

An aerial photograph of a city during autumn. The foreground shows a person walking on a path through a grassy area. The middle ground is filled with residential buildings and trees with vibrant yellow and orange foliage. In the background, a large body of water is visible, surrounded by distant hills under a clear sky.

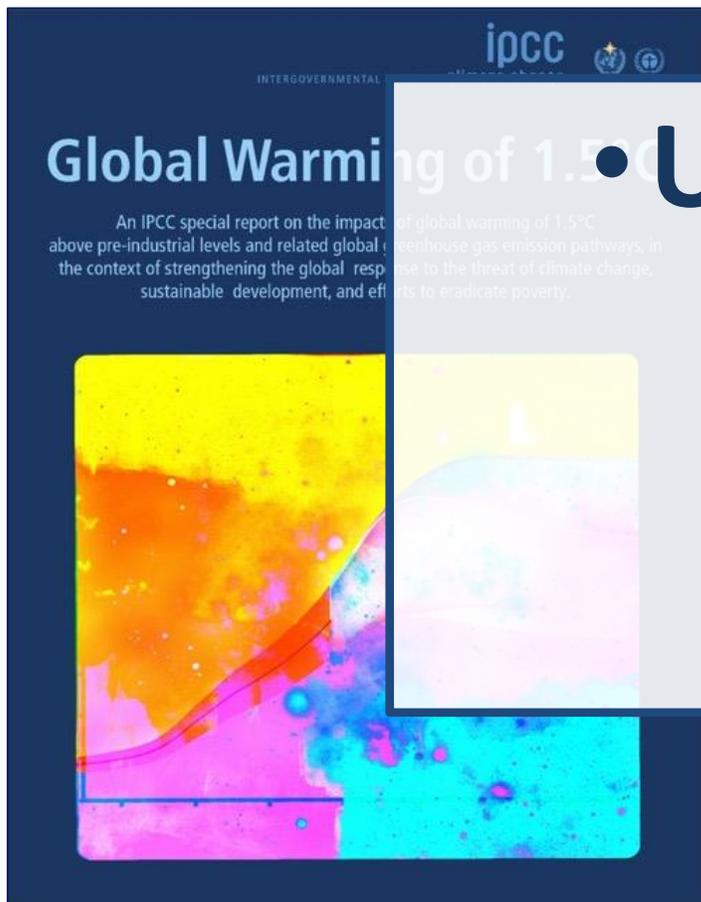
EEA Strategy 2021-2030: A key role for urban sustainability

Hans Bruyninckx | Urban Stakeholders Meeting | 30 November 2020

1. IPCC report on global warming of 1.5°C

2. IPBES global report on biodiversity and ecosystem services

3. International Resource Panel global outlook 2019



- Urgent action needed
- Irreversibilities
- Tipping points
- Interconnected



The European Green Deal

#EUGreenDeal



“ We are committed to deliver on the European Green Deal and the digital transformation. This Work Programme will help build a Union that strives for more.

Ursula von der Leyen

#VdLCommission



COVID-19
EU CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE



Next
Generation
EU



#NextGenerationEU #EUBudget



The 2020s: a pivotal decade for Europe

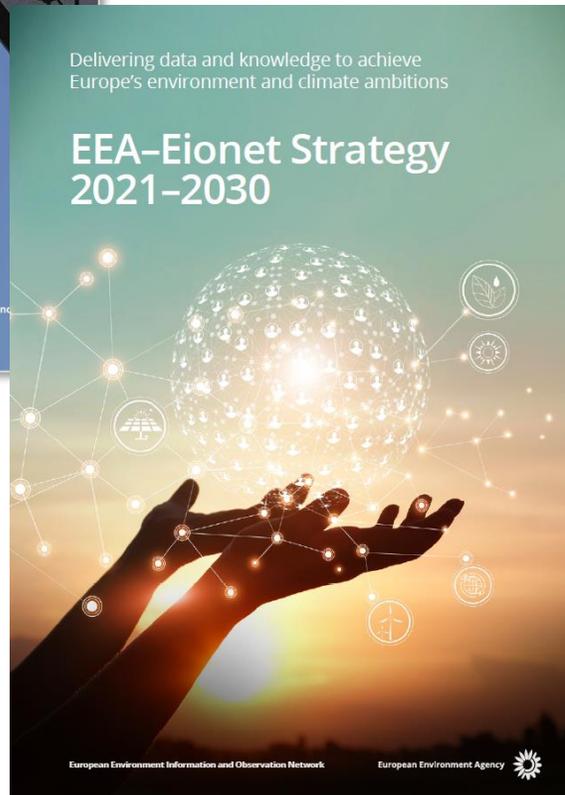
*“Europe stands at a **critical juncture** in 2020. Its leaders have opportunities to **shape future** developments that will not be available to their successors. The coming decade will therefore be of decisive importance in determining Europe’s **opportunities** in the 21st century.”*

SOER 2020

European Environment Agency



A receptive EU environment for transformative actions and knowledge



- European Commission (Von der Leyen, Timmermans, Šefčovič cabinets)
- European Parliament (ENVI committee)
- European Economic and Social Committee
- European Committee of the Regions

The emergence of transformative policy since 2014

Change has come very rapidly*

2014: EU 7th EAP, Horizon 2020

2015: UN Agenda 2030/SDGs, Paris Agreement, Circular Economy

2016: Pact of Amsterdam; Habitat III

2015-2018: EU strategies: energy, mobility, circular, low-carbon, etc.

2019: European Green Deal, Digital Agenda

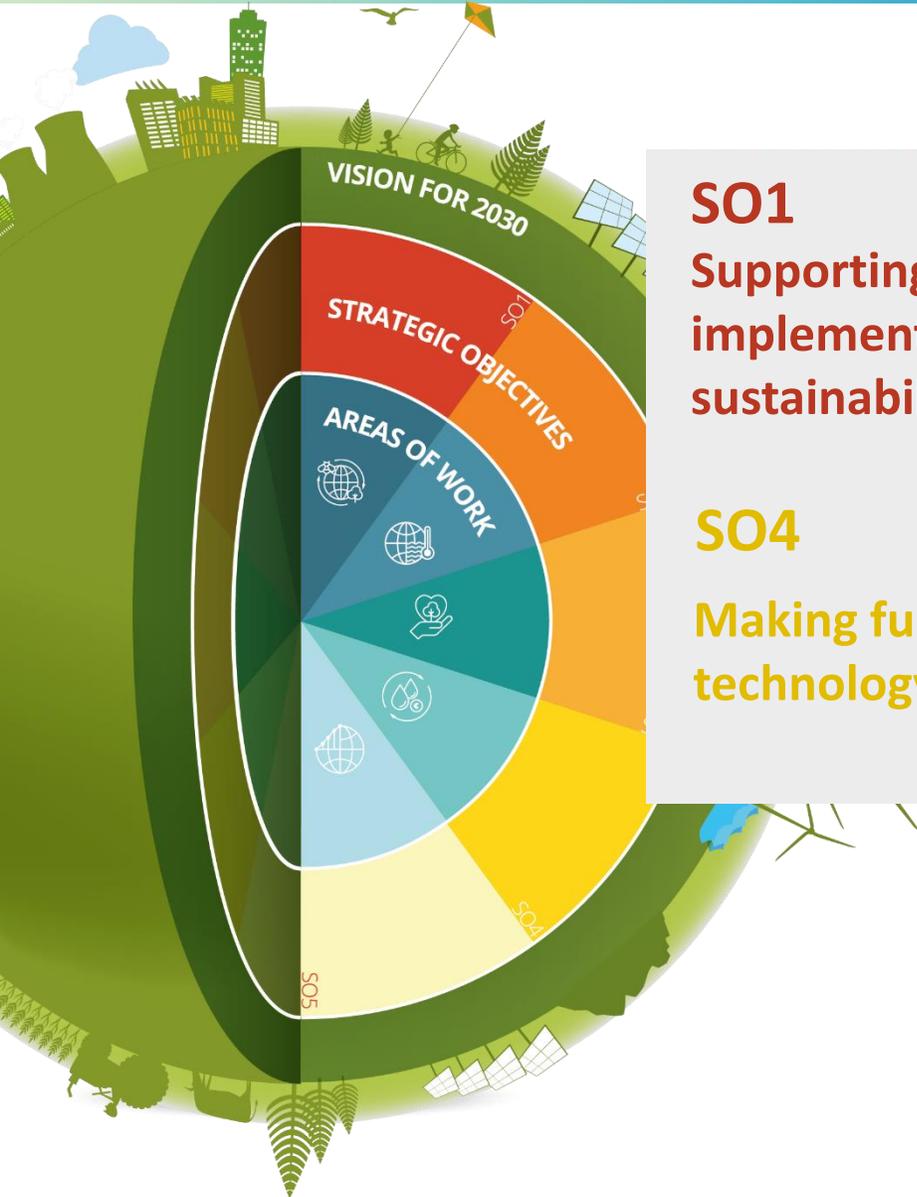
2020: Multiple EGD packages; 8th EAP; Horizon Europe

Remarkably Corona-resilient!

*But very slowly if you look at science: Club of Rome;
Brundtland Report; Rio Declaration; IPCC; GEO; ...



EEA Strategy 2030: A knowledge response to transformative agenda



SO1
Supporting policy
implementation and
sustainability transitions

SO2
Providing timely input to
solutions for
sustainability challenges

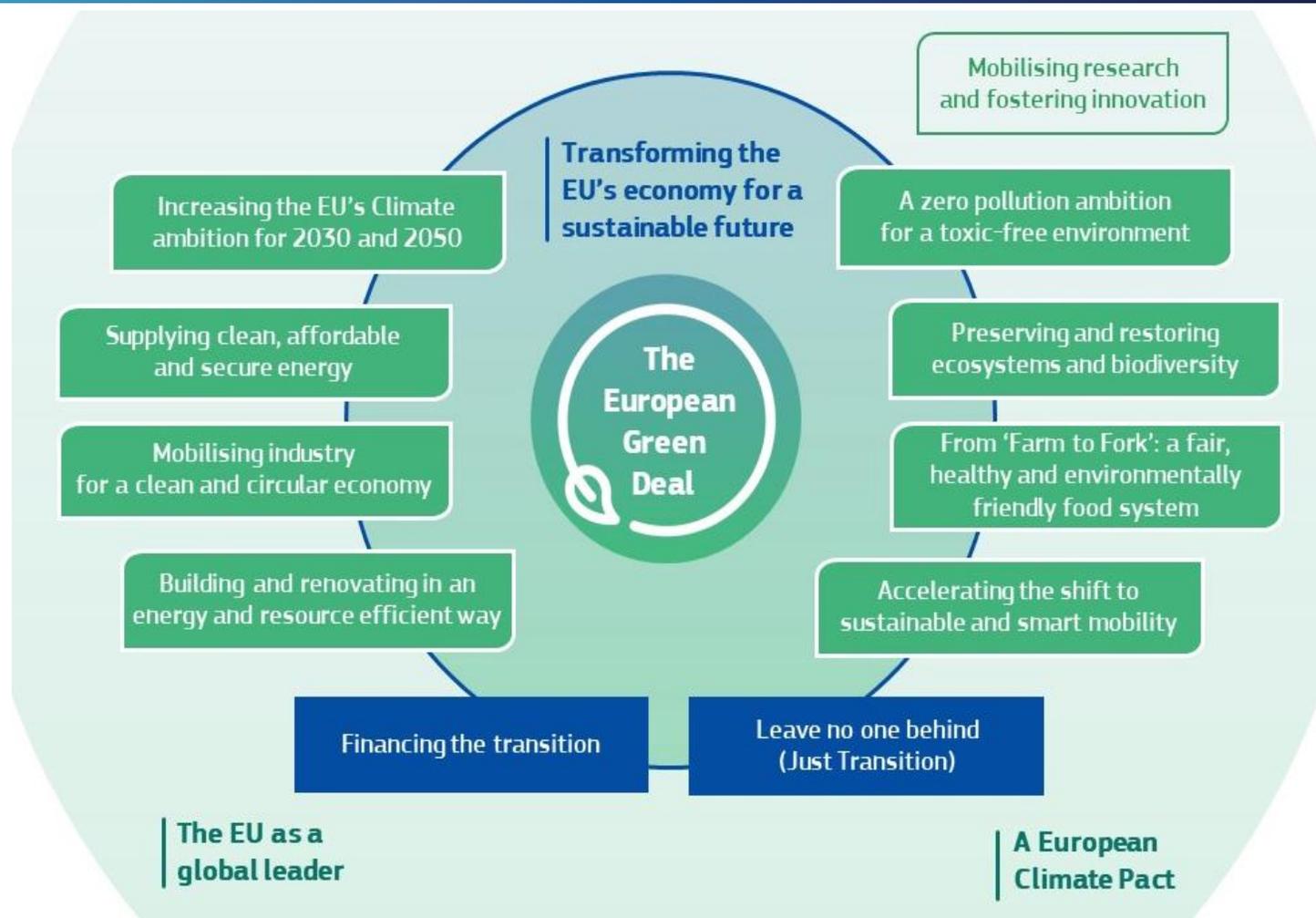
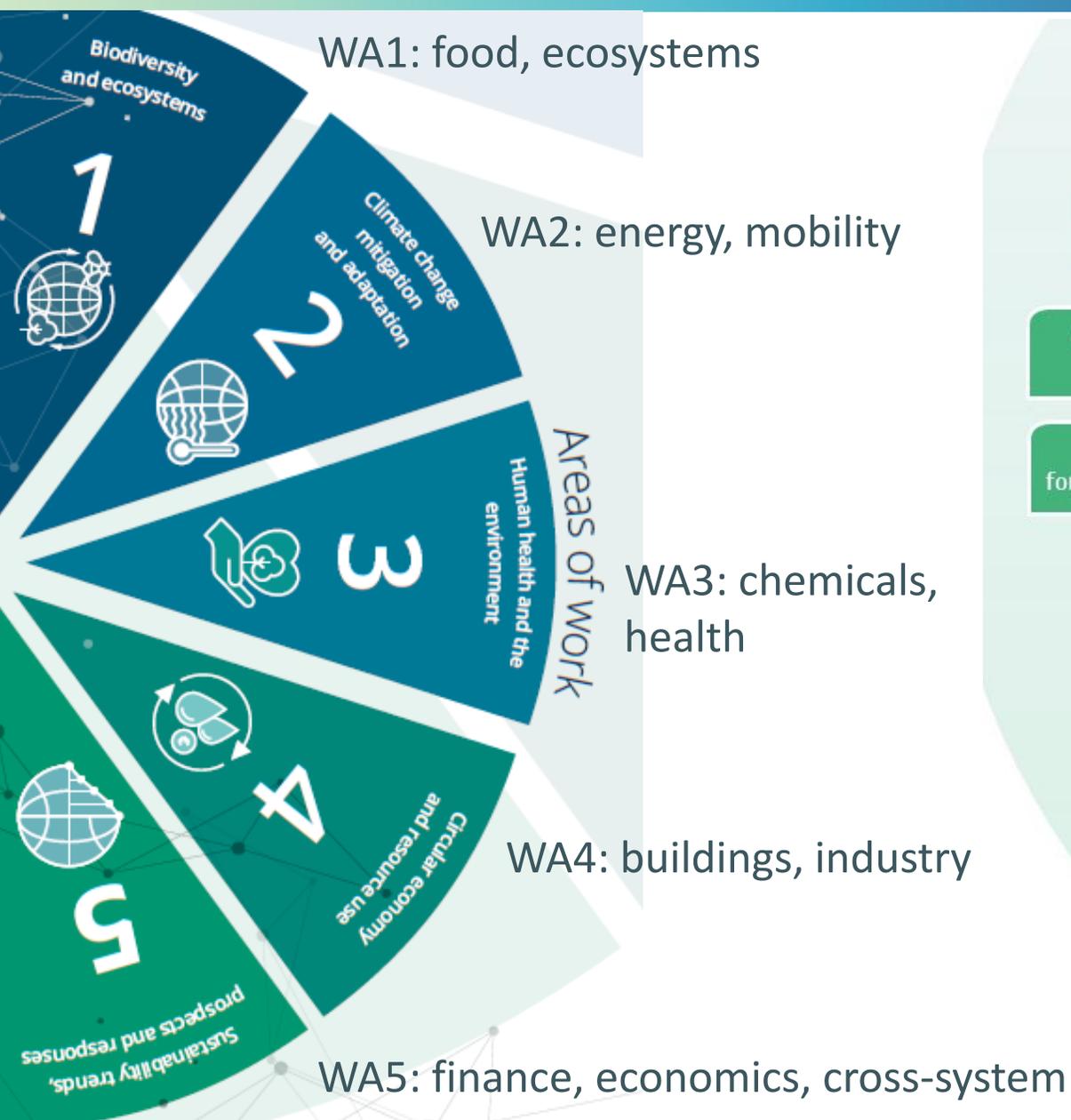
SO3
Building stronger
networks and
partnerships

SO4
Making full use of the potential of data,
technology and digitalisation

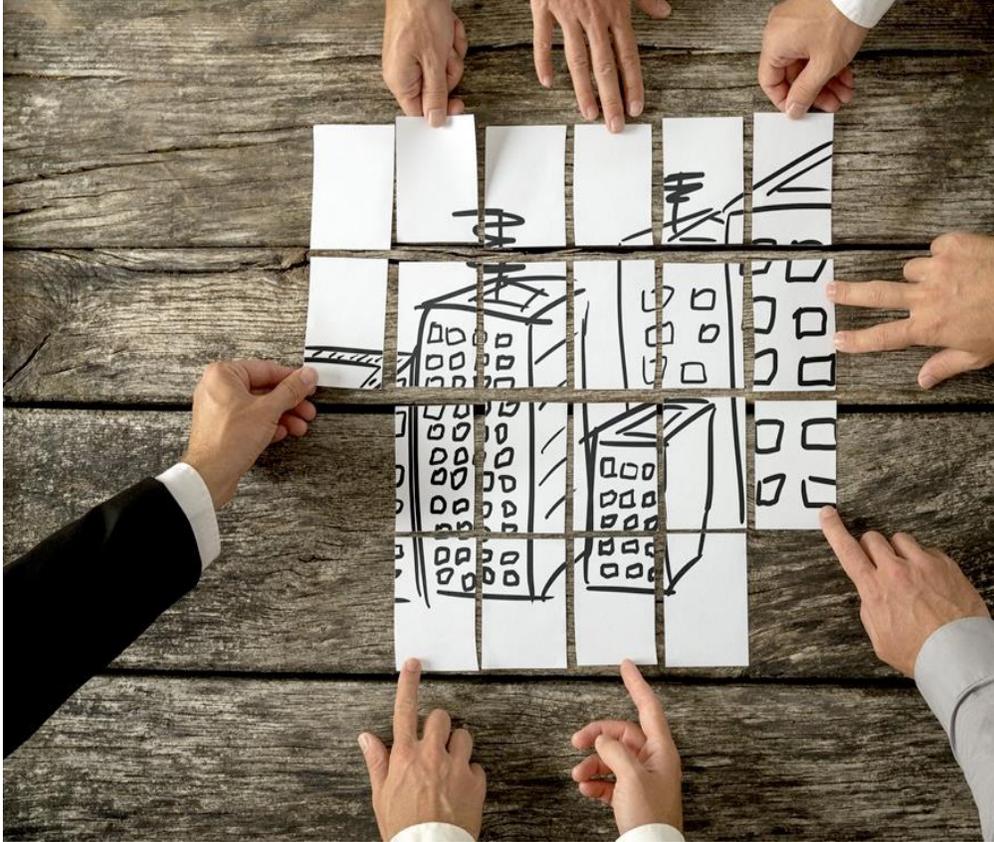
SO5
Resourcing our shared ambitions



That links to the European Green Deal and EU's urban agenda



The importance of the urban sustainability agenda



- Towns and cities home to around 3/4 of the EU's population
- Most EU policies concern cities, directly or indirectly
- A distinct (elected) governance level
- A scale integrator – proximity and participation



EEA's knowledge model: systemic and resonant with EU priorities



EU Urban agenda priorities



URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU



INCLUSION OF
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



AIR QUALITY



HOUSING



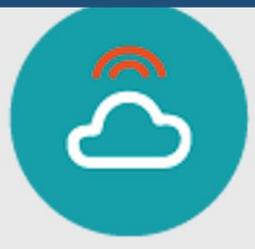
URBAN POVERTY



CLIMATE
ADAPTATION



ENERGY
TRANSITION



DIGITAL
TRANSITION



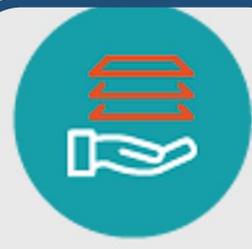
URBAN
MOBILITY



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



JOBS & SKILLS
IN LOCAL ECONOMY



PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT



SUSTAINABLE USE
OF LAND AND
NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS

Towards a European urban initiative

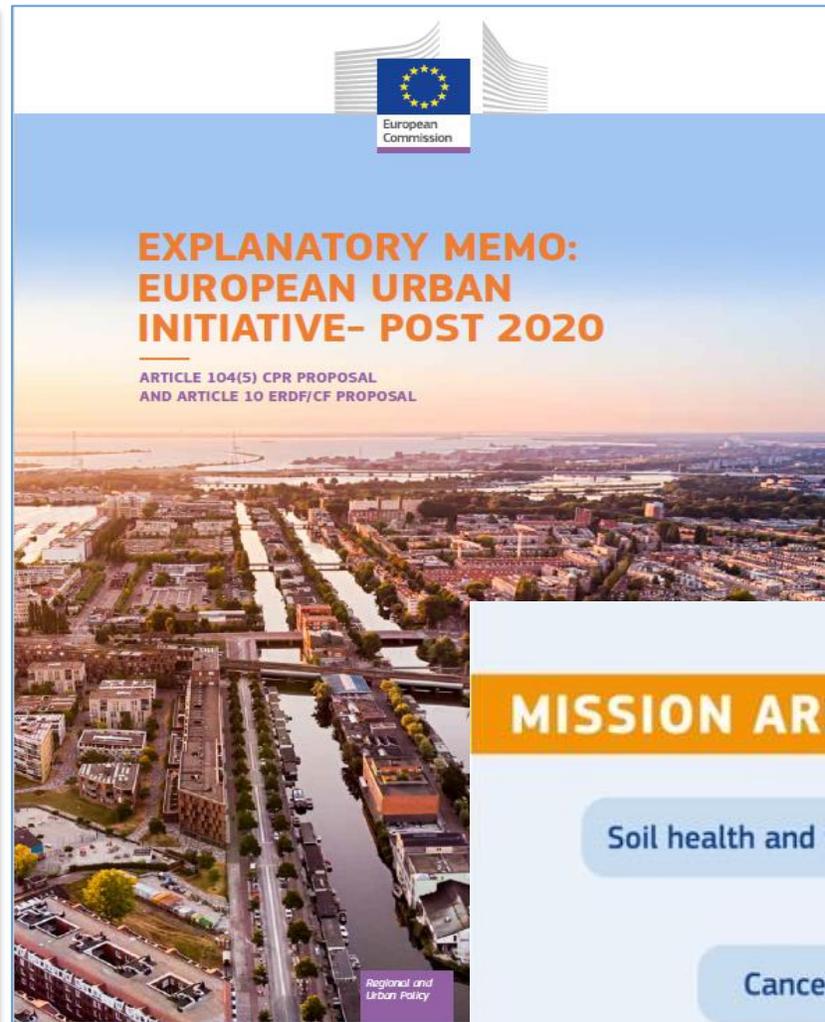


European Commission

Urban agenda for the EU
Multi-level governance in action

Regional and Urban Policy

This cover features a photograph of a busy pedestrian street in a European city, with people walking and historic buildings in the background. The European Commission logo is at the top left, and the text 'Urban agenda for the EU' and 'Multi-level governance in action' is centered in blue. A small box at the bottom right identifies it as 'Regional and Urban Policy'.



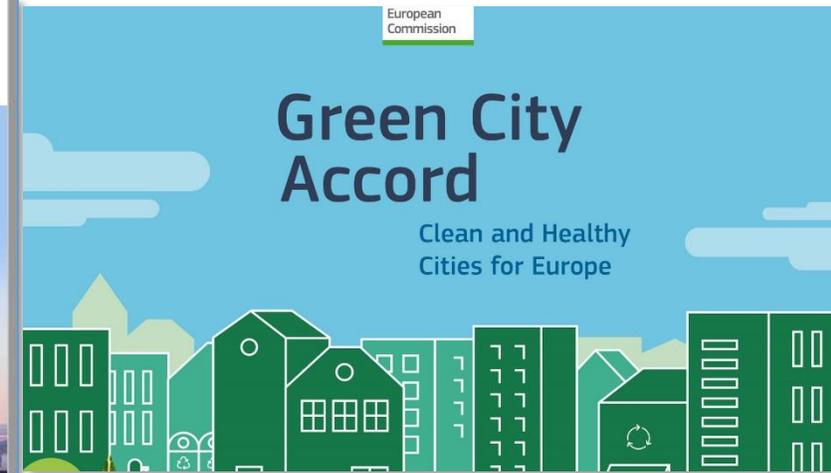
European Commission

**EXPLANATORY MEMO:
EUROPEAN URBAN
INITIATIVE- POST 2020**

ARTICLE 104(5) CPR PROPOSAL
AND ARTICLE 10 ERDF/CF PROPOSAL

Regional and Urban Policy

This cover features an aerial view of a city with a prominent canal system. The European Commission logo is at the top center. The title 'EXPLANATORY MEMO: EUROPEAN URBAN INITIATIVE- POST 2020' is in large orange letters, with the subtitle 'ARTICLE 104(5) CPR PROPOSAL AND ARTICLE 10 ERDF/CF PROPOSAL' below it. A small box at the bottom right identifies it as 'Regional and Urban Policy'.

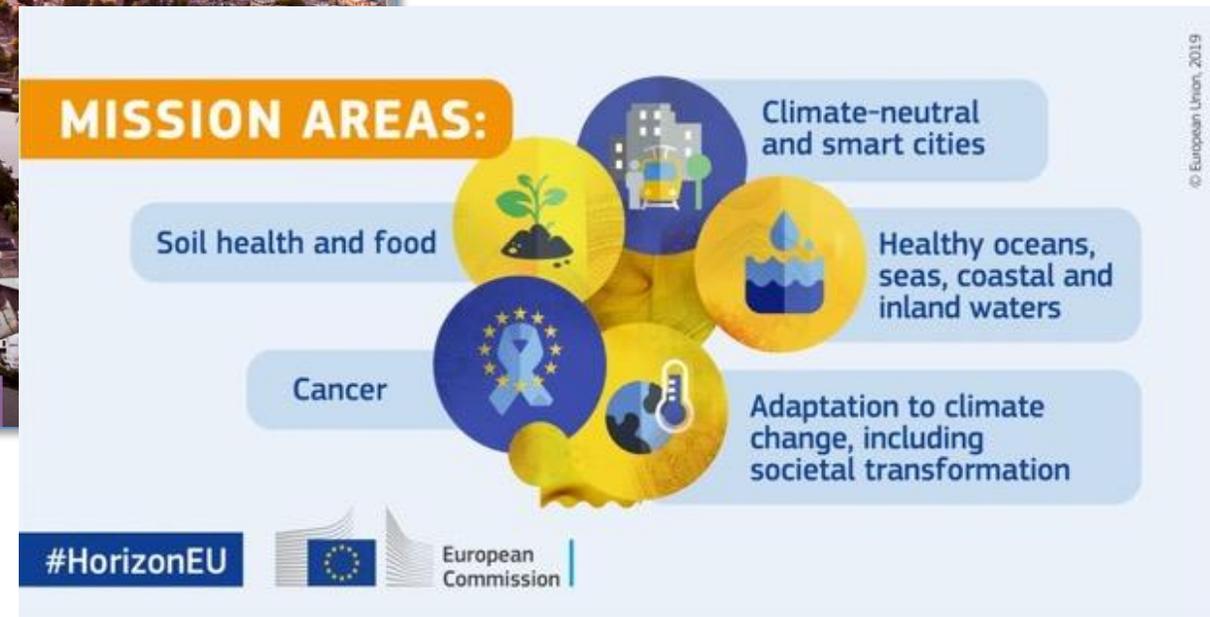


European Commission

Green City Accord

Clean and Healthy Cities for Europe

This cover features a stylized illustration of green buildings and a recycling symbol. The European Commission logo is at the top left. The title 'Green City Accord' is in large dark blue letters, with the subtitle 'Clean and Healthy Cities for Europe' below it.



MISSION AREAS:

- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Soil health and food
- Cancer
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation

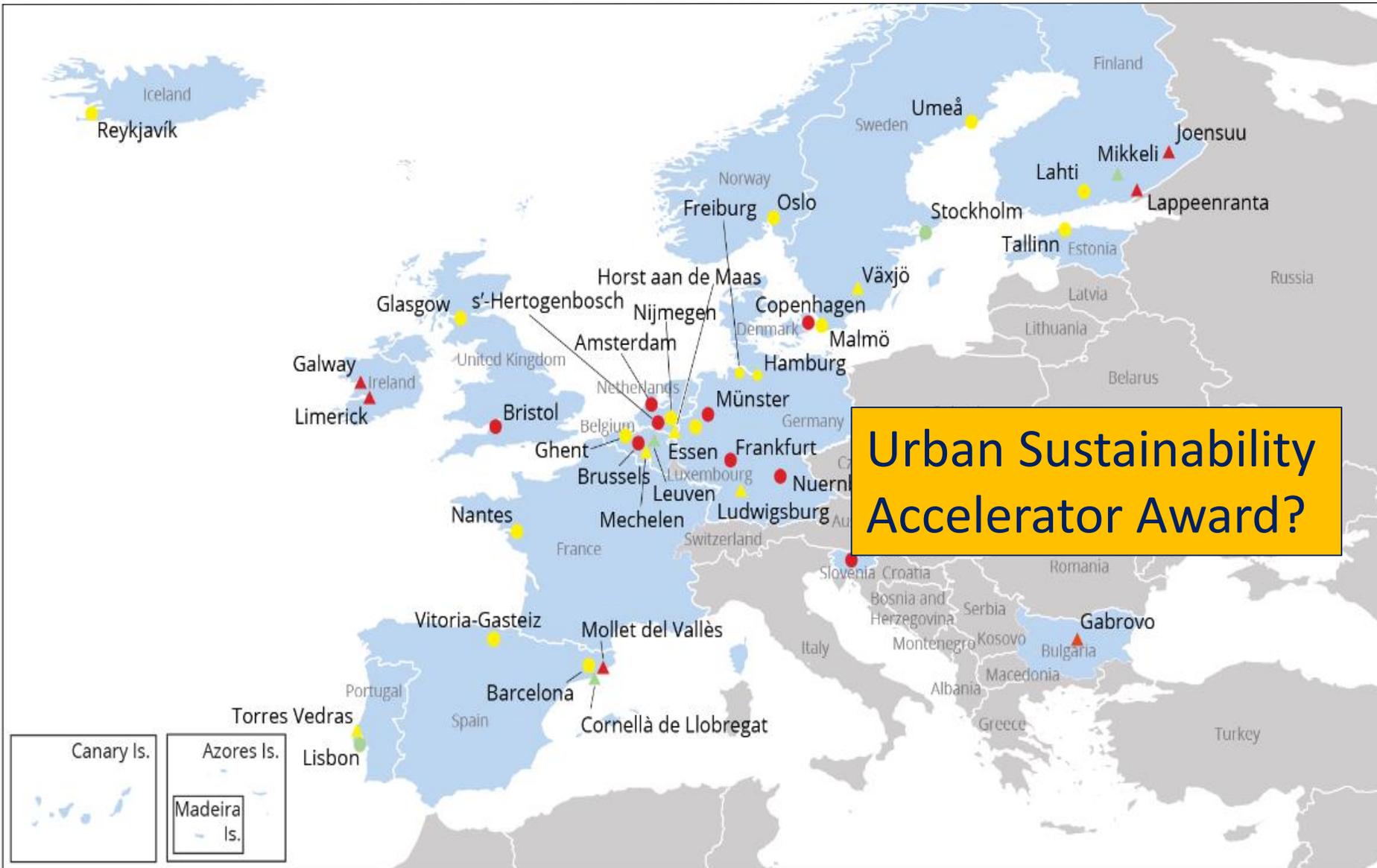
#HorizonEU

European Commission

© European Union, 2019

This infographic features a central cluster of five circular icons: a plant growing from soil, a city skyline, a water drop, a cancer ribbon, and a globe with a thermometer. Each icon is connected to a text box describing a mission area. The background is light blue with a white banner at the top for the title. The bottom includes the #HorizonEU hashtag, the European Commission logo, and a copyright notice.

A benchmarking initiative: taking the pulse of (NW) European cities



European Green Capital Award

- Responded to survey
- No response to survey
- Interviewed

European Green Leaf Award

- ▲ Responded to survey
- ▲ No response to survey
- ▲ Interviewed

Urban Sustainability Accelerator Award?

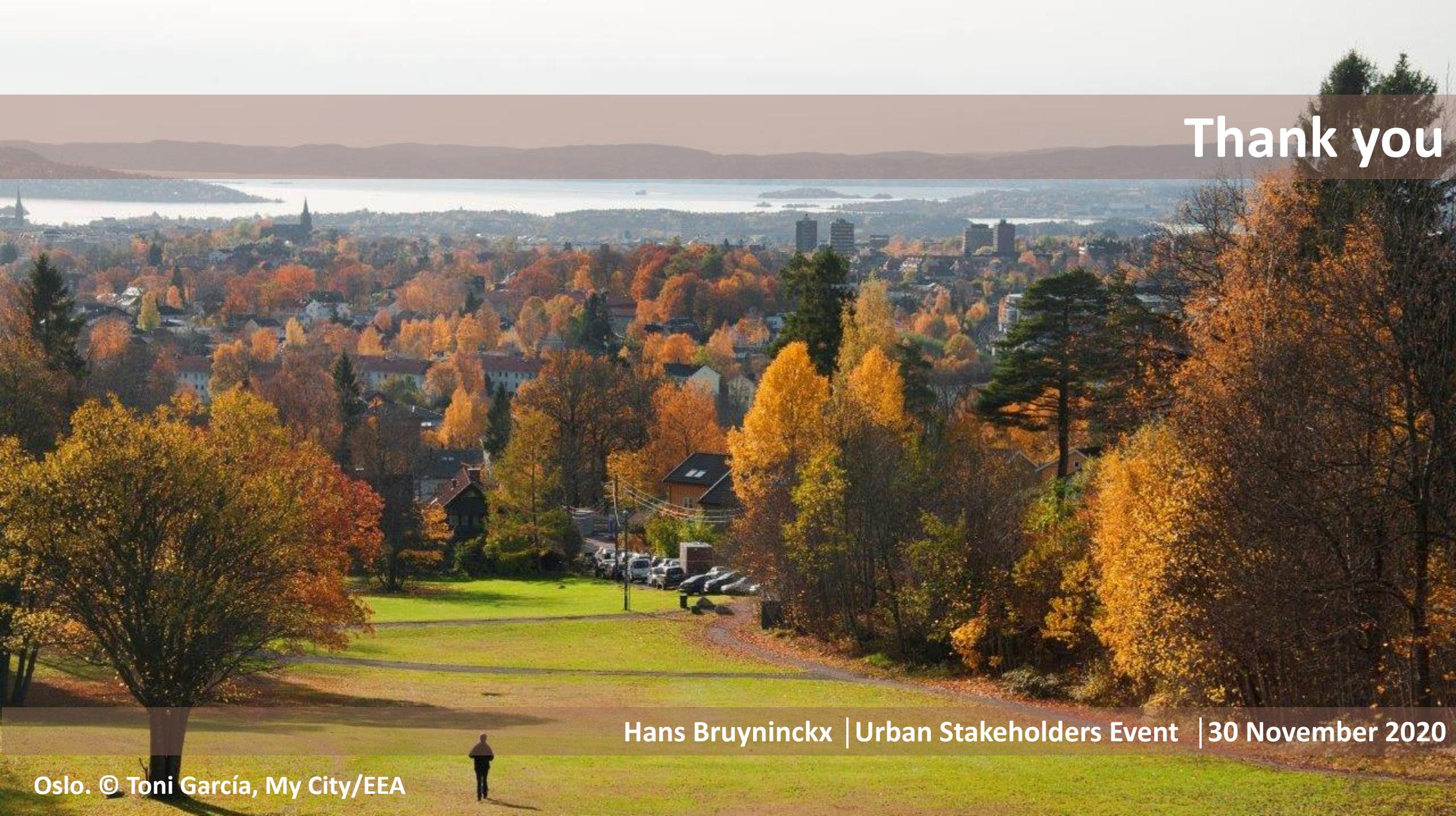


Looking ahead: harvesting local-level knowledge to inform EU actions?



Urban Atlas





Thank you

Hans Bruyninckx | Urban Stakeholders Event | 30 November 2020

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