URBAN POLICY AT REGIONAL LEVEL IN THE EU

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Urban dimension in the EU policy

Get familiar with the EU working agenda on urban development

Be inspired for a fruitful exchange of urban policy at regional level
The city: a rising issue in EU regional policy

• Cities as the **engines** of the European economy and catalysts for creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship
  – 68% of the EU population lives in a metropolitan region

• The **urban paradox**: cities are where job opportunities are concentrated while unemployment rates are higher than national averages

• Social **disparities** are concentrated within cities

**IS THERE A TRADE OFF BETWEEN GROWTH AND SOCIAL EQUALITY?**
EU approach to urban policy: main drivers

- The emergence of a common European Urban policy knowledge base (‘Acquis Urbain’)

- Smart, inclusive and sustainable growth: addressing Europe 2020 priorities

- Multi-level governance and community-led local development

- Integrated urban development

- City responses to economic crisis
A common European ‘Acquis Urbain’

• Key lessons from the 2000-2006 URBAN Community Initiative to
  – encourage the design and implementation of highly innovative strategies of economic and social regeneration in small and medium-sized towns/cities and declining areas in major conglomerations;
  – reinforce and exchange knowledge and experience on regeneration and sustainable urban development in the European Union.

• The 2007 Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities
  – Stimulate political debate at MS level on how to integrate the Sustainable European Cities principles and strategies into national, regional and local development policies,
  – Use the tool of integrated urban development and the related governance for its implementation
  – Promote a European polycentric urban structure

• Sustainable urban development key principles considered as ex-ante conditionalities to access EU urban-driven programmes
Integrated urban development

Combining the different dimensions of urban life – economic, social, spatial, environmental – in a single integrated approach

- Measures concerning physical urban renewal must be promote economic development, social inclusion or environmental protection as well
- The integrated approach is the most influential principle in the EU urban policy nowadays.
Multi-level governance and community-led local development

- More room to local governments. Effective articulation with regional and national levels → not mere devolution of responsibilities but co-planning and co-delivering.
- Leadership is now measured by the capacity to promote active stakeholder involvement in the design and delivery of public policies. Regions are at the forefront of this more relational way of doing things
  - Community-led strategies is about increasing participation and build the sense of ownership to boost effectiveness of public policies.
  - Internet and social media can play a role for social innovation.
- Project-based micro-agreements, ad-hoc partnerships to undertake specific issues → towards functional regions
Main themes in the EU urban agenda

**Attractiveness**
- Competitiveness, entrepreneurship
- Innovation, knowledge and the creative economy
- Job creation and human capital

**Cohesion**
- Social inclusion
- Fight against deprivation: the regeneration project
- Housing
- Infrastructure development

**Sustainability**
- Energy efficiency
- Transport and mobility
- Promoting the compact city

**Governance**
- The digital shift from e-administration to the smart city
- Metropolitan governance
- Polycentric urban systems
Cities are the places where...

- Mature industries can be rethought into new urban clusters of emerging industries
- The potential of talent can be unlocked through innovative strategies to attract and retain talented people
- New e-skills can be developed and diffused to reinforce employability
- The switch from traditional tourism to an integrated visitor economy can happen to a faster pace
- Innovative working environments can take place: science quarters, cultural quarters, co-working spaces, etc...
- Challenges can be turned into opportunities
  - business-led regeneration strategies in deprived areas
  - urban brownfield regeneration of abandoned sites and facilities
  - waterfront redevelopment
  - historic centres revitalization → Coliseum...
- Innovative solutions for low-carbon urban economies can be tested
New urban working environments

Productive space is coming back into the city again: cultural quarters, @districts, co-working spaces, science quarters...
New urban working environments

• Mixing retail / leisure / work / housing

• Activate the game of co-location among mutually attracting sectors: knowledge intensive service, creative industries, smart leisure...

• Hybridation, flexibility, interaction, affordability... the “extended workplace”

• Unused buildings and sites with potential for the new economy: Public-private partnerships

• Pop-up storefronts and other initiatives to give new life for unused inner-city premises
EU policies and programs: holistic approach

- **Research**: ESPON and the Urban Europe Joint Programming Initiative
- **Measuring**: Urban Audit
- **Area-based investment**: URBAN Community Initiative
- **Learning by interacting**: URBACT
- **Financing**: JESSICA
- The city in the **new EU cohesion policy 2014-2020**
Cities in the EU cohesion policy 2014-2020

General framework

- Cohesion Policy will represent 33% (approx. €350 billion) of the EU budget in 2014-20.
- The European Commission will adopt a Common Strategic Framework (CSF) providing guidance on programming.
- Partnership Contracts between the Commission and Member States will set out the overall contribution at national level.
- New typology of regions:
  - Less developed regions. GDP per capita less than 75% of the EU-27 average. Maximum co-financing rates: 75-85%
  - Transition regions - replacing the current phasing-in and phasing-out system - with a GDP per capita between 75% and 90% of the EU-27 average. Max. co-financing rate: 60%
  - More developed regions. GDP per capita above 90% of the average. Max. co-financing rate: 50%
Cities in the EU cohesion policy 2014-2020

A fair system for all EU regions (eligibility simulation)

GDP/capita*  < 75% of EU average  75-90%  > 90%

*index EU27=100

3 categories of regions
- Less developed regions
- Transition regions
- More developed regions

Regional GDP figures: 2006-07-08
ONI figures: 2007-05-09
Thank you very much

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Backup slides
Research: ESPON programme

- ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observatory Network) is targeted at analyzing spatial trends in Europe, where cities and urban systems represent core issues (core-periphery, accessibility, polycentrism, territory and function, etc.)

- Different kind of operations:
  - Applied research
  - Targeted analysis, regional/urban stakeholders express an interest to ESPON
  - Stable scientific platform: indicators, spatial modeling

- [http://www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)
Research: URBAN EUROPE  JPI

• JPI is an approach introduced by the EC in 2008 to encourage MSs to work together (i.e. committing resources) on research and planning, in this case on urban issues.

• The JPI-approach stimulates:
  – Cross-border approaches and ways of doing things, e.g. joint planning and implementation
  – Pooling of data and expertise which is scattered across the EU
  – Cross-border mobility and training of researchers and Public Officers

• http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu
Measuring: Urban Audit

• Urban Audit provides comparable data for 321 cities in the EU-27 + 42 from Norway, Croatia, Switzerland and Turkey
• A long list of indicators: demographic change, urban competitiveness, living conditions...
• Two main deliverables:
  – The State of European Cities report
  – The Urban Atlas: detailed digital maps of the audited areas based on satellite images
• Urban Audits was launched in 1998 and benefits from the cooperation among NSOs, cities and the EC (Eurostat and DG Regio
• [http://www.urbanaudit.org](http://www.urbanaudit.org)
Area-based investment: URBAN community initiative

- From mid-1990s until 2006, the URBAN programme focused on physical regeneration along with social and economic rehabilitation of deprived urban neighborhoods
- The “URBAN model” was pioneer in
  - Abandoning a sectoral approach in urban development.
  - Ad-hoc local partnerships involving all parties
  - Promoting devolution from the State/Region level to the City level
  - Area-based approach, working on specific problem-areas at district level
- Almost 200 URBAN programmes were developed in 3 phases: pilot phase (1990-94), URBAN I (1994-99), URBAN II (2000-06)
- In URBAN II, average EU funding per programme: €10.2 million.
- “URBAN model” were mainstreamed in the programming period 2007-13, when all urban-type interventions had to be integrated into the different National / Regional Operational Programmes
- ...with different results
Learning by interacting: URBACT

• URBACT is an exchange programme about cities working together to build solutions to major urban challenges in the EU. It is a true urban lab for innovative city officers and practitioners.
• So far 44 URBACT projects involving 700 cities and other partners.
• URBACT keeps alive the “URBAN model” focusing on integrated urban development and stakeholder involvement.
• URBACT works with all parties who have a stake in the city: Local Support Groups.
• URBACT is a result-oriented programme: Local Action Plans.
• An URBACT project is a partnership of 10-12 members from different countries, mostly cities, working on an specific theme during three years. With a total budget of 800,000 €, plus a leading expertise. 70-80% funded by the EU.

• [http://urbact.eu](http://urbact.eu)
Financing: JESSICA

- EC, in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB), launched new financial engineering tools in the period 2007-2013, like JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas)
- JESSICA facilitates Regions in investing in urban development funds, in the context of integrated urban development plans, by adding equity, loan and guarantee instruments
- Through JESSICA, the following investments can be supported:
  - City infrastructure like transport, water/waste, energy efficiency, renewable energies
  - Social infrastructure like kindergartens, schools, hospitals
  - Brownfield regeneration, new industrial and tech sites
  - Sports and cultural facilities
  - Housing (only in New EU MS)
Cities in the EU cohesion policy 2014-2020

Stronger emphasis on integrated urban development, community-led strategies and more direct visibility to cities

- Multi-level governance: Member States should team up with competent regional and urban authorities in the preparation, implementation and monitoring and of the OPs.

- Minimum resources allocated to sustainable urban development: a minimum of 5% of the ERDF resources must be invested in such kind of actions.

- Stronger support to the creation of multi-Fund local strategies
  - The Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) tool will cluster funding from several priority axes of one or more OPs
  - An ITI is an ideal tool to support integrated actions in urban areas, e.g. a regeneration project comprised of physical intervention, economic recovery and social integration
Cities in the EU cohesion policy 2014-2020

• Community-led strategies: a single method for community-led strategies will enable all territories to benefit from EU support for capacity building

• Capacity building and exchanges in integrated urban development: the EC will establish an Urban Development Platform comprising 300 cities to share practices and capitalise results.

• New and innovative solutions in sustainable urban development: Innovative Urban Actions will support pilots, demonstration projects, related studies of European interest through dedicated resources up to a global ceiling of 0.2% of the total ERDF.