



Towards an Urban Observatory

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If interested to know more, or participate in any of these activities, please contact us at: Jrc-kctp@ec.europa.eu



URBAN OBSERVATORY

on the future of cities and urban strategies

Scope: 1.) Evidence-based support the **urban dimension of European Policies**
2.) Contribute to the **recovery paths in cities**, harmonising sustainable development and economic growth with socially fair principles.

Mandate: *Act as a sort of ‘**alert system**’ to advise policy makers in cities on how to design and implement innovation-led transformative **urban strategies for climate-neutrality and increased resilience.***

Elements: Quantitative assessment (indicators, projections, urban-proofing ..)
Qualitative evaluation (Urban & Territorial strategies)

Coverage: Cities at **EU** and global scale (focus **Africa** and Mediterranean area)

**The Urban Observatory is aligned with DG REGIO and major EU projects and priorities such as the New European Bauhaus, the Leipzig Charter, the Horizon Europe R&I Mission on Climate Neutral Cities and the European Urban Initiative. In particular, formal/informal collaboration frameworks have been established with: DG CNECT, CEMR, Eurocities, EUKN, UN-Habitat, OECD, URBACT, Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) and the EEA.*



URBAN OBSERVATORY

on the future of cities and urban strategies

Tools and methods:

- Urban Data Platform Plus
- Strat-board
- LUISA Territorial modelling platform
- Data from emerging sources
- RE OPEN-EU

Networks & collaboration:

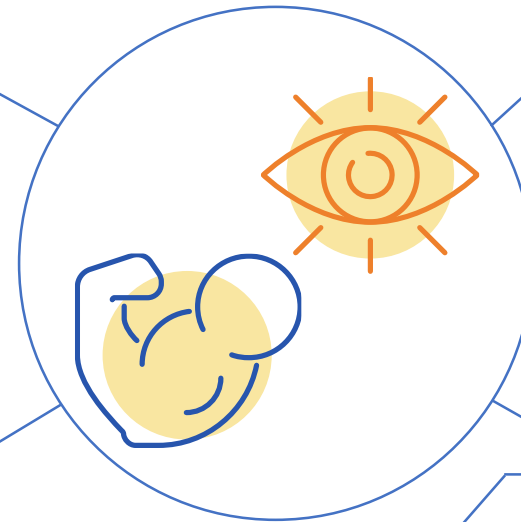
- Community of Practice (CoP-CITIES)
- City Science Initiative (CSI)
- City-Labs
- Bilateral agreements

Topics (selected examples)

- Housing, Homelessness
- Digitalisation, Innovation
- Sustainable & Resilient Tourism
- Essential Services and amenities
- Attractiveness, Integration
- Shrinking cities, Urban-rural flows

Products and Services

- Policy Briefs
- Urban Foresight
- Impact Assessments
- Interactive dashboards





TOOLS

LUISA & URBAN DATA PLATFORM PLUS

- LUISA Territorial Modelling Platform - land use & population projections to 2050
- Urban Data Platform – visualizes 75 related indicators, various spatial scales, digital interoperability framework under development

STRATBOARD & SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- StratBoard - platform for analysis of sustainable urban development (URBADEV project)
- “Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies”

LOCALISATION OF SDGS: URBAN2030 & SDG VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

- Collaborations ongoing with partner cities (Bratislava, Helsinki, Oulu, Porto, Reggio Emilia, Seville, Turku, Valencia) wishing to carry out their own SDG Voluntary Local Reviews
- “European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews”.



NETWORKS

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON CITIES (COP-CITIES)

*Main framework for collaboration, with bimonthly newsletter, open to contributions from all members.

CITY SCIENCE INITIATIVE

- Launched by City of Amsterdam in collaboration with JRC, DG RTD, and DG REGIO in 2019 to explore how the science-policy interface operates in light of emergent urban challenges.
- 5 themed work streams & webinars were organised with lead partner cities (Paris, Hamburg, Cluj Napoca, Reggio Emilia and Thessaloniki).

CITY-LABS

A number of targeted initiatives are being elaborated with individual cities or groups of cities including Amsterdam, Valencia & Bratislava



Policy Briefs 2021

***Official publications under the Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policy**

- CoP-CITIES collaborative effort following on the Future of Cities report 2019
- Standalone briefs published by the KCTP addressing major topics on a periodic basis
- First Briefs to be presented in September:
 - Shrinking Cities, Urban-Rural Interactions, Cities fit for the Digital Age, Homelessness
- Foreseen/confirmed next Briefs:
 - Homelessness, Migration, Towards a Circular Economy
- Further suggested topics:
 - Urban Regeneration, African cities, Resilient Cities, Environmental vulnerability, Resilient and Sustainable Tourism, Towards a circular economy, Air Quality, City branding, Energy efficiency, Employment & nature of work, Sharing economies, Behavioural change, Mental Health & Well-being, Student Towns, Biodiversity, Urban food systems

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thefutureofcities/>





URBAN OBSERVATORY

Next Steps

- I. Define elements for 'Policy Alert'
 - I. Policy Briefs on emerging/topical urban issues
 - II. Urban foresight and horizon scanning
- II. Reinforce and extend the framework for City-Labs
 - I. One Lab - One City
 - II. One Lab - Multiple Cities
- III. Reinforce and structure linkages with other Platforms and participatory tools
- IV. Data & information exchange : Territorial Interoperability Framework (Urban Data Platform)

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Thank you!

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Urban Data Platform:

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/#/en>

Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies:

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/territorial_en