



Urban Intergroup Meeting,
15 January 2021

German EU Council
Presidency:
- New Leipzig Charter
- Implementation
Document

Informal Ministerial Urban Development / Territorial Cohesion 30.11./01.12.2020

30 November 2020

Informal Ministerial on Urban Development:

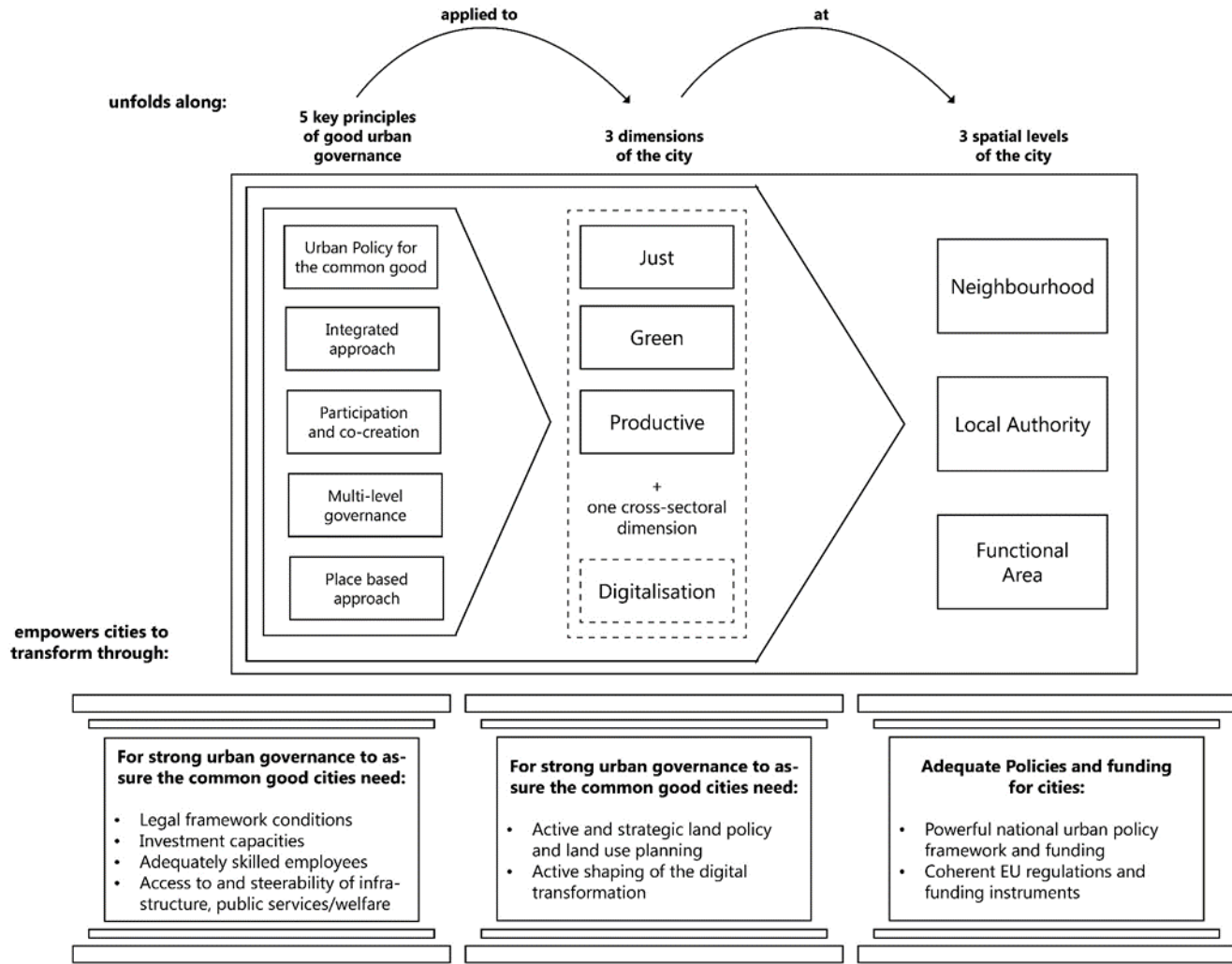
Adoption of New Leipzig Charter and Implementation
Document

1 December 2020

Informal Ministerial on Territorial Cohesion:

Adoption of Territorial Agenda 2030

THE NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER



Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Preamble

- Effects of global trends and challenges more and more perceived locally
- New Leipzig Charter contributes to implement objectives of global agreements
- Requirements: need to strengthen framework conditions on each level
- New Leipzig Charter emphasizes common good for better quality of life in Europe

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

The Transformative Power of European Cities

Starting point: keeping values and use potentials of the European city

- Cultural and political tradition of democratic rights and values in cities
- Cities as places of pluralism, creativity and solidarity
- Cities as test bed for experimentation and new forms of problem solving
- Polycentric urban system with small, medium-sized and big cities and their FUA
- Compact, socially and economically mixed European city, well-developed infrastructure
- Strengthening of good urban planning and high quality public urban spaces
- Baukultur as the basis for integrated planning and design processes

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

The Transformative Power of European Cities

Equal focus and strong interlinkages of **three spatial dimensions**:

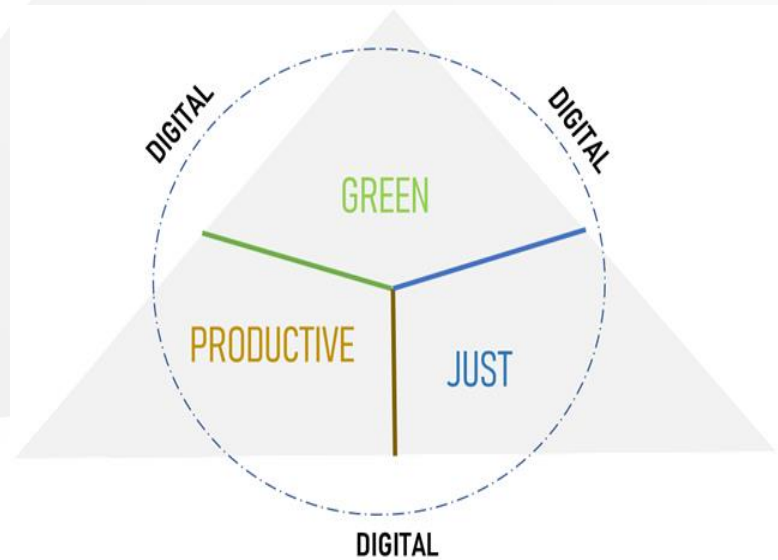
- **Neighbourhood** (particular attention: neighbourhoods with complex challenges)
- **Local authorities** in their specific national context (as steering and coordinating entity, link between neighbourhood and functional area)
- **Functional areas** (network of functional interdependencies, reflecting the daily life of people)

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter The Transformative Power of European Cities

updated three-columned model
of sustainability

= three basic dimensions of
European cities

Digitalisation as cross-cutting
issue: use opportunities of
digitalisation and shape it
actively in an environmentally
sustainable, inclusive and fair



Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Just

- Ensure equal opportunities for all, equal access to public services;
- Socially balanced, mixed and safe neighbourhoods;
- Integration of all social groups and generations

Green

- Creation of high-quality urban environment (air, water, soil), biodiversity;
- Climate neutral energy supply and energy efficiency;
- Shift towards sustainable mobility

Productive

- Productive, innovative & competitive city with traditional & new industries/crafts;
- Shift towards digital, service-oriented and low-carbon economy;
- Promoting mix of living, working, recreation, education, leisure

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Key principles of good urban governance

- Urban policy for the common good
- Integrated approach
- Participation and Co-Creation
- Multi-level governance
- Place-based approach

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Empowering Cities to Transform

Cities need support from European, national and regional level to be capable to respond to current and future challenges.

Cities therefore need ...

... **legal framework conditions** in a multi-level governance system

...adequate **investment capacities** (own income, allocations)

... appropriately **skilled, qualified and trained employees**

steerability and shaping of infrastructure, public



services/welfare

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Empowering Cities to Transform

Powerful national policy framework and funding

Appeal to Member States to continue or establish national urban policies:

- Enable exchange of experience and knowledge
- Act as platform for dialogue
- Offer national or regional funding programmes
- Provide incentives for innovation and room for experimentation

Basic elements of the New Leipzig Charter

Empowering Cities to Transform

Coherent EU regulation and funding instruments

- Continuation of the Urban Agenda for the EU as implementing process /tool for: better regulation, better funding and better knowledge
- Keep the urban dimension in the EU-Structural Funds
- Stimulate integrated, innovative and participatory approaches in sustainable urban development, supported via European Urban Initiative
- Better coordination of vertical and horizontal exchange of knowledge and expertise



Implementing the New Leipzig Charter through multi-level governance

Main objective: providing a shared vision on the further development & implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU based on the strategic principles of the New Leipzig Charter

I. Consolidating, Delivering and Advancing the Urban Agenda for the EU

1. Maintaining and Reinforcing Multi-Level and Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation

2. Achieving Better Regulation, Better Funding and Policy Coherence

3. Ensuring Better Knowledge and Stronger Communication

4. Governing the Urban Agenda for the EU with Efficient Decision-Making and Support Structures



Maintaining and Reinforcing Multi-Level and Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation

- MLG cooperation as important achievement
 - To be addressed: process transparency; level of engagement among stakeholders
 - Thematic Partnerships to remain key delivery mode of the Urban Agenda for the EU; other delivery modes/forms of cooperation to be considered
 - New themes to link up with New Leipzig Charter, European Green Deal, European Pillar of Social Rights, European Digital Strategy, Recovery Plan for Europe, and global priorities
- Call for more flexibility within a more targeted, balanced and transparent framework in the future**

Achieving Better Regulation, Better Funding and Policy Coherence

- Urban Agenda for the EU provided useful insights into bottlenecks regarding implementation of EU policies and legislation
- To be addressed: more targeted approach to Better Regulation and Better Funding; intimately linked to the EU policymaking and funding cycles and existing institutions and processes
- Call for structural legal and procedural expertise – including dedicated and specialised legal support – for Partnerships, including link to **Better Regulation Agenda / Fit for Future Platform**
- **‘Better Regulation Initiative’** by NL as important contribution strengthening this strand



Ensuring Better Knowledge and Stronger Communication

- To be addressed: improved internal communication; more transparency, ownership, and a better flow of information particularly on the implementation of actions
- More differentiated and targeted approach to Better Knowledge (Base *and* Exchange), link to research and innovation platforms
- Call for better links between Urban Agenda for the EU and Territorial Agenda 2030, Urban Dimension of Cohesion Policy, national urban policy frameworks
- Establishment of **National Contact Points** (linked to the European Urban Initiative) to support capitalisation and communication activities

Governing the UAEU with Efficient Decision-Making and Support Structures

- Progress has been made in creating common framework for urban policy initiatives – but there is a lack of an effective governance mechanism, outreach, implementation of actions
- Inter-governmental cooperation structures (DGUM, UDG) will continue to play key role in steering the Urban Agenda for the EU

Call for a dedicated and permanent **Secretariat for Urban Matters** under the European Urban Initiative addressing three areas:

1. UAEU Partnerships (support, expertise)
2. UAEU governance by MS and COM (calls, monitoring, capitalisation)

 3. Inter-governmental cooperation on urban matters

Conclusions

Implementation Document calls upon all stakeholders to contribute to the further development and implementation of the UAEU within the scope of their competences:

- Commission
- Member States
- Local and regional authorities
- European Parliament
- European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee
- European Investment Bank

Thank you for your
attention!

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Community

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