

## Positioning Roadmap in Brussels

### I. Introduction

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Cities are at the forefront of all the societal and systemic changes that societies are going through, be it fighting against global challenges like climate change, COVID-19, inequalities, to name just a few, on one hand, or developing innovative and sustainable services, projects and policy solutions on the other. Addressing societal, urbanistic, environmental, entrepreneurial, educational and other issues that affect citizens often means dealing with global and regional challenges. This is, nevertheless, done on the ground, where policy ideas and measures turn into life and where the contact with citizens is the strongest. Finding common solutions lies in the core of European cooperation, but positioning oneself in the populated Brussels policy arena is a demanding task for single cities. However, representative organisations like the Union of the Baltic Cities have a much better position to engage, connect and empower its member cities. To effectively reach strategic objectives of the organisation, UBC aims to influence **(1) policy dialogues** through networking and cooperation. The key to success is **(2) knowledge & expertise sharing** with similar and compatible organisations through peer activities.

### II. Main European Union policy frameworks - trends & opportunities

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The main policy issues or matters identified by UBC member cities to be addressed in the next two years are the following:

- *Urban agenda for the EU*
- *Cohesion policies beyond 2020*
- *European Green Deal*
- *Recovery mechanisms (where applicable)*<sup>1</sup>

Trends for UBC Member Cities are interesting and very diverse. According to the survey of UBC<sup>2</sup>, The main identified subjects follow the identified priorities:

#### 1. Urban Agenda for EU

The Urban agenda for the EU focuses on IT and digitalization, cyber security, implementation of efficient democratic processes and better participation models for wider citizens' engagement in decision making process.

#### 2. Cohesion policies beyond 2020

Cohesion policies beyond 2020 covers a wide range of topics such as European values, innovation, regional strategies, social cohesion, (youth) unemployment, ageing of population, inclusion, rural development, health issues and migration.

#### 3. Climate Change and Sustainable Development

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<sup>1</sup> The Recovery mechanisms will be closely monitored in order to analyse potential funding opportunities for the cities and other stakeholders' operations within UBC Member Cities.

<sup>2</sup> Survey, UBC, Mapping the needs of UBC MEMBER CITIES, April 2020.

This topic focuses on cities' responses to climate change, development of new models in energy, enhancing environmental sustainability, water consumption and transport among others, in becoming increasingly modern, resource-efficient and competitive.

#### **4. Resilient UBC Cities**

Creating framework for resilient cities with the ability to absorb, recover and prepare for future shocks (economic, environmental, social & institutional). Resilient cities promote good governance, well-being and inclusive growth.

Those three key policy areas are very often **cross-cutting issues** being addressed by different EU stakeholders. The road map will look into those main issues, creating partnerships to offer UBC engagement and provide expertise and recommendations for specific measures in the best interests of Member Cities.

### **III. UBC Antenna in Brussels, why?**

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According to UBC Member Cities<sup>3</sup>, UBC should, as a representative regional organization, and in cooperation with other partners, promote the interests of its members and the region in European decision-making. Furthermore, UBC members "expect the organisation to work towards Agenda 2030 and to be a strong regional "player" and reliable body for European consultations"<sup>4</sup>.

The partnership between UBC and OTB will offer the opportunity for more effective advocacy and lobbying of UBC cities' interests, increasing the visibility of UBC among European institutions, thus influencing EU policies that impact local member cities' authorities in the long term.

The activities of the UBC Antenna in Brussels will be focusing on:

- providing updates on relevant EU policies;
- improving the visibility of UBC at the EU institutions;
- assisting in building strategic partnerships with key EU stakeholders;
- supporting UBC Secretariat in preparing project applications;

Also, a meeting room and working space within the co-working place of OTB will be available to UBC staff and UBC Member Cities near EU institutions.

### **IV. Why Positioning Roadmaps?**

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The visibility and positioning strategy has the aim to achieve the following results by the end of 2021:

- *Improved visibility of UBC at the EU level;*
- *Improved involvement of UBC in relevant EU policy dialogues;*
- *Increased project financing with the current budget;*

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<sup>3</sup> Survey, UBC, Mapping the needs of UBC MEMBER CITIES, April 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Survey, UBC, Mapping the needs of UBC MEMBER CITIES, April 2020.

The visibility and positioning strategy will provide basic information about key stakeholders and the UBC approach working with them. Also, the document will provide a road map with activities.

In order to prepare UBC structures for a more proactive role in EU policy dialogues, the position and policy papers will be prepared through the activities of **“Task Force for Policy and Project”**. By preparing more articulated positions it will be easier for UBC representatives to engage in discussion and advocate for its members interests.

## V. Analyses of offices representing UBC Member Cities in Brussels

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There are 42 cities from 9 countries with representations in Brussels:

Denmark	Guldborgsund, Naestved (Greater Copenhagen EU Office) Kolding (South Denmark European Office) Aarhus (Central Denmark EU Office)
Estonia	Elva, Maardu, Rakvere, Tartu, Parnu, Tallinn (No office, The Brussels Office of the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities AECM)
Finland	Jyvaskyla, Vaasa, Pori (West Finland European Office) Kemi (East and North Finland EU-office) Kotka Helsinki, Porvoo, Espoo, Lahti (Helsinki EU Office) Turku TURKU-Southwest Finland European Office)
Germany	Greifswald, Rostock (No city’s office Regional Office: The Information Office of the State of MecklenburgVorpommern to the European Union in Brussels) Kiel (No city’s office Schleswig-Holstein, Hanse-Office)
Latvia	Representation Office of Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments
Lithuania	Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania Brussels Representation
Norway	Bergen (West-Norway Brussel office) Kristiansand, Arendal (South Norway European Office)

Poland	Gdańsk, Gdynia / Pomorskie (POMORSKIE Regional EU Office) Elbląg (Regional Office of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship in Brussels)
Sweden	Gavle, Örebro (Central Sweden EU office) Kalmar, Växjö (South Sweden´s Brussels Office) Malmö (City of Malmö EU Office) Umeå (North Sweden European Office) Gotland (Stockholm Region EU Office)

The representation of UBC member cities in Brussels varies a lot in terms of structure and activities focusing on representing their interests, working on the general promotion of the cities and regions, and sometimes delivering concrete lobby tasks.

The usual activities are the following:

- Developing project ideas in collaboration with the departments as well as providing project support such as assistance with partner searches. In addition, the offices serve as contact points in partnership building.
- Preparing updates on funding opportunities, their structures and funding applications
- Providing updates on relevant EU legislation and policy processes that concern cities;
- Study visits to EU institutions, events and encounters. Organizing seminars, conferences and cultural events in Brussels is also part of the portfolio.

The offices' priority areas are the following:

- Research and innovation;
- Energy, Climate and circular economy;
- Transport policy;
- Regional and cohesion policies;
- Urban policies.

Based on the analysis, the creation of a common UBC space where the representation offices could meet, network and brainstorm about new ideas will provide an opportunity to promote UBC and create additional value for both its member cities and UBC as a network.

## **VI. Stakeholders analysis**

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From the perspective of the Union of Baltic Cities, stakeholders in Brussels can be roughly divided into three big groups:

### 1. European institutions

70%<sup>5</sup> of all EU legislation is implemented by local authorities. It is pivotal for cities to have access to the policy-making processes at the European level. On one hand the aim is to support evidence-based policy-making with their expertise and knowledge and on the other to represent the voice of local citizens and thus contribute to the democratic process in the European Union.

2. Representative/umbrella organisations of cities and regions

Building relationships with sister organisations complements policy efforts and successes achieved in cooperation with the institutional stakeholders and creates meaningful opportunities for project and content collaboration for UBC and its members. A special target group consists of Offices representing UBC Member Cities in Brussels.

3. Civil society organisations

CSOs play a vital role in many policy areas related to urban development and partnering with them offers many opportunities for creating synergies and coalitions in pursuing policy and project agendas.

The purpose of this analysis is to provide an overview of the stakeholder landscape by identifying key players, their profiles and how they align with UBC strategic priorities. These findings and data are translated to concrete activities and milestones for the UBC Antenna in Brussels.

**VII. Activities for 2020**

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	June-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Preparation of the road map							
The event "EU week of regions and cities" (1)							
The event in the EP (1)							
Meeting with the key stakeholders (10)							
Policy updates (3)							

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<sup>5</sup> CoR: Committee of the Regions, 'A new treaty: a new role for regions and local authorities' - <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Documents/Our-work/lisbon-treaty.pdf>

## VIII. PARTNERSHIPS

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### I. Existing partnerships and memberships

UBC has already several partnerships which should be taken in account while advancing with the EU level activities. Some of them are:

UBC was granted the observer status with Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) in 1993, Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) in 1994, Committee of the Regions (CoR) in 2004, Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area (BSPC).

UBC has the strategic partner status in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). UBC has cooperation agreements with Eurocities and the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC). UBC has mutual membership with the Energy Cities.

Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy – UBC is a supporter, since 01/06/2010, Sustainable Cities commission is involved.

UBC has links of cooperation with numerous Baltic and European organizations, inter alia: Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Nordic Council, Nordic Council of Ministers, B7 Baltic Islands Network, Baltic 21, Euroregion Baltic, VASAB, ICLEI, Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns, Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

### II. European Institutions

#### 1. European Commission

##### 1.1 European Green New Deal

The Green New Deal text mentions "local" and "cities" 17 times. Analysis of the text shows that some measures are relatively well framed while in some cases the text proposes general guidelines or directions that the Commission will follow when developing measures for implementation of the EGND.

Most developed policy areas of EGND involving cities and local level are:

Housing policy - renovation of public and private buildings

Renovation of public and private buildings: New platform will be established and will include innovative financing schemes under **InvestEU** programme which could target housing associations or energy service companies to support the use of energy performance contracting. Public buildings and social housing will be given particular attention as well as national regulatory barriers that inhibit energy efficiency investments in rented and multi-ownership buildings. (EGND, p. 9)

[InvestEU programme](#) builds on the successful model of the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan. It will bring together, under one roof, the European Fund for Strategic Investments and 13 EU financial instruments currently available. Triggering at least €650 billion in additional investment, the Programme aims to give an additional boost to investment, innovation and job creation in Europe. (EGND, p. 10)

DG responsible: N/A

### Transport policy

EGND does not elaborate on possible financial resources for projects and policy implementation but announces revision or introduction of new legislation on CO2 emissions in land, maritime and air transport. (EGND, p. 11)

DG responsible(s): [DG for Climate Action](#) and [DG Mobility and Transport](#)

### Just Transition Fund

As part of the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan, the Commission will propose a Just Transition Mechanism, including a Just Transition Fund, to leave no one behind. The transition can only succeed if it is conducted in a fair and inclusive way. The most vulnerable are the most exposed to the harmful effects of climate change and environmental degradation. At the same time, managing the transition will lead to significant structural changes in business models, skill requirements and relative prices. Citizens, depending on their social and geographic circumstances, will be affected in different ways. Not all Member States, regions and cities start the transition from the same point or have the same capacity to respond. These challenges require a strong policy response at all levels. (EGND, p. 16)

DG responsible: [DG for Regional and Urban Policy](#) (DG Regio)

### Research and Innovation

[Five "Green Deal Missions"](#) represent guiding principles for the development of large scale initiatives for changes in different areas, including cities. The mission will bring together a wide range of stakeholders including regions and citizens. These missions will bring together a wide range of stakeholders including regions and citizens. Partnerships with industry and Member States will support research and innovation on transport, including batteries, clean hydrogen, low-carbon steel making, circular bio-based sectors and the built environment. The knowledge and innovation communities run by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology will continue

to promote collaboration among higher education institutions, research organisations and companies on climate change, sustainable energy, food for the future, and smart, environmentally-friendly and integrated urban transport. The European Innovation Council will dedicate funding, equity investment and business acceleration services to high potential start-ups and SMEs for them to achieve breakthrough Green Deal innovation that can be scaled up rapidly on global markets. Conventional approaches will not be sufficient. Emphasising experimentation, and working across sectors and disciplines, the EU's research and innovation agenda will take the systemic approach needed to achieve the aims of the Green Deal. The Horizon Europe programme will also involve local communities in working towards a more sustainable future, in initiatives that seek to combine societal pull and technology push. (EGND, p. 20)

DG Responsible: [DG for Research and Innovation](#)

### Cohesion policy

The urban dimension of cohesion policy will be strengthened, and the proposed European Urban Initiative will provide assistance to cities to help them make best use of opportunities to develop sustainable urban development strategies. The EU Covenant of Mayors will continue to be a central force. The Commission will work with it to continue to provide assistance to cities and regions that want to commit to ambitious pledges on climate and energy policies. It will remain an essential platform to share good practices on how to implement change locally. (EGND, p. 22)

DG responsible: [DG for Regional and Urban Policy](#)

### Citizen participation

The Climate Pact will build on the Commission's on-going series of citizens' dialogues and citizens' assemblies across the EU, and the role of social dialogue committees. It will continue to work to empower regional and local communities. (EGND, p. 22)

DG responsible: across all DGs

Other policy areas that have mentions cities and local level are:

### Risk management practice

It will be important to ensure that across the EU, investors, insurers, businesses, cities and citizens are able to access data and to develop instruments to integrate climate change into their risk management practice (ENGD, p. 5)

### Biodiversity

The biodiversity strategy will also include proposals to green European cities and increase biodiversity in urban spaces. The Commission will consider drafting a nature restoration plan and will look at how to provide funding to help Member States to reach this aim. (ENGD, p. 13)

### Air pollution

EC will also propose to strengthen provisions on monitoring, modelling and air quality plans to help local authorities achieve cleaner air. (ENGD, p. 14)

## **1.1 Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy**

Commissioner: Elisa Ferreira, [cab-ferreira-contact@ec.europa.eu](mailto:cab-ferreira-contact@ec.europa.eu)

Director General: Marc Lemaître

Deputy Director General: Normunds Popen

Organigram: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/dgs/organigramme\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/dgs/organigramme_en.pdf)

Contacts:

Cohesion policy: Eric von Breska (director of Policy Regio B)

### **Policy/content areas of interest:**

- Regional Development and Cohesion Policy beyond 2020 (Urban dimension of cohesion policy)
- Urban development programmes and initiatives:
  - [Urban Innovative Actions](#)
  - [URBACT III](#)
  - [Urban Development Network](#)
  - [Urban Agenda for the EU](#)

### **Urban Agenda for the EU**

The Urban Agenda for the EU was launched in May 2016 with the Pact of Amsterdam. It represents a new multi-level working method promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe and to identify and successfully tackle social challenges.

URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda>

### **The Urban development network**

The Urban Development Network is made up of more than 500 cities/urban areas across the EU responsible for implementing integrated actions based on Sustainable Urban Development strategies financed by ERDF in the 2014-2020 period.

The Network's mission is to:

- Review how European funds are implemented on the ground in Europe's cities
- Support information exchange between cities involved in integrated Sustainable Urban Development (Art 7) and Urban Innovative Actions (Art 8)
- Promote direct dialogue between the Commission and cities on Sustainable Urban Development

## **URBACT**

For about 15 years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 28 Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Following the success of the URBACT I and II programmes, URBACT III (2014-2020) has been developed to continue to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

**The URBACT III** programme is organised around four main objectives:

- Capacity for Policy Delivery: to improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.
- Policy Design: to improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.
- Policy Implementation: to improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.
- Building and Sharing Knowledge: to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.

## Urban Innovative Action

Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an Initiative of the European Union that provides urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges. Based on article 8 of ERDF, the Initiative has a total ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for 2014-2020.

Director: Tim Caulfield ([t.caulfield@uia-initiative.eu](mailto:t.caulfield@uia-initiative.eu))

URL: <https://uia-initiative.eu/en/initiative/meet-team>

**Policy area(s):** EU policies on regional and urban development

**What we offer:** Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Positioning UBC on the European stakeholder map of local and regional representatives. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Long term goal is to be able to influence regional and urban policies, measures and programmes.

## 1.2 Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

COMMISSIONER: Mariya Gabriel

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Jean-Eric Paquet

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Patrick Anthony Child

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Signe Ratso

URL: [DG Research](#)

[Research and Innovation - Organisation chart](#)

POLICY & PROGRAMMING CENTRE

DIRECTORATE A - J. GUERRIE

HORIZON STRATEGIC PLANNING & PROGRAMMING (CODESIGN & CO-CREATION)

Head of Unite - Patrick BRENIER, [patrick.brenier@ec.europa.eu](mailto:patrick.brenier@ec.europa.eu)

**Policy area(s):** Horizon Europe

**What we offer:** Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Positioning UBC on the European stakeholder map of local and regional representatives. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Gather information on the next programme and how the cities and local authorities will be able to engage in it. The Long term goal is to have an influence to offer programme priorities.

### 1.3 EASME

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) has been set-up by the European Commission to manage on its behalf several EU programmes in the fields of SME support & innovation, environment, climate action, energy and maritime affairs.

Contact: Igor Kalinič (igor.kalinic@ec.europa.eu)

URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en>

**Policy area(s):** SMEs, digitalisation, single market

**What we offer:**

Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:**

Information on the operationalisation of the future funding mechanism for SMEs.

### 1.4 EU Regional Offices accredited by the Brussels Capital Region

DG Regio organizes quarterly meetings with EU Regional Offices accredited by the Brussels Capital Region. The community of accredited offices is therefore regularly invited to exchanges with the European Commission's directorate-general for regional and urban policy. From July 2019, this cooperation is organised in two different formats, hosted by the European Commission:

Dialogues with EU Regional Offices

These quarterly meetings are designed for specialists interested in discussing matters related to the planning and implementation of cohesion policy. Topics are chosen based on the needs of EU Regional Offices and political priorities of the Commission. Each session is repeated once with identical content to accommodate a maximum amount of participants. The sessions are held in English without interpretation.

[Example](#) of the agenda of the last meeting.

Annual meeting of EU Regional Offices with the Commissioner for Regional Policy

This annual meeting takes the form of a plenary session where representatives of EU Regional Offices are invited for political exchanges with the Commissioner.

All sessions are by invitation only. The invitation is sent to all EU Regional Offices accredited by the Brussels Capital Region. For both formats, the participation is limited to one representative per regional office.

Certified Regional representation in Brussels explained [here](#).

Contact person: Karin Impens, Deputy to the Commissioner at [kimpens@commissioner.brussels](mailto:kimpens@commissioner.brussels)

## **2. European Parliament**

### **2.1 Urban intergroup**

The URBAN Intergroup at the European Parliament is a cross-parties and cross-committees grouping with a horizontal approach to discuss urban-related issues. It gathers together over 89 MEPs representing most EU Member States, all the political groups at the European Parliament, and working in all the parliamentary committees. The URBAN Intergroup works with 143 partners from local, regional, national and European levels that represent the interests of Europe's towns and cities or work in the domain relevant for urban development.

Members: [93 MEPs from 16 MS](#)

President: Jan OLBRYCHT (EPP-Poland), [EP page](#), [jan.olbrycht@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:jan.olbrycht@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-president: Fabienne KELLER (Renew-France), [EP page](#), [fabienne.keller@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:fabienne.keller@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-president: Andreas SCHIEDER (S&D-Austria), [EP page](#), [andreas.schieder@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:andreas.schieder@europarl.europa.eu)

### **2.2 Committee on Regional Development**

Chair: Younous OMARJEE (GUE-NGL/FR), [EP page](#), [younous.omarjee@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:younous.omarjee@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-chair: Krzysztof HETMAN (EPP/PL), [EP page](#), [krzysztof.hetman@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:krzysztof.hetman@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-chair: Cristian GHINEA (Renew/RO), [EP page](#), [cristian.ghinea@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:cristian.ghinea@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-chair: Adrian-Dragoş BENEĂ (S&D/RO), [EP page](#), [adrian-dragos.benea@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:adrian-dragos.benea@europarl.europa.eu)

Vice-chair: Isabel BENJUMEA BENJUMEA (EPP/ES), [EP page](#), [isabel.benjumea@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:isabel.benjumea@europarl.europa.eu)

**Policy area(s):** EU policies on regional and urban development

**What we offer:**

Readiness to cooperate on development of policies and offering expertise and knowledge on issues and challenges cities from Baltic region face.

**Expected outcome:**

Recognition of the UBC as an important stakeholder in developing EU urban policies and influencing the policy agenda. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Long term goal is to be able to influence policy proposals.

### **3. European Committee of the Regions**

#### **3.1 Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE)**

Current ENVI has been constituted in 2020. Main mission for the 7th mandate is negotiating with European institutions on Green New Deal's measures and funding. Another important topic for the Commission is circular economy and how to support it on the local and regional levels.

Chair: Juan Espadas (ES/PES), [CoR page](#), [adrianreina@sevilla.org](mailto:adrianreina@sevilla.org)

Member of the European Committee of the Regions since: 20.09.2016

Head of Unit: Elisa GAROSI

Deputy Head of Unit: Gianluca SPINACI

Website: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/enve.aspx>

CoR rapporteur for Just Transition fund: Vojko OBERSNEL (HR/PES), [CoR page](#), [gradonacelnik@rijeka.hr](mailto:gradonacelnik@rijeka.hr)

CoR rapporteur for European Climate Law: Juan Manuel MORENO BONILLA (ES/EPP), [CoR page](#), [cdr@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:cdr@juntadeandalucia.es)

CoR rapporteur New Circular Economy Action Plan: Tjisse STELPSTRA (NL/ECR), [CoR page](#), [t.stelpstra@drenthe.nl](mailto:t.stelpstra@drenthe.nl)

CoR rapporteur Climate Pact: Rafał Kazimierz TRZASKOWSKI (PL/EPP), [CoR page](#), [ahamerski@um.warszawa.pl](mailto:ahamerski@um.warszawa.pl)

### 3.2 European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

The acronym "EGTC" stands for 'European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation'. It allows public entities of different Member States to come together under a new entity with full legal personality. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was established on 5 July 2006 by Regulation (EC) 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council and came into force on 1 August 2006.

The EGTC is the first European cooperation structure with a legal personality defined by European Law, designed to facilitate and promote territorial cooperation (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation), in view of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the European territory.

Contact: <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/Pages/Contact.aspx>

### 3.4 Network of Regional Hubs

Local and regional authorities are at the forefront of implementing EU policy. RegHub is a platform which aims to involve key local and regional actors through effective consultations in order to collect their experiences on EU policy implementation. This way the EU institutions will benefit from their invaluable input by producing more efficient policies and ultimately bringing the Union closer to its citizens.

Mr Rainer Steffens

European Committee of the Regions

Tel: +32 (0) 2282 23 77

[RegHub@cor.europa.eu](mailto:RegHub@cor.europa.eu)

**Policy area(s):** CoR covers a wide range of policy areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions. Selected bodies offer opportunities to open new opportunities strengthening the role of UBC as an intermediary between local and European level and/or present an important stakeholder in the policy making activities regarding the implementation of European Green New Deal.

**What we offer:** Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Positioning UBC on the European stakeholder map of local and regional representatives. Establishing a cooperation with the selected bodies. Boost

the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Long term goal is to be able to influence policy proposals.

## **I. Representative/umbrella organisations of cities and regions**

### **1. EUROCITIES**

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. The members are the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. EUROCITIES was founded in 1986 by the mayors of six large cities: Barcelona, Birmingham, Frankfurt, Lyon, Milan and Rotterdam. Today, EUROCITIES brings together the local governments of over 140 of Europe's largest cities and over 45 partner cities, that between them govern 130 million citizens across 39 countries.

Through six thematic forums, a wide range of working groups, projects, activities and events, a platform is offered to members for sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. The organisation influences and works with the EU institutions to respond to common issues that affect the day-to-day lives of Europeans. The Objective is to reinforce the important role that local governments should play in a multilevel governance structure and the aim to shape the opinions of Brussels stakeholders and ultimately shift the focus of EU legislation in a way that allows city governments to tackle strategic challenges at the local level.

Anna Lisa Boni, Secretary general

Contact: [anna.lisa.boni@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.lisa.boni@eurocities.eu)

URL: <http://www.eurocities.eu/>

**Policy area(s):** culture, economy, environment, knowledge society, mobility, social affairs, urban governance, cooperation

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of culture, economy, environment, knowledge society, mobility, social affairs, urban governance, cooperation between local and regional governments.

### **2. Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)**

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional governments. It is the only organisation that brings together the national associations of local and regional governments from 41 European countries and represents, through them, all levels of territories – local, intermediate and regional.

Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General, [frederic.vallier@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:frederic.vallier@ccre-cemr.org)

URL: <https://www.ccre.org/>

**Policy area(s):** all policy areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in all policy areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Build relationships with the network representation and single members.

### 3. Assembly of European Regions

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe, gathering regions from 35 countries – from Norway to Turkey and from Russia to Portugal. AER is present everywhere on the European continent, inside and outside the European Union.

#### An open and transparent membership model

Partner networks are networks of regions focused on a specific thematic and/or a geographic area. They contribute to the work of the Assembly of European Regions by keeping its members updated on a wide range of topics, while they can easily disseminate information and raise awareness throughout the network.

Mathieu Mori, Secretary General

63-67 rue d'Arlon – B-1040 Brussels

Contact: [m.mori@aer.eu](mailto:m.mori@aer.eu)

URL: <https://aer.eu/>

**Policy area(s):** all policy areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in all policy areas that have an impact on municipalities and regions. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Build relationships with the network representation and single members.

#### 4. Covenant of Mayors

The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives.

The Covenant of Mayors was launched in 2008 in Europe with the ambition to gather local governments voluntarily committed to achieving and exceeding the EU climate and energy targets.

Not only did the initiative introduce a first-of-its-kind bottom-up approach to energy and climate action, but its success quickly went beyond expectations.

The initiative now gathers 9,000+ local and regional authorities across 57 countries drawing on the strengths of a worldwide multi-stakeholder movement and the technical and methodological support offered by dedicated offices.

Frédéric BOYER, Head of Office

Contact: [frederic.boyer@eumayors.eu](mailto:frederic.boyer@eumayors.eu)

URL: <https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/>

Covenant of Mayors Office

63-67 rue d'Arlon

1040 Brussels

Belgium

**Policy area(s):** climate and energy policies, one of the EC's main stakeholders for cohesion policy

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified. Expertise and first hand knowledge from more than 100 cities. Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects where mutual interest is identified. Active support for measures that address policy priorities of the UBC.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in all aspects climate and energy policies for local and regional authorities. Boost the efforts to increase recognition of the UBC as a knowledgeable and trusted partner. Build relationships with the network representation and single members.

## **II. Civil society organisations**

### **1. FEDARENE (European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment)**

FEDARENE acts as a liaison between local/regional authorities and the European Institutions. It makes the voice of regions and energy agencies heard at the European level and informs its constituency of relevant European initiatives and policies. FEDARENE promotes the exchange of experience and the development of transnational projects. Through its events and networking activities, FEDARENE brings together organisations from across Europe to share know-how, develop European projects and replicate successful initiatives. FEDARENE provides a forum of discussion for stakeholders of the energy sector. FEDARENE serves as a platform not only to its members but to all stakeholders striving for the energy transition: public authorities, non-governmental organisations, citizens, small and medium-sized enterprises and financial institutions amongst others.

Dominique BOURGES, Coordinator

Contact: [dominique.bourges@fedarene.org](mailto:dominique.bourges@fedarene.org)

URL: <https://www.fedarene.org/>

**Policy area(s):** energy and environment policies

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of energy and environment policies.

### **2. CIVITAS**

CIVITAS is a network of cities for cities dedicated to cleaner, better transport in Europe and beyond. Since it was launched by the European Commission in 2002, the CIVITAS Initiative has tested and implemented over 800 measures and urban transport solutions as part of demonstration projects in more than 80 Living Lab cities Europe-wide.

The knowledge gained through these practical experiences is complemented and supported by several research and innovation projects (ECCENTRIC, PORTIS and DESTINATIONS), also run under CIVITAS. These research projects look at ways of building a more resource-efficient and competitive transport system in Europe.

CIVITAS offers practitioners opportunities to see innovative transport solutions being developed and deployed first-hand and learn from peers and experts working in the

field. CIVITAS nurtures political commitment, new marketable solutions and offers funding and knowledge exchange intending to create growth and better connected, more sustainable transport modes.

The project works on 10 thematic areas, related to sustainable transport mobility covering: Car-Independent Lifestyles, Clean Fuels & Vehicles, Collective Passenger Transport, Demand Management Strategies, Integrated Planning, Mobility Management, Public Involvement, Safety & Security, Transport Telematics, Urban Freight Logistics.

URL: <https://civitas.eu/>

Your contact person at the European Commission is:

Luana Bidasca

European Commission

DG Mobility and Transport (MOVE)

Unit B4 - Sustainable & Intelligent Transport

E-mail: [Luana-Maria.BIDASCA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Luana-Maria.BIDASCA@ec.europa.eu)

\*CIVITAS web platform is run by Polis (below more details on the organisation)

**Policy area(s):** transportation and mobility

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of transportation and mobility.

### 3. Energy Cities

Energy Cities is a network of 1,000 local governments in 30 countries. They believe that the energy transition is about more than renewable energy or great technologies: It is about the wise use of resources while strengthening local participation and well-being in a democratic Europe.

Alix Bolle, EU Policy & Strategic Partnerships

Contact: <https://energy-cities.eu/staff/a-bolle/>

Renewable Energy House

Rue d'Arlon 63-65

1040 Brussels, Belgium

**Policy area(s):** energy transition, participation, democracy

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of energy transition, participation and strengthening of democracy on local and regional level.

#### **4. Open & Agile Smart Cities**

Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC) is a non-profit, international smart city network that has the goal of creating and shaping the nascent global smart city data and services market. They are already today at the forefront of tomorrow's standards for city data, services, and technology – and they work based on city needs with support from industry. Unlike any other city network, OASC is driven by implementation and focused on open platforms and citizen engagement.

CEO: Dr Davor Meersman

URL: <https://oascities.org/>

Open & Agile Smart Cities vzw

Anspachlaan 65

1000 Brussels

**Policy area(s):** smart cities

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of smart cities.

#### **5. POLIS - Cities and regions for sustainable transport**

Since 1989, European local and regional authorities have been working together within POLIS to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions.

Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General

Contact: [kvancluysen@polisnetwork.eu](mailto:kvancluysen@polisnetwork.eu)

URL: <https://www.polisnetwork.eu/>

Rue du Trône, 98

B-1050 Brussels

Belgium

**Policy area(s):** transportation and mobility

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of transportation and mobility policies.

## **6. Housing Europe - The European Federation for Public, Cooperative and Social Housing**

Established in 1988, it is a network of 45 national and regional federations which together gather about 43,000 public, social and cooperative housing providers in 24 countries. Altogether they manage around 25 million homes.

Sorcha Edwards - Secretary General

Contact: [sorcha.edwards@housingeurope.eu](mailto:sorcha.edwards@housingeurope.eu)

URL: <http://www.housingeurope.eu/>

The European Federation for Public, Cooperative and Social Housing

18, Square De Meeus

1050 - Ixelles, Brussels

**Policy area(s):** housing policy

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of housing policies.

## **6. European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)**

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) is the only independent Member State-driven network in the field of urban policy, research and practice. As a network

of national governments, EU Member States and knowledge institutes, the EUKN is deeply involved in EU policy-making.

Mart Grisel, Director

Contact: [mart.grisel@eukn.eu](mailto:mart.grisel@eukn.eu)

URL: <https://www.eukn.eu/>

Secretariat is based in the Hague

**Policy area(s):** research and practice, urban policy

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in research of urban policies.

## 7. Eurada

Founded in 1992, the European Association of Development Agencies gathers people working on economic development through a large network of 66 members throughout 21 countries in the European Union and beyond.

\*They have very little members from the Baltic countries

Esteban Pelayo, Director

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URL: <http://www.eurada.org/>

Rue Montoyer, 24 B-1000 Brussels

**Policy area(s):** regional development and EU funds

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in regional development agencies and their role in the local and regional communities.

## **8. Marketplace of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities**

The Marketplace of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities is designed to bring together relevant stakeholders from across Europe to exchange ideas, to launch projects and to improve policy.

The EIP-SCC Marketplace has been initiated by the European Commission (<http://eu-smartcities.eu/>) with the dual aim of:

- Identifying and spreading relevant information on technology solutions and needs required by practitioners
- Providing information for policy support to the High Level Group and the European Commission.

It is both a web-based and physical Platform open to anyone who registers on it. Its backbone comprises the contributions of stakeholders in a bottom-up way, owned by the stakeholders. The Platform is one of the two governance bodies of the Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership (EIP).

As of September 2019, the EIP-SCC Marketplace is run by a consortium consisting of Vito/Energyville, DNVGL, Th!nk E, Tecnalía, Steinbeis 2i, ICLEI, RdA, Locality and Tilde.

Contact: [info@eu-smartcities.eu](mailto:info@eu-smartcities.eu)

URL: <https://eu-smartcities.eu/>

**Policy area(s):** smart cities, cooperation between municipalities and regions

**What we offer:** Readiness to cooperate on policies and projects in the field of energy and climate where mutual interest is identified.

**Expected outcome:** Strategic and project cooperation in the field of smart cities policies.