UDN seminar 3 June
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Welcome to the Urban Development Network!
' A symbolic meeting in a symbolic venue'

The first EU-wide territorial network on sustainable urban development, bringing urban local authorities in direct contact with the Commission.

In a venue that is a great example of successful urban regeneration co-financed by the ERDF (2000-2006) offering a multitude of functions (start-up incubation services, offices, a daily groceries market and a restaurant).
Who are we and what brings us together in the UDN?

We are a group of about 500 cities/urban areas across the EU who will be responsible for implementing integrated actions based on sustainable urban development strategies financed by ERDF in the 2014-2020 period.

The network is run by the Competence Centre for Urban and Territorial Development in DG REGIO.

The key aim is to improve the way we design and implement integrated urban development locally through different ways of learning and exchange.

In addition, we would like to promote a direct dialogue between the Commission and cities on sustainable urban development.
Okay, but what is the occasion? What is the story behind it? And how will my city be able to benefit from taking part in UDN?

**Looking back 25 years**: more than two decades of promoting sustainable urban development in the EU! Integrated approach (social, economic, environmental) community empowerment, participative planning.

**Funding actions**: URBAN pilot projects (1989-90), URBAN I (1994-99) and URBAN II (2000-06) community initiatives to help revitalise deprived urban neighbourhoods.


The evolution of the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy

URBAN pilots and community initiatives 1989-2006

EU wide mainstreaming 2007-2013

A reinforced urban dimension 2014-2020
The urban dimension of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 in a nutshell

How does Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 promote sustainable urban development?

- Provides direct funding to sustainable urban development and empowers urban areas (Article 7 ERDF)

- Provides direct funding to innovative solutions to urban challenges (Article 8 ERDF)

- Supports capacity building and knowledge exchange (Article 9 UDN and URBACT III)

- Offers extra flexibility through new implementation tools, ITI and CLLD (Article 32-36 CPR)
The starting point: **Urban complexity and diversity**

Around 80% of Europeans live in urban areas but this covers a great deal of diversity:

'From London to global metropolises to remote small towns, from shrinking cities to constantly growing cities, from ageing cities to younger, dynamic populations, from compact cities to sprawling areas, from thriving cities to cities in socio-economic crisis, and different national regulatory frameworks'.

Consequently, each urban area has a specific mix of local challenges.

What is common, is that these challenges are complex and interlinked.
Assumption 1: Due to their uniqueness, the complexity of urban challenges can be best addressed at the local level.

Assumption 2: Due to their interlinked nature, an integrated, cross-sectorial approach and the strong involvement of local stakeholders is more likely to help identify long lasting solutions to urban challenges.

Assumption 3: An urban development strategy aiming to achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability is an effective instrument for coordinating local urban development projects so that they complement each other in pursuit of the common objectives.
The elements of the Article 7 framework
Supporting integrated actions for sustainable urban development

Strategy: at the centrepoint of Article 7. Urban areas develop and implement integrated, sustainable urban development strategies. Sectorial and territorial integration. Identify challenges, set priorities

Programming
The Managing Authorities can use 3 different arrangements for Article 7 in the operational programmes;

- A specific priority axis of an operational programme dedicated to sustainable urban development
- A specific operational programme dedicated to sustainable urban development
- ITI: A certain part of the financial allocation of one or more priority axes of one or more operational programme can be labelled as to be implemented through ITIs
Empowerment
Urban areas preparing and implementing the strategies will be responsible for at least the selection of projects. They will have to draw up and apply selection criteria. The Managing Authority must decide on the level of delegation and designate them as Intermediate Bodies by way of written arrangements. As a result, they will have direct responsibility in the implementation of the operational programme.

Funding
At least 5% of the national ERDF allocation for the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal must be allocated to sustainable urban development. It can be provided through a single programme or through several (e.g. regional) programmes.
**Tools for implementation**

**ITI** (Integrated territorial investment) offers the flexibility to combine funding from different priority axes/funds/programmes to support the integrated urban strategy.

**CLLD** (Community led local development) a very flexible implementation tool for empowering urban local communities to implement a bottom-up local strategy through small scale projects.
Urban Innovative Actions, Article 8 ERDF

Objective: to identify and test innovative solutions to key urban challenges

Calls for proposals planned end 2015
Budget: EUR 370 million (2015-2020)
Topics linked to Urban Agenda
Projects max. 3 years
Grants max. EUR 5 million
Co-financing max 80%

Proposals to be assessed based on: Innovative nature of idea, Scope of partnership, Measurability of results, Transferability of the solution Quality of the proposal
Where do we stand at the moment?
Programming - Financial allocation

110 OPs involved in funding Article 7, with a total of 15 billion EUR from ERDF

Half of it via ITI, the other half via priority axis and 4 urban OPs
How much did MS allocate to Article 7?

- PL (3 billion+) accounts for 22% of the total
- CZ, RO, IT, ES, DE, HU ca. 1 billion each
- FR, PT, BG 700-800 million each
- GR, SK, UK 300-400 million each
- HR, LV, LT 200-250 million each
- BE, SI, EE 100-150 million each
- All other MS less than 60 million EUR each
How much did MS exceed the required minimum?

14 MS spend considerably more than 5%.
CY and BG 20%,
BE more than 15%.
RO, CZ, IE, FR, LV around 10%
DE, NL, HU around 9%.
PL, SI, PT between 7-8%.
Key focus areas:
- Energy efficiency and sustainable urban mobility
- Improvement of the urban environment
- Tackling urban social and physical deprivation
**Implementation - From Programme to Project**

**The tasks ahead of us**
- Setting up the institutional framework
- Selecting the urban areas
- Preparation of urban development strategies
- Selecting the strategies to be funded
- Designating urban areas as IBs
- Drawing up and approval of selection criteria
- Initiating the project pipeline
- Assessment and selection of projects
- Concluding the grant contracts
- Monitoring, reporting and follow-up of progress
Implementation - State of play

Most of the Member States have already preselected the urban areas (ca 230)

Some of the latter have already prepared their urban development strategies.

But most of the tasks are still ahead of us and pose a number of challenges (novelty, complexity, risks).
How can the UDN help cities and MAs to best take the obstacles in this process?

**Objectives:** Capacity-building, networking and Exchange of experience at EU level

- Support cities in the implementation of Article 7 and 8
- Develop and promote an integrated approach to urban development
- Create a platform of two-way knowledge exchange between cities, MA-MS and Commission

**Relation with URBACT?**
- Complementarity
- Mainstreaming of knowledge generated in URBACT networks
UDN Membership

-Cities funded by Art 7 or 8
-Voluntary participation
-Direct contact with Commission

MA/MS invited on occasional basis to broaden scope of exchange
Implementation

- Conferences
- Workshops
- Specific Working Groups
- Peer reviews
- Study visits
- Website
- Studies and expert work
Upcoming events

Urban Day (14 October 2015)
- 1 main event on Urban innovative actions
- 3 thematic UDN Workshops

UDN Seminar (24 November 2015)
Follow up of current event with additional cities
UDN remains open!

We are eager to hear your suggestions on how to develop its activities further.
Please don't hesitate to send them to:

REGIO-UDN@ec.europa.eu