

Urban Agenda for the EU

Partnership for Urban Mobility

Disclaimer:

This recommendation is endorsed by the members of the Urban Agenda Partnership for Urban Mobility. This paper may not reflect the official positions of individual members of the Partnership.

Involve municipalities, cities and regions in the multi-annual financial planning

The European Commission announced its proposals on the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework for the summer of 2018, and the preparation of the next programming period has already commenced.

Partners of the EU urban agenda partnership on urban mobility call for enhanced partnership with municipalities, cities and regions in the multi-annual financial planning. We are convinced of the necessity to involve local and regional authorities in the development of the multi-annual financial planning, in order to achieve integrated urban strategies and improved transport systems. The rural-urban connection should also be taken into account.

The European Commission should ensure the continuity of support from the EU budget for the deployment of sustainable transport project in the post 2020 period, while also securing the level of its funding in the next multiannual financial framework.

The urban agenda for the EU introduced a model for partnership and direct dialogue between cities, regions, national and European institutions to address common urban and regional challenges. This practice could be replicated at EU, national, local and regional level in the development of the multi-annual financial planning.

Also, the European code of conduct on the partnership principle under cohesion policy was an important step in this direction, however it was not fully applied across the EU in the designing phase of the operational programmes. There is ample room for development in the partnership approach both in terms of the range of partners and the level of their involvement.



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Detailed recommendations:

1. National policy priorities should be identified based on a comprehensive partnership dialogue with cities and regions. It is also crucial to ensure an integrated planning approach with the rural level.
2. Urban and regional authorities should be directly involved in selecting the thematic priorities and the instruments to implement the support to sustainable territorial development.
3. The European code of conduct on the partnership principle should be integrated in the regulatory framework of cohesion policy. An *ex-ante* conditionality on the full application of the partnership principle should be introduced with the fulfilment of which being a condition to the adoption of each operational programme.

Despite showing leadership and having the right competences and hands-on experience, municipalities, cities and regional authorities are rarely involved in setting programme priorities and in selecting the most suitable implementation tools under the multi-annual financial planning. This has led to a mismatch between needs and resources and prevented the use of a bottom-up integrated approach. To improve the effectiveness of the policy in addressing challenges on the ground, local and regional authorities must be meaningfully involved in shaping the policies and programmes.



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