

# **EU Urban Agenda**

# Overall picture

**Our objective is SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

*To do so, we need...*

*... a vision,...*

We provide:

- Global Urban Agenda (Habitat III)
- EU Urban Agenda
- Cities of tomorrow report (2011)

*... concrete ideas,...*

We provide:

- URBACT (€96M)/ INTERREG Europe (€425M) (networks between cities and experts)
- ESPON (€49M) (background research)
- Urban Development Network (expert meetings Commission/ cities)
- Local urban development strategies (required under art. 7)

*... and money.*

We provide:

- ERDF 2014-2020 (>50% spent in cities i.e. more than €100B)
- 'Article 7' (€15B directly managed by cities)
- Urban Innovative Actions (€371M to test new ideas)

## **Background**

- The aims of the EU Urban Agenda are:
  - Involve cities in the design of EU/ national policies
  - Mobilise cities in the implementation of EU/ national policies
- Work will focus on key Priority Themes
- Each Priority Theme will have an Action Plan
- Work will be done by 'Partnerships' (start end 2015)
  - Commission + MS + Cities + NGOs/ private + experts
  - The Commission will facilitate the process

# **Background**

- Support of MS, EP, cities, CoR and EESC
- Next steps:
  - November 2015: Start of the 2-3 first Partnerships;
  - May 2016: Amsterdam Pact (support by Member States);
  - June 2016: Start of further Partnerships.

## **Themes- Process**

- Consultation by the Commission (2014)
- Survey UDG by the NL (July 2015)
- Three Workshops by the Commission (September 2015)
- Expert Urban Development Group (September 2015)
- Extended Urban Agenda Working Group (October 2015)

## **Themes- Selection process**

1. Clearly supported by MS, COM and cities
2. Address the major challenges faced by cities
3. Require integrated action at EU-level +multi-level cooperation
4. Have the potential to generate concrete results in a reasonable timeframe.
5. Promote smart, green and inclusive cities

# **Themes- List**

1. Jobs and skills in the local economy
2. Urban poverty
3. Housing
4. Inclusion of migrants and refugees
5. Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions
6. Circular economy
7. Climate adaptation
8. Energy transition
9. Urban mobility
10. Air quality
11. Digital transition
12. Innovative and responsible public procurement



# **Themes- Cross-cutting issues**

1. Good urban governance
2. Governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation
3. Sound and strategic urban planning
4. Integrated approach
5. Innovative approaches
6. Impact on societal change, including behavioural change
7. Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities;
8. Urban regeneration
9. Adaptation to demographic change
10. Availability and quality of public services of general interest
11. International dimension



## **Partnerships- Rationale**

- Integrated approach requires:
  - Multi-level cooperation
  - Horizontal coordination
  - Involvement of all relevant urban stakeholders
- Added value: multi-level and multi-sectoral cooperation through partnerships between MS, cities, EC
- Ownership is needed for continuity

## Partnerships- Focus

- **Better regulation:**  
better adapted to local action; EU rules that hinder local action (state aid and social housing), urban impact assessment
- **Better funding:**  
cross-sectoral financial instruments, simplify funds, combine funds, involve cities in SIP, technical assistance
- **Better knowledge:**  
improve knowledge and data (exchange), guidebooks, try and exchange innovative actions



**Better coordination:**  
formulate policy orientation(s); mapping potential synergies EU programs, involve cities



# **Partnerships- Objectives and membership**

- Key delivery mechanism of the EU Urban Agenda
- Objective: prepare and implement an Action Plan
- One Partnership for each Priority Theme
- Timeframe: 3 years
- Around 15 persons:
  - Commission (REGIO+ EU DG)
  - Member States
  - Cities
  - Experts
  - European organisations (e.g. Eurocities/CEMR, URBACT, etc.)
  - Stakeholders (NGOs, etc.)

# **Partnerships- Governance**

- 2 Coordinators:
  - Organisation of the work (meetings, reports, etc.)
  - Preparing the deliverables
  - Link with the Commission and Member States
  - Link with other Partnerships
  - Monitoring and reporting
- Real commitment (up to 1FTE)
- Steering Committee = DGs meeting + Commission + cities

# **Partnerships- Deliverables**

- Step n°1: Stocktaking
  - Existing work (avoid duplication, create synergies)
  - Identification of the sources of funds
- Step n°2: Identify bottlenecks and potentials
- Step n°3: Define the objectives and deliverables
  - Action Plan
  - To be done in the first 6-12 months (meet every 2 months)
- Step n°4: Implementation of the Action Plan
  - Meet at least 2 times per year

# **Partnerships- Support**

- Support to the first 3-4 Partnerships: NL
- Support for the next ones: Commission
- NB: Meetings should be for free in existing meeting rooms
- Funding of actions:
  - National/ regional/ local funds
  - Private (e.g. banks)
  - ESIF
  - EIB



## **Next steps**

- November: Start of the 3 first Partnerships
  - Housing
  - Inclusion of migrants and refugees
  - Urban poverty
- May: Amsterdam Pact
- June: Start of further partnerships