



The urban dimension of Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020

Proposals from the European Commission

Jordi Torrebadella

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR REGIONAL POLICY**

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The future urban dimension

1. Aims and ambition
2. Specific urban investment priorities
3. Focus on sustainable urban development
4. Innovative urban actions
5. Urban development platform
6. Strategic programming for urban areas



1. Aims and ambition of the future urban dimension

- Reinforcing the key role of European cities for territorial cohesion and for Europe 2020
- Strengthening the strategic programming process for actions in urban areas
- Enhancing the integrated approach to urban development
- New instruments to deliver sustainable urban development



2. Specific urban investment priorities

- *Article 5 ERDF regulation sets out specific **investment priorities** for urban areas:*
 - Promoting 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
- *Concentrating ERDF support for urban areas on **Europe 2020 objectives***



3. Focus on sustainable urban development (1)

- *Article 7 ERDF regulation promotes integrated strategies for urban areas:*
 - Support for integrated actions
 - To tackle the complex accumulation of economic, environmental and social challenges in urban areas
- *Fostering territorial cohesion through an integrated and place-based approach*
- *Reinforcing the effectiveness of urban investments (using synergies and mitigating negative effects)*



3. Focus on sustainable urban development (2)

- *Article 7 (2) ERDF regulation proposes to use a **new instrument** to open up OPs in a cross-cutting way:*
 - **Integrated Territorial Investments – ITI** (Art. 99 CPR)
 - Allows to draw funding from several thematic priority axes from one or several OPs ...
 - ... and bundle it in a ring-fenced allocation for sustainable urban development
- *Flexible instrument to apply thematic concentration on **Europe 2020** in a specific **territorial context***



3. Focus on sustainable urban development (3)

- *Article 7 (2) ERDF regulation requires that **at least 5%** of the resources are invested in integrated strategies:*
 - implemented through **Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)**
 - with the management **delegated to cities**
 - **a list of the cities** implementing such delegated ITI should be included in the Partnership Contracts
 - the 5% earmarking applies at national level (sum of all allocations for ITI delegated to cities)



3. Focus on sustainable urban development (4)

- *Article 7 ERDF regulation takes a **functional and flexible approach**:*
 - No definition of “city” or “urban area” at EU level
 - To define according to the national urban systems
 - May include small and medium sized towns as well as inter-municipal co-operations in city-regions or metropolitan areas
 - Allows intervention at the appropriate territorial scale
 - At neighbourhood level, district level, city or city-regional level or at the level of the metropolitan area
 - Depending on the thematic scope of the integrated actions



3. Focus on sustainable urban development (5)

- *Other possibilities to support urban actions:*
 - Support from one single investment priority
 - Support for community-led local development
 - Support through financial instruments
 - Cross-financing between ERDF and ESF
 - Support for networking and exchange (ETC)
- *Does not count for the 5% earmarking, if not part of an ITI delegated to a city!*
- *Sectoral projects should be embedded in a sustainable urban development strategy*



4. Innovative urban actions

- **New instrument** (*Article 9 ERDF regulation*):
 - Aim: Fostering new and innovative solutions in the field of sustainable urban development
 - Support for **urban pilot projects, demonstration projects and studies** of European interest
 - Implemented at the initiative of the Commission
 - Up to 0,2% of the total annual ERDF allocation
 - Support for **experimental urban projects** to *identify and spread the best solutions in Europe*



5. Urban development platform

- **New instrument** (*Article 8 ERDF regulation*):
 - Set up by the Commission to foster the **dialogue** with cities **at EU level** (no project funding!)
 - Purpose: To collect experience from the new instruments and facilitate the implementation of
 - **ITI delegated to cities**
 - **Innovative actions**
 - Selection of participating cities by Commission:
 - Based on the lists of cities in the Partnership Contracts
 - Cities carrying out innovative actions



6. Strategic programming for urban areas

- *More strategic approach at all levels:*
 - CSF: Main challenges for urban areas
 - PC: National approach to urban issues (including arrangements for 5% earmarking for ITI delegated to cities and list of cities)
 - OP: Detailed allocations for **urban investment priorities** and **integrated urban strategies (ITI)**, including ITI delegated to cities (list of cities)
- *Strengthened partnership to involve cities in programme design and implementation*



**Thank you very much for
your attention!**

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