

Brussels, June 5, 2020

Reactions and suggestions on the Implementation document of The New Leipzig Charter

The ECTP-CEU, the European community of spatial planners, welcomes the initiative of revising the 2007 Leipzig Charter and supports the efforts of writing a new one. The ECTP-CEU has been participating actively in the revision process so far, considering it to be an important step, improving the quality of urban policies in the European Union.

In this final stage of the process, the ECTP-CEU, supporting the overall structure, setup and content of the Charter and the implementation document, wishes to make a few suggestions, collected amongst its national member organisations and assembled by our Leipzig Charter Working Group.

Given the need for a holistic and integrated approach, spatial planners throughout Europe represented by the ECTP-CEU, are intimately involved in the implementation of this priority theme. In their daily practices and from a specific professional position, they take the Leipzig Charter as a reference, helping official institutions deliver policies that are in line with it.

We suggest the implementation document should include a clear call for specific budget allocation on the Urban Agenda within the Multiannual Financial Framework (MMF) and the EU Recovery plan. Furthermore, in order to support the effectiveness of implementing the New Leipzig Charter, the ECTP-CEU proposes to increase the minimum threshold allocation for integrated urban development in the Cohesion Policy. Until 2020, a minimum of 5% of the ERDF was planned to be spent in national allocations for integrated urban development. For the future, we propose a minimum of 10% of ERDF funding in national allocations, which must be designated either for integrated urban development or integrated development of city-regions (rural-urban nexus).

In our position paper sent on May 29th 2020, the ECTP-CEU proposes changing the title from “The productive city” to “The circular productive city”, and to add a phrase about the benefits of circular economy for cities and regions. The ECTP-CEU therefore suggests adding a sentence in line 74 of the document as follows after the sentence: ...“New priority themes should be in line with and provide input to EU policy priorities and initiatives, especially when these have a clear urban dimension. *The achievement of the circular economy principles through urban planning should be one of these priority themes.*

On behalf of the European planning community, we thank you for taking care of a qualitative urban and regional development in Europe!

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