



**World Cities**

*EU – Third Countries Cooperation on  
Urban and Regional Development*

# ***European Union***

## **The World Cities Project: international cooperation in sustainable urban development policy**

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*Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy*

*European Commission*

*Ekurhuleni, March 2017*

# **I. Sustainable urban development: a global priority**

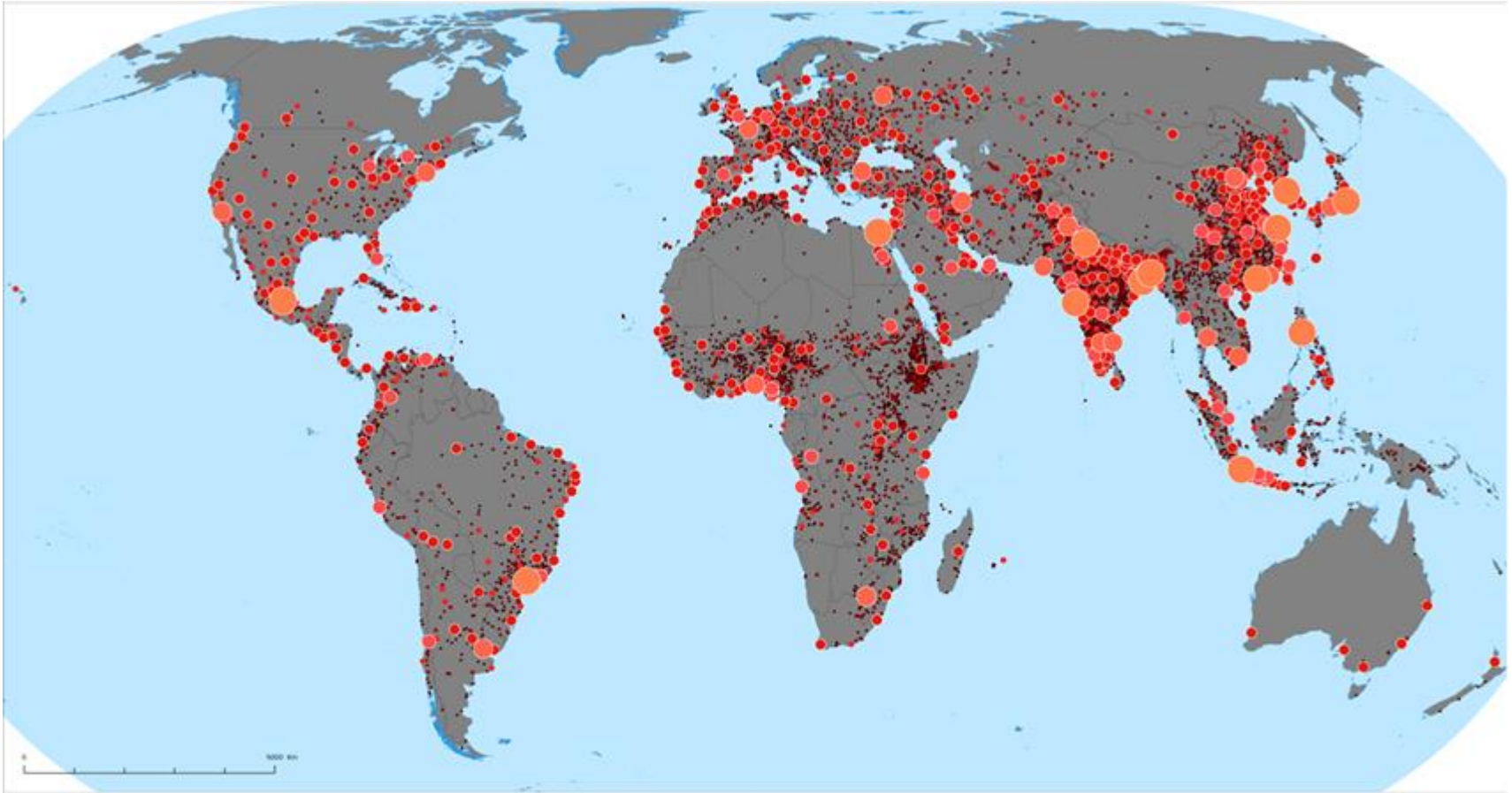
# Urbanisation: Risks and Opportunities

## *Risks:*

- ✓ *Urban population expected to double from 2.6 billion (2010) to 5.2 billion in 2050*
- ✓ *Environmental and social problems, safety, etc.*

## *Opportunities:*

- ✓ *Cities = engines of growth, social and cultural development*
- ✓ *Our future = future of our cities*



## Urban Centres in the world by population size, 2015

Source : JRC (GHS - POP Global Settlement Model)

### Inhabitants



## **The importance of cities for sustainable and inclusive economic growth: "*State of European Cities Report*" (*European Commission & UN Habitat*)**

- ✓ Cities are more than a source of cohesion problems, although these remain important
- ✓ Cities generate growth and jobs but some risk falling into the middle-income trap
- ✓ Cities are centres of innovation and education
- ✓ Housing in cities can be unaffordable and cramped
- ✓ Cities offer accessibility but mobility not always sustainable
- ✓ Cities are more resource efficient than towns and rural areas
- ✓ Many cities still struggle to reduce air pollution below EU thresholds
- ✓ City governments acquiring more autonomy

## **II. Antecedents to the current project: World Cities I, 2015-2016 and URBELAC I-III (ongoing)**



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PROJECT COUNTRIES CITIES ACTIVITIES TOPICS 中文 한국어

2017-2018

2015-2016

Pilot Projects

EU-China

EU-India

EU-Canada

EU-Japan

EU

China

Tianjin

Wuhan

Chengdu

Guangzhou – GDD

CITIES

Impressions

Visit the project's website: [www.world-cities.eu](http://www.world-cities.eu)  
and DG REGIO's Website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international/)

## **URBELAC (2011-2017)**

- Network of European, Latin American and Caribbean Cities for integrated and sustainable urban development
- Managed by DG REGIO & Inter-American Development Bank
- Platform to promote exchanges between cities facing similar challenges by sharing knowledge, experience, good practices and lessons learned and to conceptualise integrated development processes
- So far, three rounds of URBELAC, 31 cities involved
- Activities: working groups, field visits, action plans, business promotion, support platform



## **III. The EU's urban agenda (policy priorities and practice)**

# Sustainable urban development: a new policy priority in EU investment for 2014-2020

## FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES

**I. An integrated approach, with long-term planning and more decentralization:** urban areas develop and implement integrated, sustainable urban development strategies cutting through traditional sectoral, territorial and governance boundaries

**II. A focus on key priorities:**

- 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
- Urban innovation actions (experimental projects)

# **Sustainable urban development: a new policy priority in EU investment for 2014-2020**

## **III. Empowerment of city authorities**

Urban areas will select the projects (drawing up and applying selection criteria) taking responsibility in the implementation of the OP. The MA must designate them as IB by way of written arrangements on the delegated tasks.

## **IV. Dedicated resources**

At least 5% of the national ERDF allocation must be allocated to SUD, implemented using any of the following 3 methods:

- A specific priority axis of an OP dedicated to SUD
- A whole operational programme dedicated to SUD
- Integrated territorial investment (ITI) tool: "pick-and-mix" from different priority axis and programmes to create an integrated strategy for SUD



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# **New policy developments in 2016: 12-point Urban Agenda of the EU**

1. Inclusion of refugees and migrants
2. Air quality
3. Urban poverty
4. Housing
5. Circular economy
6. Jobs and skills
7. Climate adaptation
8. Energy transition
9. Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions
10. Urban mobility
11. Digital transition
12. Innovative and responsible public procurement

## New policy developments in 2016: New Urban Agenda at global level (UN Habitat 3)

- Common inspiration in UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, and in particular Goal 11, to “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.
- SDG 11 was the basis for the Third Habitat conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). 170 countries unanimously adopted the New Urban Agenda on 20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.
- Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) and the global New Urban Agenda (NUA) are overlapping. The twelve priority themes of the Urban Agenda for the EU are also addressed in the New Urban Agenda. For the EU, the UAEU is also a delivery mechanism for NUA in Europe.

## **New policy developments in 2016: New Urban Agenda at global level (UN Habitat 3)**

- NUA devotes more attention to urban governance: widely-drawn partnerships involving sectors, knowledge partners and civil society; subsidiarity and proportionality; multilevel governance and decentralisation, integration of sectoral policies, inclusiveness and equity, etc.
- But note that these principles are explicit in the rules governing the EU system of regional and urban programme implementation, in any event.

# The policy of the European Union in Quito

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, made 3 voluntary commitments:

- Delivering the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- Developing a global, harmonised definition of cities (people-based definition of cities with OECD and WB);
- **Fostering the International Urban Cooperation Programme in Asia and Americas and the World Cities projects.**

## **Practice: sustainable urban development programmes in the EU for 2014-2020**

### **Early results are encouraging:**

- Half of EU MS spend much more than 5% (up to 20% in the case of Bulgaria)
- Between 500-700 cities in the EU expected to have SUD strategies: about half using the ITI method
- A huge new fund of urban development policy experience in widely diverse situations!! Much evaluation work to be done in the coming years



## Practice: other instruments for Urban Development

### Innovative actions for sustainable urban development (from 2015)

- €0.37 bln. for 7 years to promote innovative and experimental projects. For urban area with at least 50.000 inhabitants involved.
- Calls for interest on annual basis. First call covers themes of jobs and skills; energy transition ; inclusion of migrants and refugees ; urban poverty. 378 proposals received

### Urban development network

- Networking between European Commission and the cities implementing integrated urban development and innovative actions.
- Managed by the European Commission

### URBACT continues (URBACT III)

- Programme within European Territorial Cooperation programme: all cities can apply.



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# World Cities II: orientations

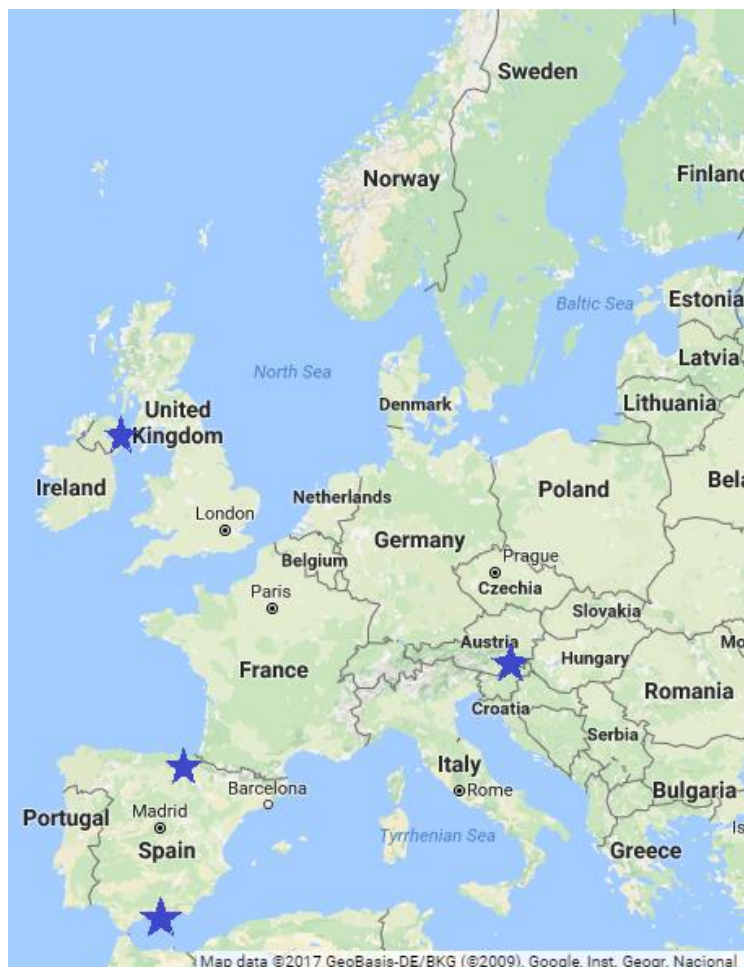
## World Cities II implementation: main phases

- Selection of EU and non-EU cities for implementing pairing schemes during 2017–2018.
- First meeting: plenary session followed by one-week working meetings in the non-EU country (five delegates from each participating EU city). Objective: obtain agreement in principle to cooperate on a limited number of urban development themes of shared interest. The working meetings will break out to include field to sites and projects in the paired city.

## World Cities II implementation: main phases

- Period of bilateral cooperation among the cities on the agreed themes followed by second working meetings in the European Union. The project covers four delegates from each non-EU city. The working meetings will be followed by field visits in which non-EU cities visit their European counterparts. Timing: October/November 2017.
- Project finale: Closing meetings to be held in the non-EU cities. Objective: stocktaking plus plans for further cooperation outside the World Cities project (possibilities include MoUs, Letters of Intent, joint pilot projects, exchange of personnel, etc). Timing: First-quarter 2018.

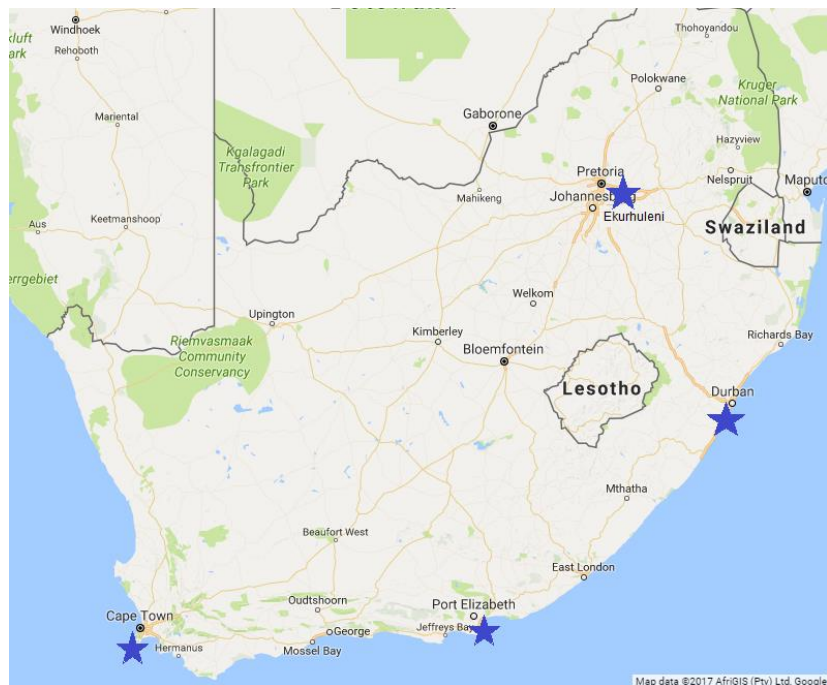
## Participating cities from the European Union



- ✓ Belfast (UK)
- ✓ Bilbao (ES)
- ✓ Graz (AT)
- ✓ Málaga (ES)

Selection based on  
quality (competitive  
mechanism)

## Involved cities from South Africa & Pairings



- ✓ Ekurhuleni > Graz
- ✓ eThekweni > Belfast
- ✓ Cape Town > Bilbao
- ✓ Nelson Mandela Bay > Málaga

## Bilbao



- The capital of Biscay (345.000 inhab.) stands at the heart of a metropolis with over 1 Mio people.
- Bilbao has been the economic center of the Basque Country (metropolitan GDP: 31 Bn €)
- The BILBAO RIS3 Strategy for Smart Specialization focuses on four sectors:
  - Creative Industries, Art,
  - Technology & Design; Health & Tourism;
  - Eco-Technology & Urban Solutions;
  - Advanced Business Services.
- *The Bilbao Guggenheim Effect*





## Belfast



- The capital of Northern Ireland stands at the heart of a metropolis with over 585.000 inhabitants.
- Metropolitan GDP 22.1 Bn € in 2014
- Belfast has been the fastest-growing economy of the thirty largest cities in the UK over the past decade
- Peace has boosted the numbers of tourists coming to Belfast
- UK Smart Specialisation (S3) conference held in Belfast
- Northern Ireland Task Force 2007-2014



## Graz



- Second-largest city in Austria with 320,587 inhab. - Graz Urban Zone has 605,143 inhab.
- Metropolitan [GDP 23.1 Bn €](#)
- Long tradition as a "university town": its six universities have more than 44,000 students.
- Focus on [Smart City Development](#)
- Support to [Green Tech Cluster](#) and others
- Best practices on Integrated Territorial Governance – Rural Urban Relations



## Málaga



- 600,000 inhabitants, 6th most populated in Spain
- Technological and cultural benchmark
- Metropolitan GDP 26,1 Bn €
- Clear municipal commitment to climate change:
  - 40% reduction GEE in 2030, neutral in 2050
  - Official fleet with electric vehicles
  - Energy consumed by the city council in official buildings will be supplied by renewable sources
- Focus on Smart City > Andalucía Smart City Cluster

# **The World Cities II: EU Contract Implementation Team**

## **In Europe**

- Stefanie Klein, Project Director for GIZ
- Pablo Gándara, Project Manager
- Fatima Beg, Senior Advisor South Africa
- Iñigo Bilbao, Urban Development Specialist & Internal Evaluation

## **In South Africa**

- Andreas Sieren, Project Coordinator
- Prof. Ivan Turok and Dr Andreas Scheba, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) – Supporting Partner

Where can I obtain more information?

[www.ec.europa.eu/info/region](http://www.ec.europa.eu/info/region)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/international/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/international/index_en.cfm)

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PROJECT

COUNTRIES

CITIES

ACTIVITIES

TOPICS

中文

한국어

Tiếng Việt



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD



nelson mandela bay  
MUNICIPALITY



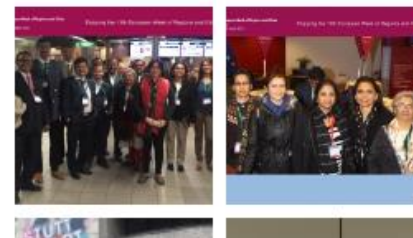
City of  
Ekurhuleni

## EU – South Africa

Participating cities from South Africa are:

- Ekurhuleni
- Cape Town
- Nelson Mandela Bay
- eThekweni

## Impressions



# Thank you for your attention

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/international)



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