

MEMO

To: ECTP-CEU

From: Jan Vogelij

Re: Urban Development Group

The Urban Development Group preparing EU policy with regard to the Urban Areas of Europe, met in St Julian's in Malta at 03/03/2017

The meeting of the representatives of the Member State ministries responsible for urban issues was dedicated to the progress of the partnerships following the Urban Agenda for the EU.

In those partnerships the general problem of top-down policy making in the EU is addressed by creating partnerships consisting of expert representatives of cities and regions, Ministries and EU institutions, which prepare in close cooperation policy proposals. That new vertical cooperation approach, involving the experts of the cities and regions, is expected to deliver proposals, which relate better to the reality on the ground than the conventional top-down policy preparation. The subjects of the partnerships following the Council of the EU decision about the Pact of Amsterdam of 2016, are agreed among the Ministers and the Commission. Orientation papers and specific approaches for each of the projects are to be decided in the forthcoming UDG meeting at DG level under Maltese EU Presidency.

Commission:

First the new so-called *Futurium* website, providing a platform for debate on urban issues has been presented. <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en>

Action plans orient on the national and local level where various organisations are relevant. The partnerships will have a role in implementation. The *Futurium* website will further be elaborated and detailed. The Commission asks for suggestions.

Cross sector themes for territorial aspects will gain importance, partnerships are asked to address those horizontal cooperation aspects. (This refers to our previous comment that although vertical coordination is improved, composing teams of sector experts includes the risk of sector approaches)

Progress of each of the Partnerships is reported. Experts, active in the partnership teams are recruited from the local, national and EU organizations in which they are employed. The efforts and time involved makes it problematic for ECTP-CEU to be actively included.

For ECTP-CEU members it may be anyhow relevant to be informed about which ministries and which cities of each country is involved. That would allow ECTP-CEU members to contact national colleagues about potential contributions of practitioners and information. Hereunder each of the partnerships is mentioned, together with the involved countries and cities.

ECTP-CEU members are recommended to contact their colleagues, active in the partnerships.

1. Partnership on Air Quality
MS: The Netherlands (coordinator), Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland
Cities: London, Helsinki, Utrecht, Milano, Constanta.

2. Partnership on Urban Poverty
MS: Belgium and France (coordinators), Germany, Greece, Spain.
Cities: Birmingham, Daugavpils, Kortrijk, Keratsini-Drapetsona, Lille, Lodz, Timisoara.

3. Partnership on Housing
MS: Slovakia (coordinator), Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia + Czech Republic and Sweden (observers)
Cities: Vienna (coordinator), Scottish Cities Alliance, Riga, Poznan, Lisboa.

4. Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
MS: Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark.
Cities: Amsterdam (coordinator), Athens, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona.

5. Partnership on Digital transmission
MS: Estonia (coordinator), Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Spain.
Cities: Oulu and Sofia (coordinators), Eindhoven, Hamburg, Helsingborg, Lisboa, Lyon.

6. Partnership on Jobs and Skills
MS: Romania (coordinator), Greece, Italy.
Cities: Jelgava and Rotterdam (coordinators), Gent, Kielce, Miskolc, Porto, Torino, Weinheim, Grand Angouleme.

7. Partnership on Urban Mobility
MS: Czech Republic (coordinator), Cyprus, Slovenia, Finland, Romania.
Cities: Karlsruhe (coordinator), Bielefeld, Malmo, Nijmegen, Torres Vedra, Bari, Gdynia, Burgas, Wallonia, Skane.

8. Partnership on Circular Economy
MS: Finland, Poland, Slovenia, Greece.
Cities: Oslo (coordinator), The Hague, Prato, Porto, Kaunas, Flanders.

Draft scoping papers have been received about next subjects from next cities.
Energy Transition: Gdansk and London
Land-use: Bologna and Roeselaere
Innovative Procurement: Haarlem

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NTCCP AND UDG
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