URBAN EUROPE

Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

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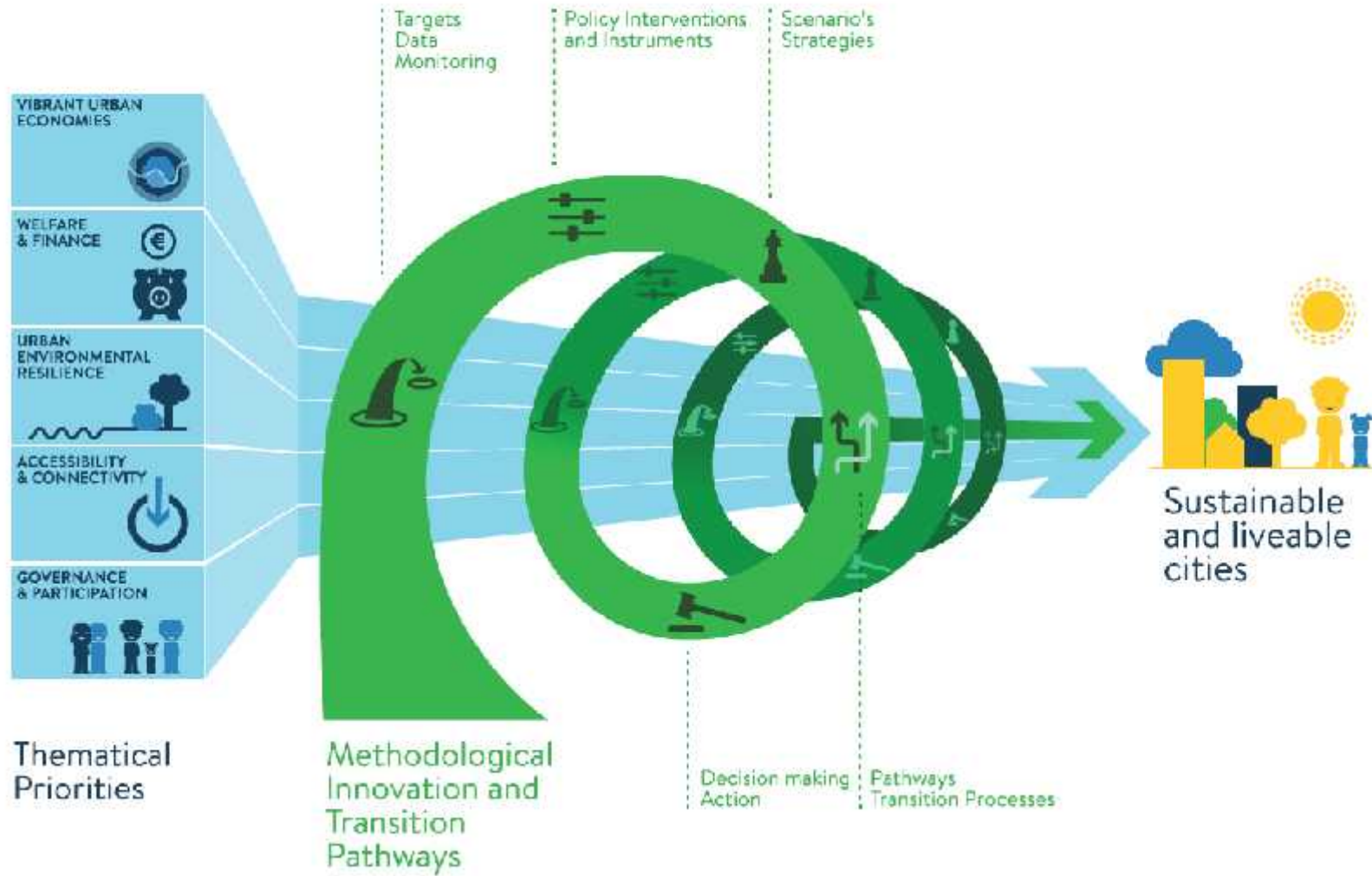# Urban Trends and Challenges

- **IPCC 2K target**

- **Migration**: managing or curtailing a growing N/W – S/E divide.

- Social **cohesion**, **inequality** and youth **unemployment**.

- **Devolving** public services: **empowered** citizens.

- **Resilience**: to social, economic and environmental stressors.

Core members
Observers & occasional co-funders of joint calls
Additional partners in research & dissemination

Longitudinal: Urban Transitions

Two core challenges:

- To define and **measure** city **sustainability**.

- To support city actors in defining sustainability **targets** and in making the **transition** towards their achievement.

FUTURE

NOW

LONG TERM PROGRAMME

T EUROPEAN SOLUTIONS

Longitudinal: Urban Transitions

- Understand the complex, interwoven and competing factors influencing city sustainability: a **sustainability rating**.

- Identify and quantify the pivotal **forces that influence sustainability** and the interrelationships between them.

- A framework to assess and monitor city sustainability: **observatories**.

- Context-specific **transition targets** and backcasting.

- **Pathways analysis tools** (forecasting) to support cities in formulating transition strategies and policies.

- Context-specific transition **implementation plans**.

Transverse Programmes:
Vibrant urban economies

- Which **policies to stimulate** urban economies: recipes for success?

- How do **migratory and employment dynamics** function and interrelate; how can this be **managed**?

- Which strategies to **strengthen / reverse** regional **economic growth / decline**?

- Which strategies to improve socioeconomic **inclusion, cohesion and liveability**?

- And how do we nurture **innovative capacity** & **youth employment**?

Welfare and finance:

- Which public **services** are being **eroded** or **devolved** and what are the **consequences**?

- What are the **alternatives** and the place for **social innovation**?

- What are the most effective **business models** (state: which level?, partnerships, cooperatives, crowd-funding…)?
    - In general, not just for civic services

- What **role** can **policy and regulation** play to support and incentivise these investments?

Environmental sustainability and resilience:

- To what extent can cities be resource (CO_2) **neutral**; what would be the implications for spatial planning, governance and finance?

- How can cities be planned and managed to maximise their social, economic and environmental **resilience** to climate change?

- How can the **resilience** of **critical infrastructure** (ICT, electrical, water, transport, banking) be maximised?

- To what extent is the **sustainability and resilience** of complex city systems **mutually supportive or** indeed **combative**?

Accessibility and connectivity:

- To what extent can travellers' **modal choice** be influenced, so that utility and sustainability coincide? How?

  - Does this require new routes; better inter-modal connectivity, pricing and traveller information; subsidy; regulation (e.g. competing modes restricted to certain times)?

  - What are the organisational barriers to and business models for this?

- To what extent can **mobility demand** be **changed** through changing social and working practices; e-services?

- How can **accessibility** to the more **vulnerable** be **improved**?

Governance and participation:

- How can **open**ing of **data** accelerate ICT innovation, to improve the navigability and **provision of public services**?

- How can data **analytics** improve public awareness of **services delivery**, of city sustainability?

- How should core **stakeholders** be best integrated into city governance; to ensure all parties have a **proportionate voice**?

- How can stakeholders best collaborate and innovate to improve city functioning: **social innovation**?