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Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development
8-9 September, 2015, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
EU and Policies for Urban Development (I)

Urban development is about the social, economic, [cultural] and physical transformation of cities.

These processes combined are considered in the EU's approach to integrated urban development.

That means that everything from the advantages of economic activity, innovation, education and culture to the challenges of urban sprawl, poverty, migration, [shrinking cities and regions] congestion and beyond, are dealt with cohesively [and they are matter to be faced by policies/programmes initiatives through EU funds for social, economic and territorial cohesion].

EC 2014
EU and Policies for Urban Development (II)

Although cities’ role for economic, social and cultural development, and their potential for a more resource efficient habitat, have long been recognised, the policy response at European and national level has been slow and piecemeal, with many but poorly integrated sectoral initiatives.

A growing number of voices argue that cities need to be adequately involved in the conception and implementation of EU policies, and that EU policies need to be better adapted to the urban realities where they will be implemented.

The European Commission’s Directorate General for Regional Policy was renamed "Regional and Urban Policy" in 2012. This was in recognition of the fact that cities must play their full part in the economic, social and territorial development of the EU, as well as an acknowledgement of a strong urban dimension in EU policies, not least in regional policy.

KEY FEATURES OF AN EU URBAN AGENDA /* COM/2014/0490 final */
Historical background: quick overview

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### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Changing Times

#### Key Concepts

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Several key concepts

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Instead of looking for a static definition of territorial cohesion, we have to think how to better connect the dynamics of local levels (towns, cities, metropolitan areas, inter-communal systems...). Of course, in a specific territorial case this dynamic is very slow and needs to be triggered from external, supra-local inputs to progress the definition/evolution of the concept of territorial cohesion.

Territorial cohesion does not consist of a well written sentence with clear bullet points, but it may be a set of methodologies for local and regional development, a set of development tools and specific urban policies (policies for regeneration, development, renewal, rehabilitation, culture, social inclusion...).

The box of tools for territorial cohesion is still too empty...especially at the urban scale.
INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL APPROACH

GOVERNANCE

PROJECTS

ACTORS
SEVERAL RELEVANT URBAN ISSUES IN MOLDOVA
A Proper set of tools to management the many issues related to HOUSING

Principal key factors that influence the performance of the HOUSING sector are (UNECE):

• the **privatisation process of dwellings** combined with housing maintenance problems which have resulted from it
• the **dramatic increase of energy prices** together with high energy inefficiency of buildings
• the low income of people and **high poverty rate** together with high inflation and unemployment. People cannot even finance their daily subsistence and operating costs of flats especially in wintertime.

These questions cannot be addressed just by laws or by normative plans, it is necessary to have clear vision of:

1) Most critical area where to intervene with **strategic/integrated approach of urban regeneration**.
2) the areas in the urban fabric where to intervene to **renew, to increase city density, to redesign role and form of public spaces**.
3) How top the phenomenon of **urban sprawl**, to increase the number of building without specific rules and not considering the real housing demand
SPATIAL AND URBAN PLANNING SYSTEM: Lack of effective and efficient governance/policy schemes

In order to face contemporary Moldavian urban and territorial planning issues, such as:

- **Shrinking cities and territories and sprawl** initiating around main cities, but even (caused by Rural-Urban migration, or emigration)
- The need or **replacing, upgrading, and developing physical infrastructure** (e.g. utilities, transport), (growing demand for housing, especially in Chisinau fed by emigrated workers re-investing in Moldova)
- **The prerequisite of updating the normative plans** (general and detail plans, many of them are obsolete) and improve the **land use management tools** (e.g. cadaster)
- **The necessity of improving the decision making process designing a proper governance framework** supported by a family of **urban policies and a set of strategic tools** (e.g. strategic plans, at least for major cities, as for the small ones to foresee inter-communal tools aggregating different small municipalities)
- **The necessity of having planning tools based on participatory planning processes** (urban dialogue between institutions and planning actors, both public and private - cross-sectoral partnerships at regional and local level)...less technical procedure more civic engagement (PPPP = Public Private People Partnership)
WHAT DO WE NEED TO SUSTAINABLY/EFFECTIVELY INTERVENE IN THE CITIES? AND HOW?
ECONOMIC REGENERATION

- Public-private partnerships and public-private-people partnerships for the re-functionalization of different areas.

- Involvement of local public authorities:
  - Supporting services for populations
  - Providing incentives for local entrepreneurs
  - Organizing events
SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- Involvement of minorities and other socially disadvantaged groups in the decision-making process

- Partnerships with public institutions and NGOs – addressing specific problems:
  - Development of educational programmes
  - Development of programmes meant to re-integrate the residents in the job market
NEIGHBOURHOODS PERSPECTIVE

- Strengthening the Local Support Groups
- Institutionalization of Local Support Groups through partnerships
- Engagement of all parties interested in developing the area of intervention
- Attracting future investments – involvement of private stakeholders
MORE STRATEGIC THINKING AND EFFECTIVE POLICY SCHEMES!

DESIGNING THE STRATEGY
A CLEAR FRAMEWORK OF AVAILABLE DATA, CURRENT PLANNING TOOLS AND POOL OF LOCAL ACTORS CHARACTERIZING THE PARTNER CITIES PLANNING ARENAS

Networking + State of the Art

Desk analysis

Field analysis

Operational analysis

Local workshop with local actors (participated planning process)

A PHYSICAL SPACE FOR U.C. IS IDENTIFIED

URBAN TASK FORCES OPERATIONAL IN THE U.C.

Planning process results: strategic documents are ready

TERRITORIAL/URBAN AGENDAS

POSTER PLANS

CITIES KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

http://www.seecityplatform.net/
**MAIN OBJECTIVES**

- Improvement of accessibility and mobility in the central zone of Balti municipality

- Development of the recreation and agreement zone in the central zone

- Renovation and development of the public infrastructure in the Balti municipality

- Creation of the Regional Importance Business Support Infrastructure and Infrastructure for Social and Cultural Objectives

- Valorization of the free land from the central zone and the extending of the green zones

- Promotion of the ecological culture in the city of Balti by organization of public greening (ecological) measures.
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<td>THE METROPOLITAN AREA</td>
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Conceptual design: conceptual axis of the strategic plan

- **space**
- **economy**
- **society**
Conceptual design: conceptual axis of the strategic plan

City fabric

Civic fabric

Territorial and regional fabric
BAIA MARE 2020: spre un oraș creativ și inovativ.

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BAIA MARE 2020: SPRE UN ORAŞ CREATIV ŞI INOVATIV.

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