GREENER CITIES, GREENER EUROPE

How the Urban Agenda for the EU Partnerships can bring sustainability closer to citizens

7 October 2019, Brussels
Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union

Organized by the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) EGTC on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
WORKING GROUP 3  Circular Economy, Public Procurement

Speakers

- **Siri Bellika**
  Assistant Coordinator and Action Leader of the Circular Economy Partnership
  Municipality of Oslo (NO)

- **Valentina Schippers-Opeijko**
  Coordinator of the Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement Partnership
  Municipality of Haarlem (NL)

- **Daniela Patti**
  Moderator
  Eutropian

Programme

1. **Introduction**
   The moderator will introduce the format of the working group and its goals.

2. **Partnership pitch**
   The Coordinator or/and Action Leaders of the Partnership will briefly present how they experienced the Urban Agenda for the EU and how they “personalised” its innovative working methods.

3. **The selected action**
   **Phase 1:** The Coordinator or/and Action Leaders of each Partnerships will present one Action, previously selected from their Action Plan, that has a special link with the cross-cutting issue 12.1 (“Effective urban governance, including citizens participation and new models of governance”).
   Please note that:
   - the selected actions are those in the green boxes;
   - at the end of the booklet you will find the list of the cross-cutting mentioned in the Pact of Amsterdam.
   **Phase 2:** The Coordinator or/and Action Leaders of the Partnerships will reflect on the relation between the presented Action and the cross-cutting issue 12.1.

4. **Discussion and question for the panel**
   The participants will have four minutes to formulate a question for the panel, following the instructions on the card. These questions will be discussed within the group that, in the end, will have to agree on two questions to bring to the panel debate. The cards will be collected at the end of the Conference by the EUKN.
CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Partners:
Member States: Finland, Greece, Poland, Slovenia;
Urban and Regional Authorities: Oslo (Coordinator), Flanders Region, The Hague, Kaunas, Porto, Prato;
Stakeholders: ACR+, CEMR, EIB, EUROCITIES, URBACT;
European Commission: DG REGIO, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG GROW, DG RTD.

Objectives:
The Partnership on Circular Economy has looked into the whole circle, beginning with the extraction of raw materials to design, production, transportation, consumption and, finally, the recycling of waste with residues for final disposal. However, this scope had to be limited, and the Partnership has focused on the parts of the circle which they believe are most relevant to cities and which they have the greatest potential to influence. The following themes have been selected by the Partnership: circular consumption; urban resource management; circular business enablers and drivers; governance. By choosing the themes mentioned above, the Partnership covered most of the relevant circular economy aspects from a city perspective.

ACTIONS

1. Help make waste legislation support the circular economy in cities

2. Help make water legislation support the circular economy in cities
The Partnership calls for a robust and comprehensive EU legislation to create an environment where cities, as water operators, will develop and implement solutions for water re-use as a part of a strategy for better water management and a transition towards a circular economy. The Partnership shall develop a general position paper which can be used as input into the ongoing and upcoming revisions of EU strategies on water and wastewater.

3. Analyse the regulatory obstacles and drivers for boosting an urban circular bio-economy
Policy and decision makers should be provided with information on the regulatory aspects for boosting an urban circular bio-economy in EU cities, with special reference to the production of urban biowaste-based products. This action aims at providing an analysis of the main EU legislation influencing the development of the value chain producing innovative bio-based products from biowaste and wastewater. The outcomes of this analysis will be shared with the European Commission towards improving existing legislation in this policy area.

4. Prepare a Circular City Funding Guide to assist cities in accessing funding for circular economy projects
The guide to be developed under this action is intended to help cities identify and access suitable sources of funding and financing for their own circular projects as well as for projects promoted by private and public entities in their territories. The guide will also build knowledge on how to design and set up effective funding schemes for circular city projects, taking into consideration their varying types, sizes and risk profiles.

5. Mainstream the circular economy as an eligible area into the post 2020 Cohesion Policy and corresponding Funds
The shift towards a circular economy is expected to begin in urban areas where the economic, social and territorial impact is greater and the conditions for integrated interventions are met. Therefore, it is necessary for the European Union’s Cohesion Policy to mainstream the circular economy, in order to provide the required impetus through the European Structural and Investment Funds. A detailed set of legislative options and complementary alternative recommendations is proposed to be elaborated and submitted under this action that could be useful to the Commission services in charge of planning the European Cohesion Policy post 2020 and preparing the relevant regulations.

6. Prepare a blueprint for a Circular City Portal
With this action the Partnership would like to 1) consolidate, compile and guide cities to relevant information and resources freely available on the development of the circular economy in cities and 2) promote the further development, dissemination and sharing of new information and knowledge on the subject with a focus on practical implementation issues. The main aim of the action is to contribute to the creation of an openly shared knowledge basis that would inspire and guide cities in their journey towards a circular economy.
7. **Promote Urban Resource Centres for waste prevention, re-use and recycling**

This action aims to facilitate the establishment of so-called "Urban Resource Centres" - physical centres that enable sustainable consumption within a city, provide education on waste prevention measures, and facilitate re-use, repair and recycling. This will be done through investigating the potential of these centres and share knowledge through a network of centres and enable peer-to-peer exchange. Part of the implementation of the action, will also be to address alternatives for funding and financing of the Urban Resource Centres.

8. **Develop a Circular Resource Management Roadmap for cities**

Establish a practical roadmap which enables cities to develop an urban resource management plan. In this Roadmap, the three main elements of resource management will be incorporated: a) mapping of resources and resource flows, b) brokerage facilities to bridge the gap between supply and demand, and c) the monitoring of results.

9. **Develop a Collaborative Economy Knowledge Pack for cities**

By creating a comprehensive Knowledge Pack on the Collaborative Economy with a more holistic and current view of the Collaborative Economy, stakeholders will be able to operate with a thorough understanding of the Collaborative Economy and be able to gain most benefit of it and anticipate on possible negative impacts.

10. **Manage the re-use of buildings and spaces in a Circular Economy**

The Partnership will define a robust and comprehensive framework to develop and implement solutions for urban circular re-use of space and buildings as a part of a strategy for better urban management and a transition towards circular economy. There is an important potential to reduce the use of land in an urban context. Such actions will also contribute to enhance more attractive, healthy and sustainable urban environments.

11. **Develop City Indicators for a Circular Economy**

Several European cities have a dedicated strategy for a circular economy, but the management system to measure and evaluate the progress is not operational. There are several efforts made at the national level, but there is still no organised initiative to develop indicators fit for measuring the circular economic transition at a local level. Policy makers and city managers face an array of sustainability indicator frameworks. However, it is important to also have indicators guiding circular economy decisions and strategies. The Partnership will aim to develop (guidance on) monitoring and evaluation frameworks (indicators) for circular city transitions. The guidance will be an important tool for cities in their work to establish and implement a strategy for circular economy.

12. **Develop a “pay-as-you-throw”-toolkit with coaching**

The “Pay-as-you-throw” (PAYT) toolkit is intended to be a support for cities, connecting stakeholders in need of knowledge with experts with experience in a taskforce that can provide support and coaching to municipalities. Through the implementation of this action, the Partnership aim to make it easier for cities to set the right price level and monitoring systems so PAYT can be installed for maximum effectiveness.

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**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

**Partners:**
- **Member States:** Italy, the Netherlands;
- **Urban and Regional Authorities:** Haarlem (Coordinator), Gabrovo, Larvik, Nantes, Munich, Preston, Turin, Vantaa;
- **Stakeholders:** CEEP, CEMR, EUROCITIES, ICLEI, UIA;
- **Observer:** URBACT;
- **European Commission:** DG REGIO, DG CNECT, DG GROW

**Objectives:**
The aim of this Partnership is to push forward the development and implementation of an ambitious procurement strategy as an integrated and supportive strategic tool for governance. Using public procurement and the procurement of innovation as a strategic tool, cities can significantly increase the positive impact on their social, economic and environmental objectives. When procurement strategy is well aligned in an overall strategy of the public authority, procurement has the potential to contribute as a catalyst at all levels of the multi-level governance in the EU Urban Agenda.
**1. Building Strategy**

This action aims to produce a guidance toolkit (including visual materials) that can help politicians and technicians in cities (especially mid-sized and small ones) in order to build their own Public Procurement strategy that allows the implementation of the global strategy of the city and face sustainability challenges. The intended impact of the action is that more cities will create strategies for innovative and responsible public procurement, which directly implement several EU policy goals (e.g. within climate, innovation, circular economy and social cohesion). The direct impact of the guidance toolkit is to help cities (politicians and technicians) build their global procurement strategy and implementing it into their management practices.

**2. Circular procurement**

Learning is key to innovative and responsible public procurement and specific efforts are required in new policy areas where competences are still underdeveloped, such as Circular procurement competences. The main output we want to achieve is that public procurement officers in local and regional authorities across the EU are offered and attend workshops and trainings that support them to conduct circular procurement. The goal of the action is to make knowledge on circular procurement easily available, so that cities can build and develop competence for relevant staff. The expected impact of implementing the action on a medium to long term will be an increase in the use of circular procurement in the cities that have made use of the circular procurement workshops or academy.

**3. Knowledge Exchange: Local Competence Centres**

The action aims at improving knowledge and skills in innovative and sustainable public procurement, including the pre- and post procurement/tendering phases. By sharing knowledge, resources, tools and risk management cities have a greater impact in certain markets with a view to procuring much needed innovative goods and services that also foster a more sustainable development. The main result of this Action will be a concept for a local competence centre for innovative procurement, where in a multidisciplinary setting public buyers exchange knowledge, experience and co-operate in the buying process.

**4. Innovation procurement broker**

The partnership investigates the specific need for innovation procurement brokerage between the demand and supply-side, the organizational model, the features of an innovation procurement broker and how it can practically support the interaction between public buyers and economic operators. The main deliverable of the action is a set of guidelines for the definition, the implementation and management of “Innovation Procurement Broker”, conceived at regional, national and EU level, with the close involvement of EU cities.

**5. Funding (and future funding EU)**

Cities need financial support to develop projects to learn from more advanced cities in circular procurement and social responsibility in procurement, to procure innovation and projects where they look for expert support to develop ‘joint cross-border procurement’. By developing and implementing novelties in procurement, urban authorities will have new tools to respond to social, environmental, economic challenges and boost innovation in the cities. The concrete output will be recommendation(s) to the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States on providing funding for procurement of innovation, strategic procurement, joint cross-border procurement and in particular social procurement and circular procurement.

**6. Legal framework**

In the preparatory stages of the work of this Partnership, much attention has been put on two interrelated bottlenecks: knowledge and legal certainty. The practical experience from the partners has confirmed that those practitioners with more knowledge and experience are better equipped to address issues of legal certainty, and assess the risks related to innovative public procurement. The output of this Action will be a legal handbook: a tool for practitioners to gain such knowledge and experience, as it allows practitioners to learn from others at a much faster rate. For more focus the innovation procurement guidance will build on the existing guidance(s) and potentially expand or clarify some aspects of it.

**7. Measuring spend**

The action aims at developing a common cross-Europe methodology for municipalities and other institutions to measure directly where their procurement spend goes and the impact it has (economically, socially and environmentally). The partnership will investigate the data standards available, and methodologies for expenditure analysis for exchange of procurement data between contracting authorities. It will also explore methods for identifying wider impact post-procurement. The final output will be the draft of a spend analysis tool and training on measuring spend to members of the partnership.
The Pact of Amsterdam\(^2\) states:

The Ministers agree that the complexity of urban challenges requires integrating different policy aspects to avoid contradictory consequences and make interventions in Urban Areas more effective. In line with the competences and responsibilities of the different participants and taking into account that the EU does not have competences on some of these issues, the Partnerships shall consider the relevance of the following cross-cutting issues:

12.1 Effective urban governance, including citizens participation and new models of governance.

12.2 Governance across administrative boundaries and inter-municipal cooperation: urban-rural, urban-urban and cross-border cooperation; link with territorial development and the Territorial Agenda 2020 (well-balanced territorial development).

12.3 Sound and strategic urban planning (link with regional planning, including ‘research and innovation smart specialisation strategies’ (RIS3), and balanced territorial development), with a place-based and people-based approach.

12.4 Integrated and participatory approach.

12.5 Innovative approaches, including Smart Cities.

12.6 Impact on societal change, including behavioural change, promoting, among other things, equal access to information, gender equality and women empowerment.

12.7 Challenges and opportunities of small- and medium-sized Urban Areas and polycentric development.

12.8 Urban regeneration, including social, economic, environmental, spatial and cultural aspects, also linked to the brownfield redevelopment with the objective of limiting greenfield consumption.

12.9 Adaptation to demographic change and in- and out migration.

12.10 Provision of adequate public services of general interest (within the meaning of Article 14 TFEU in conjunction with Protocol Number 26).

12.11 International dimension: link with the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) of the UN (to be agreed upon), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development) of the UN and the Paris Agreement on climate change of December 2015.

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1. The objectives and actions outlined in this paper are taken from the Partnerships’ Action Plans and edited for the purpose of readability. All Action Plans are available for download on the FUTURIUM website (https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda/action-plans). Any inaccuracies are the sole responsibility of the EUKN Secretariat.
