



MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



# URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU JOBS AND SKILLS IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY

30 October 2019, Bucharest

# WHAT IS THE URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

Launched in May 2016 with the Pact of Amsterdam

Represents a new multi-level working method promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe and to identify and successfully tackle social challenges

Focuses specifically on three pillars of EU policy-making and implementation

- Better regulation
- Better funding
- Better knowledge

14 thematic Partnerships (October 2019)

Romanian members: Alba Iulia (Culture/Cultural Heritage), Constanta (Air Quality), Sfântu Gheorghe (Climate Adaptation), Timisoara (Urban Poverty), MRDPA (Jobs&Skills in local economy, Digital transition, Urban Mobility)



# EU Urban Agenda

Working together towards the city of the future



More than 70% of Europeans live in cities. And those cities continue to grow. This has many positive implications. But cities also have problems and challenges of their own.

The EU Urban Agenda helps by providing a platform where cities, member states and the European Commission can work together. The Pact of Amsterdam marks its launch.



Customised regulations



Facilitating urban investment



Learning from each other's experiences

**EU**  
2016

Towards the Urban Agenda for the EU

1997

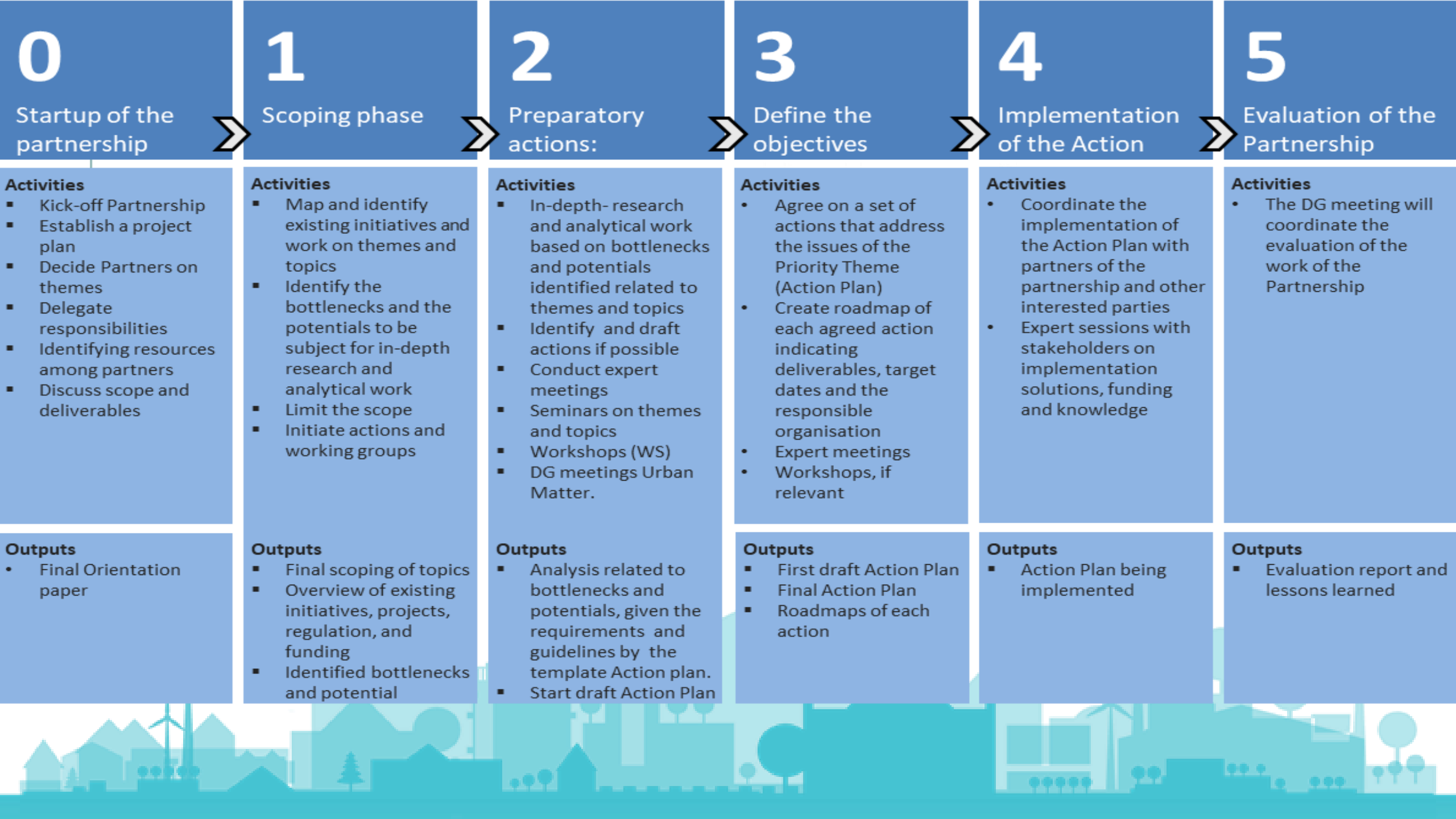
2007  
Leipzig

2010  
Toledo

2015  
Riga

30 May 2016  
Pact of Amsterdam





# PROGRESS OF THE PARTNERSHIPS

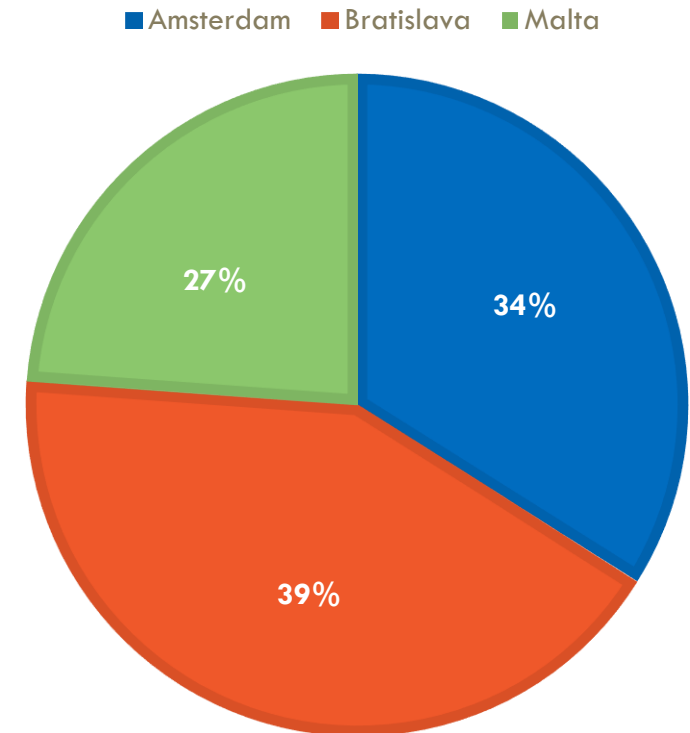
- **Amsterdam Partnerships** (Air quality, Housing, Inclusion, Urban poverty) – remain active as of now (continuation)
- **Bratislava Partnerships** (Circular Economy, Digital Transition, Jobs & Skills, Urban Mobility) – in full implementation mode
- **Malta Partnerships** – shifted to implementation mode (Climate Adaptation, Public procurement, Sustainable Land Use) or ready to start implementation after Action Plan finalised (Energy Transition)
- **Vienna Partnerships** (Security in Public Spaces, Culture & Cultural Heritage) – successful kick-offs and now working towards Orientation Paper

# ACTION PLANS & ACTIONS

As for today, **12 Actions Plans** have been finalised:

- In total: 114 Actions

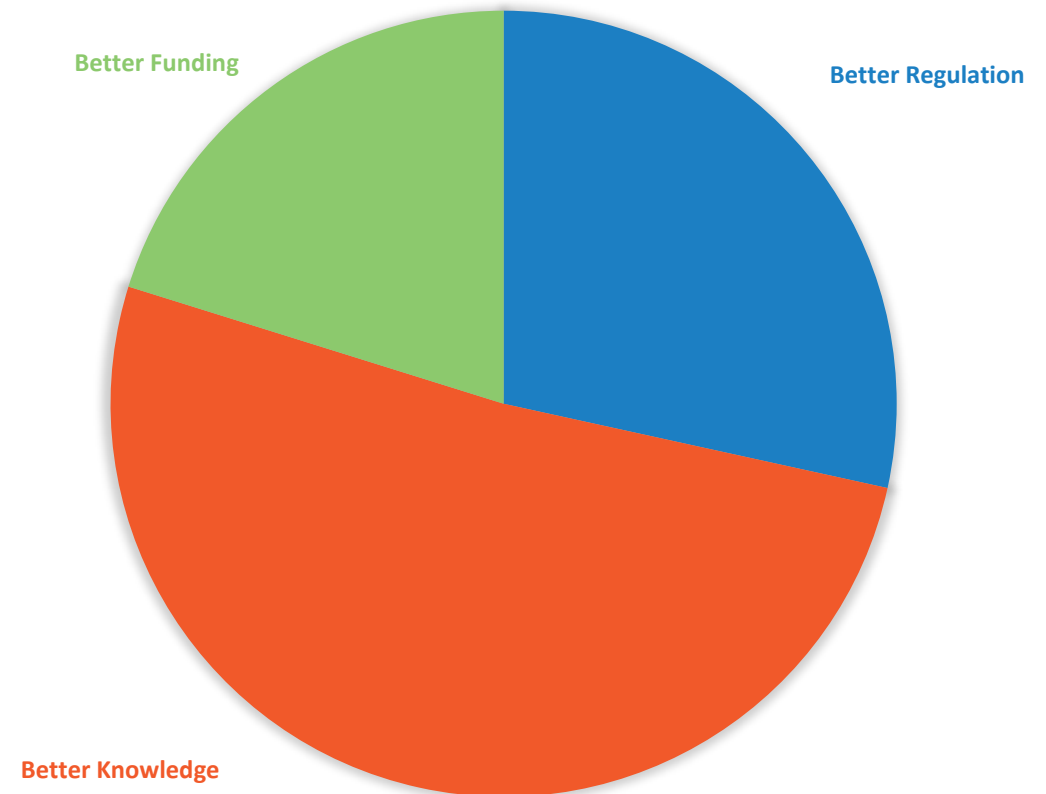
- 37 from Amsterdam Partnerships (34%)
- 45 from Bratislava Partnerships (39%)
- 31 from Malta Partnerships (27%)



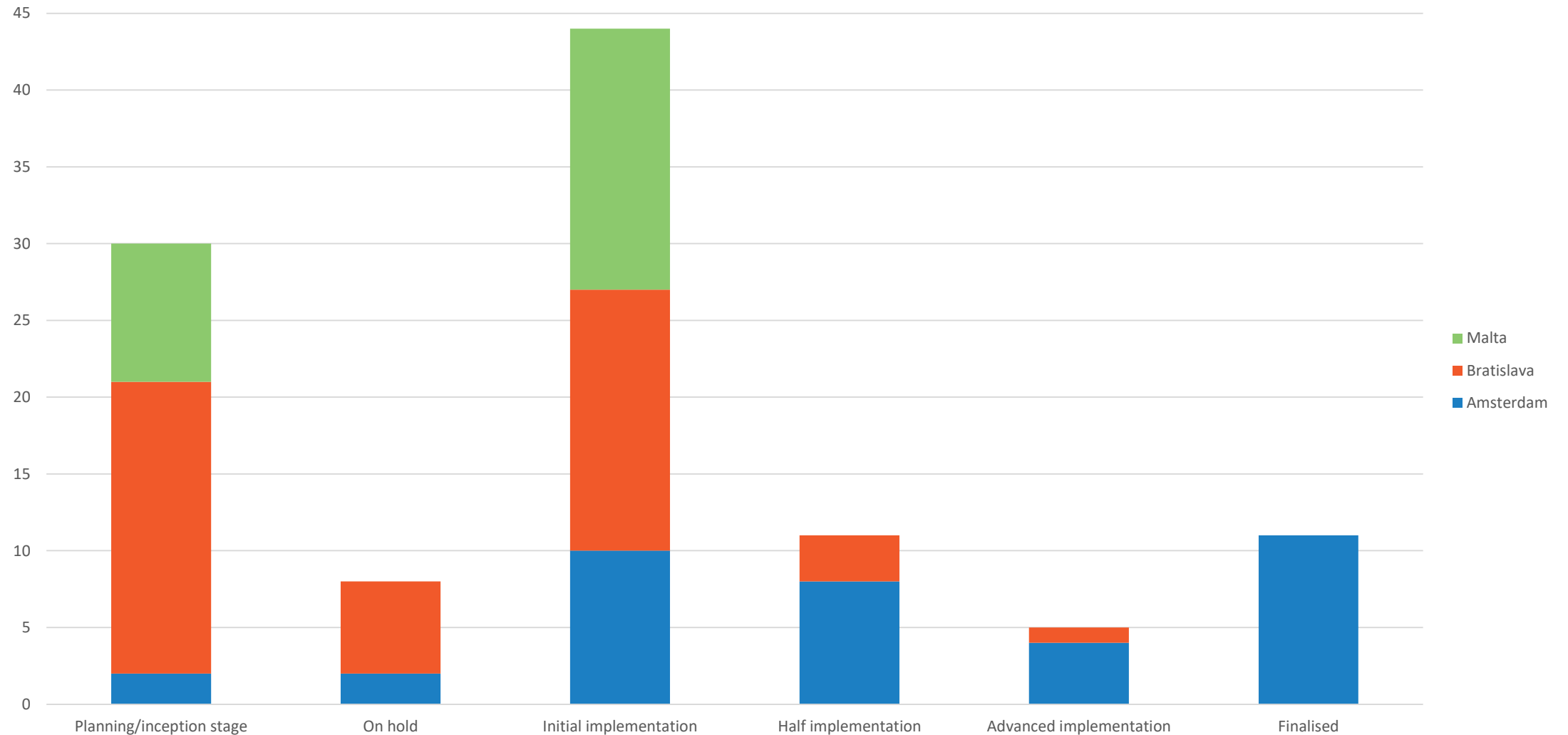
Out of 114 Actions:

- 24 are on **Better Funding** (21%)
- 33 on **Better Regulation** (29%)
- 57 on **Better Knowledge** (50%)

### Objectives of the UA

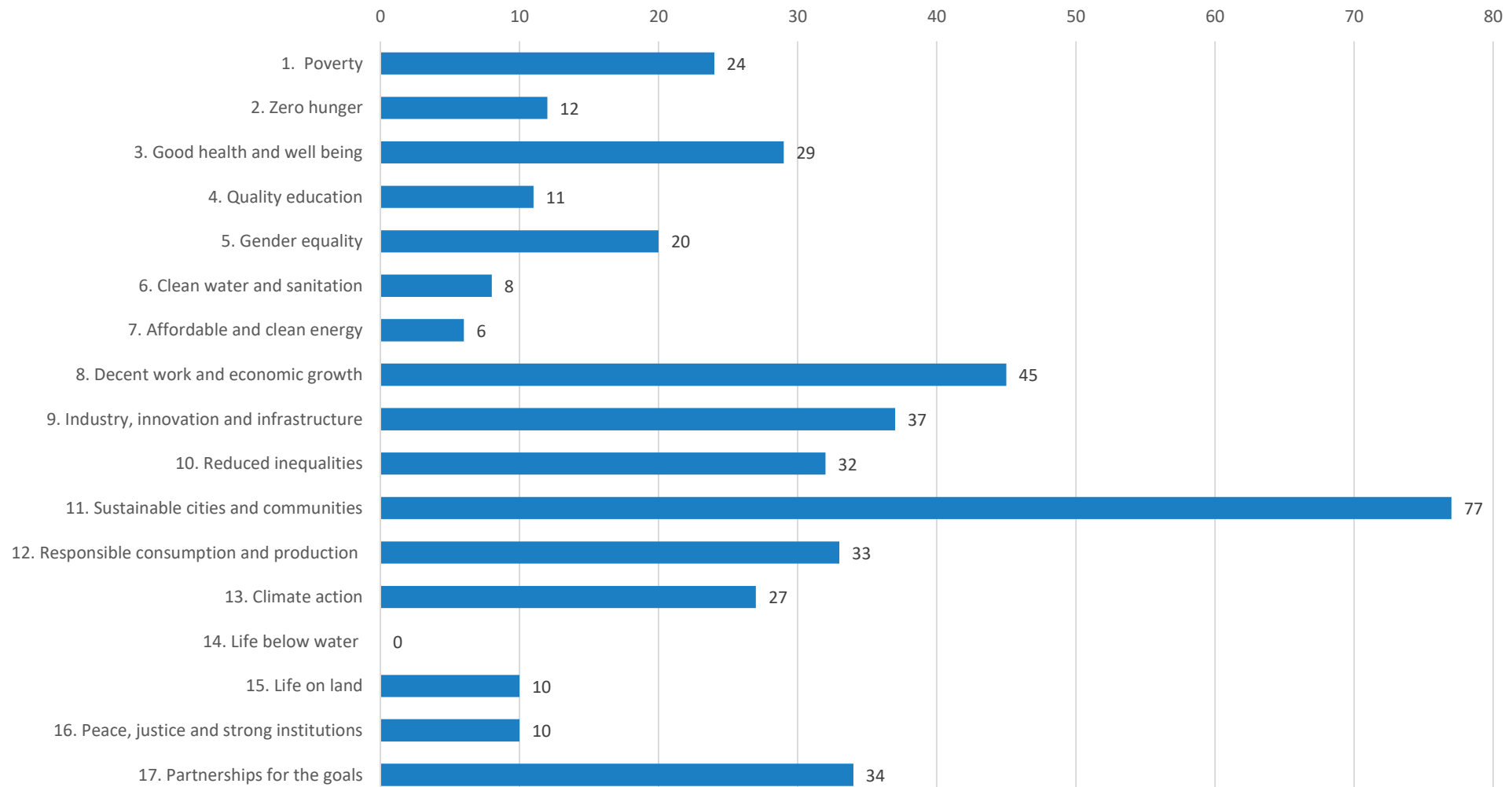


# Implementation status





# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



BRIEFING NOTE BY THE FI PRESIDENCY

# TOWARDS A ROADMAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

**Current partnerships (apart from the two new ones) finishing their work:** The time frame as foreseen by the Pact of Amsterdam (3 years for designing, implementing and evaluating actions) for all the 12 initial partnerships on priority themes as laid down in the PoA is coming to an end, as well as the basic technical assistance for the partnerships provided by the EC.

**General need to ensure coherent framework for urban development:** In the Bucharest Declaration, Ministers recognized the need to ensure a coherent strategic and operational framework for urban development that can approach the current and future challenges and the policy directions. They agreed to support the continuation of the UAEU in line with the guiding principles of the new Leipzig Charter in order to guarantee a coherent policy framework for urban development at the EU level.

**Assessment results at hand – positive for continuation of the UAEU:** The preliminary results of the assessment of the Urban Agenda for the EU are at hand, and they seem to be significantly positive towards the continuation of the UAEU in one form or another.

**Funding for the future UAEU prepared and positive signals also from the new Commission:** EC included already in June 2018 in the EC's legislative proposal on Cohesion Policy beyond 2020 a specific instrument enabling the support for the future UAEU, European Urban Initiative.

**Setting for the necessary agreement on guidelines for the future UAEU is available:** The German Presidency is planning to organise an informal Ministerial Meeting in Leipzig in late 2020, "to establish a strategic document incorporating guiding principles of integrated urban development added by possible future steps for continuation of the UAEU as an operational mechanism to implement the principles of the New Leipzig Charter".

# JOBS AND SKILLS IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

**Objectives:** to facilitate increased capacity of the workforce and the creation of jobs, and improved preconditions for the development of local economy, based on skills and distinctive local specificities.

**Focus:** attracting and keeping enterprises; creating new enterprises; producing and consuming locally; supporting new ways of working; ensuring that skills meet the needs

Members:

- **3 Member States:** Romania, Italy, Greece
  - **8 urban authorities:** Berlin (DE), Rotterdam (NL), Jelgava (LV), Turin (IT), Porto (PT), Ghent (BE), Kielce (PL), Miskolc (HU)
  - **4 stakeholder organisations:** European Investment Bank (EIB), URBACT, EUROCITIES, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
  - **European Commission:** DG for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
- 

# 3 PRIORITY AREAS AND 6 THEMES

## 1st Priority Area: **Skills**

- Next Economy
- Education and Skills

## 2nd Priority Area: **Capital investments**

- Valorisation of R&D
- Business Locations

## 3rd Priority Area: **Governance**

- Public Services
- Effective Local Governance



# 10 ACTIONS

## **Skills** – Next Economy, and Education and Skills

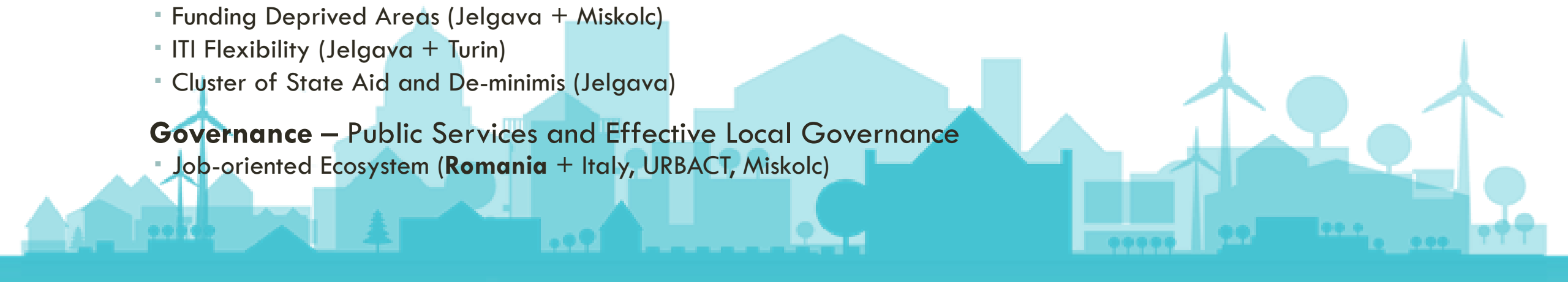
- Talent Office (Porto + Greece, Kielce, Rotterdam)
- Future Labour Market Skills (Berlin + Greece, Porto, Rotterdam, URBACT, DG EMPL)
- The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) as a Framework for the Reconversion Towards a Sustainable Economy (Ghent + Berlin, CEMR, EUROCITIES)
- RIS3 2.0 (Rotterdam + Greece, Kielce, Porto)
- Long-term Investments (Rotterdam + Porto, Turin, EIB, EUROCITIES)
- Horizontal Action: Simplification 2.0 (Rotterdam, Jelgava + Greece, **Romania**, Ghent, Miskolc)

## **Capital Investments** – Valorisation of R&D, and Business Locations

- Funding Deprived Areas (Jelgava + Miskolc)
- ITI Flexibility (Jelgava + Turin)
- Cluster of State Aid and De-minimis (Jelgava)

## **Governance** – Public Services and Effective Local Governance

- Job-oriented Ecosystem (**Romania** + Italy, URBACT, Miskolc)



## Talent Office

The Talent Office aims to pool the best innovative practices, such as an Observatory and digital platforms, to address Talent mismatch, acting as an enabler to connect talent and all the stakeholders related with the talent supply and demand and to raise awareness on present and future skills, through lifelong career guidance.

Pooling best and innovative practices to address talent mismatch, developing an Open Talent Economy, promoting flexible and distributive work, addressing the '3 Es' (Education, Experience and Exposure) and enriching a vibrant sustainable talent community. In short, creating a Talent Office, a pilot programme inside each Municipality to address all these needs with the following actions:

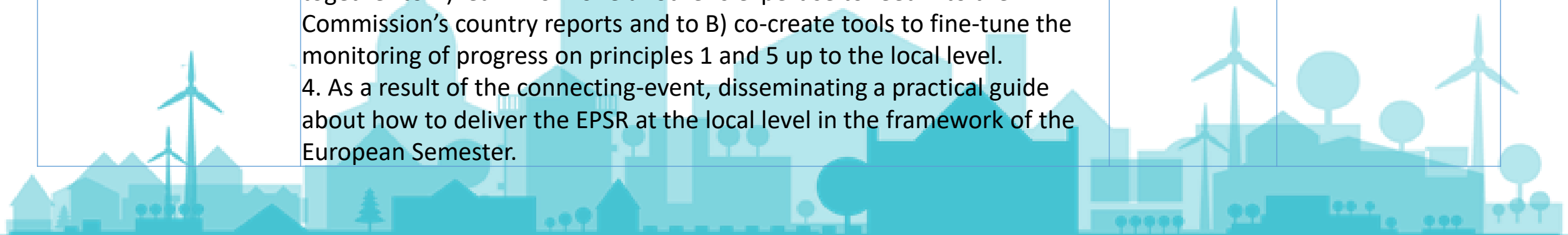
1. Mapping talent (Observatory): raising awareness among the main stakeholders by providing labour market information and diagnosing and anticipating qualification needs.
2. Developing a career and talent orientation programme for better choices (Lifelong Career Guidance) and producing a roadmap for better choices.
3. Training, re-skilling and developing talent (hard and soft skills, new transversal skills in particular digital skills).
4. Connecting talent supply and demand and feeding the talent ecosystem.
5. Attracting and retaining talent in the city.

Better  
Knowledge

Toolkit



<b>Future Labour Market Skills</b>	<p>This action foresees the creation of an online repository of the best practices of local approaches to transfer and develop future labour market skills, aiming to provide permanent mechanisms for knowledge exchange in this area.</p> <p>An essential challenge is to connect the relevant actors (from the social partners, the companies, the educational/ VET sector, the knowledge economy etc.), allowing them to develop a common understanding of future labour market skills and to exchange approaches. This can enable them to adapt and implement good practice initiatives.</p>	Better Knowledge	Data and indicators
<b>The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) as a Framework for the Reconversion towards a Sustainable Economy</b>	<p>This action suggests that the European Pillar on Social Rights (EPSR) should be the framework for the reconversion towards a sustainable economy in urban areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collecting cities' practices regarding multi-level cooperation in relation to the implementation of Principles 1 and 5.</li> <li>2. Analysing the practices to identify strengths, challenges, pitfalls and possible solutions regarding multi-level cooperation in relation to principle 1 and 5.</li> <li>3. Organising a connecting-event, bringing different tiers of government together to A) learn from one another's expertise to feed into the Commission's country reports and to B) co-create tools to fine-tune the monitoring of progress on principles 1 and 5 up to the local level.</li> <li>4. As a result of the connecting-event, disseminating a practical guide about how to deliver the EPSR at the local level in the framework of the European Semester.</li> </ol>	Better Knowledge	Policy recommendations



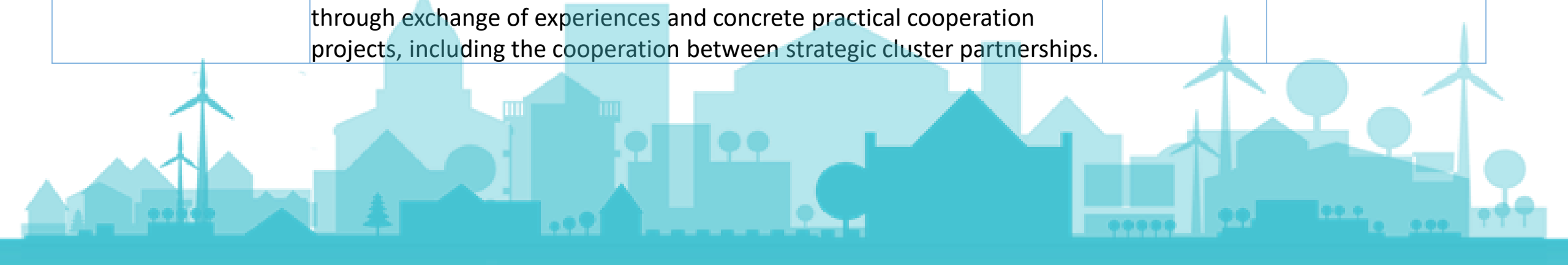
**Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS3) 2.0**

This action aims to include a Human Capital Agenda and the local dimension into the Regional Innovation Strategies.

1. Including a Human Capital Agenda as an elementary building block of a RIS3 strategy and monitoring.
2. **Improving the bottom-up process** by building stronger on local policies and strategies and more systematically including the cities as drivers of innovation and test beds for innovative solutions (e.g. the Smart Cities and Communities approach) within the RIS3 approach.
3. Including the local level as a strategic partner in the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process of the RIS3 as well as in the RIS3 governance.
4. Developing a more flexible monitoring system by including regional trends and bottlenecks, allowing the RIS3 strategy to maintain its long-term focus whilst taking into account unforeseen disruptive economic developments.
5. Building connections between and within regions and cities to boost the innovative potential and performance of regions and neighbourhoods through exchange of experiences and concrete practical cooperation projects, including the cooperation between strategic cluster partnerships.

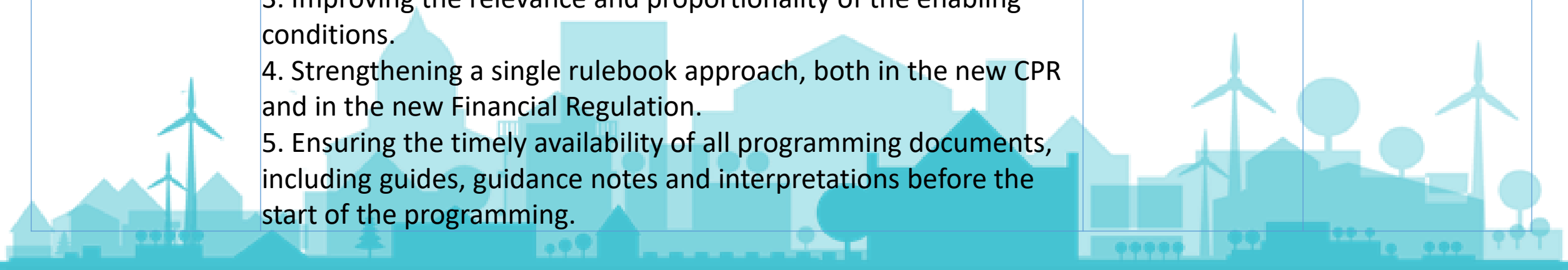
Better Regulation

Policy recommendations

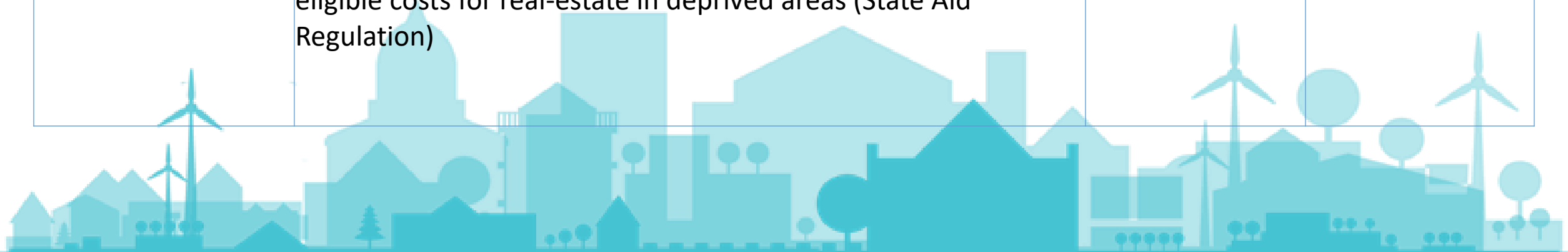




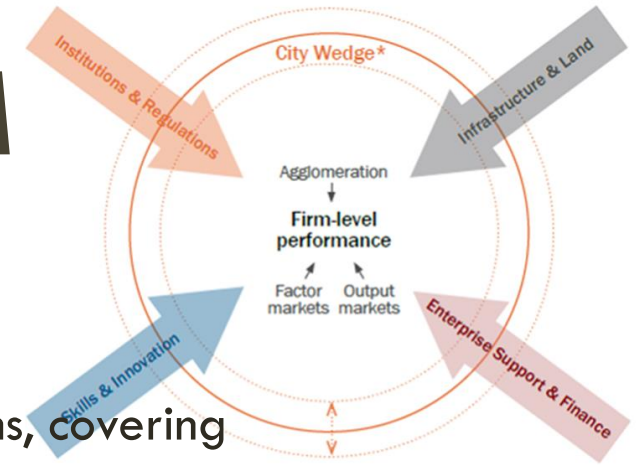
<p>Long Term Investments</p>	<p>This action proposes to promote and optimise the long-term investment framework for jobs and skills.</p> <p>Identifying existing investment platforms supporting jobs and skills and taking stock of their strengths and weaknesses.</p> <p>2. Analysing how the post 2020 EU programmes can (better) support local and regional programmes, the RIS3 and related regional skills Agendas.</p> <p>3. Improving the proposals for a better and more efficient use of technical assistance at national, regional and local level.</p>	<p>Better Funding</p>	<p>Modification to existing EU legislation</p>
<p>Horizontal Action: Simplification 2.0</p>	<p>The action consists of simplifying future EU cohesion policy programmes for urban areas.</p> <p>1. Identifying how the simplification proposals have been included in the proposals for the new Fund regulations (CPR, ERDF and CF, ESF+, Interreg).</p> <p>2. Ensuring a more differentiated approach can be negotiated at the level of operational programmes.</p> <p>3. Improving the relevance and proportionality of the enabling conditions.</p> <p>4. Strengthening a single rulebook approach, both in the new CPR and in the new Financial Regulation.</p> <p>5. Ensuring the timely availability of all programming documents, including guides, guidance notes and interpretations before the start of the programming.</p>	<p>Better Funding</p>	<p>Modification to existing EU legislation</p>



Funding Deprived Areas	This action aims at funding for the economic and social regeneration of deprived areas “encouraging an ongoing dialogue with EU institutions to promote a more social and economic approach on investments in deprived areas”.	Better Funding	Policy recommendations
ITIS Flexibility	The objective of this action is a more place-based approach - flexibility in Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)	Better Funding	Policy recommendations
Cluster of State Aid and De-Minimis	This action works on two fronts: a) arguing for more flexible State Aid rules for innovative start-ups - change of De-minimis for investments in innovative start-ups (decrease of binding period or increase of De- minimis amount) b) arguing for more flexible rules for regeneration projects - eligible costs for real-estate in deprived areas (State Aid Regulation)	Better Regulation	Policy recommendations



# ACTION 10: JOB-ORIENTED ECOSYSTEM ROMANIA + ITALY, URBACT, MISKOLC



Source: World Bank.

Note: This figure illustrates a framework for thinking about competitive cities. Firm-level performance is placed at the center of the framework, because jobs, income, and productivity are at root causes of economic growth. Firm-level performance is a function of factor markets, entrepreneurial ability, output markets, and which firms are able to exploit their own and others' comparative advantages. Cities can assert these levers of economic development using the city wedge.

\*The term "City wedge" refers to the policy space available to and the leverage that various city actors can use to modify key conditions of the business environment in the city, that are largely shaped by external forces including market trends and national policies.

**Deliverables:** Practical guide addressed at small and medium-sized towns, covering regulations (local), education and governance + examples of good practice

**National project:** 'Elaboration of urban policy as a tool for strengthening the administrative capacity and strategic planning of urban areas in Romania'

- EU funding: 4.2 million euro
- World Bank expertise

## Results

- Transposing the objectives and principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, National Urban Policy in OECD Countries report, Leipzig Charter and **Urban Agenda for the EU** at national level
- Biannual dialogue group and technical support platform for implementing convened **Urban Agenda for the EU** actions at (sub)national level

Project results at national level will feed back into the practical guide at European level





MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



THANK YOU

Liviu BĂILEȘTEANU  
Bogdan MICU  
Ministry of Regional Development and Public  
Administration

e. [liviu.bailesteanu@mdrap.ro](mailto:liviu.bailesteanu@mdrap.ro)  
[bogdan.micu@mdrap.ro](mailto:bogdan.micu@mdrap.ro)  
w. [www.mdrap.gov.ro](http://www.mdrap.gov.ro)