Presentation on 'Urban Innovative Actions'  

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Urban Innovative Actions

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Introduce the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative

Share some lessons learned after 3 Calls for proposals

Provide practical information on the 4th Call for Proposals

Answer your questions
UIA context

Urban context in Europe:
• Increasingly complex societal challenges
• Direct consequences of global financial crisis
• Increasing transfer of competencies
• Dramatic reduction of financial resources
• New technologies revolutionizing (vertical and horizontal) relation with civil society
• Increasing availability of civil society to co-design and co-implement (needed) innovative solutions
• Low degree of risk taking by “mainstream” funds

Urban Innovative Actions:
• To unlock local potential for innovation
• To lower the barriers for innovative partnerships
• To share the risk with urban authorities and local stakeholders
• To support projects that other “funders” are not able to support
Main objectives

Art.8 ERDF: “…To identify and test new solutions which address issues related to sustainable urban development and are of relevance at Union level.”

- To provide urban authorities with resources 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
Key figures & funding principles

UIA budget: EUR 372 Mio ERDF

ERDF per project: max. EUR 5 Mio ERDF

ERDF rate: max. 80%

Partner contribution: min. 20%
  private/public
  in-kind/in cash
  own resources or not

Project duration: max. 3 years (+1)

ERDF advance payment:
  50% on signature of the subsidy contract
  30% when expenses reach 35% of budget
  20% max. after closure (= pre-financing)
Thematic coverage

- Thematicallly aligned with 11 topics of the Urban Agenda for the EU
- Limited number of topics proposed for each call for proposals
- Topics already proposed: Urban Poverty, Inclusion Migrants and Refugees, Jobs and Skills, Energy Efficiency, Circular Economy, Mobility, Housing, Air Quality, Climate Adaptation
- Topics 5th Call (2019): Culture, 2-3 topics already proposed in previous call
### Which Urban Authorities can apply?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Urban Authorities</td>
<td>Local Administrative Units defined as cities, towns or suburbs (degree of urbanisation) with at least 50k inhabitants. <em>E.g. Municipalities, Districts (in case of some larger cities)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organised agglomerations</td>
<td>Any eligible organised agglomerations. <em>E.g. Communautés Urbaines (FR), Mancomunidades (ES), Città Metropolitane (IT)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several urban authorities applying jointly</td>
<td>Any group of urban authorities willing to submit a project together. <em>All shall be considered as cities, towns or suburbs</em> <em>E.g. 3 municipalities willing to jointly establish a circular economy cooperative</em></td>
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Where are we?

✓ 2 Calls for Proposals closed
✓ 1 Call for Proposals in final selection stage
✓ More than 700 proposals submitted from 26 Member States
✓ 33 projects selected
✓ 130 EUR Mio committed
✓ 17 projects half way implementation phase (Call 1)
✓ 16 projects in the starting blocks (Call 2)
✓ 24 projects to be announced in October 2018 (Call 3)

• Fourth Call to be launched in October 2018
• Fifth (and final) Call to be launched in June/July 2019
Main features of UIA projects

**Requirements:**
- Be related to sustainable urban development
- Be of relevance at EU level
- Support the thematic objectives and investment priorities for ERDF

**Characteristics:**
- **Innovative:** *To what extent the project proposal is a new solution that has the clear potential to add value?*
- **Built and delivered in partnership:** *To what extent is the involvement of key stakeholders relevant for the implementation of the project?*
- **With measurable results:** *To what extent will the project deliver measurable results?*
- **Transferable:** *To what extent will the project be transferable to other urban areas across Europe?*
- **Of good quality:** *To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent? To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?*
Innovativeness of the proposal

UIA definition: “New products, services and processes able to add value to the specific policy field and have never been tested before in Europe”

- New products, services and processes
- Able to add value to the specific policy field
- Never been tested before in Europe

2 categories of innovation:
- Revolutionary: *completely new solutions never tested before in the policy field concerned*
- Evolutionary: *solutions that build on previous experiences and have evolved over time based on lessons learned*
Innovativeness of the proposal

Main lessons from previous Calls (1)

• UIA projects propose complex set of actions
  ✓ Not everything can be innovative
  ✓ Importance of assessing the centrality (and importance) of the most innovative actions

• Importance of ensuring wider coherence and integration of different actions. However integration is not always a sufficient element of innovation

• Innovative processes (governance, cooperation, co-implementation) should be able to “generate” innovative solutions to be tested within project’s duration
Innovativeness of the proposal

Main lessons from previous Calls (2)

- **Jobs and skills**: Inclusive approaches in anticipating major economic and technological transitions (3rd Industrial revolution, manufacturing 4.0, social innovation)

- **Inclusion of refugees and migrants**: one-stop-shops integrating services for refugees with strong focus on empowerment and skills recognition for active inclusion

- **Urban poverty**: area-based approaches adding new urban functions and new local welfare schemes

- **Energy transition**: new governance schemes for efficient energy delivery, energy efficiency financing, not so much technology-driven

- **Mobility**: Mobility as a service, personalisation, different uses of data (crowdsourced), employer-led approaches

- **Circular economy**: closing the loop, focus on specific material, attention to business models
Innovativeness of the proposal

Main lessons from previous Calls (4)

• Revolutionary:
  ✓ experimenting technologies or products never before tested in Europe (e.g. circular economy)
  ✓ designing services to answer challenges that are new for the European context (e.g. inclusion of refugees)
  ✓ totally overturning the way old but unsolved challenges are addressed (e.g. B-Mincome; 5Bridges; Bridge)

• Evolutionary:
  ✓ changing radically the scale of application of already tested products or services (e.g. urban mobility)
  ✓ building on and combining traditional elements to create new meanings (e.g. urban poverty)
  ✓ adapting traditional services and products for new target groups (e.g. URL-LaunchPad)
Innovativeness of the proposal

Main lessons from previous Calls (3)

- Importance of the benchmark to demonstrate solution has never been tested before in Europe

- Common difficulties by urban authorities to ensure comprehensive benchmark

- Main approaches: literature research, search on available databases, specific task of “scientific partners”, task outsourced to experts, peer review through transnational networking

- Most common conclusions: similar experiences are identified with explanation on how the proposed solution will go beyond
Quality of the partnership

Delivery Partners:

✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations that will have an active role in the implementation of the project

✓ Able to bring knowledge and expertise into project design and implementation

✓ Responsible for the delivery of specific activities and the production of the related deliverables/outputs

✓ Dedicated budget and local co-financing

✓ To be selected through fair and transparent procedures

Wider group of stakeholders:

✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations without an active role but that can be involved in the design and implementation of the project

✓ No dedicated budget

✓ No official status of partner

✓ Urban authorities shall design mechanism to ensure their involvement
Partnership for UIA projects

Wider group of stakeholders

Urban Authority

Associated Urban Authority

Delivery Partner

Associated Urban Authority

Delivery Partner

Delivery Partner

Delivery Partner
Quality of the partnership

• Importance of tapping into local collective intelligence

• Importance of going beyond usual suspect and shaping diverse, rich and complementary partnerships

• Importance of genuine and structured co-design phase

• Importance of clearly defining roles and responsibilities for shared implementations

• Importance of coordination and governance mechanisms
Measurability of results

- Measurability part of the philosophy of creating urban laboratories in each selected city

- Importance of defining parameters and indicators (especially at the level of results)

- Monitoring and measurement to be designed as part of a learning loop (continuous improvement of strategy and actions being implemented) for urban authorities

- Methodologies and techniques can be particularly innovative (e.g. theory of change, Randomised Control Trials, use of big data, etc.)
Measurability of the proposal

Lessons from previous Calls

• **Innovation is also expected under this criterion!**
  → As there are no defined UIA indicators: projects developed their own indicators and brought in a specific methodology best suited to their partnership

• Dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation WP

• Frequent confusion between objectives / outputs / results

• Lack of baseline data

• Most difficult criterion to assess
4th Call for Proposals

- Topics: Sustainable Use of Land, Digital Transition, Urban Poverty, Security

- Timeline
  - Launch: 10/10/2018
  - Closure: End of January 2019

- Terms of Reference and Guidance how to fill in AF translated

- Indicative budget: 80/100 ml EUR
4th Call for Proposals – Support activities

• 2 Applicants seminars (Bruxelles plus Germany TBC) – between October and December 2018

• Participation to national seminars

• Pre-recorded webinars on main components of UIA projects

• Online Q&A forums

• One-to-one online consultations with Permanent Secretariat
Thank you for your attention

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Unpacking the thematic sessions
Unpacking the thematic sessions
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Panel discussion with the participation:

- Pärnu
- Liepāja
- Kaunas
- Dubrovnik
- Maribor
- Ghent
Closing remarks

Linda Sproge, Unit ‘Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland,’ Directorate General Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission