



European Union

The International Urban Cooperation (IUC) Programme

(for sustainable urban development)

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I. Sustainable urban development: a global priority

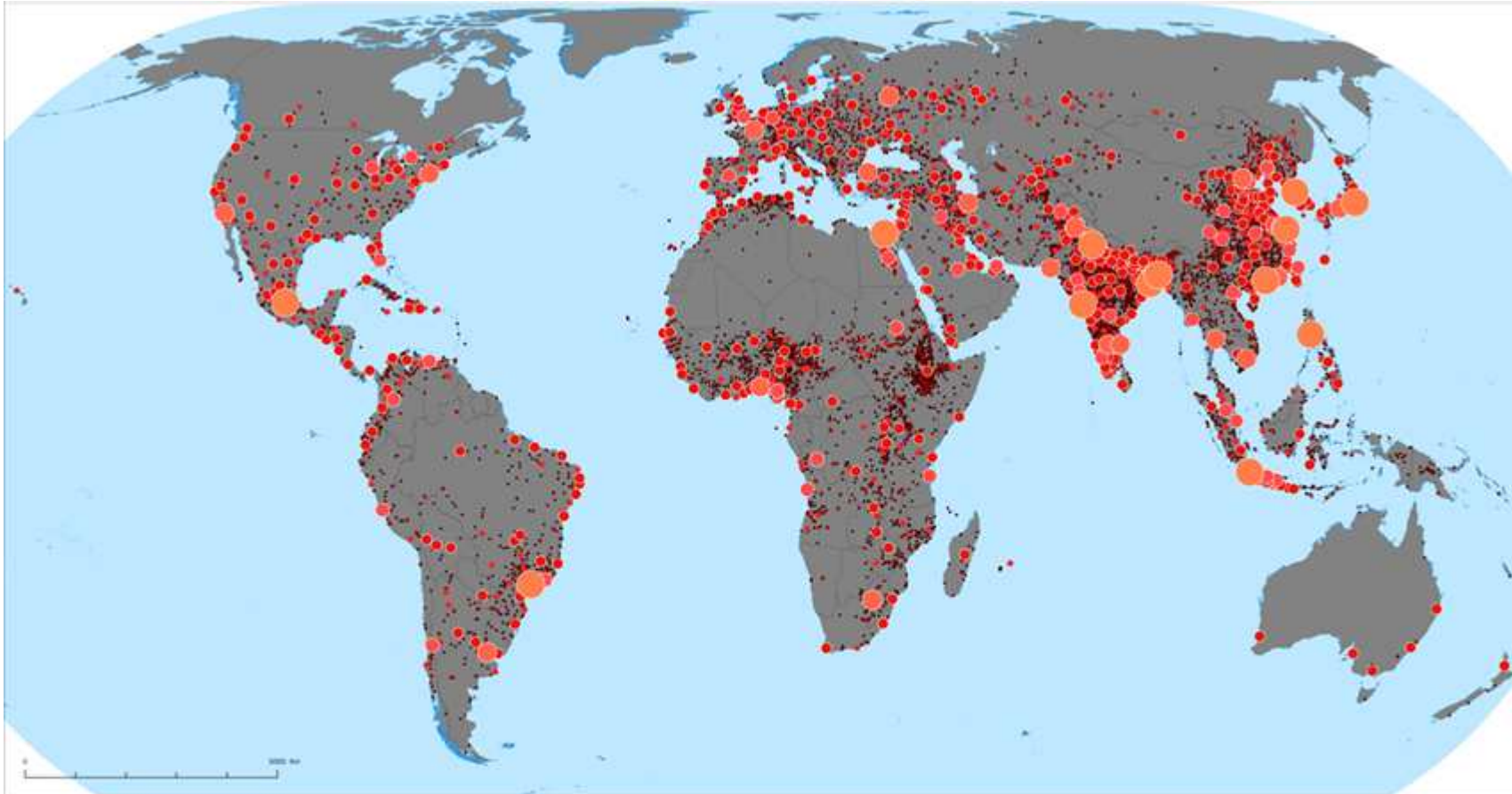
Urbanisation: Risks and Opportunities

Risks:

- ✓ *Urban population expected to double from 2.6 billion (2010) to 5.2 billion in 2050*
- ✓ *Environmental and social problems, safety, etc.*

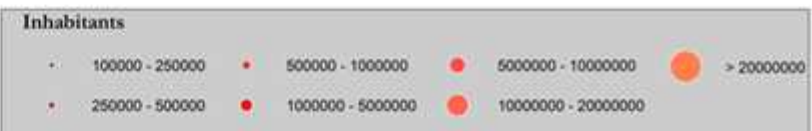
Opportunities:

- ✓ *Cities = engines of growth, social and cultural development*
- ✓ *Our future = future of our cities*



Urban Centres in the world by population size, 2015

Source : JRC (GHS - POP Global Settlement Model)



II. Antecedents to the IUC: World Cities I, 2015-2016 and URBELAC I-III



European
Commission

**Letter of intent on an urban policy dialogue between the
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission
and the City Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism of Japan**

The European Union and Japan face unprecedented economic and social challenges such as an ageing and declining population, budgetary constraints, intense international competition, global warming and the related need to address question of energy mix and energy supply.

In addressing the challenges, the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission and the City Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan hereby decide to establish a dialogue on the territorial implications, especially with regard to urban development and urban policy. The dialogue will promote greater knowledge and mutual understanding through exchanges of information and a sharing of experiences on urban policy. It will establish the communication channels necessary for a strong policy dialogue in this field.

The dialogue will address exchange of information and good practices, *inter alia*, on:

- Regional development and renovation: against a background of an ageing and declining population and intense international competition, both sides will discuss themes such as urban structures that are able to adapt to change in the socio-economic situation over the medium- to long-term period.
- Environmentally sensitive urban development and the challenge of global warming: concepts and practices for the development of low-carbon cities, such as alternative energy sources, transport modal shift and incentives to reduce CO2 emissions.

Both sides consider that activities on the above topics should not be carried out independently but in an integrated way to achieve a coordinated and more effective discussion on sustainable urban policy.

The dialogue will be open and flexible so that it can be adapted to new priorities; the topics and structure of the dialogue will be reviewed every 4 years. Both sides will ensure that suitable organisational arrangements are put in place for the pursuit of the dialogue including the nomination of senior officials as co-chairpersons of the dialogue and will establish contact points both in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy and the City Bureau. The working language will be English; it is acknowledged that Japanese side will need sufficient time to prepare communications in English.

Actions organised under the dialogue will be arranged jointly and on the basis of mutual consent. Both sides will organize a meeting every year. The venue of the meeting will alternate between Japan and the European Union, unless otherwise jointly decided. Other partners, including those from academia, businesses and cities from each side can be invited to participate in the dialogue as appropriate. Both sides will bear the cost of the participation of their own delegation in the meetings and the costs of organizing meetings held in their respective venues.

This Letter of Intent does not entail any legally binding effects in respect of either side.

Walter Deffaa
Director-General for Regional and Urban
Policy of the European Commission

Kisaburo ISHII
Director-General City Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport
and Tourism of Japan





EU policy dialogue agreements: some examples

EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (under negotiation, urban article below provisionally closed):

"The Parties shall enhance the exchange of experience and good practice in the area of urban development policies. The Parties shall encourage, where appropriate and on the basis of mutual consent, cooperation on sustainable and integrated urban policies to tackle common challenges as ageing population and global warming".



World Cities

EU – Third Countries Cooperation on
Urban and Regional Development



A Project of the European Union
Managed by the European Commission (DG REGIO)



CITIES

For more detailed information,

Please visit the project's website: www.world-cities.eu

and DG REGIO's Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/



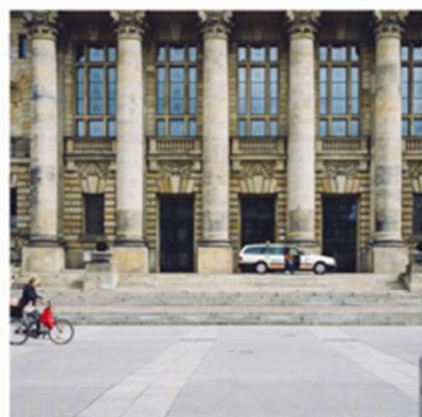
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← | japan.world-cities.eu



Leipzig, Germany



Burgas, Bulgaria



Växjö, Sweden



Toyama



Shimokawa



Kumamoto



Kitakyushu



Riga, Latvia



European
Commission

World Cities: EU-Japan urban policy cooperation



World Cities EU-Japan

- Four pairing schemes between EU and Japan
 - ✓ Toyama – Burgas (BG)
 - ✓ Kumamoto – Leipzig (DE)
 - ✓ Shimokawa – Växjö (SE)
 - ✓ Kitakyushu – Riga (LV)
- EU mission to Japan (August-Sept 2015)
- Japan mission to EU (November 2015)
- 18-19 April 2016: Closing plenary meeting of EU-Japan World Cities Programme



World Cities

*EU – Japan Municipal Dialogue on
Urban Policy*

Pilot Projects Burgas – Toyama

➤ **Issue 1: Urban transport**

- Burgas advised by Toyama on intelligent transport systems, integrating ticketing and construction of segregated railways in densely urbanized areas.
- Toyama cooperated with Burgas' on the high level of citizen satisfaction with public transport, and exchanging information on methods to assess on impacts to inform policy

➤ **Issue 2: Ageing population**

- Both cities provide high quality, innovative social services especially for the elderly population and exchanged ideas and lessons on services and programmes to support an active lifestyle for the elderly

Pilot Projects Leipzig - Kumamoto

- **Issue 1: Tram station design and urban renewal**
 - Inspired by the design in Leipzig, Kumamoto planned to implement a tram pilot project focusing on increased safety for commuters including senior citizens
 - Kumamoto introduced street improvements based on similar street revitalisation projects in Leipzig
- **Issue 2: Awareness Raising among various stakeholders**
 - Public lectures from experts from Leipzig to increase the capacity of city officials and academia in Kumamoto were undertaken
 - An information dissemination centre in Kumamoto for urban mobility was planned
- **Issue 3: A continued partnership**
 - Both cities signed a Friendship Treaty on Urban Transport to continue partnership

Pilot Projects Riga - Kitakyushu

➤ **Issue 1: Renewable energy**

- Riga was inspired by, and will be helped to replicate, a smart solar panel park, as seen in Kitakyushu

➤ **Issue 2: Public transportation**

- Kitakyushu intended to implement a subsidised fare scheme for public transport users, based on Riga Satiksme scheme
- Kitakyushu was interested in promoting transport e-cards among citizens, and the use of the card beyond transport
- Exchanges were undertaken on hydrogen buses and technology

➤ **Issue 3: Waste management**

- Partnership with Eko Getlini, sustainable waste management company

Pilot Projects Växjö - Shimokawa

➤ **Issue 1: Ageing society**

- Växjö intended to integrate timber construction techniques and technology into housing plans
- Shimokawa decided to use the Växjö model for an integrated, municipal collective housing strategy

➤ **Issue 2: EcoBudget**

- Shimokawa intended to replicate Växjö's EcoBudget, a method to implement and finance sustainable projects and programmes and to monitor the impacts of implementing these initiatives

➤ **Issue 3: Environmental management**

- Shimokawa was interested in Växjö's environmental management plan and intended to implement similar initiatives

III. The International Urban Cooperation Programme: city-to-city cooperation component



IUC: Cooperation between EU cities and cities in 5 continents/zones

- **Latin America (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Colombia)**
- **North America (Mexico, United States, Canada)**
- **China**
- **India**
- **Japan**

IUC objectives and method

- improving the capacity of selected cities in the EU and in the 5 continents/zones to design, implement and manage sustainable urban practices in an integrated and participative way
- cooperating through the pairing of cities from each side in a multi-stakeholder process. Representatives from the business sector are important partners for activities under the components on sustainable urban development
- developing Local Action Plans. LAPs include specific activities and economically viable pilot projects to be implemented in the short term to ensure results and open up market opportunities. The local action plans will be a driver of knowledge exchange with other cities that have addressed similar challenges and a concrete output of the cities' participation in the project.

IUC objectives and method

- supported by a Programme Support Unit in Brussels (the 'sixth contract' under IUC)
- using the methodology of the EU's own "URBACT" network as technical assistance for local action planning
- creating a genuine IUC 'community' of cities supported by an electronic platform for exchange of experience, thematic clustering, and knowledge management and capitalisation
- the programme is intended to reach out to International Financial Institutions to link city decision-makers with potential sources of investment funds, thereby addressing a potential obstacle to progress on urban development.

IV. Relationship between the EU's urban development policies and programmes and the implementation of IUC (city selection; priority actions)

1. The sustainable urban development priority in EU investment for 2014-2020

FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES

I. An integrated approach, with long-term planning and more decentralization: urban areas develop and implement integrated, sustainable urban development strategies cutting through traditional sectoral, territorial and governance boundaries

II. A focus on key priorities:

- Low-carbon strategies for urban areas
- Improving the urban environment, including the regeneration of brownfield sites and the reduction of air pollution
- Promoting sustainable urban mobility
- Promoting social inclusion through the physical and economic regeneration of deprived urban areas
- Urban innovation actions (experimental projects)

1. The sustainable urban development priority in EU investment for 2014-2020

III. Empowerment of city authorities

Urban areas will select the projects (drawing up and applying selection criteria) taking responsibility in the implementation of the OP. The MA must designate them as IB by way of written arrangements on the delegated tasks.

IV. Dedicated resources

At least 5% of the national ERDF allocation must be allocated to SUD, implemented using any of the following 3 methods:

- A specific priority axis of an OP dedicated to SUD
- A whole operational programme dedicated to SUD
- Integrated territorial investment (ITI) tool: "pick-and-mix" from different priority axis and programmes to create an integrated strategy for SUD

2. The new 12-point Urban Agenda of the EU (2016)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Inclusion of refugees and migrants | 7 Climate adaptation |
| 2 Air quality | 8 Energy transition |
| 3 Urban poverty | 9 Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions |
| 4 Housing | 10 Urban mobility |
| 5 Circular economy | 11 Digital transition |
| 6 Jobs and skills | 12 Innovative and responsible public procurement |

3. The new Urban Agenda at global level (UN Habitat 3, 2016)

- Common inspiration in UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, and in particular Goal 11, to “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.
- SDG 11 was the basis for the Third Habitat conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). 170 countries unanimously adopted the New Urban Agenda on 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.
- Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) and the global New Urban Agenda (NUA) are overlapping. The twelve priority themes of the Urban Agenda for the EU are also addressed in the New Urban Agenda. **For EU, the UAEU is also a delivery mechanism for NUA in Europe.**

3. The new Urban Agenda at global level (UN Habitat 3, 2016)

- NUA devotes more attention to urban governance: widely-drawn partnerships involving sectors, knowledge partners and civil society; subsidiarity and proportionality; multilevel governance and decentralisation, integration of sectoral policies, inclusiveness and equity, etc.
- But note that these principles are explicit in the rules governing the EU system of regional and urban programme implementation, in any event.

3. The new Urban Agenda at global level (UN Habitat 3, 2016): the European Union in Quito

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, made 3 voluntary commitments:

- Delivering the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- Developing a global, harmonised definition of cities (people-based definition of cities with OECD and WB);
- **Fostering the International Urban Cooperation Programme in Asia and Americas and the World Cities projects.**

This third commitment means that the IUC is founded on the UAEU and NUA

Based on the EU and global priorities (including SDGs and the Paris Agreement): 12 recommended cooperation themes and 'topical clusters' in the IUC

Air quality	Energy efficiency (e.g. built environment, district energy)
Social inclusion and gender equality	Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy
Urban mobility	Water and sanitation

IUC: Recommended cooperation themes and 'topical clusters' (contd)

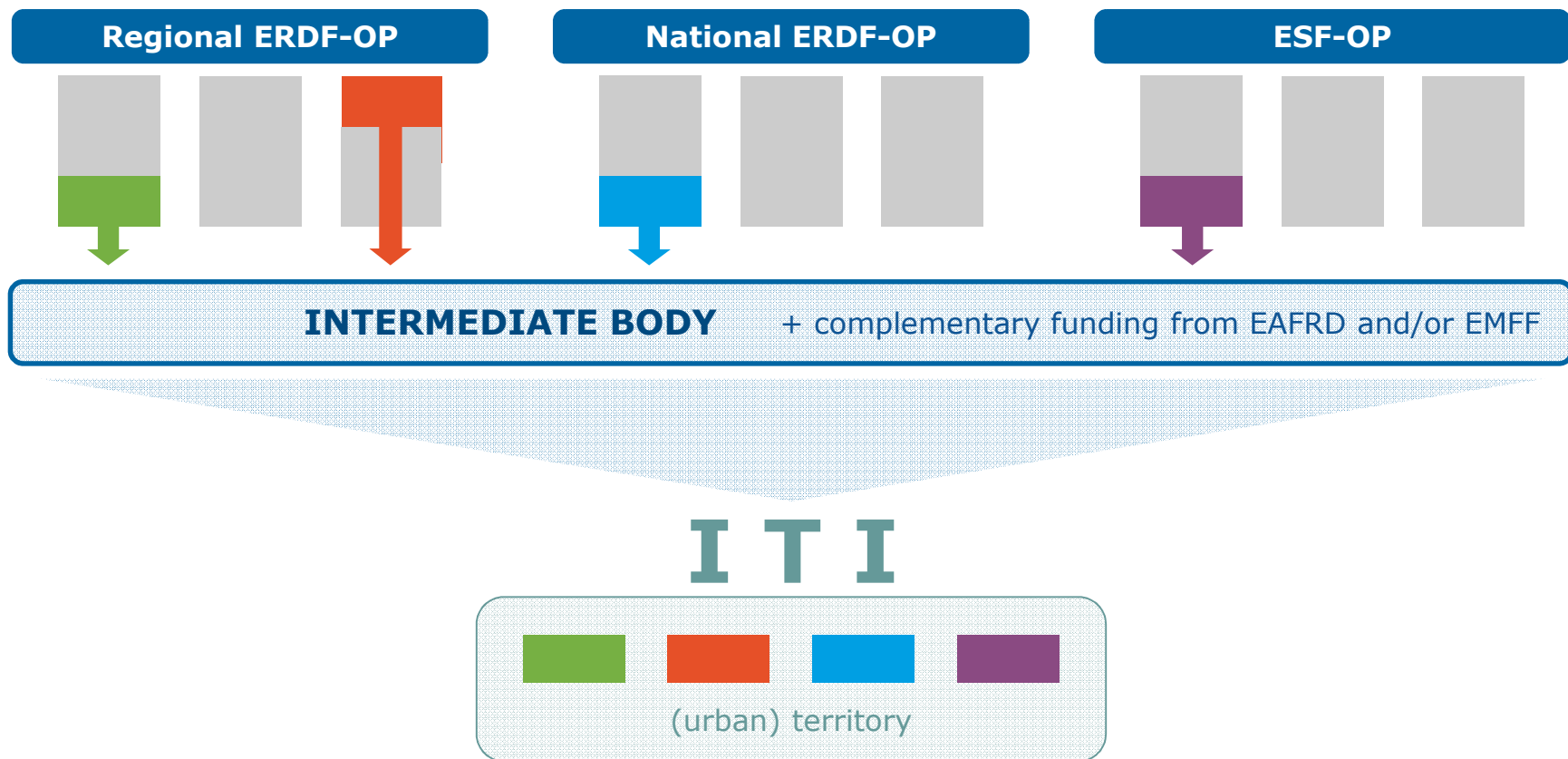
Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions	Food security and sustainable production/consumption
Safe, inclusive and sustainable urban development	Climate mitigation
Regional / Urban Innovation and Competitiveness (e.g. green industry)	Integrated urban-rural development

On EU side: encouragement for cities participating in different EU initiatives such as the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Programmes

Early results are encouraging:

- Half of EU MS spend much more than 5% of ERDF on SUD (up to 20% in the case of Bulgaria)
- Between 500-700 cities in the EU expected to have SUD strategies: about half using the ITI method
- A huge new fund of urban development policy experience in widely diverse situations!! Much evaluation work to be done in the coming years

On EU side: encouragement for cities participating in different EU initiatives such as 'Integrated Territorial Investment' programmes...





...and other relevant initiatives for participating EU cities such as

Innovative actions for sustainable urban development (from 2015)

- €0.37 bln. for 7 years to promote innovative and experimental projects. For urban area with at least 50.000 inhabitants involved.
- Calls for interest on annual basis. First call covers themes of jobs and skills; energy transition ; inclusion of migrants and refugees ; urban poverty. 378 proposals received

Urban development network

- Networking between European Commission and the cities implementing integrated urban development and innovative actions.
- Managed by the European Commission

URBACT continues (URBACT III)

- Programme within European Territorial Cooperation programme: all cities can apply.

Where can I obtain more information?

www.ec.europa.eu/info/region

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/international/index_en.cfm

Note: a dedicated IUC website is in preparation



Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international



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