

# **THE FUTURE SCOPE OF EU URBAN POLICY**

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# Daunting prospect

- **Very uncertain world economy**
- **Uncertainty this policy process**
- **Not understand EU language machinery**
- **All said**

# **Do 4 things**

**1.Reprise case EU intervention**

**2. Identify some dilemmas**

**3. Reflect experience so far**

**4.Outline some proposals**

# **Commission role urban policy**

## **In past**

- **Policy 1 step forwards, 2 steps back**

## **In future Commission must**

- **Be realistic - political financial constraints**
- **But ambitious**
- **Set sights high**
- **Give real leadership to debate**

# Preliminary reflections

- **Nothing new under sun – not rocket science**
- **Places vary conditions, capacity attitudes, impact**
- **Urban policies work best where needed least and vice versa**

# Preliminary reflections

- **EU not alone – wicked challenges face all governments**
- **Dilemmas not problems – not solutions but constant response**
- **We have 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, 20 century governance, 19<sup>th</sup> century territory**
- **Places and city regions matter**

# Headline answers 5 questions

- 1. What should be policy objective? – competitiveness , cohesion, sustainability but innovation, flexibility, risk taking**
- 2. What potentials to exploit? - high value added, city regions**
- 3. Challenges? – exclusion, sustainability, connectivity**

# **Headline answers 5 questions**

- 4. What are adequate policy mechanisms? – mainstream as well as initiatives, places and people, EU more levers, variable geography**
- 5. Which geographical levels? –highest level one can get, preferably city region**

# USUAL SUSPECTS

- **Mainstreaming or initiatives – certainly former perhaps latter**
- **Opportunity versus need – both**
- **FUR or neighbourhood - both**
- **Concentration or dilution effort former**
- **Grants, loans , risk - all**

# Challenge for Commission

- **To change priorities and culture**
- **To give integrated action**
- **To give sophisticated leadership**
- **Reverse retreat from place EU policy**
- **Bring back to centre**

# **1. WHAT DO WE KNOW?: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT?**

# How did we get to here?

- **European countries & cities differ**
- **But convergence on principles**
- **EU encouraged**
- **National governments encouraged**
- **Cities experimented**

# Why EU Involved?

- **Cities drive regional economies**
- **Cities engine competitiveness**
- **Exclusion drain competitiveness**
- **Challenges consequence Europe**
- **European networking, good practice**
- **EU policies need integrating**

# Why EU Involved?

- **Increased urgency economic crisis**
- **Increased visibility**
- **Legitimacy**
- **Close to citizens**
- **Increased capacity**
- **Increased learning**
- **Encourage diversity polycentricity**

# National Policy Trends

- **Huge diversity**
- **More explicit urban**
- **More significance, power cities**
- **More bottom up**
- **More partnership, civic involvement**
- **More opportunity, less need**
- **More integrated, area based**

# Many examples

## Moving target

- **City Challenge, SRB, NDC, UDCS, LSPs, URCs, CDCs - UK**
- **Contrat de Ville - France**
- **Kvarterloft - Denmark**
- **Area based Partnership - Ireland**
- **URBAN - Europe**

# Similar aims

- **Improve vertical policy integration**
- **Improve horizontal policy integration**
- **Link mainstream area-based**
- **Create delivery mechanisms**
- **Involve more partners**

# Against principle

- **Displaces problems**
- **Not all excluded in area**
- **Creates dependency**
- **Discriminates other areas**
- **Solution problems not in area**
- **Mainstream matters most**

# **In favour principle**

- **Place matters**
- **Addresses market failure**
- **Increase capital, capacity**
- **Link excluded bigger area**
- **Integrate policy levels**
- **Greater impact – concentrated, targeted, visible, time limited**

# Always Big Challenges

- **Political support principle**
- **Long term financial institutional support**
- **Integrating priorities, policies, programmes central & local**
- **Bending mainstream**
- **Involving the private sector**
- **Empowering communities**
- **Achieving partnership**
- **Transparency, accountability, partnership**

# Response affected by

- **Balance power central, regional, local**
- **Level partnership public & private**
- **Relationship economic, social, physical strategies**
- **Political support cross departmentalism**

# What worked?

- **When national support**
- **Committed local political leadership**
- **Well managed local authority**
- **Good chief executive, team**
- **Performance management**
- **Time**

# What worked for URBAN?

- **Combined existing programmes**
- **Synergies individual projects**
- **Community managed and delivered**
- **Integrated simple management systems**
- **Cooperation between partners**
- **Strong admin political leadership**

# Not where

- **Local community not sufficiently engaged**
- **Procedures & documents too complicated**
- **Private sector not engaged or committed**

# Benefits URBAN

- **Long-term, comprehensive, strategic**
- **Partnership**
- **Multi-annual budgets**
- **Community participation**
- **Link Europe and citizens**
- **Project management capacity**
- **Changed national local policymaking**

# Limits URBAN

- **Money not big**
- **Not innovative all countries**
- **Not transformed policy**
- **Slow or bureaucratic**

# 3. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# Where are we Now?

**In 2005 I said urban not perfect but**

- **Visible**
- **Impact**
- **Right principles**
- **Popular cities**
- **Linked cities to EU**
- **Kept issue up EU agenda**
- **Commission some influence**

**outcome**



# **If URBAN kept I said**

- **Give more resources**
- **Cover bigger area**
- **Focus on competitiveness as well as cohesion**

# **If mainstreamed I said**

- **Resources should be ring fenced**
- **Resources more substantial**
- **Cities guaranteed partners selection places, prioritises, implementation monitoring**
- **Regions not unilaterally control**
- **Commission retain influence use resources**

# My conditions not met

## So now

- **Not consistent Commission line urban**
- **Cities & stakeholders not involved enough**
- **Capacity to deliver is problem**
- **Big differences Directorates' agenda**
- **Still urban rural split**
- **Not enough support Member states, regions Commission**

# **Commission can't stay here**

# **4. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS**

# The New World Order

- **Economic and fiscal crisis**
- **Different impacts across Europe**

## Short term

- **Development & regeneration arrested**

## Medium term

- **Public & private sectors bust?**
- **Huge social, political challenges**

# The New World Order

## Longer term

- **System broken, fractured, bit poorly?**
- **New housing models?**
- **New fiscal models – LABVs, TIF?**
- **New economic models - from consumption to green production**
- **From public grants to risk taking, investment and leverage?**

# What Messages?

- **Principles good times, better in bad**
- **Partnership, leadership, integration**
- **Markets will return - but different**
- **Keep the faith**
- **Brave leadership**
- **Maintain momentum**
- **Retain capacity**
- **Prepare for upturn**

# **What crisis mean for IUD?**

- Is it desirable? Yes**
- Is it possible? Yes**
- Does it work? Yes**
- Is it transferable? Yes**
- Must we try? Yes**
- Will it be easy? No**

# Will need

- **Visionary city leadership**
- **Effective partnerships**
- **Strategic approach**
- **Commitment mainstream departments**
- **Links regional & neighbourhood strategies**
- **Co-ordination funding streams**
- **Involvement communities and private**
- **Strong national & EU lead**

# Will need

- **Focus competitiveness and cohesion**
- **Support places and people**
- **Link to mainstream**
- **Scale – as big as will work**
- **Contractual relationships - crucial**
- **Delivery team, powers, resources**
- **Long term**
- **Encourage – networks, incentives**

# Might Jessica Help?

## YES

- **Financial incentives collaborate**
- **Flexibility**
- **Alternative grant dependency**
- **Innovative**
- **Encourage entrepreneurial**
- **Link economic, social, physical**

# What need?

- **Better involvement cities and authorities**
- **Open all sizes cities**
- **More guidance from Commission**
- **Ring fencing budgets**

# Organisational choices

- **New Community Initiative in cohesion?**
- **Improved mainstream?**
- **IUD initiative outside cohesion?**
- **Consult and choose**

# Endpoint

- **Need leadership from Commission**
- **Crisis underlines urgency**
- **Economic and moral imperative**
- **Place does matter**
- **Beyond neighbourhood initiatives to city regions**
- **Better links governance, economy and territory**