

Urban Agenda for the EU

EUROPEAN
U R B A N
INITIATIVE

Coordinators & Action Leaders Meeting

Report

Brussels
April 01
2025



1.

Introduction

Overview of the Coordinators and Action Leaders Meeting 2025

The 2025 version of Coordinators and Action Leaders Meeting (CALM) of the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) took place on 1 April at La Tricoterie, a community-oriented venue in Brussels, Belgium. The CALM 2025 marked a key moment of exchange and collaboration between the eight active Thematic Partnerships and institutional actors, building on the progress and recommendations of previous CALM meetings.

As the Urban Agenda enters a pivotal implementation phase, the meeting served as a forum for reflection, strategic alignment, and identification of actionable synergies. With a dynamic mix of plenary sessions, working group exercises, and direct exchanges with EU representatives and political stakeholders, CALM 2025 focused on how partnerships can **identify new synergies between different actions and thematic partnerships in order to increase impact** of their Action Plans, especially in light of the upcoming EU policy cycle and Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Objectives

The primary objectives of the CALM 2025 were to:

1. Provide a full **state-of-play update** across all eight Thematic Partnerships.
2. Offer a **structured space for dialogue** between Coordinators, Action Leaders, and external stakeholders.
3. **Identify cross-cutting synergies** based on the updated **Synergy Matrix** and the **Annex of Outputs and Activities**.
4. Enhance **peer learning, feedback and policy alignment**, particularly in relation to the next European Commission's priorities.
5. Share updates on **funding tools, EUI opportunities**, and new avenues for cross-Partnership collaboration.

Participants

The meeting brought together approximately **50 participants**, representing a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- All 8 active UAEU Thematic Partnerships:
 - **Public Procurement, Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, Sustainable Tourism, Greening Cities, Food, Cities of Equality, Water Sensitive City, and Building Decarbonisation.**
 - Partnerships were represented by Coordinators, Action Leaders, Working Group members, and external experts.

- Some partnerships are at a **mature implementation phase** (e.g., Public Procurement, Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees), while others are in the **early stages of development** (e.g., Water Sensitive City, Building Decarbonisation).
- **European Institutions:**
 - Representatives from **DG REGIO, DG HOME, DG GROW, DG EAC, DG JUST, DG MOVE, DG RTD**, the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)**, and the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** contributed to discussions with policy updates and future outlooks.
- **The European Urban Initiative (EUI):**
 - The EUI Permanent Secretariat and Entrusted Entity facilitated the meeting, offering insights into tools and processes, and moderating sessions.

Methodology of the Workshop

The CALM 2025 was designed to promote **engagement, co-creation, and actionable outcomes**, combining different formats to serve the evolving needs of the Partnerships:

- **Plenary Sessions:** Provided a platform for shared updates, welcome messages from the European Commission and EUI, and policy reflections from high-level speakers, including **MEP Marcos Ros Sempere**.
- **Partnership Presentations:** All Partnerships presented the status of their Orientation Papers, Draft Action Plans, or implementation progress using a shared slide structure, highlighting key outputs, challenges, and requests for collaboration.
- **Parallel Workshops:** Sessions were structured into two working rooms, separating Partnerships by maturity level. Each room explored synergies, coordination tools, and upcoming collaboration opportunities, based on shared timelines, challenges, and thematic overlaps.
- **Interactive Exercises:** Participants contributed via post-its, discussion rounds, and visual facilitation tools, responding to strategic questions about funding, implementation, and policy influence.
- **Exchange with EUF Chair:** In a key session, **Marcos Ros Sempere (MEP)** introduced the [European Urban Forum](#)—a new platform for dialogue between legislators and urban stakeholders—and invited UAEU Partners to actively engage.
- **Visual & Collaborative Tools:** A **live visual harvesting**, updates to the **Synergy Matrix**, and the launch of a printed **Toolbox for Advocacy and Implementation** supported hands-on learning and real-time ideation.

CALM 2025 in Numbers

- **8 active Partnerships** represented
- **50 participants** from local, regional, national, and EU levels
- **7 European Commission DGs** represented
- **2 parallel workshops, 5 structured exercises.**





2.

Strategic Context and Policy Framework



2.1 Keynote Remarks from European Institutions

The Coordinators and Action Leaders Meeting (CALM) opened with strategic insights from representatives of key European institutions, emphasizing the critical role of urban policy in addressing Europe's broader challenges.

- **Jonas Scholze (European Urban Initiative - EUI)** underlined the importance of collaboration among the expanding network of UAEU Partnerships, noting the growth to eight active Partnerships with the recent addition of the Water Sensitive City and Building Decarbonisation Partnerships. He stressed the significance of joint activities and emphasized the need to build upon practical synergies across thematic domains.
- **Anton Schrag (DG REGIO, European Commission)** highlighted the importance of bottom-up multi-governmental urban initiatives such as the UAEU Partnerships. He announced the preparation of an ambitious urban policy agenda under Vice-President Raffaele Fitto, prioritizing housing, climate action, digitalisation, and social inclusion. Mr. Schrag also discussed the upcoming Cities Forum 2025 as a key opportunity to promote urban priorities and outlined expectations for the upcoming **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, encouraging Partnerships to proactively engage and clearly demonstrate their relevance at the EU level.
- **Nathalie Cos (Région Hauts-de-France, EUI Entrusted Entity)** emphasized the critical juncture at which urban actors find themselves, particularly regarding regional and local authority involvement in innovative urban actions. She underscored the necessity for urban authorities to actively communicate local challenges and needs to the EU institutions, particularly during negotiations for the next MFF.
- **Tim Caulfield (Director of the European Urban Initiative)** reiterated the unique value of the Urban Agenda framework in facilitating multi-level cooperation and emphasised the practical implementation and impactful results expected from Partnership Actions. He encouraged the use of EUI's available resources, including peer reviews, capacity-building, and city-to-city exchanges, to enhance urban policy outcomes.

2.2 Updates on Relevant EU Policy Priorities and Funding Opportunities

Representatives from various Directorates-General of the European Commission provided updates on upcoming policy initiatives and funding frameworks relevant for urban policy and Partnership Actions:

- **DG Environment (DG ENV)** emphasised the importance of upcoming policy initiatives such as the **Water Resilience Strategy**, expected in June 2025. This strategy presents significant alignment potential for the Water Sensitive City and Greening Cities Partnerships. Additionally, DG ENV highlighted the continuing relevance of the **Green Public Procurement** communication, advocating its integration into Partnership Actions, particularly where sustainability and environmental criteria are central. The upcoming **Energy Efficiency Directive** was also highlighted as a critical element, bridging Water Sensitive City and Building Decarbonisation Partnerships through the water-energy nexus.
- **DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD)** outlined forthcoming strategic policy developments, notably the **European Life Sciences Strategy** and the **new European Biotech Act**. The Life Sciences Strategy, to be published in Q2 2025, will enhance the EU's competitiveness by supporting innovation commercialisation. DG RTD encouraged Partnerships, particularly Food and Sustainable Tourism, to engage with the ongoing consultations (open until 17 April 2025). Additionally, the **updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy** (consultation open until 21 June 2025) offers pathways for Partnerships to align activities around circular economy and decarbonisation goals. DG RTD also encouraged exploration of synergies with Horizon Europe Partnerships, which provide data and open lab opportunities through 2034.
- **DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)** presented critical initiatives aimed at strengthening competitiveness and sustainability, specifically the **Competitiveness Compass** and the **Clean Industrial Deal**. DG GROW urged Partnerships to actively contribute to related consultations, highlighting strong thematic alignment with the Building Decarbonisation and Greening Cities Partnerships. They also noted the ongoing relevance of initiatives such as the **New European Bauhaus**, the **Construction Products Regulation**, and the **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**. Furthermore, a dedicated Commissioner on Housing will soon introduce a new strategic framework aimed at affordable housing.
- **DG Home Affairs (DG HOME)** provided an update on migration and integration policy under the new **Pact on Migration and Asylum**. A key highlight was the emphasis on immediate integration support for migrants and refugees, underscoring that integration primarily takes place at the local level. DG HOME invited the Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees and Cities of Equality Partnerships to engage with the ongoing evaluation and implementation of the **Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion**.
- **DG Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)** introduced the planned consolidation of over 50 separate urban initiatives into a unified **EU Agenda for Cities** by the end of 2025. A major focus area highlighted by DG REGIO was increasing Member State investments in affordable housing, which will be central to future MFF negotiations and national allocations. DG REGIO further encouraged Partnerships to participate actively in related [Call for Evidence](#) invited exploration of international urban cooperation beyond the EU framework. At the moment of writing this report (14 of April) this call was just opened and will receive evidences until 26 May 2025 via the [Have your Say platform](#).
- **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** presented an overview of their interdisciplinary research priorities for 2025–2027, covering critical urban issues such as climate resilience, water management, housing affordability, and social inclusion. JRC explicitly

expressed willingness to provide technical expertise, data, and capacity-building support to all Partnerships, particularly through collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors and dedicated research outputs on urban segregation and participatory governance.

- **DG Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)** announced two strategic initiatives relevant to urban policy: the upcoming **Strategy on LGBTQI+ Rights**, aiming to strengthen inclusion policies at local levels, and an EU-level award recognising cities leading in justice and social inclusion practices. Both initiatives present potential collaboration opportunities, especially for Cities of Equality and Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees Partnerships.
- **DG Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)** shared important insights into the EU's policy developments and funding opportunities in tourism under the **Transition Pathway for Tourism**. DG MOVE highlighted the upcoming new **Strategy for Tourism** (expected early 2026) following targeted consultations and invited Partnerships, particularly Sustainable Tourism, to utilise existing resources such as the EU Tourism Platform and the JRC-developed tourism dashboard. Additional visibility and recognition opportunities were identified, including the EU Capital of Smart Tourism Award and Green Pioneer Cities.

2.3 Alignment with the European Urban Forum (EUF)

Marcos Ros Sempere, Member of the European Parliament (MEP, S&D, REGI Committee) introduced the newly launched European Urban Forum (EUF), a significant platform designed to foster dialogue and direct interaction between urban stakeholders and EU legislators. He emphasised the forum's non-partisan nature and broad stakeholder inclusion, covering representatives from local governments, European institutions, civil society, industry sectors, and international bodies such as UN-Habitat.

MEP Sempere stressed the importance of urban policy debates, particularly in legislative and budgetary contexts, to facilitate the implementation of recent EU urban-related legislation such as the Green Deal, Renovation Wave, and Nature Restoration Regulation. He underscored that the European Parliament seeks active engagement from UAEU Partnerships, highlighting their pivotal role in informing policy discussions, particularly regarding direct urban funding through instruments such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF).

During the Q&A, Sempere confirmed the Parliament's willingness to host debates on urban investment and offered support for a dedicated meeting to explore stronger connections between UAEU Partnerships and the forthcoming new EU Agenda for Cities.

CALM EXERCISE 1

A large sheet of paper covered with numerous colorful sticky notes (orange, yellow, brown, pink) containing handwritten notes and diagrams. The notes are organized into several clusters and sections, often with numbers or letters indicating sequence or categories.

Top Left Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".
- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Top Right Cluster:

- Notes on "City of the Future" and "Sustainable Tourism".

Middle Left Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Middle Right Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Bottom Left Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Bottom Right Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Central Cluster:

- Notes on "Sustainable Tourism" and "Public Domain".

Other Notable Notes:

- "WATER SENSORY & GOLF TOURS"
- "Sustainable Tourism TP"
- "Public Domain TP"
- "Sustainable Tourism TP"
- "Public Domain TP"
- "Sustainable Tourism TP"
- "Public Domain TP"

3.

Cross-Partnership Collaboration and Synergies



The Coordinators and Action Leaders Meeting (CALM) 2025 provided a valuable forum for identifying potential synergies and enhancing collaboration among Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) Thematic Partnerships (TPs). Interactive parallel workshops and plenary discussions resulted in concrete suggestions to further strengthen cooperation, joint Actions, and cross-thematic linkages.

3.1 Key Synergies Identified

The CALM 2025 discussions revealed multiple synergies across Thematic Partnerships, with particular convergence around topics such as infrastructure (green, blue, and built), citizen engagement, land use, and inclusive urban policies. These synergies provide a strong foundation for future collaboration across Partnerships.

Green, Blue, and Built Infrastructure

1. **Water Sensitive City (WSC) ↔ Greening Cities (GC):** Shared interest in financing and implementing green and blue infrastructure.
2. **Building Decarbonisation (BD) ↔ WSC:** Common ground on financing mechanisms and the technical integration of water and energy systems (e.g., heat extraction from water).
3. **BD ↔ GC:** Synergies around the role of green infrastructure in urban cooling and climate adaptation.
4. **Food ↔ WSC & GC:** Interest in connecting food systems and urban planning with green and blue infrastructure, particularly through land use and nature-based solutions.

Citizen Engagement and Participatory Governance

5. **Cities of Equality (CoE) ↔ Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees (IMR):** Thematic alignment around inclusive policymaking and potential for cross-participation in Action Groups.
6. **BD ↔ CoE:** Shared focus on co-governance models and participatory frameworks, such as energy communities and Just Transition approaches.

7. **WSC ↔ CoE:** Potential collaboration in collecting and sharing best practices on citizen engagement.

Land Use and Public Space

8. **Food ↔ WSC & GC (and potentially BD):** Food Partnership plans to create an interest group on public land, with possible synergies related to land use, nature-based solutions, and multifunctional urban spaces.

Strategic Planning and Action Coordination

9. **Greening Cities ↔ Compact Cities:** Recognised alignment in themes such as green infrastructure and integrated urban planning.
10. **CoE ↔ All Partnerships:** Recommendation to cross-check each other's Action Plans to ensure alignment and identify commonalities.
11. **Sustainable Tourism (ST) ↔ Multiple Partnerships:** Proposed creation of a cross-correlation map to connect outputs and streamline implementation efforts across Partnerships.
12. **Public Procurement (PP) ↔ Other Partnerships:** Proposed the use of AI tools to identify overlapping topics and survey results for shared analysis as well as a canvas of synergies to visualize connections and better understand where knowledge from other Partnerships can be reused.

Upcoming Collaborative Opportunities

13. **Greening Cities ↔ WSC:** GC invited WSC to participate in an upcoming online meeting, particularly in relation to their work on indicator systems.
14. **GC ↔ Other TPs:** Proposal to open a planned webinar on public-private financing of green infrastructure to additional Partnerships.

These synergies were further captured in the live session exercises and are dynamically tracked in the updated Synergy Matrix available here:

[🔗 Dynamic Synergy Matrix – Miro Board](#)

3.2 Opportunities for Joint Actions and Collaboration

Participants highlighted several concrete suggestions for collaborative Actions and shared outputs across Partnerships:

- **Joint Events and Workshops:**
 - Co-organise **validation workshops** and coordinate contributions to ongoing public consultations to provide collective input.

- Arrange joint exploratory sessions on **financing mechanisms** among Water Sensitive City, Building Decarbonisation, and Greening Cities.
 - Host **common events or webinars** to share insights into thematic areas such as Green Infrastructure financing and innovative funding solutions.
 - Jointly initiate the **Public Land Interest Group** between Food and WSC Partnerships, with GC and BD invited to be part of the process
- **Development of Common Tools and Resources:**
 - Creation of a **cross-correlation map** and visual "synergy canvas" to illustrate interconnections between Partnerships.
 - Establish a **participative peer-review system** across Partnerships to enhance output quality.
 - Utilise **AI tools** to consolidate survey data and identify thematic overlaps more effectively.
 - Organise **common surveys**.
- **Capacity-Building and Peer Learning:**
 - Develop **cross-cutting training modules** addressing shared challenges.
 - Leverage **City-to-City exchanges and Peer Reviews** facilitated by the European Urban Initiative (EUI).
 - Conduct joint knowledge exchanges, study visits, and webinars to avoid duplication and enhance learning.
- **Advocacy and Visibility:**
 - Strengthen collaboration between TPs and the European Urban Forum to increase visibility and impact at the EU policy level.
 - Develop **joint position papers** representing collective interests of UAEU Partnerships in EU-level discussions and consultations.
 - Organise a **joint dissemination or awareness event**, ideally linked to an existing webinar or consultation milestone.
 - Explore the idea of a **cross-Partnership communication strategy** to improve visibility and clarity at the local level—e.g., shared newsletters, microsites, or branded outputs.
- **Recommended joint activities across Partnerships:**
 - Joint development of consolidated deliverables addressing overlapping thematic areas, such as funding, land use, and climate resilience.
 - Conduct coordinated stakeholder outreach to minimize consultation fatigue.
 - Regularly execute cross-Partnership peer reviews and shared validation workshops.
 - Produce joint position papers and cohesive communication campaigns for amplified visibility.
 - Expand inter-Partnership learning via structured City-to-City exchanges and shared online resources.



3.3 Proposed Short-Term Joint Activities (Immediate Steps)

Immediate collaborative actions identified for implementation before the end of May include:

- Launch of **joint validation workshops** (initiated by Cities of Equality).
- Coordination of **collective responses to ongoing EU public consultations**.
- Initiation of an **interest group on public land use** (Food and WSC), inviting collaboration from GC and BD Partnerships.
- Mapping exercise **on citizen engagement best practices** (CoE, BD, WSC).
- Sharing **Greening Cities' survey results** with other Partnerships, notably WSC, to leverage insights.
- Providing **structured feedback to draft Action Plans** of Cities of Equality and Food Partnerships.
- Exploration of **joint dissemination strategies** and events to enhance local-level outreach and visibility.

3.4 Recommendations for Strengthened Impact

To strengthen impact, participants recommended several operational, communication, and strategic measures:

Operational Recommendations:

- Exchange **service providers** for common tasks such as training modules.
- Establish **clear processes** for activating and replacing inactive partners.
- Encourage the involvement of **private sector** stakeholders.
- Adopt **concentric participation** models allowing varying engagement levels.
- **Communication and Coordination:**
 - Create a **shared digital platform** for regular bilateral and multilateral communication (e.g., Portico).
 - Use consistent, **simplified communication** language to enhance clarity and engagement at local and regional levels.
 - Assign **city ambassadors** or liaison roles within Partnerships to improve inter-partnership communication and visibility.
- **Collaboration Enablers:**
 - Facilitate dedicated **funding streams** for inter-partnership collaboration.
 - Coordinate with EU Directorates-General (DGs) to leverage **dissemination channels** effectively.
 - Organize recurring **joint events, roundtables, and conferences**.

- Maintain up-to-date **mapping of upcoming consultations** and policy milestones to ensure timely collaborative inputs.

- **Towards High-Quality Outputs:**

- Implement a structured, **cross-Partnership peer-review** and validation mechanism.
- Promote **co-created outputs** with embedded quality control measures.
- Enhance **capacity-building and validation workshops** to ensure practical, adaptable, and directly implementable results.

Roundtable Recommendations

During roundtable discussions, specific recommendations emerged for aligning partnership activities with broader EU policy priorities:

How Partnerships can best contribute to EU priorities:

- Develop a **centralised EU Policy Knowledge Hub** for all UAEU outputs.
- Actively **raise awareness** of Partnership activities among DGs and political leaders.
- **Align Action Plans** closely with European Commission guidelines and mission letters.
- Translate technical concepts into **accessible narratives** to improve stakeholder engagement and public understanding.

Reflections and Strategic Outlook

The session concluded with clear strategic reflections for ongoing collaboration:

- Recognized the necessity of structured, regular systems of collaboration, communication, and resource-sharing across Partnerships.
- Recommended enhanced engagement with national governments to leverage broader impact and access additional funding.
- Map upcoming consultations and communicate key policy milestones to support strategic alignment.
- Urged Partnerships to actively coordinate around the forthcoming Cities Agenda anticipated by DG REGIO, ensuring coherent and influential inputs into EU policy development.

Participants expressed strong consensus on the need for increased visibility, systematic peer-learning mechanisms, and proactive, coordinated action at multiple governance levels to maximize the impact and sustainability of Urban Agenda initiatives.

The Synergy Matrix



	1 Greening Cities	2 Public Procurement	3 Food	4 Sustainable Tourism	5 Culture & CH	6 Inclusion of Mig.&Ref.	7 Cities of equality	8 Water Sensitive City	9 Building Decarbonization	
1 Greening Cities - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1.1 Fund for green - methodology for applying the fund for green infrastructure of local level Action 1.2 Inclusion system for evaluating urban forest Action 1.3 Strategy for allowing urban forests expansion/Urban Nature Plan Action 1.4 Encouraging investment in funding for urban environment Action 1.5 Enhancing the use of innovative funding to finance urban initiatives of green cities Action 1.6 Urban Expansion Reduction Handbook 		Give feedback on the GC Handbook					GC Innovative Funding Actions 8 & 9 are of interest	Connection with GC Action 8 (Enhancing Use of Innovative Funding) GC Action 1 "Need for Green" v1- BD "Heating & Cooling plans"	
2 Public Procurement - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 2.1 Capacity Building for Public Procurement and Innovation Action 2.2 Strategy for better regulation Action 2.3 Better funding to increase strategic innovation 		Respond to PP directive - Action 2 (it could be a common response)		PP+CoE: Joint Communication Activities developed and implemented					
3 Food - Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 3.1 Planning for an improving EU Action 3.2 Improving the urban environment and local work in supporting and increasing food availability Action 3.3 Promoting Sustainable Food Procurement Action 3.4 Local Food Innovation Training Action 3.5 Public Land for Local Food Strategies Action 3.6 Promoting and enhancing initiatives for local food system innovation Action 3.7 Building bridges and synergies between local authorities and EU 	Respond to the Public Consultation For Food Action Plan		ST+Food: joint Desk Research, Webinars, Workshops (in the next two months)				Connection with the Food Action Plan - Actions 1, 5, 7		
4 Sustainable Tourism - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 4.1 Guidelines for creating tourism-friendly and inclusive destinations Action 4.2 Request for applications to create the set of destination conditions for the 100+ tourism destinations Action 4.3 Developing communication for tourism and local work and local authorities in the 100+ tourism destinations Action 4.4 Main website and sustainable tourism strategy development of European cities Action 4.5 Sustainable tourism for all Action 4.6 Strategies on Promotion of Local level of tourism for Europe 			ST+Food: joint Desk Research, Webinars, Workshops (in the next two months)			CoE+ST+IMR Joint Events Based on CoE Action 3	Connection with ST Action Plan Action 1: Restore Urban Destinations		
5 Culture & Cultural Heritage - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 5.1 The existing situation of existing European cities Action 5.2 Urban Innovation, urbanism and cultural heritage Action 5.3 Cultural Hub for Innovation, Measurement and Evaluation (CHIME) Action 5.4 Cultural Heritage Management for Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.5 Urban Innovation for public innovation and local work in supporting and increasing food availability Action 5.6 Strategic Plan for the 100+ European cities Action 5.7 Urban innovation and local work applied to the existing situation of European cities Action 5.8 Existing Programs for Innovation and Measurement and Evaluation (CHIME) Action 5.9 Urban Innovation for public innovation and local work in supporting and increasing food availability Action 5.10 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.11 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.12 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.13 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.14 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 5.15 European Urban Innovation and Local Work 				CoE+PP: Joint Communication Activities developed and implemented					
6 Inclusion of Migrants & Refugees - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 6.1 Recommendations on the promotion of integration Action 6.2 Further actions on the promotion of integration Action 6.3 Empowering actors in the EU integration funding Action 6.4 Establishment of a working in integration Action 6.5 Establishment of a 100+ European cities Action 6.6 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 6.7 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 6.8 European Urban Innovation and Local Work 						CoE&IMR: joint event on future funding instruments CoE&IMR: joint Action Funding alignment on Action activities/subactivities etc. CoE&IMR: Organization of joint activities and Actions			
7 Cities of Equality - Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 7.1 Recommendations on the promotion of integration Action 7.2 Further actions on the promotion of integration Action 7.3 Empowering actors in the EU integration funding Action 7.4 Establishment of a working in integration Action 7.5 Establishment of a 100+ European cities Action 7.6 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 7.7 European Urban Innovation and Local Work Action 7.8 European Urban Innovation and Local Work 			Link with Action 6 of the ST Action Plan: Exchange of Data Sources/Availability of Data on Accessibility	Link with Action 6 of the ST Action Plan: Exchange of Data Sources/Availability of Data on Accessibility		CoE&IMR: joint event on future funding instruments CoE&IMR: Organization of joint activities and Actions CoE&IMR: Joint Action Funding alignment on Action activities/subactivities etc.	Food and WSC Partnership could jointly review the Interest group as public good, with no inclusion reserved to GC and BD	CoE+CoE Citizen Engagement (Action 3)	BD+CoE Citizen Engagement (Action 3) CoE Action 1 Spatial Segregation + BD Neighborhood Approach
8 Water Sensitive City - Key Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GC to share the input of surveys with WSC GC to share the input from outputs (webinars, roundtables) and set up upcoming webinars 		WSC Action on Public Land	WSC topics 1.3, 2.1, 4.1, 4.4				WSC+CoE synergies when considering the Water/Energy Nexus BD+WSC Local Heating and Cooling Plans (L4) Actions 4 and 11 are of interest	WSC+BD Strategic Water/Heat Planning WSC+BD Strategic Water/Heat Planning WSC+BD Strategic Water/Heat Planning	
9 Building Decarbonization - Key Topics								WSC+BD Multi-level Governance WSC+BD Financing and Investment WSC+BD Strategic Water/Heat Planning		

4.

Conclusion and Next Steps



The Coordinators and Action Leaders Meeting (CALM) 2025 successfully provided a platform for comprehensive exchange, collaboration, and strategic alignment among all active Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) Thematic Partnerships. Participants identified numerous opportunities for cross-Partnership synergies, notably in funding, citizen engagement, green and blue infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks. The meeting reinforced the need for structured collaboration, joint deliverables, unified communication strategies, and alignment with key EU policy priorities.

Key Organisational Updates

- A comprehensive report synthesising the insights and outcomes of the CALM meeting will be circulated to all participants and Thematic Partnerships to support ongoing and future collaborative efforts.
- The Cities of Equality and Food Partnerships will soon publish their draft Action Plan, inviting feedback from other UAEU Partnerships. The deadline for submitting feedback is **6 June 2025** (Consultation will open on May 6).

Key Points for Forward Planning

The following strategic activities were identified for immediate action and forward planning:

Cross-Partnership Collaboration:

- **Synergy Matrix:** Partnerships are encouraged to continuously use and update the Synergy Matrix to identify and enhance collaborative opportunities.
- **Inter-Partnership Meetings:** Regular participation in meetings hosted by other Thematic Partnerships is strongly recommended to deepen thematic connections and share best practices.
- **Joint Outputs and Events:** Coordinated development of joint outputs (e.g., position papers, webinars, toolkits) and co-hosting of events should be prioritised to amplify impact and visibility.

Expertise & Resources:

- **External Expert Support:** Partnerships are advised to jointly apply for external expertise, facilitating high-quality and practically relevant outputs.

Advocacy:

- **Advocacy Toolbox:** Use of the Advocacy Toolbox, particularly in aligning with the upcoming EU political cycle and ensuring visibility of Partnership actions and recommendations.

National Engagement:

- **Urban Contact Points (UCPs):** Engage actively with UCPs in Member States to support effective dissemination, communication, and integration of partnership activities at the national and regional levels.

European Urban Initiative (EUI) Opportunities:

- Explore and capitalize on capacity-building offerings provided by EUI, such as:
 - City-to-City Exchanges
 - Peer Reviews
 - Thematic events organised by EUI

Funding Opportunities:

- **Innovative Actions (EUI-IA):** Partnerships are encouraged to review the recently published results of the 3rd EUI-IA Call. Additionally, preparations for the upcoming 4th EUI-IA Call should be initiated promptly to leverage future funding opportunities.

Upcoming Key Events

The following key events were highlighted for active participation and continued collaboration:

- **Public Procurement Thematic Partnership In-person Meeting:** 12–13 May 2025 (location details forthcoming).
- **URBACT Festival:** Participants are encouraged to attend and engage to further explore urban development synergies
- **Cities Forum in Krakow:** An essential opportunity for further networking, knowledge exchange, and visibility at a strategic EU-wide platform.
- **Greening Cities Partnership in-person meeting:** 16-17 June, Krakow (PL).
- **Building Decarbonization in-person meeting:** 26-27 May in Mechelen (BE).
- **Water Sensitive City in-person meeting:** 13-14 May, Coimbra (PT).

Final Remarks

The CALM 2025 reinforced the importance of collaborative action, strategic alignment, and proactive engagement to enhance the effectiveness and impact of UAEU Partnerships. The continued commitment of all partners and stakeholders remains critical as we advance towards shared goals in urban policy innovation and sustainable urban development.

We invite you to explore the published web article about this event published on the UAEU website:

<https://www.urbanagenda.urban-initiative.eu/news/leveraging-synergies-boost-impact-urban-agenda-partnerships>





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ANNEX

State of Play of UAEU Thematic Partnerships

This section provides a comprehensive update on the current development and implementation status of the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) Thematic Partnerships (TPs). The Partnerships have been clustered based on their current development stage to offer clarity and facilitate comparison.

Partnerships with Extended Lifespan (Implementing New Action Plans)

Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Successfully delivered results of the second Action Plan (focusing on supporting SMEs during the COVID-19 economic downturn through e-learning modules). The Partnership is now finalizing its third Action Plan (2025-2028).
- **Achievements:** Completed public consultation, receiving extensive input from stakeholders, including European institutions.
- **Next Steps:** Submission of the final Action Plan in May 2025; implementation to follow shortly thereafter.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Ensuring continued engagement from all partners; recommended active outreach and direct communication with passive partners.

Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Clearly defined four key actions within the 2025–2027 Action Plan (Integration into Labour Market, Inclusive Education, Access to EU Funds, and Combating Disinformation and Hate Speech).
- **Achievements:** Strong focus on capacity-building and local-level integration strategies. Ongoing coordination with DG HOME regarding policy alignment.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Addressing complexities in EU funding accessibility; recommended developing clear, harmonized toolkits for local implementation. Emphasis on targeted outreach for greater impact.

Partnerships Implementing Existing Action Plans

Greening Cities Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Actively implementing its Action Plan, with significant milestones reached in key actions such as Urban Restoration Plans, Structural Funding for Green Infrastructure, and Innovative Funding Mechanisms.
- **Achievements:** Completion and dissemination of a key position paper advocating for earmarked EU funding for urban green infrastructure; ongoing webinar series to support cities on Nature Restoration Regulation.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Ensuring alignment with broader EU legislative frameworks; recommended developing concrete synergies with the Water Sensitive City Partnership, especially around green-blue infrastructure.

Sustainable Tourism Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Implementation phase well underway, actions actively progressing with tangible data collection, webinars, and best practice compilations.
- **Achievements:** Effective coordination across multiple interconnected actions, demonstrating a holistic approach to sustainable tourism management.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Securing adequate funding and maintaining partner engagement; recommended regular public-facing dissemination activities to broaden stakeholder involvement and maintain momentum.

Partnerships Developing Draft Action Plans

Food Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Draft Action Plan under advanced development, focusing on strategic urban food systems, local food strategies, land use for urban agriculture, and alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategies.
- **Achievements:** Strong foundations established through Horizon Europe projects; ongoing efforts to establish local food strategies training modules.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Ensuring practical, high-quality, and easily adoptable outputs; recommended building close collaboration with Public Procurement Partnership on sustainable local procurement mechanisms.

Cities of Equality Partnership

- **Stage of Action Plan:** Draft Action Plan actively in development, focusing on assessing spatial segregation, mainstreaming equality in funding instruments, and citizen engagement tools.
- **Achievements:** Defined clear thematic areas; significant progress on initial data collection and conceptual framework establishment.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Managing a relatively small partnership size; recommended actively expanding the Partnership network, emphasizing engagement through clearly defined and realistic objectives.

Partnerships Developing Orientation Papers

Water Sensitive City Partnership

- **Stage of Orientation Paper:** Actively drafting its Orientation Paper with refined thematic areas, including integrated water management, resilience, digital innovation, governance, awareness, and financing.
- **Achievements:** Clear identification and structuring of thematic areas; initial establishment of working groups.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Maintaining continuous partner engagement and ensuring early alignment with broader EU water resilience strategies; recommended early identification and activation of concrete synergies with Greening Cities and Building Decarbonisation Partnerships.

Building Decarbonisation Partnership

- **Stage of Orientation Paper:** In the preliminary drafting phase, focusing on decarbonisation of building stock, strategic partnerships for energy transition, and engaging building owners in collective renovation.
- **Achievements:** Well-defined subtopics and strong city-led initiative examples from the City of Mechelen; considerable stakeholder engagement established.
- **Challenges & Recommendations:** Narrowing thematic areas efficiently and leveraging existing expertise; recommended close cooperation with the Greening Cities and Water Sensitive City Partnerships on strategic heat and cooling plans, energy communities, and financing mechanisms.

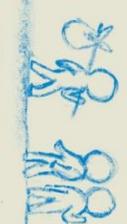
Visual Harvesting Results

(see below)

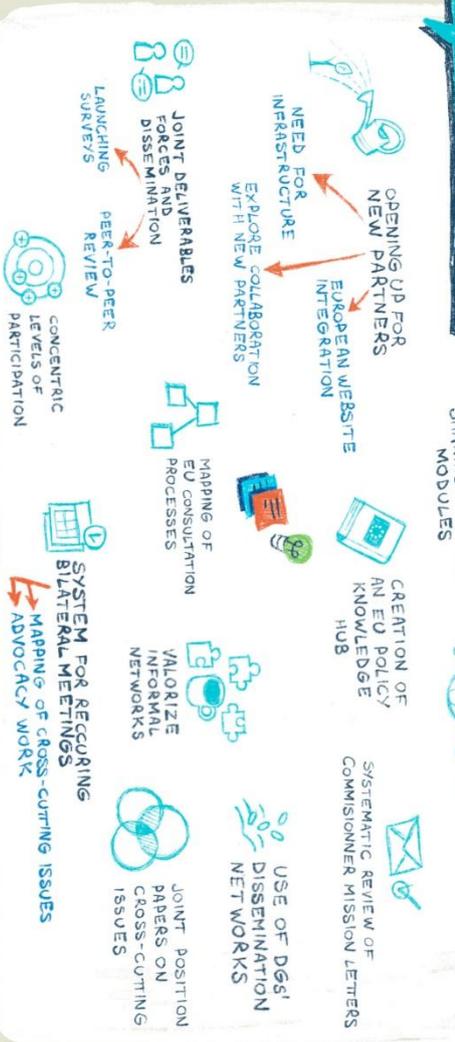


WORKSHOP PT.1

01/03/2025 - BRUSSELS



WHAT COORDINATIONS AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER UEAU PARTNERSHIPS?



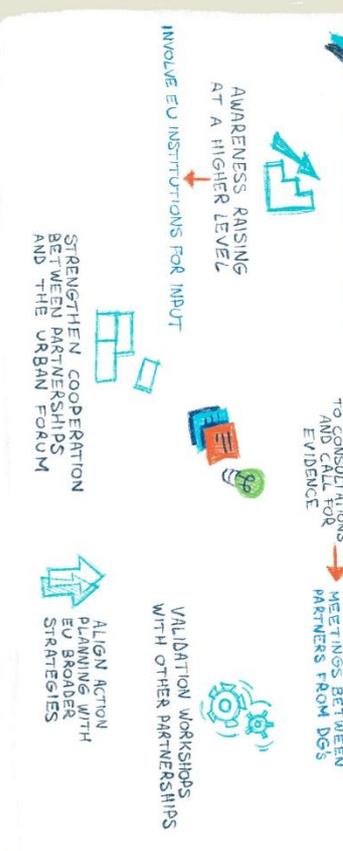
COLLABORATION ENABLERS

- FUNDING RESOURCES
- JOINT EVENTS
- MAPPING OF PARTICIPATIONS PROCESSES
- MAP A SET OF MODELS OF WORKING STRATEGIES
- REACH THE COMMISSION GUIDELINES AND MISSION LETTERS TO COUNTRIES
- CAPITALIZE ON THE CITY-TO-CITY EXCHANGE AND PEER REVIEW VIA EUI
- COMMON EVENTS WITH MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS IN ORGANISATIONS OWN COUNTRIES
- HIGHLIGHT 'SUCCESS STORIES' TO OTHER PARTNERS

IDEAS

- STUDY VISITS
- CO-HOSTED NATIONAL EVENTS
- LEVERAGE PORTICO PLATFORM
- HIGHLIGHT PARTNERSHIP RESULTS VIA HAVE YOUR SAY AND OTHER PLATFORMS
- MAKE SURE THAT THE PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU POLICIES

HOW CAN PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU PRIORITIES?



ENSURING PARTNERSHIPS OUTPUTS ARE PRACTICAL AND HIGH QUALITY

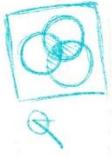




WORKSHOP PT.2

01/03/2025 - BRUSSELS

WHAT CAN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS DO TOGETHER TO FINALIZE THEIR ACTION PLAN?



CHECK PARTNERSHIPS ACTION PLANS TO INCLUDE CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

RESPOND COLLECTIVELY TO OPEN CONSULTATIONS ORGANIZED BY THE EU

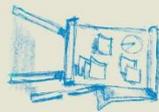
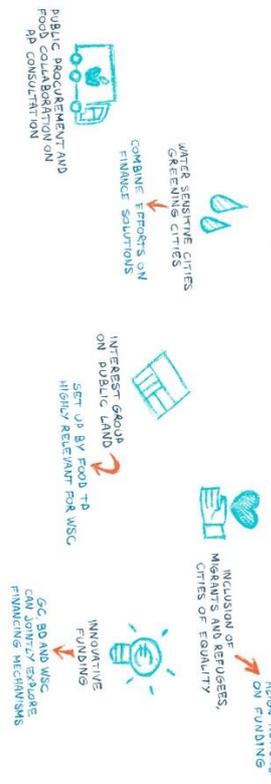


LINK BETWEEN WATER PLANNING AND STRATEGIC HEATING/COOLING



OVERARCHING TOPIC: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

PROPOSED JOINT ACTIONS



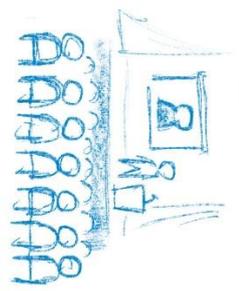
Q&A

MARCOS ROS SEMPERE - MEP

ORGANIZE A DEBATE ON EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FOR CITIES

ADVOCATE FOR MORE DIRECT FUNDING

SHARE GOOD PRACTICES



ORGANIZE A MEETING BETWEEN UAEU AND EUROPE PARLIAMENT

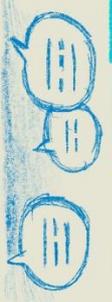
DISCUSS PARTNERSHIPS ACTION PLANS

EXPLORE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN UAEU AND EU POLICIES, INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

EXPLORE CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING AGENDA FOR CITIES



VIDEO CALL





WORKSHOP
PARTNERSHIPS IN THEIR FIRST 2 YEARS

WHAT COORDINATION WITH OTHERS PARTNERSHIPS SHOULD BE CREATED?

IDENTIFY COMMON ACTIONS

HIGHLIGHT SUCCESS STORIES



REQUEST FOR FEEDBACKS



PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE



DISSEMINATE INFORMATIONS



WHAT CAN PARTNERSHIPS EXPECT AS NEW OPPORTUNITIES?



TOURISM DASHBOARD

HOW CAN THE PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU PRIORITIES?

CALLS FOR EVIDENCE



MEETINGS WITH MOMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER

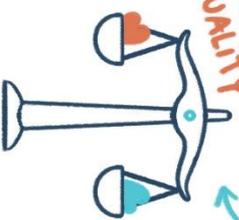


WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE NEXT 2 MONTHS?



MAPPING OF THE SEQUENCING OF ACTIONS

CITIES OF EQUALITY



GIVE FEEDBACKS TO ACTION PLANS FROM

USE TOOLS MADE BY OTHER PARTNERSHIPS



VISUALIZE SYNERGIES ON A HIGH LEVEL

WHAT CAN PARTNERSHIPS DO TO INITIATE THEIR ACTION PLAN?



USE AI TO FIND SYNERGIES



STRENGTHEN POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND ADVOCACY



OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO EU POLICY MAKING

RECOGNISE THE RIGHT WINDOW OF:

* = REAL IMPACT *

FOOD PARTNERSHIPS



PLEASE JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR



TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025
LA TRICOTERIE
BRUXELLES



The Advocacy Tool Box

Institutions on EU-level	Activities from the Actions / Draft Actions and/or other potential activities for the future	Which UAEU Partnership?	Which organisation?	(By) When?
European Commission				
Contribution to open consultations				
Contribution to internal EC working groups				
Organise workshop with respective EC unit representatives				
European Parliament				
Participate in the EU urban forum				
Organise bilateral exchange with MEP				
Participate in Parliamentary Breakfast				
Contribution to open consultations				
European Council				
Organise exchanges with National Ministers				
Organise exchanges with Permanent Representations				
Contribution to open consultations				
Committee of the Regions				
Follow and use the RegHub Platform				
Contribution to open consultations				



Contribution to Conferences				
Cities Forum (organised by EUI and DG REGIO)				
URBACT Cities Festival (organised by URBACT)				
Cities Mission Conference (Organised by EC and the Mission Platform)				
European Urban Resilience Forum (Organise by ICLEI Europe)				
European Week of Regions and Cities				
Permanent Représentations/ Regional Représentations,				
Annual Conferences				
Internal Working Groups				
Organisation of events/ workshops in Brussels				
Umbrella EU organisations and networks of cities: Eurocities, ICLEI Europe, CEMR, Eurotowns, etc.				



List of participants

1	Anton Schrag	European Commission - DG REGIO
2	Miguel Hernandez Littlewood	European Commission - DG REGIO
3	Merja Haapakka	European Commission - DG REGIO
4	Lutz Koeppen	European Commission - DG REGIO
5	Angelique Petrits	European Commission - DG HOME
6	Ramune Genzbigelyte Venturi	European Commission - DG MOVE
7	Pavlos Mouratidis	European Commission - DG ENV
8	Daniela Lüth	European Commission – DG RTD
9	Roman Horvath	European Commission – DG GROW
10	Petra Mlada	European Commission
11	Anu Ritz	European Commission - DG JUST
12	Lucia Salgado	Joint Research Centre
13	Tim Caulfield	European Urban Initiative
14	Jonas Scholze	European Urban Initiative
15	Alexandru Matei	European Urban Initiative
16	Wannes Haemers	European Urban Initiative
17	Louise Hunskaar Abrahamsen	European Urban Initiative
18	Eleonora Giorgi	European Urban Initiative
19	Jean-Christophe Charlier	European Urban Initiative
20	Faycal Ramdane	European Urban Initiative

21	Patrick Smith	European Urban Initiative
22	Sofia Morgavi	European Urban Initiative
23	Joséphine Mazy	European Urban Initiative
24	Francesco Ripa	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
25	Raffaella Fomini	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
26	Eva-Viorela Sfarlea	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
27	Nadia Siokou	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
28	Haris Biskos	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
39	Sindi Haxhija	Urban Agenda for the EU - TPO
30	Ioannis Pappas	Municipality of Heraklion
31	Bogdan Micu	Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration Romania
32	Etienne Aulotte	Brussels Environment
33	Beatriz Pereira	Intermunicipal Community of Coimbra Region (CIM-RC)
34	Nuno Pomar	Intermunicipal Community of Coimbra Region (CIM-RC)
35	Ighor Van de Vyver	City of Mechelen
36	Anne Recour	City of Mechelen
37	Ingrid Gojević	Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets
38	Ricardo Calderón Martínez	Elche City Council
39	Dóka Gábor	BKMFÜ Bács-Kiskun Megyei Fejlesztési Ügynökség Nonprofit Kft.
40	Valentina Schippers-Opejko	City of Haarlem / Urban Agenda
41	Axelle Griffon	Council of European Municipalities and Regions CEMR
42	Sabrina Abdi	L'Agence nationale de la cohésion des territoires (ANCT)
43	Bart Molenkamp	City of Enschede

44	Jean-Marc Louvin	ICLEI ES
45	Josep Rodríguez	Barcelona Provincial Council
46	Barbara Poggio	Municipality of Genova
47	Valerie Fuhl	Regional Association Rhine-Neckar
48	Katharina Bamberg	Eurocities
49	Tommaso Rossotti	UniverCities
50	Eleonora Orso	Eurocities
51	Heather Brooks	Eurocities
52	Martin Grisel	European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN-EGTC)
53	Elisa Porreca	City of Milan