

***The European Union,
Cities, Funding & the Urban Agenda***

**Part 1: The Urban Agenda for the EU
and its 12 Partnerships**

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This presentation

- ***The Urban Agenda for the EU***
and its 12 Partnerships
- **Key EU policy areas and concepts for cities**
- **European support services and networks for engagement by (smaller) cities**
- **European Commission Funding
...and EIB Financing...for cities**
- **Comparative EU/OECD observations for Ireland**

Provided by three Regional Assemblies with DHPCLG support.

Specialised EU support service for all Local Authorities.

Wide-ranging monitoring, liaison and guidance to inform and facilitate domestic actors' individual and collective understanding of and engagement in European initiatives and activities:

- **Policy Information & Intelligence**
- **EU Funding**
- **Networking, Representation, Promotion & Lobbying**
- **Political Support (Committee of the Regions)**

Only Irish presence among 250+ regional/city representations to EU.
One of few Irish institutions present in Brussels.

Staff of 2.

Part 1:



Urban Agenda for the EU

“A shared understanding of urban development in Europe”

*“In terms of aims, objectives, and values, there is an explicit agreement at European level on **the character of the European city of the future** and the principles on which an ideal European city should be based...There is also a consensus among the ministers responsible for urban development on more **specific city objectives and values - as reflected in the Leipzig Charter** – as well as how these objectives should be attained and the **instrumental role cities can play in implementing Europe 2020** as expressed in the Toledo Declaration. The same goes for the **principles of urban development** in the European territory as expressed in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020.”*

[‘The Urban Dimension of EU Policies – Key Features of an EU Urban Agenda’ EC, 2014]

Cities of tomorrow

Challenges, visions, ways forward



October 2011

European cities should be

- ✓ places of advanced social progress;
- ✓ platforms for democracy, cultural dialogue and diversity;
- ✓ places of green, ecological or environmental regeneration; and
- ✓ places of attraction and engines of economic growth.

European urban territorial development should

- ✓ reflect a sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and balanced territorial organisation with a polycentric urban structure;
- ✓ contain strong regional centres that provide good accessibility to services of general economic interest;
- ✓ be characterised by a compact settlement structure with limited urban sprawl; and
- ✓ enjoy a high level of protection and quality of environment around cities.



Big Picture: *Europe 2020* targets

Strategy for “smart, sustainable & inclusive” growth models.

- Employment: 75% of 20-64 year-olds
- R&D: 3% GDP investment
- Climate: Emissions -20%; RES = 20%; EE +20%
- Education: NEETS >10%; 40% of 30-34 yr-olds HEI qualified
- 20 million fewer in poverty

Frames every (non-crisis related) EU action/decision – incl funding.

Influence on MS policy: Annual NRP (progress & planned measures).
...LA sector input and sub-national consideration in IE’s case?

Europe 2030 etc?

Which (of 5) option for ‘*the Future of Europe*’?

What place for Cohesion Policy...or cities (within/beyond)?



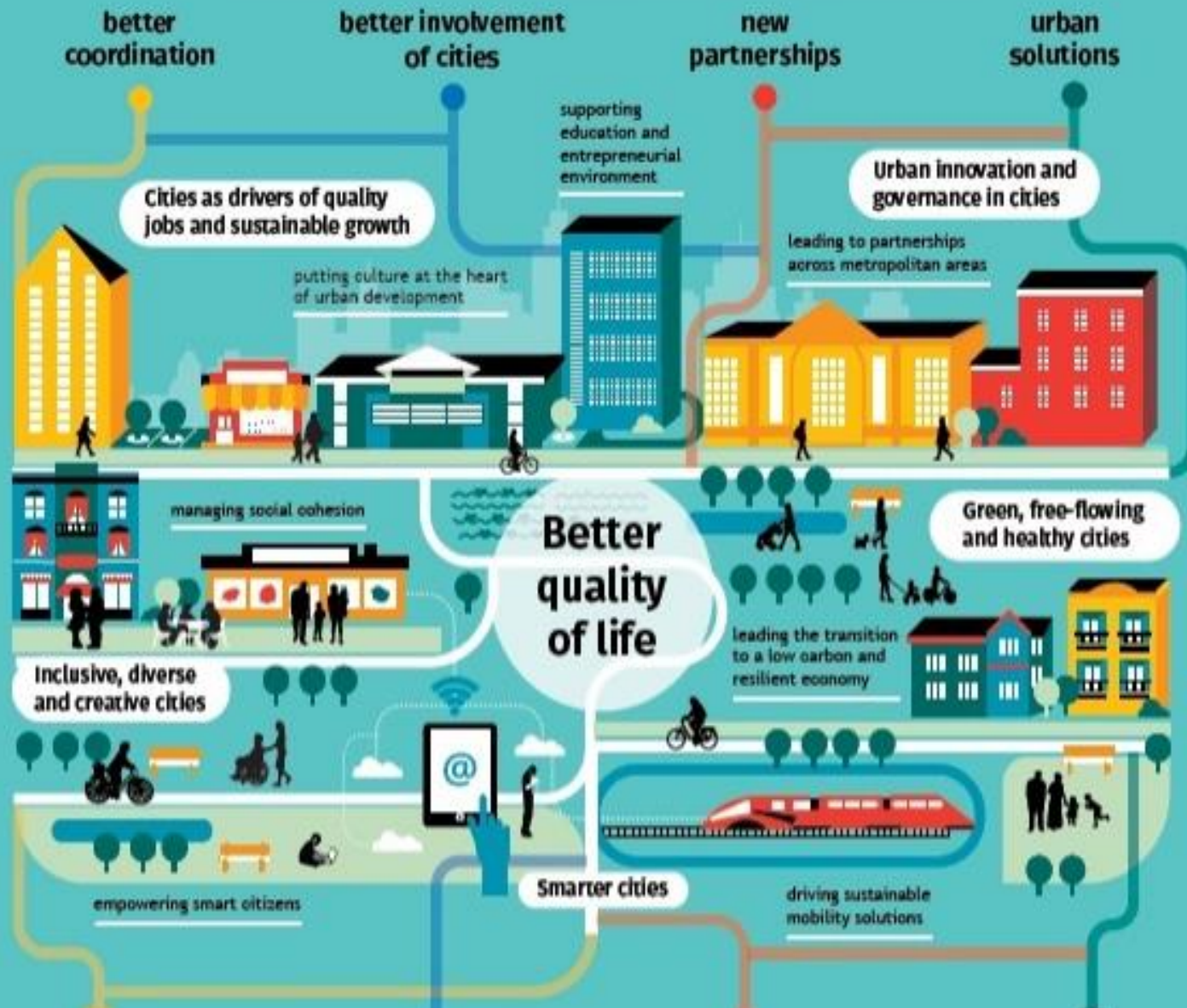
The Urbanising EU

- First EC '*Towards an Urban Agenda*' paper, 1997
 - ESDP 1999: Polycentricity; less hierarchical; more functional.
 - 70% of EU legislation implemented local/regionally direct impact.
 - Tackle social challenges and realise growth potential (***Europe 2020 targets - reliance***).
 - Momentum behind need to better ...link urban solutions with EU challenges; target EU funding accordingly; adjust sectoral policies and levels of governance; assess territorial impacts.
 - Gradual rise in scope of EU policy interventions in urban settings.
 - Cohesion Policy* ...increasingly urban-focussed.
 - Urban development not an EU competence (no treaty basis).
 - Discussions primarily intergovernmental... variable MS intensity.
- ...towards a new multi-level cooperation working method...

A solid decade in the making...

- *Leipzig Charter* (2007).
- *Lisbon Treaty* (2009).
- *Fifth Cohesion Report* (2010).
- *Toledo Declaration on Urban Development* (2010).
- *Cities of Tomorrow* (2011).
- *Territorial State & Perspective of the EU* (2011) &
- *Territorial Agenda of the EU2020: Towards an Inclusive, Smart & Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions* (2011).
- **EP (REGI & Urban Intergroup) & CoR input (2011-).**
- **DG REGIO refocussed (2012).**
- **NL/BE “UA” proposal** to be taken forward by Presidencies (2013).
- *The Urban Dimension of EU Policies* [EC] (2014).
- *CITIES Forum & network input* (**EUROCITIES, CEMR**) (2014).
- *Local & Regional Partners Contributing to Europe 2020* (EC)(2015) (MLG)
- *Riga Ministerial Declaration* (2015).
- *Habitat III* (2016).
- ***Pact of Amsterdam (2016)...Urban Agenda for Europe (UAFÉ).***

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AN EU URBAN AGENDA



Pact of Amsterdam (2016)

“The Ministers affirm that [The Urban Agenda for the EU]:

- 1) *...aims to realise the full **potential and contribution of Urban Areas** towards achieving EU objectives and related national priorities (...subsidiarity and proportionality).*
- 2) *...strives to establish a more effective **integrated and coordinated approach** to EU policies and legislation with a potential impact on Urban Areas and also to contribute to **territorial cohesion by reducing socio-economic gaps**.*
- 3) *...strives **to involve Urban Authorities in design of policies, to mobilise them in implementation, and to strengthen the urban dimension** in these policies...overcome unnecessary obstacles in EU policy to enable cities to work in a more systematic and coherent way towards overarching goals... **make EU policy more urban-friendly**, effective and efficient.*
- 4) *...will not create new EU funding sources, unnecessary administrative burden, decision-making structures, EU competences.”*



URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR BETTER CITIES

Core objective: to improve the implementation of EU and national policies on the ground, by involving cities in the design and implementation of urban-related policies as a way of making them more effective, efficient and inexpensive.

Horizontal & vertical coordination plus integrated actions (EU level)

3 policy-making and implementation pillars:

- To look at how existing rules and regulations can be adjusted to become more urban-proof (**‘better regulation’**);
- To improve use of existing EU financial instruments (**‘better funding’**);
- To improve current data exchange networks (**‘better knowledge’**).



Cross-cutting UAfE aspects

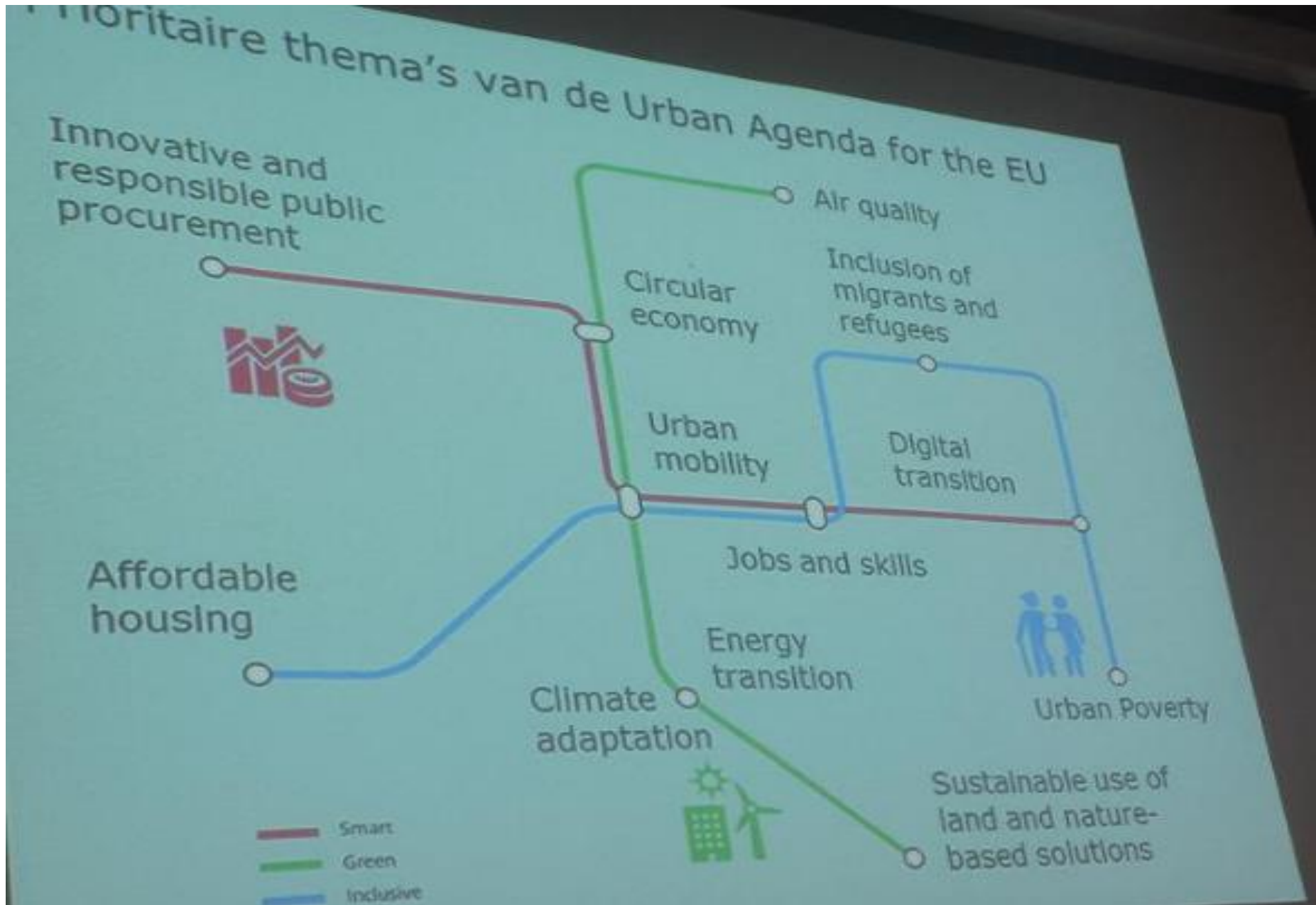
- Governance (incl metropolitan, functional, urban-rural and inter-urban) and stakeholder relations (civil society, business...);
- Sound and strategic planning and balanced territorial development (links with regional level);
- Integrated approaches;
- Innovative approaches;
- Impact on societal change;
- Small/medium cities;
- Urban regeneration;
- Demographic change;
- Public services of general interest (availability and quality);
- Links with UN (Habitat III *New Urban Agenda* and 2030 SDGs).

12 Priority themes



Selected on basis of:

- support by Member States, EC and cities;
- To reflect major challenges faced by cities;
- require integrated action at EU-level and multi-level cooperation;
- potentially produce concrete results in a reasonable timeframe.



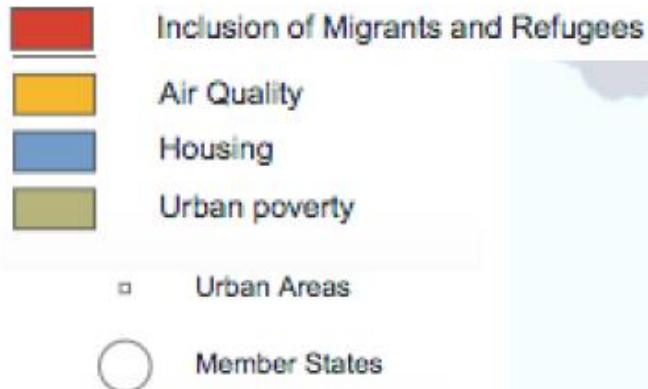
Multi-level Partnerships

- Agenda to be taken forward by 12 multi-level “partnerships”
- Membership based on topic expertise. First 8 are underway.
- Each will prepare and implement an **Action Plan with concrete proposals for actions** at EU, national and local level to be achieved within 3 years (to be followed-up under future EU Presidencies).
- Input sought for **consultation of the drafts** (starting summer).
<https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda>
- Late 2017, progress report to Council with suggestions for improvements and future direction of EC urban policy.



- 'Cities Forum' event, Rotterdam (December?).

EU Urban Agenda: 12 partnerships on priority themes

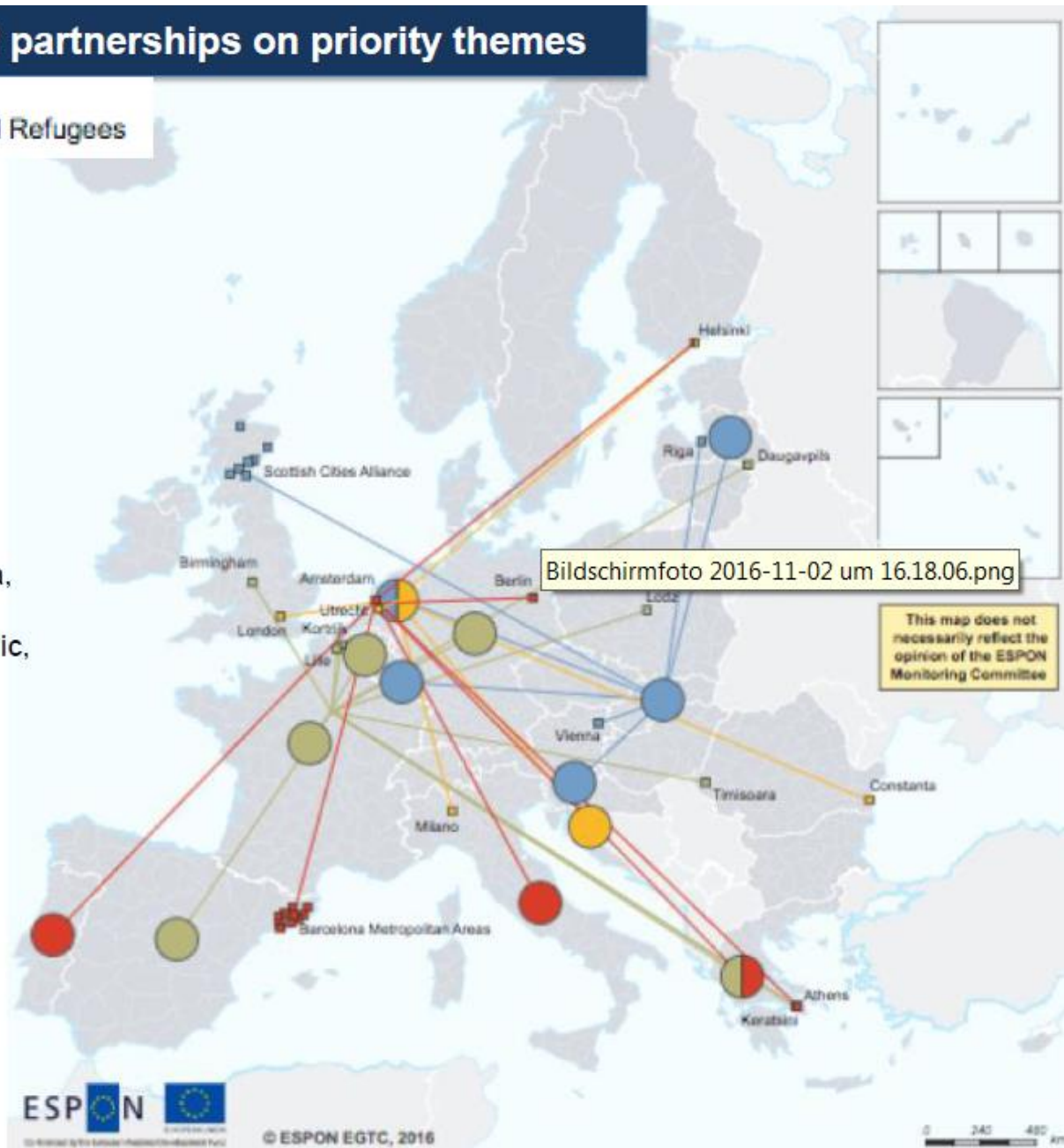


to be launched by early 2017:

- Circular economy: Oslo
- Digital transformation: Estonia, **Oulu**, Sofia
- Urban mobility: Czech Republic, **Karlsruhe**
- Skills and jobs: Romania, Rotterdam, **Jelgava**

to be launched by summer 2017

- Public procurement;
- Sustainable land use;
- Energy transition;
- Climate adaptation



URBAN AGENDA



WORKING TOGETHER
FOR BETTER CITIES



HOUSING

EU

PARTNERSHIP ON HOUSING

why?
Adequate housing is a basic human right and plays a key role in ensuring a good quality of life in European cities. Although a competence of national, regional and local governments, several EU policies and regulations have an impact on how housing policies can be formulated. housing affects social cohesion and stability; many challenges need to be addressed such as post-crisis development, increased migration and growing social tensions. More affordable and healthier homes are needed also, as well as a better energy efficiency in buildings. Together, we can develop a comprehensive framework for the provision of affordable housing.



how?
The Housing Partnership will improve knowledge regarding social housing and other affordable housing models in Europe, looking into different systems both from the consumer and producer perspectives. Models of financing will be explored and current EU legislation, policies and instruments with an impact on housing policies will be reviewed. In the Action Plan the Partnership will identify actions to tackle agreed priority themes and to specify first concrete steps to be implemented.

who?
Coordinators : City of Vienna, Slovakia; Countries : Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia; Cities : Poznan, Riga, Scottish Cities Alliance, Vienna; Stakeholders : Aedes, Eurocities, Housing Europe, International Union of Tenants (IUT), URBACT, European Investment Bank (EIB); The European Commission : Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Directorate-General for Energy.



Coordinators

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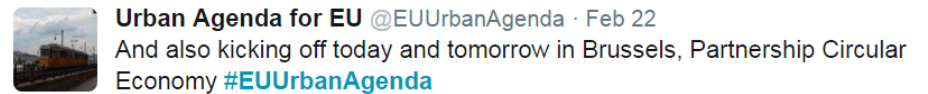
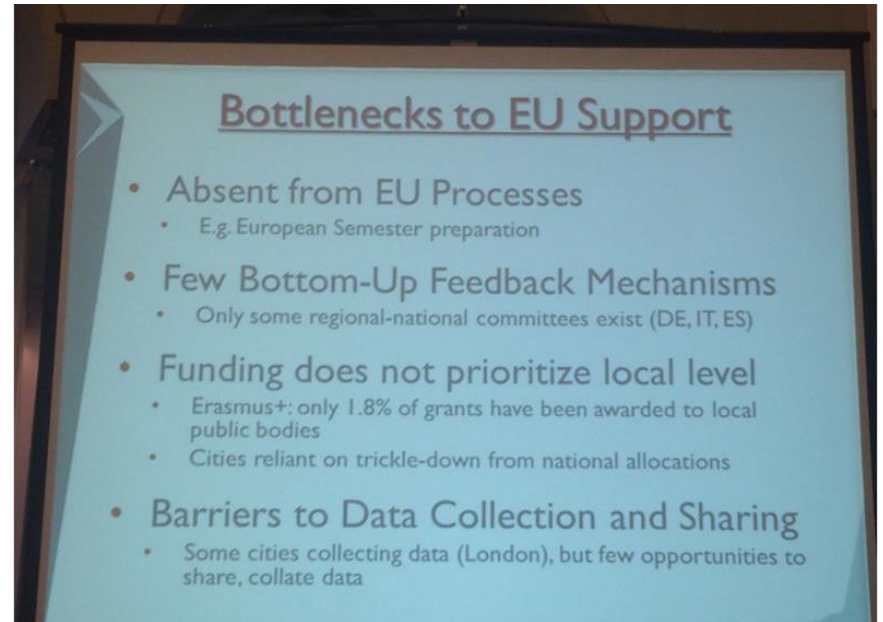
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, CONSTRUCTION AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



allenges

Regional and
Urban Policy

Partnerships get down to work...



Long-term Urban Agenda impacts???

A framework for coherence and mutual reinforcement among sectoral policies and instruments and different governance layers???

Delivery of more effective results and tangible and sustainable benefits for citizens [EC 'Better Regulation' agenda]???

A new and genuine “**partnership**” approach providing (interested/expert) cities with a formal place around the policy-making table with the MS and EU Institutions???

Irish LAs engagement with EU

- Post-BREXIT future – “at the heart of Europe”?
- Is Ireland – especially broad local government sector – sufficiently engaged in various initiatives?
- Entirely reactive...or contribute to shape direction (incl of €€€)?
- Width or depth (areas of focus)?
- Structures & resources: local, regional, system-wide?
- Formal tie-ins with policy (CoR)?
- Feeding into more urban-focussed policy-making?
- Responses to policy consultations?
- Monitoring developments “under radar”.
- Membership of European networks?
- Access to (and targeted use of) knowledge.

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 Cllr Michael Murphy responds to #Barrier raising Irish concerns on #brexit including Irish border & agri food #CoRplenary



IrishRegionsBrussels @IrishRegions_EU · Mar 6
 Newer batch of Interreg Europe project partners incl @TipperaryCoCo @Dept_CCAE @West_BIC @CIT_ie @DonegalLEO @ERNACT & @SouthernAssembl (x2)

Interreg Europe @interregueurope
 All second call projects are now online! Discover projects and their websites under four topics. interregueurope.eu/discover-proje...

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