



Ministry of the Interior and  
Kingdom Relations



# Towards an EU Urban Agenda

VASAB Workshop on Urban  
Revitalization  
Łódź

**Nicolaas Beets**  
**NL Urban Envoy**

October 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

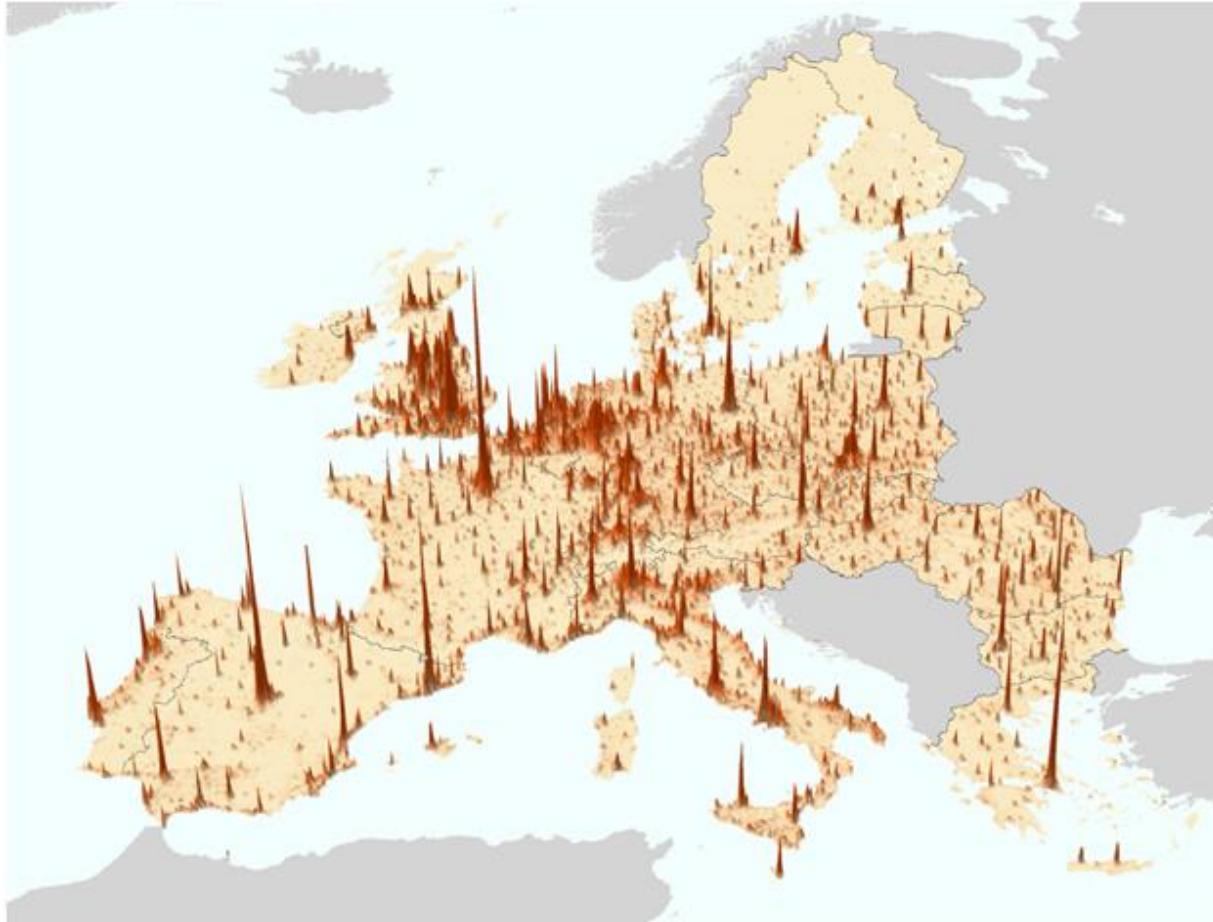


# Contents

- Why an EU Urban Agenda?
- Goals for the Dutch EU presidency
- 12 themes for the EU Urban Agenda
- Partnerships



Cities are engines of growth and innovation ...





..., but are also concentrations of problems.





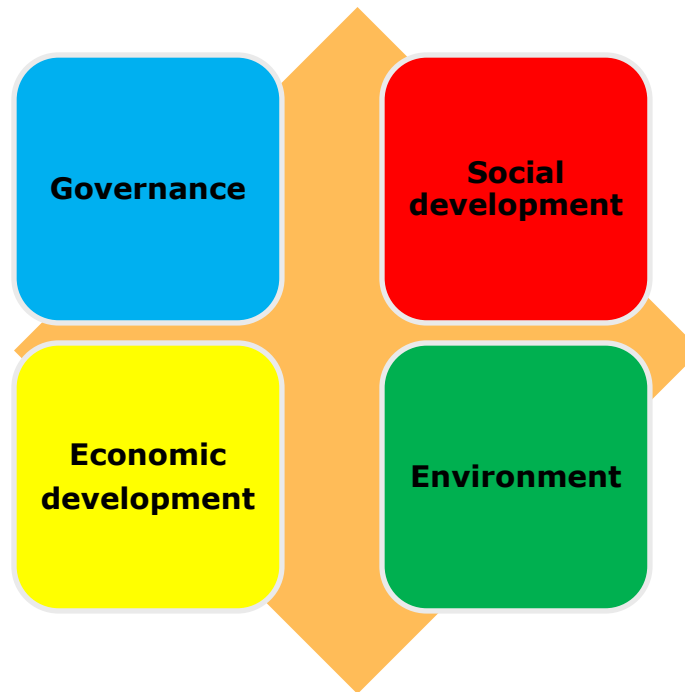
Cities complain of a lack of coordination of sectorial policy at the national and EU level,

It is therefore difficult for cities to implement an integrated approach at the local level.





The aim of the EU Urban Agenda is to better support cities in their integrated development through more “urban proof” EU policies.





## **Aim of the EU Urban Agenda: improve urban dimension in EU policy**

- **Better regulation:**

Improve EU regulations so that these don't hinder cities in their development, involve cities in policy making

- **Better funding:**

More cross-sectoral EU financial instruments, simplify EU funds, more flexibility to combine EU funds

- **Better knowledge:**

improve knowledge and data (exchange), guidebooks, innovative pilot projects



**Better coordination:**

formulate policy orientation(s); mapping potential synergies EU programs, involve cities



# Goals for the Dutch EU presidency

## **1. Pact of Amsterdam**

- Agreement on the **themes** of the EU Urban Agenda
- Agreement on **partnerships**
- Agreement on **framework** EU Urban Agenda

## **2. Launch 2-3 partnerships**

## **3. Council Conclusions on the EU Urban Agenda**







# Twelve Themes

1. Jobs and skills in the local economy
2. Urban poverty
3. Housing
4. Inclusion of migrants and refugees
5. Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions
6. Circular economy
7. Climate adaptation
8. Energy transition
9. Urban mobility
10. Air quality
11. Digital transition
12. Innovative and responsible public procurement



# Cross-cutting issues and principles

1. Good urban governance
2. Governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation
3. Sound and strategic urban planning
4. Integrated approach
5. Innovative approaches
6. Impact on societal change, including behavioural change
7. Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized cities;
8. Urban regeneration
9. Adaptation to demographic change
10. Availability and quality of public services of general interest
11. International dimension



Partnerships are the main instrument to delivering results within the EU Urban Agenda.

Why?

- Integrated approach at city level requires:
  - Multi-level cooperation between cities, member states and European Commission
  - Horizontal coordination of different policy sectors
  - Involvement of all relevant urban stakeholders
- Partnerships provides added value by bringing the different multi-level actors and different sectors together



# General elements of the Partnerships

- Focus on a limited number of themes agreed by the Commission and Member States
- Concrete, case based approach -> aimed at concrete projects in cities
- Membership: member states, cities, EC, other stakeholders
- Requires clear commitment of resources
- Exploratory phase -> action plan
- NL will facilitate first 2-3 partnerships, EC to facilitate other partnerships



## Possible concrete actions of the Partnerships

- Developing a proposal to better use of existing legislation and funding instruments
- Developing a proposal for an adaptation of legislation and instruments
- Preparing suggestions for post-2020 EU Multi Annual Framework
- Proposing and testing a (new) financial instrument to promote an issue
- Implementing a pilot project to experiment a possible solution



## First partnerships to be started

**1. Urban Poverty (lead by FR, BE)**

**2. Housing (lead by Slovakia)**

**3. *To be defined***

- Facilitated by NL
- Will start in November 2015
- Cities and member states will be approached for membership.
- Exploratory phase: define common goals, who does what and when?
- Action plan launched during ministerial meeting NL EU presidency





Cities can contribute to the EU Urban Agenda through providing concrete examples of how EU policy can better support urban integrated projects.

Do you have concrete examples of how the EU can improve the design of its regulations and funding in order to better support urban revitalization?