Sustainable and integrated urban development in the EU
European urban policies

Number and **intensity of urban challenges** to be more become more pressing (sustainable and resilient development)

‘Future of Cities’ report, 2019

Important role of cities, need to scale up **cooperation**, seek **new solutions**, share knowledge, provide for bottom-up **evidence-based policy making**

Integrated approach, **improved governance**, coordination and cooperation is necessary
Cohesion Policy urban investments in 2014-2020

2014-2020 period: 351.8 billion EUR (ERDF 196 billion EUR)

A significant share of CP investments **115 billion EUR** is invested in urban areas

**Sustainable and integrated urban development (Art 7, min 5% ERDF)**

- 15.6 billion ERDF (~8%) decided by urban authorities
- Through more than 900 integrated urban development strategies
- ESF contributing with additional 1.5 billion EUR
Sustainable urban development in 2014-2020 (ERDF Art. 7)

*Integrated approach, long term strategic planning, multi-level governance*

Urban areas develop and implement integrated, sustainable urban development strategies cutting through sectorial, territorial and governance boundaries.

*Local needs and local empowerment*

Urban areas have direct responsibility in the implementation of the programs (at least project selection). The MA can delegate further tasks.

*Dedicated funding and territorial tools*

At least 5% of the national ERDF allocation must be allocated for integrated and sustainable urban development strategies, using one of the territorial tools: ITI, dedicated priority axis, or dedicated OP to urban strategy.
Programming results: planned ERDF support to SUD

Share of ERDF budget (%) by MS and delivery mechanism (2016)
How does SUD thematic focus differ from ERDF?

**Comparison of thematic focus (total ERDF vs. Art 7 ERDF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Focus</th>
<th>ERDF</th>
<th>Art 7 ERDF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TO1-T03</td>
<td>44.5 % / 11.34%</td>
<td>16 % / 38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TO4</td>
<td>9% / 18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TO9</td>
<td>6% / 17.5%</td>
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Current state of play: ESIF Open Data Platform

Up-to-date financial implementation figures

- EUR 10.7 billion ESIF allocated to selected projects (62% of the planned SUD allocation)
- EUR 2.2 billion (14%) spent.
- Slower start due to the novelty of the integrated approach and complexity of challenges, but implementation is catching up
- Implementation is easier when embedded in an existing policy and institutional framework.

URBADEV: REGIO-JRC collaboration

- STRAT-Board online mapping tool
- 1679 integrated strategies, 964 for sustainable urban development (Art. 7)
- Strategy and country fact-sheets
- Integrated with Urban Data Platform and ESIF Open Data Portal
- Open data and information source, analytical features

More information: https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/#/where
Handbook for Sustainable Urban Development

- **A handbook for policy learning** on the place-based, integrated and strategic approach to urban development in 2014-2020
- **Main targets**: Local Authorities, Managing Authorities
- **6 building blocks**: territorial focus, strategic dimension, governance, cross-sectoral integration, funding and finance, monitoring
- It focuses on **key challenges**, and tackle them through examples, link to online resources, recommendations

Available online:
URBACT III Programme

- A European exchange and learning program for cities
- **Main objective:** To promote integrated and sustainable urban development in European cities
- **Main activities:** networks of cities working on a common theme.
- **Cities involved:** 237 cities (351 partners) currently involved in one of the ... action planning, 4 implementation and 24 transfer networks
- **Budget:** EUR 96 million
Urban Innovative Actions

Main objective:
- To test how new and unproven solutions work in practice and how they respond to the complexity of real life
- To draw lessons and share knowledge with other urban authorities across Europe

Main activities: UIA projects translate challenges into complex sets of integrated actions at the cross-roads of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Cities involved: 75 projects in 65 cities

Budget: EUR 372 Mio ERDF
Policy objectives for 2021-2027

11 objectives simplified and consolidated to 5:

1. **A smarter Europe** (innovative & smart economic transformation)
2. **A greener, low-carbon Europe** (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)
3. **A more connected Europe** (mobility and ICT connectivity)
4. **A more social Europe** (the European Pillar of Social Rights)
5. **A Europe closer to citizens** (sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

Horizontal issues:

- Partnership
- Administrative capacity building
- Co-operation between regions and across borders (embeds co-operation in mainstream)
PO5: Territorial and Sustainable Urban Development

- New, **cross-cutting policy objective** for the integrated and sustainable development of cities and other territories

- **Territorial tools**: integrated territorial investment (ITI), CLLD, other integrated territorial tools

- **Requirements**: integrated local/territorial development strategies and involvement of relevant urban/territorial bodies = local empowerment

- At least **6% of ERDF to sustainable urban development**. In line with minimum requirements

- **European Urban Initiative**: more coherent approach in capacity building, innovative actions, knowledge and policy development and communication.
PO5: New policy objective

Foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resilience in all places.

**Urban context:**

- to benefit from agglomeration economies and positive spill-overs towards the wider functional urban areas and rural areas close to cities
- to address negative effects of concentration (traffic congestion, pollution, urban sprawl, affordable housing, poverty etc)

**Other territories:**

- to build on the potentials and specific assets of remote rural areas and local communities (beyond compensatory measures)
- to overcome the negative effects of low density and peripherality (access to jobs and services, pooling resources)
European Urban Initiative

**Proposed budget**: EUR 500 000 000

**Beneficiaries**: all EU urban areas; upon request, support for inter-governmental cooperation on urban matters (Urban Agenda for the EU)

**Objectives**: (1) Strengthen integrated and participatory approach to sustainable urban development; (2) Provide a stronger link to EU policies, in particular to Cohesion Policy – overall aim: to address fragmentation of support offered to cities under Cohesion Policy

**Types of actions**: 

1. **Support of capacity building**: Improve capacities of cities in the design and implementation sustainable urban policies and strategies in integrated and participative way (URBACT, Peer2Peer, URBIS, JASPERS, UDN)

2. **Support of innovative actions**: Develop transferable and scalable innovative solutions to urban challenges (UIA, city labs)

3. **Support of knowledge, policy & communication**: develop knowledge base in support of better policy design, implementation and urban mainstreaming & facilitate access to knowledge (JRC-URBADEV, ESPON, URBACT, UIA)

Thank you for your attention!

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