



RESILIENZA: INPUT PER UNA AGENDA URBANA?

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- I. “Cities are where the **opportunities and threats** to sustainable development come together”.
 - II. “European **policy goals cannot be realised without** the active participation of cities, and policy makers at all levels have to take greater account of the urban dimension”.
- > “Calls are being made to more effectively address urban development challenges under the umbrella of an EU urban agenda”.



- I. “The purpose of the CITIES forum and this issues paper is to stimulate a debate at the European level on **how the urban dimension of EU policymaking can be more effectively addressed** and **how cities’ key role in** implementing policies set at all governance levels can be better taken into account.
- II. Instead of conclusions this issues paper puts forward a series of questions for debate concerning an EU urban agenda: **Why do we need an EU urban agenda? What should an EU urban agenda be? How can an EU urban agenda be implemented?**

EU policies with an urban dimension

DG/ Agency	Policy/ Regulation	Targeting Cities/ local	Local projects	Studies/ research	Tools
Climate Action	X	X		X	X
Competition	X				
Communic. Networks, Content & Technology	X	X	X	X	X
Education and Culture	X	X			
European Environment Agency				X	X
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	X	X	X		
Energy	X	X	X		X
Environment	X	X	X	X	X
Eurostat		X		X	
Home Affairs	X	X	X		X
Joint Research Centre	X			X	X
Justice	X	X			
Mobility and Transport	X	X	X		X
Regional and Urban Policy	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Innovation	X			X	
Health and Consumers	X	X			

However, despite this, many stakeholders argue that we lack explicit objectives, targets and instruments for urban development in Europe. Above all, the Europe 2020 strategy has been criticized for **not having an explicit urban dimension**.

Question for debate:

What should an EU urban agenda be?

- Should an EU urban agenda define priorities to work on?
Should it limit itself to tackling certain specific challenges?
- Should an EU urban agenda be a vision or a concrete strategy?
Should it have priorities, tasks and timescales?
- Should it provide a new working method between EU, MS and city actors?

Questions for debate:

Why do we need an EU urban agenda - what is it that needs to be made to work better?

- Do we need an EU urban agenda to facilitate the participation of cities in EU policy development and implementation, for example, of the Europe 2020 strategy?
- b) Do we need an EU urban agenda to ensure that urban needs are better reflected in EU sectoral policies, and to improve co-ordination between sectors by pursuing an integrated approach? Do we need it to raise awareness on cities' needs and potential beyond urban stakeholders?
- c) Do we need an EU urban agenda to improve articulation between cities, their MS and the European level on policy making?

Question for debate:

How should an EU urban agenda be implemented?

- What steps are needed to develop an EU urban agenda?
- What should be the roles of the EU Member States, the Commission, and regional and local authorities?
- How should the implementation of an EU urban agenda be monitored and steered?

Table 1: Cities of Tomorrow main urban challenges⁵

Smart Growth challenges

1. Support a **transition towards a knowledge society**: e.g. *smart cities us technology enhanced urban development* (FI); building on social, organisational and technical innovation and on community competencies; new educational pathways; develop a favourable entrepreneurial environment; develop local & social economy;
2. **Develop city resilience** to economic pressure and financial crises e.g. ensure social services, maintain a viable manufacturing sector, maintain social capital.

Green Growth challenges

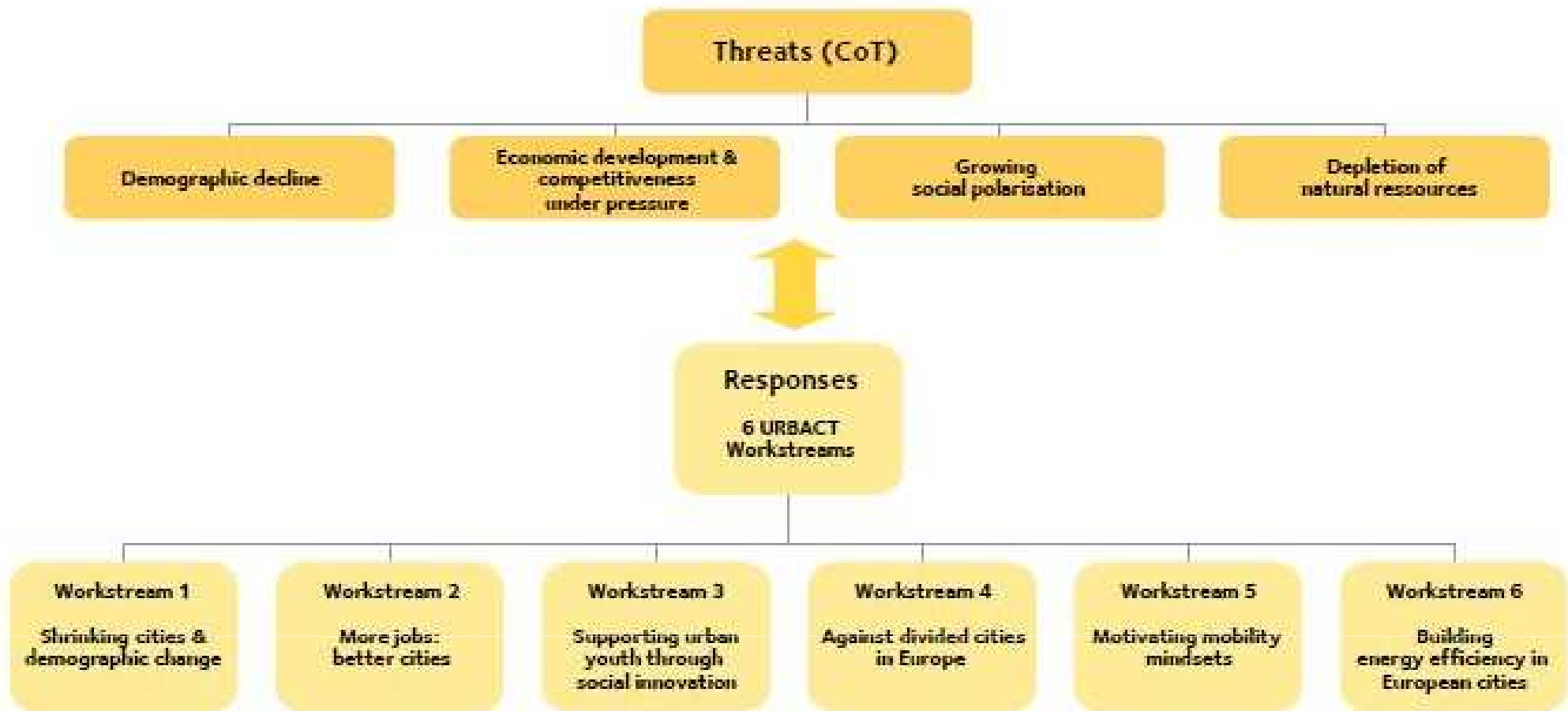
3. Ensure sustained investment for public transport and shift to a more sustainable urban mobility; *Energy-efficient building and energetic urban renewal* (DE); Achieve **greater energy and resource efficiency** and manage the transition towards a carbon-neutral city;
4. Sustainable management of **natural resources** (e.g. water, waste, air, soil and land), safeguard against physical and environmental degradation, urban sprawl, etc.;
5. Accelerate **transition towards a sustainable city** given the inherent inertia of infrastructure provision (e.g. housing, transport, water and energy systems).

Inclusive Growth challenges

6. Counter **social/spatial segregation/polarisation**; *acting for urban deprived areas* (FR); *reduce child poverty in urban areas* (BE); ensure social & functional mix and cohesion; allow a cultural mix; *affordable housing for all* (NL); address urban sprawl (e.g. mitigation of gentrification effects, fair distribution of income and welfare);
7. Develop capacities for social and economic **integration of newcomers**, especially migrants and the socially disadvantaged; *combat youth unemployment* (under discussion during IE Presidency);
8. Manage and adapt to **demographic changes** due to ageing, age imbalances, *intra-EU mobility*⁶ (LT), trans-national mobility, migration strategies (e.g. attract qualified migrants) as a solution to labour shortage.

Transversal Challenges / an integrated approach to urban development

9. Foster **cities' attractiveness** e.g. develop public open spaces; education, culture, sports, creativity and cultural/industrial heritage; safety and security;
10. Ensure **territorial coherence and cohesion** e.g. urban/peri-urban cooperation, cooperation between the metropolis and its hinterland and manage urban/rural linkage.



URBACT II

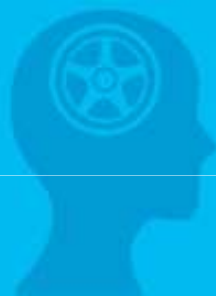


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