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