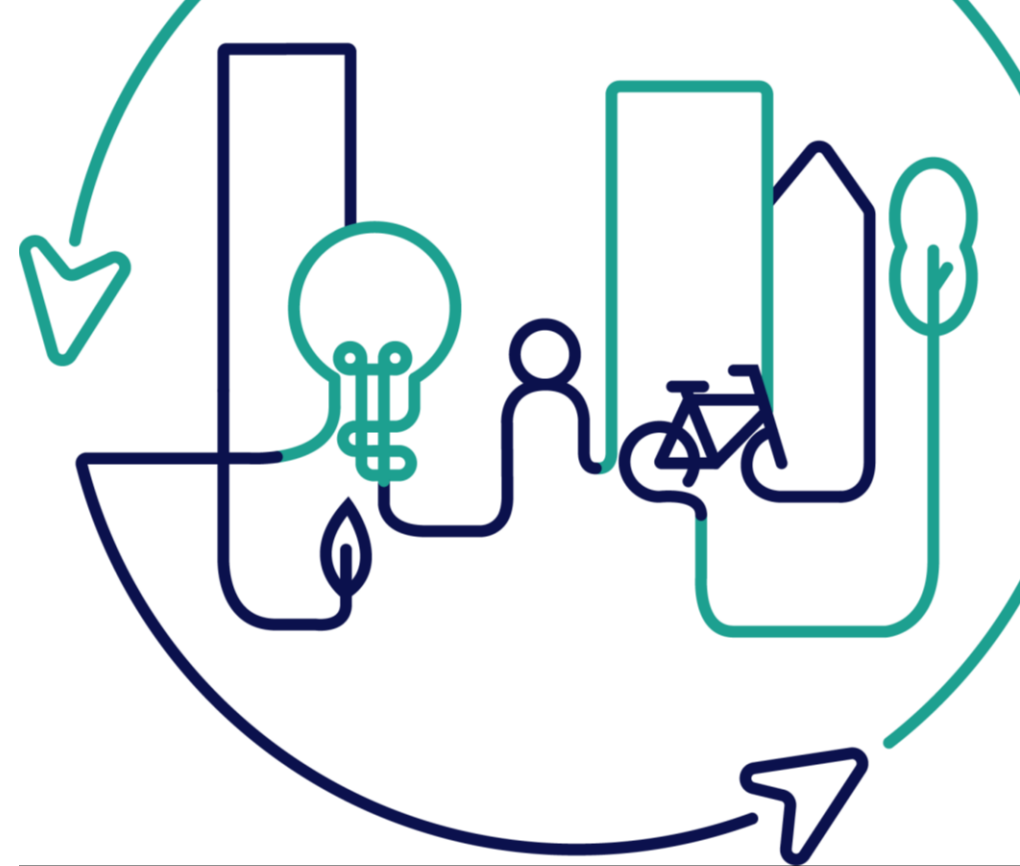


EUROPEAN U R B A N INITIATIVE

Jonas Scholze

Head of Unit - Intergovernmental Cooperation



Co-funded by
the European Union

Urban authorities across Europe are **diverse** and differ in their **individual challenges** and **potentials**...



but ...

A variety of **challenges** are common for the majority of urban authorities in Europe:

- ❖ **climate change** (extreme weather conditions, limited air quality, mobility patterns)
 - ❖ **loss of biodiversity** (provision of green spaces, land-use conflicts...)
 - ❖ **shortage of resources** (circular economy, materials, space, human capital ...)
 - ❖ **migration** (affordable housing, integration, education, equal chances...)
 - ❖ **demographic change** (shortage in skilled workforce, shrinking cities, care facilities for elderly...)
 - ❖ **transformation of the economy** (empty inner cities, economy, supporting infrastructure...)
- *urban development is a never ending task*
- *urban authorities need the ability to adapt to new challenges (resilience)*



What do urban authorities need to tackle global challenges!

➤ supporting framework conditions

- ✓ „urban friendly“ legal framework conditions
- ✓ possibilities for investments and funding
- ✓ qualified and skilled labour force
- ✓ possibility to actively shape the digital transformation
- ✓ steering possibility of urban development

➤ capacities to implement „good urban governance“

- ✓ urban development for the common good
- ✓ integrated approach
- ✓ participation and co-creation
- ✓ multi-level governance approach
- ✓ place-based approach

Basic Key Facts

- endorsed on **01 December 2020** during Informal Ministerial Meeting under German EU-Presidency
- New Leipzig Charter is **Member State** driven
- **not legally binding** but agreed by Council Conclusions
- common understanding on urban development in Europe
- Transformation of Cities for a **Common Good**

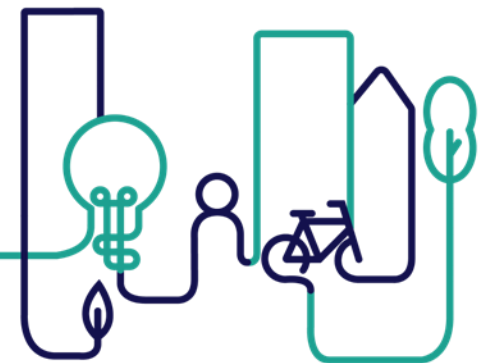




**Urban Agenda
for the EU**

Basic Key Facts

- **Pact of Amsterdam** agreed in 2016 by informal Ministerial Meeting under Dutch EU-Presidency
- EU has **no** legal basis for urban development
 - Indirect impact on **sector regulations** (mobility, EPBD directive)
 - Requirements to **funding instruments** (EU-Cohesion Policy, New European Bauhaus ...)
- Avoid contradictory directives/regulation!
- UAEU: adjust **regulatory - financial** framing and **knowledge base** to improve urban development



What is it?

- an **Informal** Intergovernmental Cooperation
- unique working method - **multi-stakeholders** & **multi-level cooperation**
- cities "at the core", Member states, The European Commission & other stakeholders (academia)

3 key Pillars of the UAEU



Better Regulation

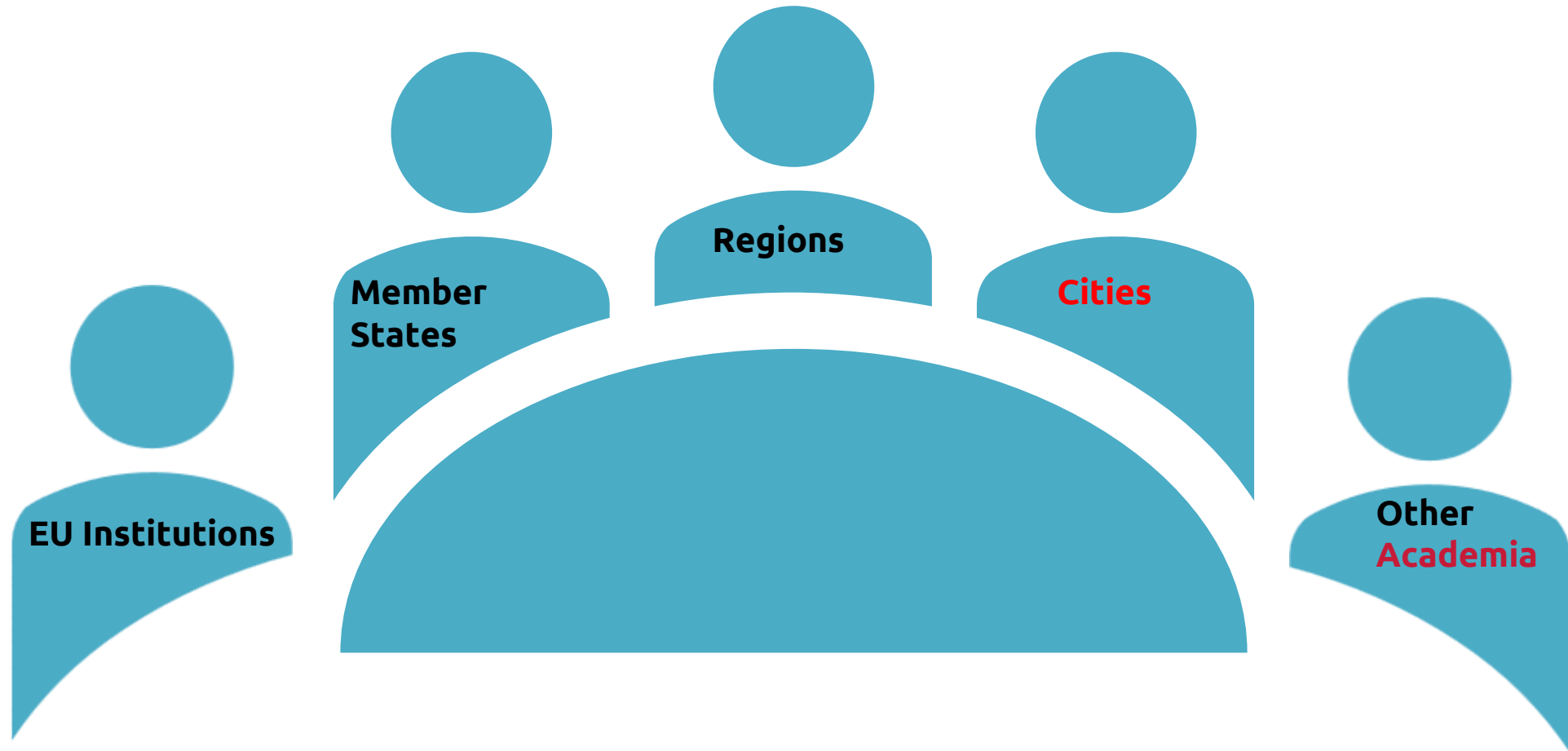


Better Funding



Better Knowledge

Thematic Partnerships



Status of current UAEU Thematic Partnerships

21 Thematic Partnerships in total

Launched
before 2022



**Culture and
Cultural Heritage**



**Inclusion of Migrants
and Refugees**



**Public
Procurement**

started in 2022



**Sustainable
Tourism**



**Greening
Cities**

started in 2023



**Cities of
Equality**



Food

started in 2024



**Water
Sensitive
City**

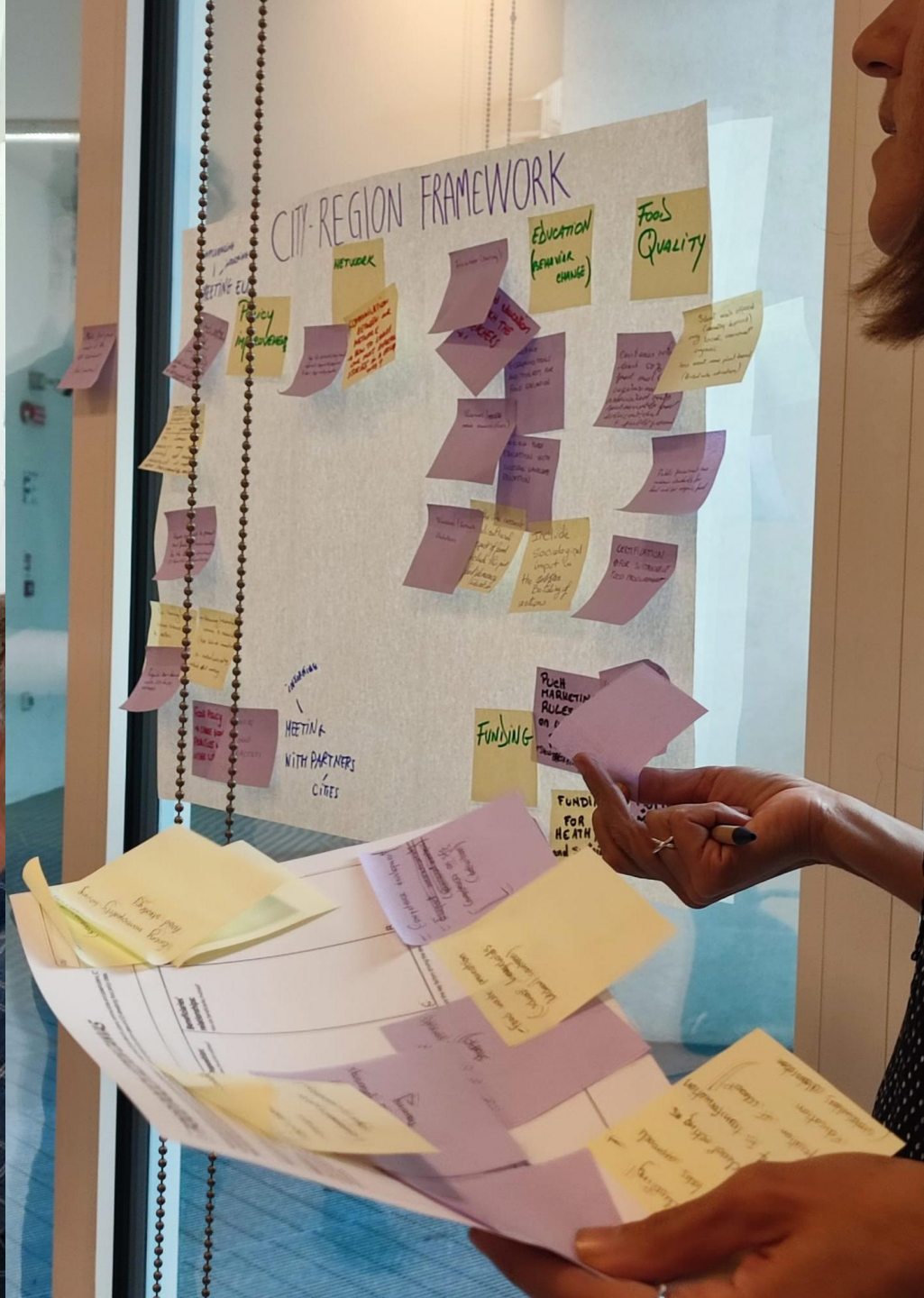


**Building
Decarboni-
sation**

Launched in
2025



**Compact
Cities**





Policy Recommendations

A concise list of actionable proposals aimed at addressing specific policy issues. It may be developed by a group of individuals or a single expert.

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Position Paper

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Political Declaration/ Pact/Charter

A formal, voluntary agreement or statement of intent by political entities, such as governments, political parties, or groups, outlining their shared goals and commitments.

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Strategy

A high-level plan or course of action designed to achieve a specific goal or objective. It outlines the overall approach and key steps to be taken.

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Policy Brief

A concise summary of a policy issue, providing key findings, recommendations, and next steps. It is designed to be easily understood by decision-makers.

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Policy Mapping

A process of identifying and analyzing existing policies, programs, and initiatives to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. It helps to visualize the policy landscape.

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Report

A detailed document that provides information, analysis, and recommendations on a specific topic. It is often used to inform decision-making.

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Roadmap

A strategic plan that outlines the key milestones, actions, and timelines for achieving a specific goal or objective. It provides a clear path forward.

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Feasibility Study

An analysis that assesses the viability, risks, and potential benefits of a proposed project or initiative. It helps to determine if the project is worth pursuing.

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Code of Good Practices

A set of guidelines and standards that define best practices for a specific area. It serves as a reference for individuals and organizations.

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Guidance Document

A document that provides detailed instructions, advice, and information to help individuals or organizations understand and implement a policy or program.

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Handbook

A comprehensive reference work that provides detailed information, instructions, and examples on a specific topic. It is often used as a quick reference.

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Manual

A document that provides step-by-step instructions and procedures for performing a specific task or activity. It is designed to be easy to follow.

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Guidebook

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Toolkit

A collection of resources, tools, and materials designed to help individuals or organizations address a specific challenge or issue.

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Training Program/ Curriculum

A structured set of learning activities and materials designed to help individuals or organizations acquire specific skills and knowledge.

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Governance Model

A framework that defines the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between different levels of government and stakeholders in the policy-making process.

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Set of Common Indicators

A collection of standardized metrics used to measure and track progress towards a specific goal or objective. They provide a common language for reporting.

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Measurement & Evaluation Tool

A specific instrument or method used to collect and analyze data to assess the impact and effectiveness of a policy or program.

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Online Repository

A digital platform where policy documents, reports, and other resources are stored and made accessible to a wide range of users.

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Database of Practices

A collection of documented examples of successful policy interventions, programs, or initiatives, used as a source of inspiration and learning.

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Funding Guide

A document that provides information and advice on how to access and manage funding resources for a specific project or program.

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Advisory Board

A group of experts and stakeholders who provide independent advice and recommendations to decision-makers on a specific issue.

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Pilot Project

A small-scale, experimental initiative used to test a new policy or program before full-scale implementation. It allows for learning from experience.

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Policy Lab

An experimental approach to policy-making that involves testing and refining ideas through a series of small-scale pilots and evaluations.

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Seminar/Webinar

A structured session for sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices. It can be conducted in person or online, often featuring experts and practitioners.

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Awareness Raising Campaigns

A series of coordinated activities and messages designed to increase public understanding and support for a specific policy or program.

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E-learning Platform

A digital platform that provides interactive learning experiences, such as courses, modules, and assessments, to help individuals or organizations learn.

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Video Animation

A visual medium used to convey complex information, such as policy goals, processes, and outcomes, in an engaging and accessible way.

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Podcast

A series of audio recordings that provide insights, analysis, and commentary on a specific topic. It is a convenient way to consume content on the go.

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Brochure

A concise, visually appealing document that provides key information and resources. It is often used for public outreach and information sharing.

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Outlook for 2026

1. European Commission: « EU Agenda for Cities »

Strengthening multilevel governance and cooperation by better integrating cities' interests into EU policy making.

Ensuring alignment with **Urban Agenda for the EU**(UAEU) and building on outcomes from its multi-level governance Partnerships since 2016.

2. Celebrating 10 years Urban Agenda for the EU

17/18 November 2026 in Rotterdam / Amsterdam

Thank you and please visit us at:

[The Urban Agenda for the EU | UAEU](#)

