

EUKN Policy Lab

The European and Global Urban Agendas: and their Relevance for Cyprus

30 January, 2017

Background documents



The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)
www.eukn.eu

Department of Town Planning and Housing of Cyprus
www.moi.gov.cy/tph

For more information on the Urban Agenda for the EU, see:

www.urbanagendaforthe.eu

For more information on the New Urban Agenda, see: www.habitat3.org



EUKN Policy Lab: The European and Global Urban Agendas and their Relevance for Cyprus

Monday 30 January 2017 in Nicosia,

Department of Town Planning and Housing (Lecture Room)

5-6 Kinyras street, 1102 Nicosia, Cyprus

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome statement by Ms Athena Aristotelous–Cleridou, Director of the Department of Town Planning and Housing, Cyprus
09:10 – 09:40	Introduction to the Urban Agenda for the EU Mr Mart Grisel, Director of the EUKN EGTC
09:40 – 09:50	Q&A
09:50 – 10:20	Introduction to the UN New Urban Agenda Mr Tobias Kettner, Habitat III Bureau/ UN Habitat Office, Brussels
10:20 – 10:30	Q&A
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee Break
10:50 - 11:00	Reform of the Local Government Mr Antonis Economides, Ministry of Interior, Cyprus
11:00 – 11:10	Q&A
11:10 – 11:40	Role of Cyprus in the Urban Agenda for the EU and the UN New Urban Agenda Mr Phaedon Enotiades, Department of Town Planning and Housing, Cyprus
11:40 – 11:50	Q&A
11:50 – 12:00	The use of EU Structural Funds for Sustainable Urban Development Mr Costas Iacovou, Director of the European Funds, Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, Cyprus
12:00 - 12:10	Q&A
12:10 – 12:20	European Funds/ Examples of Integrated Urban Interventions Ms Christiana Sizinou, European Funds Unit, Ministry of Interior, Cyprus
12:20 – 12:30	Q&A
12:30 – 12:50	Coffee Break
12:50 – 13:20	Interaction Session I: Importance of the Urban Agenda for the EU for Cyprus
13:20 – 13:50	Interaction Session II: Importance of the UN New Urban Agenda for Cyprus
13:50 – 14:00	Conclusions - Closure Coordinator: Mr Theodoros Hadjigeorgiou, Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of Interior, Cyprus - Assembly Member and NFP of Cyprus in EUKN EGTC
14:00 – 15:00	Buffet



Policy Lab Cyprus

Urban Agenda for the EU

With the adoption of two key strategic urban agendas last year, the year 2016 can truly be regarded as a historic urban year. On 30 May 2016, under the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU, the EU Ministers responsible for urban matters, the European Commission and a wide range of urban stakeholders, European programmes and institutions adopted the Urban Agenda for the EU as part of the Pact of Amsterdam. One month later that agreement was reconfirmed by the Council of the EU. On 20 October 2016, at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), nearly 170 countries adopted the New Urban Agenda, which is the United Nation's 20-year strategy on sustainable urban development.

Both strategic agendas are closely linked. The New Urban Agenda outlines the urban strategy to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and other key UN objectives such as the COP21 climate agreements and the Addis Ababa agreements. SDG 11 explicitly calls for "cities and human settlements" to be "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The Urban Agenda for the EU is the key European urban instrument to realise the SDGs.

In this EUKN Policy Lab we will look into the strategic relevance of both agendas for Cyprus. The EUKN has been involved in the making of both the Urban Agenda for the EU and the New Urban Agenda. Over the past three years, the EUKN has been working closely with the Dutch incoming Presidency, UN Habitat and the Habitat III Bureau. Since January 2017, the EUKN is part of Secretariat for the Urban Agenda for the EU, with Ecorys and EURO CITIES.

The main objective of the Policy Lab is to share knowledge on the two agendas, to look into their strategic relevance for Cyprus, the linkages between the two agendas, and to explore the possibility for the active participation of Cyprus in the two agendas.

Urban Agenda for the EU: importance of Partnerships

The Urban Agenda for the EU is an action-oriented agenda targeting 12 priority themes around which Partnerships are created. These thematic Partnerships bring together EU Member States, the European Commission, cities and city regions, civil society and the private sector. The Partnerships will address concrete societal challenges, looking into possibilities to improve three key areas:

- Regulation: how can existing rules and regulations be adjusted so that they become more "urban proof"
- Funding: how can existing EU financial instruments be better used?
- Knowledge (exchange): this will look at current knowledge exchange networks and determine if improvements can be made

One of the main mechanisms to implement the Urban Agenda for the EU is the setting up of thematic partnerships. The partnerships will focus on the twelve priority themes of the Urban Agenda for the EU that have been agreed upon after an extensive consultation process. Four pilot partnerships started with support of the Dutch EU Presidency in 2016 (Amsterdam Partnerships); four new partnerships have been agreed under the Slovak Presidency (Bratislava Partnerships), and under the Maltese Presidency the last four Partnerships will be established.

Each Partnership is coordinated by a member state and a city, or combinations thereof. The European Commission participates in all Partnerships, not only DG REGIO. The table below gives an overview of the current Partnerships.

Partnerships and their implementation		
Amsterdam Partnerships (2016)	Bratislava Partnerships (2016/2017)	Maltese Partnerships (April 2017)
Air Quality (Netherlands)	Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy (Romania, Rotterdam, Jelgava)	Climate adaptation
Affordable Housing (Slovakia, Vienna)	Circular Economy (Oslo)	Energy transition
Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (Amsterdam, DG Home)	Digital Transition (Estonia, Sofia, Oulou)	Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions (Cyprus applied)
Urban Poverty (Belgium, France)	Urban Mobility (Czech Republic, Karlsruhe) (Cyprus participates)	Innovative and responsible public procurement

Since the beginning of 2017, the Partnerships are supported by a Technical Secretariat, composed of Ecorys, the EUKN, and Eurocities. The technical secretariat will support the implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU through the provision of management, expertise and administrative support to the Partnerships. The secretariat will facilitate this Partnership process both for the Commission and for the Partnerships themselves.



New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda is an action-oriented document which will set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors at all levels of government as well as the private sector. The New Urban Agenda has been successfully adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.

City leaders and Member States have committed to implement the New Urban Agenda, which includes but is not restricted to the following themes:

- 1) Provide basic services for all citizens
- 2) Ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination
- 3) Promote measures that support cleaner cities
- 4) Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and the impact of disasters
- 5) Take action to address climate change by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions
- 6) Fully respect the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons regardless of their migration status
- 7) Improve connectivity and support innovative and green initiatives
- 8) Promote safe, accessible and green public spaces

The notion of Partnership is crucial to both agendas. The Urban Agenda for the EU was designed for cities to be more directly involved in Urban decision-making processes. With its 12 priority themes, multi-level governance and focus on peer-learning, the Urban Agenda for the EU contributes to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda within the EU, and in partnership with urban stakeholders – not only cities, but also businesses, NGOs and representatives from the Member States and EU Institutions.

The Policy Lab will further elaborate on the governance aspects of the two agendas and focus on the importance for Cyprus of the two agendas.

The Policy Lab will inform participants about the two agendas and will provide ample opportunities for urban professionals in Cyprus to discuss its relevance in Cyprus.