



SAF advocacy 2020

The table below presents EURO CITIES advocacy actions on social affairs for 2020. The table is structured around the policy proposals announced in the European Commission work programme for 2020. We plan our advocacy actions to match our EURO CITIES strategic objectives and work programme for 2020 as well as our SAF workplan and the activities supported by the EaSi grant in 2020. This advocacy plan is indicative and will be updated on a regular basis to adapt to changes in EU policy planning due to COVID-19 crisis.

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
EU public consultation on reinforcing social Europe	Jan – Nov 2020	Very relevant opportunity to feed an urban dimension into EU social agenda and position cities as key partners in EU social policymaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formulate a EURO CITIES policy statement with policy messages from cities to contribute to the EU consultation on reinforcing social Europe and disseminate widely – Advocate a strong involvement of cities as key partners of the EU in building more social Europe – Organise a political debate or meeting with Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, and SAF chair/politicians – Monitor the social dimension in the new EC proposal for MFF and Recovery Fund and interpret the implications for cities and for reinforcing social Europe – Advocate better and more direct access of cities to EU social funds, and more flexibility in the use of EU funds to support investment in social infrastructure and social services in cities – Get involved with a recognised role for cities at the EU Social Summit under PT Pres in 2021 	EURO CITIES & SAF steering committee with inputs from all SAF members	<p>We adopted a policy statement on social Europe, held a political debate with MEPs on 30 September and submitted this statement as Eurocities contribution to the EU consultation</p> <p>Contributing to the EP’s report on ‘a strong social Europe for just transitions’, we formulated amendments to highlight the strong role of cities and sent them to all members of EMPL committee in the EP together with our social Europe paper. Many of our amendments were tabled and supported (report is still to be voted)</p> <p>We have mobilised all SAF members to respond to the EU consultation on reinforcing social Europe by 1) sending city pledges, and 2) sending policy messages in line with EURO CITIES policy statement, with examples from their city.</p> <p>We held a bilateral online meeting with Commissioner Schmit and SAF chair & vice-chair on 12 June</p> <p>We advocated to DG EMPL to open all online national consultations with</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
					<p>Commissioner Schmit about social Europe to also invite cities. We managed to get cities in 10 of 27 consultation dialogues (BE, FI, FR, DE, NL, IT, LV, PT, ES, SE)</p> <p>We liaised with PT Permanent Representation to secure EUROCITIES role at the EU social summit in 2021</p> <p>We are discussing with Porto the idea to organise a SAF political event back-to-back with EU social summit in May 2021 in Porto in 2021 to engage city deputy mayors in the EU debate on social Europe to show leadership from cities</p>
Action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)	2021	Expected to be very relevant for cities and a good opportunity for us to show the leading role of cities in delivering actions on equality and inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote the EUROCITIES policy statement we developed to answer the public consultation on reinforcing social Europe – Advocate a strong urban dimension in EPSR action plan – Organise a political event in EP to announce new city pledges to EPSR – Organise a policy event with DG EMPL on the role of cities in EPSR – Monitor and influence the EU proposals under EPSR action plan 	Cross-cutting in SAF / Steering committee	<p>We organised an online political event with MEPs on 30 September to launch our social Europe statement, our new website www.inclusivecities4all.eu and to raise awareness and visibility of the 60 city pledges we collected so far to EPSR</p> <p>Mobilise all SAF members to input to EU consultation on reinforcing social Europe and promote their EPSR city pledges</p> <p>We took part in stakeholder consultation on the EPSR action plan and advocated a strong urban dimension and a clear role for cities at EU Social Summit in 2021</p> <p>We got maximum visibility from the European Commission DG EMPL and MEPs to our city pledges, well recognising the efforts from cities to EPSR implementation</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
European Green Deal	Jan 2020	New ambition on climate neutrality. Ensuring just transitions is key to making sure no one is left behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EUROCITIES adopted position paper in Feb 2020 highlighting the role of cities, integrated approaches, financing needs etc. – Political ExCom meeting with Commissioners on 12 June – Highlight the role of cities through Eurocities policy paper on Renovation Wave 	Executive Committee (ExCom)	<p>SAF contributed with inputs on just transitions from social perspective to the Eurocities position paper on Renovation Wave, with a focus on tackling energy poverty and access to affordable housing.</p> <p>Together with ENVI forum we contributed to the roadmap feedback and the public consultation on the Renovation Wave.</p> <p>We picked up the topic of energy poverty and held an interview with Antwerp’s deputy mayor to showcase how cities act to reduce energy poverty (link here)</p> <p>We organised a series of Eurocities workshops ‘Healthy, thriving and inclusive cities’ to bring together members in different WGs and Forums to discuss the urban challenges cross-cutting environmental and social policies</p> <p>Digital edition of SAF in autumn is dedicated to just transitions and the social dimension of the EU Green Deal</p> <p>Focus the autumn WG housing meeting on building the capacity of cities on the investments in social housing and renovation (ERDF, InvestEU and Recovery and Resilience Facility)</p>
European gender equality strategy	Q1 2020	New ambition for gender equality in the EU. Good start with an internal EU taskforce on equality led by Commissioner Dalli. Dual approach combining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We submitted a EUROCITIES contribution to the public consultation on gender equality strategy in the EU based on the evidence, good practices and policy messages from our EPSR 	EUROCITIES/ExCom with SAF chair	<p>We held a city dialogue in June in collaboration with MEP Evelyn Regner to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality</p> <p>On the occasion of the European Gender</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
		mainstreaming gender equality across policy areas and targeted measures to advance gender equality in the EU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – report in 2018 (chapter on gender) – We met in Feb the Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, and our SAF chair made the case for cities as partners of the EU on equality and inclusion. See key points 		<p>Equality week, we published a news article dedicated to the role of cities in promoting and advancing gender equality</p> <p>We shared (new) city pledges on equality to Commissioner Dalli via strategic communication</p>
EU Recovery action plan	Q2 2020	Very relevant EU funding for cities in the context of recovery post-COVID crisis, but unclear access points as the recovery instruments are directed at member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advocate the key role of cities in dealing with the pandemic and its consequences is fully recognised and supported at EU level, reinforcing our call for ‘a seat at the table’ and additional resources for cities 	EUROCITIES/ExCom	<p>Used the evidence from city dialogues with OECD on impact of the crisis and the role of cities in dealing with it to contribute from SAF to EUROCIITIES statement on cities role in recovery and resilience</p> <p>Dedicated a section of our social Europe statement to the importance of investment in local level social services and social infrastructure as part of the EU recovery plan</p>
New MFF proposal for 2021-2027	Q 2 2020	Very relevant for cities in terms of EU funding available, but continuous difficulty to access the funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advocate for better access to EU funding (ESF+) for cities and more flexible use of the EU funds to support investment in social infrastructure and social services 	EUROCITIES/ExCom	<p>Continued webinars on ESF/ESF+ to build capacity of members to get involved and influence ESF+ programming</p> <p>Work with DG EMPL to make the case for more direct access to ESF+ for cities</p> <p>Informed SAF members of the latest updates on EU recovery funds and MFF through regular briefings</p> <p>We hold a policy debate on EU funding at the online SAF meeting on 10 November to raise challenges and questions from cities directly to MEPs and EU Commission about access of cities to the EU recovery funds, REACT-EU and ESF+/ERDF</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
EP report on access to decent and affordable housing for all	Q4 2020	Very relevant for cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Compile evidence from cities and use for advocacy messages – Feeding into the EP report with policy messages and evidence from cities – Make a strong case for affordable housing and tackling homelessness in our EUROCITIES policy statement on reinforcing social Europe – Advocate for a strong involvement of cities as follow-up to urban partnership on housing – Monitor and influence debate 	WG Housing and WG Homelessness	<p>We held meetings with MEP rapporteur, Kim van Sparrentak, and with the shadow rapporteurs to feed inputs from cities.</p> <p>We produced a report on housing and tackling homelessness with evidence from cities, good practices and policy messages</p> <p>We added advocacy points on investment in social infrastructure to the EUROCITIES statement on long-term investment</p> <p>We added our inputs to the Eurocities position on Digital Services Act covering digital platform on short term rental.</p> <p>We are working with DG EMPL to ensure cities' representation in the new platform on the fight against homelessness in 2021.</p>
Reinforced Youth Guarantee	24 June	Relevant for cities on how to use reinforced Youth Guarantee schemes to tackle youth unemployment in consequence of COVID-19 crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update our policy messages on Youth Guarantee – Advocate for strong involvement of cities in design and delivery of reinforced Youth Guarantee schemes, with adequate financial support under ESF+ 	WG Employment	<p>We collected inputs and good practices from cities members of WG Employment into a EUROCITIES technical report that we shared with DG EMPL.</p> <p>We have shared the technical report with members of the EMPL committee.</p>
Updated Digital Education Action plan	September	Not directly relevant for all cities, depending on the competence of cities on education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor and inform members – Advocate for the role of cities in skills development 	WG Education and WG Employment	<p>We will coordinate with Knowledge Society Forum on digital skills and include policy messages in our reaction on skills.</p> <p>Preparing amendments to EP report on digital education action plan to highlight the role of cities.</p>
Updated skills agenda for	June 2020	Very relevant for cities by offering an EU framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Formulated policy messages on skills as part of Eurocities position 	WG Employment	<p>We held meetings online with DG EMPL in March-April to advocate policy messages</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
Europe		for upskilling of workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – on reinforcing social Europe – Advocate the role of cities in designing and delivering measures for skills training and matching demand and offer for skills on local labour markets – Contribute to EU public consultations related to skills – Monitor and engage in the implementation of the Pact for Skills, focusing on advocacy for Local Pact for Skills – Advocate for quality jobs and skills development under the Renovation Wave, EU Industry Strategy etc. 		<p>from cities to feed into this proposal.</p> <p>City dialogue on 12 May with OECD and ILO set the context for the impact of COVID-19 on skills and labour markets</p> <p>Follow-up with a discussion in WG Employment on 10 June on role of cities in skills training and skills matching</p> <p>Contributed to Committee of Regions stakeholder consultation on ‘A new industrial strategy for Europe’</p> <p>Contributed to the EC consultation on the Pact for Skills. Attend the launching event as part of the stakeholders involved in Pact</p> <p>We organise a workshop at SAF online on 9 November to discuss cities’ role and good practices to discuss about the upskilling and reskilling of workers.</p> <p>Contributed with amendments to the EP draft report on ‘European Skills Agenda’</p>
Platform Work Summit	Postponed to 2021	Not directly relevant for cities, as it targets social partners, but good to monitor the debate.	- Monitor and inform members	WG Employment	<p>We took part to the European conference on platform work organised by Berlin on 21 September to raise key messages from cities on this topic</p> <p>We organise a workshop at SAF online on 9 Nov to discuss cities’ role and good practices to improve the working conditions of digital platform workers and feed policy recommendations into the Commission’s upcoming proposal</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
Report on Impact of Demographic Change	June 2020	Focus is on impact on rural areas, less relevant for cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor and inform members 	WG Urban Ageing	Analyse the implications of the report findings for cities and share with members
Green paper on ageing	Postponed to 2021	While the Commission has highlighted the urban-rural divide as a key entry point for the Green Paper, we will advocate to reinforce the urban dimension in active ageing policies given the emergency and impact of the COVID-19 crisis on elderly in urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare policy messages from cities to feed into this Green Paper – Advocate for a strong involvement of cities in the reflection on ageing – Monitor the debate and involve cities to provide concrete examples 	WG Urban Ageing	<p>We will use WG meetings to develop policy messages based on results of ESPON ACPA project and good practices from age-friendly cities</p> <p>We have successfully transmitted key advocacy messages in dialogue with DG EMPL at the WG urban ageing meeting.</p> <p>As the Green paper will open the general debate on ageing, the public consultation starting in February 2021 will present a key opportunity for input, which we will underpin by examples and best practices.</p>
Initiative on Roma equality and inclusion	Q4 2020	very relevant for cities and offer a renewed EU framework for Roma inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use meeting with Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, with our SAF chair to advocate the role of cities in Roma inclusion policies – Advocate for a strong involvement of cities in the new EU Roma Framework design and delivery – Advocate for support to cities in the implementation and monitoring of the Roma framework – Organise political debate on the role of cities in the new EU Roma Framework around the launch date 	WG Roma inclusion	<p>We used the consultation meetings with DG JUST to advocate the policy messages from the EUROCITIES contribution to post-2020 EU Roma Framework</p> <p>We organised a high-level political debate on the third day of our WG Roma inclusion online meeting to discuss the role of cities in the new EU Roma strategic framework 2020-2030. Commissioner Dalli has opened the debate with a keynote speech highlighting the important role of cities.</p> <p>Analysis of the implications of the new EU Roma framework for cities, which is overall very positive, as all (nearly all) our advocacy messages were taken on board</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
Child Guarantee	Feb 2021	Expected to be very relevant for cities by offering new EU framework to tackle child poverty and link up to financial support under ESF+ 2021-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepare policy messages from cities to feed into the EC proposal – Advocate a strong involvement of cities in all stages of this policy initiative – Share good practices from cities – Monitor and influence debate 	WG Children and Young People	<p>We launched a survey in June and collected inputs and good practices from 35 cities in 20 countries on city measures to fight child poverty. We presented preliminary findings in a short technical report to the European Commission to inform the draft proposal on EU Child Guarantee. We are preparing the final report with all findings to be ready by end of 2020 and widely disseminated.</p> <p>We held online meetings with DG EMPL to provide policy inputs from cities</p> <p>We submitted inputs and policy recommendations from cities to the targeted stakeholder consultation on the EU Child Guarantee</p> <p>We informed members of WG Children of the expected focus of the EU Child Guarantee with a presentation by DG EMPL in July at the WG online meeting and regular updates and policy briefs.</p>
Action plan for social economy	2021	Expected to be relevant for cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update our policy messages from cities on social economy – Advocate a strong involvement of cities in design and delivery of the action plan for social economy – Participate to the EU summit on social economy in Mannheim to advance our policy messages from cities – Monitor and influence debate 	WG Smart Social Inclusion with inputs from WG SMEs in EDF	<p>We are collecting recent good practices from cities on social economy in a report</p> <p>We liaise with DG EMPL and DG GROW to discuss policy messages from cities</p> <p>We discuss with DG ECFIN and DG EMPL opportunities for capacity building of cities to develop social outcome contracting / social impact bonds (also under ESF)</p> <p>We liaise with EIB for capacity-building and financing feasibility studies for cities</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
					on innovative financing We are in contact with Spanish National Advisory Board on Impact Investment for a toolkit on social outcome contracting.
Strategy for disability	2021	Expected to be relevant for cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop policy messages from cities on inclusion of people with disabilities - Monitor 	Cross-cutting in SAF	<p>Our ESPR report for 2020 will focus on inclusion of people with disabilities, compiling evidence, good practices and policy messages from cities.</p> <p>We held a bilateral online meeting with the cabinet of Commissioner Dalli to present first findings and preliminary key messages from cities for the new EU Disability Strategy post-2020. To provide further input, a summary of findings from our survey on EPSR principle 17, which gathers 21 responses from cities until 30 October, will be shared with the cabinet of Commissioner Dalli in November. The findings will also be shared with DG EMPL and presented at a dedicated session at the next WG barrier free cities meeting.</p>
Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion	Q4 2020 or Postponed to 2021	Expected to be relevant for cities' work on integration of migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update our policy messages on integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees - Advocate a strong role of cities in migrant integration policies 	WG Migration and Integration	<p>Update our monitoring report on the Integrating Cities Charter and use policy messages to promote the role of cities in integrating migrants and refugees.</p> <p>We organised a WG Migration meeting with a strong policy focus and developed key messages for the consultation of the Action Plan. We mobilised our WG members to input to the consultation.</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
A new Pact on Migration and Asylum: legal migration package	Q3 2020	<p>relevant for national level authorities and less for cities, but good to monitor the debate.</p> <p>On legal migration package: Of relevance for cities with respect to local employment for migrants and recognition of skills and qualifications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor and inform members – Advocate for a strong role of cities in legal migration package (EU Talent Pool, qualification and skills recognition, policy development) 	WG Migration and Integration	<p>We will follow and interpret the implications from the new package on cities.</p> <p>Legal migration package: We will develop key messages for the consultation on next steps for legal migration. We are collaborating with MEPs on the EP's INI report on new avenues for legal labour migration.</p>



*This policy note has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020).
For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>*