

STRENGTHENING URBAN POLICY IN THE EU

-Web Conference-

18 November 2021 | 10:00 – 15:15

Integrating the Principles of the New Leipzig Charter into the Urban Agenda for the EU



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The New Leipzig Charter is the key reference document on principles of good urban governance in Europe. It is interlinked with the Urban Agenda for the EU as a novel multi-level governance approach that aims to strengthen the “urban dimension” of EU policies. With the first generation of partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU coming to an end, the process of paving the way for an even stronger Urban Agenda has been initiated and advanced under the Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. This process will conclude with the adoption of the Ljubljana Agreement at the Informal Ministerial on Urban Development on 26 November 2021. The conference therefore raises the question, how the continuation of the Urban Agenda for the EU can contribute to the implementation of the principles of the New Leipzig Charter and vice versa and how to bring an urban dimension into EU-policies in particular in the ongoing implementation of the “Green Deal”.

The event is aimed at the stakeholders of the European “urban development community” with a strong interest in the EU “urban dimension”. The session will conclude the comprehensive series of seven public web conferences “Cities Fit for Future” on the implementation of the New Leipzig Charter, which started in September 2020. It is organised by the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development and funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community in the context of the National Urban Development Policy.

Please register for the event here: https://eveeno.com/fit-for-future_europe. The conference is going to be streamed via YouTube. All registered participants will receive the access data via email.

Setting of the web-series

The “New Leipzig Charter: The transformative power of cities for the common good” was adopted on 30 November 2020 under the German EU Council Presidency. Against this background, the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development (DV) – which also was intensely involved in the development of the new charter – in September 2020 launched the web series “Europe’s Cities Fit for Future”. The series is supported by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community in the context of the National Urban Development Policy. The three web conferences in 2020 addressed a broad international audience of experts and had 800 participants in total. The sessions transmitted the key principles of the New Leipzig Charter and combined the practical perspective of municipalities with the political discourse. In 2021, the series was continued. The first three sessions put their focus on the national urban development policy in Germany. The upcoming last event, “Strengthening Urban Policy in the EU”, aims at completing the series and will reflect the topic once again at European level.

Moderation: **Jonas Scholze**, Executive Director, German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development

Welcome and Opening

10:00 **Anne Katrin Bohle**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany

10:20 *Why Integrate the Principles of the New Leipzig Charter into EU-Policy?*
Prof. Dr. Karsten Zimmermann, Technical University of Dortmund

Strengthening Multilevel-governance

10:45 *The Roadmap to Ljubljana: A Strong EU Urban Agenda for the Future*
Robert Rožac, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

11:00 Panel Debate: *Continuing the Urban Agenda for the EU in the Light of the New Leipzig Charter*

- **Elisa Vilares**, Head of Division, Directorate-General for Territory, Portugal
- **Marek Teplansky**, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Prof. Dr. Anke Karmann-Woessner**, Head of the City Planning Office, City of Karlsruhe
- **Henna Virkkunen**, MEP, City Councillor of Jyväskylä and Representative of Eurotowns (t.b.c.)

Key Input by **Karen van Dantzig**, Dutch Urban Envoy, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands

Moderation: **Martin Grisel**, Director, European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) EGTC

12:00 Lunch and Screen Break

New Leipzig Charter & Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU

13:00 *How to Strengthen the Urban Dimension in the Green Deal for Europe?*
Kieran McCarthy, Member of Cork City Council, European Committee of the Regions

13:15 Partner Dialogue: *Next Generation of Thematic Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU: Prospects and Relation to the New Leipzig Charter*

Green Dimension

- **Alicja Pawlowska**, Head of Mobility Management, City of Gdynia (Partnership "Urban Mobility")
- **N.N.**, Navarra Region (Partnership "Energy Transition")

Productive Dimension

- **Thomas Kiwitt**, Managing Technical Director, Stuttgart Regional Association (Partnership "Sustainable Land Use")
- **Jan-Harko Post**, City of the Hague (Partnership "Circular Economy")

Just Dimension

- **Michaela Kauer**, Head of Brussels Office, City of Vienna (Partnership "Housing")
- **Sabina Kekic**, Partnership "Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees"

Moderation: **Eddy Adams**, Director, Eddy Adams Consultants, York

EU programmes Supporting the Implementation of the New Leipzig Charter

14:00 Panel Debate:

- **Gerry Muscat**, Head of Urban Development Division, European Investment Bank
- **Philippe Froissard**, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Nuala Morgan**, Head of Unit, URBACT Secretariat, Paris

Conclusions and Outlook towards the next Trio-presidency

14:45 *Final Remarks and Perspective of the European Parliament*
Marcos Ros Sempere, Member of the European Parliament

Outlook towards the French EU Presidency
Eric Briat, Director, Commissariat général à l'égalité des territoires (ANCT), France

15:15 End of the Event