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,
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@eurociestweet
EUROCITIES
The network of major European cities
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
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
Involving cities in policy making
Realising the full potential and contribution of urban areas
Improving coordination of policies with an impact on urban areas

FOCUSES ON
Priority themes
- Energy transition
- Air quality
- Jobs and skills in the local economy
- Digital transition
- Innovative and sustainable public procurement
- Climate adaptation
- Circular economy
- Housing
- Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions
- Integration of migrants and refugees
- Urban mobility
- Urban poverty

CROSS CUTTING THEMES
- Innovative approach
- Integrated approach
- Citizen participation
- International dimension
- Quality of public services
- Demographic change
- Societal change
- Urban regeneration
- Urban planning
- Good urban governance
- Governance across administrative boundaries
- Challenges and opportunities for small and medium-sized cities

TO OBTAIN WITH USING
Better regulation
- Funding
- Knowledge base and knowledge exchange

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 multi-level and multi-dimensional approach. Each partnership is made up of member states, the European Commission, cities, experts, European organisations and relevant stakeholders.
• 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
Objectives of the urban agenda

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

**Pact of Amsterdam (30 May 2016)**
Agreed by MS under NL EU presidency
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

Knowledge Regulation Funding
Thematic partnerships

- 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
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 sevices
- 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 partnerships

- **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

Knowledge society forum
- Environment forum
- Mobility forum
- Economic development forum
- Social affairs forum

AQ | CE | ET | CA | SLU | NBS
---|---|---|---|----|-----
HO | UP | IMR | PP | J&S

DT | UM
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
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)
Proposed areas of action (work in progress)

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

Awareness raising
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