Linking Smart Cities to Structural Funds

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Political Context

• **Urban Agenda for the EU – Pact of Amsterdam**
  → Acknowledging that urbanisation is *the* territorial trend in Europe (positive and negative urbanisation effects)
  → Capitalising on the large number of instruments, legislation and initiatives on urban at European level

• **Urban Agenda is the 'chapeau' of EU urban policies**

• **Aims for "better funding", "better regulation" and "better knowledge"**

• **Work on 12 urban priority themes, such as urban mobility, energy transition or digital transition, but also on the social side**

• **In partnership: COM, MS, cities, stakeholders**
Linking Smart Cities with European Structural and Investment Funds

3 key messages

1. Use European Structural and Investment Funds to complement a Smart City project
   - Key features of ESIF
   - Strong urban dimension in ESIF

2. No automatism: need to be pro-active
   - Know how ESIF is managed
   - Get help from the guide

3. Consider additional networking and funding opportunities
ESIF 2014-2020

- The investment arm for Europe 2020
- EUR 351 billion for 2014-2020
- Funds for all, focus on less developed regions

- Thematic concentration on top EU priorities
Urban policy within ESIF

- EUR 15 billion for sustainable and integrated urban development
- 700+ cities/ metropolitan areas
- Territorial approach: the thematic focus depends on respective urban challenges
- Cities focus on investments towards a low carbon economy, resource efficiency and social inclusion
- Empowerment of urban authorities: City develops strategy, and selects the projects
- Reinforced networking: Urban Development Network, URBACT III
Urban and territorial dimension of CP 2014-2020
The integrated, place-based approach

Why?
• to help **address territorial challenges** in their **complexity** through CP
• to help **align specific local development needs** with the **thematic priorities of CP**
• to **promote multi-level governance** (empowerment and cooperation)

How?
• PLANNING: requesting **long-term** and **integrated** urban/territorial **strategies**
• PARTNERSHIP: by fostering **horizontal and vertical cooperation** (urban-rural, LAGs)
• FLEXIBILITY: allowing to **combine different sources of thematic funding** to support the implementation (ITI, CLLD)
• INCENTIVE: **earmarking resources** in pursuit of these objectives (SUD Article 7)
• OWNERSHIP: giving **more responsibility to the local level** (SUD Article 7, CLLD)
Management of European Structural and Investment Funds

- **Operational strategies at national/ regional level for 2014-2020**: "Operational Programmes"
  - 205 country/ regional specific programmes ("Investment in Growth and Jobs")
    Incl. 110 programmes with a focus on sustainable urban development
  - 91 cross border/ transnational/ interregional programmes ("Interreg Programmes")

- **Principle of shared management:**
  - **Commission** sets overall priorities
  - Operational programmes are **proposed by Member States and regions**
  - **Commission negotiates and approves** the programmes
  - Member States/ regions **manages the programmes, selects projects, monitors and assesses implementation**
  - **MS/ region** acts in partnership with relevant regional and local stakeholders
Links between Smart Cities projects and Urban Policy within the European Structural and Investment Funds

- **ESIF can provide**
  - complementary financing
  - rollout financing
  - financing for follower cities

- **Guide on synergies**

- **Seal of excellence (pilot phase for SME)**
Additional funding opportunities within ESIF

• Urban Innovative Actions (EUR 370 M ERDF)
  - For cities/ metropolitan areas; single cities can apply (above 50,000 citizens, groups of cities possible)
  - Max EUR 5 M per project
  - 2nd call will open end 2016
  - topics
    1. Circular Economy
    2. Sustainable Urban Mobility
    3. Integration of Migrants and Refugees
    ➢ www.uia-initiative.eu/

• URBACT III (EUR 74 M ERDF) – specifically for cities
• Interreg Europe (EUR 360 M ERDF) – cities and regions
For info or further questions on this seminar and the activities of the JASPERS Networking Platform, please contact:

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