

Ministry of the Interior and  
Kingdom Relations

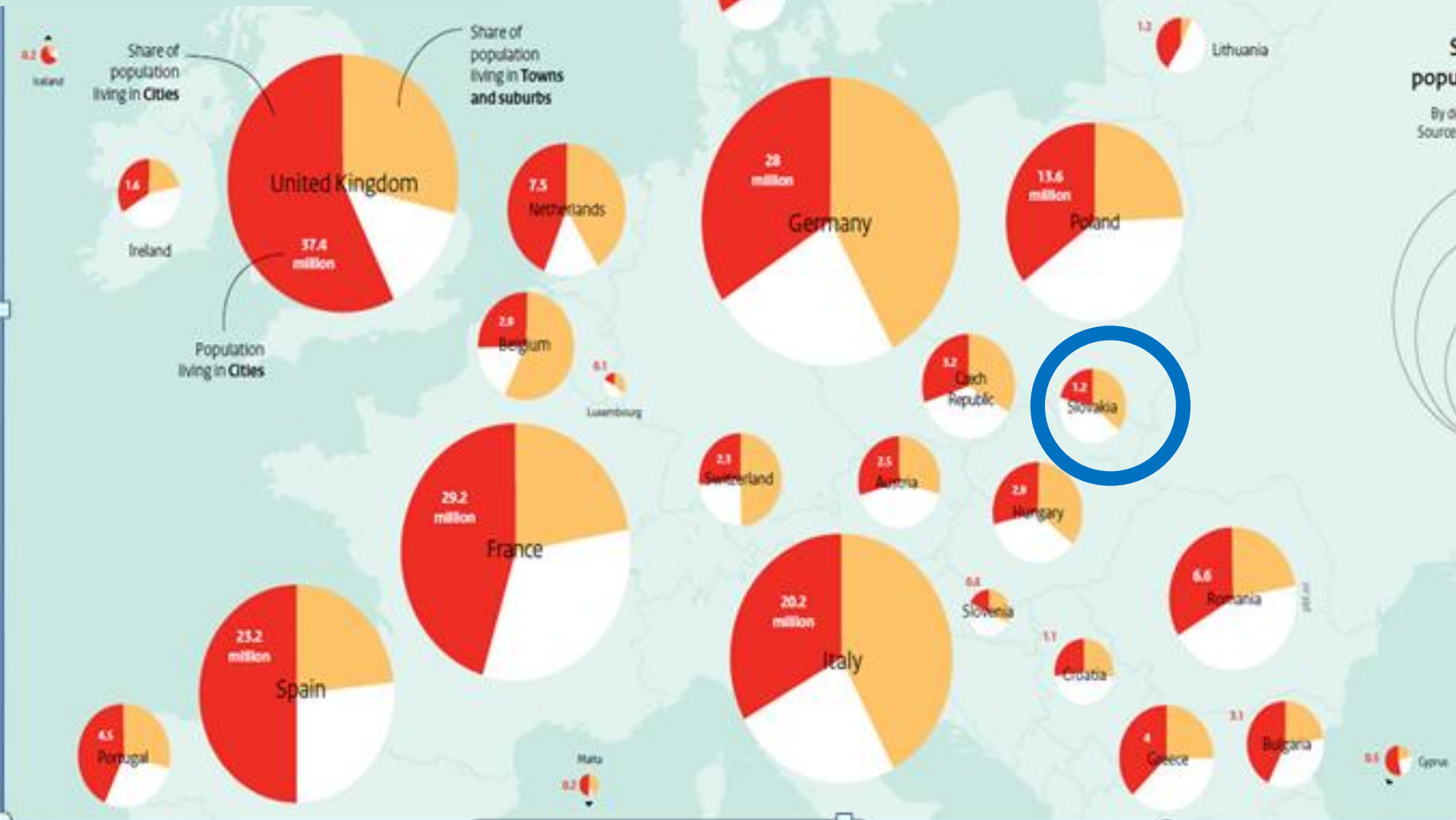
# Urban Agenda for the EU

Nicolaas Beets  
Dutch Urban Envoy

*Seminar Urban Event*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Bratislava  
7 December 2016*

# Cities, towns and suburbs





# The Urban Agenda for the EU – Why?

**72%**  
of Europeans  
live in cities

Population density 2014  
On a grid of 10x10 kilometres  
Source: LandScan, adaptation by PBL



City name (number of inhabitants in the most densely populated 10x10km grid cell)



# In cities, opportunities and challenges meet





# Europe 2020 Strategy

**Smart**



**Sustainable**



**Inclusive**





# Trend of increasing acknowledgment importance local government

1987

## European Single Act

Specific responsibility EU for regional policy

1989

## First regulation Structural Funds

(ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund)

1992

## Maastricht Treaty

- Importance local and regional authorities for EU policy acknowledged
- Creation of Committee of the Regions

2007

## Lisbon Treaty

- Local and regional authorities acknowledged
- Subsidiarity principle now applicable to local and regional authorities



## Pact of Amsterdam fits this trend

A large horizontal arrow pointing to the right, divided into two sections: a light green section on the left and a magenta section on the right. The year '2016' is centered in the magenta section.

2016

### **Pact of Amsterdam**

- Establishes the Urban Agenda for the EU
- An informal contribution to the design of future and revision of existing EU regulation, in order for it to better reflect urban needs, practices and responsibilities.





# The Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU)

Creating the conditions at EU-level for cities to blossom through:

**1. Better regulation:**

EU legislation needs to take urban realities more into account.

**2. Better funding:**

Cross-sectoral financial instruments, simplifying existing funds, more possibilities of combining funds.

**3. Better knowledge:**

Improvement of knowledge, strengthening of sharing knowledge.





# Pact of Amsterdam

- UAEU priority of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations during the Netherlands EU Presidency.
- UAEU formalised in writing in the Pact of Amsterdam.
- Negotiations throughout Netherlands presidency of the European Council.
- 30 May 2016  
Informal Ministerial Meeting:  
Pact of Amsterdam adopted.
- 24 June 2016  
Council conclusions welcoming  
the Pact of Amsterdam.



# Thematic Partnerships



A new form of informal **multilevel cooperation** where cities, Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders **work in partnership.**

Partnerships work alongside and will feed into formal EU process (Council, EC, EP).



## Thematic Partnerships

- Key instrument of the UAEU.
- Focus on priority themes.
- Concrete, case based approach. Result oriented and open to experts that want to make a concrete contribution and can deliver.
- Membership: cities, member states, EU institutions, their stakeholders (e.g. EIB, Housing Europe).
- Formulation of proposals for better regulation, better funding, better knowledge exchange.



## Tools and support by the European Commission

- Collaborative Online Tool (2017)
- Urban Data Portal – data and maps (on line)
- Secretariat for Partnerships (2017)



# 12 Priority Themes

Innovative and responsible public procurement



Circular economy

Urban mobility

Inclusion of migrants and refugees

Digital transition

Jobs and skills

Energy transition



Urban Poverty

Affordable housing

Climate adaptation






Sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions

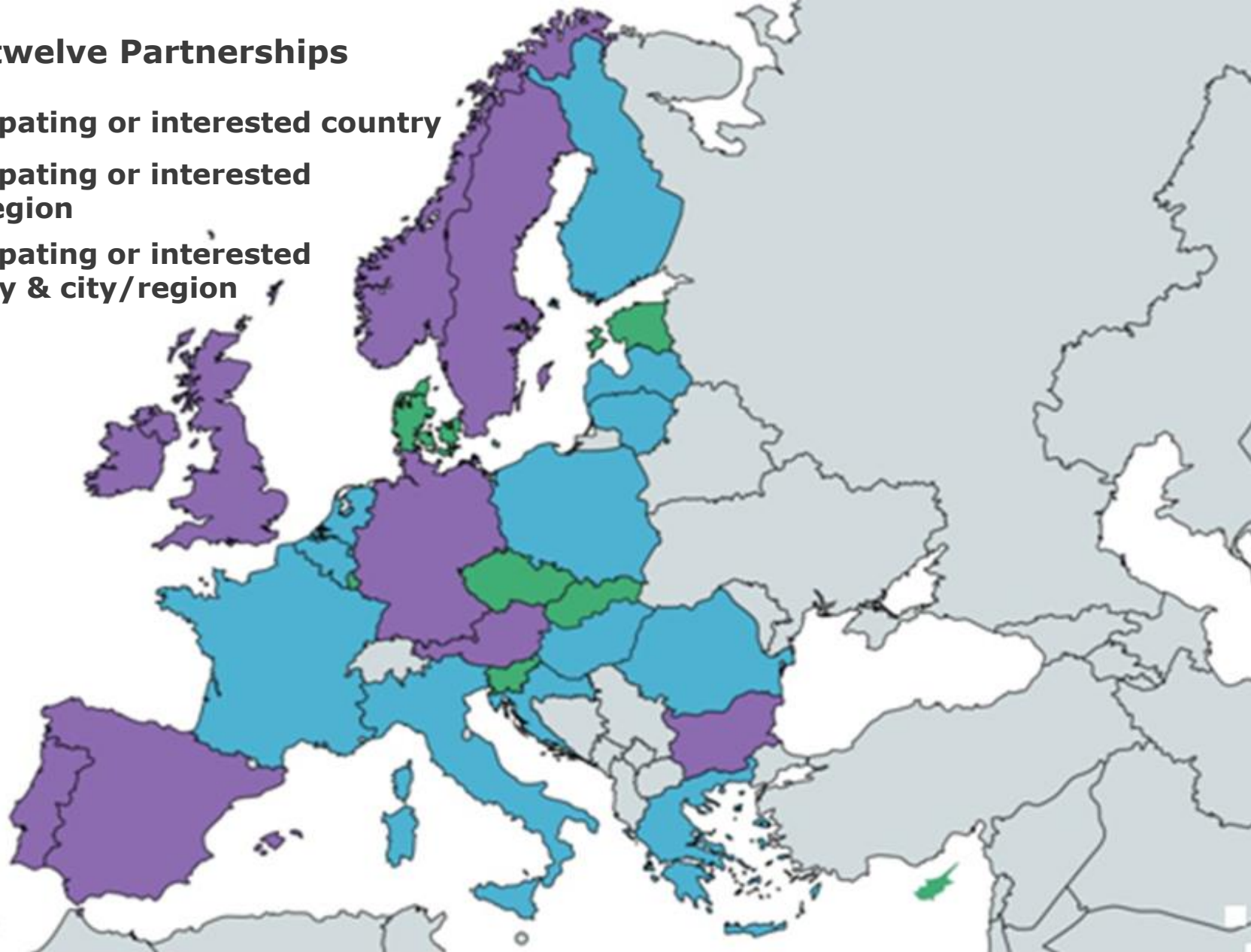
- Smart
- Green
- Inclusive

UNEP

# Broad interest for the 12 themes/partnerships

## All twelve Partnerships

-  Participating or interested country
-  Participating or interested city/region
-  Participating or interested country & city/region





# Partnerships – The Netherlands 2016

## Pilot-Partnerships.

- Housing
- Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
- Air Quality
- Poverty





# Example: Housing

## **Objective:**

to have affordable housing of good quality.

## **Membership:**

- Coordinator: *Slovakia, Vienna (AU)*
- Urban areas: Riga (LV), Scottish Cities Alliance (UK), Poznan (PL), Lisbon (PT)
- Member States: Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands
- Others: European Commission (DG REGIO, DG ENER, DG EMPL) AEDES, Eurocities, European Investment Bank, Housing Europe, International Union of Tenants (IUT), URBACT







## Partnerships – Slovakia 2016



Decided in Bratislava on 4 October 2019.

Will start in January 2017.

- Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy
- Circular Economy
- Urban Mobility
- Digital Transition



# Jobs and skills in the Local Economy

## **Objectives:**

Prosperity and low unemployment,  
teaching skills for future jobs.



The focus will be on topics such as:

- creating new enterprises
- producing and consuming locally
- stimulating the future economy
- improving education and training systems meeting 21<sup>st</sup> century needs
- promoting social entrepreneurship and supporting social inclusion
- supporting partnerships between local employers and educational institutions

Coordinators: Romania, Rotterdam (NL) and Jelgava (LV).



# Circular Economy

## **Objectives:**

To increase the re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling of existing materials and products to promote new growth and job opportunities.



The focus will be on:

- waste management (turn a waste into a resource);
- sharing economy;
- resource efficiency.

Coordinator: City of Oslo (NO)



# Urban Mobility

## **Objectives:**

To have a sustainable and efficient urban mobility



The focus will be on:

- public transport;
- soft mobility (walking, cycling, public space);
- accessibility (for disabled, elderly, young children, etc.);
- efficient transport with good local and regional connectivity.

Coordinators: Czech Republic and Karlsruhe (DE).





# Digital Transition

## **Objectives:**

To provide better public services for citizens and create business opportunities.



The focus will be on:

- data collection (including ownership);
- better use of open data;
- data management (including capacity of cities and privacy issues) ;
- digital services (incl. new technologies).

Coordinators : Estonia, Oulu (FI) and Sofia (BG).



# Partnerships – Malta 2017



- Energy Transition
- Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions
- Climate Adaptation
- Innovative Public Procurement



# [www.urbanagendaforthe.eu](http://www.urbanagendaforthe.eu)

## Twitter: @EUUrbanAgenda

The screenshot displays the website for the Urban Agenda for the EU. At the top, the logo and navigation links (Contact | About us) are visible. Below the navigation bar, a large banner image shows a meeting in progress. Overlaid on the banner is the text: "DG-meeting on Urban Matters agrees on four new partnerships". To the right of the banner, an "Events" section lists a "Partnership meeting Urban Poverty on December 2nd (invite only) December 02 - December 02". Below the banner, the "Recent articles, publications or blogposts" section features two articles: "Working Conference on the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees" (dated November 28, 2016) and "Have a look at the one-stop-shop portal of the European Commission for Cities" (dated November 1, 2016). On the right side, a "Follow us on Twitter" section displays a tweet from @kissmecomixuniverse about attending a METREX meeting and Walmart.