The Urban Agenda for the EU: a European voice for cities

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Why am I here?

- During the Netherlands Presidency the Urban Agenda for the EU was adopted.

- The Netherlands and the current Presidency of Slovakia and next Maltese presidencies agreed to work in a Trio Presidency in bringing forward the Urban Agenda for the EU.

- The Netherlands continues to help setting up new Partnerships and explain and promote the UAEU.
What is the Urban Agenda for the EU?

- UAftEU is a new form of cooperation between Cities, Memberstates the European Commission and other stakeholders.

- Aim: to increase the Urban dimension in European regulation and policy making.

- The UAEU has three goals:
  - 1. Better regulation
  - 2. Better access to funding
  - 3. Better knowledge sharing

- It was a top priority of the Dutch EU Presidency.

- It was formalized in the ‘Pact of Amsterdam’
Pact of Amsterdam and Council Conclusions

- Informal ministerial meeting on 30 May 2016.
- Broad support, general praise: Habemus Pactum!
- 24 June: Council Conclusions adopted.
- Main challenge now: maintaining the momentum.
Pact of Amsterdam

- Operational framework of the Urban agenda for the EU.
- Lists 12 priority themes.
- Describes joint actions and multi-level governance.
- Introduces a new form of multi-level, bottom-up cooperation between all stakeholders through Thematic Partnerships.
12 themes, 4 pilot-partnerships

1. Urban poverty
2. Housing
3. Inclusion of migrants and refugees
4. Air quality
5. Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions
6. Circular economy
7. Climate adaptation
8. Energy transition
9. Urban mobility
10. Jobs and skills in the local economy
11. Digital transition
12. Innovative and responsible public procurement
Cross-cutting themes and principles

1. Effective urban governance
2. Governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation
3. Sound and strategic urban planning
4. Integrated and participatory approach
5. Innovative approaches
6. Impact on societal change, including behavioural change
7. Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities and polycentric development
8. Urban regeneration
9. Adaptation to demographic change and in- and out migration
10. Provision of adequate public services of general interest
11. International dimension
Thematic Partnerships

- Focus on priority themes.

- Concrete, case based approach -> result oriented and open to every party that wants to make a concrete contribution.

- Membership: cities, member states, EC, other stakeholders.

- Formulation of proposals for better regulation, better funding, better knowledge exchange.

- Key delivery mechanism of the UAEU.
Partnership Housing

Coördinator: Slovakia and Vienna

Goal
To provide affordable housing of good quality. The focus will be on public housing, state aid rules and general housing policy.

Partners
- Cities: Vienna, Scottish City Alliance, Riga, Madrid, Poznan.


- Others: European Commission (DG Regio, DG Housing and DG Energy), Housing Europe, Aedes, Eurocities, European Investment Bank & International Union of Tenants, URBACT.
Linking up with the New Urban Agenda

• The Pact of Amsterdam refers to Habitat III:

The Urban Agenda for the EU will contribute to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Goal 11 ‘Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’ and the global ‘New Urban Agenda’ as part of the Habitat III process.

• NUA strives for functional and integrated multi-level cooperation, so the UAEU Partnership approach can be an example.

• Results of the UAEU Partnerships should contribute to the NUA goals.
Next: New Partnerships

- 3 to 4 new Partnerships to be proposed at the DG-meeting in Bratislava on 4 October 2016

- Most likely candidates:
  1. Urban Mobility
  2. Digital Transition
  3. Circular Economy
  4. Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy

- Broad interest from cities and Member States. The challenge is to get the right geographical spread.
Partnership support: Secretariat

- EC has published a € 4.8 million tender to set up an UAEU Secretariat.

- Secretariat will support Partnerships from 2017 onward.

- Tasks:
  - Administrative support.
  - Hiring of expertise.
  - Monitoring.
  - Limited travel expenses.