



# The Urban Dimension of Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

## Integrated and Sustainable Urban Development Opportunities for Metropolitan Cities

*ESPON METRO Policy Seminar*

*28 April 2021*

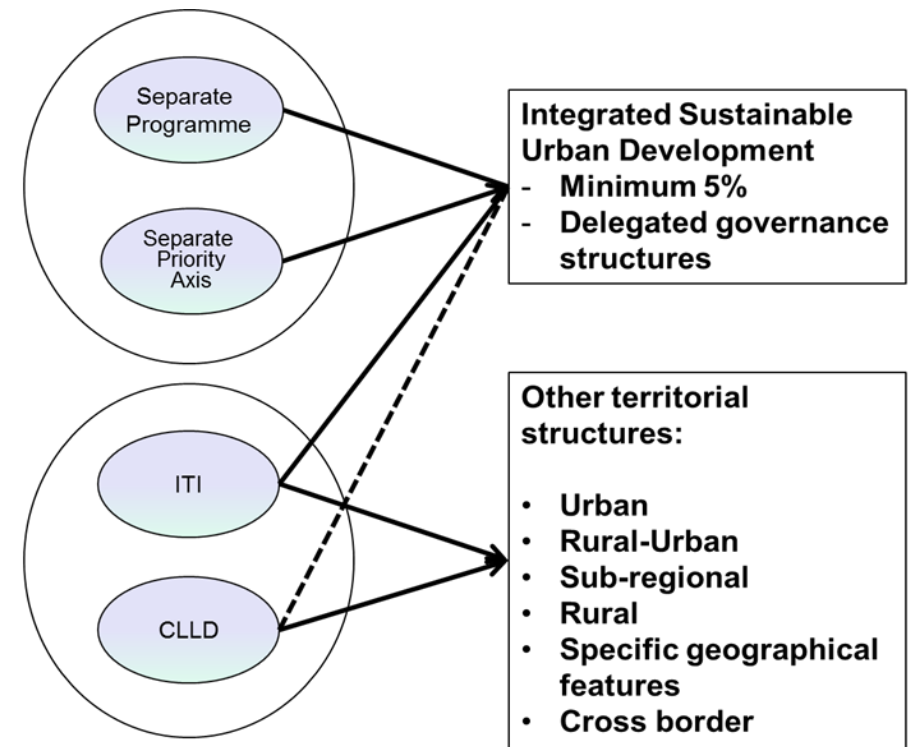
*Pia Laurila, Policy Officer, Unit Inclusive Growth,*

*Urban and Territorial Development*

*DG Regional and Urban Policy*

# Cohesion policy support to integrated territorial development in 2014-2020

- Around 8% (**EUR 17 billion**) of ERDF to sustainable urban development ('Article 7 Cities' of ERDF)
- Around **980 strategies** are **urban-focused**
  - 20% of these focus on functional urban areas (FUA)
  - FUA was a very important policy innovation when the 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy framework placed a special emphasis on it



Source: Van der Zwet A, Miller S and Gross F (2014) A First Stock Take: Integrated Territorial Approaches in Cohesion Policy 2014-20. EPRC

Urban and Territorial Dashboard (STRAT-Board)

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/#/home>

Handbook on Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/urbanstrategies/>

# Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: Policy Objectives

Urban dimension is mentioned **explicitly** at the level of three specific objectives :

## 1. A smarter Europe

## 2. A greener, low-carbon Europe

(vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, **including in urban areas**, and reducing all forms of pollution

(viii) promoting sustainable multimodal **urban mobility**, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy

## 3. A more connected Europe

## 4. A more social Europe

5. **A Europe closer to citizens** (sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives)

(i) fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in **urban areas**

**Minimum 8% urban earmarking of ERDF  
at national level**

# Policy Objective 5: a Europe Closer to Citizens

***Foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability and resilience in all places***

## **Urban context:**

- to benefit from agglomeration economies and positive spill-overs towards wider functional urban areas and rural areas close to cities
- to address negative effects of concentration (traffic congestion, pollution, urban sprawl, affordable housing, poverty etc.)

## **Other territories:**

- to build on the potentials and specific assets of remote rural areas and local communities (beyond compensatory measures)
- to overcome the negative effects of low density and peripherality (access to jobs and services, pooling resources)

# Integrated territorial development: minimum requirements

Key requirements to operationalise cohesion policy support for integrated territorial development

- Interventions linked to **territorial or local strategies** of relevant local or territorial bodies
- Definition of the **targeted area** according to development needs and potentials
- Locally coordinated interventions through an **integrated approach**
- Relevant **territorial or local bodies involved** in project selection
- **Partnership with relevant actors** to be ensured at local level

# Partnership and multi-level governance

- Each Member State shall organise and implement a **comprehensive partnership** in accordance with its institutional and legal framework
- Partnership shall include (among others) **regional, local, urban and other public authorities**
- Member State should **involve partners** in the preparation of Partnership Agreements and throughout the preparation, implementation and evaluation of programmes
- Member States shall, where relevant, allocate **an appropriate percentage** of the resources coming from the Funds for the administrative **capacity building of social partners and civil society organisations**

# Sustainable Urban Development

(Article 9 of ERDF/CF Regulation proposal)

- To address economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges, the ERDF shall support **integrated territorial development** based on territorial strategies ... focused on urban areas, including **functional urban areas**
- **Special attention** shall be given to tackling environmental and climate challenges, notably the transition towards a climate-neutral economy by 2050, to harnessing the potential of digital technologies for innovation purposes, and to support **the development of functional urban areas**
  - All investments under PO5 specific objective 1 (per definition for strategies targeting urban areas)
  - All investments under PO1-PO4 when territorial tools target urban areas

**Minimum 8% urban earmarking of ERDF at national level**

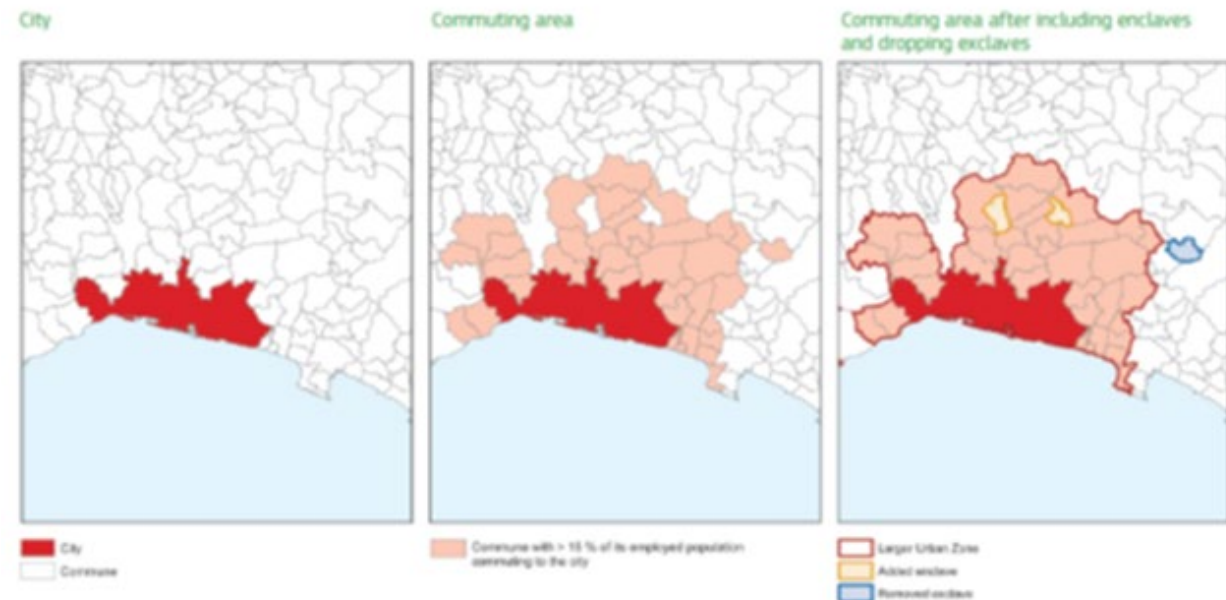
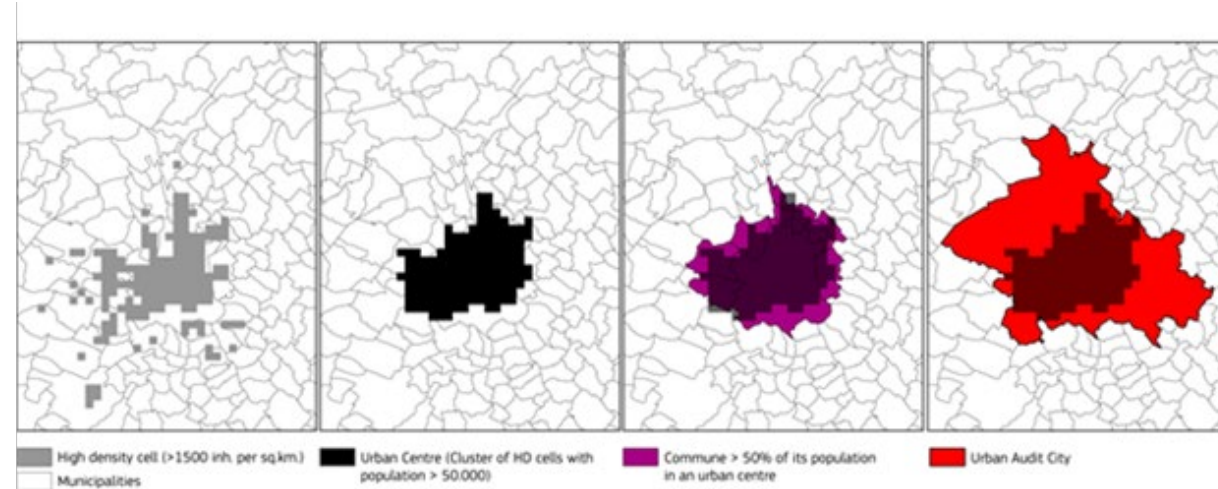
# What is an urban focus?

(CPR Annex 1)

Interventions targeting:

- Urban neighbourhood
- Administrative unit of a City, Town or Suburb
- **Functional urban area** (i.e. two or more municipalities that are combined for the sake of the strategy - this category encompasses functional urban areas, **metropolitan areas**, twin cities and city networks)

Territorial focus will be monitored together with the delivery mechanisms





# Territorial tools in 2021-2027

Support from the Funds to be provided for integrated territorial and local development in forms of:

- **Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI):** Necessary when territorial strategy receives funding from multiple priorities or even programmes, funds or policy objectives
- **Community-led Local Development (CLLD):** Specific delivery method to enhance the participatory approach
- **Other territorial tool:** recognises nationally developed tools for territorial strategies

# European Urban Initiative (EUI) of the post-2020 Cohesion Policy

## Objectives

- ❖ Strengthen integrated and participatory approach to sustainable urban development
- ❖ Provide stronger link to EU policies, in particular to Cohesion Policy

**Overall ambition:** address fragmentation and wealth of support & tools offered to cities under Cohesion Policy

## Beneficiaries

**All EU urban areas;** shall support Urban Agenda for the EU; upon request of Member States, support for inter-governmental cooperation on urban matters

## Strands of activities

### A. Support of Innovative Actions

### B. Support of Capacity and Knowledge Building, Territorial Impact Assessments, Policy Development and Communication

**ERDF budget allocation: EUR 400 million**

# URBACT IV under European Territorial Cooperation Regulation

- Exchange of experiences, innovative approaches and capacity building in relation to the identification, transfer and capitalisation of **urban good practices** on integrated and sustainable urban development, taking into account the **linkages between urban and rural areas**
- Supporting sustainable urban development and complementing the EUI
- Operations have to involve **actors from at least three participating countries**, at least **two** of which have to be **beneficiaries from Member States**

# Twin Transitions: Green and Digital

Each recovery and resilience plan will have to include

a minimum of



a minimum of



The Commission will assess national plans against these targets.

National governments must consult all stakeholders in line with the respective national legal framework, and describe in their Recovery and Resilience Plans how the inputs of the stakeholders are reflected in the plans



# New Leipzig Charter: The transformative power of European Cities

## Five key principles of good urban governance

- 1 Urban policy for the common good
- 2 Integrated approach
- 3 Participation and co-creation
- 4 Multi-level governance
- 5 Place-based approach

## To apply to the three dimensions of EU cities:

1. Just
  2. Green
  3. Productive
- + Digitalisation (cross-cutting)

## and at their three spatial levels:

1. Neighbourhood
2. Local Authority
3. Functional Area

**Place-based approach:** ...”Appropriate formal and informal instruments should cover all spatial levels, from neighbourhoods to local authorities and wider functional areas including the metropolitan level.”...

## Achieved by empowering cities to transform through:

1. Strengthened urban governance;
2. Adequate policies and fundings.

# In conclusion

- The EU needs strong metropolitan areas that have an efficient governance, that are active in spatial planning and that are effective in establishing collaboration processes among multiple actors
- Metropolitan areas have and will continue to have access to Cohesion Policy support in the post-2020 period

# Thank you!



© European Union 2021

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.