

1 Partnership “Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy”

1.1 Key information on the Partnership “Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy”

During the Dutch Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2016 the Pact of Amsterdam was adopted by EU ministers of the Interior. It states that European cities will be more involved with the creation of EU legislation, EU funding and knowledge sharing. The relevance of this involvement is highlighted by the statistics that cities and urban areas now house more than 70% of all Europeans.

The Urban Agenda is composed of 12 priority themes essential to the development of urban areas. Each theme has a dedicated Partnership. These partnerships bring together cities, Member States and European institutions. Together, they aim to implement the Urban Agenda by finding workable ideas focused on the topics of EU legislation funding and knowledge sharing. One of the partnerships is the **Partnership on Jobs and Skill in the Local Economy**.

Members of the Partnership

- Cities: Rotterdam (coordinator), Jelgava (coordinator) Torino, Porto, Miskolc, Kielce, Ghent, Grand Angoulême, Weinheim.
- Member States: Romania (coordinator), Italy, Greece;
- Stakeholders: EUROCITIES, URBACT, CEMR, EIB;
- European Commission: DG REGIO, EMPLOYMENT.

Focus areas and activities

To frame its work, the Partnership identified six thematic areas:

- **Valorisation of R&D** is about commercializing the results of scientific research and development in cooperation between entrepreneurs and the scientific and research community. Both actors play an important role in economy growth and region development.
- **Business Location** (infrastructure): aims at (re) developing business parks and office locations to the needs of the companies and entrepreneurs both existing and new. This includes transport and communication, networks such as water, waste, sewage, energy etc.
- **Public services** are relevant for improving the public space and the quality of life, but also for attracting investors and skilled labour force.



- An **Effective Local Governance**: efficient regulation, an effective and a well-functioning public administration, and well-targeted and tailored public expenditure all are essential to the smooth functioning of economies of the cities by providing essential infrastructure and public services, ensuring the rule of law and enforcing property rights.
- The **Next Economy** is about enabling the transition of cities and regions with a strong industrial and often fossil fuel base into a next economy based on knowledge, interconnection, sustainable energy, digital platforms and more localised and circular forms of production.
- **Education and Skills**: moving into the 21st century and preparing the transition to the next economy requires different types of qualifications of our labour force, being skilled in 21st century skills, aiming at highly qualified experts and capacities, to foster higher productivity, creativity and innovation, and ensuring inclusive labour markets. In other words the next economy is built on the next society.

1.2 Working method

After the selection of the priority themes by the coordinators each participant chose those themes that they want to be involved in the basis of their interests and motivations within the partnership. The Partnership prepared its Orientation Paper in March 2017 and it was endorsed at the DG UM meeting held on 4 April 2017. The OP defines the topics the Partnership would like to work on.

Subsequently of the Orientation Paper approval, the so-called Stocktaking Phase took place, whereby partners were asked to work on a questionnaire to identify relevant initiatives being implemented in their respective territory, indicated which were the challenges to be confronted and what could be the possible solutions.

The information and outcomes emerging from this exercise enabled the coordinators to further streamline the concrete topics to be taken forward and be subject of the research phase (Preparatory Actions) which is currently taking place, and that will constitute the basis for the concrete items to be included in the Action Plan.

State of play

Currently and after the stocktaking exercise each priority theme is being analysed in depth by the members, there are two specific goals now:

- 1- Create a survey for a public consultation. the public consultation will be released in early October with the support of the stakeholders' networks (EUROCITIES, CEMR and URBACT).
- 2- Select relevant experts that can give quality inputs to the challenges and bottlenecks detected during the Stocktaking Phase

Next meeting will take place in Rotterdam on November 29th. There, with all the information and inputs, the partnership will start to elaborate the Action Plan.

