



Urban dimension of cohesion policy

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I. The role of cities in the European Union

Why is it important to support cities?

II. 20 years of Community support for cities

European support for urban actions to improve the cities' attractiveness for people and business

III. Outlook post 2013

Current debates on cohesion policy and on urban dimension of urban policy



I. The role of cities in the European Union

“It will be vital to re-start an active dialogue with cities as well as regional and national stakeholders to clearly define the role and the contributions of cities to the objectives of EUROPE 2020.”

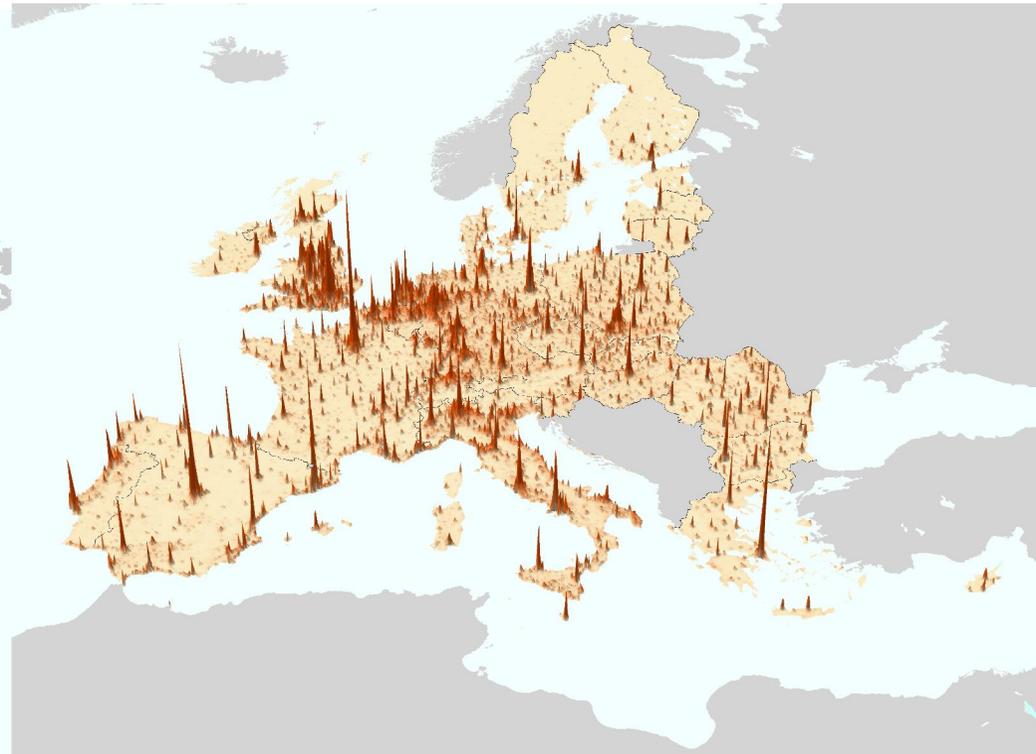
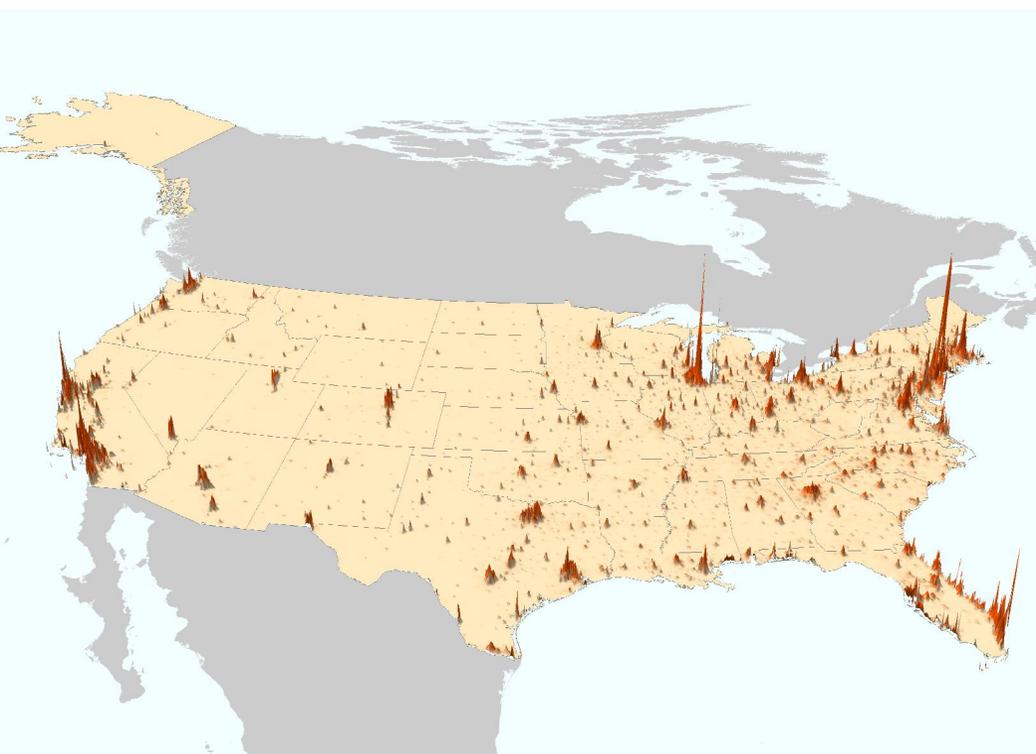
Commissioner Johannes Hahn at the Informal Council of Ministers for Regional Policy, Zaragoza, 19 February 2010

... but why is this so important ?



Cities in the EU – a distinct European settlement pattern

- Only few large agglomerations
- A dense network of small and medium-sized cities and towns
- Offering high quality of life in cities and surrounding areas





The role of cities in the European Union

- Cities are places of innovation, knowledge, skills and creativity
 - Cities are main drivers in combating climate change (energy-efficiency and renewable energies in the transport and building sector)
 - Cities are centres of cultural activity, social inclusion and integration
- **Cities are key for economic, social and territorial cohesion**



II. 20 years of Community support





Urban policy in Europe – political dimension

- No Commission mandate for urban development in the Treaty
- Member States fully recognise and support the urban dimension of community policies
- **Development of “Urban acquis”**
 - Lille 2000: Lille action programme
 - Rotterdam 2004: Urban acquis
 - Bristol 2005: Sustainable communities
 - Leipzig 2007: Leipzig chart on sustainable cities
 - Marseille 2008: Common Reference Framework



Policy tools and instruments – Urban actions in EU Regional Policy (ERDF support)

1989-1999: Urban Pilot Projects

1994-2006: **The URBAN Community Initiative**

- **Emphasis on disadvantaged neighbourhoods and social inclusion**
- Integrated approach and strong local partnerships
- Tailor-made solutions for neighbourhoods in need
- Created a European platform (network) for addressing urban question (URBACT)

Support for 200 cities across Europe



2007-2013: From experimenting to mainstreaming...

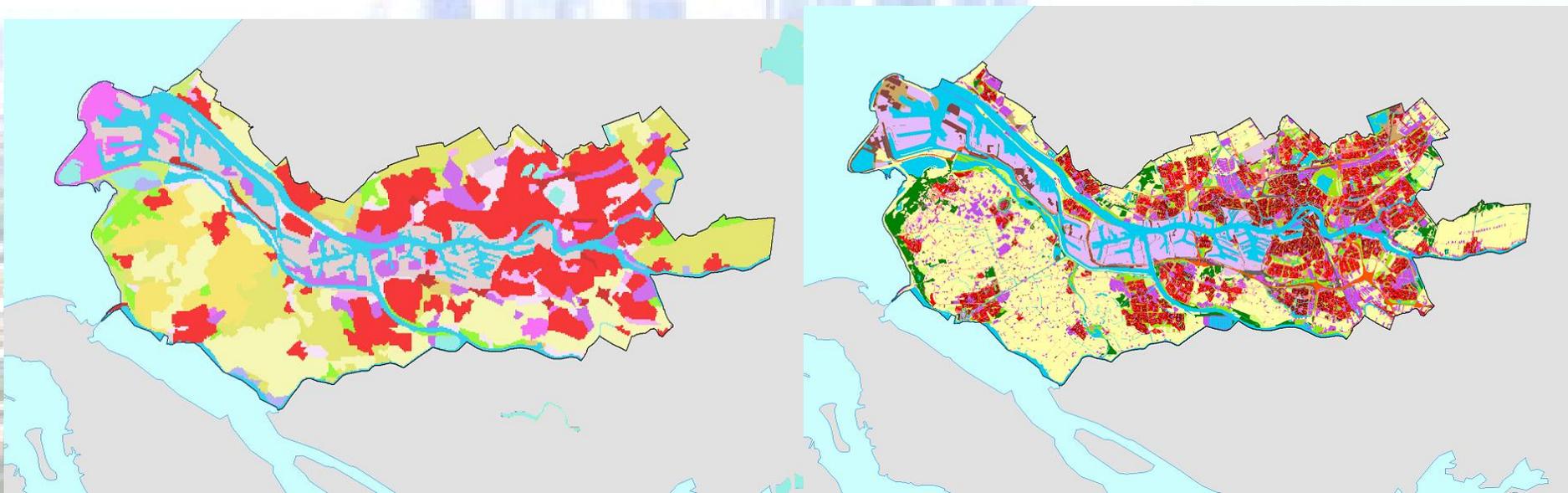
- Urban actions part of regional and national operational programmes
- **All European cities eligible for support**
- **National Strategic Reference Frameworks should include priorities related to sustainable urban development**
- OPs may contain priority axis for urban development, list of urban areas concerned, procedure for subdelegating to urban authorities
- **Article 8** offers an enlarged scope of eligibility in **area-based actions** aiming to integrated urban development
- **10 billion € earmarked**, 30 billion € total investment estimated



... through capitalisation

1. **Urban audit** (1998) provide data and indicators for 350 cities
2. **Urban Atlas**: new tools for smart development with the support of European space technology

http://ec.europa.eu/gmes/index_en.htm





... through capitalisation (2)

3. **URBACT programme** – valuable tool for exchange of experience
29 countries, 255 cities, 5000 active participants
4. **URBACT** is part of the broader “**Regions for Economic Change**”
Selected URBACT project can receive Fast Track Network status
5. “**CityStar**” award – to choose the best top quality projects financed by ERDF – May 2010
6. **Annual Survey on perception of quality of life** – will be published 7 May 2010 in FR, EN, SP, DE, NL



III. “And what comes next ... ?”

What will the urban dimension of cohesion policy look like in the future (post 2013)?



The main challenges ahead – EUROPE 2020

- A European strategy for **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**
- Targets:
 - developing an economy through value creation based on knowledge and innovation
 - promoting a more resource efficient, greener, connected and more competitive economy
 - Empowering people in inclusive societies, delivering social and territorial cohesion

... what does this mean for future urban policies ?



Cities are key partners in delivering the Europe 2020 goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

- Need to keep and enhance the attractiveness of European cities as places where people like to live, work and invest
- Need to empower and support cities in their efforts
- **Need for supportive and complementary (urban) policies and programmes which allow for**
 - local tailor-made solutions
 - integrated and sustainable solutions
 - innovative approaches

... and how do we proceed ?



Debate on the future of Cohesion Policy

- **Lisbon Treaty**
 - ✓ recognises territorial cohesion as an explicit objective of cohesion policy
 - ✓ Gives new weight to the role of local authorities and citizens

- **Spring 2011: Legislative proposal of the European Commission**

- **Series of studies...**



“Barca report” on assessment of cohesion policy and proposals to reform

- Allocate a large share of EU budget to the provision of public goods through a place-based development strategy aimed at both core economic and social objectives;
- Cohesion policy provides appropriate basis for implementing this strategy
- Reform is needed: adoption of a strong policy concept, a concentration of priorities; key changes to the governance
- **Recommendation: 10 pillars**



“Fostering the urban dimension”

- **Analysis of 316 OPs from three Cohesion Policy Objectives**
 - ✓ Urban development is an important topic
 - ✓ More than half of OPs have urban dimension
 - ✓ **Strong sectoral focus**
 - ✓ Less emphasis on integrated urban development (particularly in new MS)
 - ✓ Necessary capacity building and guidance is missing in most cases
 - ✓ **Local involvement is a major challenge**
 - ✓ Limited role for cities in design and implementation of programme
 - ✓ Few cases of delegation responsibilities to local authorities



“Cities of tomorrow”

- DG REGIO cities foresight exercise (2010/spring 2011)
- Objectives:
 - Raising the awareness for the impact of the main challenges ahead
 - Identifying good practice for innovative approaches to tackle these challenges
 - Clarifying how cohesion policy after 2013 could help cities to better address these challenges?



Assessing advantages and disadvantages of mainstreaming

Successes:

- Raised awareness: closeness to people, visibility of Europe in our cities
- Huge demand for cohesion policy support in cities

Concerns:

- Immediate mainstreaming of URBAN in new MS was too fast
- Need to explore possibilities and more room for experimentation and innovation
- Efforts to involve cities more directly in the design and management of OPs
- Participation and local involvement need to be improved
- Integrated? Trend to go for “easy options”, design urban operations from a sectoral perspective
- Urban actions somewhat “conservative”



... while building on the good experience from the past

➤ Cohesion policy post 2013 should ...

- promote more local involvement and partnership
- provide greater guidance on the integrated approach
- foster innovative approaches and experimentation
- support cooperation at various levels
- foster exchange of experience and mutual learning



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Thank you very much for your attention



http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm