



FACTSHEET

RFSC as tool to assess the integrated approach in next EU programming period

Introduction

Integrated territorial and urban strategies bring together spatially sensitive policies and programmes to support economic, social and environmental change. The core elements of integrated development are an area-based approach, integration of policy between sectors, and a multi-level governance approach. In view of the intertwined challenges that face European cities and regions, an integrated approach provides a way to address these challenges in coherence. Singling out one policy area, for example transport, is less effective when environmental, social and other economic policy areas, are not taken into account.

The Czech Republic supports the development of integrated territorial strategies and regards them as an effective tool to achieve a higher quality of strategic planning and management. These strategies also bring new opportunities for efficient investment of funds in the development of regions, cities and neighbourhoods. One of the tools to assess the quality of integrated territorial strategies is the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC). A European tool developed in close cooperation with the European Commission, European Member States and European cities.

This factsheet is developed in support of the EUKN Policy Lab for the Czech Republic, on the “*RFSC as tool to assess integrated territorial strategies during next EU programming period*”. This document provides an overview of the broader context of integrated development ranging from the European level to the local perspective. Special attention is given to the upcoming European programming period (2014-2020). Furthermore, a number of international cases and European projects are presented, which provide a deeper insight in territorial integrated development in practice.

- [Regional Policy an integrated approach_ENG \(pdf\)](#)

EU policies and tools in the field of integrated territorial and urban strategies

Cohesion Policy (2014-2020)

The overarching objective of European cohesion policy is to promote the harmonious development of the Union and its regions. In this respect, it makes an important contribution to the three strategic objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy:

- Smart growth, by increasing competitiveness especially in less developed regions;
- Inclusive growth, by promoting employment and improving people's well-being;
- Green growth, by protecting and enhancing environmental quality.

Cohesion Policy is also the policy behind the hundreds of thousands of projects all over Europe that receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) – the two "Structural Funds" – and the Cohesion Fund. The idea is that Cohesion Policy should also promote more balanced, more sustainable "territorial development" – a broader concept than Regional Policy, which is specifically linked to the ERDF and operates specifically at regional level.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/faq/q1/index_en.cfm

- Good practice guide 2007-2013 of 50 projects ERDF (pdf)

The total proposed budget for the period of 2014-2020 will be 376 billion euro, including funding for the new Connecting Europe Facility, which is designed to enhance cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology. The European Commission proposes a more integrated approach to EU investment, including common eligibility and financial rules, and the introduction of multi-fund programmes for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund, as an option. The European Commission introduces two new tools to stimulate integrated territorial development: Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community Led Local Development (CLLD). Via these tools European subsidies from different EU funds can be combined.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm

- Regulation2014_leaflet_EN (pdf)
- Presentation EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (pdf)
- Simplifying Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (pdf)

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)

Integrated territorial investments (ITI) allows EU Member States to bundle funding from several priority axes of one or more Operational Programmes (EU programmes) to ensure the implementation of an integrated strategy for a specific territory.

It is important to underline that ITIs can only be effectively used if the specific geographical area concerned has an integrated, cross-sectoral territorial strategy.

The key elements of an ITI are:

- a designated territory and an integrated territorial development strategy;
- a package of actions to be implemented;
- and governance arrangements to manage the ITI.

ITI (factsheet) (pdf)

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is a specific tool for use at sub-regional level, which is complementary to other development support at local level. CLLD can mobilise and involve local communities and organisations to contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, fostering territorial cohesion and reaching specific policy objectives. The main aims of CLLD are:

- to encourage local communities to develop integrated bottom-up approaches in circumstances where there is a need to respond to territorial and local challenges calling for structural change;
- build community capacity and stimulate innovation (including social innovation), entrepreneurship and capacity for change by encouraging the development and discovery of untapped potential from within communities and territories;
- promote community ownership by increasing participation within communities and build the sense of involvement and ownership that can increase the effectiveness of EU policies; and
- Assist multi-level governance by providing a route for local communities to fully take part in shaping the implementation of EU objectives in all areas.

CLLD Factsheet (pdf)

Integrated urban development

The various dimensions of urban life – environmental, economic, social and cultural - are interwoven and success in urban development can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Measures concerning physical urban renewal must be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection. In addition, the development of strong partnerships between local citizens, civil society, the local economy and the various levels of government is a pre-requisite. The proposals from the European Commission for cohesion policy 2014-2020 aim to enhance sustainable urban development in order to strengthen the role of cities within the context of Cohesion Policy. The proposed European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) regulation provides for an increased focus on sustainable urban development. This should be achieved through the earmarking of a minimum of 5 % of ERDF resources for sustainable urban development

- Integrated urban sustainable development EC Factsheet (pdf)
- Presentation Integrated Instruments_Zsolt Szokolai Commission (pdf)
- Urban development praxis(2) (pdf)

EU Presidencies

Intergovernmental cooperation on territorial and urban integrated development takes also place under the umbrella of European Presidencies. The following Presidencies were in particular focused on integrated development:

German EU Presidency: Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (2007)

- Promotion of an integrated approach
- Providing special attention to deprived neighbourhoods

French EU Presidency: Marseille Statement (2008)

- Focusing on climate change
- Development of initiative “Reference Framework for Sustainable European Cities (RFSC)”

Spanish EU Presidency: Toledo Declaration (2010)

- Alignment with Europe 2020 strategy
- Focusing on integrated urban regeneration

Hungarian EU Presidency: Territorial agenda of the European Union 2020 (2011)

- Adoption of territorial agenda at ministerial level
- Territorial agenda will be enclosed
- Evaluation report will be enclosed
- Ministerial conclusions will be enclosed

Polish EU Presidency: Effective instruments supporting territorial development (2011)

- A report on strengthening urban dimension and local development within Cohesion Policy
- Issue paper Effective Instruments (pdf)

National policies and programmes in the field of integrated and sustainable urban development

The Czech Republic attaches value to an integrated urban and territorial approach which is based on the specific Czech settlement structure. A national framework of the regional dimension - the Regional Development Strategy for 2014 – 2020 - has been approved in May 2013. Based on the update Regional Development Strategy, a territorial typology of the Czech Republic has been defined:

1. Developing areas
 - Metropolitan areas (areas with concentration above 300,000 inhabitants)
 - Agglomerations (concentration 100,000 – 300,000)
 - Regional centres (incl. surroundings; concentration 25,000 – 100,000)
2. Stabilized areas – not belonging to agglomerations and regional centres (and their surroundings) and peripheral areas
3. Peripheral areas – geographically remote areas with a long-term accumulation of problems (borders areas, mountain areas, inner peripheries or areas with specific issues).

Each type of territory is associated with the integrated instruments. Besides the two new tools introduced by European Commission, the Czech Republic proposes Integrated Territorial Development Plans as an extension of Integrated Urban Development Plans applied in current programming period. These new plans encompass not only the city itself but also the city hinterland and catchment (functional) region and will be implemented within the areas with more than 25,000 inhabitants (excluding the metropolitan areas focused on the ITI primarily).

The Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 will be translated into English by the end of this year and published on the EUKN website.

For more information about Integrated Urban Development Plans please visit the EUKN website:

http://www.eukn.org/Czech_Republic/EUKN_Czech_Republic/E_library/Urban_Policy/Ministerial_guidelines_evaluation_and_approval_of_Integrated_Urban_Development_Plans_IUDP

Local policies and programmes in the field of integrated territorial and urban development

La Muette, Garges-lès-Gonesse (France)

An important Urban Renewal Project was initiated in La Muette (Garges-lès-Gonesse) by the social housing company Immobilière 3F to open up a deprived social housing area and to improve its planning and quality of life by an integrated urban development strategy at the neighbourhood and local scales. The project integrates economical, physical, environmental and social dimensions and the collaboration between partners involved, public and private. It also includes public consultation and participation. The renewal project of La Muette is based on physical and urban planning measures.

http://www.eukn.org/France/fr_en/E_library/Urban_Environment/Urban_renewal/Urban_renewal/Urban_Renewal_Project_of_La_Muette_Garges_l%C3%A8s_Gonesse_FR

Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic)

The city of Hradec Králové has a unique experience in the field of city strategic planning for the past ten years. In such a short time we created two city strategic development plans, which are very different from each other both in terms of content, especially, in the manner and method of processing. During the ten years we have had the opportunity to compare the results the city achieved in the implementation of both strategic plans. Historically, the first plan was developed in 1999 in collaboration with the consulting firm, which supplied the city the turnkey development document. The main impulse for the elaboration of the strategic plan was the fact that the city leaders realized the impossibility to manage the city by the "ad hoc" decisions. The second strategic plan was prepared in 2004, and although the process was presented as an update to the original document, it was an entirely new development

document, which was created using a completely different method and was based on the principles and ideas contained in the Local Agenda 21. The city of Hradec Králové updated the strategic plan this year.

The city of Hradec Králové uses a set of indicators for monitoring the sustainable development of the city as part of the strategic plan. Besides our own indicators, we also use the European Common Indicators, whose methodology has been adapted to the local conditions in compliance with their international comparability.

http://www.eukn.org/Czech_Republic/EUKN_Czech_Republic/E_library/Urban_Policy/Strategic_City_Development_Plan_of_Hradec_Kralove

Brno (Czech Republic)

The city of Brno (Czech Republic) used the possibility to improve the quality of public services and enlargement of the city amenities through applying an integrated approach. The Integrated Urban Development Plan (IUDP) ensured the coordination of sectoral and spatial policies in order to create a synergy effect of individual interventions. The statutory city of Brno defined the key areas of support in the framework of the Integrated Urban Development Plan, linking it with existing strategies and valid conceptual policy documents at local, regional and supra-regional level.

http://www.eukn.org/Czech_Republic/EUKN_Czech_Republic/E_library/Urban_Policy/Integrated_Urban_Development_Plan_Improvement_of_the_quality_of_public_services_and_enlargement_of_the_city_amenities

San Martin de Porres. Cordova (Spain)

This urban and social renewal initiative pays special attention to several important problems for the district, including urban and architectural obsolescence, creation of intermediate spaces for coexistence and community life, improvement of common areas, in particular, installing lifts, environmental remediation of urban spaces, and curbing social discrimination against social minorities. These actions aim to address in a comprehensive manner issues that affect the development of the district - physical, economic and cultural transformation, social fabric, families, etc. – applying procedures underpinned by public policy, building spaces in which political decisions are consistent with the analysis of district problems and plans on possible solutions, and engaging as many community institutions and residents as possible to ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitation process.

http://www.eukn.org/Spain/en/E_library/Housing/Housing/Integral_Rehabilitation_of_San_Martin_de_Porres_Cordova

Governance of integrated territorial strategy

Traditional (sectoral) regional and urban policy models target particular sectors in specific territories. This means that levels of government function in a relatively

segregated way. However, integrated territorial development requires a different mode of governance, encompassing a cross sectoral and cooperative way of working. An OECD report (Regional Development Policies in OECD Countries) indicates that this influences current government structures. The OECD states that, the role of the central government is being re-defined rather than diminished. Although in most cases the central government remains a significant source of funding and authority for regional development, the role of the central government in designing and delivering major regional development interventions is declining as regional policy systems are open to a broader range of participants. Instead, the role of the central government is increasingly important for providing an overarching framework for regional development policies.

Two notions of governance play a key role in integrated territorial and urban development:

- horizontal governance; cross-cutting policy sectors
- vertical governance; cross-cutting various government layers

The value of horizontal governance has been highlighted by the increasing recognition of interdependencies and interactions between different policy areas. Horizontal governance can potentially improve resource allocation and service delivery by facilitating more integrated approaches to policy administration. Vertical governance deals with the multi-level governance between national and sub-national levels. The relationship between levels of government (multi-level governance) is characterised by mutual dependence. A functional combination of the strengths of national, regional and local governments calls for multi-level governance arrangements which aim at sharing responsibilities, authorities, skills and resources. An integrated approach embodies simultaneously vertical and horizontal governance as the lines of communication and co-ordination for a given policy objective may criss-cross, involving multiple actors and stakeholders in the public as well as the private sector and citizenry

- OECD study- Regional Development Policies in OECD countries (pdf)
- OECD presentation (Analysing Urban Development Strategies- The OECD approach) (pdf)

Reference Framework for European Sustainable Cities (RFSC)

In May 2007, the European Ministers responsible for urban development signed the “Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities” with the aim of improving policy-making on integrated urban development, particularly focusing on deprived neighbourhoods. In November 2008, in Marseille, the European Ministers called for the implementation of the charter for the cities and with the cities. This recognised the implications of climate and environmental change for cities and the need for adaptation measures. They agreed that a practical tool was needed to translate the common sustainability goals and the recommendations in the Leipzig Charter into practice. The RFSC was developed to meet this need. It is the result of close multilevel collaboration between EU Member States, European Institutions, and European organisations representing cities and local governments.

The ministers responsible for urban development decided in Toledo (June 2010) that the prototype of the RFSC should be intensively tested among a wide variety of test cities in Europe before it would be available for all European cities. The purpose of the testing phase was to ensure that the overall targets of the RFSC are effectively met.

In 2011, 66 cities in 23 countries tested on a voluntary basis the prototype of the RFSC. During this testing phase, 3 Czech cities level (Brno, Hradec Kralove and Litomerice) participated in the testing at European level and more than 20 Czech cities took part in the testing at national level. The feedback obtained from the testing phase served to finalise the Reference Framework and implement the web-based tool successfully. The feedback of the test cities made it possible to draw valuable conclusions from the testing phase and to make concrete recommendations for the improvement and further development of the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities.

The report of the testing phase was submitted to the ministers responsible for urban development in Poznań (November 2011). The ministers acknowledged the conclusions and recommendations and agreed to have the RFSC improved and completed on the basis of the test results.

Final Report Nicis Testing RFSC

Practical use of the RFSC

The RFSC is an on-line toolkit to assist actors of urban management and development to improve dialogue and action on sustainability. It offers a multi-purpose decision-making and communication tool for promoting sustainable urban development. It is not place-specific and can be adapted to suit local priorities and different circumstances. The tool shows and explains step-by-step what actions are possible or necessary to organise the process in a city or municipality, that is to say to help the city develop in an integrated manner. The users are guided through a series of questions to explore their city's approach to sustainability and provide them with instruments for improving this. Tools and supporting guidance are given to monitor implementation and to evaluate the results. The RFSC incorporated three evaluation tools:

- Develop a strategy or project,
- Check the integrated approach,
- Monitor your progress (develop a monitor system).

The RFSC tool is now available in Czech, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian and Swedish. Visitors from Austria, Cyprus and Ireland can use a version adapted to their national context. A number of translations are still ongoing and will be announced shortly.

Future steps RFSC

Currently the RFSC is in its Dissemination phase. This phase is coordinated by a consortium (Platform31, ICLEI, CEMR) which has been appointed by the European Commission. The main responsibilities and tasks are to:

- Act as RFSC-secretariat: helpdesk, support RFSC-cities, support EC, Management Team and MSI meeting;
- Mobilize 500 RFSC cities: website (<http://www.rfsc-community.eu>), newsletters, social media and all other activities;
- Stimulate and support the networking of peer cities;
- Develop training and demonstration material and train the trainers of the RFSC;
- Support cities in submitting their showcases;
- Assist 50 RFSC Ambassador Cities;
- Support the European Commission in organizing two international events around the RFSC (the first 9th October 2013 in Brussels).
- Website RFSC <http://www.rfsc.eu>
- General introduction RFSC (pdf)

Comparative analysis of integrated territorial strategies

The OECD has conducted an analysis of the territorial strategies in the various countries. In addition to this analysis, an interactive tool -the Regional and Metropolitan Database- can be accessed at the OECD website providing statistical data per country and at regional level. The OECD Regional Database provides a unique set of comparable statistics and indicators on about 2.000 regions in 34 countries. It currently encompasses yearly time series for around 40 indicators of demography, economic accounts, labour market, social and innovation themes in the OECD member countries and other economies. The OECD Metropolitan Database provides a set of economic, environmental, social and demographic indicators on the 268 OECD metropolitan areas (functional urban areas with 500.000 or more inhabitants).

- OECD reports (including country reports)
- OECD presentation (will be included)

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/regionalstatisticsandindicators.htm>

Case studies and European funded projects

Espon-interstrat

The aim of the ESPON in Integrated Territorial Development Strategies (ESPON INTERSTRAT) is transnational learning about using ESPON research in integrated policies for urban and rural development. Its focus is active learning, using ESPON analysis and related data in the development of integrated territorial development strategies at all levels of decision-making. It aims to maximise transnational cooperation that recognises the importance of working with the diversity of institutional practice and regional potentials that characterises European territories.

The project brings together 9 partners from across the EU, incorporating very different institutional capacities and approaches to territorial policymaking, many different languages and representing a broad cross-section of territorial specificities. This diversity and breadth of experience is an important driver of the project design, with its focus on combining territorial responsiveness with transferability and effective learning. The approach is characterised by sharing tools, materials and processes that can be adapted to national circumstances while maintaining comparability and transferability across the project partners.

<http://www.espon-interstrat.eu/about.php>

http://www.espon-interstrat.eu/library_new.php (extensive eLibrary of the project)

Duisburg (Germany)

Over the last two decades the city of Duisburg has gained a great deal of experience in developing integrated action plans in its most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The city, has created an overall urban development concept in which the residents are actively involved. Interdepartmental working teams (housing, education, statistical et cetera) of the city of Duisburg were established in order to create a strategic framework to improve the economic, physical, social, infrastructural, structural and environmental situation in the neighbourhoods. Within its city-wide development plan, Duisburg aims at enlarging its integrated approach on additional deprived neighbourhoods of the City. Duisburg is also involved in the URBACT project REGgov.

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/disadvantaged-neighbourhoods/reg-gov/partner/?partnerid=129>

Catch-MR (Cooperative approaches to transport challenges in Metropolitan Regions)

This INTERREG IVC project aims to improve the competitiveness and the quality of life in Metropolitan Regions, especially focusing on transport solutions with a view to:

- reducing transport needs without impairing mobility
- increasing the share of environmentally friendly transport.

The project was characterized by an integrated approach, developed in the following three sequential steps:

- reduction of transport demand (reducing the need for transportation within the Metropolitan Regions through a better coordination of land use and transport planning/policies)
- reallocation of traffic (increasing the provision and use of public transport) and
- increasing the use of renewable energy in transport.

<http://www.catch-mr.eu/?cid=1270017116&name=About+Catch-MR>

Please visit www.eukn.eu for more background information on integrated territorial and strategies