How are EU urban initiatives and actions supporting Green, Just and Productive Cities in the EU?

The Just City dimension

04 October | 14:00 CEST

Please note that this webinar will be recorded.

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU
WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER CITIES

Welcome and introduction

Elodie Salle | Technical Secretariat & Moderator

Laura Liger | DG REGIO, European Commission

AGENDA

Time	Session
14:00 - 14:05	**Welcome and introduction** • **Elodie Salle**, Urban Agenda for the EU Technical Secretariat – session moderator • **Laura Liger**, Policy Officer - Urban and territorial development, DG REGIO, European Commission
14:05 – 14:35	**PART 1: Dynamics and solutions around UAEU Actions and other EU initiatives** • **Mark Boekwijt,** EU affairs representative of the City of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Coordinator of the UAEU Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees • **Michaela Kauer,** Director of the Brussels Liaison office, City of Vienna, Austria, and Coordinator of the UAEU Partnership on Affordable Housing • **Patricia Vanderbauwhede,** project leader ROOF (URBACT Action Planning Network), and **Derkien De Baets,** project manager of ICCARus (Gent knapt op), City of Ghent, Belgium
14:35 – 14:50	**Concluding remarks** • **Matthew Bach**, Just Transition Coordinator, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability **Q&A with participants**
14:50 – 15:20	**PART 2: Future EU opportunities towards just cities** • **Karel Vanderpoorten**, Policy Officer - Social Economy, DG GROW, European Commission • **Géraldine Guille**, Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights • **Laura Liger**, Policy Officer - Urban and territorial development, DG REGIO, European Commission
15:20 – 15:35	**Guided discussion** (with all speakers)
15:35 – 15:50	**Launch of the Just Transition for Cities Capitalisation project** • **Amélie Cousin**, Knowledge & Communication Coordinator, Urban Innovative Actions
15:50 – 16:00	**Conclusion and main takeaways**

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Part 1 : Dynamics and solutions around UAEU Actions and other EU initiatives

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Part 1 : Dynamics and solutions around UAEU Actions and other EU initiatives

Mark Boekwijt | EU affairs representative of the City of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Coordinator of the UAEU Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees

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Housing, a human right

Michaela Kauer | City of Vienna & UAEU Housing Partnership

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Housing – A human right

By Dr. Orna Rosenfeld

Housing as a human right on EU level

- European Charter of Fundamental Rights 2000
- European Pillar of Social Rights 2017
- European Platform to combat homelessness 2021

Housing has made it to the EU´s agenda

There is a housing crisis in Europe
- 156 million European citizens at risk of poverty, 700.000 homeless
- Massive decline in investment in social, public and affordable housing, and steady increase of house prices, rents and energy costs
- Gentrification, touristification and financialisation increase pressure on the local housing markets
- Challenge to renovate 3% of the building stock per year
- COVID-19 has aggravated the crisis, especially for vulnerable groups

Housing on EU level
- No formal competence, however, great impact of EU policies (state aid, SGEI, cohesion policy, EIB financing, economic governance, banking rules, money laundering, DSA, energy efficiency, construction regulations, …)

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Problematic correlations for cities

Figure 5
Housing Supports in the EU (Total combined spending by member states by type of support)
Source: Eurostat (COFOG) [gov_10a_exp]

Challenges for cities in the housing sector

- Long-term investment models for new construction and renewal of existing housing
- Scarcity of land, prices of building ground
- Regulatory framework

Urban Agenda for the EU Housing Partnership

Action Plan 2018

- Increase and de-block available investment and build capacity to take up funding and financing in various affordable housing options based on specific local market needs
- Better data and structural monitoring on EU and MS level to develop good housing policies on all levels
- Participatory and rights-based approach as integral parts of housing policies on all governance levels
- Protection of vulnerable groups and cities from speculation with a view to the social, climate and digital challenges, taking into account gender disparities

13 Actions and recommendations

- Taken up by major EU institutions – CoR, EESC, EP, COM – and MS

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Housing Partnership Advocacy 2019-2021

- ✓ Working with the **European Parliament**: 2021 **INI report on housing** of MEP van Sparrentak, close relation with URBAN Intergroup, EMPL, ENVI, IMCO
- ✓ Liasing with **EU presidencies on housing policy monitoring** systems
- ✓ Continued engagement to **protect local housing systems from further touristification** (Digital Services Act) towards COM and EP
- ✓ Assessment of ongoing EU initiatives, as the **MFF and RRF**, **Renovation Wave Strategy**, **Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights**
- ✓ Work on need to revise **EU state aid rules** and **European Semester procedures** create better investment conditions for social, public and affordable housing on local, regional and national level
- ✓ **Advocacy for housing funding and financing** in the new EU instruments and programming period and with EIB
- ✓ **Promotion of exchange**, e.g. International Social Housing Festivals, URBACT-UIA Network on Housing as a Right, EU think tanks and research institutions

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Time to rethink housing policies

Key principles

- Put people at the center: involve, empower, emancipate
- Involce capable stakeholders to co-design, co-manage, co-own
- Protect cities from speculation and citizens from eviction
- Set goals and processes in a transparent and accountable way
- Create reliable housing systems on all government levels

The EU and MS started to deliver

- EPSR Action Plan, Renovation Wave, Affordable Housing Initiative, New European Bauhaus, Energy Poverty, Research and Data, URBACT-UIA Programmes, …

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Thanks!

Find out more here:
https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/housing

Housing for vulnerable target groups in Ghent

Derkien De Baets | Project manager of ICCARus (Gent knapt op), City of Ghent, Belgium

Patricia Vanderbauwhede | Project leader ROOF (URBACT Action Planning Network), City of Ghent, Belgium

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Ghent vision: Housing as a human right for all

Ghent wants to effectuate the right to housing for everyone, especially for vulnerable groups.

Affordable housing/homelessness = complex global problem => need to work also on an international level to make progress on the local level

International commitment, a lever to put the sails in the same direction:

- The Shift: housing is a human right not a commodity (UN – Leilani Farha)
- The Pledge on art 19 on Housing and Homelessness European Pillar of Social Rights

⇒ Ghent applied and was selected for
  - **the UIA ICCARUS project (focus on vulnerable homeowners)**
  - **the URBACT APN ROOF (focus on homeless people)**

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Project 1: ICCARus

- **Context: Ghent**
  - +/- 250,000 inhabitants
  - Lack of affordable and qualitative housing
- **Target group ICCARus: vulnerable home-owners**
  - No options on private or social market
  - Some buy a house, without financial means to start a renovation
  - Stuck in old, unsafe, uncomfortable, energy consuming houses
  - ➢ 'Captive owners'
  - ➢ +/- 6000 households in Ghent are captive owners

Project 1: ICCARus

- **Aim of ICCARUS**
  - **Renovation of 100 houses of captive owners**
    - Focus on living quality and energy efficiency
      - Roof insulation, replacing single glazing, providing a central heating system, updating the electricity, solving of moisture issues…
    - Investment of 30,000 euros/house
      - Unlocks the traditional grants (<> Matheus effect)
      - Paid directly to the contractor after check-up by renovation expert
    - With the use of a recurring fund
      - In case of alienation of the house
      - Smart use of public funds

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Project 1: ICCARus

- **Aim of ICCARUS**
  - **Strengthening of social networks and empowerment of the participant**
    - Close social guidance
    - Community building
    - Active right take-up

  - **Development of a transferable model**

Ghent Homeless context before ROOF

- Lack of decent data

- Some Housing First but focus mainly on shelter system

- Housing crisis: lack of affordable housing cf waiting list social housing, only small number of homeless people get priority

Project 2: URBACT Action Planning Network ROOF

KEY POINTS of ROOF

Eradicate homelessness through innovative housing solutions at city level.

→ Exchange knowledge on how to:

1) gather accurate data

2) make the shift from management to the actual ending of homelessness, with Housing First and Housing Led as guidance model.

Braga
Ghent
Glasgow
Liège
Odense
Poznan
Timisoara
Thessaloniki
Toulouse Metropole

LP

OUTPUT: Produce integrated local action plans linked to the **long term strategic goal of Functional Zero** (no structural homelessness).

Advocacy (local, national and European (cf EPOCH)

European Union
Europese Regional Development Fund

★URBACT
Driving change for better cities

R∧∧F
Ending homelessness

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Project 2: Effects ROOF on a local level so far

- (More) local political will to collect data (cf counting Ghent/Liège), make shift towards HF, to make ending homelessness a priority, to further develop and consolidate existing policy (Glasgow, Odense, Toulouse M.), try HF(Timisoara, Braga, Thessaloniki, Poznan), … (AP)

- (Closer) local cooperation between homelessness & housing

- Strong network of local stakeholders from all relevant domains

- Chance to experiment locally (Small Scale Action) eg Ghent aligning support network

- European advocacy trajectory that helps putting network expertise and their politicians' policies come closer together (https://urbact.eu/4-messages-new-european-platform-combatting-homelessness)

$\Rightarrow$ **Ghent and partner cities definitely made progress, BUT….**

Project 2: What Europe can do to further help cities end homelessness

TO REALLY END HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITIES
WE NEED MORE STRUCURAL SUPPORT FROM EUROPE

we need the European Platform on combatting Homelessness

to develop a European Action plan

that links homelessness and housing
that improves data collection

through fundamental actions
supported with the necessary budget
that directly benefit the cities

#endhomelessness @urbactroof roofnetwork.eu

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Thank you!

Contact:
Derkien.Debaets@stad.gent

Contact:
Patricia.Vanderbauwhede@stad.gent

Q&A

Please use the chat to type your questions
or ask to be invited up to the Stage.

Part 1 : Concluding remarks

Matthew Bach | Just Transition Coordinator, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Part 2 : Future EU opportunities towards just cities

Policy Context

- **Flagship *Renovate* of the Recovery Package : Renovation Wave**

- **Recovery of the industrial ecosystems**
  - Proximity, Social Economy and Civil Security, Construction, Cultural and Creative Industries, Digital Industries, Electronics, Energy-Renewables, Health, Mobility-Transport/Automotive, Retail, etc.)
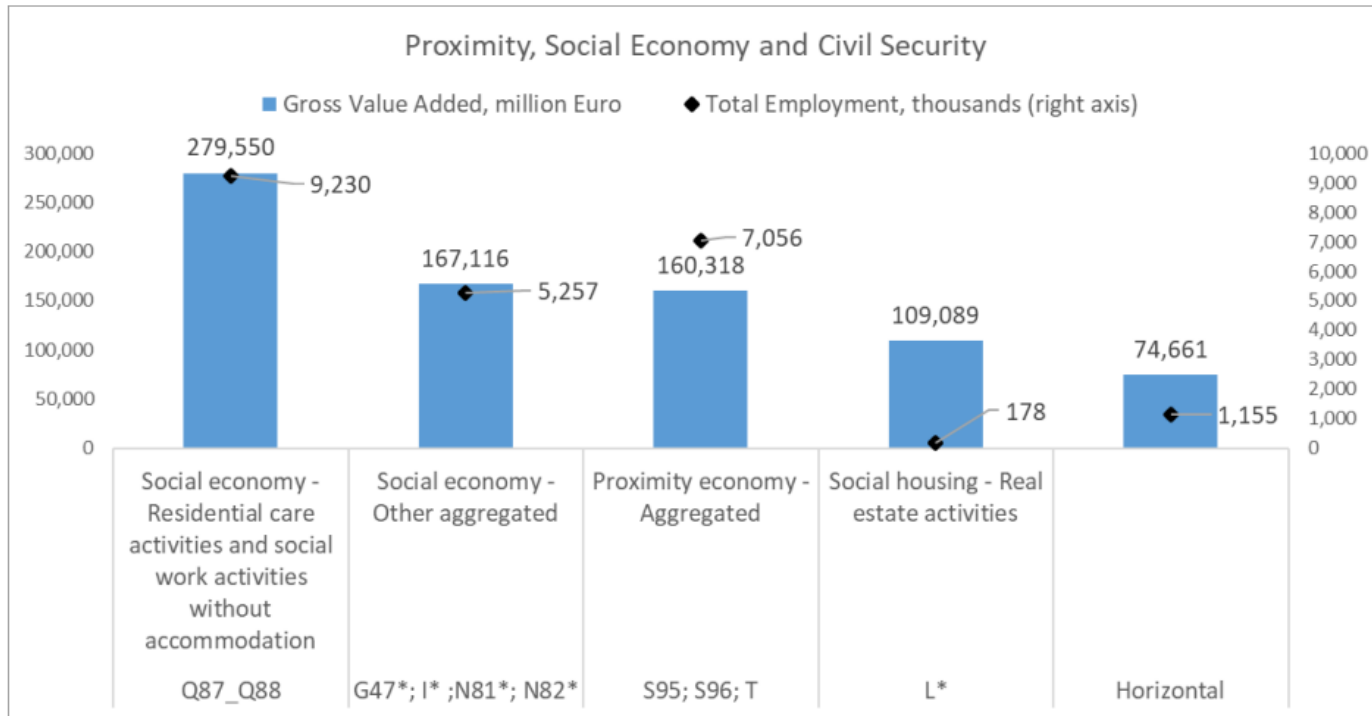
In line with the **European Pilar of Social Rights**
- principle 19 "Housing and assistance for the homeless"

And the **Regional development and Cohesion policy** 2021-2027 objectives :
(1) smarter Europe
(2) greener Europe
(4) social Europe
(5) Europe closer to Citizens

Designed based on conclusions of the Housing Partnership of the **Urban Agenda** for the EU, and in synergy with the **New European Bauhaus** (part of September package announced in the SOTEU 2021)

Proximity, Social economy and Civil Security ecosystem

Proximity, Social Economy and Civil Security

■ Gross Value Added, million Euro   ◆ Total Employment, thousands (right axis)

- Social economy - Residential care activities and social work activities without accommodation (Q87_Q88): 279,550 GVA; 9,230 employment
- Social economy - Other aggregated (G47*; I* ;N81*; N82*): 167,116 GVA; 5,257 employment
- Proximity economy - Aggregated (S95; S96; T): 160,318 GVA; 7,056 employment
- Social housing - Real estate activities (L*): 109,089 GVA; 178 employment
- Horizontal: 74,661 GVA; 1,155 employment

Source: Eurostat, National Accounts. Data from 2018 (or latest year available)

Social cooperatives and associations

- provide social housing and local services to facilitate integration of vulnerable groups living in deprived areas
- foster local value loops and people-oriented business
- promote territorial competitiveness, resilience, inclusion and cohesion
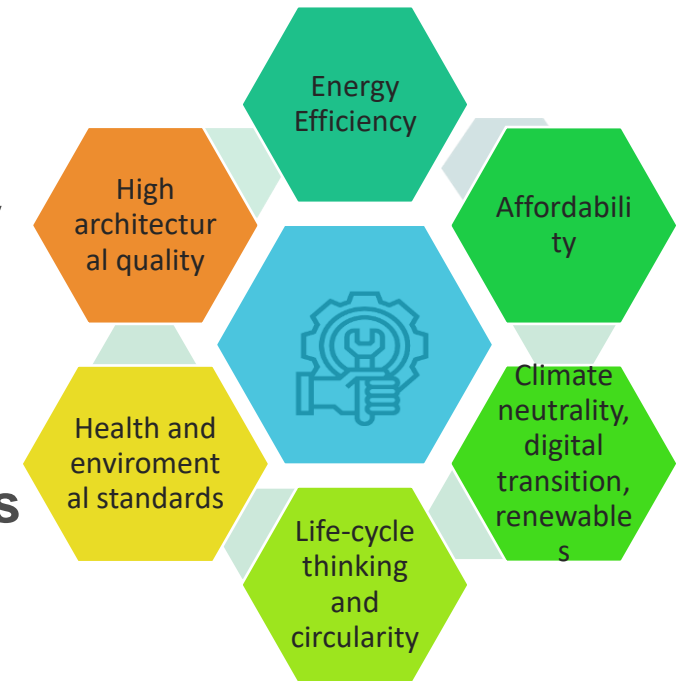- stimulate and support cooperation among citizens and the adoption of collective solutions

European Commission

Key objective

pilot the renovation of 100 lighthouse social and affordable housing districts

In line with the key principles for an integrated approach

The renovation of social and affordable housing shall :

- Combine various technologies, such as **digital** and smart **energy efficient** solutions, **circular** and modular renovation tool-kits and eco-design, use of **renewables** as energy sources

- Use and develop **human-centered** business models, promote social innovation and facilitate frameworks to **empower residents** and integrate them in the projects (co-investing in the renovation, resident owned services…)

- Ensure that renovated units remain **affordable**

- **Follow a district-level approach t**hat may generate economies of scale, transform entire neighborhoods and create new business opportunities

Energy Efficiency

High architectural quality

Affordability

Climate neutrality, digital transition, renewables

Health and environmental standards

Life-cycle thinking and circularity

European Commission

Best practices

Werra-Meißner-Kreis – Protecting the Climate Together

'We are stronger together' is the maxim of the joint project in the Werra-Meißner district in north Hesse. Coordinated by the rural district, six municipalities have joined forces to jointly advance the energy-efficient modernization of neighbourhoods. A core team of four employees belonging to the district town of Eschwege and the Werra-Meißner district advises the building owners on questions regarding the modernisation of their properties. They are supported by an external service provider and personal contacts in the neighbourhoods. In addition, local initiatives, associations and the district's craftsmen's guild are involved. In addition to questions about energy redevelopment, heating technology, monument protection and subsidies, other focal points are senior-citizens' housing as well as the use of biomass.

In the future, this biomass will be collected throughout the district and used for heat generation.

→ **Settlement type:** partnership of six rural municipalities
→ **Neighbourhood:** Rural settlements with historic timber-framed buildings in the town and village centres and mixed-use neighbourhoods of different building-age classes
→ **Residents in the neighbourhoods:** 400 to 2.300 residents per neighbourhood (as of January 2020)

→ **Area:** The six neighbourhoods have a total area of approx. 170 ha
→ **Operational focus:** Sustainable further development of the housing stock taking into account the local building culture, conversion of the heat supply using wooden biomass, cooperation with local initiatives and the crafts sector.
→ **Working together:** partnership of six municipalities

Schafflund – Heat Supply in the Hands of Citizens

An efficient, climate-friendly heating supply in rural areas – together with its citizens, the municipality of Schafflund is breaking new ground. With high expectations in terms of transparency and citizen participation, a neighbourhood energy concept was created. In a number of topical workshops, useful solutions were developed together with landowners and citizens, in combination with individual building-renovation measures and a communally organized regenerative heat supply. In addition to the possibility of participating actively, a communication platform was created on the Internet, where all important information was available.

→ **Settlement type:** rural municipality
→ **Neighbourhood:** Mixed-use neighbourhoods
→ **Residents:** 740 (as of 2016)
→ **Area:** 95 ha

→ **Operational focus:** Activation of private owners for the renovation of buildings, construction of a local heating supply based on renewable energies
→ **Annual savings:** 71.5 t CO_2

Source : Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) – Energy Efficient Urban Redevelopment (2020)

European Commission

Best practices

Social benefits aligned with AHI

- community arts and gardens projects
- employment opportunities were integrated into the refurbishment process (local people employed)
- Support to vulnerable tenants and dealing with issues such as damage to decorations as tenants returned home
- Governance included the Housing Association, Local Authority, and Tenants and Residents Association
- benefits of thermal insulation and heating upgrades, noted as contributing to improved health and wellbeing
- housing improvement works included extensive internal and external upgrading of properties and common areas

Participatory governance and focus on the existing community: regeneration of a Scottish housing estate

Information source: Anderson et al, 2019.

The Broomhill Estate is a housing estate owned by a non-profit housing association, River Clyde Homes, in the Inverclyde district West of Glasgow in Scotland. A regeneration of the estate was carried out in 2014-15. The buildings had deteriorated, there were high rates of vacancy (indicating that people did not want to live there) and the area was generally seen as having social problems. The story of the regeneration work has been a positive one, and this can be attributed, at least in part, to the role of the proactive Tenants and Residents Association (Broomhill Tara). Following initial consultations, the programme of more than £20m of regeneration improvements was agreed and carried out, bringing the stock up to Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) and meeting the Scottish Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing, including a biomass district heating system.

Energy efficiency and managed energy services: renovation of Dublin housing estate

Information source: Website of Dublin Energy Agency http://www.codema.ie/

Cromcastle Court in Dublin, Ireland, is a housing estate owned by the City Council and rented for a social purpose. It consist of 8 blocks containing a total of 128 apartments, which were renovated in 2015. Prior to renovation, heating and hot water were provided by a group heating system (gas boilers in a boiler room in each block), with no individual unit controls. This was replaced with heat pumps, remotely controlled by the Council. Windows were replaced with double glazed units.

The heating system was provided under an Energy Services Contract for 7.5 years, with an energy service company installing, financing, operating and maintaining the equipment for an agreed period of time. The energy service company pays the energy bills, in exchange for payments based on the buildings historic energy use. Predicted cost savings to the Council were over 80,000 euros per annum.

While the information about outcomes of this project is limited, it is of particular interest as the first managed energy services contract for a Local Authority in Ireland. Early feedback from residents was positive, with increased comfort and satisfaction levels reported.

Source : Feantsa, renovation: staying on top of the wave, 2020

European Commission

Call under the Single Market Program

European Affordable Housing Consortium

Budget: 1,2 million EUR - 1 grant only

Priorities

- <u>Priority 1</u>: Support to local industrial partnerships for implementing the lighthouse districts;
- <u>Priority 2</u>: Create a hub of expertise, networking and knowledge transfer for affordable and social housing districts renovation
- <u>Priority 3</u>: Provide advice towards sustainable financing, better regulation and standards for renovation targeting social and affordable housing districts.

Expected impact

- strengthen expertise, knowledge and networking for urban regeneration projects targeting affordable and social housing (district-level and integrated approach)
- support renovation projects to 'go the extra mile' in terms of technologic, green, social and digital innovative methods, tools and processes.
- identify and overcome issues to increase SME presence in the renovation of affordable and social housing market, facilitate the creation of local long term partnerships involving SMEs
- raise awareness of good examples of local industrial cooperation, human-centered business models and successful projects

Practical information

Composition of the consortium

Expertise on housing policy areas, including social housing, financial project design for provision and renovation of housing and building renovation

➤ Representatives of :

  ➤ the social housing sector (housing providers, housing associations, housing cooperatives, social housing providers);
  ➤ the construction sector;
  ➤ the renewable energy sector, with an experience in affordable, green, and participatory energy production;
  ➤ public authorities - local and/or regional authorities, including cities (densely populated areas), towns and suburbs (intermediate density areas) and local administrative units in rural areas (thinly populated areas).

➤ Financial institution or representative of financial institution or investor or investment fund

Timeline
Call open for submission : **open from 15th of July to 15th of October 2021**
Signature grant agreement : February 2022
Duration of the project: 2 to 3 years

Call under Horizon Europe

Lighthouse demonstrators

Expected outcomes

- **Public authorities**, industry, housing **associations and cooperatives** have access to blueprints for replication of innovative ways to renovate social and affordable housing addressing residents' needs;

- Development and deployment of cost-effective, environment-friendly and scalable **processes**, **technologies and methods** to renovate social and affordable housing in an **integrated way** (energy efficiency, circular, modular building, smart living, eco-design, social inclusion) **at community scale** ;

- Apply and pilot innovative technologies and methods that **go the extra mile (environmental - social – cultural ambition)** putting inclusion and social progress at the forefront in link with the **New European Bauhaus;**

- Mobilise cross-sectoral **partnerships** at local level to develop, adapt, design new processes, methods and technologies applied to renovation of social and affordable housing;

- Obtain lighthouse districts focussing on different innovative solutions addressing local reality and needs and **demonstrating replication potential towards other districts;**

- Provide relevant **indicators and metrics with baseline values,** for monitoring large scale renovation projects targeting social and affordable housing districts.

EU contribution per project : EUR 2,5 million
Indicative budget : EUR 10.00 million
Timeline : 16 Sep 2021- 25 Jan 2022

Thank you!

More info about AHI and open calls
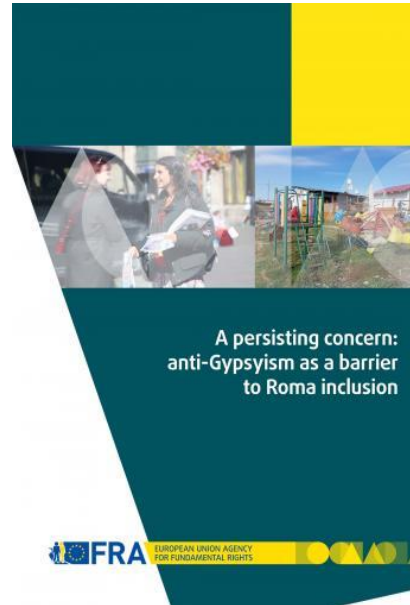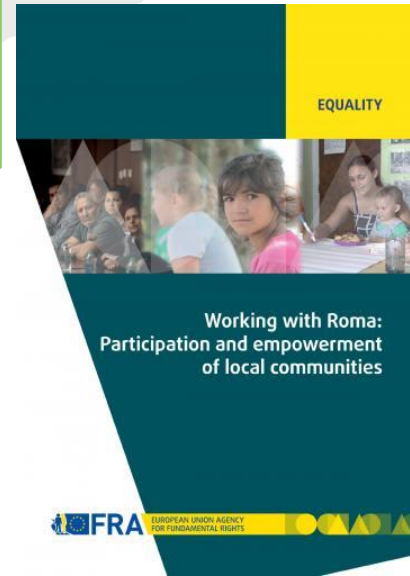Contact: GROW-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu

Fundamental rights, urban development and cities: connecting the dots

- **Fundamental rights: an obligation and a necessity**
  - National, regional and local governments are duty-bearers → responsible for implementing fundamental rights obligations.
  - Much of day-to-day work in fundamental rights is at local level: delivering public services, managing public space, supporting social cohesion, etc.

- **Human rights are for all, in particular the most vulnerable persons**
  - children/youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Roma etc.

- **Fundamental rights – a cross cutting issue inc. in urban developments**
  - Previous webinars on 'productive' and 'green' cities emphasized closed links
  - Concrete examples shared on people's and civil society participation from Prato, Bologna etc.

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A rights-based approach to Roma housing and living conditions

- **2021 Council Recommendation and the [new EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation](#)**

- **Roma and urban policies**
  - 1/3 of Roma living in the ten countries covered by recent FRA Roma Survey 2020-21 (CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, IT, PT, RO + Serbia and North Macedonia) live in cities (DEGURBA 1).
  - Another 1/3 of Roma were living in towns and suburban areas.

- **Gathering evidence**
  - Severe housing deprivation of many Roma and Travellers, difficulties to access to basic services, such as tap water or public transport (FRA Report).
  - Worse with the impact of the COVID pandemic.

- **Policies on Roma <u>with</u> Roma**
  - Participation is key of a human rights-based approach.
  - from design to implementation and monitoring/evaluation.

- **Fostering social cohesion and fighting discrimination**
  - Integrated policies covering housing, health, education, jobs.
  - Fight discrimination, stereotypes, harassments and hate crime.

Developing more rights-based policies in cities: new opportunities

- **A new FRA framework to help reinforcing rights locally in the EU**

- **To be launched at FRA Fundamental Rights Forum, Vienna and online**
  - Human Rights Cities: Mayors take the floor
    11 October 15.30-16.30 CET

  - Implementing the framework for Human Rights Cities
    12 October 11.30-12.30 CET

  - Human rights in the digital governance of cities
    12 October 13.00-14.00 CET, online

Live streaming or register at
https://www.fundamentalrightsforum.eu/

New FRA Framework: foundations, structure and tools

Tools	**Methods and resources to support the structures and human rights work**	• Human rights-based approach • Mainstreaming human rights • Planning, monitoring and evaluation • Awareness raising and communicating rights
Structures	**Mechanisms and procedures to integrate human rights into practice**	• Formal commitment • Office or unit responsible for human rights • Participatory bodies • Complaint mechanisms • Annual reporting
Foundations	**Commitments to rights and principles**	• International human rights instruments, SDGs, etc. • EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and other EU instruments or initiatives.

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A new FRA Framework in the EU to help cities…

- To become a 'human rights city' or develop rights-based policies in urban development, green agenda, etc.

- To encourage higher standards and mutual learning through peer-to-peer, town-twinning and capacity building, in conjunction with EU funding opportunities.

- Connecting urban measures to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and other EU initiatives

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Thank you

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The Urban Dimension of Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 period

Laura Liger | Policy Officer - Urban and territorial development, DG REGIO, European Commission

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The Urban Dimension of Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

Reinforced urban dimension, through :

ERDF supports Sustainable Urban Development

8% of the national allocation ➡ Directed towards **integrated territorial development strategies focused on urban areas**, to more effectively tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, with specific attention to <u>green and digital transition</u> and <u>functional urban areas</u>

Policy Objective 5 'A Europe Closer to citizens' (priority areas for investments)

Dedicated Specific objective 5.1 - Foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resilience in the urban context

✓ cross-cutting territorial policy objective

✓ Integrated approach, wide coverage of thematic areas

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Minimum requirements for investments in territorial development

Definition of the targeted area
- according to development needs and potentials

Integrated approach
- Locally coordinated interventions
- cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, multi-territorial

Territorial or local strategies
- Under the responsibility of local or territorial bodies

Project selection
- local or territorial bodies involved in project selection

Partnership
- With stakeholders ensured at local level

Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies
Available online:
https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/#/en/urbanstrategies

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The 'Just dimension' through Sustainable Urban Development – Cohesion Policy

Policy Objective 4 « **A More Social Europe** » notably ERDF covering :

- effectiveness and inclusiveness of **labour markets** and access to quality employment through developing **social infrastructure** and promoting **social economy**;

- promoting the socioeconomic **inclusion** of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services;

- ensuring equal **access to health care** and fostering resilience of health systems

Targeted territorial approach possible for investments in just and inclusive development : under Policy Objective 5 or through Policy objective 4 with territorial instruments – in both cases involvement of relevant territorial actors

- Measures under PO4 may focus on different territorial levels addressing the needs of deprived communities - particular challenges in the field of employment, education, social inclusion, health and housing.

- Investments may target territories at the level of municipalities or/and neighbourhoods with high concentrations of poverty

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The European Urban Initiative (Art.12 ERDF)

Support of **Innovative Actions**
- Testing of new solutions to urban challenges of EU relevance
- Spreading of innovation - scaling-up, knowledge dissemination and transfer, in particular, to Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

Support of **Capacity and Knowledge Building, Territorial Impact Assessments, Policy Development and Communication**
- challenges linked to implementation of sustainable urban development
- space for exchange
- capacity building
- access to thematic & horizontal knowledge and know-how

Budget allocation: EUR 450 million (in current price)

Launch of activities: in 2022

Coordination and complementarity of the EUI with :

Urbact IV – aiming to raise the capacity of cities in sustainable urban policies and practices by transnational sharing, exchanging and learning

EUI Innovative Actions

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The Urban Agenda for the EU – Next steps

Parameters of the Urban Agenda for the EU to be renewed through the **Ljubljana Agreement** (November 2021)

Support from the European Commission continues through the **European Urban Initiative** and its Secretariat

- Process to launch new partnerships starting in 2022
- Support through other EUI activities (capacity building, knowledge capitalisation), Urbact IV, and Intergovernmental cooperation

Feedback welcome regarding needs and future activities

Guided Discussion

UIA Cities: Innovation for Just Transitions

Amélie Cousin | Knowledge & Communication Coordinator, Urban Innovative Actions

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UIA Knowledge Management Strategy & the Just Transitions knowledge activity

Capturing and analyzing knowledge

Disseminating

Inspiring

→ Thematic capitalisation

Operational knowledge – capacity-building

Transfer

"Just Transitions" in European cities

- **Need for transitions to carbon-neutrality and related social challenges**

- **EU priorities**

- **Cities' central role to facilitate and ensure Just Transitions**

How urban authorities can facilitate Just Transitions so that no one is left behind: what are the main implementation lessons emerging from UIA cities in relation to Just Transitions?

UIA cities at the forefront of Just Transitions

- **Skills for a green future**: Forecasting new skills; skilling and reskilling; supporting emerging green sectors

- **Make transitions affordable for all**: How carbon neutral policies could be used to benefit the most excluded groups, taking active measures to address economic inequalities? Mechanisms, financial engineering, and inclusion of vulnerable people

- **Democratic transitions for all**: Involving citizens in policy making; new cooperative models for delivery, fostering behavioural changes

Innovation for Just Transitions

Skills for a green future	Make cities affordable for all	Democratic transitions
Autumn 2021 - Spring 2022	Spring – Autumn 2022	Autumn 2022 – Spring 2023

Just Transitions at #EURegionsWeek: Innovation for Just Urban Transitions, 14th October (11.30-13.00 CET)

[+ UIA stories, 14th October (9.30-11.00 CET)]

UIA | URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU — WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER CITIES

2021 other knowledge activities

- **Integrated territorial development in action**
  - How UIA projects are implementing the main principles of the integrated territorial approach for sustainable urban development

- **Urban Innovation and COVID-19**
  - Implementing urban innovation in pandemic conditions – coping with uncertainty and learning from on-field practice

Thank you!

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Conclusion and main takeaways

How are EU urban initiatives and actions supporting Green, Just and Productive Cities in the EU?

Thank you!