



SAF advocacy plan 2020

The table below presents EUROCIITIES advocacy plan on social affairs for 2020. The plan is structured around the upcoming policy proposals announced in the European Commission work programme for 2020. We plan our advocacy actions to match our EUROCIITIES 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 EUROCIITIES 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 	EUROCIITIES & SAF steering committee with inputs from all SAF members	<p>We will draft a policy statement using the policy messages from the SAF political debate on 27 May and our city dialogues. We will share the draft with all SAF members for feedback and inputs in June</p> <p>Mobilise 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 EUROCIITIES policy statement, with examples from their city.</p> <p>Invite Commissioner Schmit for a high-level event or bilateral meeting</p> <p>Liaise with PT Permanent Representation to secure EUROCIITIES role at the EU social summit in 2021</p> <p>Explore options to organise a SAF political event back-to-back with EU social summit in PT in 2021 to engage city mayors and deputy mayors in the EU debate on reinforcing social Europe to show leadership from cities</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 	Executive Committee (ExCom)	<p>SAF contributed with inputs on just transitions from social perspective.</p> <p>SAF in Zagreb in autumn will advance our reflection from cities on just transitions</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 mainstreaming gender equality across policy areas and targeted measures to advance gender equality in the EU.	<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 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 	EUROCITIES/ExCom with SAF chair	<p>We are planning a city dialogue in June in collaboration with MEP Evelyn Regner to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality</p> <p>We will invite Commissioner Dalli to SAF meeting in Zagreb and to study visits in cities in autumn</p> <p>We will share (new) city pledges on equality to Commissioner Dalli via strategic communication</p>
EU Recovery action plan	Q2 2020	Expected to be relevant for cities in the context of recovery post-COVID crisis	<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	Use the evidence from city dialogues with OECD on impact of the crisis and the key role of cities in dealing with it to formulate a SAF contribution to EUROCITIES statement on cities role in recovery and resilience
New MFF proposal for 2021-2027	Q 2 2020	Expected to be very relevant for cities in terms of EU funding available	<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>Continue 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>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
EP report on access to decent and affordable housing for all	Q3-4 2020	Expected to be 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 in our upcoming EUROCIITIES 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 are working with MEP rapporteur, Kim van Sparrentak, to feed inputs from cities into the EP report. We contacted the six shadow rapporteurs for bilateral meetings to discuss policy messages from cities.</p> <p>We are preparing a ESPR report on housing and tackling homelessness, presenting evidence from cities, good practices and policy messages</p> <p>We included advocacy messages on investment in social infrastructure to the EUROCIITIES statement on long-term investment</p> <p>We are working with the Knowledge Society Forum on advocacy messages to feed into the new Digital Services Act (expected in Q4 2020) covering digital platform on short term rental</p>
Reinforced Youth Guarantee	Expected on 24 June	Expected to be very 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	We collected inputs and good practices from cities members of WG Employment into a EUROCIITIES technical report that we shared with DG EMPL
Updated Digital Education Action plan	Postponed to June	Not directly relevant for all cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor and inform members 	WG Education and WG Employment	We will coordinate with Knowledge Society Forum on digital skills and include policy messages in our reaction on skills

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
Updated skills agenda for Europe	Postponed from March to June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to be very relevant for cities by offering an EU framework for upskilling of workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate policy messages from cities on skills and include them in our EUROCIITIES policy statement on reinforcing social Europe Reaction to the EC proposal 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 	WG Employment	<p>We held meetings online with DG EMPL in March-April to advocate policy messages 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>
Platform Work Summit	Q2 2020 or Postponed	Not directly relevant for cities, as it targets social partners, but good to monitor the debate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and inform members 	WG Employment	We will include policy messages on working poor (including those in platform work) in our EUROCIITIES contribution on reinforcing social Europe
Report on Impact of Demographic Change	Postponed to 2021	Expected 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 Include the policy messages into EUROCIITIES policy statement on reinforcing social Europe 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 liaise with the policy officers on ageing in the European Commission</p> <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>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
Initiative on Roma equality and inclusion	Q4 2020 or postpone to 2021	Expected to be 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 	WG Roma inclusion	<p>We use the consultation meetings with DG JUST to advocate the policy messages from cities from the EUROCITIES contribution to post-2020 EU Roma Framework</p> <p>We plan to invite EU officials and DE Pres for a policy debate at the WG Roma inclusion meeting in Berlin in Oct 2020, ideally back-to-back to the formal announcement of the new EU Framework</p>
Child Guarantee	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 will launch a survey in June to collect inputs and good practices on city measures to prevent and combat child poverty and promote child participation, and present findings in a report by Sep</p> <p>We are holding online meetings with DG EMPL to provide policy inputs from cities</p> <p>We held a webinar with DG JUST on funding opportunities for cities under REC</p>
Action plan for social economy	2021	Expected to be very 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 on 26-27 Nov 2020 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 on innovative financing</p>

Policy proposal	Timeline	Analysis	Actions	Who is leading?	Status
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 will develop to answer the public consultation on reinforcing social Europe – Advocate a strong urban dimension in EPSPR 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>Continue our EUROCITIES campaign 'Inclusive Cities for All' to collect more city pledges to EPSR in 2020-2021</p> <p>Launch our new website www.inclusivecities4all.eu</p> <p>Mobilise all SAF members to input to EU consultation on reinforcing social Europe and promote their city pledges</p> <p>Strategic communication on city pledges to European Commissioners and MEPs</p>
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	Our ESPR report for 2020 will focus on inclusion of people with disabilities, compiling evidence, good practices and policy messages from cities.
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	Update our monitoring report on the Integrating Cities Charter and use policy messages to promote the role of cities in integrating migrants and refugees
A new Pact on Migration and Asylum and accompanying legal proposals	Before Q3 2020	Expected to be relevant for national level authorities and less for cities, but good to monitor the debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Monitor and inform members 	WG Migration and Integration	We will follow and interpret the implications from the new package on cities



*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>*