Together towards an Urban Agenda for the EU

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What is the **Urban Agenda for the EU**?

- The Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) is a multi-level agreement, designed to improve the urban dimension in European law- and policymaking.

- It has three key objectives:
  2. Better Funding.

- It is a priority of the Netherlands EU-Presidency and was launched on 30 May 2016 with the **Pact of Amsterdam**.
Towards the Pact of Amsterdam

➢ First proposal in 2013, intensified negotiations over the past half year. Consultations with 40 parties. Urban Envoy on the road.

➢ Three preparatory meetings at the Presidency venue.

➢ Main events on 30 May:
- Informal ministerial meeting, sealing the Pact.
- Forum on the EU Urban Agenda (Committee of the Regions).
- City Makers Summit.
Informal Ministerial Meeting on 30 May 2016

- Broad support and general praise for the Presidency.
- Unanimity declared at 13.06: *habemus Pactum!*
- Main challenges now: continuity of the UAEU after the Dutch Presidency, and establishing Council Conclusions on 24 June.
Pact of Amsterdam: launching the UAEU

- Operational framework for the Urban agenda for the EU.

- Lists priority themes.

- Describes joint actions and multi-level governance.

- Introduces a new form of multi-level, bottom-up cooperation between all stakeholders through Thematic Partnerships.
Thematic Partnerships

- Key instrument of the UAEU.

- Focus on priority themes.

- Concrete, case based approach -> result oriented and open to every party that wants to make a concrete contribution.

- Membership: cities, member states, EC, other stakeholders.

- Formulation of proposals for better regulation, better funding, better knowledge exchange.
Partnership 1: Housing

Coordinator: Slovakia

The objectives are to provide affordable housing of good quality. The focus will be on public housing, state aid rules and general housing policy.

Partners

- Urban areas: Vienna, Scottish City Alliance, Riga, Madrid, Poznan.
- MS: Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands.
- Others: European Commission (DG Regio, DG Housing and DG Energy), Housing Europe, Aedes, Eurocities, European Investment Bank & International Union of Tenants, URBACT.
Partnership 2: Air Quality

Coordinator: The Netherlands

The objective is to realise systems and policies to ensure a good air quality for human health. This will cover: legislative and technical aspects linked to a wide range of polluting sources such as cars, industries, agricultural activities.

Partners

- Urban areas: London (UK), Helsinki (FI), Utrecht (NL), Milano (IT), Constanta (RO).
- MS: Netherlands, Croatia, possibly Luxembourg and Czech Republic.
- Others: European Commission (DG Regio, DG ENVI, DG Research, DG Move & DG Grow), Eurocities, HEAL.
Partnership 3: Urban Poverty

Coordinators: France and Belgium

The objectives are to reduce poverty and to improve the inclusion of people in poverty. The focus will be on: spatial concentration of structural poverty in deprived neighbourhoods and child poverty.

Partners

- Urban areas: Lille (F), Kortrijk (B), Birmingham (UK), Daugavpils (LV), Keratsini (GR), Timisoara (RO).

- MS: France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece.

- Others: European Commission (DG Regio & DG EMPL), Regions of Brussels (B) & Ile de France (FR) & URBACT, EUKN, EAPN (tbc). Observers: UN HABITAT, Eurochild, FEANZA.
Partnership 4: Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

Coordinator: the City of Amsterdam

The objectives are the integration of migrants and refugees, and to provide a framework for their inclusion. This will cover: housing, integration, provision of public services, social inclusion, education and labour market measures.

Partners

- Urban areas: Amsterdam, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona (Metropolitan Area) and Athens.

- MS: Greece, Portugal, Italy and Denmark.

´Europa decentraal´: better regulation project

- ´Europa decentraal´ is a centre for European law and information that exclusively advises local and regional authorities (for free).

- Project commisioned by NL Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Aim: mapping themes and challenges regarding European law and legislation for local and regional authorities.

- Result: 9 concrete examples of situations and project where EU-legislation leads to unnessary administrative, legal and financial burdens.
Better regulation project (2)

- The final report was be presented at the informal ministerial meeting on 30 May 2016 and can be downloaded on www.urbanagenda.nl.

- It includes a quantitative analysis of Europa decentraal’s database of EU-legislation cases over the past 12 years.

- Results may be used as input for:
  - Better Regulation (through REFIT).
  - Thematic Partnerships.
  - Other (results are public).
www.urbanagenda.nl