



Sustainable urban development support in the EU – frameworks, practices and tools

World Urban Forum 11 – Katowice, Poland

27 June 2022 from 13.30 to 15.00 – Voices from cities room A

Concept

Cohesion policy is the EU's main investment instrument to support Member States and regions to adapt to globalisation, to contribute to a climate-neutral and circular economy and to ensure that all this happens in a fair way. Cohesion policy accompanies the three main transition processes: digital transition, sustainability transition and just transition.

The **urban dimension** of the EU Cohesion policy has been reinforced for the period 2021-2027. The new Policy Objective 'a Europe closer to citizens' will support **tailor-made strategies at territorial level**, in cities and local communities, to address their diverse challenges, and tap into their development potential. It will mobilise substantial investments directed to priorities and projects selected by cities on the basis of their sustainable urban development strategies. The **integrated, place-based and participative approaches** (including citizens/civil society) constitute the key principles for implementing these strategies, in alignment with the **UN New Urban Agenda**. Moreover, these strategies contribute to implement the SDGs at local level.

In order to support actors in this endeavour, specific tools have been designed and promoted by the European Commission. The [Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies](#) and the [Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development strategies](#) (SAT4SUD) are at the core of the EU support, to help cities focus on their main policy challenges, and on the opportunities provided by the EU Cohesion policy instruments to tackle the just, green and digital transition.

The objective is to support the green and digital transition in line with the EU principle of territorial cohesion, promoting a **balanced polycentric development** as well as just and socially inclusive opportunities where no city or region is left behind. To reach this goal, collaboration among municipalities is encouraged through **functional area approaches** and through promoting urban-rural linkages.

This event will thus reflect on how European functional urban areas can drive a green, digital and just transition through strategic planning. Two European metropolitan cities, Lille and Rome, will be sharing and discussing their experience, reflecting on the lessons learned from the past programming period, and illustrating their ambitions for the future. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) will present tools that can foster such transitions from a methodological perspective.

Objectives

- This event will aim to provide a comprehensive overview of Cohesion policy's support to sustainable urban development through the period 2021-2027.
- It aims to display upcoming opportunities and key messages directed towards urban areas in order to support them in finding relevant information and channels which they can benefit from.
- The objective of the event will also be to showcase relevant tools and practices of implementation. It will highlight experiences from cities, their solutions and challenges to develop sustainable urban development strategies, giving them an opportunity to take the floor and to present and discuss their work with a wider audience and interested international actors.



Programme

13.30-13.35	Introduction and moderation: Wallis Vandebrock-Goelen, Senior expert to the Deputy Director General, , European Commission, DG REGIO (Regional and Urban policy)
13.35-13.50	Thomas de Béthune, Team Leader for sustainable urban development, European Commission, DG REGIO
13.50-14.10	Carlotta Fioretti, Project Leader, European Commission, JRC (Joint Research Centre)
14.10-14.15	<i>Questions and answers with the audience</i>
14.15-14.30	Claudia Capecchi, Head of the European projects division, European Metropolis of Lille, France
14.30-14.45	Raffaele Barbato, Director for NPRR and EU Funds, Roma Capitale, Italy
14.45-15.00	Discussion by Camilla Perrone, Professor, University of Florence, Department of Architecture, Florence, Italy and Conclusion by Wallis Vandebrock-Goelen, European Commission, DG REGIO

Relevant links

- [Cohesion policy framework for 2021-2027](#)
- [Handbook for Sustainable urban development strategies](#)
- [Self-Assessment tool for sustainable urban development strategies](#)
- [Explanatory Memo on the European Urban Initiative](#)

Contacts

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