



What is the Urban Agenda?

The Urban Agenda for the European Union is an intergovernmental cooperation initiative, agreed by the EU Ministers responsible for urban matters in May 2016 during the Pact of Amsterdam. Based on the Pact, thematic partnerships have formed that cover the most pertinent urban challenges in Europe. Each partnership consists of representatives of European cities, national governments, EU institutions and other partners who work together on solutions and recommendations for improving regulations, financing and knowledge in the given thematic areas.



Local impact of climate change

One of 14 thematic areas identified for the Urban Agenda is the impacts of climate change in cities. It is widely recognised that vulnerability and the potential scale of damage due to climate change is especially high in urban areas, which host high density populations, have a high concentration of valuable assets and economic investments as well as essential infrastructure networks and nodes. The key climate change impacts European urban areas are facing are: increasing temperatures, leading to the Urban Heat Island Effect, increased precipitation and extreme precipitation events leading to pluvial and fluvial flooding, water scarcity, as well as increased storm damage and the threat of nearby forest fires.

Climate adaptation Partnership

The *Climate Adaptation Partnership* was established in 2017. The main focus of the Partnership has been defined as:

“to anticipate the adverse effects of climate change and take appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage it can cause to Urban Areas. The focus will be on: vulnerability assessments, climate resilience and risk management (including the social dimension of climate adaptation strategies).”

Members

The Climate Adaptation Partnership Members represent all governance levels – from the European to the local level - and key decision-makers and stakeholders engaged in urban adaptation to climate change in the EU. Within the Partnership, Action Leaders are responsible for the implementation of the specific actions, supported by Contributing Partners. The Coordinator of the Climate Adaptation Partnership is the City of Genoa.



The Action Plan

The Climate Adaptation Partnership has developed an *Action Plan*, to operationalise suggested policy and governance solutions for key bottlenecks hindering successful adaptation to climate change in the EU urban areas. The Action Plan has been developed in a participatory process involving key stakeholders from the EU institutions, national governments, regional and local authorities. This bottom-up approach ensures that local realities and needs are brought together with a wide-ranging international expertise as well as (inter)national legislative and strategic mandates.





GENOVA



Within the Action Plan, *10 Actions* have been defined: solutions aimed to increase the number of urban areas adopting and implementing adaptation plans and strategies resulting in reduced human and economic losses due to climate change impacts. The actions mostly focus on the aspects of integration between adaptation planning and urban planning, cooperation and coordination across sectors and governance levels and capacity and awareness-building activities.



BETTER KNOWLEDGE
BETTER FUNDING
BETTER REGULATION

TRONDHEIM

The Actions

The actions address a selection of the key bottlenecks and contribute to the three Pact of Amsterdam objectives: 1) Better Regulation; 2) Better Funding and 3) Better Knowledge.

LOULÈ



BETTER REGULATION

R1 Analysis of national multilevel urban development and planning regulations with focus on climate adaptation

PROVÍNCIA DE BARCELONA



BETTER FUNDING

F1 Guidelines and toolkit for the economic analysis of adaptation projects

F2 Including recommendations for the OPs of the ERDF in order to improve its accessibility for municipalities

F3 A new LIFE for urban adaptation projects

SFÂNTU GHEORGHE



BETTER KNOWLEDGE

K1 Improving EU municipalities knowledge in the framework of Copernicus Climate Change Service

K2 Enhancing the local content of Climate-ADAPT

K3 Political training on climate adaptation

K4 Enhancing stakeholder involvement at regional and local levels

K5 Promote open access of insurance data for climate risk management

K6 Further engagement of national and sub-national government's associations as key facilitators (and relevant Covenant of Mayors supporters) to best support local authorities in their adaptation process

GLASGOW



POTENZA



Spotlight on Action R1

Climate adaptation requires a long-term strategy, which is difficult to realise within the current institutional and political context. The existing case studies and good practice examples on regulation are diverse, but also too few and not always accessible for their target groups. Therefore, one of the actions of the Partnership is to collect and disseminate best practice examples of national, regional and local regulation to develop conclusions and suggestions for multilevel regulation and operational programs on national level, making them available for each EU Member State.

POLSKA



Spotlight on Action F3

This action consists of enhancing urban municipalities', cities' and towns' capacity to access LIFE funding for urban adaptation projects. The LIFE programme is the EU funding instrument for the environment and climate action. National Contact Points of the LIFE program throughout the EU have been interviewed to identify good practices of Member States or regions working effectively with cities on urban adaptation using LIFE funding. The results of the study are being disseminated across the

FRANCE





EU, making them available to cities, regions and Member States through workshops, city networks and other initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors. Furthermore, the cities' feedback on the LIFE programme will be conveyed to the European Commission making concrete suggestions to improve access of cities to LIFE programme.

Spotlight on Action K3

Not every local politician has a deep knowledge of what adaptation means to a city and its' citizens and which specific actions can be proposed. In addition, adaptation measures sometimes require substantial investment that can only be secured if there is sufficient political buy-in. Therefore, under this action various training academies for (local) politicians on climate adaptation are organized. The purpose of the academies organized within this Action is to provide information to local politicians and to assist them in their decision-making on issues related to climate adaptation.

For more information on the Urban Agenda, the Climate Adaptation Partnership and the Action Plan, please visit https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda_

