

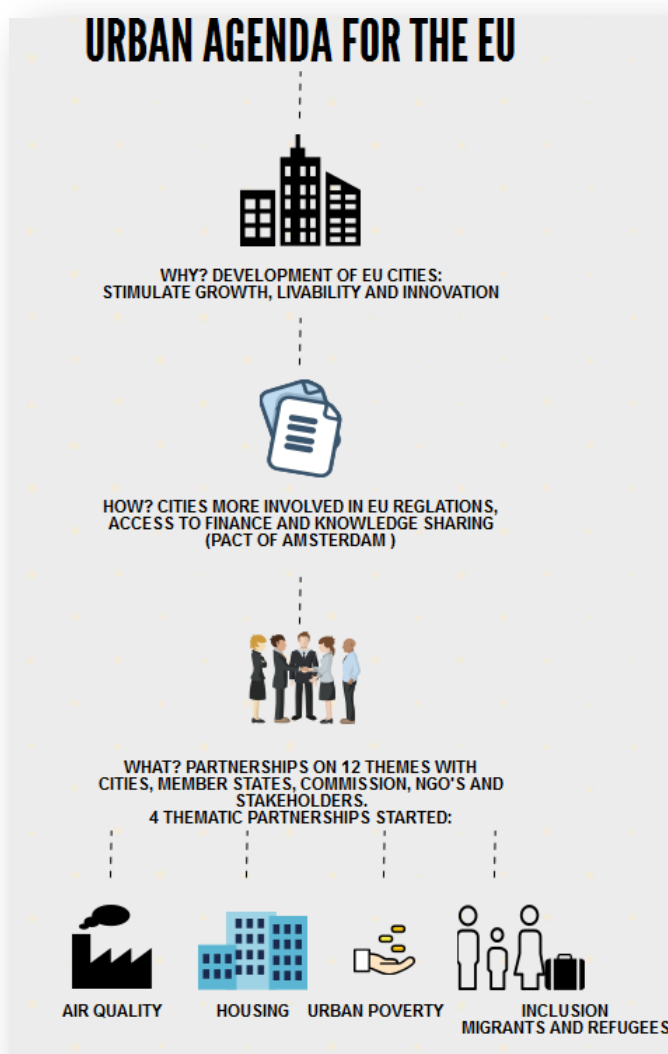
Partnership inclusion of migrants and refugees FACTSHEET

AN URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

Cities are of great importance for Europe. They are not only the engines for economic growth and innovation, but they are also the living environment for over more than 70% of all Europeans. However it is in cities too that the impact of issues Europe is facing is often magnified. In order for Europe to be successful in its collective efforts regarding employment, innovation and migration, its cities have to be successful.

On the 30th of May, EU ministers responsible for urban policy have adopted the *Pact of Amsterdam*. It states that European cities, on the basis of what is to be called the 'Urban Agenda for the EU', will get more involved with EU legislation, access to financing and knowledge sharing.

The Urban Agenda includes 12 priority themes, which are essential for the development of urban areas. One of the main mechanisms to implement the Urban Agenda for the EU is the setting up of thematic partnerships in which cities, Members States and European institutions are involved. The Partnerships will contribute to the design of future and the revision of existing EU policies. For the moment, four Partnerships are active. The City of Amsterdam coordinates the Partnership on inclusion of migrants and refugees, together with DG HOME.



PARTNERSHIP INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

More than 60% of refugees worldwide live in urban areas. In the future, this figure will gradually increase. Migration is a local reality. Cities are places where both migrants and non-migrants interact, be it through working, studying, living or raising their families. Cities offer great opportunities for migrants and refugees, but cities are also faced with challenges regarding integration and inclusion.

Achieving an inclusive and integrated approach tackling both the medium and long-term challenges requires multi-level governance. Cities need to be ensured that regulations will have no negative impact on the integration of migrants and refugees, opportunities are funded and knowledge exchange on best practices takes place.

A Partnership is three-year cooperation among experts from member states, the European Commission, cities and NGOs. Within the three years members of the partnership design an action plan, implement the actions and evaluate the results.

For the Partnership on 'Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees', the following parties are represented alongside Amsterdam: Athens, Berlin, Helsinki, Barcelona, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark, EUROCITIES, CEMR, ECRE and three European Commission Directorates-General: Migration and Home Affairs; Regional and Urban Policy; and Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion.

The objectives of the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees are to manage the integration of incoming migrants and refugees (extra-EU) and to provide a framework for their inclusion.

The partnership will focus on improvements in three areas:

- I. **Better regulation:** how to improve EU legislation so that it better reflects urban needs practices and responsibilities?
- II. **Better use of financial instruments:** how to ensure better access to and utilization of European funds by urban areas?
- III. **Better knowledge exchange:** How to improve the EU urban knowledge base and stimulate the sharing of best practices and cooperation between urban areas?



THEMES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership will focus on the mid- and longer term policy challenges of the refugee crisis, in particular in the field of inclusion and integration. Five themes have been identified the partnership will focus on: **work and entrepreneurship, housing, reception and community building and the cross-cutting theme vulnerable groups.** For each of the five themes a scoping paper will be written which will conclude with a list of the main bottlenecks regarding the theme with a focus on better regulations, better funding and better knowledge. During two working seminars (one on housing, reception and community building and one on work and education) we will formulate actions which can take away the main bottlenecks.



I. Work and Entrepreneurship

Many of the migrants and refugees coming to Europe want to start working as quickly as possible. How can we activate refugees and migrants as soon as possible? With activating we mean helping them to find a job or internship that suits them.

- *Focus*: early integration measures to promote fast access to the labour market, social mobility, empowerment of refugees with low skill profile and qualification recognition.
- *Timeframe of scoping paper*: integration from day one in destination city.

II. Housing

The growing influx of refugees makes it hard to find accommodation for different groups of people wanting to live in cities. Furthermore, the availability of housing in cities determines how many resettled refugees can be received. The location as well as the type of housing is crucial for the integration and prospects of migrants and refugees.

- *Focus*: the quantity of house, innovative housing models and social challenges such as the prevention of segregation.
Timeframe of scoping paper: after refugee/migrant has been granted a status and moved to a city.

III. Reception and Community Building

Cities have shown to play an important role in promoting positive public perception of refugees and an understanding among the public of the need and obligation to grant them protection. In order to encourage a positive reception work is being done by local governments and NGOs. When considering the urban responses and providing temporary shelter to refugees the important role that civil society initiatives can play should also be taken into account.

- *Focus*: communication measures, integration as a two-way process, and how to foster community building.
- *Timeframe of scoping paper*: the period refugees and migrants spend in temporary shelter and the asylum seeker centre.

IV. Education

Command of the language and sufficient knowledge of the new society are preconditions for social participation and success on the labor market. Because education and training substantially improve chances of durable employment, the Partnership will also focus on refugees' talents and keep creating opportunities for suitable education.

- *Focus:* fast access to language classes, talents, promote integrated approach, education to children.
- *Timeframe of scoping paper:* to be decided.

V. Vulnerable Groups

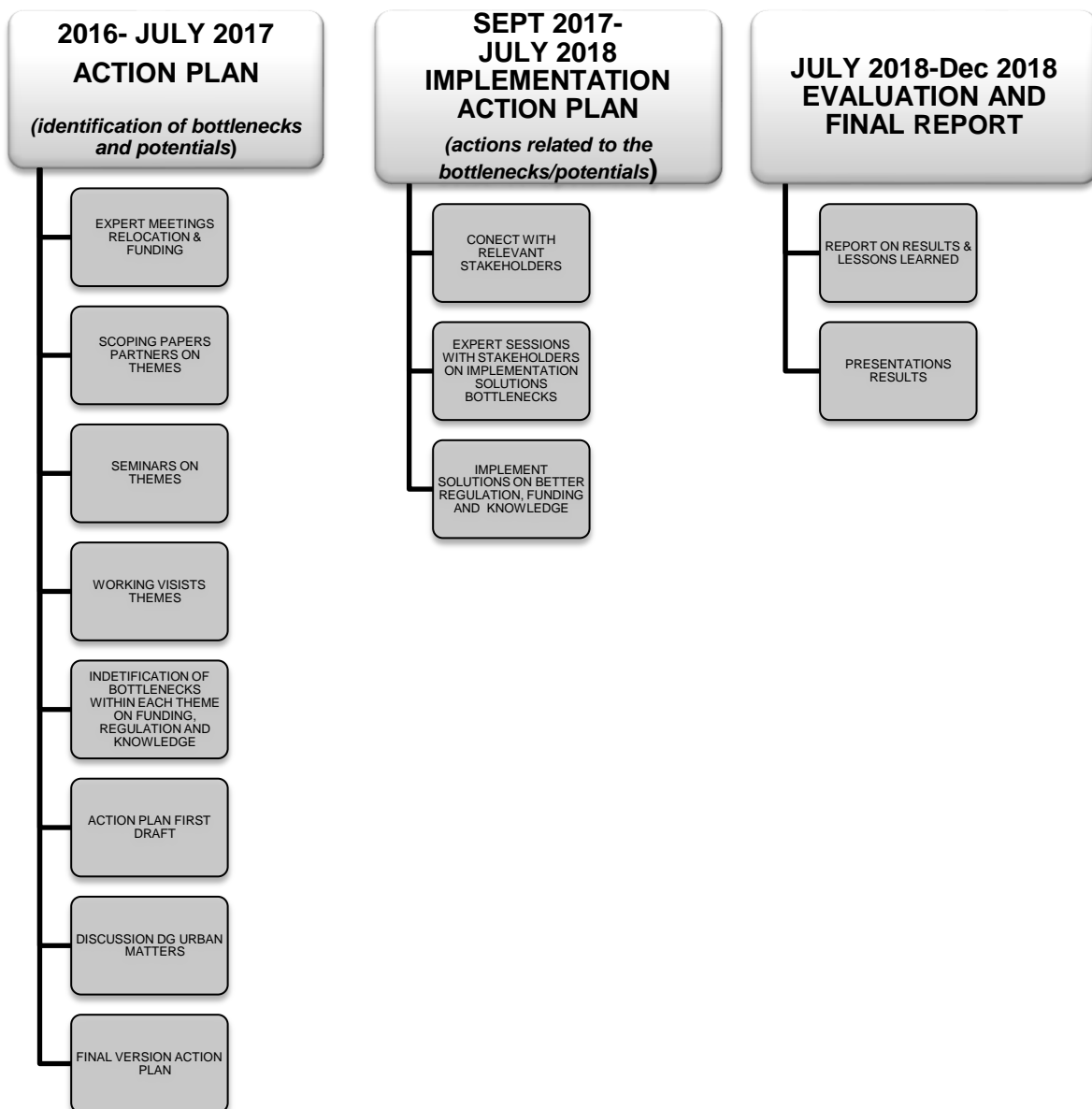
Cities pay particular attention to the promotion and protection of rights of vulnerable groups. Women, minors and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT) are particularly vulnerable groups within the general refugee population. They deserve special attention and an approach tailored to their needs in municipal services and support for refugees and migrants. Within the Partnership Vulnerable groups is a cross-cutting theme. In each of the other four themes we will pay attention to vulnerable group.

TIMELINE 2016-2018

The *first year* the main focus of the Partnership will be identifying the bottlenecks and potentials to identify the areas where the Action Plan of the Partnership should focus. This will require in depth-research and analytical work.

We will focus on the five themes: housing, community building & reception, education, work and the cross-cutting theme of vulnerable groups. The identification of the bottlenecks and potentials will lead to an Action Plan for the Partnership as related to a) EU-regulations on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, b) better use of EU-funding, and c) better use of data/research.

During the *second year* of the Partnership (May 2017-May 2018) the members will connect with relevant stakeholders to implement the actions as formulated in the action plan. The focus of *the last semester of 2018* will be the evaluation of the partnership and presentations of the main results and lessons learned.



Road to Action Plan 2016-July 2017



SCOPING PAPERS **Reception, Community Building & Housing**

Two scoping papers will be written 1. reception and community building 2. housing. Goal is to identify bottlenecks regarding EU-regulations, EU-funding and knowledge.

PARTNERSHIP MEETING

During Partnership meeting main bottlenecks will be selected to focus on.



WORKING SEMINAR **Reception, Community Building & Housing**

Goal of the working seminar is to help us formulate the actions to tackle bottlenecks regarding the three themes.

SCOPING PAPERS **Work & Education**

Two scoping papers will be written on 1. Work & 2. Education to identify main bottlenecks regarding EU-regulations, EU-funding and Knowledge.



PARTNERSHIP MEETING

During Partnership meeting main bottlenecks will be selected to focus on.

WORKING SEMINAR **Work & Education**

The working seminar will help us formulate the actions to take away bottlenecks regarding the two themes.

PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The actions on which the partnership will focus in it's action plan will be selected.



ACTION PLAN