SEISMIC

SEISMIC scoping paper
Introduction to the SEISMIC project

Societal Engagement In Science, Mutual learning In Cities

EUROCITIES

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What is the project SEISMIC?

1. SEISMIC is about thinking about urban development in Europe in a socially innovative way; i.e. imagining solutions to social challenges at the same time as empowering society to act on them.

2. The two main objectives of SEISMIC are:
   - To create 10 national networks gathering a large variety of stakeholders working on urban development.
   - To gather the ideas coming from these networks and feed them back at European level towards the JPI Urban Europe[1], among others.

3. SEISMIC is a project funded by the European Commission Directorate General working on Research and Innovation.

4. The 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) is the source of funding; its work strand entitled 'science in society' inspires the strong link that SEISMIC aims to create between stakeholders of urban development and urban research.

5. The SEISMIC project activities are carried out by a consortium of partners: organisations from different countries that team up and share the tasks planned to achieve the objectives of SEISMIC.

The 10 national networks are established in: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

1. Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe: the aim of this initiative is to pool national research efforts and resources and to tackle common issues like, in this case: urbanisation.

What is SEISMIC?

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Research & Innovation

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Science in society

Urban development in Europe → Social innovation → SEISMIC ← Consortium of partners

CITTALIA
fondazione anci ricerche

AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TOMORROW TODAY

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

PLATFORM31

CSES Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services

EURO CITIES

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY 1773

vito vision on technology

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE

IQ Samhällsbyggnad

10 national networks to bridge society and research on urban development

URBAN EUROPE

What is the SEISMIC scoping paper?

The SEISMIC scoping paper is an informative document mainly aimed at the people that will participate in the project's activities. It also gathers information on urban issues in Europe that can be useful beyond these activities.

It is made of three parts that can be read separately; three guide books to the different dimensions of the project.

Part 1: EU institutions in relation to urban issues

This introductory chapter gives an overview of the EU actors and of the main initiatives in relation to cities and policies with an urban dimension. It is a quick guide through the European Union's universe to make sure that participants in the SEISMIC project share the same understanding of the role that each institution has, specifically in relation to urban issues. It is also an introduction to the Europe 2020 strategy: the 10-year strategy for the advancement of Europe in terms of 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' growth, which is the red thread to all policies and programmes in the EU. The chapter finishes with a more detailed view of the European funding programmes, which financially support the objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

Part 2: EU policies and urban development in Europe

This chapter gives an overview of EU sectorial policies with an urban dimension; it also explains where they stand within the legislative system of the EU. The sample of policies outlined in this document represent the biggest spending items by sub-national authorities in the ten SEISMIC countries. They are: education, social protection, health & environment, general public services, economic development and transport. The objective of this chapter is to provide a shared understanding of current EU urban-related policies and how they can be analysed in different local and national contexts.

Part 3: Urban development and social innovation in the SEISMIC countries

SEISMIC is also about social innovation in an urban context. This third part of our scoping paper is devoted to mapping both the urban context and the development of social innovation in the 10 countries participating in the project. The objective is to give participants in the national networks an overview of their countries' situation in terms of urban and social innovation. In a nutshell, it answers the questions: 'how urban is my country?' and 'what potential for social innovation does my country have?'.

EU institutions in relation to urban issues

SEISMIC scoping paper (Part 1)

EUROCITIES

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Table of contents

Abstract

This introductory chapter gives an overview of the EU level: the main actors and initiatives in relation to cities and policies with an urban dimension. It is a guide through the European Union's universe to make sure that participants in the SEISMIC project share the same understanding of the role that each institution has to play and of its urban focus. It is also an introduction to the Europe 2020 strategy: the 10-year strategy for the advancement of Europe in terms of 'smart, sustainable and inclusive' growth, which is the red thread running through all policies and programmes set up in the EU. The chapter finishes with a more detailed view of the European funding programmes, which financially support the objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

EU institutions working on urban issues

The EU Commission: DG REGIO and beyond

The European Commission is divided into thematic Directorate Generals (DGs). The European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) coordinates all issues related to urban and territorial development in general. The urban component was recently added to its name (2012) by Commission President José Manuel Barroso. This symbolic recognition suggests that urban issues need to be coordinated and recognised across the Commission, whilst they had been long considered as a sub-issue within regional policy.

If DG REGIO coordinates urban issues within the European Commission, other Directorate Generals are directly responsible for a number of policies impacting on cities[1]. An inter-service group led by DG REGIO gathers stakeholders within the European Commission working on urban issues across DGs. DG REGIO also leads the member states Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters sub-committee (TCUM)[2].

DG RTD (Research & Innovation) supports urban research and sustainable urban dynamics in particular[3]. It is at the head of the EU's research and innovation programme – Horizon 2020 – which is the second biggest investment fund that can be used to support urban development in Europe[4].

DG ENER (Energy), DG MOVE (Mobility and Transport) and DG CONNECT (Communications Networks, Content & Technology) share the coordination of the Smart Cities initiative.

The European Parliament

Similarly, the European Parliament is organised around thematic committees. The Committee on Regional Development (REGI) of the European Parliament coordinates all issues related to urban development. This committee is responsible for regional and cohesion policy and their related funds. At a meeting on 14 December 2006, the Conference of Presidents decided to include the urban dimension as a competence of the committee. Other committees in the European Parliament cover issues of importance for cities. The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) for instance deals with issues related to public services and is of prime interest for public administrations at city level.

In addition to its committees, the European Parliament can also organise work around intergroups. They are set up at the initiative of MEPs and can change every five years, when the European Parliament is renewed. Several intergroups are of interest for cities, but the main one for the 2009-2014 EP mandate was the urban intergroup. The urban intergroup is a cross-party and cross-committee group made up of about 70 MEPs. They monitor the European parliament's work on urban related issues and involve

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1. A full list of these DGs can be found in annex.
2. TCUM is a working group gathers member states representatives involved in urban development and spatial planning; it is part of a wider group discussing subjects relating to the implementation of the structural funds regulations (COCOF). TCUM plays an advising role to the Commission and was appointed in 2007 after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. It might change name in 2014.
3. Some of the European research projects on urban issues funded through DG Research & innovation between 2007 and 2013: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/sustainable-urban-dynamics_en.pdf
4. The first EU source of investment to be used in urban areas is the Cohesion policy's structural funds. See p.9

stakeholders and practitioners in topical debates. Before 2009, the urban intergroup was called 'urban and housing'; and after the European elections that took place in May 2014, MEPs will decide whether to carry on this group for another mandate[5].

Member states coordination on urban issues

At EU level, member states work together within the European Council. They have formed an informal working group, the Urban Development Group (UDG)[6], which gathers their ministries in charge of urban issues. It fosters coordination and exchanges between member states on urban development issues. Its members are civil servants from ministries in charge of urban development across EU member states, accession countries, Norway and Switzerland. Representatives of other EU institutions also attend the meetings of the UDG. Networks and associations working on urban issues are also invited as observers[7].

The Committee of the Regions (CoR)

The Committee of the Regions is a European assembly for regional and local elected representatives; thus its mission is to involve regional and local authorities in the European policy-making process. The Committee of the Regions produces opinions on a number of European initiatives that feed into the European legislative process. It is a consultative and advisory body for the main institutions. Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the CoR is also the 'guardian of subsidiarity[8]', a ruling principle for the EU that the CoR monitors in EU legislation.

It has produced a number of opinions focused on urban issues. Its 2012 summit was a major event focusing on urban issues, and was entitled 'The European urban fabric of the 21st century'.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Like the Committee of the Regions, the EESC is a consultative body of the European Union. Its membership includes employers, workers and NGO organisations; they are nominated by national governments and serve for a period of five years (renewable). One example of what the EESC has published on issues related to urban development is their 2011 opinion on metropolitan areas. It advocated an EU urban agenda in order to progress towards a '21st century urban renaissance and resilient and competitive metropolitan areas'[9].

5. The decision to renew the urban intergroup of the European parliament will be taken by December 2014 or January 2015. http://urban-intergroup.eu/
6. The NTCCP group (Network of Territorial Cooperation and Cohesion Policy) works along the UDG.
7. See their website: http://ntccp-udg.eu/udg
8. Subsidiarity is a ruling principle in the EU. It means that nothing should be done at a higher level of government (at EU level for instance) that can be done as well, or better, at a lower level of government (at national or regional or city level). The CoR therefore checks that the EU does not breach this rule by making legislation that could be taken care of by a lower level of government.
9. http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.eco-opinions.15662

Overview of the EU institutions

SEISMIC is a project funded by the European Commission DG Research and Innovation.

One of the objectives of SEISMIC is to contribute to JPI Urban Europe. Some partners in SEISMIC are also part of JPI Urban Europe.

SEISMIC

European COMMISSION

DG Regional and urban policy

DG Research and innovation

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Research & Innovation

European COUNCIL

Urban Development Group

European PARLIAMENT

Committee REGI

Committee TRAN

Committee of the REGIONS

European Economic and Social COMMITTEE

Smart Cities

European capitals of culture

Covenant of Mayors

Joint Programming Initiative URBAN•EUROPE

Reference framework for sustainable cities

The three European institutions: the European commission proposes a legislation; the European council and the European parliament decide on it.

The EU institutions are divided into thematic departments: the European commission is divided into 'Directorate Generals' (DGs); the European parliament is divided into 'Committees'.

EU advisory bodies do not have legislative power: they are consulted by the EU institutions who act on their advice.

European initiative

EU Institution

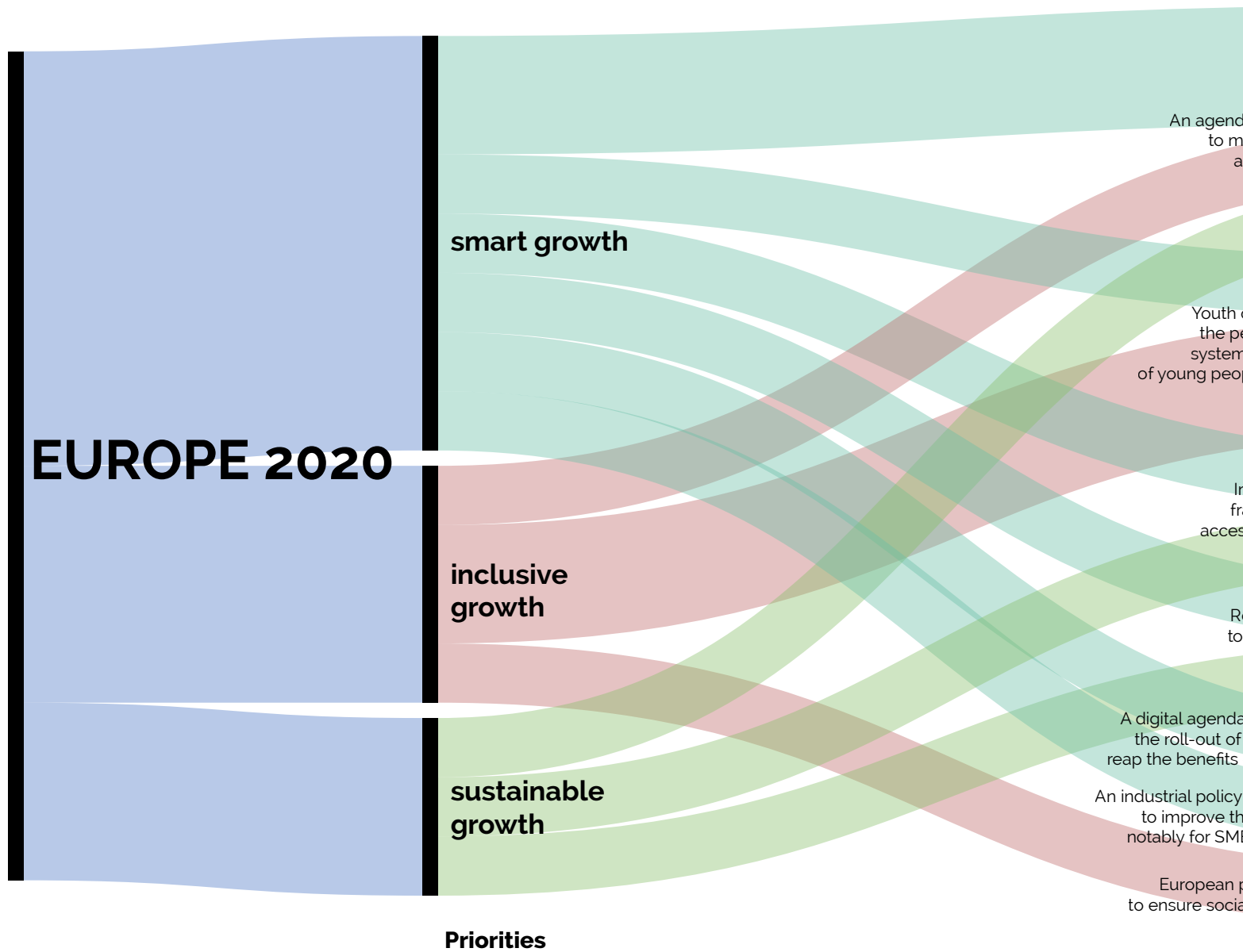Example of internal organisation

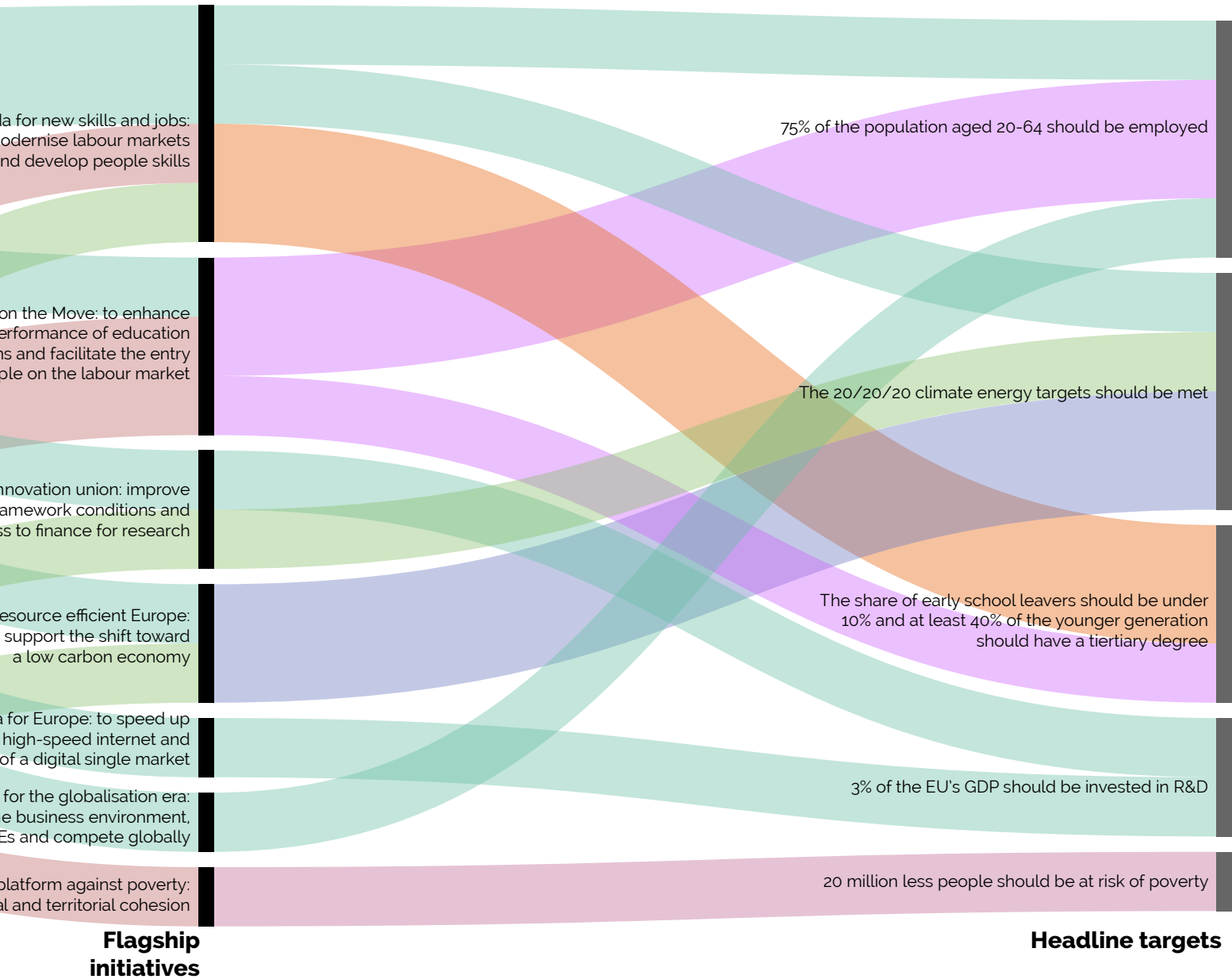**EU advisory bodies**

Example of initiative

Europe 2020: the overarching European strategy

Europe 2020 is an overarching strategy that was put forward in 2010 by the European Commission and endorsed by member states. It follows from the Lisbon strategy (2000-2010 and was designed in the context of the economic and financial crisis (2009-2010). Paving the way for growth in Europe is the basic objective of this strategy. Europe 2020 plans to make Europe smart, sustainable and inclusive by setting a number of measurable and seemingly achievable goals (headline targets). This strategy now guides all European policies and programmes to make them work in the same direction and make Europe competitive on the global stage.

3 priorities	5 headline targets	7 flagship initiatives
Mutually reinforcing priorities	define where the EU wants to be by 2020	Are strategic programmes to catalyse progress and commit both the EU and member states to action
Smart Growth	75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed	Innovation Union: improve framework conditions and access to finance for research
	3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D	Youth on the Move: to enhance the performance of education systems and facilitate the entry of young people on the labour market
		A digital agenda for Europe: to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market
Sustainable growth	The 20/20/20 climate and energy targets should be met	Resource efficient Europe: to support the shift towards a low carbon economy
Inclusive growth	The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree	An industrial policy for the globalisation era: to improve the business environment, notably for SMEs and compete globally
		An agenda for new skills and jobs: to modernise labour markets and devlop people's skills
	20 million less people should be at risk of poverty	European platform against poverty: to ensure social and territorial cohesion

Overview of EUROPE 2020

EUROPE 2020

smart growth

inclusive growth

sustainable growth

Priorities

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of young peop

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A digital agenda
the roll-out of
reap the benefits

An industrial policy
to improve th
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to ensure socia

Flagship initiatives (left, partially visible labels):

...la for new skills and jobs: ...odernise labour markets ...nd develop people skills

...on the Move: to enhance ...erformance of education ...s and facilitate the entry ...ple on the labour market

...nnovation union: improve ...amework conditions and ...s to finance for research

...esource efficient Europe: ...support the shift toward a low carbon economy

...a for Europe: to speed up ...high-speed internet and ...of a digital single market

...for the globalisation era: ...e business environment, ...Es and compete globally

...latform against poverty: ...al and territorial cohesion

Flagship initiatives

Headline targets (right):

75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed

The 20/20/20 climate energy targets should be met

The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tiertiary degree

3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D

20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Headline targets

Sample of European funding programmes 2014-2020 related to urban development
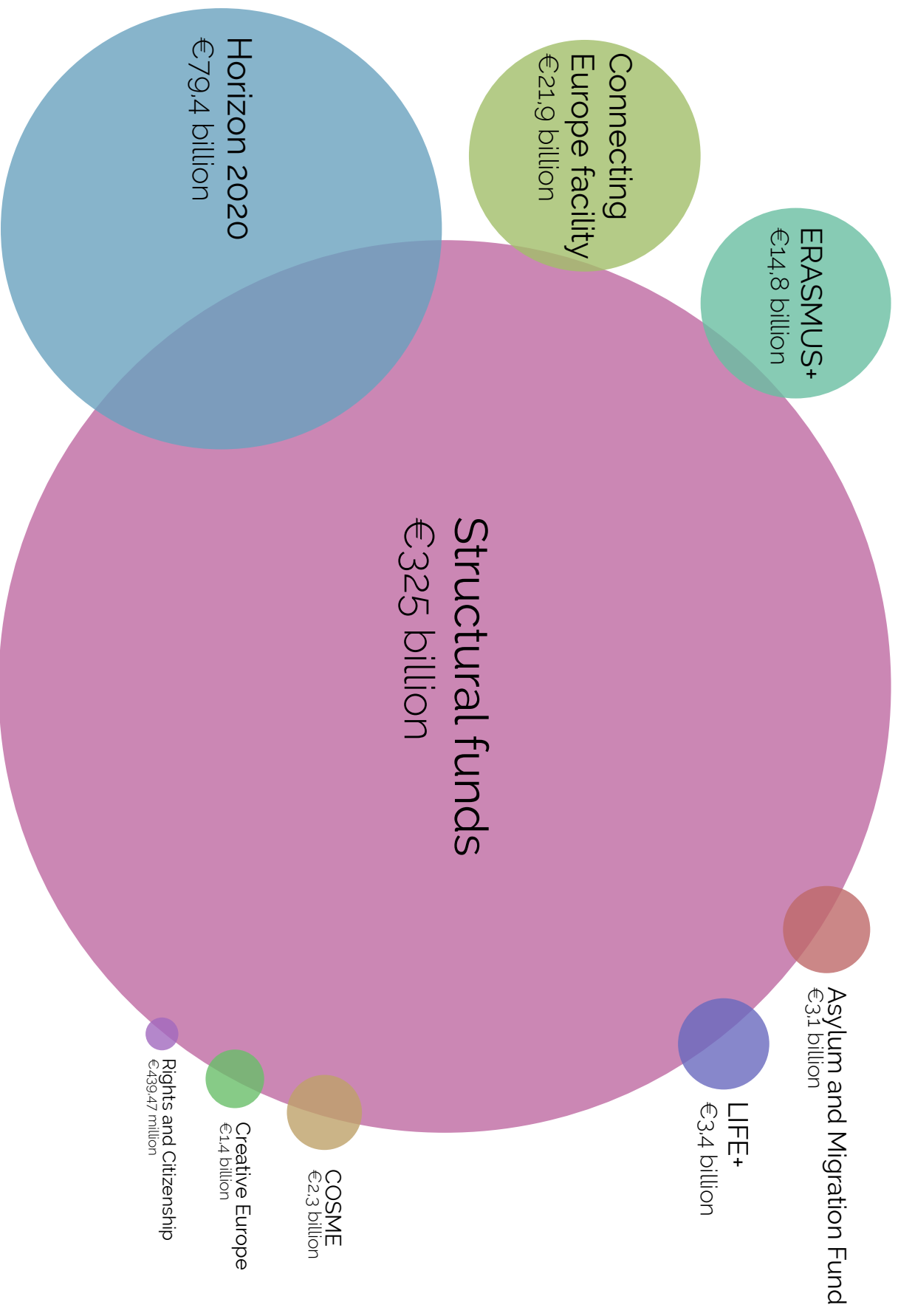
The funding programmes set up within the European Union Multi-Annual Financial Framework[1] are the financial arm of the Europe 2020 strategy and contribute to its implementation on the ground. They also enable beneficiaries to test innovative actions that they would not have carried out without funding support. The funding programmes introduced below are a sample[2] of investment sources that can be used in the field of urban development.

Structural funds	€ 325 billion	Funds aimed at reducing regional disparities in terms of income, wealth and opportunities.
Horizon 2020	€ 79,4 billion	The research and innovation programme of the EU (see page 12).
Connecting Europe facility	€ 21,9 billion	The CEF's overarching objective is to help create high-performing and environmentally sustainable interconnected transport networks across Europe
ERASMUS+	€ 14,8 billion	This programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising education, supporting training and youth employment.
Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived	€3,5 billion	This fund will support member states' social emergency relief schemes in order to provide non-financial material (food, clothing and other essential goods)to materially-deprived people.
LIFE+	€ 3,4 billion	This programme supports the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. It has also been set up to support the General Union Environment Action Programme 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'.
Asylum and Migration Fund	€ 3,1 billion	This fund supports actions addressing all aspects of migration, including asylum, integration and the return of irregular migrants.
COSME	€ 2,3 billion	Its general objectives are to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of European enterprises, to encourage an entrepreneurial culture and promote the creation and growth of SMEs.
Creative Europe	€ 1,4 billion	It promotes European cultural and linguistic diversity and strengthens the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors.
Employment and Social Innovation	€ 919,47 million	EaSI focuses on boosting employment opportunities at the same time as supporting adequate social protection systems.
Rights and Citizenship	€ 439, 47 million	It focuses on such action fields as: rights of the child; combating racism; the fight against homophobia; active participation in the democratic life of the Union; data protection and privacy rights.

1. The EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) is the EU budget decided upon every 7 years. The current period covers 2014-2020.
2. The full list of funding programmes under the MFF: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/programmes/index_en.cfm

Horizon 2020
€79,4 billion

Connecting
Europe facility
€21,9 billion

ERASMUS+
€14,8 billion

Structural funds
€325 billion

Asylum and Migration Fund
€3,1 billion

LIFE+
€3,4 billion

COSME
€2,3 billion

Creative Europe
€14 billion

Rights and Citizenship
€439,47 million

Looking closer: the two major sources of EU funding for sustainable urban development

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is the research and innovation programme of the European Union. Its budget is of € 79, 4 billion for the 2014-2020 period.

The main goal of the Horizon 2020 programme is to strengthen the EU's position as a world leader in science and to achieve operational research results with the final goal of delivering direct benefits to citizens, such as affordable health-care, protection against cyber crime, and the transition to a resource efficient, low carbon economy.

It draws many links with the Europe 2020 strategy including with:

·   Innovation Union,

·   Resource efficient Europe,

·   An industrial policy for the globalisation era, and

·   Digital Agenda for Europe.

Horizon 2020 focuses on three key objectives: 'excellent science', 'industrial leadership' and 'societal challenges[3]'. The societal challenge programme is the most relevant for urban development and EU citizens and represents about 39% of the total H2020 budget.

Horizon 2020 takes a broad approach to innovation that is not limited to bringing new products to the market, but also covers processes, systems or other approaches, including recognising European strengths in design, creativity, services and the importance of social innovation. Funding for these activities will be combined with the support for research and technological development[4].

The structural funds

The structural funds[5] account for the biggest source of investment from the EU in cities. In total, they represent €325 billion distributed through member states to European regions and cities. The Commission expects that around 40% of the funding in the 2014–2020 period will be spent in cities and urban areas; although this decision belongs to member states and managing authorities who are in charge of managing the funds.

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3. SEISMIC has been funded under the 2009-2013 financial framework and under the programme FP7 'Science in society'. Today, under the 2014-2020 financial framework, this programme correspond to the H2020 'Science with and for society'.
4. Communication from the Commission, Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation /* COM/2011/0808/final
5. The structural funds are: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) are also structural funds, but do not intervene in urban development.

The structural funds relevant in an urban context are:

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. Investments must focus on 11 priority areas:

1. Research & innovation;

2. Information and communication technologies (ICT);

3. Competitiveness of SMEs;

4. Shift towards a low carbon economy;

5. Climate change adaptation & risk prevention;

6. Environmental protection & resource efficiency;

7. Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;

8. Employment & supporting labour mobility;

9. Social inclusion & combating poverty;

10. Education, skills & lifelong learning;

11. Institutional capacity building.
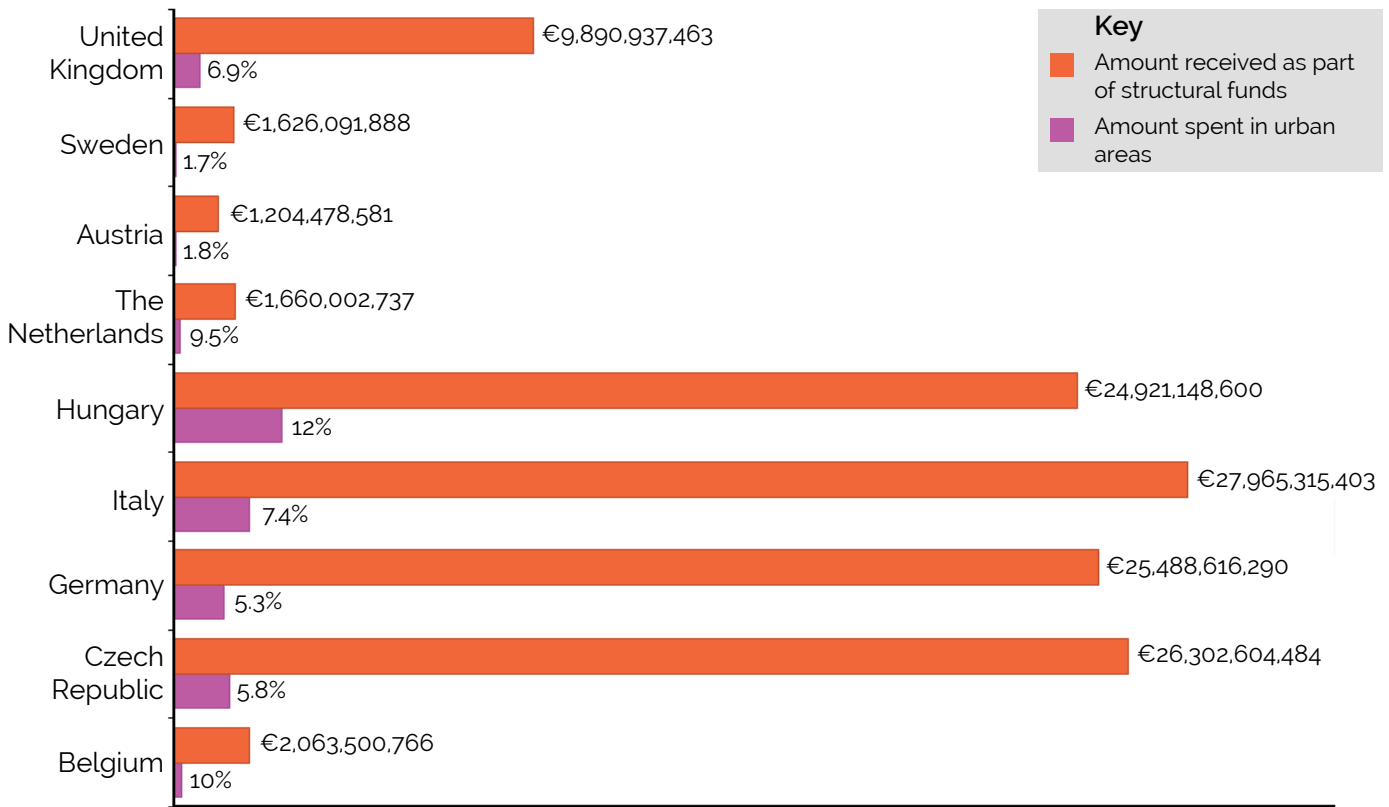
European Social Fund (ESF)

The ESF invests in people, with a focus on improving employment and education opportunities across the European Union. It also aims to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty. It focuses on four thematic objectives (ERDF 8 to 11):

1. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;

2. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;

3. Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;

4. Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.
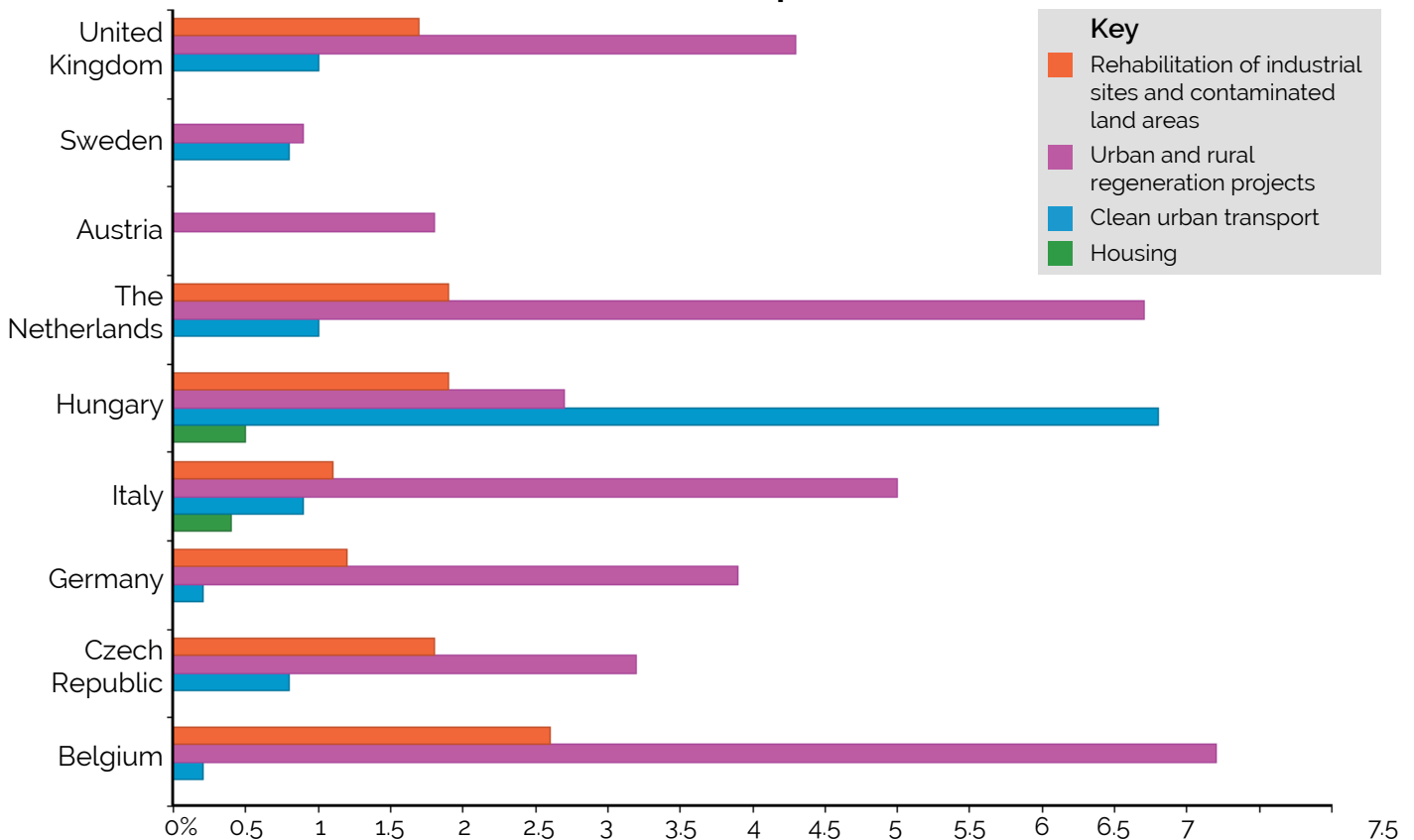
To go more into details, the urban dimension of the ERDF includes:

→ The allocation of a minimum of 5 % of national ERDF to integrated sustainable urban development actions. The funding can be delegated to cities (optional) to manage and implement through various instruments, including integrated territorial investments (ITIs). ITIs must be based on an integrated strategy for a part of a city or a city and its surrounding areas. It can draw on funding from all the structural funds.

→ The allocation of €330 million of ERDF to innovative actions in urban areas, exchange of experience, networking and capacity-building.

→ The creation of an urban development platform: It will be a mechanism to stimulate dialogue between the European Commission and the cities that are using the new instruments to implement integrated sustainable actions in urban areas (integrated territorial development and innovative actions). It is not a funding instrument.

On what were the structural funds spent in the SEISMIC countries

Key
- Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land areas
- Urban and rural regeneration projects
- Clean urban transport
- Housing

Source: European Commission (May 2010), Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities / Regional affairs, Cohesion policy 2007-2013: Urban development

ESPON, INTERACT, INTERREG and URBACT: European programmes funded by the structural funds

ESPON, INTERACT, INTERREG and URBACT are programmes jointly funded by the European Union (ERDF) and the countries participating. They all are instruments to foster territorial cohesion in Europe. They have been renewed for the financial period 2014-2020, their exact content and budget will be finalised by the end of 2014.

Here is a general presentation of the role they play:

ESPON - European spatial planning observatories network

This programme supports policy development at the EU level by providing comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on territorial dynamics.

ESPON[6] works with universities, research institutes, regional and local authorities in 31 countries.

6. http://www.espon.eu/main/

INTERACT

INTERACT[7] supports programme managing authorities, technical secretariats, national contact persons and other administrative bodies managing European territorial cooperation programmes. It provides expertise in programme management, communication, financial management and knowledge capitalisation.

It works with all member states, Norway and Switzerland.

7. http://www.interact-eu.net/

INTERREG

INTERREG is an initiative aimed at stimulating cooperation between regions in the EU.

It is made up of three strands:

INTERREG A: cross-border cooperation

INTERREG B: transnational cooperation

INTERREG C[8]: interregional cooperation, which is usually the most relevant for cities. From 2014, it will be called 'Interreg Europe'.

It aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks).

INTERREG covers all EU member states, Norway and Switzerland.

8. http://www.interreg4c.eu/

URBACT

URBACT[9] is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. It enables cities to share good practice and lessons learned between peers - experts involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT has been working with about 500 cities in 29 countries.

9. http://urbact.eu/

A sample of important EU initiatives with an urban dimension

Member states initiatives on urban development

Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe

Urban Europe[1] is a joint programming initiative (JPI). The aim of the initiative is to pool national research efforts and resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas (among them urban development).

Through JPI Urban Europe, member countries try to generate European solutions for sustainable urban development by means of coordinated research. The aim is to create attractive, sustainable and economically viable urban areas for European citizens and communities.

This initiative currently has 13 European members: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Turkey. Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom are observers. Most countries represented in SEISMIC are also part of the JPI Urban Europe.

Reference framework for sustainable cities (RFSC)

The RFSC[2] is an online tool to help cities develop, improve and evaluate their sustainable urban development strategies. It consists of three evaluation tools and also allows exchange and learning between cities using it.

It is the result of cooperation between different stakeholders at EU level. It was initiated by the Urban Development Group gathering ministries in charge of urban issues in order to implement the Leipzig Charter[3] of 2007. It was then supported by the European Commission and developed with European stakeholders (Platform31, ICLEI and CEMR[4]) and European cities.

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1. http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/
2. http://www.rfsc.eu/
3. The Leipzig Charter was initiatied by the UDG (introduced earlier), refer to their website for more information http://ntccp-udg.eu/udg
4. For more information on Platform31: http://www.platform31.nl/302 . For more information on ICLEI: http://www.iclei.org/ For more information on CEMR: http://www.ccre.org/

Initiatives supported by the European Commission

Civitas

The word CIVITAS[5] combines the terms 'City', 'Vitality' and 'Sustainability' which are the key components of this initiative on sustainable urban mobility launched in 2002. CIVITAS is only one of the many EU initiatives on sustainable urban mobility, but through the years, it has created a wide platform for European cities to promote and implement sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport measures.

CIVITAS is supported by DG MOVE.

Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors[6] is a European movement involving local and regional authorities, which voluntarily commit to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in their territories. Through their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020.

The Covenant of Mayors is supported by DG ENER.

Green Digital Charter

The Green Digital Charter[7] is a EUROCITIES initiative which was launched by a group of cities led by Manchester and supported by the European Commission. It was proposed as a response of the Commission communication on mobilising Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to facilitate the transition to an energy-efficient, low-carbon economy. Cities that are signatories of the charter voluntarily commit to decrease the city ICT's direct carbon footprint by 30% within 10 years after signing and to deploy ICT solutions to a wider range of policy area to maximise energy efficiency.

The Green Digital Charter is supported by DG Connect (Connectivity, networks and telecommunications).

Smart Cities & communities

In July 2012 the European Commission published its Communication on a European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities[8]. This initiative aims to enable cities to combine technical change with economic and organisational innovation and an increase of energy efficiency across all aspects of urban life. The objective is to create a framework for accelerating the deployment and widespread market uptake of low carbon technologies and sustainable solutions in cities. The initiative is led by the Commissioners for energy, transport and the digital agenda.

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5. http://www.civitas.eu/
6. http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html
7. http://www.greendigitalcharter.eu/
8. http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/

Flagship campaigns and awards supported by the European commission

The European Capital of Culture, the European Green Capital or the recent iCapital have become some of the most prestigious and high-profile campaigns in Europe[9]. These awards have varied impact on urban development, but in general they can improve the city's international profile, intensify European exchanges and increase citizens awareness and participation in their city's activities[10].

The European Capital of Culture

Started in: 1985

Objectives: The European Capitals of Culture[1] initiative was set up to highlight the richness of European cultures. It brings people from different European countries into contact with each other's culture and promote mutual understanding

Studies have shown that the event is a valuable opportunity to:

- regenerate cities
- raise their international profile and enhance their image in the eyes of their own inhabitants
- give new vitality to their cultural life

2014: Umea and Riga

2015: Mons and Plzen

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1. http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/capitals/european-capitals-of-culture_en.htm

The European Green Capital

Started in: 2008

Objectives: The European Green Capital[2] is an award that recognises the efforts made by cities to build 'Green cities – fit for life'.

The award aims to provide an incentive for cities to inspire each other, while at the same time engaging in friendly competition.

2014: Copenhagen

2015: Bristol

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2. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm

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9 More information on other relevant European initiatives focused on urban develoment in annex.
10. European capitals of culture: success strategies and long-term effects: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/513985/IPOL-CULT_ET(2013)513985_EN.pdf

The European Capital of Innovation

Started in: 2013

Objectives: With this prize[3] the European Commission wants to acknowledge the achievement of a city in building up an innovation ecosystem, i.e. a system which links the citizens (people) with a built environment (place) and public organizations and policy-makers (public) through business (private).

Candidate cities are judged according to certain criteria, among which: initiatives must be highly innovative in terms of concepts, processes and tools; they must be inspiring and target the entire innovation ecosystem.

2014: Barcelona (first winner)

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3. http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=icapital

European Mobility Week and Do the Right Mix campaigns

Started in: 2002 (EMW) & 2012 (DRM)

Objectives: Both campaigns support and promote best practice exchange between local authorities on sustainable urban mobility.

The European Mobility Week[4] campaign was initiated by DG environment and is now supported by DG MOVE. It focuses on the promotion of sustainable transport solutions among citizens.

While the 'Do the right mix'[5] campaign started as an initiative from DG MOVE and focuses on raising awareness about using different means of transportation for everyday life.

2014: EMW award 2013 winner is, Ljubljana.

For 'Do the right mix', the SUMP (Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) award 2013 is Rivas-Vaciamadrid (Spain)

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4. http://www.mobilityweek.eu/
5. http://www.dotherightmix.eu/

Towards an EU urban agenda?

On 18 July 2014 the European Commission launched a communication and a public consultation entitled 'The urban dimension of EU policies - key features of an EU urban agenda'. This document had two purposes. First it underlined the fact that the development of cities will determine the future economic, social and territorial development of the EU. Secondly, it explains that sectorial policies - such as environment, transport or economic related policies developed at EU level - all impact on urban areas, but that they are not coordinated. It also mentions the lack of explicit objectives, targets and instruments for urban development in the EU.

The document suggests that an urban agenda can be an umbrella to address urban development in a more coordinated way; that it can be used as a tool to improve the quality of EU policies impacting on cities as well as to strengthen cities role in implementing overall EU objectives.

Until October 2014, the Commission's initiative on an EU urban agenda was driven by Commissioner Hahn (Regional affairs), supported by the Directorate General for Regional and urban policies. Commissioner Hahn hands over the responsibility for EU regional policy to Corina Crețu from Romania on 1 November 2014[1]. The further development of an EU urban agenda by the new Commission will depend on the outcomes of the stakeholder consultation that ended on 26 September 2014.

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1 Provided the full Commission team gets approved by the European Parliament during the early autumn.

EU policies and urban development

SEISMIC scoping paper (part 2)

EUROCITIES

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September 2014

Contract N°: 612493

Table of contents

Abstract

This chapter gives an overview of EU sectorial policies with an urban dimension. It also explains where they fit into the legislative system of the EU. The sample of policies outlined in this document follows a list of the biggest spending items by sub-national authorities in the ten SEISMIC countries[1]. They are: education, social protection, health & environment, general public services, economic development and transport. The objective of this chapter is to provide a shared understanding of where current EU urban-related policies stand and how they can be analysed in different local and national contexts.

Introduction to EU legislation

Overview of EU legislative instruments

EU strategies or green papers do not have the same impact as directives, and the EU does not have competences in all policies impacting on cities.

Formal legislative instruments

EU LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS		EXAMPLE
REGULATIONS	They are binding in their entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.	2013 Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal
DIRECTIVES	They bind member states to the results to be achieved; they have to be transposed into the national legal framework and thus leave margin for manoeuvre as to the form and means of implementation.	2012 Directive on energy efficiency
DECISIONS	They are fully binding on those to whom they are addressed.	2010 Decision establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion
RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS	They are non-binding, declaratory instruments.	Commission Recommendation of 3 October 2008 on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market

1. From OECD Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities - Where Policies and People Meet: Country Profiles, September 2014

Other non-binding instruments

In addition to the regular legislative instruments, the European institutions can produce non-binding documents such as: inter-institutional agreements, resolutions, conclusions, communications, green papers and white papers.

Green Papers are documents published by the European Commission to stimulate discussion on given topics at European level. They invite the relevant parties (bodies or individuals) to participate in a consultation process and debate on the basis of the proposals they put forward. Green Papers may give rise to legislative developments that are then outlined in White Papers.

Green Paper - Towards a new culture for urban mobility COM(2007) 551, September 2007
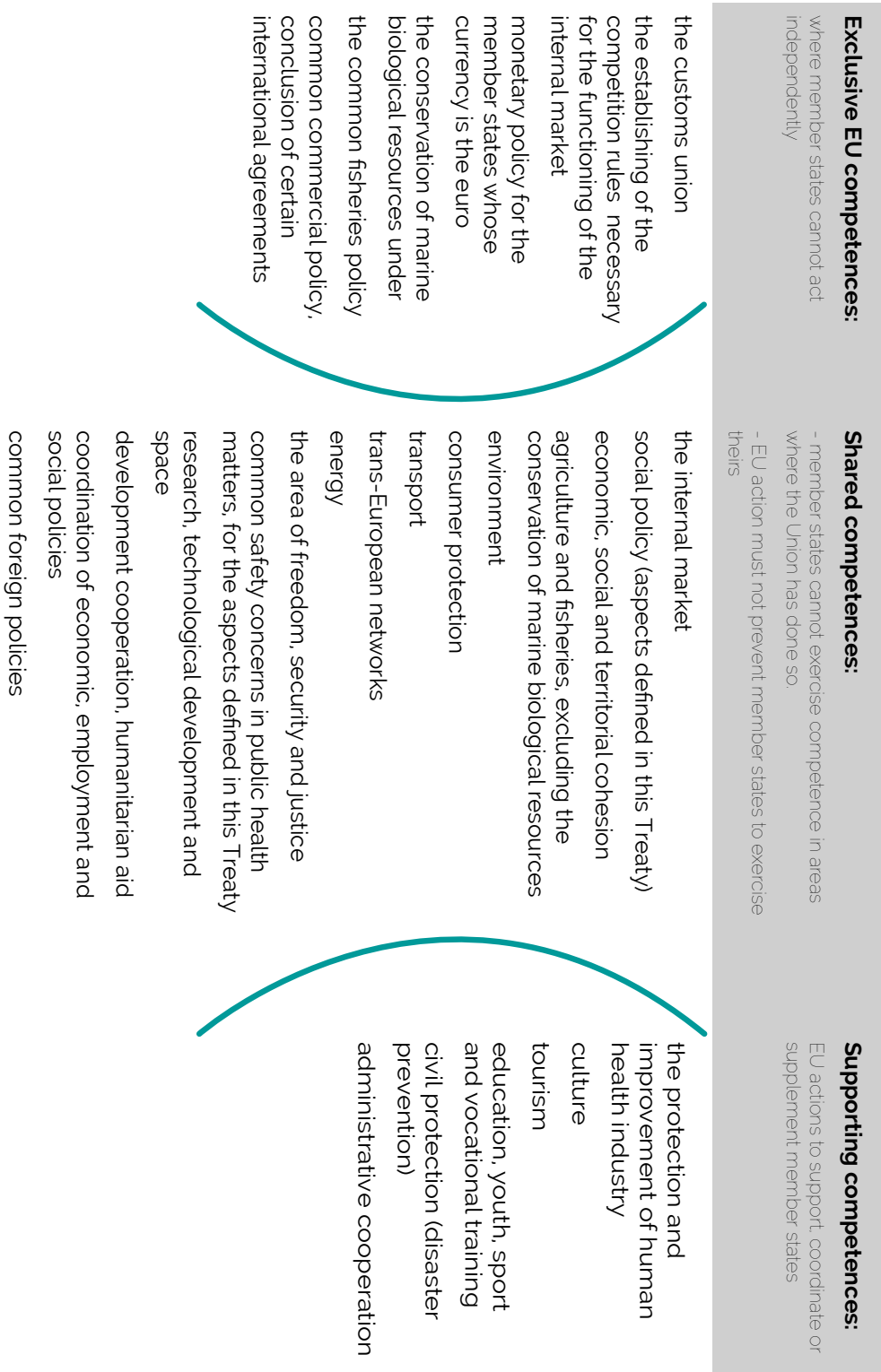
Commission White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. In some cases they follow a Green Paper published to launch a consultation process at European level. When a White Paper is favourably received by the Council, it can lead to an action programme for the Union in the area concerned.

White Paper - Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system COM(2011)144, March 2011

EU competences

The principle of subsidiarity[2] prevails and urban policy remains the remit of member states, like a number of other policies such as employment policies for instance. Here is an overview of EU competences in three categories:

Exclusive EU competences:
where member states cannot act independently

- the customs union
- the establishing of the competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market
- monetary policy for the member states whose currency is the euro
- the conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy
- common commercial policy,
- conclusion of certain international agreements

Shared competences:
- member states cannot exercise competence in areas where the Union has done so
- EU action must not prevent member states to exercise theirs

- the internal market
- social policy (aspects defined in this Treaty)
- economic, social and territorial cohesion
- agriculture and fisheries, excluding the conservation of marine biological resources
- environment
- consumer protection
- transport
- trans-European networks
- energy
- the area of freedom, security and justice
- common safety concerns in public health matters, for the aspects defined in this Treaty
- research, technological development and space
- development cooperation, humanitarian aid
- coordination of economic, employment and social policies
- common foreign policies

Supporting competences:
EU actions to support, coordinate or supplement member states

- the protection and improvement of human health industry
- culture
- tourism
- education, youth, sport and vocational training
- civil protection (disaster prevention)
- administrative cooperation

2. Subsidiarity means that nothing should be done at a higher level of government that can be done as well, or better, at a lower level.

Examples of EU policies and their connection to urban areas

About 70% of the legislation that has to be implemented by local authorities comes from the EU[1]. This part of the paper introduces some EU policies that are particularly important at local level; it explains their objectives and what they mean in urban areas.

Only a sample of policies could feature in this paper, they are classified following a list of investment priorities made by sub-national authorities in the 10 SEISMIC countries[2]:

Education

Social protection

Health

General public services

Economic development

Largest spending items in the SEISMIC countries

- education (5 quotes)
- social protection (5)
- health (3)
- general public services (3)
- economic affairs (2)
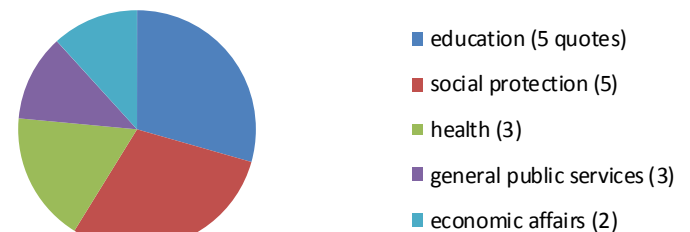
In addition, transport will also feature on this list, as it is a major issue in urban areas, and because it has been highlighted in all SEISMIC national networks.

Health will be linked to environment issues, to reflect some of the bigger challenges in urban areas (e.g air pollution). Moreover, the EU has greater impact on environment policies than on strictly health-related (medical) policies.

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1. Eurobarometer report, The role and impact of local and regional authorities within the European Union, February 2009, p.3 http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_307_en.pdf : 'about three quarters of EU legislation is implemented at local or regional level'.
Committee of the Regions, A new treaty: a new role for for regions and local authorities, http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/brochures/Documents/84fa6e84-0373-42a2-a801-c8ea83a24a72.pdf : 'Roughly 70% implemented by regions and local authorities'
2. This list has been devised with the 2013 edition of the OECD report: 'Subnational governments in OECD countries: key data'.

Hard and soft legislation

EU action in these different fields is varied: it ranges from exclusive competence for the EU to supporting competence where it only complements action taken by member states and sub-national authorities. It means that the policies introduced below will have a varied impact on urban areas.

In the case of general public services for example, the EU has exclusive competence on competition rules for the functioning of the internal market. Therefore the rules on procurement and concessions are hard legislation – such as directives – to be translated into national law and implemented as such on the ground.

In the fields of transport and environment, the EU has shared competences. It can legislate and introduce ruling policies - thresholds on CO2 emissions for instance- but their precise definition will be decided by member states. It is a compromise between hard and soft legislation.

Finally in the case of social protection and education, the EU only has supporting competences; therefore it will only produce soft measures – through communications or recommendations. These soft measures still have an impact on the ground, although it is often indirect (through legislation that will derive from it) and non-binding.

Education

Education is a supporting competence of the EU, which means that the initiatives in this area will complement, advise and support national and local action.

An example of European policy in the field of education: the Communication from the EU Commission on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

What is it?

In 2011, the EU Commission introduced an agenda for work among member states that aims to ensure universal access to ECEC. Early childhood is the stage where education can most effectively influence the development of children and it can contribute to achieving the two main goals of the Europe 2020 strategy: reducing early school leaving to below 10 % and lifting 20 million people out of poverty.

The work agenda for member states includes measures such as:

- developing policies to attract, educate and retain suitably qualified staff to ECEC;
- improving the gender balance of ECEC staff;
- moving towards high quality, equitable and efficient ECEC systems integrating care and education.

The Commission also proposes to use its different funding programmes to support research in the area, promote exchange between member states and encourage them to invest in this field. Child care being strongly related to women's employment, one of the fields to be further researched and supported is the importance of the work life balance in support of women's employment.

Urban dimension

Many cities have higher rates of early school leaving and youth unemployment than their respective regions or countries.

Early school leaving and youth unemployment are strongly correlated with socio-economic backgrounds. In cities, they also have a clear territorial dimension as they tend to concentrate in specific neighbourhoods. Usually, these areas also experience higher levels of poverty and exclusion than the city average. Moreover, in some urban areas, the population is very diverse, and in some schools, most children do not speak the language of the host country. In this context, ECEC and early language learning can help tremendously in raising children's chances at school. This is especially important as research shows that the 'act' of dropping out is often preceded by educational failure (which may be caused by poor language command).

The role of cities on this issue; Early childhood education and care in Munich

In Munich, schools budgets are allocated on the basis of socio-economic indicators. The city's allocation comes on top of regional subsidies; it is an extra financial support called 'Munich Förderformel'. It follows a special mathematic formula to distribute the budget and foster equal opportunities in education. It is a way to promote more equal opportunities for children through specific child- and environment-related resources and to provide better service to local communities through education.

Social protection

Social policies are primarily a member state competence. The EU can nonetheless support and complement the action of member states in this field and does so through a variety of policies and programmes.

An example of European policy in the field of social protection: the Social Investment Package

What is it?

The Social Investment Package (SIP) is a recently introduced programme organising European investment in social policy. It covers issues ranging from education and childcare to training and employment. It was published in February 2013 by the European Commission.

The SIP aims to respond to two issues that impact on social inclusion and cohesion in Europe:

1. the impact of the economic crisis, particularly in relation to levels of unemployment and poverty; and

2. the challenges posed by changing demographics and a shrinking working-age population.

It focuses on strengthening people's skills; removing barriers to finding work; harmonising social protection and making it more effective; and adopting results-based service provision.

Urban dimension

Most cities are responsible for administering front-line social services, and the objectives established in the SIP will most likely heavily influence national social policies. Many of the priority areas in the package, such as homelessness and youth unemployment, are more prevalent in urban areas.

The role of cities on this issue: Rethinking childcare to lift barriers to employment in Nantes

The 'childcare and barriers to employment' service is at the crossroads of three public policies: early

childhood, poverty and employment. It is targeted at single-parent families receiving income-support benefits, who need suitable childcare in order to find and secure a job. Adapting childcare services has a positive effect on integration into the workforce and the labour market participation rate of mothers. This initiative in Nantes coordinates two departments that were not used to working together (childcare/employment).

Health & environment

On average, 80% of national legislation concerning environmental standards is a result of European Union policy[3]. Of the different policies concerning health and environmental issues, the legislation dealing with air quality is a very urban issue.

An example of European policy in the field of health & environment: the Clean Air Policy Package

What is it?

On 18 December 2013, the Commission released the clean air policy package, to revise the national emissions ceiling directive and the directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. The clean air policy package sets new air quality objectives for the period up to 2030. The impact of such legislation has been estimated to deliver at least €42 billion per annum in health benefits.

Urban dimension

Urban areas are the places most affected by air pollution issues and cities only have a limited range of activities they can take the lead on to meet the air quality standards. In general, the efforts necessary to tackle air pollution are to be deployed on a larger scale: beyond cities, regions and nations need to tackle this issue together.

The role of cities on this issue : Berlin environmental zone

The environmental zone is an area where vehicles with especially high emissions are banned. The aim of the environmental zone is to achieve a modernisation of the vehicles driving on the roads and so reduce the diesel particles and nitrogen oxides that people breathe in, as both substances are harmful to their health. The vehicles allowed have to be identified by a green sticker. The environmental zone covers the centre of Berlin inside the S-Bahn ring ('Großer Hundekopf')[4].

General public services

Public authorities spend the equivalent of almost one fifth of the EU's GDP each year by procuring works, products and services. A large proportion of these funds is spent by local authorities who are directly accountable to citizens and who need to provide good value for tax payers' money.

Public procurement refers to the contracts awarded by a public purchaser to a supplier, contractor or service provider. It is regulated at EU level in the framework of the single market. The new EU rules on procurement will be introduced below.

3. European Environmental Bureau, EU environmental policy handbook, p.3 http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2004-2005/EEB_Book.pdf
4. http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/luftqualitaet/umweltzone/en/allgemeines.shtml

An example of European policy in the field of pubic services: the European directives on procurement and concessions

What is it?

MEPs adopted the complex procurement package on 15 January 2014, after nearly two years of negotiation with the European Council. Existing rules on public procurement will be modernised and simplified to guarantee the quality and effectiveness of services offered to citizens, to be in line with social and environmental criteria, and to facilitate SME access to public contracts.

The three directives on procurement and concessions are the:

· Directive on procurement (general directive)

· Directive on Procurement in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors

· Directive on award of concession contracts

Urban dimension

After transposition of the EU directives on procurement into national legislation (by 2016), cities should have greater freedom to select bids based on environmental and social merits. The legislation introduced an 'innovation partnership' that allows public authorities to call for tenders to solve a specific problem without pre-empting the solution, thus leaving room for the contracting authority and the tenderer to come up with innovative solutions together.

The role of cities on this issue: Green procurement and tendering in Gothenburg

Gothenburg city's procedure for purchasing and procurement of goods and services has included environmental criteria since 1990. All tenderers and suppliers that submit an offer to the city also have to submit an environmental statement, and all procurement processes are subject to an assessment regarding environmental impact and energy efficiency. The entire production cycle is taken into account in order to choose products and services that do not waste resources or energy neither during their production or when they are used. When purchasing laptops for instance, the tenderer has to guarantee the recycling of packages and batteries (mandatory requirement). The laptops themselves have to meet the latest energy saving standards (mandatory requirement) and shall preferably contain as little mercury and oil- or coal-based plastic as possible (award criteria).

Economic development

The EU and member states generally share competences regarding economic issues in Europe. The EU does of course regulate the single market, but in terms of policies to boost economies, the Commission can only support member states: it does not have the lead. For instance, it can facilitate the sharing of experiences and fostering entrepreneurial attitudes.

An example of European policy in the field of entrepreneurship: the 2020 Action Plan

What is it?

The Entrepreneurship 2020 action plan was launched in January 2013. It proposes actions to be

implemented at European and national levels in six key areas:

1. access to finance;

2. support during the crucial phases of the business lifecycle;

3. new business opportunities of the digital age;

4. transfers of businesses;

5. second chances for honest entrepreneurs after bankruptcy; and

6. administrative simplification.

For each of these areas the Commission proposes actions with dates of implementation.

It also intends to promote entrepreneurship in specific segments of the population: women; senior citizens; migrants; and the unemployed.

Urban dimension

SMEs are important drivers of urban economies. Local businesses and stratups in the innovative (technical/social) and digital fields can potentially shape urban lives and futures. One of their added values is to connect high tech business, researchers and desiners with social innovators and citizens. The Entrepreneurship 2020 action plan encourages member states to better take into account the variety of business models and legal statuses in their support schemes, at both national and local levels. It also advocates the development of social entrepreneurship education and training.

The role of cities on this issue: Incredibol – advising and guiding creative entrepreneurs in Bologna

Incredibol is a project promoted by the municipality of Bologna to support the creative and cultural businesses of the region, particularly during their start-up phase. It offers creative entrepreneurs a one-stop-shop for guidance, advice, training, free creative spaces, financial contributions and other tools to help them establish and grow their businesses through a network of public-private partnerships. Incredibol only receives a small amount of funding; it relies mainly on the multiplier effect and its network, the community and the positive attitude of all participants for its promotion and success.

Transport

All major European cities face problems caused by transport, traffic and congestion. Urban mobility raises a series of issues like air pollution[5], accessibility, road safety or organising an efficient transport system to support the local economy.

An example of European policy in the field of transport: the 2011 White Paper on Transport

What is it?

The White Paper on Transport presents the Commission's vision for the future of the EU transport system.

_____

5. It accounts for 40% of all CO2 emissions of road transport and up to 70% of other pollutants from transport.

It also defines a policy agenda until 2020. It is part of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiative for a resource efficient Europe. Key goals of the White Paper include:

- Halving the use of 'conventionally-fuelled' vehicles in urban transport by 2030 and phasing them out in cities by 2050
- Achieving essentially CO_2-free city logistics by 2030
- By 2050, moving close to zero fatalities in road transport.

Urban dimension

In the White paper, improving mobility in urban areas implies:

- Non-fossil mobility (clean and efficient cars)
- Higher share of public transport;
- Alternative propulsion for urban buses and taxis (see example below)
- Better infrastructure for walking and cycling
- Better interface between long distance and last-mile
- Freight consolidation centres and delivery points
- Low-noise and low-emission trucks for deliveries

The role of cities on this issue: Malmö buses running on biogas made out of food waste

Since 2014, it is mandatory to sort food waste for all households in Malmö. The food waste is collected to produce biogas which is used to fuel the city buses, garbage trucks, taxis and cars. Biogas produced from waste and residues offers several advantages. It eliminates a waste management problem with possible adverse impacts on the environment, and production does not create any conflicts on land use for example to produce food. Malmö´s entire bus fleet is engineered to run on gaseous energy sources. Approximately 200 city buses run on a mix of biogas and CNG. As the production of biogas increases, Malmö has set the goal for buses to be 100% run on biogas by 2015 considerably reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Urban development and social innovation in the SEISMIC countries
SEISMIC scoping paper (Part 3)

EUROCITIES

Soraya Zanardo ○ **Policy researcher**

September 2014

Table of contents

SEISMIC is about social innovation in an urban context. This third part of this scoping paper is devoted to mapping both the urban context and the development of social innovation in the 10 countries participating in the project. The objective is to give participants in the national networks an overview of their country situation in terms of urban and social innovation. This part answers the questions: how urban is my country? And what potential for social innovation does my country have?

Some definitions: urban population and social innovation

Urban Population:

There are several definitions of what is urban.

The urban population of a country can be defined as the percentage of the total population living in areas termed ''urban'' by that country. Typically, the population living in towns of 2,000 inhabitants or more, or in national and provincial capitals is often classified 'urban'[1].

'Towns' can also be distinguished from 'cities' as being smaller (estimation: towns refer to areas with less than 50 000 inhabitants – whilst cities would be above this threshold); this definition is referred to in the EU Commission paper 'Cities of Tomorrow'[2].

Social innovation:

Social innovation is a broad concept for which there are a variety of definitions too. The definition that the European Commission DG Research works with is the following: 'In the context of research and innovation policy, innovations are often regarded as 'social' when they use means that engage society and aim at benefits for society rather than private gain for the innovator, i.e. when they are good for society and enhance society's capacity to act.' This definition will be used in this paper.

good for society + enhance society's capacity to act = social innovation

1 More information on the degree of urbanisation in the EU in annex.
2. European Commission, Cities of tomorrow: challenges, visions, ways forward, October 2011, p.1

Urban development in the SEISMIC countries

As mentioned in Part I and II of the SEISMIC scoping paper, the principle of subsidiarity is a rule in the EU: it states that the EU only acts if its action would be more effective than the action of Member States or sub-national governments. Urban policy is one of the areas where the EU is not directly competent and national contexts still play a very important role in shaping it.

The following maps give an overview of national contexts for urban development in the 10 SEISMIC countries[1].

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1. Data from OECD report 'Subnational governments in OECD countries; key data' 2013 edition.
Design: Wilma Dragonetti

Urban policy framework or policy:
No explicit urban strategy at the federal level, but the Austrian spatial development concept covers urban areas and the development of an Austrian agglomeration policy.

Recent policy development:
ÖREK 2011, a ten year strategic orientation for regional policy and latest Austrian spatial development concept framework: It highlights the importance of compact settlement patterns, and urban-rural functional spatial integration.
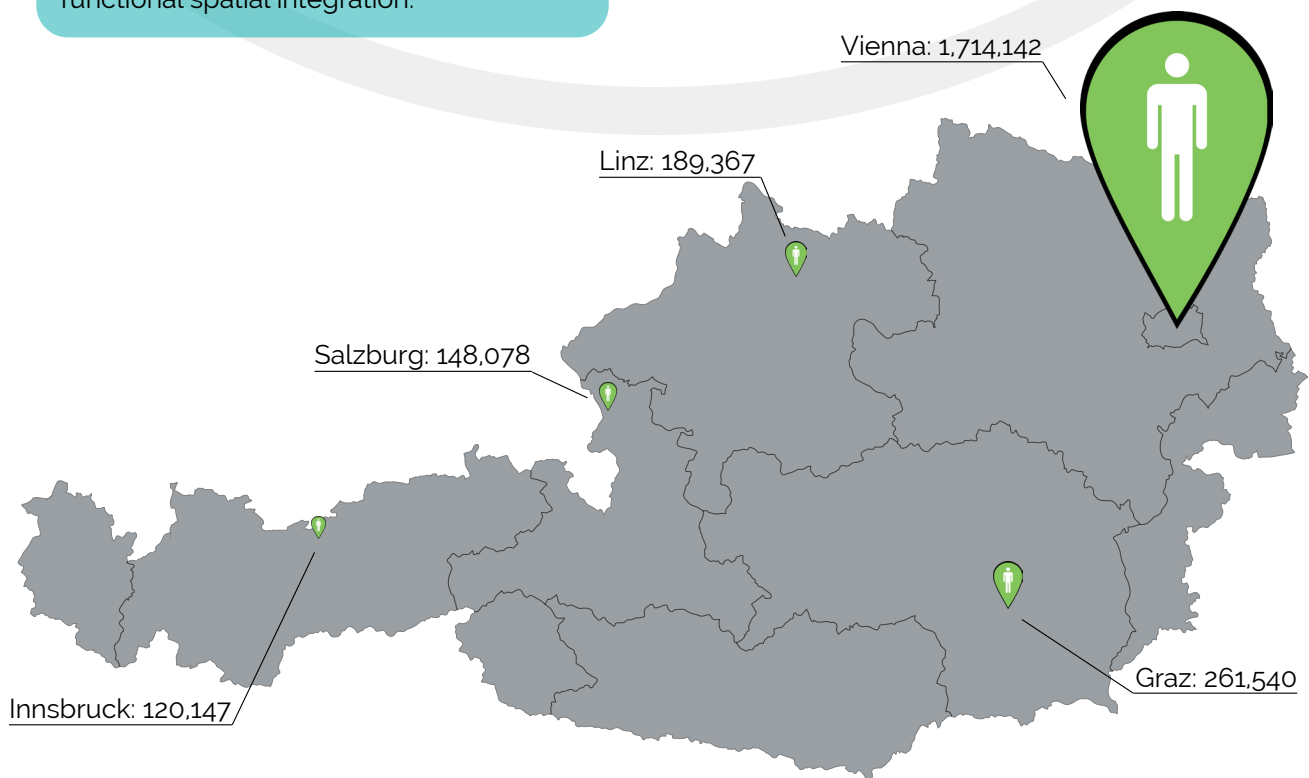
Lead ministry for urban development:
Federal chancellery – directorate for territorial cooperation

Sub-national governments:

- 9 regions

- 2354 municipalities

Vienna: 1,714,142

Linz: 189,367

Salzburg: 148,078

Innsbruck: 120,147

Graz: 261,540

Largest spending items at subnational level

Social protection

Health

58% Population living in cities of different sizes

47% Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

SEISMIC

Lead ministry for urban development:
Federal public service – urban policy service

Sub-national governments:
- 3 regions
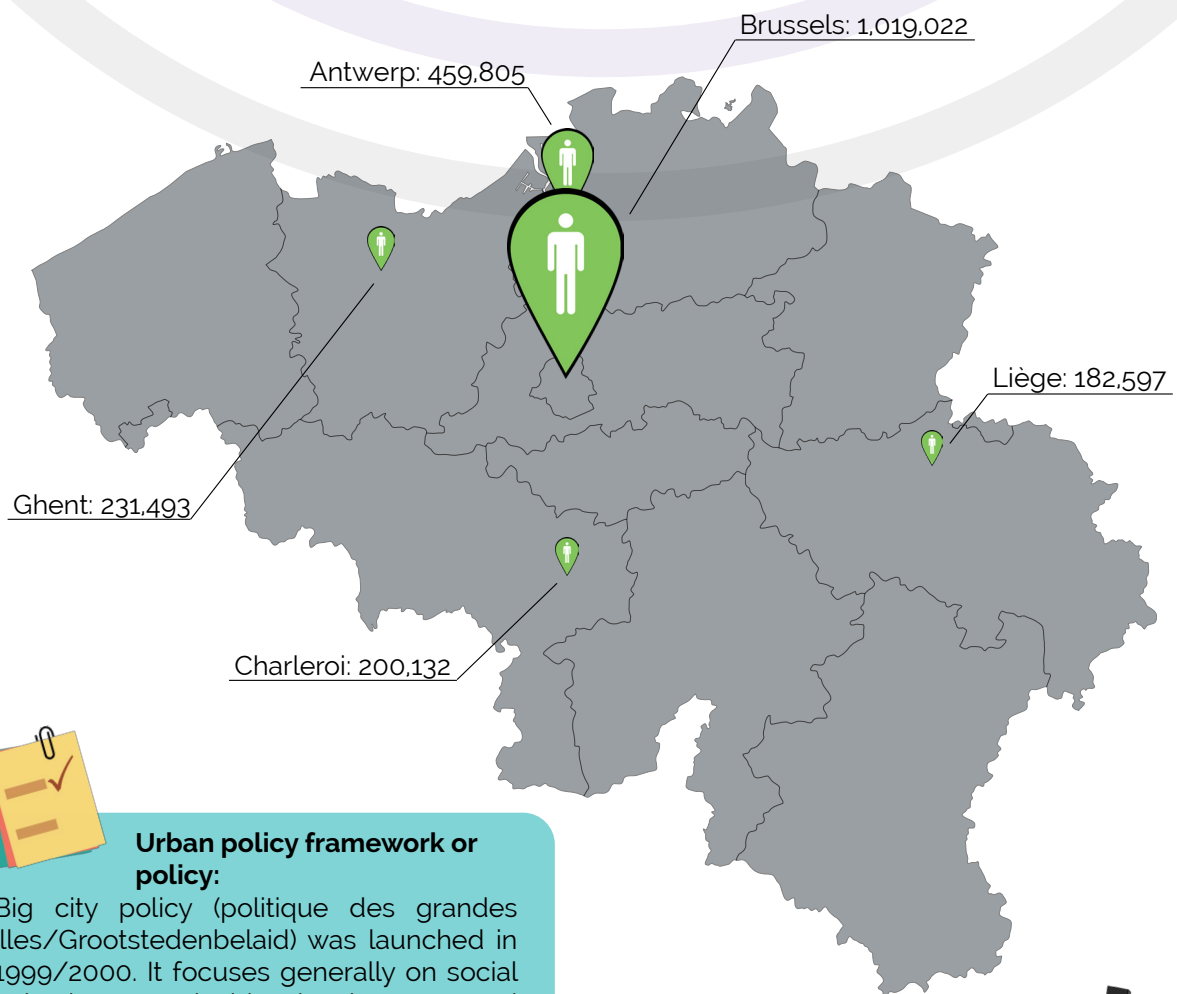- 10 intermediary level governments
- 589 municipalities

Largest spending items at subnational level

Social protection   Education

Brussels: 1,019,022

Antwerp: 459,805

Liège: 182,597

Ghent: 231,493

Charleroi: 200,132

Urban policy framework or policy:
Big city policy (politique des grandes illes/Grootstedenbelaid) was launched in 1999/2000. It focuses generally on social cohesion, sustainable development and urban regeneration.

Recent policy development:
Belgian federal 'Sustainable city contracts' seek to strengthen the social cohesion of deprived neighbourhoods, reduce their ecological footprint and promote city attractiveness.

59% Population living in cities of different sizes

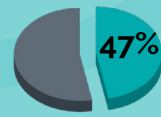**44%** Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people
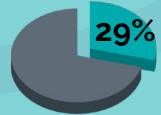
Lead ministry for urban development:
Ministry of Regional Development

Sub-national governments:
- 14 regions
- 6253 municipalities

47% Population living in cities of different sizes

29% Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Liberec: 102,005

Prague: 1,241,664

Ostrava: 299,622

Plzeň: 170,322

Brno: 385,913

Urban policy framework or policy:
The principles of urban policy (Zásady Urbánní Politiky) from 2010 outline several goals for urban development and its role in regional development.

Recent policy development:
The urban dimension to the 2014-2020 operational programmes (EU Cohesion Policy – structural funds) highlight the importance of considering cities in the context of functional urban areas, including the concept of urban-rural linkages. The 2010 principles of urban policy raise the importance of multi-sectoral or integrated approach to territorial development. They also highlight the use of towns as development poles over the territory and note a special attention to environment and sustainable urban development.

Largest spending items at subnational level

Economic affairs

Education

SEISMIC

Lead ministry for urban development:
Ministry of interior (department of spatial planning and urban development)

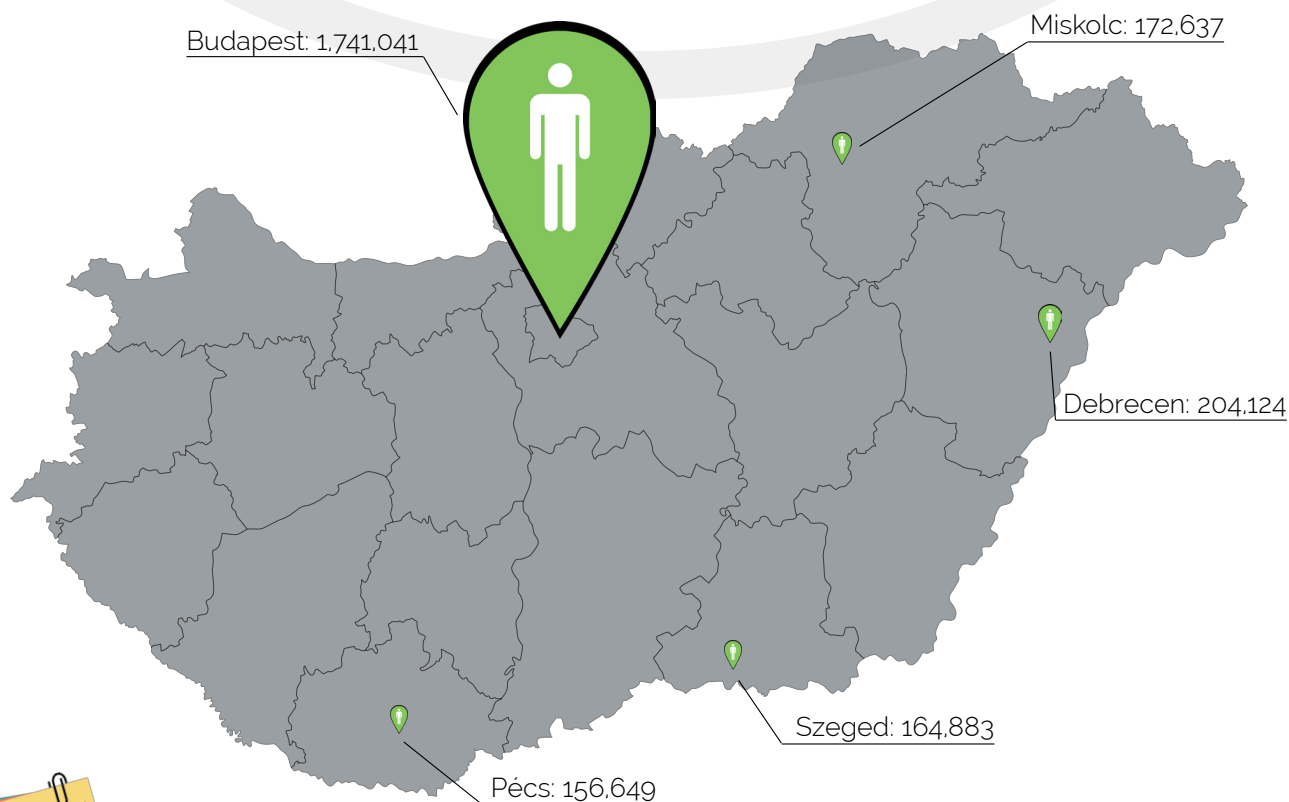**Sub-national governments:**
- 19 Regions
- 3177 municipalities

Largest spending items at subnational level
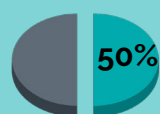
General public services

Education

Budapest: 1,741,041

Miskolc: 172,637

Debrecen: 204,124

Szeged: 164,883

Pécs: 156,649

Urban policy framework or policy:
The new Constitution (January 2012) states that sectoral laws may force municipalities to merge or cooperate.

Recent policy development:
A recentralisation of many responsibilities is ongoing.

50% Population living in cities of different sizes

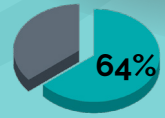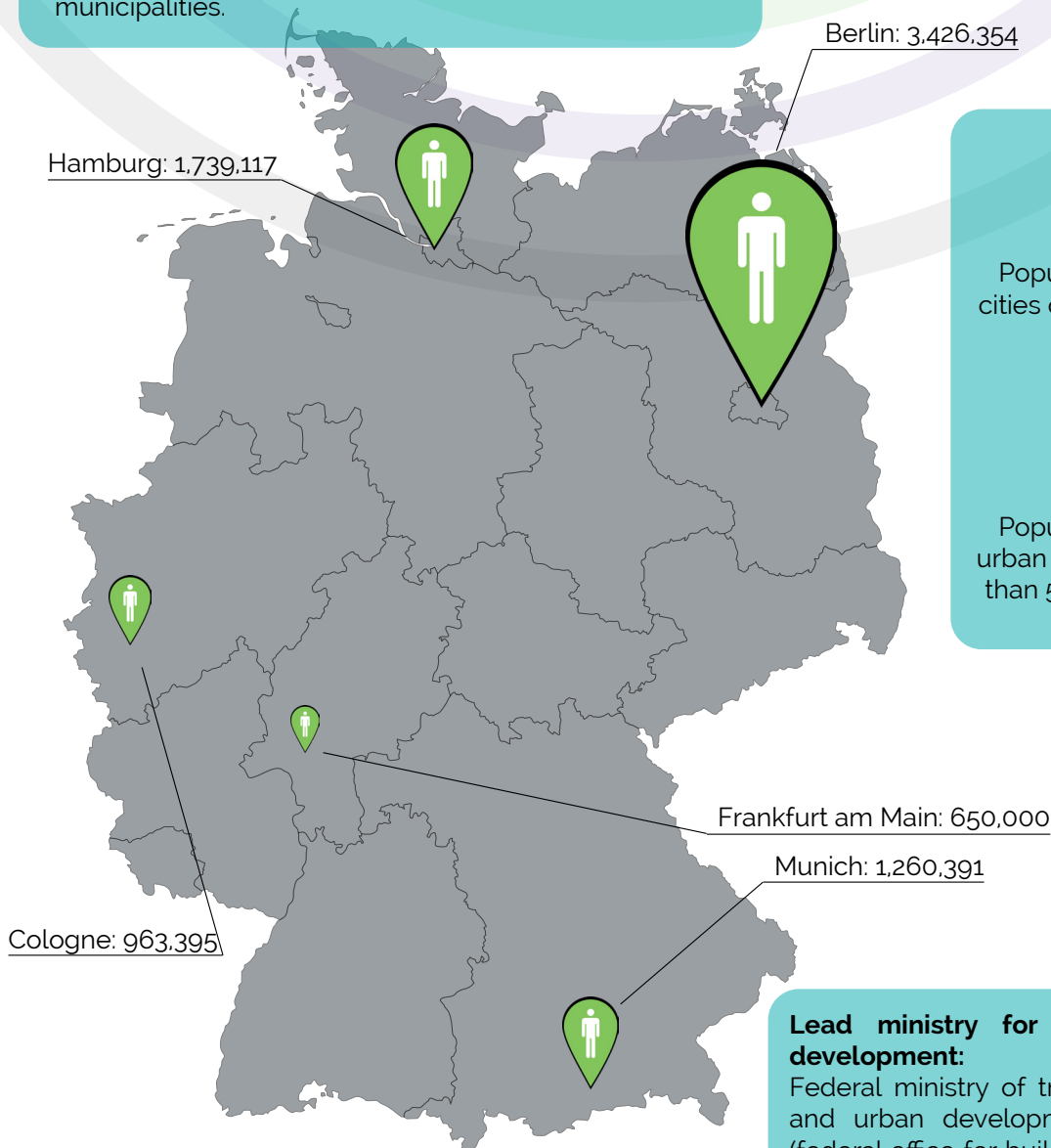28% Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Urban policy framework or policy:
The 2007 national urban development policy (Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik - NSP) serves mainly as a platform to bring relevant actors together on city issues relating to social and urban trends as well as to exchange experience.

Recent policy development:
Some municipal mergers, mostly in the Land of Saxony-Anhalt, which have reduced the number of municipalities.

Berlin: 3,426,354

Hamburg: 1,739,117

64%
Population living in cities of different sizes

39%
Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Frankfurt am Main: 650,000

Munich: 1,260,391

Cologne: 963,395

Largest spending items at subnational level

Social protection   General public services

Lead ministry for urban development:
Federal ministry of transport, building and urban development - BMVBS (federal office for building and regional planning – BBR)

Sub-national governments:

- 16 Regions (Länder)

- 295 intermediary level governments

- 11327 municipalities

SEISMIC

Lead ministry for urban development:
Inter-ministrerial committee for urban policy (under the Prime minister)

Sub-national governments:
- 20 Regions
- 110 intermediary level government
- 8092 municipalities

Urban policy framework or policy:
Created in 2012 the inter-ministerial committee for urban policy deals with:
1. Sometimes mismatches between institutional boudaries and planning activities;
2. Urban sprawl;
3. Renewal of the housing stock.

Recent policy development:
10 of the 51 provinces will have a special institutional organisation as metropolitan areas (Città metropolitan): Rome, Turin, Milan, Venice, Genoa, Bologna, Florence, Bari, Naples and Reggio Calabria.

Turin: 870,456

Milan: 1,236,837

Rome: 2,318,895

Naples: 959,470

Palermo: 648,260
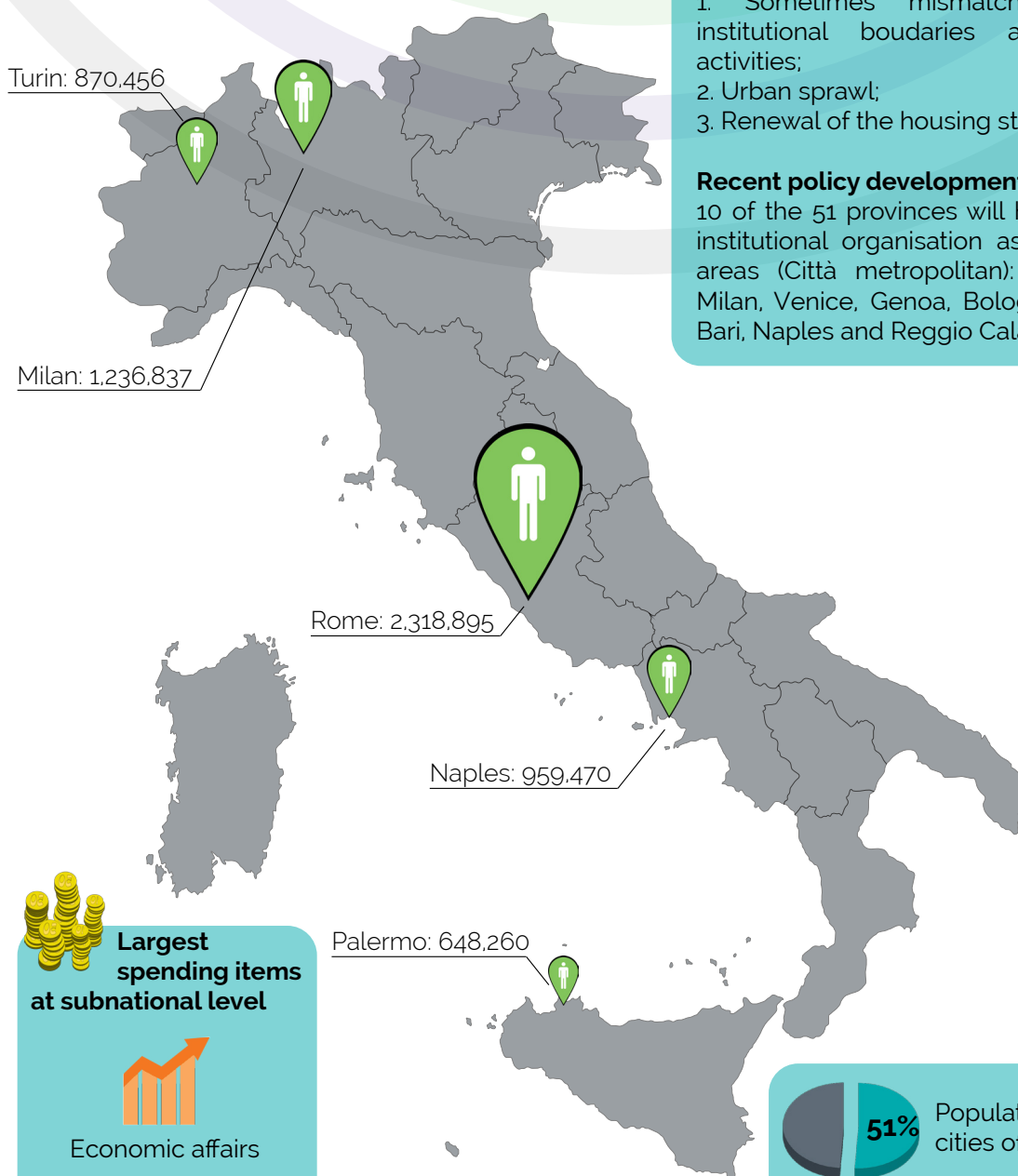
Largest spending items at subnational level

Economic affairs

Health

51% Population living in cities of different sizes

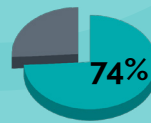**30%** Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Lead ministries for urban development:
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, and with the decentralization of budgets for social welfare, youth etc. The following ministries are becoming more important: Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.
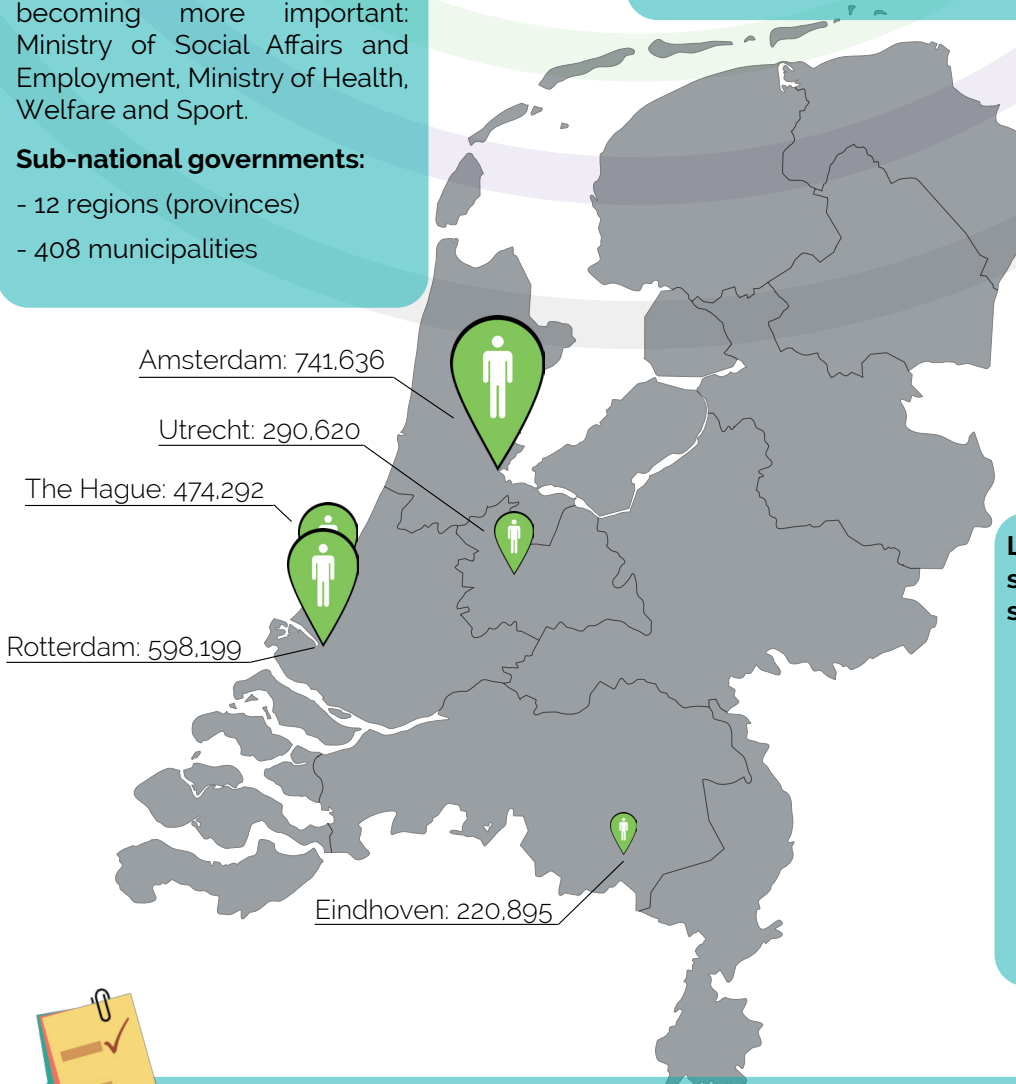
Sub-national governments:
- 12 regions (provinces)
- 408 municipalities

74% Population living in cities of different sizes

37% Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Amsterdam: 741,636

Utrecht: 290,620

The Hague: 474,292

Rotterdam: 598,199

Eindhoven: 220,895

Largest spending items at subnational level

Economic affairs

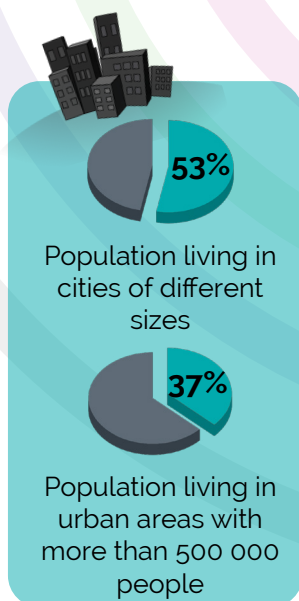Education

Urban policy framework or policy:
The national investment budget for urban renewal ends in 2014. The national government and city councils are now discussing an urban agenda for the future.

Recent policy development:
Territorial reforms in progress seek to reduce the number of provinces and municipalities. The former 'city regions' should be abolished as for January 2015.
A new project of a metropolitan area bringing together 24 municipalities around Rotterdam and The Hague is being considered ('Metropoolregio'). The same development is taking place in Amsterdam and its surrounding cities and munipalities.
In 2015 the national government will decentralise major parts of social policy to the municipalities with a reduced budget.

SEISMIC

Largest spending items at subnational level

Social protection   Health

53%

Population living in cities of different sizes

37%

Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Lead ministry for urban development:
Ministry of entreprise, energy and communication

Sub-national governments:
- 21 Regions
- 290 municipalities

Stockholm: 1,253,309

Uppsala: 127,734

Västerås: 107,194

Gothenburg: 504,084

Malmo: 261,548

Urban policy framework or policy:
National strategy for regional growth and attractiveness 2014-2020: it includes some reflection on sustainable urban development.

Recent policy development:
The above mentioned strategy was launched in June 2014, it has adopted a cross-sectoral approach and will rely on multi-level governance mechanisms for dialogue and learning.
Discussions to reform the structure of both subnational governments and central government representation at regional level are under way.

Lead ministry for urban development:
Minstry of environment and urban planning
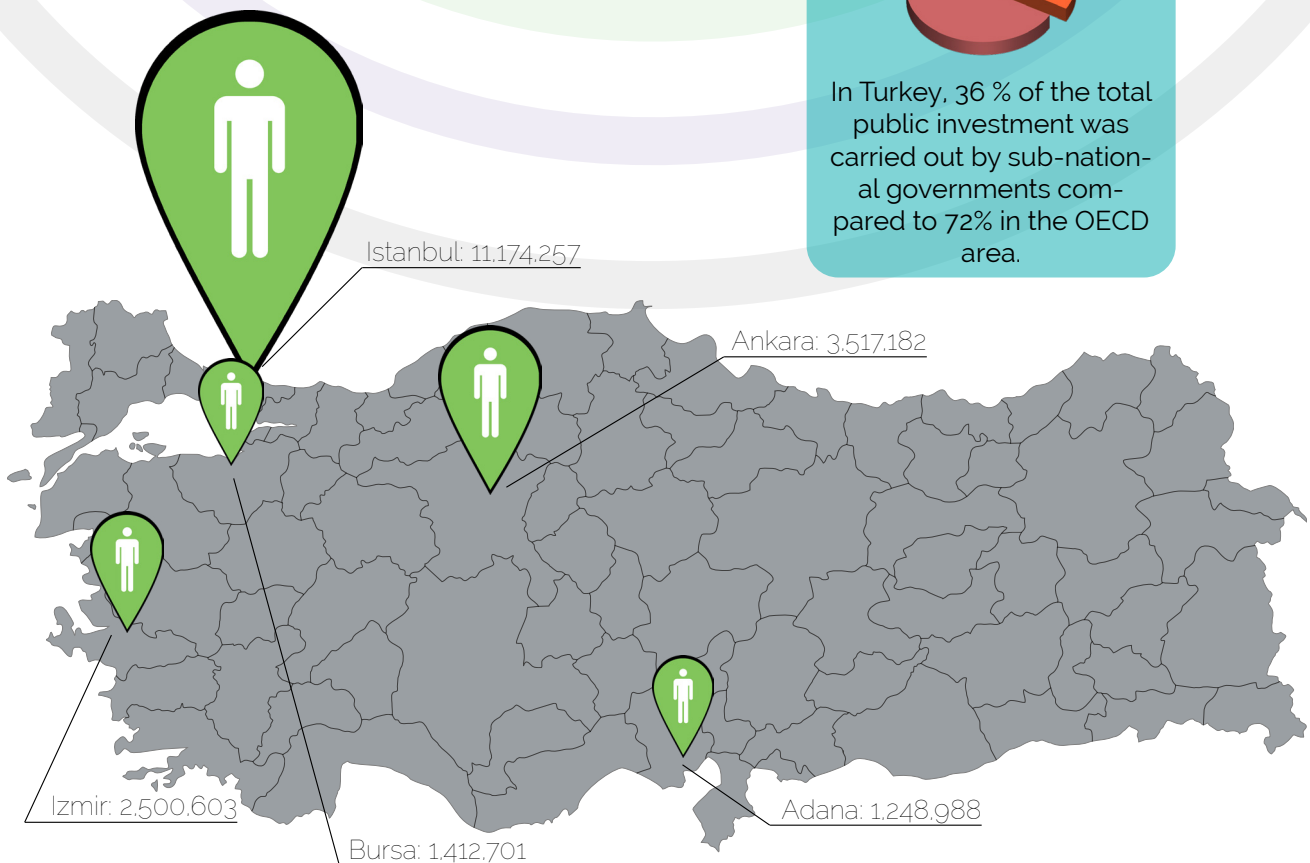
Sub-national governments:

- 81 regions

- 2950 municipalities

Largest spending items at subnational level

In Turkey, 36 % of the total public investment was carried out by sub-national governments compared to 72% in the OECD area.

Istanbul: 11,174,257

Ankara: 3,517,182

Izmir: 2,500,603

Bursa: 1,412,701

Adana: 1,248,988

Urban policy framework or policy:
The 2010 integrated urban development strategy and action plan (Kentsel Gelisme Stratejisi ve Eylem Plani – KENTGES) focuses on a wide range of issues from infrastructure, housing and disaster management to social policies and economic development.

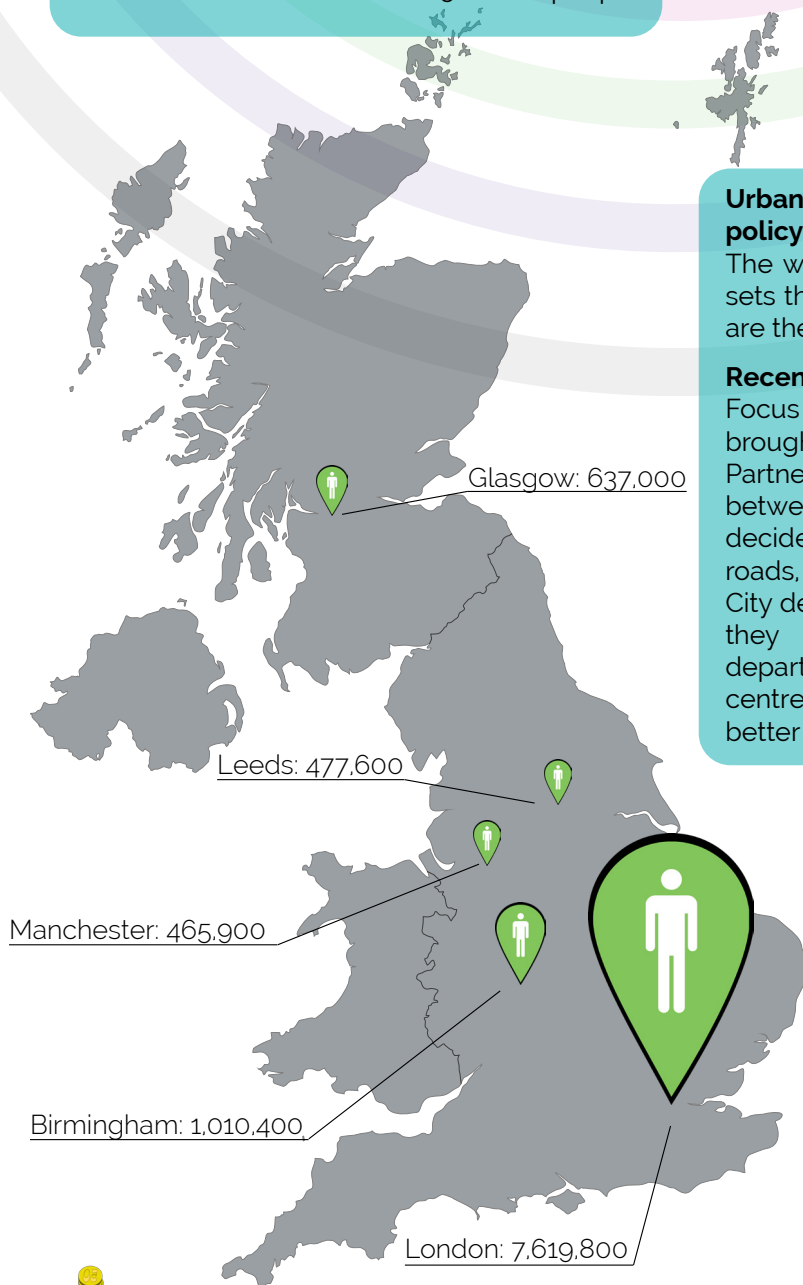**Recent policy development:**
The 10th national development plan (2014-2018) establishes medium term priorities for regional development in Turkey. One of the basic objective is to reduce regional and urban-rural disparities. Priority areas include improving consistency and effectiveness of policies at central level, create a development environment based on local dynamics, and increasing institutional capacity at the local level.
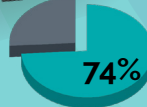
SEISMIC

74%
Population living in cities of different sizes

41%
Population living in urban areas with more than 500 000 people

Urban policy framework or policy:
The white paper 'Unlocking growth in cities' sets the framework for the 'City deals', which are the main element of UK urban policy.

Recent policy development:
Focus on functional economic areas has brought the UK to create the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). These partnerships between local authorities and businesses decide on local priorities for investment in roads, buildings and facilities.
City deals are being implemented since 2011, they require better horizontal (across departments) and vertical (between the centre and the cities) coordination, as well as better local capacity.

Glasgow: 637,000

Leeds: 477,600

Manchester: 465,900

Birmingham: 1,010,400

London: 7,619,800

Lead ministry for urban development:
Department for communities and local government; cities policy unit (created in 2011 with public, private, central and local stakeholders to help coordinate urban policy)

Sub-national governments:

- 3 Regions/State level government

- 28 intermediary level governments

- 406 municipalities

Largest spending items at subnational level

Social protection

Education

A diverse picture

This data on the set up of urban policies in the SEISMIC countries shows their diversity. Some trends can nonetheless be highlighted:

Regarding the SEISMIC countries general urban profile:

- In some countries such as Austria, the Czech Republic or Hungary, the capital city is significantly bigger than other cities. There is a significant population gap between capital cities that reach up to one million inhabitants and the next biggest city that sometimes does not reach 200 000 inhabitants.
- On the other hand the countries that have a bigger territory, like Germany, Italy, Turkey and the UK seem to have many more cities reaching the 500 000 inhabitants threshold and beyond.

Regarding national urban strategies:

- Some countries have independent strategies focusing on urban development like Belgium, the Czech Republic, Italy, and the UK. This does not necessarily correspond to the countries that have more big cities.
- In some countries like Austria, Hungary, Sweden and Turkey, urban policy is integrated as part of their regional development strategy.
- Germany and the Netherlands seem to have adopted a mixed solution, where urban policy is both part of their regional development strategy, and has a certain degree of independence.

Social innovation in the EU and in the SEISMIC countries

Social innovation in an urban context

Cities require continuous social and political creativity to face the complexity of challenges they must tackle. As mentioned in the previous parts of this scoping paper, cities face important and very varied challenges that range from climate change adaptation to inclusion of the most deprived. Social innovation in urban areas means that how we address these issues and who is involved in the thinking and design of the solutions, is as important as the solutions themselves. Therefore, social innovation in urban areas is a way to re-localise and boost the creativity of the solutions found to tackle urban challenges[1].

Social innovation is also the recognition that successful transformation and development of our urban areas does not only require technological solutions but also a dialogue and the involvement of civil society. It allows people to participate more meaningfully in the process of brainstorming and designing initiatives that address the complex realities of urban sustainability.

Social innovation in the EU

European initiatives supporting social innovation can be found in different fields – entrepreneurship, social affairs, research policy and others. They can also take different forms: some are major framework policies coming directly from the Europe 2020 strategy, some can be funding programmes, and others soft measures like prizes and competitions. Here are some examples of EU-supported initiatives related to social innovation with an urban dimension.

The Innovation Union

The innovation union[2] is a framework to most social innovation initiatives taken by the EU. As flagship initiatives are divided into detailed action points, some action points on social innovation can be found in the innovation union initiative:

- The Commission will launch a European Social Innovation pilot[3] programme which will provide expertise and a 'virtual hub' for networking social entrepreneurs and the public and third sectors.
- It will promote social innovation through the European Social Fund (ESF) building on the significant investments in social innovation which the ESF has made over the last ten years, all along the innovation cycle. This will be complemented by support to innovative social experiments to be developed in the framework of the European Platform against Poverty.
- Social innovation should become a mainstream focus in the next generation of European Social Fund programmes. Member States are encouraged to already step up efforts to promote social

1. Place-based creative problem-solving' Chiara Camponeschi, The Enabling City, 2010, Creative commons
2. http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm
3. More details on the social innovation pilot on: http://i3s.ec.europa.eu/commitment/31.html

innovation through the ESF

- Starting in 2011, the Commission will support a substantial research programme on public sector and social innovation[4], looking at issues such as measurement and evaluation, financing and other barriers to scaling up and development. As an immediate step, it will pilot a European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard[5] as a basis for further work to benchmark public sector innovation. It will explore with Member States whether it is appropriate to bring together new learning experiences and networks for public sector leaders at European level.

- The Commission will consult[6] the social partners to examine how the knowledge economy can be spread to all occupational levels and all sectors. It will ask the social partners for proposals on how to develop a sectorial labour market strategy for the caring sector.

The EaSI programme - Employment and Social Innovation

A specific funding programme of the EU focuses on employment and social innovation: EaSI. Its objectives are to:

- Support the development of adequate social protection systems and labour market policies.
- Modernise EU legislation and ensure its effective application.
- Promote geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing an open labour market.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, and increase access to finance for social enterprises.

The EaSI total budget for 2014-2020 is EUR 919,469,000.

The European social innovation competition

In the specific field of social innovation in an urban context, DG ENTR (Enterprise & Industry) organises the European Social Innovation competition that has recently awarded a prize to an urban farming project in Belgium: 'urban farm lease'[7]. The EU Commission specifies that social innovation is not only desirable, but necessary 'to come up with new solutions to reduce unemployment and minimize its corrosive effects on the economy and our society both now and in the future'[8].

Examples of social innovation projects funded by the EU Commission[9]

- TEPSIE: The theoretical, empirical and policy foundations for building social innovation in Europe – January 2012 to December 2014[10].

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4. More details on the research programme on the public sector and social innovation on: http://i3s.ec.europa.eu/commitment/33.html
5. More details on the public sector innovation scoreboard on: http://i3s.ec.europa.eu/commitment/32.html
6. More details on this consultation: http://i3s.ec.europa.eu/commitment/42.html
7. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/social-innovation/competition/index_en.htm
8 idem
9. The whole list of FP7 projects can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/ssh-projects-fp7-5-6-social-innovation_en.pdf
10. http://www.tepsie.eu

This paper uses some of the findings of the TEPSIE project, especially to try and identify the SEISMIC countries potential for social innovation (see p.18 'Measuring social innovation').

- - CITiSPYCE: Combating inequalities through innovative social practices of and for young people in cities across Europe – January 2013 to December 2015[11]
- - LIPSE: Learning from innovation in public sector environments – February 2013 to July 2016[12]

Different countries, different contexts for social innovation

Social models, participatory processes and in general social innovation practices are not evenly spread across the SEISMIC countries.

Social innovation projects 'vary in form and function across different cities, countries and cultures'.[13] It is therefore to be expected that the understanding and undertakings of social innovation might vary across the SEISMIC countries.

Likewise, the tendency to choose social innovation rather than more traditional ways to solve social issues also differs across countries. The EU Commission has made a general assessment of this trend:

Following the typology of welfare of G. Esping-Andersen, one could argue that the Nordic countries such as Finland have shown a remarkable absorption of social innovations to renew their social model from a bottom-up perspective. They are now reaping the fruits in terms of social, educational and economic performance. The Anglo-Saxon countries have also been very receptive in following the intense deregulation of the 1980s and the need to rebuild social services, resulting in a marked phase of social innovation. Continental countries, with their heavier institutional traditions, have been less reactive, social innovation often being an add-on which does not penetrate the system. In Mediterranean countries, the persistence of strong systems of informal solidarity has also slowed down the process. Amongst the new Member States, some follow the Mediterranean or continental model, but most of them suffer from the weakness of having a civil society with no autonomous organisation of capacity[14].

Measuring social innovation

The take-off of social innovation depends on many contextual factors, such as: governance mechanisms (centralised or decentralised state for instance), but also the history of the welfare state, the entrepreneurial culture and quite a few other cultural and political elements.

Social innovation is also difficult to measure because it contains a normative dimension – 'being good for society' – that is hard to translate in figures. No single indicator can show how good a country or a city is at social innovation. Nevertheless, one can measure the factors enabling social innovation and observe the national context in which social innovation could develop. In other words, one can measure the social innovation potential in a certain country, region or city.

For this purpose, a list of appropriate data and indicators has to be identified.

11. http://www1.aston.ac.uk/citispyce/
12. http://www.lipse.org
13. The Young Foundation (2012) Social Innovation Practices and Trends. A deliverable of the project: "The theoretical, empirical and policy foundations for building social innovation in Europe"
(TEPSIE), European Commission –7th Framework Programme, Brussels: European Commission, DG Research; p.21
14. European Commission, BEPA, Empowering people, driving change, social innovation in the European union, p.100

The TEPSIE project has developed a system of indicators (or index) that are either connected to measuring innovation (technical and social), or to measuring social, normative or environmental dimensions. This system is represented as follow:
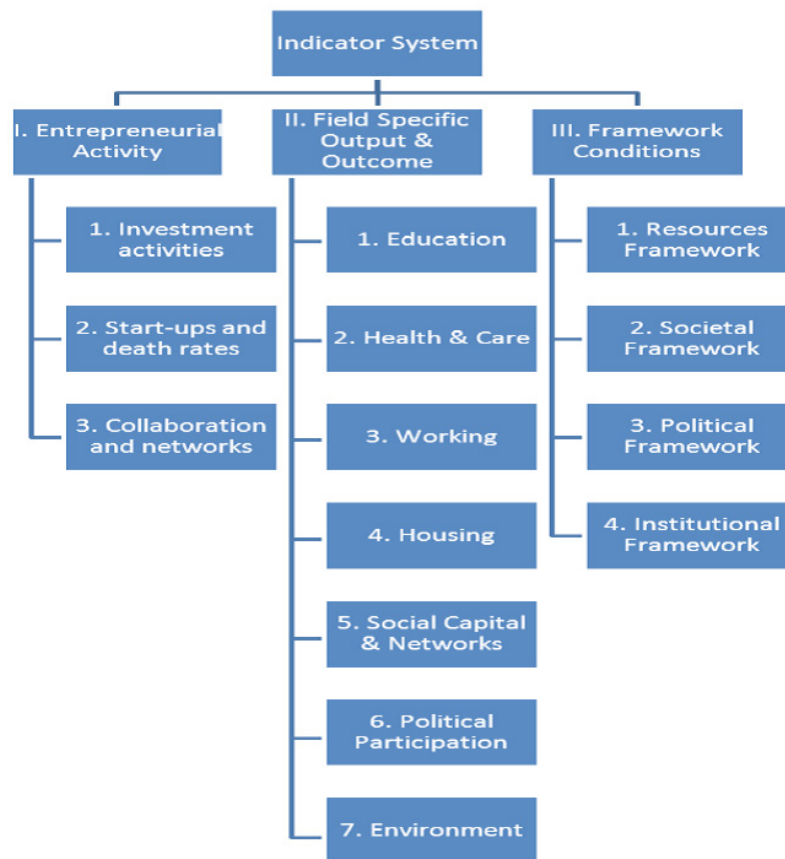
Indicator system developed by the TEPSIE project[15]:

This indicator system could be used to map the potential for social innovation throughout the SEISMIC countries. To this end, one would have to find relevant indicators for all the proposed categories or factors enabling social innovation; and this, for all the SEISMIC countries[16].

Examples of these indicators could be:

- The number of start-ups as in: early stage social entrepreneurship as percentage of the working population (I. Entrepreneurial activity 2. Start-ups and death rates)[17]
- Whether people have taken part in a public debate at local/regional level (II.Field specific output

15. Schmitz, Björn; Krlev, Gorgi; Mildenberger, Georg; Bund, Eva; Hubrich, David (2013). Paving the Way to Measurement – A Blueprint for Social Innovation Metrics. " (TEPSIE), European Commission – 7th Framework Programme, Brussels: European Commission, DG Research, p.11
16. This task has not been taken on for this paper. A comparison between countries would be useful and fair if it took into account all 14 factors and if the indicators proposed to represent these factors were agreed by the 10 participating countries in SEISMIC. It is not feasible at this early stage.
17. This indicator can be found in the Global entrepreneurship Monitor.

& outcome, 6. Political participation)[18]

- The total public social expenditure as percentage of GDP (III. Framework conditions, 1. Resources framework)[19]

Examples of social innovation projects in urban areas in the SEISMIC countries

Introducing some examples of social innovation projects in urban areas across the SEISMIC countries will help complete the picture that was started with the mapping above.

The following examples are drawn from a publication designed by EUROCITIES 'Cities for Active Inclusion'[20], a project co-financed by the European Commission[21]. This publication provides a collection of city practices in the field of social innovation for active inclusion[22].

Birmingham - Arts Champions: a new integrated approach to arts outreach

In Birmingham, as elsewhere in Europe, people living in disadvantaged areas are often at high risk of social isolation. In 2001, when Birmingham City Council was looking at ways to improve citizens' quality of life, a key conclusion was that the top arts organisations in the city could act as a catalyst for the development of active, engaged and connected communities.

The Arts Champions include Birmingham Royal Ballet, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the city's South Asian arts organisation Sampad.

Elements of innovation

The Arts Champions scheme includes a number of innovative aspects:

- It brings all the key arts organisations together in a single coordinated initiative, to engage with residents in all parts of the city;
- Specialist arts practitioners work with council officers who understand the barriers preventing specific members of the community from engaging with the arts; outreach programmes can therefore be tailor-made to meet local needs.
- The scheme offers people the chance to work with nationally and internationally renowned artists, and to experience top quality artistic events and performances in the city centre: this helps them to overcome their feelings of exclusion and feel more connected to the city's cultural centre;
- By allocating different Arts Champions to different constituencies every three years, citizens who have previously felt excluded can experience a variety of arts and culture.

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18. This indicator can be found in the Eurobarometer 373.
19. This indicator can be found in the OECD expenditure statistics.
20. You can read the full publication at : http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu/nlao/resources/downloads/ Collection-of-innovative-city-practices-WSWE-92GEAP
21. DG Employment, social affairs and inclusion, with the PROGRESS programme 2009-2013
22. Active inclusion means: "Including the most disadvantaged people/most excluded from the labour market in society through an integrated strategy of adequate income support, access to labour market and better access to services"

Bologna - Flashgiovani: increasing young people's active participation in the life of the city

For many young people, the transition from education to work can be difficult, resulting in the risk of social exclusion. Through the Flashgiovani.it project, Bologna aims to actively include young people in the life of the city as they move from education into work.

Established in 2000, Flashgiovani.it is an innovative online magazine managed by - and aimed at - young people aged 15 to 29 living in the Bologna area.

Elements of innovation

The project includes many innovative aspects:

- Flashgiovani.it[23] is based on an innovative philosophy that believes in transforming the wealth of talent and knowledge found among young people into a public service: an online magazine by young people, for young people.
- By including a wide variety of players, the editorial team represents a new departure for public sector websites, with a mix of young people, representatives of the city's youth project (Progetto Giovani), and professional experts.
- The use of creative workshops run by the City of Bologna to generate ideas and content for the web pages represents an innovative experiment: it marks a shift from the youth-information approach where public sector organisations provide information to young people, to an informed-youth approach, where young people themselves research the information that is relevant to them, and share it with others.
- For the young people on the editorial team, the learning-by-doing approach brings a new educational paradigm that focuses on practical learning rather than theoretical learning.
- Flashgiovani.it has developed a new partnership approach, working with other media, such as radio and TV, to create reportages and documentaries, and also TV commercials for local socio-cultural activities.

Brno – Socio-info centre and website: barrier-free access to advice and information

During Brno's initial social services community planning phase, a general lack of awareness of the social services available in the city was highlighted. This was recognised as contributing to the risk of social exclusion for people most in need of assistance.

To help raise awareness of social services in Brno and how best to access them, an innovative two-part solution was developed: a drop-in centre and an interactive website.

Opened in Autumn 2009, the Socio-info Centre is sited at Brno's municipal offices in the middle of the city. The centre offers social services information and advice. The centre also offers professional help to people to resolve crisis situations.

The interactive Socio-info website[24] was also launched in 2009. Designed to be attractive for all users, it provides continuously updated social services information. The website also serves as a platform for Brno's social services community planning process and enables close co-operation between public

23. www.flashgiovani.it
24. www.socialnipece.brno.cz

sector organisations and NGO social service providers. It includes a central database of all the social services organisations in Brno.

Elements of innovation

The initiative provides several examples of innovation:

- The community planning process represents an innovative approach for Brno, involving people from eight different groups of citizens: families with children, people with physical and mental disabilities, immigrants, senior citizens, and people who are socially excluded through unemployment or homelessness. Some 70 municipal social service organisations and NGOs also took part in the wide-ranging discussions about social service needs, priorities and solutions.
- The two strategic plans drawn up after the community planning consultations are a new departure, based on the views of the community as well as resource-availability, to ensure that the city's social services are responsive to, and are organised around, local needs.
- The Socio-info Centre is a first for the city: a drop-in centre that is barrier-free, with equipment such as an induction loop for people with impaired hearing, and an internet access booth with an adjustable table height.
- The interactive Socio-info website takes a dynamic approach that is unusual for a public sector website, with attractive illustrations that draw the visitor into the site and keep them entertained while looking for the information they need.

Rotterdam - Social greening: job creation and social cohesion through smart investment

Like many former industrial cities and ports in Europe, Rotterdam is evolving into a service-based economy. Many people who worked in traditional industries are now unemployed long-term. In addition, they live in deprived areas of the city and experience social isolation. They know relatively few people in the area, and only mix with others of a similar age and background.

Rotterdam has benefited from many social greening initiatives, both by the public sector and the private sector. Until now, these have mainly been developed to improve the environment, create new spaces for leisure, and reduce food miles by growing vegetables. However, over the past few years, the city has recognised that social greening can deliver additional social benefits.

Rotterdam's Community Gardens project is an innovative example of social greening: smart investment is making it possible to create urban green spaces in deprived neighbourhoods, both to provide jobs and to increase social cohesion.

Elements of innovation

Rotterdam's Community Gardens project benefits from several key innovations:

- Smart investment is the most innovative element of the project: the use of active inclusion funds from Rotterdam's Social Affairs and Employment Department not only to improve social inclusion by creating jobs, but also to improve social cohesion;
- Extending the policy arena of the Social Affairs and Employment Department beyond its traditional role is further innovation: its focus has been extended to urban greening, use of public space, health and environment issues, which points to a new way of implementing the city's policies;

- Using a bottom-up approach is also a relatively new departure, to ensure local people are involved in the decision-making process right from the start: this creates new partnerships between citizens and the municipality, new ways of planning, and new types of user involvement.

Stockholm - Crossroads: information and support for EU migrants

- In Stockholm, it is currently very difficult for people who are low skilled, or who don't speak Swedish, to find a job. At the same time, housing costs are high. In addition, for people who are EU citizens but not Swedish citizens, and who don't have a regular job or the correct paperwork, government assistance is very limited and can be hard to access.

Increasing numbers of EU economic migrants who move to Stockholm to find work are ending up in extreme poverty. Some are from the EU accession countries in Eastern Europe; others are from deprived areas in other EU countries. Although they have the right to live in Sweden, they cannot support themselves and they may not have the money or motivation to return to their country of origin. Many of them end up homeless.

Stockholm's Crossroads project[25] provides a welcoming drop-in centre for EU migrants who are unemployed and destitute. It provides essentials such as food and daytime shelter, as well as advice and training opportunities.

The centre is run by five full-time employees and many volunteers, including interpreters, lawyers and counsellors.

Elements of innovation

Crossroads is designed to support clients as effectively as possible through the following innovative approaches:

- A combination of:
  - high quality information about living in Swedish society, including advice on housing, employment, training and legal aspects;
  - an understanding of clients' cultural backgrounds, making it easier for staff to provide relevant advice and counselling;
  - language skills, so staff can interpret for clients as well as giving them the chance to learn Swedish and English;
- A new form of collaboration in Sweden: between the public sector and the voluntary sector;
- New ways of working with homeless EU migrants: Sweden's own welfare services had no experience of working with this target group, and although some of the project's initiatives are based on similar work in other European cities, there are relatively few other projects to learn from;
- An unusual client focused approach with inbuilt flexibility to adapt to clients' needs: e.g. when only a few clients expressed a wish to go back to their home country, the focus shifted to improving the situation for the target group in Stockholm;
- A new empowering approach: clients are encouraged to develop their own individual action plans.

25. http://stockholmcrossroads.se/

The SEISMIC scoping paper is a starting point. It provides both an overview of the European context in which the activities of the project will be carried out, and a state of play of the challenges that SEISMIC aims to tackle.

It also marks the launch of the ten national networks; regular shorter reports will follow their activities and update the information provided in this initial paper.

These reports will be published every six months. They will:

- feature an 'urban watch' section and provide an overview of the high level trends in urban development
- track the progress of EU policies relevant for SEISMIC
- report on the progress made throughout the 10 national networks and
- provide case studies of innovative practices in urban policy development.

Annex

All European Commission DGs and European Parliament Committees

	EU Parliament committees
Transport and Tourism committee (TRAN)	The TRAN committee is responsible for: matters relating to the development of a common policy for rail, road, inland waterway, maritime and air transport, in particular common rules applicable to transport within the European Union and the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure; postal services; and tourism.
Industry, research and energy committee (ITRE)	ITRE committee is responsible for: the Union's industrial policy and the application of new technologies; the Union's research policy; the information society and information technology; and community measures relating to energy policy in general, the security of energy supply and energy efficiency.
Regional Development (REGI)	REGI committee is responsible for: regional and cohesion policy, assessing the impact of other Union policies on economic and social cohesion. At the meeting of 14 December 2006, the Conference of Presidents decided to include the urban dimension as a competence of the committee.
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	The ENVI Committee is responsible for: environmental policy and environmental protection measures, in particular concerning: air, soil and water pollution, waste management and recycling, dangerous substances and preparations, noise levels, climate change, protection of biodiversity. Moreover it is responsible for public health and food safety issues.
Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	The EMPL committee is responsible for: employment policy and all aspects of social policy such as working conditions, social security, social protection; and social dialogue.
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)	The LIBE Committee is responsible for: the protection of citizens' rights in the EU, human rights and fundamental rights, including the protection of minorities; and for all the measures needed to combat all forms of discrimination.
Internal market and consumer protection (IMCO)	The IMCO Committee is responsible for: coordination of national legislation in the sphere of the internal market and for the customs union, it manages measures aiming at the identification and removal of potential obstacles to the functioning of the internal market; finally it is responsible for the promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers, except for public health and food safety issues, in the context of the establishment of the internal market.
Women's right and gender equality (FEMM)	The FEMM Committee responsible for: the definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the Union and related Community measures; and the removal of all forms of discrimination based on sex. In this framework, cities play a key role in implementing policies that aim to gender equality.

	EU Commission DGs and their urban dimension
DG CLIMA	It helps to deal with the consequences of climate change, to cut greenhouse gas emissions in EU, and to prevent dangerous climate change. Cities are impacted by climate change directly, but also have the ability to develop tools in order to adapt and mitigate its negative consequences.
DG ENVI	Its objective is to protect, preserve and improve the environment for present and future generations. It supports citizens and local governments in their efforts to make our cities sustainable, efficient, healthy, well managed, pleasant and clean.
DG ENERGY	It is responsible for developing and implementing a European energy policy. It promotes sustainable energy production, transport and consumption in line with the 2050 decarbonisation objective. Cities play a key role in meeting the EU 2020 energy targets, reducing their energy costs by implementing energy savings plans.
DG MOVE	It aims to promote a mobility that is efficient, safe, secure and environmentally friendly and to create the conditions for a competitive industry generating growth and jobs. An extensive range of research and demonstration activities have been financed over recent years. Among others, CIVITAS, which helps cities across Europe to implement and test innovative and integrated strategies addressing energy, transport and environmental objectives.
DG REGIO	Its mission is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the levels of development of regions and countries of the European Union. The aim of sustainable urban development is also to safeguard a high-quality of life for all of Europe's citizens.
DG CONNECT	It helps to tie together information and communications technologies in order to create jobs and generate economic growth. It manages Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aiming at rebooting Europe's economy and help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. In Smart Cities, digital technologies translate into better public services for citizens, better use of resources and less impact on the environment.
DG RTD	Its mission is to develop and implement the European research and innovation policy. In this field, innovative future city technologies are key factors to increase EU competitiveness.
DG EMPL	It deals with employment and social policies. DG EMPL works in partnership with national authorities, social partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to address challenges linked to globalisation, the ageing of Europe's population and changing social realities.
DG HOME	It works to develop a balanced and comprehensive EU migration policy. Urban areas, especially large cities, are places where cultural diversity and migrations flourish, so they need innovative and effective instruments to create the conditions for social inclusion and to answer immigrants' primary needs.

Other relevant initiatives on urban development

The European charter for equality of women and men

The European charter for equality of women and men, launched in 2006, is a document drafted within the framework of a project undertaken by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), representing European local and regional governments, together with many partners from all over Europe.

CEMR wished to encourage local and regional authorities to take steps in making political commitment towards a virtual town in which gender equality is fully achieved. For this reason, the document aims to fill a clear lack of expertise and of instruments enabling the setting up of global gender equality policies at local and regional level.

By signing the charter, European and local regional authorities commit themselves to the principle of gender equality and to undertake the necessary actions to achieve real equality in practice, as it is indicated in the Charter.

New Athens Charter on urban planning (2003)

"The New Charter of Athens: A Charter for European Cities in the 21st Century" was first published in 1998 and is regularly reviewed and redeveloped by the European Council of spatial planners. Latest updates were completed during the summit of The European Council of Town Planners´ Vision for Cities in the 21st century in Lisbon in November 2003.

The charter is addressed primarily to professional planners working throughout Europe and those concerned with the planning process - to give direction to their actions, for greater coherence in building an important network of cities in Europe.

Within the New Athens Charter 2003, the Vision, drafted by European Council of Town Planners (ECTP), includes a framework for implementation consisting of a brief summary of the main issues and challenges that affect cities at the beginning of the third millennium; and the commitments required by spatial planners in realising the Vision.

WHO Global age-friendly cities: a guide

The purpose of this guide is to engage cities to become more age-friendly so as to value the potential that older people represent for humanity. One of the reasons for focusing on cities is that major urban centres have the economic and social resources to make changes to become more age-friendly and can thus lead the way for other communities within their countries.

The charter describes the converging trends of rapid growth of the population over 60 years of age and of urbanization, outlines the challenge facing cities, and summarizes the research process that led to identifying the core features of an age-friendly city.

EU charter of fundamental rights

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU brings together in a single document the fundamental rights protected in the EU. It became part of the EU Treaties in December 2000 and became binding in December 2009 when the Lisbon Treaty came into force. The Charter collects all together the rights of every individual within the EU, even though they were established at different times, in different ways and in different forms. Moreover, the document has been updated in the light of changes in society, social progress and scientific and technological developments. It reaffirms a great number of citizen's rights for the application of which cities can play a decisive role. For instance, non discrimination, right to a good administration, rights to education, right to property, right to asylum and many others.

Annex to Part 3: Urban development and social innovation in the SEISMIC countries

Degree of urbanisation[1]

Table 5: Population by degree of urbanisation in the EU-28, 2011

Degree of urbanisation	Population		Number of cities*
	absolute	*in %*	
Rural areas	154 125 040	28.3	
Towns and suburbs**	155,900,491	31.2	
Cities*	203,078,408	40.6	811
Cities* by urban centre size			
50 000 – 100 000	38,067,398	7.6	412
100 000 – 250 000	47,494,019	9.5	263
250 000 – 500 000	25,336,401	5.1	71
500 000 – 1 000 000	29,104,398	5.8	39
> 1 000 000	63,076,191	12.6	26
Total EU-28	500,432,969	100	

* Cities with an urban centre of 50 000 inhabitants or more

** Towns and suburbs have the majority of their population in an urban cluster of 5 000 inhabitants or more and do not have an urban centre of at least 50 000 inhabitants

Source: European Commission (JRC, EFGS, DG REGIO).

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1 Table to be found in: European Commission DG REGIO (February 2014), Issues paper for discussion in the forum 'CITIES – Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe', annex

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