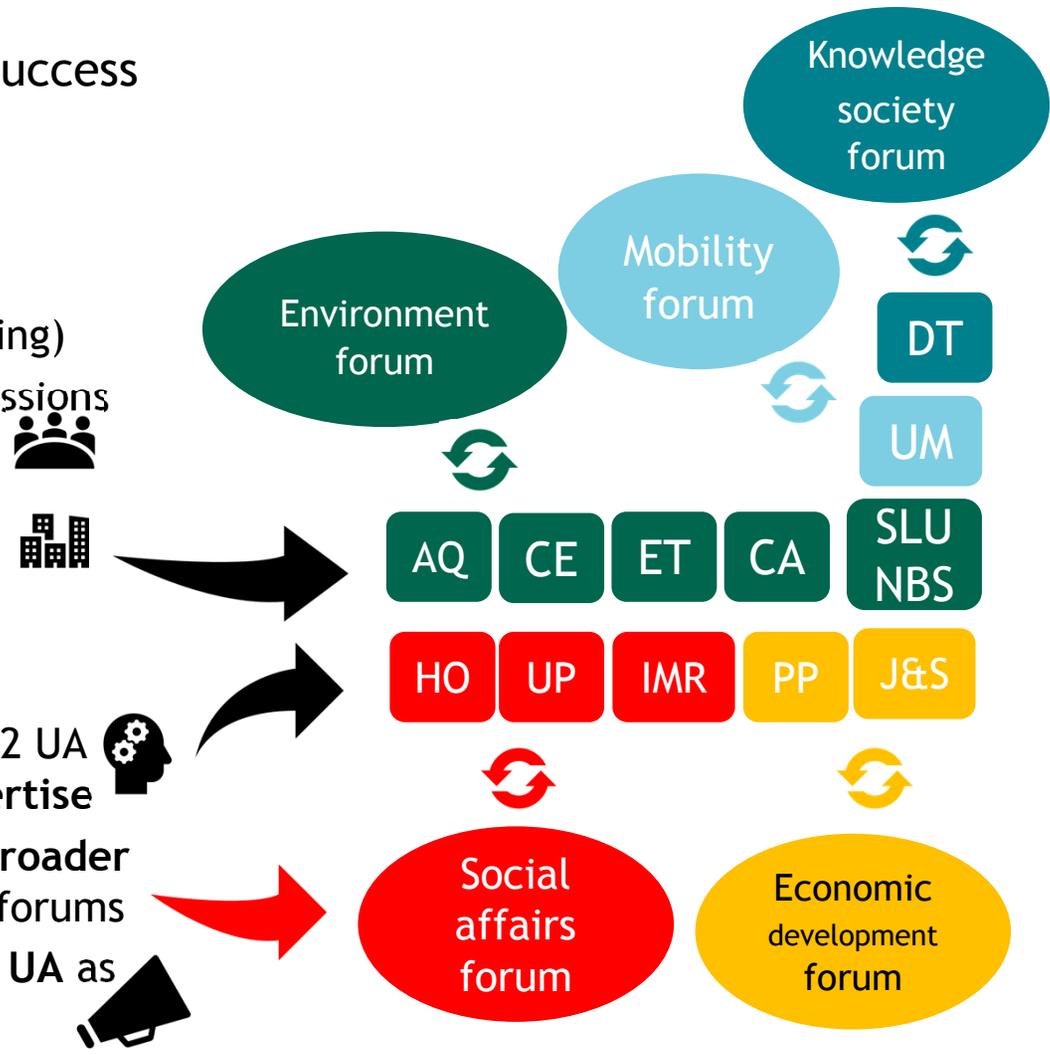
- Strategic governance

(via Council UDG and DG meeting)

- Takes part in strategic discussions and decisions
- **Nominates a city** into each partnership

- Implementation

- Contributes to each of the 12 UA partnerships with staff expertise
- Enables the outreach to a broader group of cities at thematic forums
- Supports communication of UA as part of TS consortium





Challenges facing the partnerships

Challenges

- Outreach for feedback and for dissemination
- Financing the actions
- **Demonstrating added value:** Delivering new solutions and tangible outcomes which feed into EU decision making process on policy and programmes



partnership on

Sustainable land use and nature-based solutions





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Composition, work schedule

- Coordinated by City of Bologna and Poland
- Kicked-off 13 July 2017, Warsaw
- 2nd meeting 16-17 Oct, Barcelona
discussing and finalising orientation paper
- 3rd meeting 18-19 Dec 2017, Zagreb
Scoping of work
- 4th meeting 31 Jan - 2 Feb 2018, Bologna
Defining and discussing early actions
- 5th meeting 23-24 April 2018, Vilnius
Elaborating and discussing possible actions
- 6th meeting 18-20 June 2018, Stavanger
Finalising draft action plan
- ...
- Implementation until early 2020

Composition of partnership

Cities

Águeda, Antwerp, Bologna, Cork,
Lille Métropole, Stavanger, Stuttgart
region, Zagreb

EUROCITIES

Member States

Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg,
Poland, Portugal, Slovenia

EU institutions

DG ENV, JRC, REGIO, RTD, EIB

Stakeholders

Catalan Land Institute (INCASÓL)

URBACT

Support

ECORYS, EUKN

Orientation paper defined main objective:

to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of land to help create **compact, liveable and inclusive European cities for everyone**

and 2 main areas of work:



Liveable compactness

regeneration of urban neighbourhoods, brownfields and vacant/underutilised land, tackling urban sprawl

Nature-based solutions

in urban areas
(ecosystem services, green and blue infrastructure)

Actions to improve rules and tools for **more efficient land use**

Including LAND TAKE in impact
assessment procedures

Indicators of LAND TAKE

Mapping of
UNDERUSED LAND

TOOL to quantify the HIDDEN
COSTS of URBAN SPRAWL

Financing models for
BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

Cooperation on spatial planning in
FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREAS



Proposed areas of action (work in progress)

Actions to improve knowledge, rules and tools to **promote nature-based solutions**

Improving **REGULATIONS** on NBS

Mainstreaming NBS **FINANCING**
(improved access to finance)

Setting **STANDARDS** for NBS in
cities

Actions to improve general **knowledge and awareness** on sustainable land use and NBS

A large, multi-pointed red starburst graphic with a white outline, centered on the right side of the slide.

Awareness raising



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More information

- Urban Agenda for the EU official site under EC Futurium site
<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda>

Wide range of information related to the UA partnerships (news and events, documents, public feedback, online discussions)

- Orientation paper of the SLU-NBS partnership [here](#)

- “One stop shop” for cities - European Commission website
https://ec.europa.eu/info/eu-regional-and-urban-development/cities_en

Single information point for urban related knowledge, funding, initiatives and policies of the Commission