

ECTP-CEU

Representation to UDG

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During Irish EU Presidency the meetings of the DG's of EU Member States responsible for urban policies was held in Dublin on April 16.

Urban Policies:

1. First an evaluation was presented of **five years Leipzig Charter:**

-Integrated Urban development as a Prerequisite for a Sustainable City.

The study gave an overview of progress made in implementation since 2007 in national, regional and municipal approaches in deprived neighbourhoods.

Since the Leipzig Charter (2007) on the EU level, the Marseille Statement (agreed on Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities RFSC in 2008), then in 2010 The Toledo Declaration on urban regeneration.

Further agreement developed on the benefits of integrated approach in economic crisis and the contribution of the integrated approach to achieve EU 2020 objectives.

Acknowledging the differences in approaches a classification among countries was made about potential to empower integrative processes, the state of play analysed, cases studied and contrasts with Brasil, China, India and USA.

Conclusions:

- Integrated urban development is becoming quite general as a guiding principle;
- Leipzig Charter has significant impact;
- Integrated approaches gain importance for economic crisis.

2. Urban Development in the EU-50 **ERDF supported projects.**

The Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the Commission presented the overview of experiences in URBAN projects.

The study clarifies that cities can do a lot but miss many competences.

Best examples are those in which vertical and horizontal integration is combined with smart, sustainable and inclusive aspects. The local level must not be overburdened with integrating national/regional sectors. The question who really benefits is difficult; out put indicators are used but medium and long term assessment is needed. Cities need more support from higher levels.

Recommendation:

ECTP-CEU should promote the application of medium and long-term assessments as being more important than the generally applied output indicators of project thinking.

3. Preparation **new Urbact** programme

There was a lot of critics especially from the side of the Commission on the Urbact programme. What is the purpose, what do we want to achieve. Become more relevant to the agenda for the cities. Focus stronger on urban sustainability programme. Networking among cities is not a goal as such!

Defence pointed to the benefits of international cooperation among cities.

“The invisible is the essential”

Doubts about Urbact’s future remained.

4. **Joint Programming Initiative**—Urban Europe

This is a new initiative for a studies programme.

It promotes threefold:

- Tailor made holistic visions supported by stakeholders
- Transition management
- Deployment of modern technologies.

This initiative was supported, it sounded promising.

But at the same time it competes with ESPON. Advantage is that it will not suffer from the too heavy burden on ESPON from the formal steering level (Monitoring Committee consisting of all Member States) and its lasting procedures.

5. **Youth unemployment** (EUKN/URBACT)

Studies were presented.

Doubtful relation to urban development noticed.

6. **Reference Framework Sustainable Cities**

The Commission gave an up-date about the development.

The RFSC has been launched last January 28. Since then accounts are created, of which 83 by local or regional authorities; 24 requests to become RFSC city; 23 new requests pending. Most member states are in process of translating the RFSC

Member State’s support is vital; MS should urge cities to create accounts.

Training kit is available.

Recommendation:

ECTP-CEU members should familiarize with the RFSC approach in order to serve cities and regions better.

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