European frameworks for urban sustainable development

10th ESDN Workshop on urban sustainable development, Brussels, 28 January 2014
1 - What makes cities particularly important for SD?
Shared European visions & principles of urban development

• *Places of advanced social progress*
• *Platforms for democracy, cultural dialogue and diversity*
• *Places of green, ecological or environmental regeneration*
• *Places of attraction and engines of economic growth*

*(Leipzig Charter and Toledo declaration)*
2. Income distribution

1. Size of the economic base

Economic decline or stagnation

Decoupling of economic growth and social development

Increasing income disparities

Conflicts between communities

Shrinking/ageing cities

Resource inefficiency / Urban sprawl

3. Cultural diversity

4. Age composition

5. Environmental pressure

SD at risk
2 - What does DG Regional and Urban Policy offer for cities in order to achieve urban SD?
A large share of the ERDF funding goes to cities

- **Obligation to every Member State to devote at least 5% of total investments under ERDF to integrated sustainable urban development**

- **Estimation of nearly half of future funding spent in urban areas in one way or another**

- **50 and 80 percent of their European Regional Development fund (ERDF) investments on ICT, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the low-carbon economy.**
A link to the urban dimension of EU policies

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Urban Issues at stake

Under the series of themes below, you will find an inventory of the various programmes and initiatives in which are funded by the European Commission and which have an urban dimension. A list of relevant web addresses on Europa or beyond is provided under each entry. In addition, some recommened links are provided to European associations or research consortia.

Green cities

Sustainable mobility in cities

- The urban dimension of the EU transport policy
- ELTIS: the main European portal on Urban mobility
- CIVITAS

Environmentally-friendly cities

- The urban dimension of the EU environmental policy
Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities

• An interactive web-tool designed for cities created by Member States (led by France) with support of Commission

• To facilitate integrated and sustainable urban development through better dialogue and tools:
  - to develop a sustainable urban strategy or project;
  - to check the integrated approach of an urban strategy or project;
  - to monitor the progress over time.
Available in 18 languages - almost 200 cities now using tool

RFSC will become part of URBACT III from end of 2014 and will be further improved

RFSC and related information site – www.rfsc.eu
3 - How to achieve a good collaboration between the different political levels for urban SD/sustainable cities?
Future orientation
Living with change
'Relevant excellence'
Inclusive society & economy
Diversity as an asset
Resource efficiency and resilience

Sustainable cities

1. Size of the economic base
2. Income distribution
3. Cultural diversity
4. Age composition
5. Environmental pressure
We need to **invest in our cities**...

...but not just question of levels of investment

- **We need adopt an** integrated territorial **approach**
- **within new governance frameworks**
- **with new ways of working across sectoral boundaries**
- **with a wider set of partners**, including citizens
- **focusing on** long-term shared diagnosis and **objectives**
Thank you for your attention!

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