Urban Agenda for the EU

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Cities, towns and suburbs
The Urban Agenda for the EU – Why?

72% of Europeans live in cities.
In cities, opportunities and challenges meet
Europe 2020 Strategy

Smart

Sustainable

Inclusive
Trend of increasing acknowledgment importance local government

1987
European Single Act
Specific responsibility EU for regional policy

1989
First regulation Structural Funds
(ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund)

1992
Maastricht Treaty
- Importance local and regional authorities for EU policy acknowledged
- Creation of Committee of the Regions

2007
Lisbon Treaty
- Local and regional authorities acknowledged
- Subsidiarity principle now applicable to local and regional authorities
Pact of Amsterdam fits this trend

2016

Pact of Amsterdam

- Establishes the Urban Agenda for the EU
- An informal contribution to the design of future and revision of existing EU regulation, in order for it to better reflect urban needs, practices and responsibilities.
The Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU)

Creating the conditions at EU-level for cities to blossom through:

1. **Better regulation:**
   EU legislation needs to take urban realities more into account

2. **Better funding:**
   Cross-sectoral financial instruments, simplifying existing funds, more possibilities of combing funds

3. **Better knowledge:**
   Improvement of knowledge, strengthening of sharing knowledge
Pact of Amsterdam

- UAEU priority of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations during the Netherlands EU Presidency.
- UAEU formalised in writing in the Pact of Amsterdam.
- Negotiations throughout Netherlands presidency of the European Council.
- 30 May 2016 Informal Ministerial Meeting: Pact of Amsterdam adopted.
- 24 June 2016 Council conclusions welcoming the Pact of Amsterdam.
Thematic Partnerships

A new form of informal multilevel cooperation where cities, Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders work in partnership.

Partnerships work alongside and will feed into formal EU process (Council, EC, EP).
Thematic Partnerships

- Key instrument of the UAEU.

- Focus on priority themes.

- Concrete, case based approach result oriented and open to every party that wants to make a concrete contribution.

- Membership: cities, member states, EU institutions, their stakeholders (e.g. EIB, Housing Europe)

- Formulation of proposals for better regulation, better funding, better knowledge exchange.
12 Priority Themes

- Inclusion of migrants and refugees
- Affordable housing
- Circular economy
- Inclusive public procurement
- Urban mobility
- Digital transition
- Jobs and skills
- Energy transition
- Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions
- Climate adaptation
- Air quality
- Urban Poverty

Colors:
- Smart
- Green
- Inclusive
Broad interest for the 12 themes/partnerships

All twelve Partnerships

- Participating or interested country
- Participating or interested city/region
- Participating or interested country & city/region
Partnerships – The Netherlands 2016

- Affordable Housing
- Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
- Air Quality
- Urban Poverty
Example: Urban Poverty

Objectives:
to reduce poverty and improve the inclusion of people in poverty or at risk of poverty in deprived neighbourhoods.

Focus on:
• spatial concentration of structural poverty
• regeneration of these areas
• child poverty
• homelessness
Example: Urban Poverty

Members in partnership

- Coordinators: Belgium, France
- Urban areas: Birmingham (UK), Kortrijk (BE), Lille (FR), Daugavpils (LV), Timisoara (RO), Lodz (PL), Keratsini (GR)
- Member States: Germany, Greece, Spain
- Others: European Commission (DG REGIO, DG EMPL), Region Brussels Capital, Regio Ile de France, Eurocities, EUKN, URBACT, EAPN.
- Observers: UN Habitat, Eurochild, FEANTSA
Partnerships – Slovakia 2016

• Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy
• Circular Economy
• Urban Mobility
• Digital Transition
Partnerships – Malta 2017

- Energy Transition
- Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions
- Climate Adaptation
- Innovative Public Procurement
DG-meeting on Urban Matters agrees on four new partnerships

Recent articles, publications or blogposts

- Working Conference on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
  - November 28, 2016
  - On the 10th and 11th of November, the City of Amsterdam, in cooperation with the European Urban Agenda, hosted a two-day conference focusing on the topic of migrant integration.

- Have a look at the one-stop-shop portal of the European Commission for Cities
  - November 1, 2016
  - To help cities better address challenges such as inclusion, innovation and sustainability, a new one-stop-shop portal has been launched.

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- UP urban producers: To Brussels for a METREX meeting tomorrow with #EU #DG-Region on the #UrbanAgenda, how METREX members can contribute to other issues. about 18 hours ago
- kissmeconuniverse: #UrbanAgenda at work, spouse want to #WALMART in #Fullman die on South Side #Chicago, no prices reduced for #BLACKFRIDAY #SkippilyFulprice