Urban Agenda for the EU

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What is the **Urban Agenda for the EU**?

- The Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) is a multi-level agreement, designed to improve the urban dimension in European law- and policymaking.

- It has three key objectives:
  2. Better Funding.

- Priority of the Netherlands EU-Presidency and was established on 30 May 2016 in the ‘Pact of Amsterdam’.
Informal Ministerial Meeting on 30 May 2016

- Broad support MS, EC, EP, EU organisations, representatives of cities, Habitat
- Unanimity declared at 13.06: Habemus Pactum!
- Council Conclusions on 24 June.
- Main challenges now: continuity of the UAEU after the Dutch Presidency
Pact of Amsterdam: launching the UAEU

- Operational framework for 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.
Themes for the Partnerships

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

- Key instrument of the UAEU.
- 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.
Partnership 1: Housing

Coordinator: Slovakia and Vienna

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

Partners

- Urban areas: Vienna, Scottish City Alliance, Riga, Madrid, Poznan.
- MS: Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands.
- Others: European Commission (DG Regio, DG Housing and DG Energy), Housing Europe, Aedes, Eurocities, European Investment Bank & International Union of Tenants, URBACT.
Partnership 2: Air Quality

Coordinator: The Netherlands
The objective is to realise systems and policies to ensure a good air quality for human health. This will cover: legislative and technical aspects linked to a wide range of polluting sources such as cars, industries, agricultural activities.

Partners
- Urban areas: London (UK), Helsinki (FI), Utrecht (NL), Milano (IT), Constanta (RO).
- MS: Netherlands, Croatia, possibly Luxembourg and Czech Republic.
- Others: European Commission (DG Regio, DG ENVI, DG Research, DG Move & DG Grow), Eurocities, HEAL.
Partnership 3: Urban Poverty

**Coordinators: France and Belgium**

The objectives are to reduce poverty and to improve the inclusion of people in poverty. The focus will be on: spatial concentration of structural poverty in deprived neighbourhoods and child poverty.

**Partners**

- Urban areas: Lille (F), Kortrijk (B), Birmingham (UK), Daugavpils (LV), Keratsini (GR), Timisoara (RO).

- MS: France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece.

- Others: European Commission (DG Regio & DG EMPL), Regions of Brussels (B) & Ile de France (FR) & URBACT, EUKN, EAPN (tbc). Observers: UN HABITAT, Eurochild, FEANZA.
Partnership 4: Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

Coordinator: the City of Amsterdam and DG Home

The objectives are the integration of migrants and refugees, and to provide a framework for their inclusion. This will cover: housing, integration, provision of public services, social inclusion, education and labour market measures.

Partners

- Urban areas: Amsterdam, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona (Metropolitan Area) and Athens.

- MS: Greece, Portugal, Italy and Denmark.

Urban Agenda for the EU and ESPON

• Better use of existing knowledge platforms

• Contribution of specific research activities ESPON to UAEU

• ESPON observer in UDG/DG meetings

• ESPON possible member of Partnerships

→ explore contribution ESPON contribution to Partnerships
Towards an EU Urban Agenda
Working together on the future of European cities

Recent articles, publications or blogposts

Participants of the four partnerships

February 8, 2016
The participants of the four partnerships (January 2016) are: The EU Urban Agenda is one of the four top priorities of the Dutch presidency of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. More information is the Dutch Urban Agenda.

Interview with Nicolas Berr

February 8, 2016
The interview with Nicolas Berr is written by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. More information is the Dutch Urban Agenda.