



Cohesion Policy working for Urban Sustainability in 2021-2027

EEA Urban Stakeholders Meeting
28-29 September 2022 Copenhagen

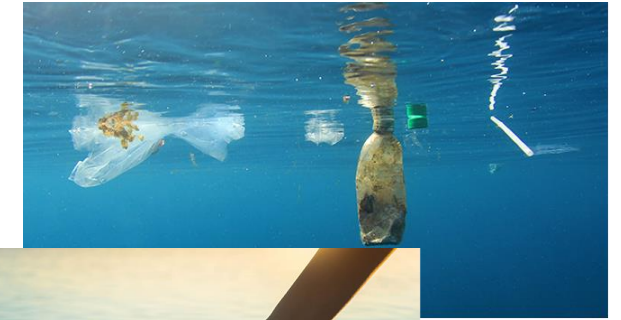
Pia Laurila

DG Regional and Urban Policy
Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial
Development

pia.laurila@ec.europa.eu

Systemic transition – policy challenge for urban sustainability

*In today's world, the certainties of yesterday are no use to face the challenges of tomorrow. The recent system shocks, such as COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis or longer-term challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity or loss of biodiversity, push us to respond with new approaches and alliances to **systemic transitions** required. To realise the European Green Deal and achieve systemic transitions, **cities and urban areas will be central.***



Brief look at history: urban focus of Cohesion Policy

1989-1999: **Urban Pilot Projects**

1995-2006: **URBAN I & II Community Initiatives; URBACT I** (transnational networking)

2007-2013: Mainstreaming of urban dimension; **involvement of citizens** at local level Community-led Local Development (**CLLD**); **URBACT II**

2014-2020:

- ❖ **Min. 5 % of national ERDF** for sustainable urban development
- ❖ **Reinforced integrated approach** and **Sustainable Urban Development strategies through territorial tools** (Integrated Territorial Investments, CLLD, tools of Member States)
- ❖ **Urban Development Network** (events)
- ❖ **Urban Innovative Actions** (EUR 370 ml)
- ❖ **URBACT III** (EUR 96 ml)

**Pact of Amsterdam 2016:
Urban Agenda for the EU**

***Integrated
Place-based
Local
In partnership***



Reinforced urban dimension of Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

European Regional Development Fund Article 11 on Sustainable Urban Development:

- **Min. 8% of the national ERDF allocation** shall be directed towards integrated territorial development focused on urban areas (EUR 16+ bn)
 - To more effectively tackle **economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges** affecting urban areas, with special attention to **green and digital transition and functional urban areas**

Policy Objective 5 ‘A Europe Closer to citizens’

- Specific objective 5.1 - Foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resilience **in the urban context**
 - **Cross-cutting objective**
 - **Different types of urban areas/levels** can be supported (district, administrative unit, etc.), with attention to **functional areas** and **urban-rural linkages**
 - **Integrated approach**, broad coverage of thematic areas

Five Policy Objectives:



Smarter



Greener



More connected



More social



Europe closer to citizens

Green dimension through sustainable urban development

Thematic concentration : 30% ERDF and 37% CF on climate objectives



Policy Objective 2 « A Greener Europe » covering :

- Energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy
- Climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience
- ***Protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution***
- Sustainable multimodal urban mobility

Targeted territorial approach possible for green investments: under Policy Objective 5 or through territorial instruments under Policy Objective 2 – in both cases involvement of relevant territorial actors

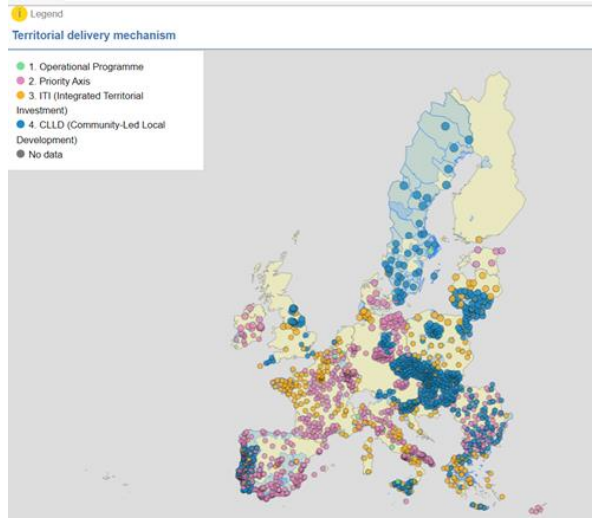
Requirements for integrated urban and territorial development



Examples of tools, data and studies on sustainable urban development

JRC - REGIO

Dashboard of urban and territorial strategies



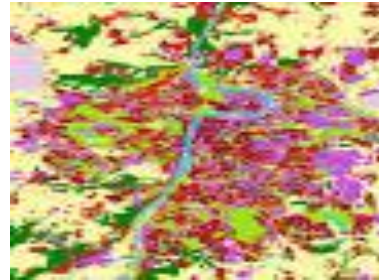
<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/#/where>

Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies



<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/#/en/urbanstrategies>

EEA - REGIO



<https://land.copernicus.eu/local/urban-atlas>

Datasets on urban areas

Annual updates of **Urban Atlas**

Assessment of urban sustainability -

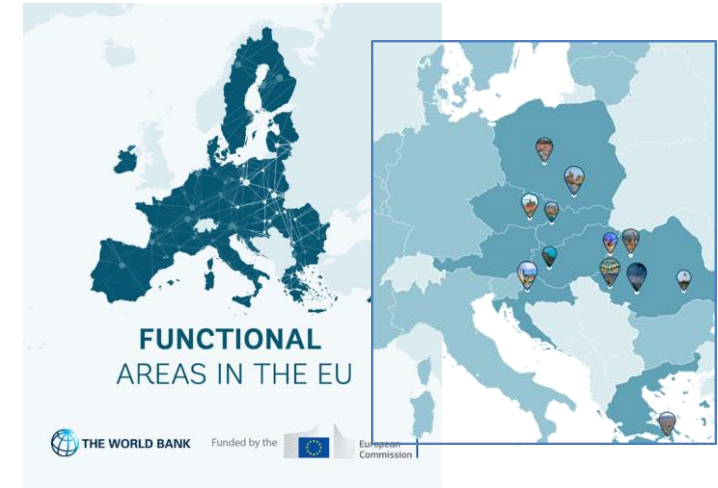
urban typologies (sprawl, air quality, environmental noise), changes in urban green spaces, urban green infrastructure



JRC study on small- and medium-sized cities ongoing until Q2 2023

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sat4sud/en>

World Bank - REGIO



Crossing administrative boundaries for green transition and sustainable development - study ongoing until April 2024

<https://functionalareas.eu>

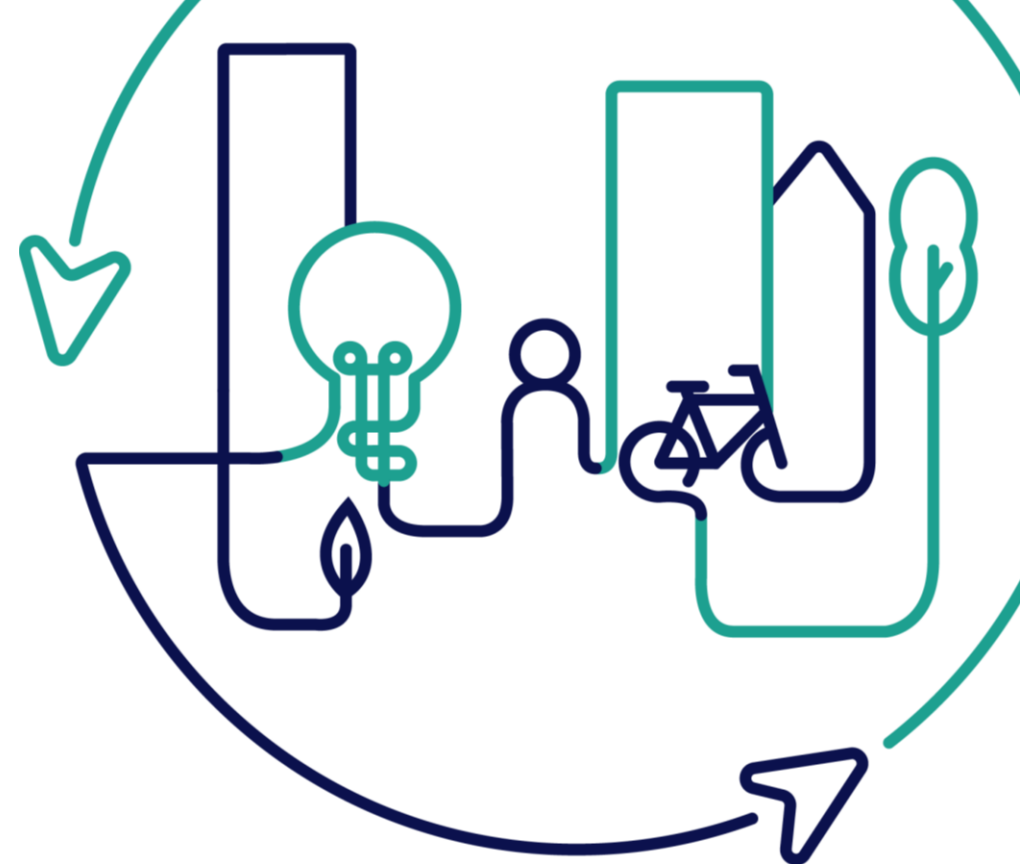


Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development strategies

<https://www.espon.eu/>

EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

***Novel instrument to provide
coherent support to cities -
official start on 29 August 2022***



www.urban-initiative.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

European Urban Initiative

Overall objectives

- ❖ Strengthen integrated and participatory approach to sustainable urban development
- ❖ Provide stronger link to EU policies, in particular to Cohesion Policy

Overall ambition: provide more coherent support to cities by interconnecting manifold initiatives, tools and instruments in support of cities under Cohesion Policy

Beneficiaries

Support to cities of all sizes including small & medium-sized and large cities, functional urban areas; shall support Urban Agenda for the EU; upon request of Member States, support for inter-governmental cooperation on urban matters

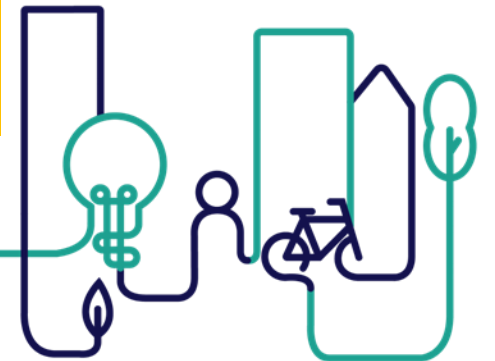
Two strands for activities:

A. Support of Innovative Actions

B. Support of Capacity and Knowledge Building, Territorial Impact Assessments, Policy Development and Communication

**ERDF budget:
EUR 450 million***

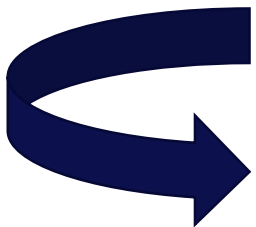
**In current prices*



EUI – Innovative Actions (Strand A) **in a nutshell**

Specific objectives:

- to support the identification and testing of **transferable and scalable innovative solutions** to urban challenges of EU relevance,
- to collect and share results from experimentations in view of **fostering innovation capacities** and knowledge building for all EU urban areas and of **mainstreaming innovative solutions within Cohesion policy** (Art. 11 cities) and beyond.



An EUI funding ambition: circa EUR 314 million (*)

() 75% of the total ERDF envelope for 2021/2027*



First EUI-Innovative Actions Call for Proposals

In support of New European Bauhaus

Prompts for urban authorities:

- Constructing or renovating in a spirit of circularity and carbon neutrality
- Preserving and transforming cultural heritage
- Adapting and transforming building for affordable housing solutions
- Regenerating urban space

Funding of the call: EUR 50 million

Applicants seminars:

- 12/10 and 19/10 in Brussels
- 8-10/11 in Vienna
- 29-30/11 in Sofia
- 6-8/12 in Vilnius

Timeline

Opening of the call
October 2022

Applicants seminars
October to December
2022

Closure of the call
Mid-January 2023

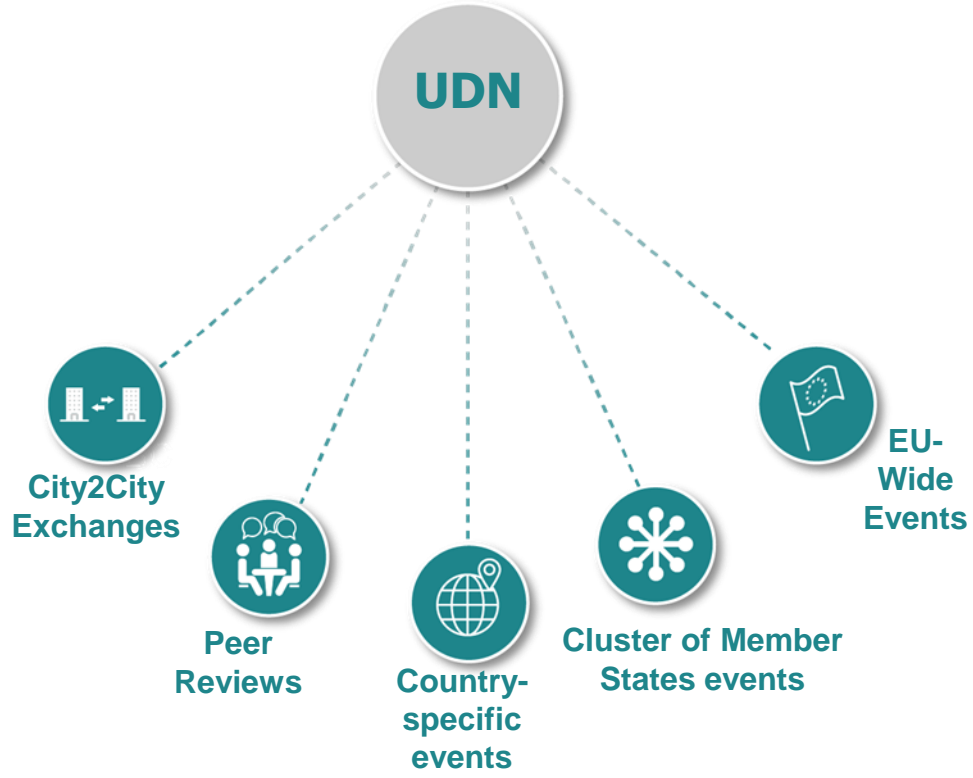
Projects selection
Q1-Q2 2023

For more details:

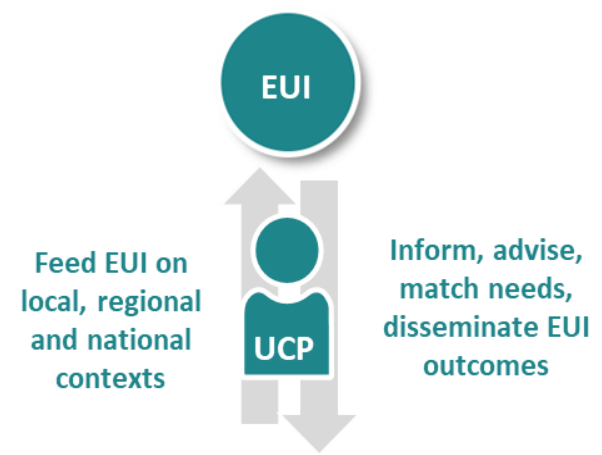
www.urban-initiative.eu

EUI activities in areas of capacity & knowledge building and policy

Urban Development Network-type activities



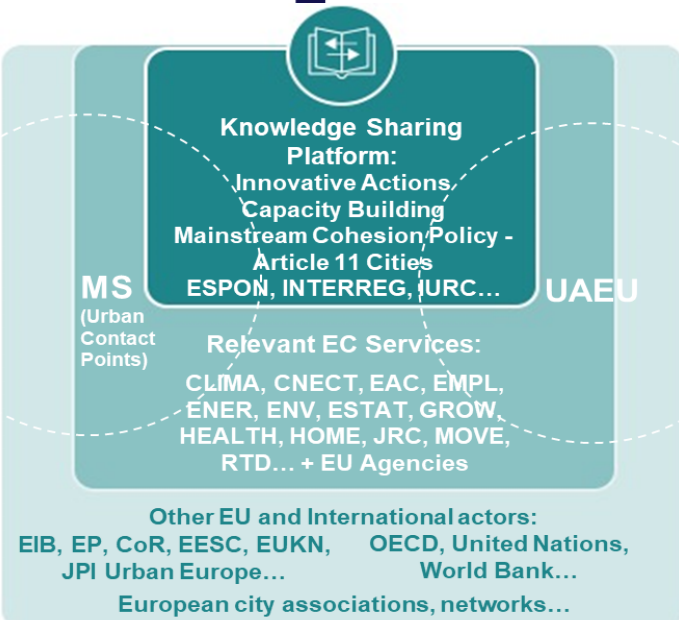
Urban Contact Points (UCP)



Policy Labs / Reviews for Policy



Knowledge Sharing Platform



Coordination and complementarity with URBACT IV



Support to UAEU and intergovernmental cooperation



Multi-level governance initiative developed in the frame of inter-governmental cooperation on urban matters

Pact of Amsterdam 2016

Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU)

- Cities, Member States, city networks, EC, other EU institutions, Union's advisory bodies, and other stakeholders **to tackle jointly pressing urban matters**
- Boosting role of cities in national and EU policymaking to **achieve better regulation, funding and knowledge** for cities
- Until now **14 thematic partnerships**, 326 partners, 139 Actions
- **New Leipzig Charter (2020)**: UAEU key vehicle for Charter implementation
- **Ljubljana Agreement (2021)**: UAEU renewal - proposals for new Partnerships



Urban Agenda for the EU web-portal:

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/pages/what-urban-agenda-eu>

Brochure on the Urban Agenda Futurium Platform:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgene/r/brochure/urban_agenda_eu_2021update_en.pdf

Newsletter:

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda>

Ljubljana Agreement - launch of new Urban Agenda Thematic Partnerships

In 2022:

- Greening cities – focus on green and blue infrastructures
- Sustainable tourism

Calls for partners closed

Launch of Partnerships on 26

October 2022

In 2023:

- Food in cities
- Cities of equality

Calls for Partners will be published at Futurium around mid-2023:

<https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda>



Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives

Honouring and supporting the inspiring place-based transformative projects done
by local public authorities.

Video: La Fábrica de Toda la Vida, Spain © European Union, 2021

2022 Call for Proposals (ERDF) - 20 small and medium municipalities will receive expertise support for frontrunner projects

- Action areas: (1) renovation of buildings and public spaces; (2) preservation and transformation of cultural heritage; (3) adaptation and transformation of buildings for affordable housing solutions; or (4) regeneration of urban or rural spaces
- Knowledge and lessons learnt during this process will feed into a ‘toolbox’ aimed at other municipalities and wider public
- Awarded projects: https://c.ramboll.com/local-support-new-european-bauhaus?utm_source=direct-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nebaus

https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en



New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together



Thank you!



https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2022/07/18-07-2022-cities-forum-2023-together-for-green-and-just-cities

