

The Urban Pact of Amsterdam

“The Urban Agenda for the EU acknowledges:

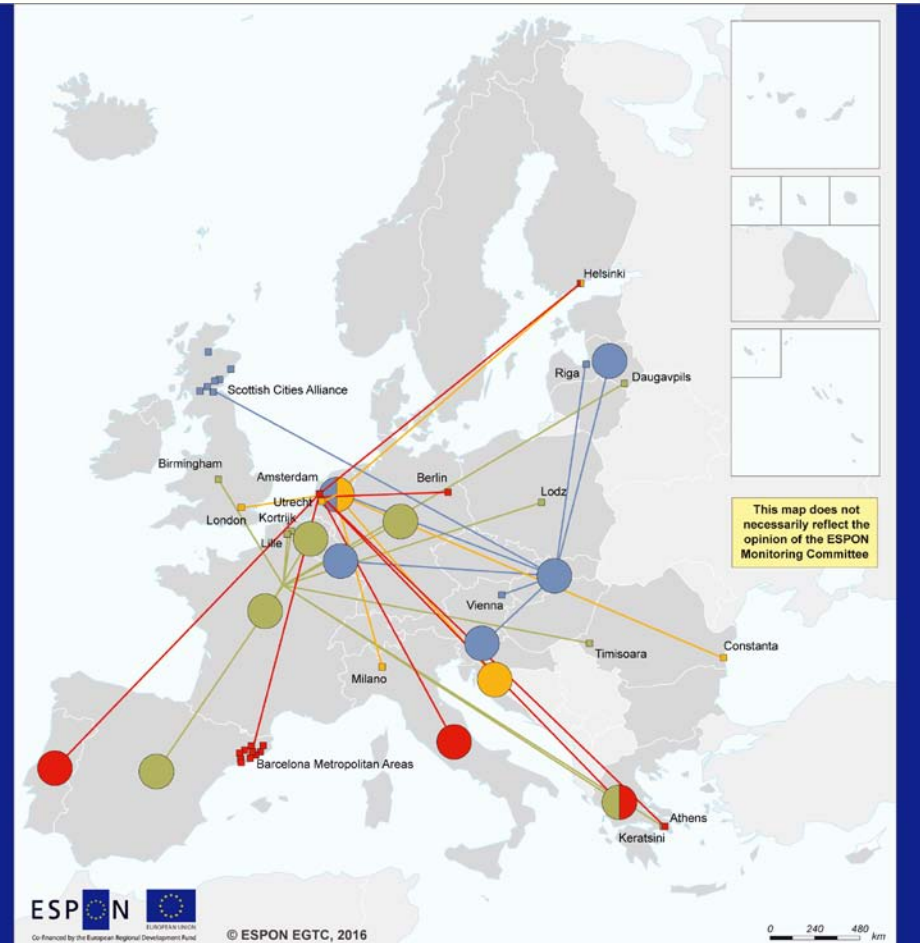
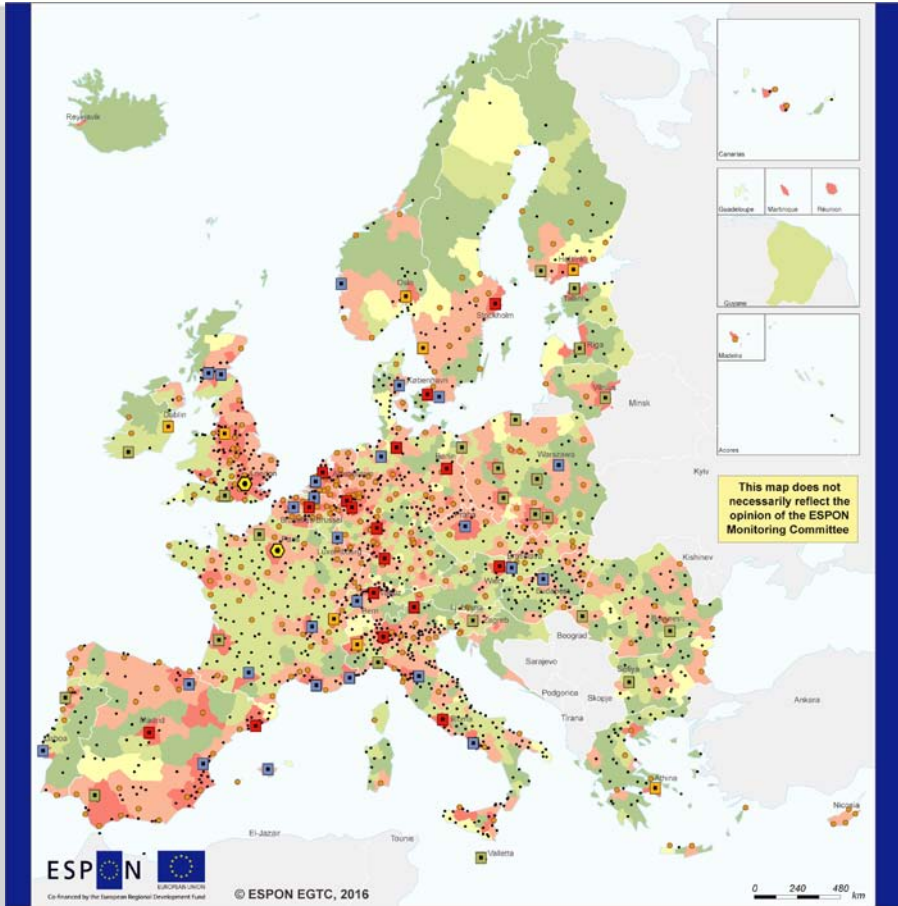
- The polycentric structure of Europe and the diversity of Urban Areas across the EU
- The importance of Urban Areas of all sizes and contexts in the further development of the European Union
- A growing number of challenges are of a local nature, but require a wider territorial solution and cooperation within functional urban areas”

ESPON Policy Brief

Policy Brief on wider territorial context:

1. Brings examples of European-wide territorial evidence related to the first 4 partnerships of the Urban Pact that reveals the diversity facing cities within the same urban theme
2. Presents some observations and policy considerations that are relevant from a wider territorial perspective
3. Informs the partnerships and all interested stakeholders of the potential ESPON evidence support to provide new evidence on the priority themes listed in the Urban Pact.

First 4 Partnerships



FUA & MEGA classification

Type of NUTS3 region

- Global nodes
- European engines
- Strong MEGAs
- Potential MEGAs
- Weak MEGAs
- Transnational/national FUA
- Regional/local FUA

- Predominantly urban regions
- Intermediate regions, close to a city
- Intermediate, remote regions
- Predominantly rural regions, close to a city
- Predominantly rural, remote regions

Partnerships of Member States and Urban Areas

- Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
- Air Quality
- Housing
- Urban poverty
- Urban Areas
- Member States

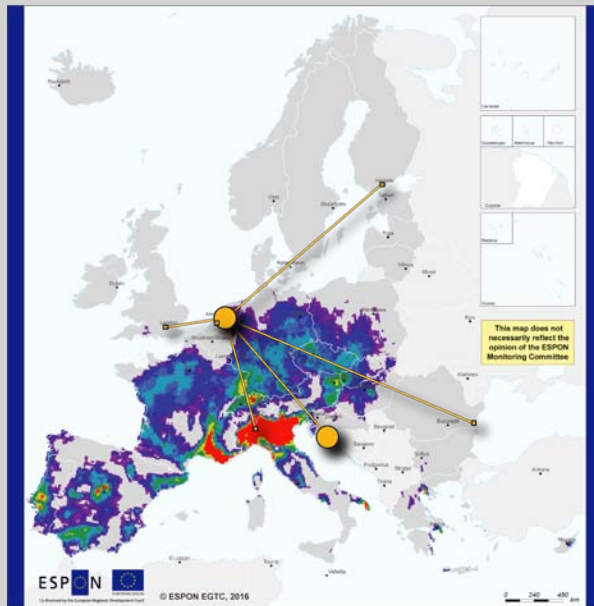
Regional level: NUTS 3 (2010)
Source: ESPON EGTC, 2016
Origin of data: Eurostat, JRC, EFGS, LandScan, REGIO-GIS, ESPON EGTC
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ESPON
EUROPEAN UNION
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
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Regional level: NUTS 3 (2010)
Source: ESPON EGTC, 2016
Origin of data: EU Urban Agenda, May, 2016
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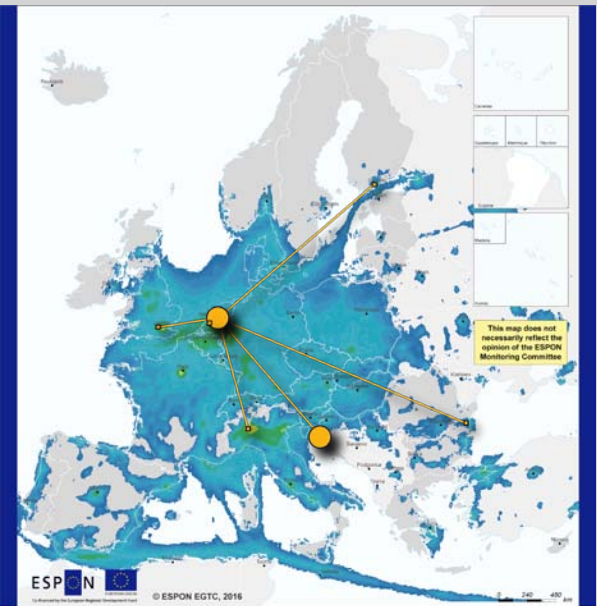
Priority theme – Air quality

The main three pollutants that have the most significant impact on human health: ozone (left), NO₂ (middle), PM₁₀ (right)



Number of days when the 8-hourly average ozone concentration exceeded 120 µg/m³, 2013

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40



Annual averages of NO₂ concentrations, 2013

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40



Number of exceedances of the daily limit PM₁₀ values of 50 µg/m³, 2013

0 10 20 30 40 50

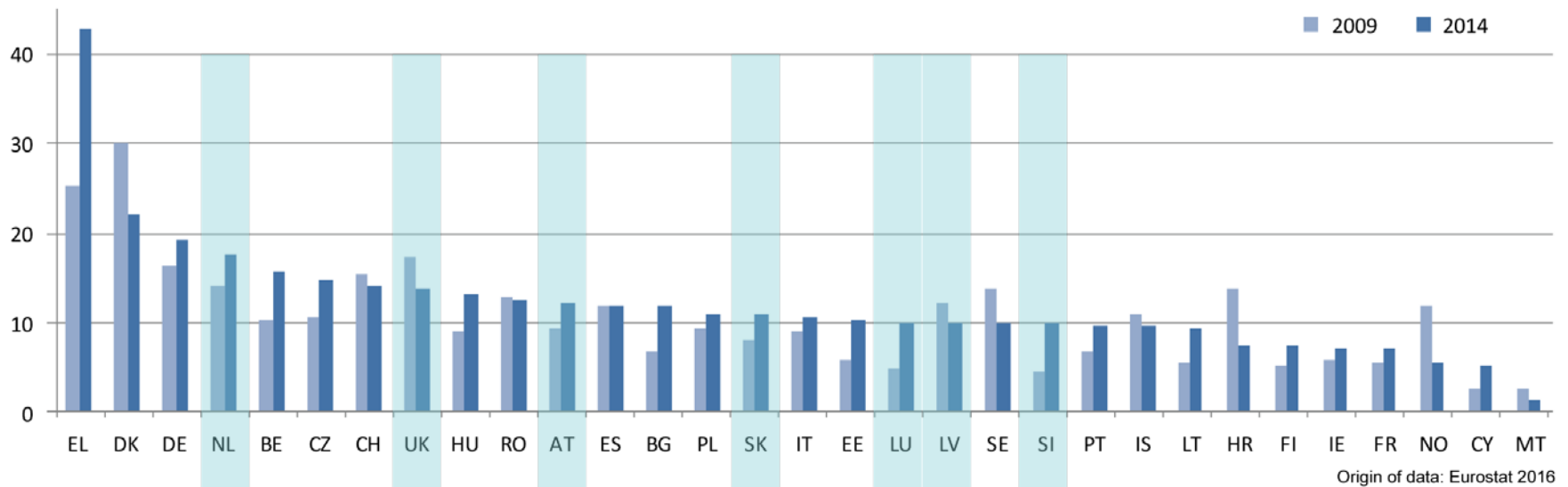
Priority theme – Air quality

Observations and policy considerations

- Air pollution levels in Europe's cities are heavily influenced by a combination of meteorological conditions, topography and extent of urbanisation.
- The uneven distribution of air pollution exceedances will require tailored solutions in specific urban contexts for the protection of human health and the environment.
- Integrated strategies and greater cooperation in urban cross-border regions to reduce emissions should be considered.

Priority theme – Housing affordability

Housing cost overburden rate in cities (% of the urban population),
 2009 & 2014



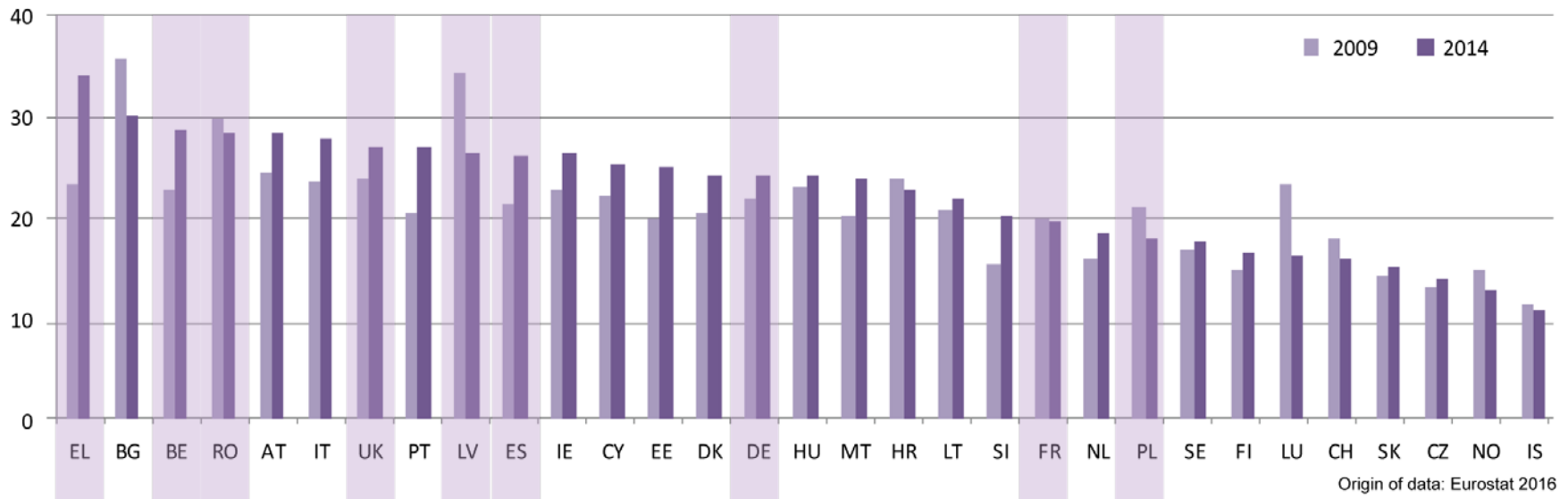
Priority theme – Housing affordability

Observations and policy considerations

- The situation varies significantly across countries, available indicators point to the fact that housing-related expenditure is rising, especially in countries hardest hit by the crisis and austerity.
- The ability to provide affordable housing in economically attractive areas is a key determinant for competitiveness.
- The heterogeneous nature of housing affordability across the EU territory suggests significant opportunities for Europe's cities to collaborate and exchange best-practices.

Priority theme – Urban poverty and social exclusion

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in cities (% of the urban population), 2009 & 2014



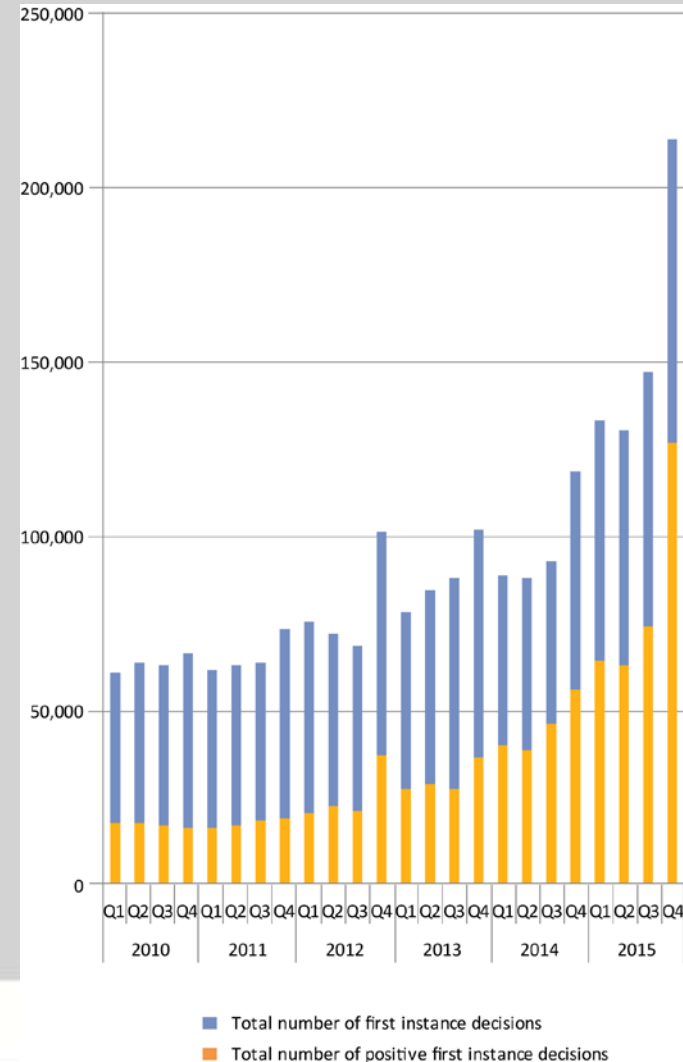
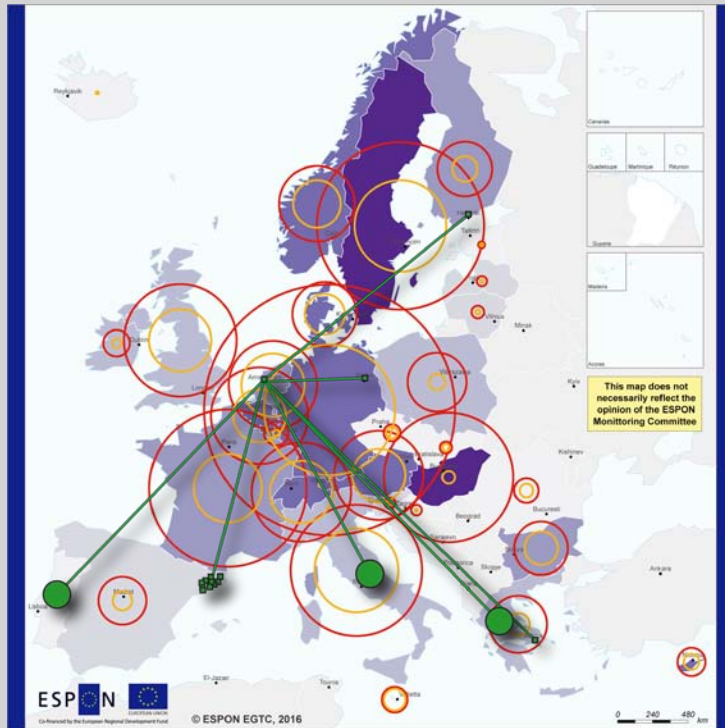
Priority theme – Urban poverty and social exclusion

Observations and policy considerations

- Processes and patterns of exclusion and impoverishment may be observed at both macro and microregional scales. urban poverty and social exclusion often concern only some parts of cities.
- Policies aimed at tackling urban poverty and social exclusion should consider widening the focus upon income poverty, and also consider living costs and other less tangible related aspects, such as income inequality.
- It is important to further invest in developing human skills and capacities in order to improve the opportunities of the people at-risk-of poverty-or-social-exclusion to integrate in society and the labour market.

Priority theme – Inclusion of refugees and migrants

Asylum applications and granted asylums



Priority theme – Inclusion of refugees and migrants

Observations and policy considerations

- Refugee crisis is predominantly an urban issue. More than 60% of the world's refugees are in urban areas, and nearly 20% just in the world's 20 largest cities.
- The inclusion policies need to take into account the diverse backgrounds and skills of the migrants and refugees.
- Early investment in integration is essential and has proven itself to pay off in the long run.
- Complementing with bottom-up approaches involving different actors, levels of governance etc. a key for an effective and successful integration policy.
- Coordinating through a platform of exchange of knowledge beneficial to integrate refugees.

Key messages for the Partnerships

1. Benchmark the cities in the partnership from a European perspective and acknowledge the diversity of situations of the cities involved
2. Consider the wider territorial context by analysing comparative advantages and disadvantages within the functional urban context which should be processed together
3. Promote territorial cooperation arrangements with other cities, cities in the vicinity or further away, and rural territories close by in finding joint solutions and exchange experience.
4. Take up the offer from ESPON to support the partnership with European territorial evidence and knowledge

ESPON 2020

Thank you for your attention

Inspire policy making by territorial evidence

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