



ACTIVITY REPORT

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About the EUKN

The European Urban Knowledge Network European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - EUKN EGTC is an **independent Member State driven network in the field of urban policy, research and practice**. The network builds bridges at a high strategic level, connecting urban professionals across administrative boundaries, governmental levels and sectoral disciplines.

The EUKN is the only European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) composed of EU Member States dealing with urban development, deeply involved in EU policy-making. As a strategic knowledge partner, EUKN's urban expertise benefits our members in the form of tailor-made services, expert analysis, research assistance and specific knowledge support through thematic Policy Labs, seminars and conferences. Members can use additional consultancy services on urban topics they deem most valuable for them, making use of the vast expert pool the EUKN has access to. The EUKN Secretariat's task is to meet the specific knowledge and networking demands by making the relevant expertise available and by putting the strategic political embeddedness of the EUKN to the most effective use.

Throughout 2017 the EUKN comprised out of six EU Member States: **Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany and the Netherlands**. Romania is official a member of the EGTC but did not participate EUKN activities. The EUKN also started the negotiations of (re-)joining the network with Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Spain and Romania with a view to expanding the network in 2018 and 2019.

The EUKN continued to follow the global discourse on urban development. Having passed its 10-year milestone, the EUKN holds a proven reputation on the European level, building on the close involvement in the establishment and implementation of the two key strategic urban agendas of 2016: the **Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU)** and the **UN's New Urban Agenda**.

Moreover, the EUKN continuously supports the **Presidencies of the Council of the EU**. The EUKN's close involvement in the Urban Agenda for the EU and its direct link to the governmental levels responsible for urban development add value to the activities provided to EU Presidencies' urban-related programmes.

EUKN in 2017

In 2017, the EUKN continued to support Member States, cities and citizens responding to urban challenges by delivering several Policy Labs and publishing two studies. The publication **"Ten years after the Leipzig Charter"** analyses integrated urban development in 40 countries, including five countries outside Europe. The report **"One year Pact of Amsterdam"** provides an assessment of the first results of the Urban Agenda for the EU established under the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2016.

After supporting the Dutch Presidency in 2016 to establish the Pact of Amsterdam, the EUKN became part of the **Technical Secretariat for the Urban Agenda for the EU** in a consortium with Ecorys Brussels and Eurocities. The EUKN supports all twelve Partnerships with communication activities and senior expertise. The Urban Agenda website Futurium, is the primary source of information about the UAEU and the Partnerships. The EUKN Director Mart Grisel has moderated various Partnership meetings in 2017 and EUKN experts have supported several Partnerships in their activities.

The EUKN has raised the quality of its corporate presentation and online presence focusing on key messages and **strengthening the corporate identity**. The EUKN's members as well as the broad field of urban stakeholders

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continued to be the primary target of the network's external presentation. Preparations have been made for a new website, which is expected to be operational in summer 2018. The new website will offer more functionality and security while being more user-friendly and visually attractive.

Regarding business development and management of the EUKN, 2017 was a decisive year. In October 2017, the EUKN Secretariat established itself as a fully independent organisation, with **a new office location in The Hague's corporate city district** and, for the first time in its twelve-year existence, directly employed staff. The core team of the EUKN Secretariat in 2017 was composed of three full-time employed members of staff, supported by two interns. Financially, the EUKN continued the recovery following the challenging years of 2015 and 2016. The year 2017 marked a fresh start with the EUKN continuing its operation on firm ground.

EUKN Secretariat

The core of the Secretariat in the beginning of the 2017 was smaller than usual with three full-time employed members of staff. Wendy Flikweert, who had supported the EUKN as an intern since September 2016, finished her internship successfully in February 2017, while Lea Scheurer continued working for the EUKN as Junior Project Manager after her internship. Two new interns, Mona Oiry and Ivana Vujic, joined the EUKN in March 2017 and assisted in communication and research activities. Mona finalised her internship in July while Ivana continued working for the EUKN as a Junior Project Manager. Two new interns (Heleen van Weers and Davide Crispo) started their internships in October 2017 assisting in communication and research activities. Their internship is due to end on 1 April 2018.

EUKN Assembly

The Assembly is a decision-making body of the EUKN and in 2017 was comprised of representatives of: **Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.**

Assembly meetings are organised by the EUKN Secretariat to inform the Assembly of the Secretariat's activities and to provide a forum for discussion of and decision on the network's strategic position and concrete activities.

In 2017 the EUKN Secretariat worked closely together with the Assembly members on a wide variety of urban topics, often related to the Urban Agenda for the EU. In 2017, three Assembly meetings were organised (the postponed Assembly meeting covering 2016 took place on 10 January in Berlin, and the two regular Assembly meetings took place on 23 March in Amsterdam and on 27 October in new EUKN office in The Hague).



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EUKN activities

The EUKN distinguishes its activities between membership activities and externally funded activities.

Membership activities

The EUKN gathers Member States in a high-level network of urban policy-making. The EUKN members benefit from strategic and independent expert knowledge support reflected in tailor-made services. These services include themed Policy Labs, knowledge support, and dedicated consultancy services. In 2017, most of the services delivered were linked to the positioning of Member States within the Urban Agenda for the EU.

Policy Labs

Policy Labs represent a constant in the EUKN's work and are valuable both for members and participants. In 2017, this format had a strong linkage with the twelve priority themes of the Urban Agenda for the EU.

- Policy Labs provide practical and tailor-made support to EUKN members on urban issues of their interest. Particular focus lies on adding value to members' activities in the thematic Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU.
- Policy Labs are demand-driven activities providing strategic knowledge exchange and networking opportunities with other EUKN countries (including their cities and regions), experts, and stakeholders from governments, research institutes, and the civil society.

Like all EUKN services, Policy Labs are demand-driven activities. The topics to be discussed depend exclusively on members' policy agendas. In 2017, the EUKN EGTC continued to build on experiences with earlier joint Policy Labs, like the joint Policy Lab on the Prevention of Radicalisation (BE, FR, NL in 2016).

EUKN Policy Labs in 2017:

- CY for 2016 – January 2017, **European and Global Urban Agendas and their relevance for Cyprus**, Nicosia;
- NL for 2017 – July 2017, **One year Pact of Amsterdam**, Utrecht;
- ES – November 2017, **Shaping the Spanish National Urban Agenda**, Madrid;
- CZ for 2017 – November 2017, **Urban Mobility**, Prague;
- CY for 2017 – December 2017, **Retail Policy and the Functional Urban Area**, Nicosia.

Belgium was not able to host a Policy Lab in 2017; Germany and France decided to have a joint Policy Lab in the beginning of 2018 instead of two Policy Labs in 2017.

All Policy Labs but the one for the Netherlands (for which the One Year Pact of Amsterdam report had been prepared before the Policy Lab) were followed up by a dedicated report which was published on the EUKN website.

Policy Labs can take a variety of forms, such as panel discussions, site visits, case study presentations, workshops, and even conferences with side events. Audiences vary between 30 and more than 100 participants. In 2017, the "speedboat method" has proven to be an effective brainstorming tool in numerous Policy Labs, fostering discussion and exchange in small, heterogeneous groups of experts. This method (and variations/extensions thereof) can be deployed for various purposes, be it the definition of bottlenecks or the identification of solutions.



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The EUKN is continuously working on the further development and improvement of innovative group working methods.

In exceptional cases, the EUKN Secretariat also offers Policy Labs to non-members, like the Policy Lab for Spain on 30 November 2017 as part of Spain's planned accession to the network throughout 2018/2019. The outstanding feature of the Policy Lab for Spain was the contribution of several EUKN members (CZ, DE, FR, NL), sharing their experiences with establishing national urban policies.

Dedicated knowledge support for EUKN members

- As a part of the membership package, members have access to ad-hoc, high-quality and tailor-made expertise on any topic relevant for urban development.

For years, the EUKN Secretariat has been providing demand-driven, tailor-made knowledge support to its members on a case-by-case basis, often delivered by experts in the field of urban policy and research who had been contracted by the Secretariat. In the past, the National Focal Point (NFP) structure has also been used as a structure of systematically collecting knowledge and making knowledge documents available on the EUKN website.

The budget line for additional consultancy services that existed in the 2017 budget was only used by Germany, commissioning Mart Grisel to contribute to a two-day strategy meeting on the further development of the German national urban development policy in April 2017. Furthermore, the Netherlands used the available consultancy services to complement the research on the One Year Pact of Amsterdam.

In line with the conclusions of the EUKN Assembly Meeting of 27 October 2017, the NFP structure will be replaced by a new expert pool, whose composition is to be determined together by each Assembly member and the EUKN Secretariat for the respective member country, building on a template provided by the Secretariat in 2018. This pool will effectively take over the NFP tasks of providing topical expertise to EUKN members. Concretely, the people identified as experts can assume tasks such as moderating (EUKN) meetings and support the EUKN Secretariat in the preparation of policy briefs, reports, and studies in line with their expertise and qualifications.



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Externally funded activities

- Being an EGTC of Member States, all externally funded activities need to generate added value for the EUKN members, the involvement of the EUKN Secretariat in the Urban Agenda for the EU being a case in point.
- Externally commissioned research activities (e.g. under Horizon2020) reinforce the EUKN's position as a knowledge network and provide access to the European research community and discourse.
- The involvement in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals builds bridges between national, European and global activities in the field of sustainable urban development.

Urban Agenda for the EU – Technical Secretariat activities

The Urban Agenda for the EU represents a unique governance framework for better addressing urban issues in EU policy-making. In addition, it is understood as the EU's delivery instrument of the New Urban Agenda. Given today's global (urban) challenges, many of the UAEU priority themes coincide to a large extent with the key topics addressed by the New Urban Agenda.

In late 2016, the EUKN received the confirmation that the European Commission had selected the proposal submitted by the consortium partners Ecorys, Eurocities, and the EUKN to form the Technical Secretariat for the Urban Agenda for the EU. The many-faceted activities surrounding this important task constitute a great opportunity to foster the EUKN's profile and expertise. Particularly, supporting the twelve thematic Urban Agenda Partnerships in the most comprehensive, transparent, and results-oriented manner provides the chance to foster the successful implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Being part of the Technical Secretariat for the Urban Agenda for the EU, the EUKN continues to provide organisational and content-related support to all Partnerships and to the Urban Agenda process as a whole.

The EUKN offered its communication services to all the Partnerships by managing horizontal communication and maintaining the online communication channels (website, Twitter, newsletter). Via dedicated website www.urbanagendaforthe.eu, hosted on the Futurium environment of the European Commission, the EUKN Secretariat strives to make the Urban Agenda for the EU process even more transparent and responsive to stakeholders and the public. This also involves the Partnerships' meetings coverage, events organisation and conceptualisation of the so-called Public Feedbacks (online consultations of stakeholders on Partnerships' draft Action Plans). In 2017, the EUKN concretely supported the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees Conference in Berlin with EUKN-affiliated expert Sjoerdje van Heerden moderating several workshops.

Last but not least, the EUKN Director supports the Technical Secretariat by providing strategic expertise related to the European and global urban agendas. The latter point needs to be strengthened throughout 2018 to bring about a more focused and strategic discussion about the linkages between the New Urban Agenda/SDGs and the Urban Agenda for the EU – and other issues concerning the future of the Urban Agenda, as outlined in the EUKN's report "One Year Pact of Amsterdam". The European Commission's report on the Urban Agenda for the EU, published in November 2017, also provides a starting point for this.

In 2017, the EUKN's Director moderated several Partnership meetings as part of the senior expertise to the Urban Agenda for the EU:

- January 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the Urban Poverty Partnership meeting in Paris, France;
- February 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the Inclusion of migrants and refugees Partnership meeting in Berlin, Germany;
- February 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the Urban Mobility Partnership meeting in Prague, The Czech



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Republic;

- May 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the Urban Mobility Partnership meeting in Brussels, Belgium;
- July 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the kick off of the Sustainable use of Land and Nature-based solutions Partnership meeting in Warsaw, Poland;
- October/December 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the Sustainable use of Land and Nature-based solutions Partnership meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

Strategic research and support

Throughout 2017, the EUKN offered its strategic research experience to EU Members States, both network members and non-members based on concrete knowledge demands and governed by dedicated contractual agreements. The most relevant activities in 2017 are listed below.

Publications

- Ten Years after the Leipzig Charter – a study into urban policy since the adoption of the Leipzig Charter, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (study on urban policy in 40 countries). It is available in English, German and French;
- One Year Pact of Amsterdam – a study investigating the progress made with regard to the implementation of the eleven actions listed in the Pact of Amsterdam, including the twelve thematic Partnerships one year after the adoption of Pact of Amsterdam;
- Polish perspective of the UAEU – article for the Polish Malopolska region's e-magazine "Closer to Brussels";
- Von der Leipzig-Charta zu den SDGs – article for the magazine of the German section of the CEMR (RGRE) "Europa kommunal".

Ten years Leipzig Charter

From December 2015 to May 2017, the EUKN EGTC was engaged in a project commissioned by the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). The study evaluates the implementation of the Leipzig Charter ten years after its adoption under the German Council Presidency of 2007. In performing the study, the EUKN worked closely together with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), and with the Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (Difu).

The research team, consisting of external researcher and project manager Sjoerdje van Heerden, EUKN Director Mart Grisel, the two research assistants Lea Scheurer and Wendy Flikweert, later supported also by the new interns Mona Oiry and Ivana Vujic, assessed 40 countries' approaches to integrated urban development as laid out in the Leipzig Charter. This was done mainly based on input by ministerial contact persons in the analysed countries who had received a questionnaire in mid-2016. Desk research served as an auxiliary means of information gathering. The study was published and presented in May 2017 and is available in German, English, and French.

One year Pact of Amsterdam

One year after the Pact of Amsterdam was adopted, the EUKN carried out a report commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations on the progress of the UAEU. The report investigates the progress made with regard to the implementation of the UAEU actions, their (expected) impact and spin-off effects. Its goal was to provide a first stock-taking of the UAEU in order to contribute to its further development and ensure



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its optimal delivery. The report pays particular attention to the expected impact of the UAEU on multi-level collaboration on urban issues and on post-2020 EU policies and assesses the spin-off effects at national and international levels. Lastly, a set of recommendations intends to help bring the UAEU forward. Data was collected through the analysis of relevant documents, tailor-made online surveys and interviews with key stakeholders. The procedures and objectives stated in the Pact of Amsterdam provided a basis for evaluation.

As a first assessment of the UAEU, the “One Year Pact of Amsterdam” report shows that the implementation of the eleven UAEU actions is still a work-in-progress, with concrete obstacles to the success of the multi-level working method and sometimes a lack of available information regarding the progress made. Nevertheless, the findings show that the UAEU benefit from the commitment of all levels of government within the Partnerships, and from the support of European institutions. In fact, the UAEU has so far lived up to expectations regarding the reinforcement and improvement of inter-institutional coordination and collaboration on urban issues. The further implementation of the UAEU actions and its political embeddedness will be key to ensure a long-lasting impact on the urban dimension of EU policies.

The key findings and recommendations of the report were presented at the Policy Lab organised jointly by the EUKN and the Dutch knowledge institute Platform31 on 4 July 2017 in Utrecht.

Other external activities

The involvement in the making and implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU throughout the past years made Europe-wide urban research even more relevant for the EUKN Secretariat. Before October 2017, engagement in such projects was impeded by high overhead costs due to the co-location with the former executive agency. Now that the EUKN EGTC has become a fully independent organisation, it can make use of its regained competitiveness in European and other projects and can become more involved in urban research funded through EU programmes.

As the entire network profits from an enhanced knowledge base, the EUKN has been continuing to strengthen ties with other initiatives, organisations and networks, such as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe, ESPON, the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) Initiative, URBACT, etc in 2017.

Invited speaker/moderator at European meetings

The EUKN's Secretariat and its Director are regularly solicited to participate in European meetings, conferences and seminars. Strategically, the EUKN chooses to participate in meetings that bring value to the entire network. In this paragraph, the activities of the Secretariat in 2017 and the networking events where EUKN was present are outlined.

- May 2017 – Mart Grisel was present in the panel discussion on the **CEMAT** conference in Bucharest, Romania;
- June 2017 – Mart Grisel was a key speaker and a panellist at the **11th Bundeskongress** in Hamburg, Germany;
- October 2017 – Ivana Vujic presented the linkages between New Urban Agenda and the Urban Agenda for the EU at the panel discussion "Habitat III: One Year Later" at the **Place-making Week** in Amsterdam;
- October 2017 – Mart Grisel moderated the panel discussion "Strategic role of cities and municipalities in urban and housing development" at the **European Urban Forum** in Prague;
- October 2017 – Lea Scheurer discussed the integrated sustainable urban development in Europe in connection with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at **the From the Leipzig Charter**



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to the SDGs: integrated approach to sustainable urban development event in Brussels, jointly organised by the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) and the Urban Development Network (UDN);

- October 2017 – Ivana Vujic discussed on the topic of the nature-based solutions and land-use in the panel discussion on the **INSPIRATION** final conference in Brussels, Belgium.

Strategic research and support to EU Presidencies

Thanks to its European expertise and network of researchers, practitioners and policy-makers, the EUKN is well-positioned to provide additional strategic support to EU Member States. An important part of this work in 2017 continued to be services for EU Presidencies. The EUKN will use the insights obtained with the publication “Ten Years after the Leipzig Charter” (2017) to inform its efforts for the German presidency of 2020.

The EUKN is member of the winning consortium (together with the German Association for Housing Urban and Spatial Development, DV, and the Brandenburg Technical University Cottbus - Senftenberg (BTU Cottbus - Senftenberg), which was chosen to support the German EU Presidency of 2020 in the preparation of the urban development related aspects of the Presidency. The consortium will produce several studies and organise twelve meetings, including six international meetings, to support the incoming German Presidency of 2020.

DG and UDG meetings

The strong alignment that the EUKN has developed with the key proposal stakeholders of the Urban Agenda for the EU was continuously exemplified in 2017. The EUKN's close involvement at DG and UDG meetings helped to lay down secure foundations that will lead to significant strategic support to the needs of European Council Presidencies as well as EUKN members. The EUKN maintained a strong presence at the regular meetings of the Urban Development Group (UDG) and the meetings of the Directors General Responsible for Urban Matters (DGUM). This active participation enabled EUKN to support its members in communicating and developing urban development goals and gave the opportunity to present updates on recent research reports for the Council Presidencies.

European meetings of the EUKN: attendance as a speaker, participant or organiser

10 January	EUKN Assembly meeting (for 2016), Berlin, DE
19 January	UAEU – Urban Poverty Partnership meeting, Paris, FR
30 January	EUKN Policy Lab for Cyprus
8-9 February	MEPNL conference, Brussels, BE
10 February	DIVERCITIES conference, Rotterdam, NL
16-17 February	UAEU – Inclusion of migrants and refugees conference, organisation, Berlin, DE
3 March	UDG meeting, Valetta, MT
13 March	EUKN Assembly meeting , Amsterdam, NL
16 March	Imagining Urban Futures conference, Utrecht, NL
16-17 March	Seed community meeting, Brussels, BE
4 April	DGUM meeting, Valetta, MT
24-25 April	NUP-Klausursitzung BBSR, Bonn, DE
27-28 April	UAEU – Poverty Partnership meeting, Kortrijk, BE
3 May	UAEU – Urban Mobility Partnership meeting, moderation, Brussels, BE
17 May	UAEU – Inclusion of migrants and refugees conference, Amsterdam, NL



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30 May	CEMAT conference, Bucharest, RO
12-14 June	11 th Bundeskongress, presenting the Leipzig Charter study, Hamburg, NL
20-23 June	European Sustainability Week, Brussels, BE
25-26 June	Cohesion Forum, Brussels, BE
4 July	EUKN Policy Lab for the Netherlands
6 July	Meeting with the Ministerio de Fomento, Madrid, ES
12 July	UAEU – SUL NBS Partnership kick off meeting, Warsaw, PL
18 July	Meeting with the Ministry, Sofia, BU
19 July	International Table Meeting Packhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam, NL
28 August	EU India Seed Community meeting, Brussels, BE
29 August	UN Habitat meeting, Brussels, BE
5 September	UAEU – SUL NBS Partnership meeting moderation, Warsaw, PL
18 September	International Metropolis Meeting, Den Haag, NL
19 September	Acquisition for the DE2020 project, meeting with Jonas Scholze, Brussels, BE
26 September	UDG , Tallinn
29 September	ESPON meeting, Brussels, BE
13 October	Placemaking week, panel discussion, Amsterdam, NL
13 October	European Urban Forum, moderation, Prague, CZ
13 October	EWCR session on RFSC/UDN, panel discussion, Brussels, BE
17 October	UAEU – SUL NBS Partnership meeting, moderation, Barcelona, ES
24 October	DGUM , Tallinn
27 October	Assembly meeting , The Hague, NL
9 November	EUROPAaktive kommune meeting, DE
14 November	EUKN Policy Lab for the Czech Republic
30 November	EUKN Policy Lab for Spain
5 December	Inspiration Final Conference, panel discussion, Belgium, BE
15 December	EUKN Policy Lab for Cyprus
18 December	UAEU – SUL NBS Partnership meeting, Zagreb, moderation
19 December	Meeting with Ms Maja Marija Nahod, Assistant Minister for Construction and Energy Efficiency in Buildings Sector at Ministry of Construction, Croatia
20 December	Meeting with Ms Barbara Radovan, DG at the Ministry of the environment and spatial planning and the Director of Urban Planning Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia

Outreach – EUKN communication activities

During 2017, the EUKN Secretariat dedicated time making the findings of the EUKN research available on social media channels, via the newsletter and the website.

Newsletter

The EUKN newsletter Urban Review continued being disseminated in 2017. The newsletter was altered slightly in terms of layout design and content, whilst remaining a key source to promote EUKN material and urban knowledge. The content either featured trending urban issues in the form of an interview with an expert, research paper summary, policy reports, network activities, EUKN news or up-and-coming urban conferences and meetings. The newsletter in 2017 was sent to approximately 2800 subscribers worldwide.

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Website

Over the course of the year the website was actively managed and updated where necessary to get the most out of the redesign. The website was improved and simplified, and a new strategy of its improvement was set for 2018. Website activities included weekly updates in news and events as well as regular submissions to the E-Library with policy documents or research reports. During the year, several pages were either scrapped, reintroduced or altered, continuously keeping the website up to date.

The EUKN Secretariat started a new project in late 2017 regarding the upgrade of the websites' backend TYPO3 from version 6 to 8, including several major changes in its functionality. The project will start in the beginning of 2018 with a dedicated budget. This includes the re-assessment and re-adjustment of the search engine connected to the E-Library and a security update of the content management system TYPO3. The update will allow a change in the website template to create a more attractive interface with fewer content boxes. In the run-up to this update, the EUKN Secretariat will re-organise the content on the website to make it more informative and concise. The following changes are planned:

- Unravelling the category "EUKN Research" and creation of dedicated tabs for the Policy Labs and the Publications. The category "EU Presidencies" will be dissolved and its content will be sensibly fed into the other categories (see screenshot).
- Re-organisation of the E-Library, including decisions (1) on the continuation of the use of the sophisticated search engine and (2) on the continuation of the production of publicly available knowledge documents (created by NFP and Secretariat staff in the past, but not since 2015). A decision also has to be made about how to structure old documents (e.g. by creating an archive) and how to deal with non-English documents.
- Re-organising and re-conceptualising the "News" and "Events" sections in order to create a streamlined approach to the type of information to be found in these sections (also in consideration of the role of social media for up-to-date information). A suggestion is to separate the news and events of the EUKN from those of other organisations/third parties. Another possible approach is to replace the news and/or events sections altogether and to create a section with only EUKN related events and news.
- Creation of new pages for each EUKN member based on a list on the landing page, showcasing past events and research conducted for each member and general information about the country and its EUKN membership (superseding the existing non-English country-specific pages that are very poorly maintained).



Strategically, the website is supposed to showcase the EUKN's activities, governance structure, services, and political embeddedness better. Wherever possible, synergies between the EUKN and the Urban Agenda for the EU process will be shown and explored. The website will continue to be used as an important news source and a platform for bundling the EUKN's social media activities on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter.

Social Media

Social media played an important role in the communication but also showed many challenges. Via these channels, the EUKN can interact with other key urban stakeholders building an online network that can also be put into action offline. This resulted in a revised communication strategy document that will be important for the EUKN going forward. 2017 saw the continued push to promote the EUKN on social media with regular tweets and posts on LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook. Not all social media channels show a health state of action. Facebook



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showed to be used the best. Other channels are yet to be improved throughout 2018. In the late December 2017, Twitter had 830 followers (620 in 2016), Facebook 2146 followers (1261 in 2016), LinkedIn group had 4561 members (4200 in 2016). The YouTube channel was created in 2017 to disseminate inter alia the videos produced for the Ten Years Leipzig Charter project and will be filled with audio-visual content whenever possible.

E-Library

Easy access to a rich EUKN website's E-Library containing selected documents on shared standards, EU policies, good practices and up-to-date research is available to all urban leaders, practitioners and policymakers through the EUKN website www.eukn.eu. Since its establishment, the EUKN has led the way in the investigation and dissemination of topical knowledge and the advancement of today's European urban policy and practice. The E-Library's filters and search categories are planned to be improved during the new website upgrade and fully functional with new features in summer 2018.

2018 Outlook

Looking forward, the EUKN has several key actions planned for the start of 2018.

- The EUKN aims to continue to build a strong political influence and to develop the urban knowledge skills and services for EUKN members and partners, both online and offline. The EUKN plans to establish itself as an active and outgoing partner in projects on urban issues in Europe. This more alert role will produce prominent visibility at the relevant urban platforms. Furthermore, the EUKN plans to analyse relevant knowledge for members and to actively take a key position in research for presidencies and participate in European funded projects. The EUKN plan to continue establishing a stronger communication package, both offline and online to help demonstrating the EUKN prowess and affinity with a multitude of urban topics and researches;
- The EUKN will concentrate efforts to provide added value for members by forming partnerships in European funded projects in order to give cities and regions in EUKN Member States access to European funding and European knowledge on the most relevant urban topics and by designing a multi-annual financial framework to equip the EUKN in more commercially oriented activities;
- Attracting new members to the network with specific regard to possible synergies with Urban Agenda Partnerships and EU Presidencies. The EUKN will work on the growth of the network, paving the way for Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Croatia and Romania to (re)join the network;
- Further develop the EUKN's strategic position against the backdrop of the newly established framework of the Urban Agenda for the EU and the related work of the EUKN as part of the Technical Secretariat;
- Exploring opportunities of engaging in EU-funded projects and further cooperation with European partners;
- Revision of Convention and Statutes is planned to be finalised before summer 2018;
- Adapting the communication and outreach strategy even more to the network's needs;
- Improving the EUKN website and applying more strategic approach to other communication channels.

By implementing these actions, the EUKN aims to expand its network and continues to generate and be a part of measurable European urban developments.