



EUROCITIES STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND WORK PROGRAMME 2020

PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY - APRIL 2020

Introduction

Following the adoption of our new strategic framework in November 2019, we were looking forward to testing new ways of working to deliver clearer results and a stronger impact in 2020. We were ready to try a new annual schedule for forum meetings and to increase collaboration across workings groups. We hadn't imagined that our plans would be so radically disrupted by a global pandemic leading to a deep socio-economic crisis.

From early March onwards, all forum and working groups meetings were urgently reorganised to go online or postponed. We set up our Covidnews website for members to share local emergency solutions across all sectors very fast. Since mid-March we have uploaded more than 400 posts and had over 33,000 views. The hub has become a powerful platform for exchange and visibility at EU level with several directorate generals of the Commission actively following the updates. Also, we ensured that the plight of cities is understood at EU level through our statement and video on the Covid19 emergency, calling for solidarity in Europe, a rapid access to financial support from the EU and to work with cities on the recovery plan for Europe.

We are holding a series of webinars and online city dialogues on the impact of and responses so far to the Covid19 crisis in cities, including related to food distribution, mobility, employment and social inclusion. As an additional high priority, we continue to keep members updated about the many changes to EU funding and financial support available for cities.

At the same time, many of our activities related to EU policy developments and project implementation have continued. We have kicked off five new EU funded projects since the beginning of the year and are working with the European Commission to find ways to

implement project activities for the rest of the year, adapting to the new circumstances. Although some EU policy developments are being delayed, we have worked with members to sharpen our positioning on mobility, climate, energy, circular economy, youth guarantee and digital developments to respond to a series of EU public consultations.

This note provides a brief update on the main activities which support the progress towards our goals and strategic objectives (see annex) and the delivery of our work programme for 2020. It takes into account the new reality we are working in and covers the period January to April 2020.

Goal 1: People take part in an inclusive society

Main activities and results include:

- Adapting to a new reality, we revised our Easi work plan and delivered two webinars informing cities about new flexibility in ESF and FEAD (CRII and CRII plus package) to deal with the COVID-19 crisis in collaboration with DG EMPL. Supporting cities at all stages of the crisis, we have also organised city dialogues on implications for social services and specific strategies for early childhood education and care services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We continue to strengthen the case for the role of cities in implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). We have now reached 36 pledges related to local action on the specific areas of the EPSR from 30 cities. New pledges came from Rotterdam, Gijon and Besiktas covering active support to employment, gender equality and inclusive education.
- Promoting key messages from the urban agenda housing partnership, we are working with MEP Kim Van Sparrentak (GUE/NGL, NL), who is drafting a report on Access to decent and affordable housing for all. We have focused on the concerns related to the revision of State Aids framework, social mix and affordable housing for the lower middle class. On housing, we have also collected information on cities responses to COVID-19 crisis to protect vulnerable groups. The findings will go into our housing report to be published this Summer.
- Our EU funded project RESOMA, through which we have been able to influence the focus of research on migration and asylum to raise the visibility of the importance and needs of cities in this field, successfully concluded in March. We will continue to suggest topics to be investigated by migration research experts, expanding our evidence based for advocacy work. Our new three-year project VALUES kicked-off in March will enable cities to implement concrete actions for better integration of migrant communities.
- We are keeping up the momentum of the solidarity between cities related to refugees' arrivals to Europe. Since the beginning of the year, three new cities, Lucerne, Gaziantep and Munich, have joined our Solidarity Cities Initiative. As part of this Initiative and under the Amsterdam leadership, we sent a clear call for the

relocation of unaccompanied refugee children to the European institutions which received the attention of the media as well.

- Our engagement with the European Commission on the urban dimension of inclusive labour market remains strong. We sent a technical report with examples of cities implementing the Youth Guarantee and we will feed the Commission's proposal for reinforcing the Youth Guarantee post-2020 with our report. We have also provided our input on the use of ESF by cities for employment and education in the framework of a DG EMPL focus group and consultation.

Goal 2: People progress in a prosperous local economy

The main activities and results include:

- Focusing on circular economy, our EDF meeting in Valladolid on 12-14 February 2020 brought a new and timely impetus to our work, in collaboration with the OECD and the European Commission. Based on the exchanges at the meeting and with the involvement of our EEF, we are developing a position on the new EU circular economy action plan, which is due out later this year, ensuring it supports cities' actions towards a circular economy.
- To influence the debate at EU level on the sharing economy, we have engaged in a task force on collaborative economy set up by CEPS, an EU-based think tank. We want to bring the concerns and challenges of cities into the discussion which is heavily dominated by digital platforms and businesses. We brought examples and speakers from cities, clarifying the implications and challenges at local level related to the operations of the big digital platforms. A final report from the task force is expected in May.
- We continued our work on local innovation ecosystems and by raising awareness with the Commission (DG RTD) on cities' role in driving innovation through different activities. We participated in an on-line Hackathon organised by DG RTD to generate innovative solutions to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. The Hackathon brought together civil society, start-ups, and local governments from across Europe testing a promising new approach for the Commission to capture innovation to deal with Europe-wide challenges and develop new partnerships through online activities.

Goal 3: People move and live in a healthy environment

Main activities and results include:

- Our EEF working groups met online mid-March to discuss policy developments related to the Green Deal, providing essential input to our responses to the forthcoming proposals from the Commission, including the renovation wave initiative, the circular economy action plan and the biodiversity strategy. Our biodiversity working group moved swiftly to launch a photo campaign on Instagram

about the current vital importance of nature in our cities and at our doorsteps.

- Our members were also consulted on our new Green Cities Accord (GCA), a tender financed by the Commission, which aims to engage cities in improving their environmental performance across a range of areas: waste, water, air, noise, and biodiversity. The tender provides additional resources to our work with members on those areas and is considered as a delivery mechanism of the Green Deal. Most importantly, it recognises that the EU needs to work directly with city authorities to strengthen the quality of the implementation of EU environmental legislation in Europe.
- Influencing EU mobility policies, we continued our advocacy actions for cleaner cars in cities through stronger EU rules on real driving emissions testing in February. In alliance with the Dutch permanent representation in Brussels and other organisations, we held an event with MEPs and the car industry representatives, prior to voting in the Council. Moreover, we are developing our responses to a series of evaluations, impact assessments and public consultations on EU policy developments with an impact on different aspects of urban mobility. We are engaging in developments related to alternative fuels infrastructure, energy taxation, shore sight fuel and electrification, intelligent transport systems, future standards for cars emission (EUR7) and TEN-Ts.
- We have kicked off three new strategic EU funded mobility projects - SHOW, USERCHI and ULaaDs - supporting the advancement of shared, connected, cooperative and clean mobility in cities, including through developing and testing solutions for autonomous vehicles, charging technologies and zero-emission logistics. Notably SHOW and USERCHI are of high priority for the European Commission, and our role in the projects positions us strongly at EU level in terms of contributing to future mobility solutions for and with cities.

Goal 4: People make vibrant and open public spaces

Main activities and results:

- We are supporting the empowerment of cities and regions to strengthen their cultural heritage policies and initiatives as well as to develop innovative solutions to preserve cultural heritage assets. We are producing a catalogue of 30 good practices from EU cities, regions, urban, non-urban and rural areas and will organise 12 peer-learning visits bringing together 20+ participants per visit during autumn 2020 through spring 2021. The activities are implemented through our EU service contract on Cultural Heritage in Action, the new European peer learning scheme on cultural heritage for cities and regions. We will use our knowledge of

innovative policies/actions implemented by cities acquired through the project to feed in the ongoing work of the urban partnership on culture and cultural heritage and of the EC expert group on cultural heritage, where we have a seat. The group started its work in October 2019.

- To increase the understanding of how cities reduce the carbon impact of cultural events, we organised a series of three episodes and online trainings (ROCK Green Streams) together with a UK-based NGO Julie's Bicycle. The series was part of our EU project ROCK, Cultural heritage leading urban futures. It was based on our guidelines on executing sustainable cultural events in cultural heritage cities and featuring case studies from cities, including members from the culture and environment forums. Bologna, Edinburgh, Nantes and Liverpool shared their good practices and the success factors, challenges and results of these initiatives, looking at ways how they could be transferred to other local contexts.

Goal 5: City governments address global challenges

Main activities and results include:

- The Covid19 crisis has raised concerns about the commitment to the proposed goal of climate neutrality by 2050 for the EU. We have supported a broad cross-party, cross sector coalition launched in the European Parliament calling for a green and fair recovery in Europe to deliver on the ambitions of the Green Deal. Also, we are developing our responses to the public consultations on the Climate Pact and the review of the 2030 GHG emissions, highlighting the experience and ambitions at urban level. Anna Lisa Boni, our secretary general, continues the strong involvement in the mission board for 100 climate neutral cities by 2030, engaging members in the further development of the mission which is central to influencing future EU spending and delivering the goal of climate neutrality.
- The urgency of digital transformation in cities has been emphasised by the current crisis. We continue our close collaboration with the European Commission and other network organisations on the Join, Boost, Sustain initiative for upscaling digital solutions in cities. As digital transformation has moved to the top of EU's political priorities, the initiative promotes a city-led and citizens focused approach, which needs adequate resources from the next EU budget. Launched at the Cities Forum in Porto on 31 January, the collaboration now focusses on mapping existing initiatives delivering on the commitments of the initiative, while also engaging the more than 60 current signatories directly in deciding on next steps. Our LAB piloted by the KSF, due to kick off over the Summer, will be a concrete contribution to the initiative, testing the scope to scale up a model for citizens' card to deliver services across European cities.
- Our URBAN-EU-CHINA project concluded in January with success. During its three years, the project advanced the case for city-to-city partnerships between Europe and China, particularly on the area of sustainable urbanisation. Our main takeaway

for the project is the methodology we developed for the creation of successful and efficient city-to-city partnerships. The guidebook we authored can be found online for the benefit of all of our members.

- Social Affairs Forum chair and deputy mayor of Malmo, Sedat Arif, together with EUROCITIES secretary general, Anna Lisa Boni, and senior policy advisor, Bianca Faragau met Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, to discuss how cities and the European Commission can work together to strengthen inclusion and equality in the EU. We seized this opportunity to showcase how cities are leading the way to inclusion and equality. We gave concrete examples of what cities are doing on the ground to tackle discrimination, promote gender equality and support social inclusion of most vulnerable groups, in particular of Roma people and persons with disabilities.

Goal 6: City governments are fit for the future

Main activities and results include:

- We have held an online workshop on innovative city government, in collaboration with Lille Metropole, World Design Capital in 2020. The session focused on an exchange of experience on how cities innovate their ways of working, procedures, policy making processes, HR policies and the different tools they use, such as design. The participants agreed to send their examples based on a shared template to collect them in a joint publication.
- Progressing our work on the financial sustainability of cities, we published a policy statement on long term investments in Europe. Our messages focus on unlocking cities' potential to reach a sustainable and inclusive Europe, flexibility in the Growth and Stability Pact and in the State Aids framework. The investment needs in cities have dramatically changed in the current crisis. Our long-term investment working group met twice in April to consider the changes to EU's regulatory and funding framework to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on investment and to sustain the European economy. Through detailed briefing notes, we have kept our members informed of the EU level initiatives and tools.
- To promote local experiences and inspire EU policy makers on citizens participation in public policy making, we have held a couple of meetings with the cabinet of Commission vice president Suica in charge of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The Conference will look at new ways of allowing citizens to have a say in EU developments and we have made the case for city authorities to be partners in the process. The Conference was due to be launch on Europe Day, 9 May, but has been delayed. We have published a reflection paper on localising Europe with Brussels-based think tank Friends of Europe, arguing for a new way of working in

Europe, directly involving city leaders and their administration to engage citizens in the future of Europe. Following up from a EUROCITIES successful session on citizens participation in Paris end of last year, we are also in the process on concluding our work on EUROCITIES principles on citizens engagement. Once finalized, we will feed them in the Conference on the future of Europe process.

- We have promoted gender equality in cities, particularly equal opportunities and access to the labour market in response to the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy. It was published in March and frames EU's work on gender equality and sets out policy objectives and key actions for the coming five years. We continue to publish case studies from cities showing how political action matters to promote gender equality in the cultural and creative sector and for the sector's contribution to sustainable urban development.
- Positioning cities on EU policy developments related to disruptive technologies, we produced a response to the Commission's white paper on artificial intelligence, highlighting challenges and opportunities at local level. We emphasise that a single market for data needs to benefit all ecosystem players, including local governments and we call for legislative action to ensure access and use of business to government (B2G) data sharing in the proposed Data Act planned for 2021.

Internal goal: EUROCITIES is run effectively

Main activities and results include:

- Our 100 days, 100 ways campaign timed with the start of the new Commission's mandate effectively highlighted city actions related to the political priorities of the EU and positioned our network as an essential partner to the EU. A series of meetings with Commissioners and MEPs scheduled as part of our Executive Committee in mid-March unfortunately had to be postponed. In the meantime, a new urban intergroup has been set up in the European Parliament early in the year. We have worked closely with the office of the chair, MEP Jan Olbrycht (EPP, PL) to inspire the priorities and working methods of the new group.
- We ensured a strong visibility for our network at the Commission's flagship event for cities in Porto in January. We were well-represented by our vice-president and mayor of Florence, Dario Nardella and many other city politicians. It was an opportunity to discuss the urban agenda and the proposals for a new European Urban Initiative under cohesion policy with the new European Commissioner in charge of cohesion policy, Eliza Ferreira. The update of the Leipzig Charter for sustainable urban development was also discussed at the forum and we have continued our collaboration with the forthcoming German Presidency to ensure that the Charter supports the continued implementation of the urban agenda and serves the interest of cities at EU level.
- Two new members joined our network in early 2020: Cagliari Metropolitan City as full member and Pau Agglomeration as associated partner to the culture and the

knowledge society forums. In April Hannover has sent their application to join the network as well.

- A new strategy for working with business was approved by our Executive Committee in March, providing greater flexibility for engaging business of all sizes on a case-by-case basis where it serves the interest of our work and cities in general.

Annex 1: Overview of strategic objectives

Annex 2: Overview proposals and tenders in development

Annex: Overview of strategic objectives

Goal 1: People take part in an inclusive society

1. Fight urban poverty and social exclusion
2. Ensure access to adequate and affordable housing
3. Facilitate the inclusion of refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities and people with diverse backgrounds
4. Ensure quality and inclusive education
5. Deliver quality public services, accessible to all
6. Support inclusive local labour markets

Goal 2: People progress in a prosperous local economy

1. Stimulate the creation of quality jobs
2. Manage disruptive economic business models and trends
3. Promote the attractiveness of cities for people, business and investments
4. Tackle mismatches in local skills and future needs
5. Support the transition to a circular economy
6. Strengthen sustainable mobility within and beyond cities

Goal 3: People move and live in a healthy environment

1. Promote accessible and clean water
2. Ensure clean air
3. Reduce noise pollution
4. Manage the collection, recycling and reduction of waste
5. Promote safe, connected and sustainable urban mobility
6. Support the transition towards clean fuels and vehicles
7. Support urban food systems

Goal 4: People make vibrant and open public spaces

1. Enhance cultural policies and spaces for inclusive urban development
2. Promote culture as a tool for social sustainability
3. Regenerate and design open and inspiring public spaces for and with people
4. Enhance green areas and biodiversity in urban planning
5. Strengthen safety and security in public spaces

Goal 5: City governments address global challenges

1. Fight climate change and enable the energy transition
2. Tackle rising inequalities
3. Drive digital transformation

Goal 6: City governments are fit for the future

1. Promote innovative city government and administration
2. Ensure the financial sustainability of cities
3. Manage the use of disruptive technologies to transform public services
4. Strengthen public participation in decision making
5. Explore strategic partnerships and the co-creation of public services

6. Promote gender equality and fight all discrimination
7. Plan for the cities of the future

Internal goal: EUROCITIES is run effectively

1. Be the European go-to-network on urban matters
2. Develop a productive working relationship with external stakeholders: business, academia and civil society
3. Ensure good governance for decision making and activities

Overview proposals and tenders submitted & in development - April 2020

Calls for proposals					
Title	Lead Partner	Topic	Staff	Cities involved	Status
ULaaDs - Logistics solutions that deal with requirements of the 'on demand economy' and for shared-connected and low-emission logistics operations (LC-MG-10-1-2019)	BAX	Research and Innovation action on flexible, secure and zero-emission Urban Freight activities focusing on the deployment of innovative, efficient and sustainable solutions addressing vehicles, infrastructure and services.	PS, BDK	Bremen, Groningen, Mechelen, Rome, Edinburgh, Oslo, Alba Iulia	Submitted on 12/09/2019 Successful
FOOD 2030 - Empowering cities as agents of food system transformation (CE-FNR-07-2020)	Milan	Support cities and their peri-urban interface to develop and implement urban food systems policies delivering on the four FOOD 2030 priorities accompanied by the deployment of concrete actions.	AKDC	Milan, Funchal, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Birmingham, Copenhagen, Groningen, Warsaw, Thessaloniki, Sofia, Tirana	Submitted on 22/01/2020 Results pending
FABRIC - Transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration (AMIF-2019-AG-CALL)	EUROCITIES	The project seeks to pilot an innovative methodology that aims to identify the daily living needs of newly arrived migrants, and pilot local actions to bridge these needs.	RN, FL	Brussels Capital region, Malmo, Nuremberg, Vantaa, Vienna, Zaragoza	Submitted on 30/01/2020 Results pending
Innovative nature-based solutions for carbon neutral cities and improved air quality (LC-CLA-11-2020)	NTUA	Connecting NBS interventions for urban sites with citizens' needs for improved AQ, with a comprehensive monitoring of AQ parameters at the selected sites in each of four cities.	EM, NK	Cork, Nice, Sofia, Wroclaw	Submitted on 13/02/2020 Results pending

Calls for proposals					
Title	Lead Partner	Topic	Staff	Cities involved	Status
Innovative nature-based solutions for carbon neutral cities and improved air quality (LC-CLA-11-2020)	Barcelona supercomputing center	Determine the contribution of Nature based solutions to improve urban air quality and reducing the carbon footprint, co-development and co-design of city labs in each pilot city with cities, urban planners, research centres, small and medium enterprises (SME) citizens, and other stakeholders.	EM, NK	Oslo, Essen, Toulouse, Barcelona, Krakow	Submitted on 13/02/2020 Results pending
Citizen-centric public services in local and regional administrations (DT-GOVERNANCE-22-2020)	The Lisbon Council	Support the implementation of the 'User-centricity principles for design and delivery of digital public services' laid down in the Tallinn Declaration putting citizens truly at the heart of governments' digital transformation at cities and regions level	NK, KFC	Espoo, Rotterdam, Murcia, Milan, Tallinn	Submitted on 12/03/2020 Results pending
STREAM - Innovative approaches to urban and regional development through cultural tourism (SC6-TRANSFORMATIONS-04-2020)	Technical University of Eindhoven (TU/e)	STREAM focuses on the transformation of cultural and natural heritage areas suffering from inadequate levels of tourism that results in loss of cultural values, spatial inequality, socio-economic and physical degradation.	CH, JH	Eindhoven, Siena, Novi Sad	Submitted on 12/03/2020 Results pending
Transformative impact of disruptive technologies in public services (DT-TRANSFORMATIONS-02-2020)	University of Aarhus	Pilot disruptive technologies to examine how they can impact the public sector	FB, NK	Amsterdam, Ghent, Leeds, Novi Sad, Tampere, Zaragoza	Submitted on 12/03/2020 Results pending

Calls for proposals					
Title	Lead Partner	Topic	Staff	Cities involved	Status
Cities as climate-resilient, connected multimodal nodes for smart and clean mobility: new approaches towards demonstrating and testing innovative solutions (LC-MG-1-12-2020)	ICLEI	CSA on fast-track and mainstream the replication of innovative, urban, peri-urban and rural mobility solutions	PS, ACT	Bologna, Budapest, Stockholm, Antwerp	Deadline on 28/04/2020
Cities as climate-resilient, connected multimodal nodes for smart and clean mobility: new approaches towards demonstrating and testing innovative solutions (LC-MG-1-12-2020)	Oslo	IA on developing urban areas into well-connected multimodal and multi-usage nodes for smart and clean mobility.	MC	Oslo, Hamburg, Goteborg, Munich, Rome, Bologna	2 nd stage deadline on 08/09/2020 1 st stage successful
Cities as climate-resilient, connected multimodal nodes for smart and clean mobility: new approaches towards demonstrating and testing innovative solutions (LC-MG-1-12-2020)	ETRA/Antwerp	IA on developing urban areas into well-connected multimodal and multi-usage nodes for smart and clean mobility.	PS	Antwerp, Turku, Madrid	2 nd stage deadline on 08/09/2020 1 st stage successful
PROSPECT-2 (LC-SC3-EC-5-2020)	IEECP	CSA on supporting public authorities in driving the energy transition	BKD, AKDC	tbd	Deadline on 10/09/2020

Calls for tenders					
Title	Lead Partner	Topic	Staff	Cities involved	Status
Covenant of Mayors - 5	Energy Cities	Running the Covenant of Mayors office	AKDC, IM, BFL, GJ, JAC	None	Submitted on 16/09/2019 Successful, starts on July 2020
Mission for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities	EUROCITIES	Study in support to the development of a communication strategy of the Mission Board for Climate Neutral and Smart Cities	MM, AKDC, IB, SMU	None	Submitted on 20/04/2020 Results pending
IURC	Acciona	Central Services to the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC)	NK	None	Submitted on 24/04/2020 Results pending
Lighthouse projects coordination	Cartif	Support for the Smart Cities and Communities Lighthouse projects group	BF, MGHI, RN, NK	None	Deadline on 08/05/2020
Global Covenant of Mayors	CEMR	Running the Global Covenant of Mayors initiative	EM, AKDC	None	2 nd stage deadline on 15/05/2020 1 st stage successful