Science in the City
Building Participatory Urban Learning Community Hubs
through Research and Activation

PULCHRA
Participatory Urban Learning Community Hubs through Research and Activation

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EU urban agenda

European Commission

EU focus on cities and urban development

DG/ Agency	Policy/ regulation	Targeting cities/ local	Local projects	Studies/ research	Tools
Climate Action	X	X		X	X
Competition	X				
Communic. Networks, Content & Technology	X	X	X	X	X
Education and Culture	X	X			
European Environment Agency				X	X
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	X	X	X		
Energy	X	X	X		X
Environment	X	X	X	X	X
Eurostat		X		X	
Home Affairs	X	X	X		X
Joint Research Centre	X			X	X
Justice	X	X			
Mobility and Transport	X	X	X		X
Regional and Urban Policy	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Innovation	X			X	
Health and Consumers	X	X			

Regional & Urban Policy

EU urban agenda

European Commission

What is the issue?

➢ Europe is urban
➢ Cities are key actors in - and for - Europe

BUT... is this reflected in
➢ ...political priority setting?
➢ ...policy coordination?
➢ ...governance?

Is policy in EU adapted to urban realities?
Do we need an **EU urban agenda?**

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EU urban agenda

European Commission

CITIES
Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe
Brussels, 17-18 February 2014

➢ **Response to the calls for an EU urban agenda** from Member States, the European Parliament, UN HABITAT, the Committee of the Regions, city stakeholder organisations

➢ **Debating at European level**

• *the urban dimension of EU policymaking*
• *cities' key role for EU & national policy implementation.*

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http://ec.europa.eu/cities

EU urban agenda

Questions debated

1. **Why do we need an EU urban agenda - what is it that needs to be made to work better?** Participation of cities in EU policy? Helping cities achieve EU objectives? Awareness of cities' needs and potential? Improve sector coordination? Improve multi-level governance? ...?

2. **What should an EU urban agenda be?** Vision? Priorities Challenges? Strategy Tasks and timescales Working method? ...?

3. **How should an EU urban agenda be implemented?** Actions? Whom? Ownership? Steering? Monitoring? ...?

EU urban agenda

Strong demand for an EU urban agenda

- increase the **quality, efficiency** and **effectiveness of policies** through

  - ○ **better coordination** of policies, actors and governance levels; *and*

  - ○ **better understanding** of urban development contexts in the conception and implementation of policies

- strengthen **cities' engagement and ownership** of EU and national policymaking and implementation

- support **cities' capacity for transition and structural change** to ensure viable urban economies and a socially, environmentally and territorially sustainable development of urban areas.

- *Framework for action; Flexibility; No new legislation; Subsidiarity*

A European model of urban development

> **Shared visions and principles...**
>> ...of urban development [Liepzig Charter, Toledo Declaration]
>> ...of territorial development [Territorial Agenda 2020]

> **Territorial Cohesion objective**

> **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union + the European Social Model + ...**

> *Is the European model sufficient to guide [sector] policies at EU level?*

> *What should be our objectives?*

> *What instruments?*

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Next steps

> **Not *a single* process** resulting in *a single* document

> Different actors with different roles in **parallel** and **partly overlapping processes**

  o Intergovernmental cooperation led by the Netherlands;

  o Committee of the Regions will adopt own initiative opinion

  o Eurocities, CEMR, etc. develop own positions

  o UN Habitat seeks a global urban agenda

> The Commission plans to adopt a **Communication** and launch a **public consultation** on the "what?" and the "how?"

Problematic issues

- EU vs European urban agenda?
- Role of different governance levels?
- Urban vs. Territorial Agenda?
- Is there a need to define "urban"?
- Is small vs. big cities an issue?
- Urban poverty
    - Address causes or treat symptoms?
    - Policies at what level?
    - What is the urban dimension of poverty?
    - ...

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