

**“TOWARDS A EUROPEAN URBAN AGENDA”.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report**  
**on the Follow up of the Toledo Declaration**  
**and other common actions.**

presented and agreed on at the  
**Budapest DG Meeting**  
(2011 05 02)

## Introduction:

The Toledo Declaration included some strategic statements to address the current urban challenges in European cities and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy by achieving a smarter, more sustainable and socially inclusive urban development.

In Part A of the Declaration, the Ministers agreed in particular on:

- The suitability of the integrated approach in urban development policies and the need for a common understanding of it.
- The importance of integrated urban regeneration and its strategic potential for a smarter, more sustainable and socially inclusive urban development in Europe.

The Ministers expressed their commitment to promote this two strategic statements both at European level and at national level, within the framework of their respective competencies, and when relevant given the context of each Member State

Part B of the Declaration was about supporting the continuation of the Marseille process and the implementation of the European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC).

Part C of the Declaration was about the need to strengthen intergovernmental coordination between successive Presidencies and cooperation with the European Commission and other EU institutions and organizations with the aim of consolidating and shaping a joint working programme or 'European Urban Agenda', which will have to mature gradually before taking its final shape.

As a preliminary outline of this joint work programme, the Ministers undertook to encourage and support the following joint actions, summarized below:

### Actions Checklist:

ACTION. 1.	ACTION.1. SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MARSEILLE PROCESS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES (RFSC).
ACTION. 2.	ACTION 2. STRENGTHENING THE URBAN DIMENSION IN COHESION POLICY.
ACTION. 3	ACTION 3. SUPPORTING A GREATER COHERENCE BETWEEN TERRITORIAL AND URBAN ISSUES AND AGENDAS AND FOSTERING THE URBAN DIMENSION IN THE CONTEXT OF TERRITORIAL COHESION
ACTION. 4	ACTION 4. CONTINUING TO PROMOTE RESEARCH, COMPARATIVE STUDIES AND STATISTICS, EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ON URBAN TOPICS, AND STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF THEM ALL.
ACTION. 5	ACTION 5. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES BY RE-ENFORCING AND DEVELOPING INSTRUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE LEIPZIG CHARTER AT ALL LEVELS.
ACTION. 6	ACTION 6. CONSIDERING THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES THAT EUROPEAN CITIES WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES OPEN DISCUSSION.

This document is a follow up of these actions, up to the date of May 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2011.

## Annex: Actions Follow Up in detail.

Action Name:

### ACTION 1. SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MARSEILLE PROCESS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES (RFSC).

**TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENTS:**

*“Following the Marseille Statement on the need to continue supporting sustainable urban development and the integrated approach, and to implement the principles of the Leipzig Charter at local level, a prototype of a common European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) has been established in 2009-2010 by a high level working group (MS/I WG) led by France.*

*In this perspective, the Ministers:*

- *thanked all participants involved, and especially France, for their contribution and commitment in the process ,*
- *welcomed and acknowledged the work done to date, recognising the added value of the RFSC as an operational tool for cities, and more particularly medium-sized and small towns, helping them on a voluntary basis to develop better integrated sustainable urban development strategies, policies and projects,*
- *reaffirmed, in line with the Marseille Statement, that this RFSC is based on a collective and open process, and is to be an overarching, adaptable, open and non-binding tool for cities, based on the principle of subsidiarity,*

*Considering that the prototype presented at the Toledo Informal Ministerial Meeting has now to be further developed and tested in a new phase, the Ministers:*

- *reasserted their commitment to continue the process for the upcoming second phase, which is now foreseen for having the prototype tested by a set of selected pilot cities, and to improve and finalise the RFSC on the basis of this text and as described in the document of Conclusions of the MS/I working group, proposing that the complete and fully operational final tool would be delivered at the end of 2011 (under the Polish Presidency)*
- *underlined the need for a shared support by the Members States and the European Commission and asked the European Commission to take a significant role in this process, co-leading the testing phase together with France and other volunteering countries, including the respective EU Council Presidencies,*
- *affirmed their commitment, within the framework of their competencies and possibilities, to carry on and reinforce the process at national level, through the continuation of the existing National Support Groups or the voluntary launching of new ones; to make an appropriate effort to disseminate, promote and use the European Reference Framework in their national context; and to translate the RFSC prototype and/or the final tool into their national language in order to make it accessible and to allow for broad participation across cities , and*
- *considered that a broad participation and involvement of European towns and cities is key for the success of the development and future implementation of this tool, and therefore, proposed, on a voluntary basis, a number of test cities for the testing phase, and to facilitate the testing by these cities in the national context as well as communication at European level if necessary;*

*Taking into account all these recommendations, the Ministers:*

- *encouraged the upcoming Presidencies to participate in the follow-up stage of the process;*
- *invited local authorities and other bodies, and more particularly the professional bodies, private sector bodies, NGOs, etc. to be active participants in the process;*
- *encouraged all the stakeholders at European, national, regional and local levels, to take this opportunity and support the dissemination of this tool;*
- *stressed the potential contribution of the RFSC to good governance, and to a European multi-level wide dialogue on the basis of a common format and understanding; and*
- *underlined its high added value in the perspective of a new European Urban Agenda and the Europe 2020 objectives”. (Toledo Declaration, pages V-VI)*

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

- a. Continue the Marseille process on a second phase, in order to develop, improve and finalise the RFSC tool.
- b. Launch a testing phase of the RFSC tool, involving a broad number of European cities, with the aim of improving the RFSC prototype (V1) and contribute to the development of the final RFSC tool (V2).
- c. Continue and reinforce the process at national level in each Member State, through the continuation of the existing National Support Groups or the voluntary launching of new ones; dissemination and promotion of the

use of the RFSC; translation of prototype and/or final tool.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:**

- **Final development of the RFSC tool (V2):**

Development of the tool by the Second Phase of the MS/I WG, with the technical assistance of CERTU and the feedback from the LC FACIL and from the remarks coming from the 66 European Cities involved in the Testing Phase.

- **Testing Phase:**

Validation of the selection of 66 European cities by the Namur UDG meeting (October 14, 2010) .

Launching Event of the Testing Phase. Brussels. March, 15-16, 2011

Testing Phase conducted by a joint leadership of France, the Council Presidency, CEMR and the Commission (DG REGIO) with the technical assistance of NICIS Institute (DG Contractor).

- **Political decisions:**

Coordination between project development and validation at UDG: RFSC Steering Committee.

Overall supervision and validation of steps undertaken: UDG (as the RFSC Monitoring Committee).

Final approval of the tool at the Poznan Informal Ministerial meeting (November 24-25, 2011) or at a DG meeting (first semester 2012) during the Danish Presidency.

- **Promotion and dissemination at national level:**

Pre-selection of cities for the testing phase: deadline October 4, 2010.

Translation of the final tool, expected by the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012.

NSG meetings and other actions to be defined depending on each Member State.

**ACTORS INVOLVED:**

See below:

**TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:**

- **Final development of the RFSC tool:**

Task responsible: France (with the technical assistance of CERTU).

Actors involved:

RFSC Management Team (European Commission, France, Acting EU Council Presidency, CEMR, CERTU).

Members of the Second Phase of the MS/I WG (Member States and Institutions Working Group).

LC FACIL Group of Cities (until May 2011).

- **Testing Phase:**

Task responsible: Joint leadership of France, the Council Presidency, CEMR and the Commission (DG REGIO).

Actors involved:

Group of 66 European Cities approved at the Namur UDG (October 14, 2010).

LC FACIL Group of Cities. (until May 2011).

Technical Support: NICIS Institute as DG REGIO Contractor.

External Experts Panel.

- **Political decisions:**

Coordination between project development and validation at UDG: RFSC Steering Committee (Acting Trio of EU Council Presidencies + 2 upcoming, European Commission (DG Regio), CEMR, Secretary General of URBACT).

Overall supervision and validation of steps undertaken: UDG (RFSC Monitoring Committee).

- **Promotion and dissemination at national level:**

National Support Groups. To be launched and defined by each MS on a voluntary basis.

**IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:**

- **Development of the RFSC tool (from V0 to V1):**

The first development phase previous to the Launching Event (July 2010 / March 2011) was dedicated to integrate the comments of LCFACIL cities and the MS/I WG on usability as well as on the content of the tool and complete the missing parts in the prototype presented at Toledo (V0). This process resulted in a consolidated version (V1) to be used in the tests with the 66 European cities. On a voluntary basis, some MS will translate this V1 into their national language to help cities on the testing.

3 MS/I WG meetings were held: Brussels, September 28-29, 2010. Brussels, December 8-9, 2010. Paris, February 24, 2011.

- **Selection of 66 European Cities to participate in the Testing Phase.**

The process for the selection of the candidate cities started with the mobilization of MS, followed by national calls for proposals within each MS. The cities were preselected by a national panel and the final decision of the selection was taken at the Namur UDG (October 14, 2010).

- **Selection of Contractor for technical support and assistance for the Testing Phase.**

The European Commission (DG Regio) launched on July 17, 2010 a call for tender to find a contractor responsible for organizing and running the Testing Phase, including tasks like proposing the general organization, preparing the testing material, support the test cities and towns and processing the outputs of the test. NICIS Institute was selected.

- **Presentation and approval of the roadmap and content of the Testing Phase.**

The roadmap of this phase and the selection of cities was presented at the Liège Conference (December 2, 2010), and the Ghent Directors-General meeting ( December 14, 2010).

- **Launching of the Testing Phase:**

The Launching Event of the testing phase was held in Brussels March 17, 2011, with the participation of Commissioner Mr. Hahn and representatives from the 66 selected cities , from the 27 MS and other European Institutions.

**ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:**

- **"Implementing the Leipzig Charter".** Final Conference of the URBACT LC-Facil group.

Leipzig, May 10-11, 2011.

- **Testing Phase** (17 March - September 2011)

This task will consist of a test with 66 cities representing different cities and towns in Europe on the content and uses the framework. The testing period will last from mid March to September 2011 ( but cities would be free to do the test also in a shorter period of time).

In addition to the content of the RFSC (questionnaire, interactions, indicators) and detailed functionalities (diagnostic tools, support in the formalization of a strategy, evaluation and monitoring), the testing will review the architecture of the RFSC tool and its functionalities. The purpose is to agree on the basic elements (set at European level) and those who are at the discretion of each user. More generally, this will also allow assessing the added value for cities of certain functions like sharing of good practices and indicators and linking sister-cities. The cities and MS feedback from the testing will be incorporated in the final version (V2) of the tool, which will be distributed to, and appropriated by, all European cities.

- **Final development of the RFSC tool (from V1 to V2):**

The final development of the RFSC tool (from V1 to V2) ) will be dedicated to enhancing the tool (expand the "indicators": completing the list taking into account the experience of cities and documentation files) and to incorporating the results of the tests conducted among European cities.

- **Presentation and approval of the Final RFSC tool (V2).**

The final approval of the tool is expected at the Poznan Informal Ministerial meeting (November 24-25, 2011) or at a DG meeting (first semester 2012) during the Danish Presidency.

- **Translation, promotion and dissemination of the RFSC final tool at European and national level.**

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:**

Reference documents:

- *Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities.* Available at: [http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download\\_docs/Mai/0524-AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta.pdf](http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Mai/0524-AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta.pdf)
- *"Marseille Final Statement"* adopted at the Informal Ministerial Meeting of Ministers responsible for urban development on 25 November 2008. Available at: [http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/IMG/pdf/Final\\_statement\\_EN\\_cle5df3a3-1.pdf](http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/IMG/pdf/Final_statement_EN_cle5df3a3-1.pdf)
- DG REGIO Call for Tender n° 2010.CE.16.0.AT.053 – Testing the reference framework for sustainable cities (RFSC): [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/tender/tender\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/tender/tender_en.htm)

Links:

- European Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC) website: <http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/>
- Tool Prototype (V1): [http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/article.php3?id\\_article=324](http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/article.php3?id_article=324)
- Lc-Facil working group website: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/disadvantaged-neighbourhoods/lc Facil/homepage/>

Results and Conclusions from the First Phase of the RFSC:

- Process History - First steps 2009 – 2010: [http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/rubrique.php3?id\\_rubrique=136](http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=136)
- Final report of conclusion of the MS/I working group on the period January 2009 - June 2010. Available at: [http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/IMG/pdf/RAPPORT\\_CONCLUSION\\_MSI\\_cle7143c8.pdf](http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu/IMG/pdf/RAPPORT_CONCLUSION_MSI_cle7143c8.pdf)

<p>Action Name:  <b>ACTION 2. STRENGTHENING THE URBAN DIMENSION IN COHESION POLICY.</b></p>
<p>TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENT:  <i>"The Ministers agreed on their wish to collaborate with the European Commission in the debate on the consideration of and the elaboration for a strengthened framework for the urban dimension in Cohesion Policy in the next programming period.</i></p> <p><i>The Ministers agreed that the common basis of the new framework of the urban dimension in Cohesion Policy should be the following principles: the involvement of local authorities and the cities in the design and implementation of the Operational Programmes, a stronger emphasis on the integrated approach and sustainable urban development, a stronger focus on territorial and social cohesion, and a simplified delivery system". (Toledo Declaration, page VI-VII)</i></p>
<p>DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:  Strengthening the Urban Dimension in Cohesion Policy.</p>
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public debates (Seminars, workshops, etc), and studies, reports, etc. on the future the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy.</li> <li>• Debate on the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy during the UDG and DG meetings starting from the Namur UDG meeting (October 14, 2010).</li> <li>• Prepare and support a common position paper from the urban development Directors General to the consultation on the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohesion Report, and to the discussion on the process on the urban dimension in the future cohesion policy.</li> <li>• Debate on the urban dimension at the Ministerial Meeting (Regional Policy, Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development): Poznan. November 24-25, 2011.</li> </ul>
<p>ACTORS INVOLVED:  European Commission (DG REGIO).  COCOF: TCUM group.  UDG.  Working Group "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy", led by the Polish Presidency.</p>
<p>TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:  Responsible: Acting EU Council Presidency and Poland (leader of the working group).  Working Group "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy" members. The structure is flexible and open to all UDG members. Participants in the first WG meeting were: Poland, Finland, Slovakia, Belgium, UK, Germany, Latvia, Denmark, Hungary, France, Czech Republic, Norway, DG Regio, CoR, URBACT, EIB, EUKN, EFAP.</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference "<i>More urban more cohesion. The added value of the urban dimension in the cohesion policy</i>". Eurocities and Brussels Capital Region. (Belgian Presidency). September 14, 2010. Press release: <a href="http://www.eurocities.eu/include/lib/sql_document_card.php?id=10351">http://www.eurocities.eu/include/lib/sql_document_card.php?id=10351</a>. Conference Programme: <a href="http://www.eutrio.be/more-urban-more-cohesion-added-value-urban-dimension-cohesion-policy">http://www.eutrio.be/more-urban-more-cohesion-added-value-urban-dimension-cohesion-policy</a></li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> WG "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy" meeting: Warsaw, January 19, 2011.</li> <li>• March 2011: Questionnaire sent to MS on "<i>Experience in the implementation of urban actions</i>".</li> <li>• <a href="#">High Level Meeting on the Future of Cohesion Policy</a> . March 31, 2011 - April 01, 2011, Budapest (Hungary)</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> WG "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy" meeting: Warsaw: April 7, 2011. "<i>Thematic scope of the urban dimension of the Cohesion Policy, presenting good practices from different MS</i>".</li> </ul>
<p>ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> WG "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy" meeting: Warsaw: May 10, 2011. "<i>Instruments for cities</i>".</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> WG "on the Urban Dimension in the future Cohesion Policy" meeting: Warsaw: June 10, 2011. "<i>Programming Cohesion Policy</i>".</li> </ul>

- UDG-NTCCP: Warsaw, July 12, 2011.
- UDG-NTCCP: Warsaw. September 26-27, 2011.
- DG Meeting (Regional Policy, Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development): Warsaw. November 3-4, 2011.
- Ministerial Meeting (Regional Policy, Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development): Poznan. November 24-25, 2011.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:

Reference documents:

- *"Issues paper on the urban dimension of the future Cohesion Policy-contribution to Urban Development Group Meeting 14 October 2010"*. Prepared Presented by Poland at the Namur UDG meeting.
- *"Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion"*.

Link to website: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/index_en.cfm)

- *"Position of the Directors General for Urban Development on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank: Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: the future of cohesion policy COM(2010) 642/3"*.

(This Position was supported by the Directors General for Urban Development from all EU 27 MS, except for Sweden which instead refers to the Swedish Government's official response to the report).

Available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/consultation/5cr/pdf/answers/other/directors\\_general\\_for\\_urban\\_devpt\\_2011\\_01\\_31.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/5cr/pdf/answers/other/directors_general_for_urban_devpt_2011_01_31.pdf)

<p>Action Name:</p> <p><b>ACTION 3. SUPPORTING A GREATER COHERENCE BETWEEN TERRITORIAL AND URBAN ISSUES AND AGENDAS AND FOSTERING THE URBAN DIMENSION IN THE CONTEXT OF TERRITORIAL COHESION</b></p>
<p>TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENT:</p> <p><i>"[...] they agreed to explore the possibility of establishing greater coordination between territorial and urban issues and agendas, working in a coordinated way on this issue in the process of reviewing the European Territorial Agenda that is expected to be approved during the Hungarian presidency in the first half of 2011".</i> (Toledo Declaration, page VII)</p>
<p>DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>Supporting a greater coherence between territorial and urban issues and agendas and fostering the urban dimension in the context of territorial cohesion.</p>
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the revision process of the Territorial Agenda (expected to be approved on the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Territorial Cohesion, Gödöllő, Hungary, May 19, 2011), in order to ensure a greater coherence between territorial and urban issues and to build on possible synergies.</li> <li>• Explore the possibilities to strengthen NTCCP and UDG coordination notably through joint meetings of the NTCCP core group and the UDG contact group (Acting Trio+1+EU Commission).</li> <li>• Develop a common dissemination website as a data warehouse for the results of the EU Presidencies in urban development (UDG) and territorial cohesion (NTCCP).</li> </ul>
<p>ACTORS INVOLVED:</p> <p>NTCCP and UDG, NTCCP core group and UDG contact group, DG Urban Development and DG Territorial Agenda,</p>
<p>TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for exploring the possibilities to strengthen coordination with NTCCP: Walloon Region (Belgian Presidency).</li> <li>• Responsible for the coordination of the revision process of the Territorial Agenda: Hungarian Presidency</li> <li>• NTCCP core group and UDG contact group (Acting Trio+Poland+EU Commission).</li> </ul>
<p>IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate on the different possibilities to strengthen coordination with the NTCCP at the Namur UDG (October 14, 2010).</li> <li>• Agreement on future steps for supporting a greater coherence between territorial and urban issues at the meetings of the Directors General responsible for territorial cohesion (Namur, November 30, 2010) and of the Directors General responsible for urban development (Ghent, December 14, 2010): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Directors General support a smooth and formal cooperation between the Territorial and the Urban Agendas, welcome the bridge built between the NTCCP Core Group and the UDG Contact Group, and ask for regular reports on their joint activities.</li> <li>2) Consultation (UDG) and information (Urban Development DG meeting – due to the agenda) of the Urban actors before its adoption are important to increase the weight of the new TA</li> <li>3) Consultation of the Territorial actors (NTCCP and DG TA meeting) before its adoption are important to increase the weight of the new Urban Agenda</li> <li>4) A common communication tool would be a good way to share information between the UDG and NTCCP groups. This point could be further explored in view of the first joint NTCCP core group and UDG contact group meeting in Budapest (09 February 2010, between the NTCCP meeting of 09 February 2010 and the UDG meeting of 10 and 11 February 2010) .</li> </ol> </li> <li>• First NTCCP core group-UDG contact group meeting. Budapest on February 2, 2011.</li> <li>• Consultation on the Territorial Agenda for UDG members was opened, and their comments included in the revision process.</li> <li>• Directors General responsible for territorial cohesion meeting. Budapest, March 29-30, 2011.</li> </ul>
<p>ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors General responsible for urban development meeting. Budapest, May 02, 2011.</li> </ul>



- Final approval of the *Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020: "Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions"*. Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Territorial Cohesion, Gödöllő, Hungary, May 19, 2011.
- Common NTCCP and UDG meetings are foreseen by the Polish Presidency.  
UDG-NTCCP: Warsaw, July 12, 2011.  
UDG-NTCCP: Warsaw. September 26-27, 2011.
- Development of the common dissemination website (Walloon Region – Belgium).

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:

Reference Documents:

- *Territorial Agenda of the European Union: "Towards a more competitive and sustainable Europe of diverse regions"*. Approved at the Informal Ministerial Meeting held in Leipzig, 24-25 May 2007. Available at: <http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Reference%20Documents/Territorial-Agenda-of-the-European-Union-Agreed-on-25-May-2007.pdf>
- *"First Action Programme for the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union"* (Agreed on November 23, 2007, at Ponta Delgada, Azores. Portuguese Presidency. ). Available at: [http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Reference%20Documents/AP1\\_23NovembroVfinal.pdf](http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Reference%20Documents/AP1_23NovembroVfinal.pdf)
- There was an action directly related to this proposal included in the First Action Programme of the Territorial Agenda, carried out during the Slovenian Presidency (1st semester 2008) and finalised in November 2008. Action 1.1: *"Prepare and promote policy options to foster coordination between territorial and urban development in the light of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter at EU and MS levels"*. Report is available at: [http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Summary%20Documents/Act11\\_Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Summary%20Documents/Act11_Final%20Report.pdf)
- *"Territory matters to make Europe 2020 a success"*, Joint contribution by the Directors Generals of ministerial departments responsible for territorial development policy in the European Union approved in Seville, May 10, 2010. Available at: [http://www.mzopu.hr/doc/Prostorno/Tekst\\_izjave\\_EU2010.pdf](http://www.mzopu.hr/doc/Prostorno/Tekst_izjave_EU2010.pdf)

Links:

- Cooperation Platform for Territorial Cohesion (COPTA) website: <http://www.eu-territorial-agenda.eu/Pages/Default.aspx>

Action Name:  
**ACTION 4. CONTINUING TO PROMOTE RESEARCH, COMPARATIVE STUDIES AND STATISTICS, EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE ON URBAN TOPICS, AND STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF THEM ALL.**

**TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENT:**

*“The Ministers considered it to be key to continue to promote research, comparative studies and statistics on urban topics, in addition to exchanging best practices and dissemination of knowledge.*

*To do this will require coordination and driving research programmes more vigorously on a national scale and transnational projects on a European scale. In this regard, the European Commission is thanked for driving the European Research Area on urban topics by supporting urban research through the Framework Programmes for RTD in a considerable way and especially by funding the URBAN-NET network. It would be extremely useful to continue beyond 2010 on the path begun by URBAN-NET to coordinate transnational research programmes on urban topics and the intergovernmental funding of calls for transnational projects, and also extend the number of participating countries. The Ministers also asked the Commission to consider the urban dimension within the Seventh Framework Programme currently in effect, and stressed the importance to continue supporting it in the future. Finally, they also asked the Commission and national authorities involved to strengthen the analysis of the territorial dimension of urban dynamics within the ESPON Programme.*

*In the light of the recommendations from Portugal’s report presented at Leipzig on the need for stronger cooperation between knowledge providers, the Ministers took note of the progress that has been made in the cooperation between the European urban networks, and also between intergovernmental and Commission initiatives, particularly welcoming the envisaged creation of a Common Search Engine between EUKN and URBACT Programme. The Ministers also welcomed the commitment of several Member States to continue their participation in EUKN for the 2011-2015 period and valued their efforts to establish EUKN as an EGTC.*

*Finally, the Ministers stressed the need to reinforcing all these initiatives and welcomed Sweden, Spain and Belgium’s initiative to set up a working group associated with the UDG to look into the possibilities and define the strategies to foster coordination and reflection on these topics related to urban research and knowledge”.*

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The Urban Research and Knowledge “UR&K” Working Group will work on continuing to promote research, comparative studies and statistics, exchange of best practices and dissemination of knowledge on urban topics, and strengthening coordination of them all.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:**

- a. Coordinate and facilitate the flow of information between Urban Development (UD) policy making and Urban Research (UR) policy making, programming and funding.
- b. Facilitate the process of building the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of urban development, by facilitating intergovernmental coordination: joint programming and joint funding of research calls at transnational level.
- c. Influence EU key Research Programmes and dossiers in order to assure the correct allocation of urban issues and the continuity of EU funding in the future.
- d. Facilitate the flow of information from knowledge-makers to knowledge dissemination points, and the feed of knowledge dissemination points with best practices.
- e. Facilitate the flow of information between informal and applied urban research at local level and local decision making: Local-Urban (City) Knowledge Arenas.

**ACTORS INVOLVED:**

Small working group associated with the UDG (Urban Research and Knowledge “UR&K” Working Group): Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, France, DG Regio, CEMR, EUKN, URBACT, EURO CITIES.

DG Research.

Stakeholders: URBAN NET, Joint Programming Initiative “Urban Europe”, URBAN NEXUS, ESPON, etc.

**TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:**

Management Team of the "UR&K" Working Group: Belgium, Sweden, Spain.

Members of the "UR&K" Working Group: Belgium, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands, France, DG Regio, CEMR, EUKN, URBACT, EUROCITIES.

Strategic Workshop: Management Team of the "UR&K", together with URBAN NET (including NICIS).

**IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:**

- The Urban Research and Knowledge "UR&K" Working Group, associated to the UDG, was set up at the Namur UDG meeting (October 14, 2010), with the task of looking into the possibilities and defining the strategies to foster coordination and reflection on the topics related to urban research and knowledge.
- Development of a "Scoping Paper on Urban Knowledge and Research in the European Urban Agenda", defining the objectives of the working group and the actions to be carried. This Scoping Paper was presented and approved at the Ghent DG meeting (December 14, 2010).
- "Urban Knowledge & Research in the European Urban Agenda". Seminar organised by the UDG and URBAN-NET under the auspices of the EU trio Presidency (2010-2011). Brussels, March 17, 2010.

**ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Develop a common position paper of the Directors General for Urban Development on the Consultation on the "Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation".
- Send a questionnaire to UDG members regarding national programmes specifically funding urban research, national contact details of JPI Urban Europe representatives, etc.

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:**

Reference documents:

- "Scoping Paper on Urban Knowledge and Research in the European Urban Agenda". Available at: <http://www.urban-net.org/dsresource?objectid=218043>
- "Urban Knowledge & Research in the European Urban Agenda". Seminar organised by the UDG and URBAN-NET under the auspices of the EU trio Presidency (2010-2011). Brussels, March 17, 2010. Programme available at: [http://www.urban-net.org/Events\\_Meetings/Urban\\_Knowledge\\_Research\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Urban\\_Agenda](http://www.urban-net.org/Events_Meetings/Urban_Knowledge_Research_in_the_European_Urban_Agenda)
- "Green Paper From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding". COM(2011) 48. Brussels, 9.2.2011. Available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index\\_en.cfm?pg=documents](http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=documents)

Links:

- Consultation on the "Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation" Funding. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index\\_en.cfm?pg=home](http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=home)
- 7th Framework Programme: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)
- COST-TUD: [http://www.cost.esf.org/domains\\_actions/tud](http://www.cost.esf.org/domains_actions/tud)
- URBAN NET: <http://www.urban-net.org/>
- Joint Programming Initiative "Urban Europe": <http://www.era.gv.at/space/11442/directory/13047.html>
- EUKN: <http://www.eukn.org/>
- URBACT: <http://www.eukn.org/>
- ESPON: <http://www.espon.eu/>

Action Name:

**ACTION 5. PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES BY RE-ENFORCING AND DEVELOPING INSTRUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE LEIPZIG CHARTER AT ALL LEVELS.**

TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENT:

*"The Ministers reaffirmed that a multi-level policy as described in the Leipzig Charter, is a prerequisite for the implementation of an integrated urban development policy. (...). In that respect it is clear that the Leipzig Charter needs to become more than just a set of principles, aiming to become a living document on the basis of which concrete strategies can be elaborated in order to implement all its recommendations.*

*The Ministers considered that existing coordination instruments have to be re-inforced and the development of new instruments for integrated and sustainable urban policies have to be explored at all levels of governance: local, regional, national and European. At the urban level, the RFSC will offer a useful tool to support an integrated approach. At regional and national levels, existing coordination structures should be used more intensively and the possibilities of new coordination instruments explored in order to move towards an integrated approach in urban policies. As mentioned above, at European level, cooperation between Member States, European institutions, and cities' associations and networks should also be reinforced.*

*(...).*  
*To this end, on Spain, Belgium and Hungary's initiative, the possibility of developing methods to address and follow up the implementation of the Leipzig Charter at all levels of governance will be explored from the second half of 2010 onwards". (Toledo Declaration, page VIII)*

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Promote sustainable urban development and integrated approaches by re-enforcing and developing instruments to implement the Leipzig Charter at all levels, and explore the possibility of developing methods to address and follow up the implementation of the Leipzig Charter at all levels of governance.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:

- Multi-level Governance Conference: *"New methods for an integrated urban development strategy on all levels of government"*. (Liège). Belgian Presidency. December 2, 2010.
- Preparation of a Handbook for Multilevel Governance (by Prof. Tuna Tasan-Kok, commissioned by Belgium).
- Preparation of a publication by EUKN with concrete experiences of Multilevel Urban Governance in European cities.

ACTORS INVOLVED:

Current Trio of EU Council Presidencies (Spain, Belgium, Hungary).

UDG.

EUKN.

Think Tank for ML Governance, composed by urban networks and institutions (Committee of the Regions, Eurocities, CEMR, Urbact, EUKN, Urban intergroup EP).

TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:

Responsible: Belgium.

Partners: Spain and Hungary.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:

- Multi-level Governance Conference: *"New methods for an integrated urban development strategy on all levels of government"*. (Liège). Belgian Presidency. December 2, 2010.
- Debate on further exploration of existing and new instruments for multilevel governance at the Ghent DG Meeting. December 14, 2010.
- Ongoing development of the Handbook for Multilevel Governance (by Belgium).
- EUKN-publication.

ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:

- Conclusion of the Handbook for ML Urban Governance and dissemination: 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2011.
- Further discussion on developing instruments for ML Urban Governance : UDG and DG meetings 2011.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:

Reference documents:

- Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. Available at: [http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download\\_docs/Mai/0524-AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta.pdf](http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Mai/0524-AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta.pdf)
- *"Project for a Roadmap for Multilevel Governance"*. Paper prepared by the Belgian Presidency for the Namur UDG Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> October 2010).

- Multi-level Governance Conference: *“New methods for an integrated urban development strategy on all levels of government”*. (Liège). Belgian Presidency. December 2, 2010. Programme, results and presentations available at: <http://www.mi-is.be/en/europe/multilevel-urban-governance-conference-on-new-methods-for-an-integrated-urban-development-str>
- Presentation of a Joint Declaration of the Trio (Spain – Belgium – Hungary) on Multi-level Urban Governance by Belgium Federal Minister Mr. Michel Daerden. Liège, December 2, 2010. Available at: <http://www.mi-is.be/sites/default/files/doc/conclusions%20ML%20Conference%20%20dec..pdf>

<p>Action Name:  <b>ACTION 6. CONSIDERING THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES THAT EUROPEAN CITIES WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES OPEN DISCUSSION.</b></p>
<p>TOLEDO DECLARATION COMMITMENT:  <i>"The Ministers also supported Hungary's initiative, to open a topic-based discussion on two of the major challenges that Europe's cities will face in the future: climate change –continuing the reflections carried out during the Slovenian, French and Swedish Presidencies- and the impact of demographic changes". (Toledo Declaration, page VIII)</i></p>
<p>DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:  Support Hungary in the examination of two of the main challenges that European cities will face in the future: climate change and the impact of demographic change/migration.</p>
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS:  <b>Urban Dimension of Climate Change:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a practical Handbook for cities (<i>"Climate-friendly cities and towns: A Handbook on the tasks and possibilities of European cities in relation to Climate Change."</i>)</li> </ul> <b>Urban aspects of demographic change/migration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a Background Report on different policy reactions on demographic changes by urban and regional governments.</li> <li>• Organize a one-day high-level Conference to discuss the possibilities and constraints of urban policies related to the expected demographic shock in Budapest. May 3, 2011.</li> </ul> <b>Political Communiqué</b> to be agreed at the Budapest DG meeting. May 2, 2011.</p>
<p>ACTORS INVOLVED:  Hungary.  UDG Members: Supporting and sending information and links to Hungary.</p>
<p>TASK RESPONSIBLE(S) AND PARTNERS:  Responsible: Hungary.</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS UP TO NOW:  <b>Urban Dimension of climate change:</b> <i>"Climate-friendly cities and towns: A Handbook on the tasks and possibilities of European cities in relation to Climate Change."</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of literature, case studies: first half of 2010</li> <li>• Completion of the draft version: second half of 2010</li> <li>• Presentation of the draft at the Budapest UDG meeting (February 10-11, 2011)</li> <li>• Finalization: March-April 2011</li> </ul> <b>Urban aspects of demographic change/migration:</b> <i>"Synthesis Report on the impact of the European demographic trends on regional and urban development"</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of case studies: September-October 2010</li> <li>• Workshop for researchers: November 2010</li> <li>• Finalization: December 2010</li> <li>• Presentation of the draft at the Budapest UDG meeting (February 10-11, 2011)</li> </ul> </p>
<p>ROADMAP OF ACTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION:  <b>Urban Dimension of climate change:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of <i>"Climate-friendly cities and towns: A Handbook on the tasks and possibilities of European cities in relation to Climate Change."</i> at Budapest DG meeting (May 2, 2011) and further dissemination.</li> </ul> <b>Urban aspects of demographic change/migration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the <i>"Synthesis Report on the impact of the European demographic trends on regional and urban development"</i> at Budapest DG meeting (May 2, 2011) and further dissemination.</li> <li>• <i>"High-level conference on the urban consequences of European demographic processes"</i>. Budapest. May 3, 2011.</li> </ul> <b>Political Proposals</b>  <i>"Budapest Communiqué on sustainable European urban areas facing demographic and climate challenges"</i> to be agreed at the Budapest DG meeting. May 2, 2011.</p>
<p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, LINKS AND RESULTS:</p>

## **Annex: Intergovernmental cooperation and coordination with EU Institutions. List of Meetings 2010-2011.**

- **Trio Meetings:**
  - April 29, 2009: Trio meeting. Budapest.
  - September 3, 2009: Trio meeting. Brussels.
  - November 13, 2010: Trio meeting. Madrid.
  - February 12, 2010: Trio meeting. Madrid.
  - July 8, 2010. Trio meeting. Brussels.
  - September 16, 2010. Trio meeting. Brussels.
  - November 16-17, 2010. Trio meeting with Poland. Brussels.
  - April 7, 2011. Trio meeting with Poland. Budapest.
- **Trio meeting with EU Institutions:**
  - September 16, 2010. Brussels: Trio meeting with the European Parliament Urban Intergroup President. (Mr. Jan Olbrycht).
  - November 17, 2010. Trio meeting with DG Regio. Brussels.
- **UDG and DG meetings:**
  - March 23, 2010: UDG Madrid, Spanish Presidency.
  - April 28, 2010: DG Meeting. Madrid, Spanish Presidency.
  - October 14, 2010. UDG. Namur, Belgian Presidency.
  - December 14, 2010. DG meeting. Ghent, Belgian Presidency.
  - February, 10-11, 2011. UDG. Budapest, Hungarian Presidency.
  - May 2, 2011. DG meeting. Budapest. Hungarian Presidency.