

Scope of the Assessment Study of the Urban Agenda for the European Union carried out by DG Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission

1. BACKGROUND OF THE URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

1.1 Description of the measure, objectives and expected impacts

Cities are important drivers of economic growth, jobs and competitiveness in the EU. It is in cities where most citizens live, where the biggest share of the Gross Domestic Product is generated, where a large part of EU policies and legislation are implemented and where a significant share of EU funds is spent. Cities are often the places where opportunities and challenges arise. Cities are also one of the closest levels of governance to the citizens. In this context and throughout the years, many voices of stakeholders at the EU, national and local level have argued that cities need to be adequately involved in the conception and implementation of EU and national policies and that these need to be better adapted to the urban context.

As a response, Ministers responsible for Cohesion policy met in Athens in April 2014 to discuss an EU Urban Agenda. Moreover, the European Commission organised a Cities Forum in 2014 to initiate a debate on the need for this initiative and later opened a public consultation aimed at further clarifying the need for an EU urban agenda, its objectives and functioning.

With no legal basis for urban policy in the Treaties, the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) was initiated within the framework of intergovernmental cooperation. The Pact of Amsterdam, which was signed on 30 May 2016 at the informal meeting of EU Ministers responsible for Urban Matters, establishes the UAEU and sets out its objectives. These include establishing a more integrated and coordinated approach to EU policies and legislation that impact on urban areas, involving urban authorities in the design of policies and reinforcing the urban dimension of policies. Today, the UAEU strives to be the 'umbrella' framework for all urban policy initiatives. The overall governance and steering of the UAEU is assured through the Directors General on Urban Matters (DGUM)¹, based on the opinion forming in the Urban Development Group (UDG, expert working level).

The UAEU is a multi-level working method and institutional innovation promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in European cities by identifying and successfully tackling urban challenges. The main delivery mechanism of the UAEU is Thematic Partnerships comprised of various governmental levels and stakeholders. The agenda of each Partnership is jointly steered by all involved partners on a voluntary, inclusive and equal basis. Partnerships have to produce an Action Plan with actions addressed at the EU, national or local level. These actions are then to be implemented by the relevant level. These Action Plans are the key deliverables of the Urban Agenda for the EU and the actions included in the Action Plans target three pillars of EU policy-making and implementation: better regulation, better funding and better knowledge. It is also possible that actions are hybrid, touching upon more than one pillar. There is no legal obligation to implement the actions. However, EU Institutions, Member States, cities and stakeholders should examine how to implement the actions falling within their competence and conduct appropriate follow-up actions if they wish to pursue them.

¹ High level decision making group comprised of Member States, the European Committee of the Regions, EUROCITIES and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

The UAEU is a dynamic process which evolves over time with some topics being replaced by others once the work is finished. There are currently twelve Partnerships and two new Partnerships are foreseen to be established by the end of 2018. The priority themes of the Partnerships are identified in the Pact of Amsterdam. These themes were chosen taking into account the results of the public consultation, an assessment made by the Commission, as well as a series of workshops organised by the Commission. The selected themes correspond to the priorities of the EU 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and to the investment priorities which are the strong focus of European Regional Development Fund Article 7 on sustainable urban development. The twelve themes are: Inclusion of migrants and refugees; Urban poverty; Housing; Air quality; Circular economy; Jobs and skills in the local economy; Climate adaptation; Energy transition; Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions; Urban mobility; Digital transition; and Innovative and responsible public procurement. Moreover, two additional Partnerships will be set up: Security in public space and Culture and cultural heritage in cities. These priority themes are addressed while taking into account a number of cross-cutting issues, for example, governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation, urban regeneration and international dimension².

The twelve Partnerships were set up in three phases between January 2016 and June 2017³. Participating Member States and cities have been proposed by Member States, the European Committee of the Regions, EUROCITIES, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) as well as the URBACT Programme and have been selected by the Directors-General Group on Urban Matters (DGUM). In order to ensure that the Partnerships remain operational, their size is limited to 15-20 members and 1-3 members are designated as Coordinators. Some of the Coordinators' responsibilities include being the main point of contact for members of the Partnership and other interested Urban Authorities, the Commission and Member States, other stakeholders as well as parties not involved in the specific Partnership, organising and chairing the Partnership meetings, as well as organising the work between Partnership meetings. Today, there are 22 Member States, 84 cities and 13 Directorates General of the European Commission participating to the work of the UAEU.

At the DGUM meeting held in Tallinn in 2017, it was agreed to examine whether cities and Member States have an appetite for launching new Partnerships and to gather ideas for new potential themes. As a follow-up, a survey was launched. Among the 20 responses received from Member States, the European Commission, CEMR, the European Economic and Social Committee and EUROCITIES, 17 were in favour of expanding the number of the Partnerships beyond 12 and 7 were against. In parallel, 21 new themes were suggested by the UDG, later grouped by the Bulgarian Presidency in 12 new themes. These will be used as a ground for further discussion within the UDG and the DGUM. This proves that a political willingness and momentum exists to further pursue the implementation of the UAEU.

In order to work in full transparency and give a voice also to those outside the membership of Partnerships, a dedicated and interactive website called 'Futurium' was set up. It allows all those interested to be informed and to give feedback (e.g. on the drafts Action Plans proposed by the Partnerships). Moreover, there is a dedicated Urban Agenda newsletter and a Twitter account. Further transparency and dissemination is attained through a series of workshops and the biannual high-level conference organised by the Commission, the 'Cities Forum'.

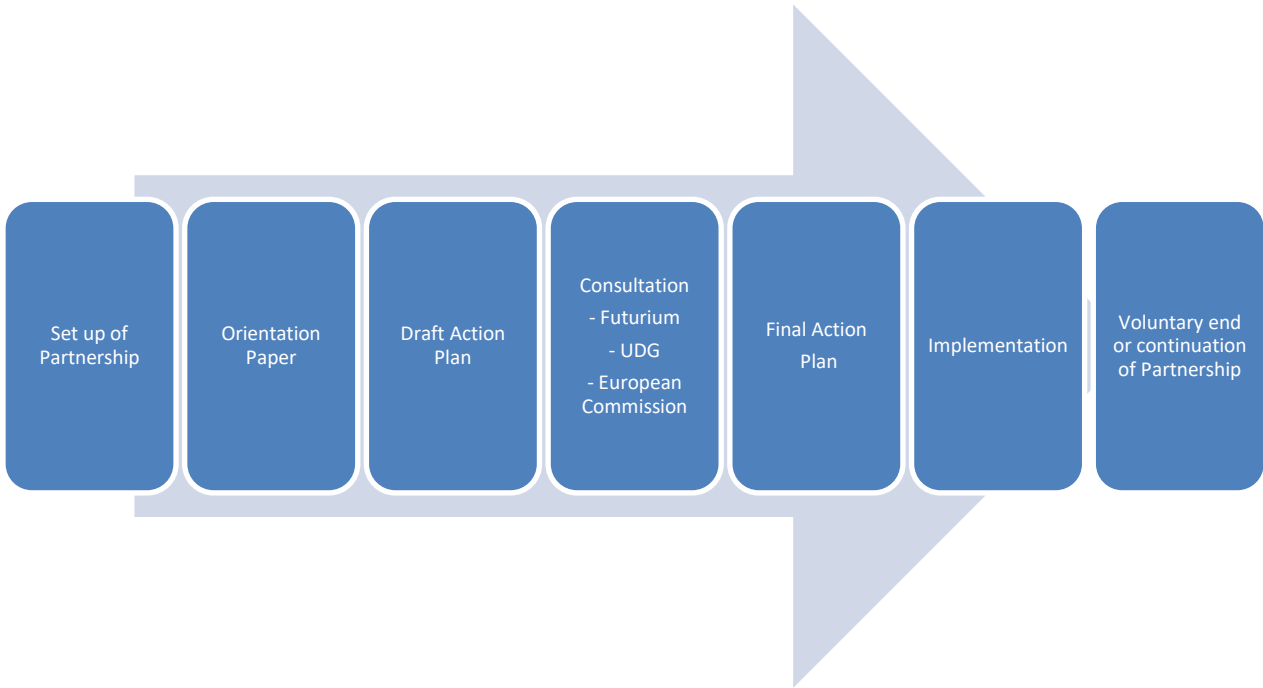
Action plans are subject to a public feedback via Futurium. Further consultation is conducted via an inter-service consultation within the European Commission and within the UDG. Input received through these different channels is considered to be potentially embedded into the

² The entire list of cross-cutting issues can be found in part II of the Pact of Amsterdam

³ Four Partnerships under the Dutch Presidency, four under the Slovak Presidency and four under the Maltese Presidency

final Action Plan which is sent by the Coordinators to the responsible EU Presidency who then submits it to the DGUM. The final Action Plans are then discussed in the DGUM.

Main milestones of a Partnership



When it comes to the role of EU actors, the European Commission facilitates the overall process by bringing EU policy expertise in the Partnerships' meetings, by providing a Secretariat for the Partnerships and by having communication activities with all interested parties. The Secretariat support is provided by the Ecorys NV, while Eurocities and the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) are responsible for dedicated tasks as outreach partners. The Secretariat is inter alia responsible for supporting the Partnerships and providing expertise, supporting the European Commission as well as for communication and outreach activities. The European Parliament is an important player in the Urban Agenda for the EU through its funding for the Secretariat. The European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee have been strong advocates of the UAEU and continue to discuss urban issues on a regular basis. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is actively involved in the UAEU and has created an Urban Agenda Working Group bringing together representatives from all EIB services to review the many ways in which the EIB can contribute to the Urban Agenda for the EU.

The DGUM asked the Estonian Presidency in 2017 to elaborate a proposal for a smaller group, the UA Technical Preparatory Group (UA TPG), that would work on technical issues and preparation of draft documents for reflection in the UDG on the implementation of the UAEU. The UA TPG will be comprised of 10 members: 6 Member States– representing the rolling Presidencies (the two past Presidencies, the current one and the three succeeding ones), the European Commission and 1 member of the European Committee of the Regions, EUROCITIES and CEMR respectively.

Next to the Partnerships, the Urban Agenda for the EU also advocates for a better assessment of potential territorial impacts of legislative or policy initiatives that have an urban dimension. Concretely, the territorial impact assessments tested so far gave the opportunity to experts of cities, regions and Member States to express their views to the Commission on EU initiatives

and thereby provide useful insights on the varying potential impacts on cities. Moreover, the UAEU is the framework under which a single web entry point for cities and stakeholders, the 'One-Stop-Shop' on all the EU urban initiatives, has been created. It provides complete and reliable information on EU regulations, funds and knowledge.

The Urban Agenda for the EU also gives an important impetus to several other international agreements. This is particularly the case for the Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goal 11 calling for "cities and human settlements" to be "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and other urban related goals. It also supports the Paris Agreement on climate change which is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal recognising the critical role of cities in reducing emissions, as well as the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction. Finally, it has inspired the development of the recently adopted 'Union for the Mediterranean Urban Agenda'. In parallel, the Urban Agenda for the EU represents EU's contribution and key delivery instrument to the United Nations New Urban Agenda (Habitat III Conference) and the Sustainable Development Goals. The New Urban Agenda sets out a common vision and global standards for urban development in the coming decades, in support of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The New Urban Agenda and the Urban Agenda for the EU share the same vision for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban development.

The Urban Agenda for the EU aims to enhance the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of urban-related policies through better policy coordination, multi-level governance and incorporation of urban development in the conception and implementation of sectoral policies. It also strives to strengthen cities' engagement and ownership of EU and national policymaking and implementation, as well as support cities' capacity for transformational changes towards a sustainable economic, social, environmental and territorial development of urban areas.

1.2 Implementation – State of Play

Out of the twelve Partnerships, eleven Partnerships have finalised or are close to finalise their Action Plans. The finalised Action Plans can be found on the dedicated webpages of relevant Partnerships on Futurium⁴.

As a general rule, the actions on the pillar on 'better regulation' focus on new or improved legislation, on guidance documents, on workshops etc. The actions on the pillar on 'better funding' focus on changes to EU funds and on better use of existing funds. Finally, the actions on the pillar on 'better knowledge' mostly focus on the exchange of experiences and the development of knowledge tools. Each Partnership has its own approach towards the type and target audience of actions. For instance, the Action Plan of Urban Poverty is entirely addressed at the EU level, whilst the Action Plan of Air Quality is entirely addressed at the national and/or local level.

For the actions which are addressed at the European level, DG REGIO does a preliminary assessment and then initiates a discussion with the relevant Commission services in order to decide how far the action can be implemented. Six months after the submission of the final Action Plan, the Commission will tentatively report back on the follow-up of each Action.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda>

1.3 Assessment and monitoring provisions

Monitoring Provisions

A monitoring table of actions has recently been developed by the Secretariat in collaboration with the European Commission. Its aim is threefold:

- a) Monitoring the progress of the Actions by the Coordinators and other interested stakeholders;
- b) Facilitating and supporting the coordination between Partnerships;
- c) Integrating key information on all Urban Agenda Actions, that can serve as a basis for further qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The monitoring table is currently comprised of four sections: action overview (type of action, results, target institution etc.), cross-cutting issues, Sustainable Development Goals, Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives (post-2020 Cohesion Policy) and it is expected to be further fine-tuned. The most up to date version of the monitoring table will be made available to the Contractor.

Other relevant monitoring provisions are the Secretariat's bi-annual progress reports on Partnerships and the reports of the Partnership meetings. Moreover, all information on Futurium and material which was sent to the UDG and DGUM also represent a valuable source of information to be analysed by the Contractor.

In addition, there are two recurrent events in which the UAEU is discussed; the Cities Forum and the Coordinators' meeting. The first takes place on a biannual basis and the last edition was held in November 2017 in Rotterdam. The Cities Forum brought together 550 key stakeholders from European, national and local levels to debate among other topics, the progress of the Urban Agenda for the EU. On the first day of the Forum, eight out of twelve Partnerships⁵ of the UAEU organised workshops, including site visits, relevant to their themes. The next Cities Forum will be held in the end of 2019 in which the outcome of this assessment study is to be presented. The last Coordinators' meeting was held on 7-8 March 2018 in Brussels, where possible overlaps and synergies between Partnerships have been discussed.

Previous assessments and other reports

There is no formal prior assessment of the UAEU. Various reference documents and websites can contribute to the assessment study to be undertaken. These are referred to in section 5.

Another assessment is, however, planned to be conducted by the DGUM. The Contractor is requested to get in contact with relevant representatives in the DGUM in order to ensure appropriate coordination in light of this study.

2. RATIONALE FOR AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT

This assessment study responds to the Report to the Council of November 2017 on the Urban Agenda for the EU (COM (2017) 657 final) in which the European Commission states that 'By the end of 2019, the Commission plans to carry out an evaluation on the Urban Agenda for the EU'.

⁵ Air Quality, Circular Economy, Digital Transition, Housing, Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, Jobs and Skills, Urban Mobility, Urban Poverty

The overall purpose of the study is to holistically assess the implementation and performance of the UAEU and to explore possible ways to improve its utility and effectiveness in view of its future implementation.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The scope of the assessment study will be broad, covering all aspects of the UAEU. The assessment study will assess all Partnerships, the governance model in place, the Action Plans and implementation of Actions, as well as other UAEU related aspects such as the One-Stop-Shop and urban proofing (Territorial Impact Assessment).

The assessment study will cover the UAEU implementation period from the launch of the first four pilot Partnerships to the publication of this study.

Some potential limitations of the assessment study include:

- The differentiated timespan of Partnerships and their degree of advancement in order to provide evidence-based results;
- Some Partnerships might not have finalised their Action Plans;
- Pending implementation of Action Plans;
- The limited quantitative and predominantly qualitative nature of data to conduct this assessment;
- The divergence among the perspectives and interests of the different levels of governance. The innovative working method of the UAEU brings together different views, but also occasionally contradictory interests around the table.

The methodology to be included in the tender shall provide insight on how these limitations could be overcome.

4. RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

The following non-exhaustive list of documents and sources of information should be assessed by the Contractor prior and throughout the study. Other relevant reference documents might be used by the Contractor to complement this list.

- Communication from the Commission: [Towards an urban agenda in the European Union](#) (COM(1997)0197)
- European Parliament Resolution: [European Urban Agenda and its Future in Cohesion Policy](#) (2010/2158(INI))
- [Cities of tomorrow: Challenges, visions, ways forward](#)
- Communication from the Commission: [The urban dimension of EU policies](#) – key features of an EU urban agenda, COM(2014) 490 final
- Commission Staff Working Document: [Results of the Public Consultation on the key features of an Urban Agenda for the EU](#), SWD(2015) 109 final/2
- European Parliament Resolution: [The urban dimension of EU policies](#) (2014/2213(INI))
- [Declaration of Ministers towards the EU Urban Agenda](#)
- Opinion of the Committee of the Regions: [Towards an Integrated Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [Urban Agenda for the EU: The Pact of Amsterdam](#)
- Council Conclusions: [Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- European Parliament briefing: [Delivering the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- Report: [Role of cities in the institutional framework of the Union](#) (2017/2037(INI))

- [Learning with cities, learning for cities: The Golden Opportunity of the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [Learning to experiment: Realising the potential of the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- Survey conducted by the EURO CITIES working group on the UAEU
- Assessment of Partnerships conducted by the Directors General on Urban Matters (see Pact of Amsterdam Working Programme of the UAEU, section D, point II)
- [Report from the Commission to the Council on the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [Report of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and “Doing Less More Efficiently”](#)
- Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the [Implementation assessment of the Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- EUKN Report: [One year pact of Amsterdam](#)
- Brussels Declaration by the Mayors of the EU Capital Cities on Public investment, investment, Cohesion policy and the Urban Agenda for the EU
- [Dedicated website of the Urban Agenda for the EU \(Futurium\)](#)
- Commission website on [Cities and urban development](#)
- [Urban Data Platform](#)
- [Tool 33](#) of the Better Regulation Toolbox on territorial impacts
- [Tool 21](#) for Research and Innovation
- Technical Secretariat of the UAEU
- [EU Research & Innovation for and with cities: Yearly Mapping Report](#)
- Website of the [European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities](#)
- List of reference documents in the Annex of the Pact of Amsterdam
- Progress reports of the Partnerships/Secretariat
- Monitoring table of actions
- [Presentations](#) of the Cities Forum 2017
- UDG and DGUM documents

Any internal documents provided to the Contractor must remain confidential. The Contractor is not authorised to publish or further disseminate such documents without the written consent of the Commission.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The study should provide inputs for the European Commission's assessment of the Urban Agenda for the EU. The overarching objective of the study is to assess to what extent the UAEU has achieved its original objectives in terms of **effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value**. This will be achieved by holistically assessing the **results and impacts of the UAEU implementation**.

Specific objectives of the assessment study include:

- a. Providing evidence on how far the objectives of the UAEU, as described in the Pact of Amsterdam, have been attained;
- b. Providing insight into the challenges, shortcomings, strengths and opportunities that have arisen throughout the implementation of the UAEU;
- c. Striving to understand the causes and factors of success or failure of the UAEU;
- d. Examining the sustainability of results and impacts of the UAEU;

- e. Providing guidance and recommendations in order to make the UAEU more effective, more efficient, more relevant, more coherent and with an increased EU added value in view of its future implementation.

The specific tasks of the Contractor are to identify, test and apply methodologies to collect, analyse and present primary and secondary data that address the main assessment objectives and answer the assessment questions, as well as to formulate conclusions in relation to the purpose of the assessment exercise. It shall at minimum include the following tasks:

1. Propose and apply a comprehensive, robust and clear **methodology** to collect and analyse data and information aiming at assessing the **effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added-value** of the UAEU and any other questions or areas listed below.
2. To collect **pertinent information and data** in accordance with the methodology agreed. Data collection should cover primary as well as secondary data. The tender shall also indicate how the triangulations of different sources will be applied.
3. To **analyse the information and data** collected in accordance with the methodology agreed. Data analysis shall also include a set of appropriate indicators to reply to the assessment questions.
4. To **answer the assessment questions** and present robust and useable **conclusions** on basis of the findings.
5. To **present the main findings, conclusions and recommendations** in a final study according to the requirements listed below.
6. To **prepare one presentation** for two public events to be organised by the Commission in the end of 2019 and/or early 2020 and to **present the findings of the study in these events**.

6. ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the following questions.

Q1. Effectiveness: How effective is the UAEU in achieving its objectives?

The Contractor shall analyse the progress made towards achieving the general, specific and operational objectives of the UAEU.

The study shall first provide an overview of the implementation of the UAEU and the evolution over time. Then, it should seek to identify the results and impacts on the objectives of the UAEU, the factors driving or hindering the progress and to what extent they are linked to the UAEU.

The Contractor shall propose a list of assessment questions in the tender to guide the analysis. These questions will be refined in the inception report. The questions and methodology to be proposed by the Contractor should take into account the following areas of assessment:

- *The specific and general objectives of the UAEU, as described in the Pact of Amsterdam*

A non-exhaustive list of objectives includes:

- a. Strengthening the urban dimension of EU and national policies
- b. Releasing the full potential and contribution of Urban Areas towards achieving the objectives of the Union
- c. Establishing a more effective, integrated and coordinated approach to EU policies and legislation with a potential impact on Urban Areas

- d. Contributing to territorial cohesion by reducing the socioeconomic gaps observed in urban areas and regions
- e. Involving Urban Authorities in the design and implementation of EU/national policies
- f. Contributing to make EU policy more effective
- g. Involving Urban Authorities in achieving better regulation, better knowledge and better funding
- h. Improving accessibility to and coordination of existing funding possibilities and contributing to their simplification
- i. Enhancing a better urban policy knowledge base and exchange of good practices
- j. Fostering coherence between urban matters and territorial cohesion, as set out in the Territorial Agenda 2020
- k. Contributing to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Goal 11 ‘Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’ and the global ‘New Urban Agenda’ as part of the Habitat III process

- *The three pillars on Better Regulation, Better Funding, Better Knowledge*
- *Aspects/means/actors that render certain aspects of the UAEU more or less effective*
- *The impact of the UAEU on EU, national and local policies*
- *The contribution of Action Plans and Actions in achieving the UAEU objectives*
- *The contribution of Action Plans and Actions in achieving the Partnerships’ objectives, including their integrated and cross-sectoral approach*
- *The feasibility and implementation of actions*
- *The cross-cutting issues referred to in the Pact of Amsterdam⁶*
- *The participation of various actors in Partnerships*
- *The One-Stop-Shop as a tool for urban policymakers*
- *The use of Territorial/Urban Impact Assessment*

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the question, taking into account the areas of assessment mentioned above.

Q2. Efficient governance: How efficient is the governance of the UAEU?

The study should identify if the overall governance of the UAEU is efficient or not, taking account of the total administrative structure and costs of the measure and the overall benefits for all stakeholders.

The findings should pin-point areas where there is potential to reduce inefficiencies and simplify the governance of the UAEU.

The Contractor shall propose a list of assessment questions in the tender to guide the analysis. These questions will be refined in the inception report. The questions and methodology to be proposed by the Contractor should take into account the following areas of assessment:

- *The governance, coordination, management mode and administrative structures in place*

⁶ Cross-cutting issues of the UAEU comprise effective urban governance, strategic urban planning, integrated and participatory approach, innovative approaches, impact on societal change, challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized Urban Areas and polycentric development, urban regeneration, adaptation to demographic change and in- and out migration, adequate public services of general interest, and international dimension

- *The UAEU technical assistance budget and technical secretariat of the UAEU*
- *The financial support provided by other stakeholders (e.g. Member States, organisations etc.)*
- *The administrative capacity at national, regional or EU level*
- *The differences in costs (or benefits) between Member States, Regions, Urban Authorities*
- *The coordination among and within Partnerships*
- *The coordination among different levels of governance*

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the question, taking into account the areas of assessment mentioned above.

Q3. Relevance: How is the UAEU relevant?

The Contractor shall determine whether the original objectives, themes, cross-cutting issues, of the UAEU are still relevant and how well they still match the current and future needs and problems tackled by the UAEU.

The answer to this question should identify if there is any mismatch between the objectives of the measure and the (current) needs or problems.

The Contractor shall propose a list of assessment questions in the tender to guide the analysis. These questions will be refined in the inception report. The questions and methodology to be proposed by the Contractor should take into account the following areas of assessment:

- *The relevance of the UAEU to EU citizens*
- *The relevance of the UAEU in the current political context of the EU*
- *The relevance and effect the UAEU has on long-term changes in urban policy making*
- *The relevance of the themes that were selected to implement the UAEU and the selection of future themes*
- *The relevance of cross-cutting issues referred to in the Pact of Amsterdam*
- *The relevance of the level (EU, national, local) at which the Actions are addressed to*

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the question, taking into account the areas of assessment mentioned above.

Q4. Coherence: How coherent is the UAEU internally and externally?

The Contractor shall analyse both external and internal coherence of the measure, i.e., between its various components and vis-à-vis other EU measures with similar objectives.

The Contractor shall propose a list of assessment questions in the tender to guide the analysis. These questions will be refined in the inception report. The questions and methodology to be proposed by the Contractor should take into account the following areas of assessment:

- *The internal coherence of the UAEU (e.g. between the Partnerships' Action Plans and reciprocal linkages)*
- *The external coherence of the UAEU, i.e. coherence and complementarities with other existing or emerging (urban) policy initiatives at the international (e.g. the New Urban Agenda), EU (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors, the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities, the JPI Urban Europe, urban-related research and innovation under the EU Framework Programme) and national level*
- *The composition and quality of Partnerships (i.e. types of actors involved)*

- *The consultation process of Action Plans*

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the question, taking into account the areas of assessment mentioned above.

Q5. EU added value: How is the UAEU demonstrating sufficient EU added value?

The Contractor shall analyse the EU added value of the measure, bringing together the findings of other criteria, presenting the arguments on causality and drawing conclusions, based on evidence at hand, about the performance of the measure.

The Contractor shall propose a list of assessment questions in the tender to guide the analysis. These questions will be refined in the inception report. The questions and methodology to be proposed by the Contractor should take into account the following areas of assessment:

- *The EU added value of the UAEU*
- *The sustainability of the UAEU*
- *The multi-level governance of the UAEU*

The Contractor shall propose the best qualitative and quantitative indicators to reply to the question, taking into account the areas of assessment mentioned above.

7. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the assessment study shall identify the means to answer the assessment questions. The Contractor shall be free to elaborate further the assessment questions if deemed necessary, also considering the different areas of assessment to be taken into account under each assessment question. The final approach will be submitted for the approval of the steering group at the inception phase.

The choice and a detailed description of the methodology must form part of the offer submitted. Advantages, limitations and risks involved in using the proposed tools and techniques should be explained.

The methodology shall clearly indicate: (1) how to identify the baseline/points of comparison (2) how to identify the causality link with the data/evidence collected, and (3) how to estimate the cost/benefits.

The Contractor will be responsible for structuring the study on the basis of the available information and data. This will involve applying a conceptual framework to the UAEU and establishing the appropriate focus (i.e. refining assessment questions), identifying indicators and targets, identifying key contextual elements to be analysed, and designing an appropriate assessment method to collect and analyse data.

The Contractor is expected to collect quantitative and qualitative data from diverse and relevant sources and to undertake a targeted stakeholder consultation and a public consultation. The Contractor will be responsible for analysing the data, using appropriate quantitative and qualitative tools and techniques, as well as interpreting the results of analyses and drawing conclusions and recommendations.

The assessment must be based on recognised assessment techniques and triangulation methods are required. The Contractor shall ensure robustness of information by acquiring it from more than one source. In particular, findings from consultations should be supported, when possible, by official statistics and other studies.

The Contractor must support findings and recommendations by explaining the degree to which these are based on opinions, analysis or objectively verifiable evidence. Where opinions are the main source, the degree of consensus and the steps taken to test the opinions should be given.

It is not expected that all individual measures and actions of the UAEU are assessed. The Contractor may propose in the offer, where relevant, the methodology that he/she intends to apply in order to propose a sample. The sample of measures and actions examined should be drawn up in a manner suitable for each assessment question addressed, and should enable the Contractor to draw general conclusions and lessons learned on the measures and actions.