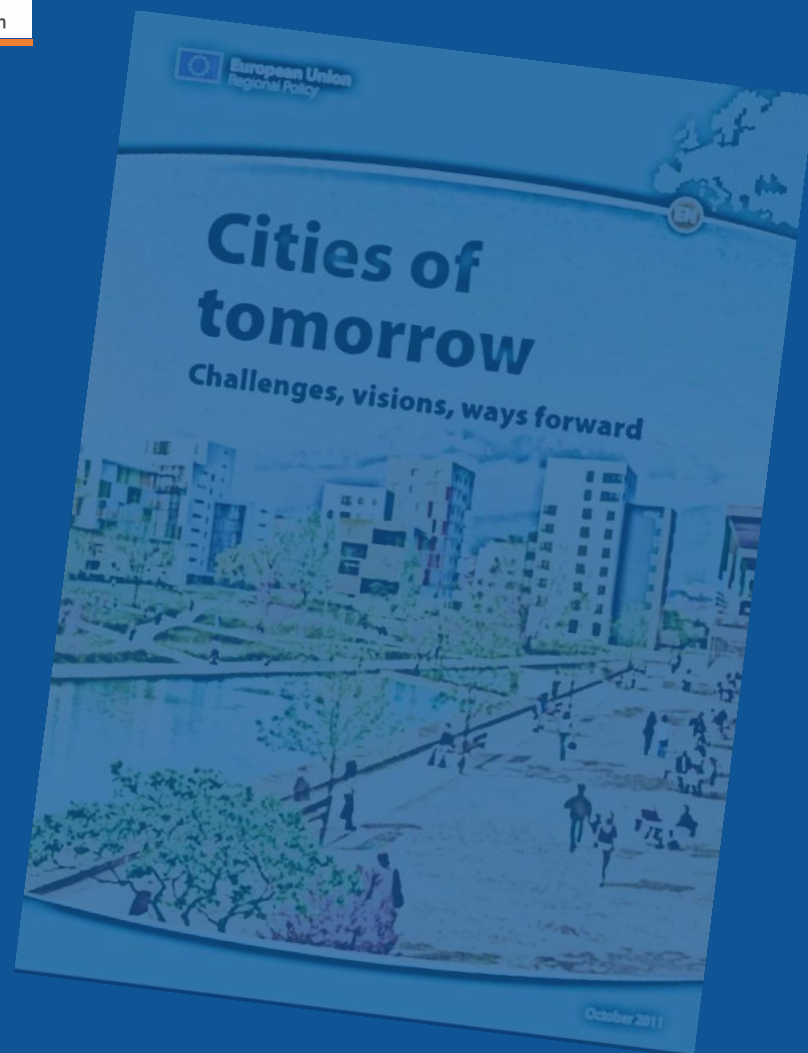




European  
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# Developing the EU urban agenda



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## EU urban agenda - what is the issue?

Europe continues to be faced with challenges related to the economy, the climate, the environment, and society at large: *most have a strong urban dimension*

- manifest themselves in and around cities - *e.g., poverty, social and spatial segregation; environmental degradation; or*
- find their solutions in and through cities – *e.g., resource efficiency; CO<sub>2</sub> neutral economy; economic development and innovation; social innovation and integration*

BUT

- *Policy response at European and national level has been slow and piecemeal - many but poorly integrated sectoral initiatives.*

# EU focus on cities and urban development

| DG/ Agency                                  | Policy/<br>regulation | Targeting<br>cities/<br>local | Local<br>projects | Studies/<br>research | Tools |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Climate Action                              | X                     | X                             |                   | X                    | X     |
| Competition                                 | X                     |                               |                   |                      |       |
| Communic. Networks, Content<br>& Technology | X                     | X                             | X                 | X                    | X     |
| Education and Culture                       | X                     | X                             |                   |                      |       |
| European Environment Agency                 |                       |                               |                   | X                    | X     |
| Employment, Social Affairs<br>and Inclusion | X                     | X                             | X                 |                      |       |
| Energy                                      | X                     | X                             | X                 |                      | X     |
| Environment                                 | X                     | X                             | X                 | X                    | X     |
| Eurostat                                    |                       | X                             |                   | X                    |       |
| Home Affairs                                | X                     | X                             | X                 |                      | X     |
| Joint Research Centre                       | X                     |                               |                   | X                    | X     |
| Justice                                     | X                     | X                             |                   |                      |       |
| Mobility and Transport                      | X                     | X                             | X                 |                      | X     |
| Regional and Urban Policy                   | X                     | X                             | X                 | X                    | X     |
| Research and Innovation                     | X                     |                               |                   | X                    |       |
| Health and Consumers                        | X                     | X                             |                   |                      |       |

# CITIES

## Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe

Brussels, 17-18 February 2014

➤ **Response to the calls for an EU urban agenda** from Member States, the European Parliament, UN HABITAT, the Committee of the Regions, city stakeholder organisations

- **Debating at European level**
- *the urban dimension of EU policymaking*
  - *cities' key role for EU & national policy implementation.*



## Strong demand for an EU urban agenda

- increase the **quality, efficiency** and **effectiveness of policies** through
  - ***better coordination*** of policies, actors and governance levels; *and*
  - ***better understanding*** of urban development contexts in the conception and implementation of policies
- strengthen ***cities' engagement and ownership*** of EU and national policymaking and implementation, especially Europe 2020
- support ***cities' capacity for transition and structural change*** to ensure viable urban economies and a socially, environmentally and territorially sustainable development of urban areas
- *Framework for action; Flexibility; No new legislation; Subsidiarity*

## Problematic issues?

- **Defining an EU urban agenda**
- **EU vs European urban agenda?**
- **Role of different governance levels?**
- **Urban vs. Territorial Agenda?**
- **Role of cities for territorial development?**
- **Is small vs. big cities an issue?**
- **Urban poverty**
  - Address causes or treat symptoms?
  - Policies at what level?
  - What is the urban dimension of poverty?
  - ...



## Public consultation on an EU urban agenda

- The Communication "*THE URBAN DIMENSION OF EU POLICIES – KEY FEATURES OF AN EU URBAN AGENDA*" launching a public consultation on the EU urban agenda was adopted on July 18<sup>th</sup>
- The communication sets out (i) the current urban situation in the EU; (ii) urban policy in Europe; (iii) the calls for an EU urban agenda; (iv) the global dimension of urban development; and (v) the potential ways forward with questions for consultation.
- Public consultation open between 18 July – 26 September 2014

## Questions for consultation

1. What are the main rationales for an EU urban agenda?
2. Should an EU urban agenda focus on a limited number of urban challenges or provide a general?
3. Is "Cities of Tomorrow" a sufficient basis?
4. How can urban stakeholders better contribute to the policy processes at EU level?
5. What are the best ways to support a stronger urban and territorial knowledge base and exchange of experience?
6. What should be the roles of the local, regional, national and EU levels?



## Preliminary analysis

- > 200 stakeholders have responded;
  - MS, capitals, city associations, cities; NGOs, private firms, individuals, ...
- Broad agreement on the need for an EU urban agenda
  - improve coordination of policies
  - establish stronger links with citizens & improve their lives
  - improve implementation of agreed strategies, i.e., Europe 2020
  - address pressing societal challenges, e.g., carbon neutral economy

## Preliminary analysis (cont.)

- Working method to ensure better involvement of cities in EU policy processes
- Focus on priorities of special relevance to EU & its cities - especially linked to Europe 2020

*BUT*

- No new legislation, respect subsidiarity
- No one-size-fits-all solutions, not only for biggest cities

## Taking the agenda further - critical issues

- Recognition of the role of cities in the implementation of Europe 2020
- Horizontal and vertical policy coordination and integration
- Targets and monitoring of progress

=> Developing the evidence-base

- **ESPON, 6<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report, Eurostat, Urban Audit, State of the Cities Report, URBACT, JRC, EEA, etc.**

# Urban Agenda implementation tools

## *Integrated ERDF funding*

- ERDF Article 7 (min 5% for integrated actions in support of sustainable urban development)
- Urban Innovative Action (ERDF art 8)

## *Coordination mechanisms*

- Urban Development Network (ERDF art 9)
- Inter-Service Group
- Expert Group Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters (EGTCUM)

## Next steps

- Report the results December/January
- Continue discussions with Cities, Member States, European Parliament, etc. to identify problematic areas
- “Urban screening” of European legislation (urban impact assessment)
- Continued development of the knowledge-base and monitoring
- Strengthened inter-service coordination
- Analyse uptake of urban dimension in cohesion policy programming (report end 2015)
- Concerted use of the Cohesion Policy tools



# Thank you!

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/consultation/urb\\_agenda/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/urb_agenda/index_en.cfm)