# National Urban Policy in OECD Countries

OECD

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# *Foreword*

Rapid urbanisation, a global trend, creates opportunities for governments to achieve national economic, social and environmental progress. In this context, an appropriate framework for urban development policy can be an important tool for accomplishing national and global goals. To be effective, urban development requires co-operation and co-ordination at different levels of government and across policy areas to avoid welfare losses and maximise potential synergies.

A national urban policy (NUP) is a key building block of the framework for urban development. It has been identified in important international agreements, including the "New Urban Agenda", the outcome document agreed within the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, NUP was selected as one of ten thematic policy units as part of preparations for the Habitat III. The "New Urban Agenda" proposes NUPs within local-national partnerships as one of the fundamental drivers of change. To support countries' efforts at the international level, a methodology is needed for assessing a country's NUP, and for identifying the most important factors that must be taken into account when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating an NUP.

This report responds to that need, examining the current role of NUPs and practices in OECD countries. Using qualitative data, it highlights fundamental aspects of the NUP development process, such as stage, scope and sectors covered by the NUP. Although urban challenges and opportunities, as well as institutions, vary from country to country, systematic qualitative information can help to draw conclusions and identify good practices on NUP development. This publication has been prepared for the Habitat III conference and builds on existing United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) methodology. It is inspired by the joint work of UN-Habitat and the OECD, following their co-leadership of Policy Unit 3 on National Urban Policies during the preparations for the New Urban Agenda. The findings of this report will contribute to the global monitoring process of National Urban Policy, as will the Global Report on National Urban Policy, jointly produced by UN Habitat and OECD.

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This report was prepared by the Regional Development Policy Division led by Joaquim Oliveira Martins and published under the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Local Development and Tourism. The report was supervised and co-ordinated by Rudiger Ahrend and Tadashi Matsumoto. It was drafted by Alexis Gensberg Robert and Andres Sanabria. The report greatly benefited from the comments of national delegates to the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee and to the OECD Working Party on Urban Policies. Valuable inputs from Emiko Araki, Claire Charbit, Seongkyun Cho, Thea Chubinidze, Jeanette Duboys, Daniela Glocker, Oscar Huerta-Melchor, Tamara Krawchenko, Karen Maguire and Chris McDonald are gratefully acknowledged.

This report was prepared based on the previous work on National Urban Policies conducted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) during the preparations of the UN Habitat Regional Reports on National Urban Policy. The authors would like to thank Jane Reid and Remy Sietchiping from UN-Habitat for their contribution to the OECD analysis. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of UN-Habitat, the OECD or its member countries.

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# Acronyms and abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| **Habitat III** | Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development |
| **NUP** | National urban policy |
| **SDGs** | Sustainable Development Goals |
| **UN-Habitat** | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |

# Executive Summary

Cities play a crucial role in national economic, social and environmental performance. A national urban policy (NUP) – defined as the coherent set of decisions from a government led process of co-ordinating various actors for a common vision that will promote more productive, inclusive and resilient urban development – has been recognised by the international community as an essential policy instrument to harness the dynamics of urbanisation in order to achieve national and global goals. An NUP does not replace local urban policies, but complements them to create the necessary conditions for sustainable urban development.

This report offers an assessment of the state and scope of NUP across 35 OECD countries. OECD countries still have some way to go in developing NUPs. Among the OECD countries, only 15 have an explicit NUP. However, this work also recognises that almost 90% of OECD counties do have partial elements of NUPs already in place, offering a foundation on which to further build these policies in the future.

The large majority of OECD countries with explicit NUPs are still in the early stages of the policy cycle: 33% are in the formulation stage and 33% are in the implementation stage. Only four countries have reached the monitoring and evaluation stage. These countries' experiences could be useful for others seeking to strengthen their NUP processes.

Within OECD NUPs, economic development receives the most emphasis (present in the NUPs of 19 countries), while climate change resilience and human development receive less attention.

Most OECD countries do not have a specialised agency for urban policy. Instead, a general national planning authority is usually in charge of urban policy. NUPs are developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated, mainly through co-ordination among different ministries; thus, effective mechanisms for interministerial co-ordination are essential for successful implementation.

Collaboration across levels of government, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders is crucial at different stages of NUP processes. The majority of the OECD countries have indeed taken a participatory approach, involving different stakeholders in the creation of their NUPs.

In summary, most OECD countries are actively engaged in developing and advancing at least some types of urban policies at the national level. However, much work remains to be done to increase the scope of NUP and in making it an explicit strategy. Such progress will be a cornerstone for implementing the New Urban Agenda over the next 20 years as well as being crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global agreements, such as those relating to climate change.

# *Chapter 1*

## An introduction to national urban policy

*This chapter provides an overview of national urban development across OECD countries. It begins by explaining the methodology used to assess the national urban policy (NUP) development in those countries. It clarifies, among other things, the definition, classification and stages of an NUP. It then depicts the major findings from the data collected across countries and summarises the state of NUP in OECD countries.*

## Introduction

Effective implementation of national urban policy (NUP), in supporting the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas, will require a sound monitoring and evaluation mechanism of NUP. In the past, there was no framework to systematically assess NUP in countries given the diversity of urban and institutional conditions. This report is the first attempt at offering a comprehensive picture of the level of progress on NUP processes for OECD countries. Although urban challenges and opportunities are contextually different, and institutions vary from country to country, systematic qualitative information can allow lessons to be learnt and to identify good practices on NUP development. This report offers comparative results, not only with regard to the stage and elaboration of the policy in each country, but also to the sectors and other specific issues that the policy can cover.

## Methodology

The material presented in this report has been collected with the help of delegates to the OECD Committee on Regional Development Policy and to the Working Party on Urban Policies from the OECD member countries. The OECD carried out a first assessment based on literature and preliminary inputs from the member countries. The initial assessment was reviewed by the member countries to verify and refine the information described.

### *Definition of NUP*

The report adopts the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat, 2014) definition of NUP as "a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term".

### *Classification of NUP*

The evaluation of an NUP entails some degree of interpretation which requires a close degree of co-operation with each country's government. The classification of an explicit or partial NUP is grounded in previous works made by UN-Habitat. An **explicit NUP** is observed "where a policy has a title of 'National Urban Policy' or variant such as 'National Urbanisation Policy' or 'National Urban Strategy' or 'National Urban Development Strategy'…a **partial NUP** has many of the elements of an NUP but is not yet brought together as a formal NUP" (UN Habitat, forthcoming 2017). This distinction may be more conceptual and organisational, rather than a definitive difference, but it is ultimately useful to review the degree of clarity with which an NUP is spelled out. A more clearly formulated NUP could be expected to imply a larger degree of coherence of different urban policies undertaken at the national level. The "No NUP" classification indicates that countries do not have any evidence of NUP in their urban policy landscape.

### *Secondary/previous policies*

The report illustrates previous policies or secondary policies that governments implemented with regards to their urban development strategy. Previous policies are policies the country had before, and are typically found in countries that are in the process

of changing their NUPs. Secondary policies generally refer to minor policies that also touch on national urban issues.

### *Stages of NUP*

The report identifies the stages of the NUP process. It is divided into five categories: "diagnostic", "formulation", "implementation", "and monitoring and evaluation" and "not applicable". "Diagnostic" is the first stage and refers to the period when the country is conducting the preliminary analysis to create an NUP. During "formulation" the policy is being drafted, and "implementation" indicates the phase when the policy is being put into action. The final stage, "monitoring and evaluation", is the moment when outcomes of the policy are being analysed and evaluated. "Not applicable" refers to the countries without any evidence of NUP.

### *Scope of NUP*

In the report, the OECD has also assessed the scope of NUP in the fields of economic development, spatial development, human development, environmental sustainability and climate resilience (Dodson, J. et al, forthcoming 2017). These categories represent long-standing issues that governments, to a greater or lesser extent, have been dealing with for some time, and reflect an array of challenges such as dealing with climate change. In this assessment there are four categories: "extensive", "moderate", "low" and "insufficient information". The "extensive" indicator represents a strong policy commitment on the part of the national government that is also integrated into NUP policy, with specific measures such as objectives, rationales and precise policies. "Moderate" levels indicate relative attention to policy area, such as the presence of policy statements and objectives, but without signalling specific guidelines for action or clear implementation plans. The "low" category indicates either the absence of policy addressing specific areas, or the presence of sectoral policies unconnected to the over-arching NUP. "Insufficient information" indicates that insufficient policy material was available to the OECD at the time of finalising this study, and indicates the need for further information gathering in the future.

### *Institutional setting*

To be successful, an NUP requires not only an explicitly recognised urban policy setting at the national level, but also an institutional setting in which the NUP is properly lead and co-ordinated. Following the methodologies proposed by the UN-Habitat, this report evaluates the presence of a governmental authority in charge of NUP, identifying the type of national urban agency in place, "specialised urban agency", "general national planning authority" and "subnational planning authority" (UN Habitat 2017, forthcoming). The effective setting of a specialised agency with technical expertise, that oversees urbanisation at the national level, is an important base for the institutional capacity of a country to lead the NUP processes. In case such a specialised agency doesn't exist, a national planning authority, overseeing national development and planning, could take on the responsibility of NUPs as a part of a wide range of other policy matters, but needs to be sufficiently empowered in such a setting. In some countries, a subnational planning authority can also be in charge of the NUP process. The report states "not applicable" when it was unclear which type of agency is in charge of the urban policy.

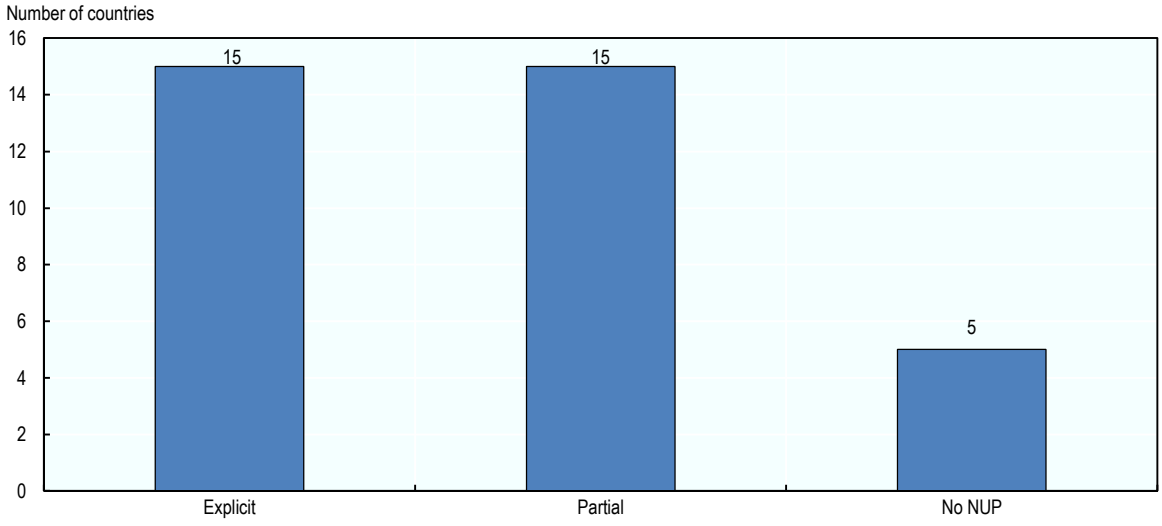
### *Types of approach*

The report also identifies the type of approach followed to create the NUP. It describes the level of participation that different stakeholders could have taken in the development of NUPs.

## Major findings

- Only 15 out of the 35 OECD countries have an explicit NUP, of which one-third are still in the formulation stage. On the positive side, almost 90% of OECD countries have partial elements of NUPs.
- There are 5 countries where the urban policy landscape does not show any evidence of NUP adoption. These cases call for careful analysis in future work.

Figure 1.1. **Type of national urban policy in 35 OECD countries**

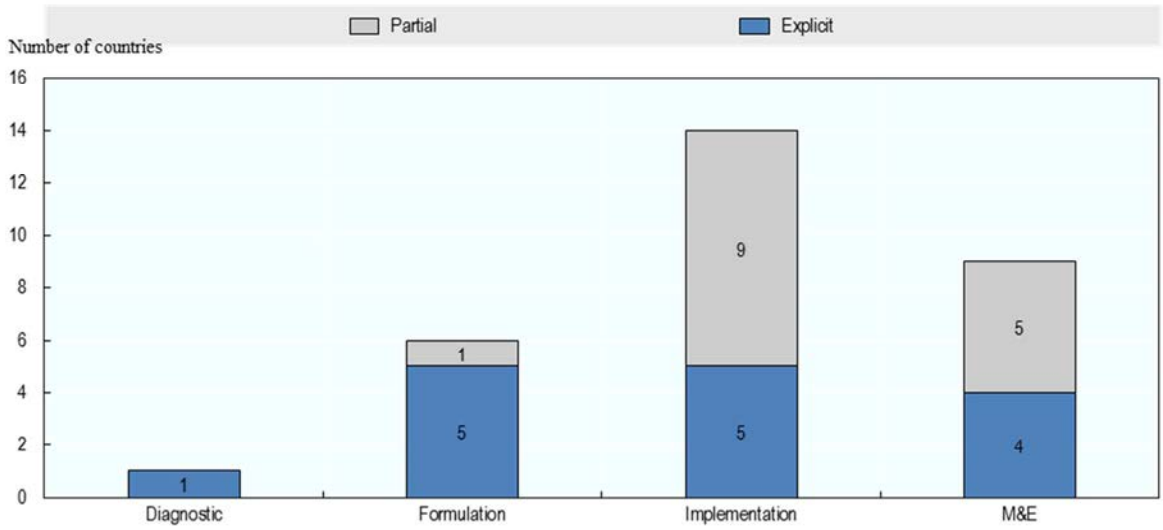



*Source:* OECD (2016a), "OECD survey on national urban policy", unpublished.

### *The stage of development of NUPs*

- Out of the 15 countries with explicit NUP, 33% are in the formulation stage with a similar proportion in the implementation process.
- When considering both explicit and partial NUPs, 14 countries (corresponding to 40% of OECD countries) are in the implementation stage. Within this group, 9 countries have partial elements of NUPs, while 5 have an explicit NUP.
- The second most common stage is monitoring and evaluation with 9 OECD countries (26%) in this stage. The majority of these countries have partial NUP (5 countries).
- Six OECD countries are in the formulation stage, of which 5 are developing an explicit NUP.

Figure 1.2. **National urban policy by stage of development in 35 OECD countries**

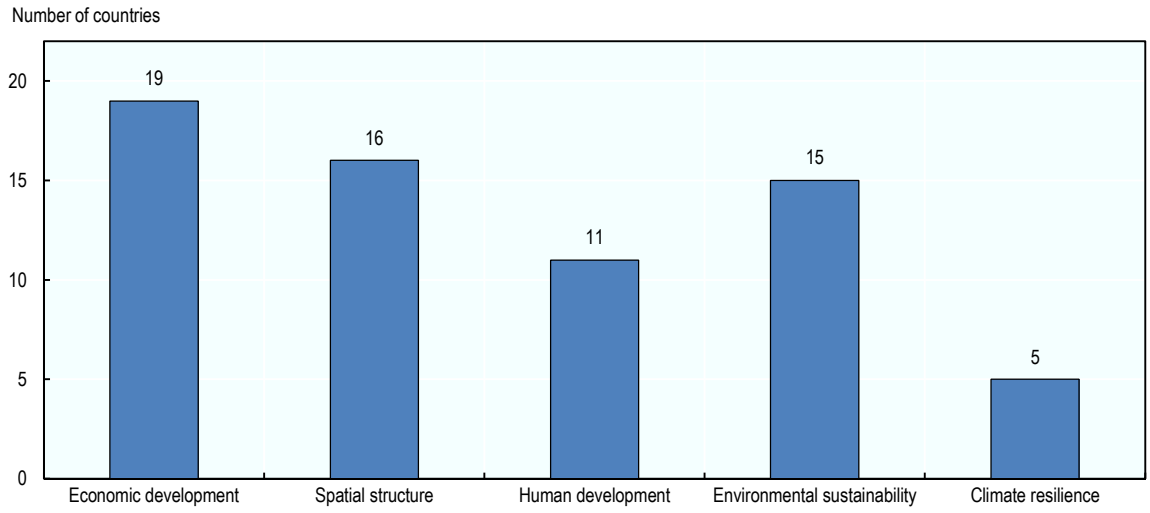



*Source:* OECD (2016a), "OECD survey on national urban policy", unpublished.

### *Scope of NUPs*

- Economic development is the sector most extensively covered by NUP in OECD countries. 54% of the countries give strong attention to this area. In contrast, climate resilience is the area that receives the weakest degree of attention, with only five countries paying extensive attention to this sector, offering particularly large scope for improvement.

Figure 1.3. **Areas with extensive scope in OECD countries' national urban policies**

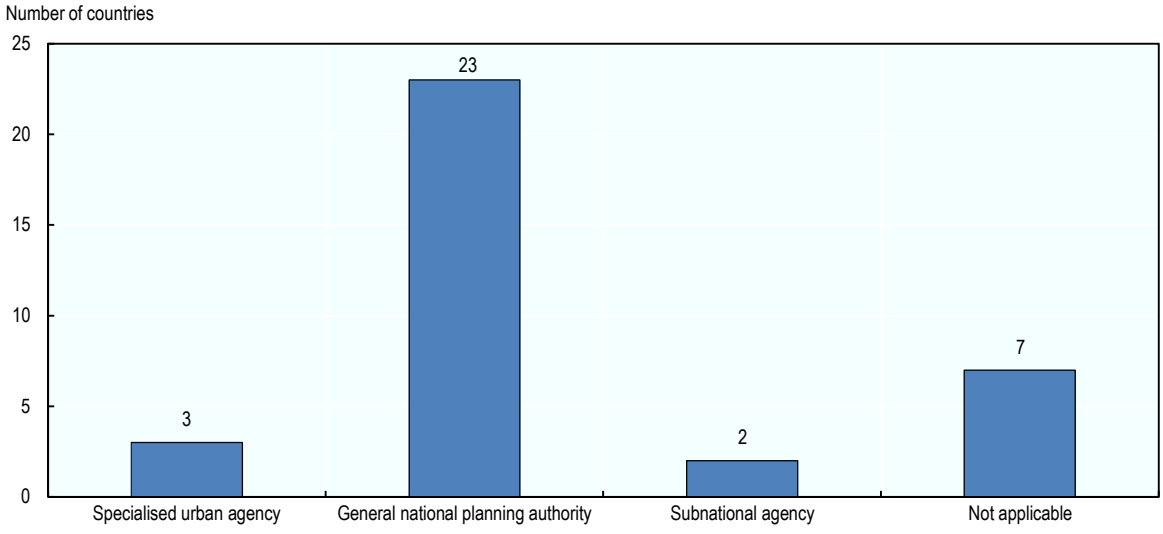



*Source:* OECD (2016a), "OECD survey on national urban policy", unpublished.

### *Other results*

- The large majority of countries do not have a specialised national urban agency in charge of NUP implementation, but have a general national planning authority to oversee the policy. This underlines the importance of co-ordination mechanisms at national level to successfully implement an NUP.

Figure 1.4. **Type of urban agency in 35 OECD countries**




*Source:* OECD (2016a), "OECD survey on national urban policy", unpublished.

- The majority of OECD countries chose a participatory approach which involved a wide range of stakeholders in developing an NUP.
- In most of the OECD countries, the implementation mechanism of NUPs is carried out through a process of national-local level co-ordination, involving a multi-sectoral co-ordination approach.

In summary, most OECD countries are actively engaged in developing and advancing their NUP, although much work has to be done in accelerating their processes and increasing their scope so as to contribute to implementing the New Urban Agenda over the next 20 years.

This first attempt to evaluate the state of NUP can be improved in future works. Further differentiating the categories of NUPs and their institutional context would be a desirable step to improve the monitoring of these policies. More details on the participatory approach to develop the policy and the type of indicators used to monitor and evaluate an NUP would also be useful.

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# *Chapter 2*

# Country profiles

The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

# Australia

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Smart Cities Plan* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2016 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Draft plan produced by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Our Cities, Our Future – A National Urban Policy for a Productive, Sustainable and Liveable Future*, 2011 |
| Stage of development | Formulation – on hold during federal elections in May-June 2016 |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Participatory process: stakeholder comment is solicited, and a Smart Cities Summit took place in May 2016 to discuss the plan |
| Implementing body | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | Not applicable |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | City deals, investment |

## Current national urban policy

In April 2016, Australia's Prime Minister presented a new national urban policy, entitled the *Smart Cities Plan*. Formulated by the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, the plan is housed in the Department of the Prime Minster and Cabinet. The *Smart Cities Plan* is intended to inform planning and investment of the country's largest cities, as well as its smaller regional cities. It is made up of three pillars:

1. **Smart Investment**, which emphasises financing mechanisms such as value capture and an infrastructure financing unit and pledges 50 million Australian dollars (AUD) for infrastructure planning;
2. **Smart Policy**, which proposes a "City Deals" mechanism similar to that employed in the United Kingdom, regulatory reform (including decreasing government fragmentation at the metropolitan level) and collecting better city-level data; and
3. **Smart Technology**, which focuses on disruptive technologies, open and real-time data, and energy-efficiency innovations (Commonwealth of Australia, 2016).

One notable aspect of the *Smart Cities Plan* is that it calls for active involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders in its implementation, particularly in terms of financing for investment. To this end, the plan is subject to an eight-week comment-period (ending in June 2016), and the plan's website actively encourages feedback from the public (Commonwealth of Australia, 2016).

The release of the *Smart Cities Plan* follows the transfer of the cities portfolio in February 2016 to the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. From September 2015 to February 2016 the cities portfolio had been the responsibility of the Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, within the Department of the Environment (Taylor, 2016).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Australia's previous national urban policy was formulated in 2011 by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and entitled, *Our Cities, Our future – A National Urban Policy for a Productive, Sustainable and Liveable Future*. It stayed at the formulation stage, and was not implemented (Dodson, J. et al, forthcoming 2017). The *Urban Transportation Strategy* (2013) focused on the urban transport infrastructure needs of Australian cities (OECD, 2014).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Smart Cities Plan 2016* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Low |
| Human development | Low |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The 2016 *Smart Cities Plan* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Austria

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Austrian Spatial Development Concept* (*ÖREK 2011*) |
| Date of national urban policy | 2011-2020 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Voluntary strategic planning instrument |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Local Urban Renewal Schemes*; formulation of *Agglomeration Policy*; *Integrated Transport Service and Tariff System* |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Participatory process with members at multiple levels of government |
| Implementing body | As the ÖREK does not have the character of a national programme there is no specific implementing body |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | Not existent |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Co-ordinated by the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK); voluntary, consensus-based agreement |

## Current national urban policy

Austria does not have a national urban policy, but the *Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2011)*, covers urban areas, and includes the development of an Austrian agglomeration policy (OECD, 2015). *ÖREK 2011* (covering 2011-2020) is a voluntary, consensus-based agreement among members of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

*ÖREK 2011* provides strategic guidance to steer spatial planning and development at national, *Länder* and city/municipal levels. Its main objectives include compact and polycentric settlement structures; the development of infrastructure along high-capacity axes to support a network of small and medium-sized municipalities and to promote urban-rural linkages; strengthened regional development; and the management of population growth. Actions to meet these objectives are organised under four strands:

1. **regional and national competitiveness**, including innovation and infrastructure development;
2. **social diversity and solidarity**, including social integration, provision of basic services, and spatial planning that manages growth and improves quality of life in urban areas;
3. **climate change, adaptation and resource efficiency**, including energy self-sufficiency, protection of open space and spaces at risk of natural disasters, and sustainable mobility; and
4. **co-operative and efficient handling structures**, including strengthening regional planning, developing an agglomeration policy for all of Austria, and partnerships between rural and urban regions (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

*ÖREK 2011* emphasises coherence between multiple levels of government and participation by non-governmental stakeholders. It is intended to inform and foster co-operation among the federal government, *Länder*, cities, municipalities and stakeholder representatives in the development and implementation of spatial strategies (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, 2011).

Some sectoral policies also address policies relevant to urban areas, including the *Integrated Transport Service and Tariff Systems*, which is co-funded by national and local governments (UN-Habitat, 2015). One of the ÖREK 2011 implementing partnerships is currently addressing city region policy issues.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Austrian Spatial Development Concept ÖREK 2011* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Spatial Development Concept* (*ÖREK 2011*) includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# Belgium

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Federal Big City Policy (Politique des Grandes Villes)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 1999 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Ministerial order |
| Previous/secondary policies | Regional urban policies |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Participatory, through interministerial committee at federal level, with input from individual cities |
| Implementing body | Federal Public Service |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | General planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Contracts with cities |

## Current national urban policy

The Belgium government's national urban policy, the *Federal Big City Policy* (*Grootstedenbeleid / Politique des Grandes Villes*), was created in 1999/2000 (Belgium Federal Public Service, 2016a; OECD, 2015). The focus is generally on social cohesion, sustainable development and urban regeneration (OECD, 2015). City contracts are the primary mechanism for implementing the policy and they have been established with 17 cities. As of 2009, these contracts are renewed on an annual basis and are named "sustainable city" contracts (*contrats "ville durable"*). The contract objectives are based on three sustainability pillars:

1. reinforce social cohesion in troubled neighbourhoods, through policies to build neighbourhood identity and create connections and accessibility;
2. contribute to reducing cities' ecological footprints; and
3. support interconnections among cities (Belgium Federal Public Service, 2016b).

In addition to this national policy, each region – Flanders, Wallonia, and the Brussels Capital region – has its own regional urban policies. These address a wide range of objectives, including fostering innovation, building partnerships between the regional and local governments, creating jobs and regenerating urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2015; OECD, 2015).

The framework for the federal city contracts is based on horizontal co-ordination among different sectors in the same administration as well as vertical co-ordination among European, national, regional, local and neighbourhood-level stakeholders. The aim

is to simultaneously pursue multiple interdependent policies (Belgium Federal Public Service, 2016b).

The Big City Policy Service (*Service Politique des Grandes Villes*) was created in 2001 to implement the *Federal Big City Policy*. It is under the responsibility of the Federal Policy Service Social Integration, Fight Against Poverty and Social Economy (*Service Public de Programmation (SPP) Intégration Sociale, Lutte contre la Pauvreté et Économie Sociale*). The Secretary of State in charge of *Big City Policy* is also the Secretary of State for the Fight Against Poverty, Equality of Opportunity, Handicapped Persons and Scientific Policy (Belgium Federal Public Service, 2016a).

While *Big City Policy* is initiated by a federal government minister, an Interministerial Committee on the City submits sustainable city contracts for approval to the Council of Ministers. This federal-level committee includes the Ministers of the Interior, of Employment, of Mobility, of Social Integration, of Big City Policy and the Minister in charge of building regulations (Belgium Federal Public Service, 2016a).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Federal Big City Policy (Grootstedenbeleid/ Politique des Grandes Villes)* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Federal Big City Policy* (*Grootstedenbeleid/Politique des Grandes Villes*) includes the following characteristics (as determined from the Big City Policy Service's website):

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Canada

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No national urban policy – sectoral and subnational policies relevant to urban development do exist |
| Date of national urban policy | Not applicable |
| Explicit or partial | Not applicable |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues 2001*; *Urban Development Agreements 1995* |
| Stage of development | Feasibility |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Implementing body | National/federal, subnational/provincial and territorial governments with cities and municipalities |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | Subnational agency: metropolitan/local authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable |

## Current national urban policy

Canada does not have a national urban policy, as cities and municipalities are a provincial responsibility (OECD, 2015). Policies related to urban development are implemented through national sectoral policies and through subnational policies. Federal/provincial/territorial First Ministers Conferences or Meetings (FMMs) are held regularly to exchange information and ideas, and often provide the opportunity for governments to find common purposes and chart general policy directions. Much of the work in intergovernmental relations takes place in a growing number of councils of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for developing co-operation in specific policy sectors, from the environment to social policy.

The federal government sectors that affect urban development include infrastructure, monetary, economic and housing policy (through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) (UN-Habitat, 2015). Infrastructure Canada contributes indirectly to urban development by serving as a key infrastructure funding partner, working with provinces, territories, municipalities, the private sector and non-profit organisations, as well as other federal departments (OECD, 2015). It assists municipalities by providing funding for local infrastructure projects through the Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) which is a legislated permanent source of federal funding for municipalities. Other federal departments, such as the Regional Development Agencies[1] (RDAs), also contribute to the urban development by assuming the leadership in regional economic development. Through their mandates, RDAs contribute to urban economic development by supporting cities' innovation eco-systems and by attracting foreign direct investment. RDAs also

play an important role in local economic intelligence gathering and policy advocacy for the inclusion of a regional perspective in national policy making.

The 2016 national budget plan does include urban-related investments in public transit, waste and wastewater services, and affordable housing (McGregor, 2016). Under this plan, during summer 2016, the Prime Minister of Canada and the premiers of the provinces of British Columbia, Québec, Alberta and Nova Scotia announced a series of new infrastructure agreements, in particular in the areas of public transit and water.

### Previous national urban policy and developments

Starting in 1995, the federal government established Urban Development Agreements with some cities in the Western provinces. These agreements aimed to address issues unique to each city by improving co-ordination among the federal, provincial and municipal governments (OECD, 2010). However, all Urban Development Agreements had been terminated by 2010 (Doberstein, 2011). An Urban Aboriginal Strategy was developed in 1997 to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people living in key urban centres. Through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the Government of Canada aims to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the economy.

In 2001, the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues recommended that Canada establish a national "urban strategy", a long-term funding stream for affordable housing, transit and infrastructure, and an urban ministry. While the suggestion of an urban ministry was rejected because cities are under the responsibility of provinces, the Task Force's recommendations did influence subsequent infrastructure policy (Spicer, 2015). In December 2003, the Prime Minister created a Cities Secretariat within the Privy Council Office and gave the Parliamentary Secretary special responsibilities for cities. In July 2004, the Cities Secretariat was combined with Infrastructure Canada. As well, the government established an External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities. In 2004/05 "New Deals" for cities and communities were put in place. The objectives were to ensure predictable long-term funding for communities of all sizes, provide more effective programme support for infrastructure and social priorities, give communities a stronger voice, and to improve the co-operation between federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments. To meet these objectives, municipalities were given additional resources, both through larger shares of taxes and higher transfers. In addition, the government agreed to consult formally with municipal representatives prior to every federal budget.

## Notes

1 There are six RDAs in Canada: the Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Canada Economic Development Agency for the Regions of Quebec (CED), the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor). The six RDA have recently been all grouped under the responsibility of the Innovation Science Economic Development (ISED) portfolio.

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# Chile

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Urban Development Policy* (*Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) |
| Date of national urban policy | 2013 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Approved national policy |
| Previous/secondary policies | Previous urban policy enacted in 1979, amended in 1985 and repealed in 2000 |
| Stage of development | Implementation and monitoring/evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Drafted by an advisory committee of 28 people representing civil society, labour unions, academia, members of parliament, current and former ministers, and professional experts |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo) |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | Specialised national urban agency |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Through the National Council for Urban Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) |

## Current national urban policy

Chile approved its first-ever explicit national urban policy, the *National Urban Development Policy* (*Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) in 2013. Its overarching goals are to improve quality of life by addressing urban development, to decentralise decision making, to foster institutional co-ordination, to provide a reference for policy reform, and to create certainty for social development and public and private investment (MINVU and UNDP, 2014). The policy is organised around five core themes:

1. **social integration**, including guaranteeing access to urban services, reducing social segregation and reducing the housing deficit;
2. **economic development**, including integrating urban planning with investment programmes, strengthening cities' competitiveness, and reducing the cost of transporting people and goods;
3. **environmental balance**, including incorporating the value of natural systems into planning, identifying hazards, efficiently managing resources, and promoting sustainable urban land-use and urban mobility;
4. **cultural identity and heritage**, including valuing the environments that contribute to community identify and protecting and managing cultural heritage; and
5. **institutional and governance reforms**, including decentralising urban decision making, increasing citizen participation, and creating a process to swiftly approve public and private initiatives (MINVU and UNDP, 2014).

The *National Urban Development Policy* was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (*Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo*) (MINVU) and drafted by an advisory committee mandated by the President of Chile (MINVU and UNDP, 2014; OECD, 2013). The committee was composed of 28 people representing civil society, labour unions, academia, members of parliament, current and former ministers, and professional experts. It was supported by academic working groups, regional authorities, and representatives from eleven ministries (MINVU and UNDP, 2014).

To implement the policy, the national government approved the creation of the National Council for Urban Development (*Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*). The Council's main tasks are to propose changes to sectoral policies that affect urban development, propose reforms to national legislation, and set up regional working groups to ensure that the national urban policy takes into account regional realities (Government of Chile, 2016). In 2015, the Council issued a document of recommendations for a Land Policy for Urban and Social Integration and is working on proposals for integrated urban planning and governance at the subnational level (OECD, 2015).

Other policies relating to urban development include the General Law of Urban Development and Construction (*Ley General de Urbanismo y Construcciones*) and its related ordinance (*Ordenanza General de Urbanismo y Construcciones*) which set the rules for urban planning and construction. The General Law contains the principles, attributes, responsibilities, rights, sanctions and other statutes governing the institutions, individuals or professionals involved in urban planning, urbanisation and construction. The General Ordinance establishes different regulations regarding administrative procedures, planning processes and relevant technical design standards for urbanisation and building (OECD, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Before the 2014 national urban policy, Chile had not had a general urban development policy since the last policy was repealed in 2000. Aware of the challenges facing urbanism due to the lack of a national-level policy, Chile's President established in 2012 a Presidential Advisory Commission on National Urban Development Policy (*Comisión Asesora Presidencial, Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) to launch the current national urban policy's development (OECD, 2013).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Urban Development Policy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Low[1] |

### Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The National Urban Development Policy (*Política Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano*) includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

## Notes

[1] Even though it is not part of the *National Urban Development Policy*, a draft of the *Second National Climate Change Action Plan* is in a citizen consultation stage. This process is being led by the Ministry of the Environment. The first plan led to the development of a *National Climate Change Adaptation Plan*. The latter established the need for sectoral climate adaptation plans. The *Climate Adaptation Plan for Cities* is currently being drafted and should be published in 2017.

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# Czech Republic

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Principles of Urban Policy (Zásady urbánní politiky)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2010 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Ministerial guidance |
| Previous/secondary policies | *2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy* |
| Stage of development | Diagnostic/drafting *Principles of Urban Policy*: first version published 2010, to be updated from 3Q/2016 |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Last step: Government resolution No. 344, from 15 May 2013<br>Before that the urban policy had been a part of the *Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic 2007-2013* (according to the Act No. 248/200 Coll. on Support to Regional Development)<br>The *Principles of Urban Policy* were participatory prepared by the National Working Group on Regional Development Strategy |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Regional Development |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | Not applicable |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

The Czech Ministry of Regional Development produced the *Principles of Urban Policy (Zásady Urbánní Politiky)* in 2010 (OECD, 2015). It is a framework document that provides guidance and aims to help co-ordinate urban development activities at all levels of government and to link existing sectoral policies with urban policies. It contains six principles:

1. the regional nature of urban policy, including linking urban and regional policy and supporting urban-rural linkages;
2. polycentric development of the population pattern, including co-ordinating land-use planning at multiple levels of government, promoting urban networks and strengthening relationships between cities and towns of various sizes;
3. strategic and integrated approach to urban development, including co-ordinated urban development activities carried out by national ministries and regional governments;
4. promotion of the development of towns as development poles in a territory, including policies to foster entrepreneurship, research and innovation, infrastructure, affordable housing, social cohesion and tourism;
5. care for the urban environment, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change, sustainable resource use, and the protection of green spaces and green belts; and
6. the deepening of co-operation, the creation of partnerships, and the exchange of experience in sustainable urban development, including stakeholder dialogues, urban-rural partnerships and information-sharing (Czech Ministry of Regional Development, 2010).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Before the *Principles of Urban Policy*, urban policy was integrated in the *Regional Development Strategy* of the Czech Republic. The *Principles* still emphasise that a regional approach is the natural approach to address urban issues. The document was created as a stand-alone guidance and co-ordination document, as it was not considered possible to change the *2007-2013 National Development Plan*. The *Principles* laid the groundwork for the creation of a comprehensive national urban policy after 2013 (Czech Ministry of Regional Development, 2010). To date, work on a comprehensive national urban policy has not begun (Dodson et al, 2016). However, the *Principles* provide an example of how the act of diagnosing a need for a national urban policy can, in itself, help define urban problems and point to the areas that an eventual national urban policy would need to address (UN-Habitat 2017, forthcoming). Furthermore, the *2014-2020 Regional Development Strategy* has an urban dimension, which emphasises considering cities in the context of functional urban areas and the importance of urban-rural linkages (OECD, 2014). The *Principles* will be updated in conjunction with the upcoming Urban Agenda for the European Union (OECD, 2015); the process to be commenced in second half of 2016.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Principles of Urban Policy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Moderate |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Low |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Principles of Urban Policy* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Denmark

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No explicit national urban policy. Two urban development policies: *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* (2015) and the *Danish Planning Act (Vækst og udvikling I hele landet) [Growth and Development in all of Denmark]* (2015) |
| Date of national urban policy | 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Acts of parliament |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Ghetto Strategy* (2010) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Business and Growth; Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Denmark does not have an explicit national urban policy framework, but two national policies guide urban development. The 2015 *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* serves as a tool for Danish municipalities to make targeted efforts in urban and housing policy, particularly related to the provision and renewal of housing (OECD, 2015; Government of Denmark, 2015a). The Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing is responsible for the overall implementation of the Act. The 2015 *Danish Planning Act* sets the framework for spatial planning and contributes to the implementation of urban policy. The Ministry of Business and Growth is responsible for the Act and establishes the overall guidelines for physical planning, while municipalities are responsible for implementation of guidelines and visions into spatial planning through municipal plans and local development plans (OECD, 2015).

As more than a third of the national population lives in the Greater Copenhagen area, national urban policies interact closely with policies in the Copenhagen metropolitan area (van den Berg, Braun and van der Meer, 2004).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

In 2010, the national government created a *Ghetto Strategy* (*ghetto-strategi*), which focused on improving housing and social integration in 29 urban areas

(UN-Habitat, 2015). Urban development was overseen by the Urban Committee, which was formed in 1993 and brought together representatives from the various ministries that operate in the urban sphere. The Ministry of Urban Affairs was formed in 1998 but abolished in 2001 (UN-Habitat, 2015). Currently the Ministry of Business and Growth is the urban-specific ministry. Transport is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Building, and housing policy is under the Ministry of Immigration, Integration and Housing (Government of Denmark, 2016), and the Ministry of Environment is responsible for climate adaption.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* or in the *Danish Planning Act* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Moderate |
| Spatial structure | High |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development* includes the following characteristics (based on Government of Denmark, 2015a):

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Estonia

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 (RDS)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2014 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National development strategy |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Sustainable Estonia* (2005); *The Estonia 2020 (national competitiveness strategy*); *National Spatial Plan "Estonia 2030+* (2012) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Finance |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | Not applicable |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | The Ministry of Finance is the main national body responsible for co-ordination of the implementation of the RDS. Also a monitoring committee of the implementation of the *National Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020* (represented by ministries and other relevant bodies) |

## Current national urban policy

Estonia does not have an explicit national urban policy *per se*. Urban development issues are addressed in the *Regional Development Strategy* (*Eesti regionaalarengu strateegia*) for 2014-2020 (RDS). A new RDS was approved in March 2014, providing the framework for national regional and urban development policies until 2020. The RDS responds to urban issues such as the concentration of the population in larger cities and the weakening of secondary cities. It features four strategic goals:

1. providing opportunities in both larger and smaller urban centres;
2. cities competing in the international economy through innovation and attractive living environments;
3. making the most of regional resources and specialisations; and
4. increasing connectedness and co-operation among regions.

The RDS distinguishes between larger urban areas (over 50 000 inhabitants, of which there are five in the country) and county centres (4 000 to 20 000 inhabitants), and foresees different roles for each type of region. The policies related to larger urban areas, on one hand focus on creating a sustainable and internationally competitive living environment. The RDS foresees investments in sustainable transport, childcare and revitalisation of underused urban districts, as well as measures to attract foreign specialists and enhance their adaptation. The county centres are seen as providers of jobs and services to their hinterland regions. The RDS foresees strengthening the

transportation connections between centres and their hinterland, development of educational and sports infrastructure serving the whole region, and the development of urban public space. The investments in public infrastructure of industrial and business areas are also mostly targeted at the county centres (OECD, 2015).

The policy aims for urban areas have not considerably changed compared to the previous RDS, though there is now a stronger emphasis on:

- co-operation, connections and joint planning within an urban area
- promoting county centres as engines for the development of their wider hinterlands, primarily through providing better jobs and services (OECD, 2015).

The national competitiveness strategy, *Estonia 2020 Action Plan 2016-2020* (2016), does not contain a specific goal or objective related to urban areas, but is addressed to a range of activities contributing distinctively to the development of urban areas. For instance: improving railway connections, implementing measures to attract foreign specialists and enhance their adaptation, and linking several actions to the EU Structural Fund measure of "sustainable development of urban areas" (Government of Estonia, 2016).

*National Spatial Plan Estonia 2030+* (adopted in 2012) sets up the basis for national spatial development and planning, e.g. envisioning and targeting the development of general settlement structure; mobility, accessibility and transport infrastructure (also within and between urban areas); urban planning and living environment.

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Estonia established its previous RDS for 2005-2015 in 2005. The main themes of that Strategy were regional balance to improve living standards and competitiveness throughout the country, and ensuring sustainable development of all regions, including the competitiveness of Tallinn and other urban areas. The 2005-2015 RDS included the goal of developing a national urban policy, but this has not yet been realised in the form of a distinct policy, besides the consistent regional policy framework. The European Regional Development Fund, which ended in 2013, did co-fund a "programme for the development of urban areas". An evaluation of this programme was not located (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *2014 Regional Development Strategy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Low |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020* includes the following characteristics (based on Estonian Ministry of Finance, 2014):

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Finland

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Urban Growth Agreements* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2016-2018 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Contracts between national and local governments |
| Previous/secondary policies | Launching regional innovations and experimentations; *Neighbourhood Programme (Lähiöohjelma )* (2008-2011); *Metropolitan Policy* (2007) |
| Stage of development | Implementation/evaluation and monitoring |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current and previous national urban policy

Finland does not have an official national urban policy, but it does have national programmes that contribute to urban development, which could be considered the main elements of a national urban framework. Chief among these are the urban growth agreements. These contract-based agreements, between national and local governments, aim to foster economic growth and increase the competitiveness of participating cities. Originally implemented in 2011-15, the newest round covers the period of 2016-18. The thematic scope of the growth agreements covers competitiveness and resilience, land use, housing and transportation, and, to some extent, social sustainability. Cities are expected to focus on a few strategic themes. At the national level, the growth agreements are led by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, which co-finances the agreements with the regions of Helsinki, Tampere, Turku and Oulu made by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, 2016a; OECD, 2015).

A second national policy that fosters urban development is the *Innovative Cities Programme (INKA)* (2014-2017). Its aim is to generate new business and new companies to create more jobs. The programme is underpinned by close local co-operation and pooling of resources between science, education, businesses and the government. The methods used will include new development environments, creating pioneering markets, and national and international co-operation in leveraging expertise (OECD, 2015).

The *INKA – Programme* will be closed at the end of 2017, but substantial funds will continue to be allocated around the themes of the *Innovative Cities Programme* and the *Six City Strategy*, targeted at Finnish businesses that are planning to expand into, or that

are in the process of entering, international markets. The call also applies to businesses outside the six biggest cities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Tampere, Turku and Oulu).

Parts of the *Regional Innovations and Experimentations (AIKO) Programme* (2016-18) are also of particular relevance for urban development. AIKO involves three tools:

1. measures for anticipated structural change (ERM);
2. growth agreements between the state and selected cities; and
3. methods for establishing nationally important growth zones.

The growth agreements are particularly relevant to cities. Their aim is to promote growth and competitiveness of enterprises by focusing on a small number of strategic key projects. Agreements were concluded on 9 June 2016 with the six cities that submitted the best proposals. The growth agreement concluded with the Helsinki Region is part of the metropolitan policy.

Urban policy is overseen by the Urban Policy Committee. Originally established in 2007, a new Urban Policy Committee was appointed in May 2016. Its objective is to strengthen national-local partnerships and promote urban regeneration, competitiveness, social sustainability and response to climate change. It is responsible for co-ordinating ministries' urban-related policies, fostering co-operation between the national government and urban regions, and promoting an exchange of experiences among urban regions within and outside Finland. The Urban Policy Committee is chaired by the Minister of Economic Affairs and represents a majority of national ministries, 14 cities and the Association of Finish Local and Regional Authorities (Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, 2016b).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

From 2008-11, the *Lähiöohjelma* or *Neighbourhood Programme* was in effect. This national programme partnered with local governments to revitalise urban districts (Housing Finance and Development Center of Finland, 2013; UN-Habitat, 2015). The *Metropolitan Policy* (*Metropolipolitiikka*) launched in 2007 and housed in the Ministry of the Environment, specifically addresses urban development in the Helsinki region (Finland Ministry of the Environment, 2016; UN-Habitat, 2015). Its goal is to promote the region's competitiveness and co-operation in land-use, housing and transport issues. It is featured in the national government's 2014-2019 *Projects to Improve Competitiveness*, headed by the Minister of Economic Affairs (Finland Ministry of the Environment, 2016).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Urban Growth Agreements* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Low |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The Finnish *Urban Growth Agreements* include the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# France

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | City Policy (*Politique de la ville*), *City Contracts 2015-2020* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2014 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Ministerial policy; reformed by the law of 21 February 2014 programming for cities and urban cohesion |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Social Cohesion Contracts (Les Contrats Urbains de Cohésion Sociale - CUCS) 2006-2014* |
| Stage of development | Implementation/monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Participatory process: city contracts are developed with public and civil society partners at the municipal or inter-municipal level |
| Implementing body | The General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET), is the national body advising and supporting the government in the design and implementation of the *City Policy*. Attached to the office of the Prime Minister, it monitors and ensures the interministerial co-ordination of *City Policy* through the Inter-ministerial Committee of Cities (CIV) and more recently the Inter-ministerial Committee for Equality and Citizenship (CIEC).<br>CGET oversees the National Agency for Urban Renovation (*Agence nationale pour la rénovation urbaine - Anru*). |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | Specialised national urban agency: National Agency for Urban Renewal (ANRU) for the urban renewal part of the city contract |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | City contracts are implemented by partner cities |

## Current national urban policy

In 2014, France updated its *City Policy* (*Politique de la Ville)*, which establishes city contracts between the national government and inter-municipal bodies and municipalities. The 2015-2020 city contracts act simultaneously on a wide range of levels, organised around three pillars:

1. **development of economic activities and employment**, including ensuring the presence of an employment centre, youth employment assistance and support for local entrepreneurs;
2. **social cohesion**, including support for investments in education, health, law enforcement, and social, cultural and sports activities; and
3. **living conditions and urban renewal**, including housing redevelopment and neighbourhood services and activities, and improving relationships between the police and the community (CGET, 2015; OECD, 2015).

The CGET supports the preparation and organisation of the Inter-Ministerial Cities Committee and ensures the monitoring of its decisions.

The CGET also oversees the National agency for urban renovation (*l'Agence nationale pour la rénovation urbaine (Anru)*.

Monitoring and evaluation are built in to the city contracts by the CGET, and the monitoring of the priority neighbourhoods is handled by the National Observatory for City Policy (ONPV, *Observatoire national de la Politique de la ville*).

The 2015-2020 city contracts are notable for the explicit role they give to the inhabitants of the target inter-municipalities and cities, who are represented by citizen councils. These councils allow for the exchange of information and for inhabitants to propose initiatives that respond to their needs (CGET, 2015).

In addition, an ambitious reform on metropolitan governance took place in 2015-16 which identifies 15 metropolitan areas including three large metropolitan areas (Paris, Lyon and Marseille) with special status. The new "system of metropoles" influence the responsibilities devoted to other levels of government on urban matters.

## Previous national urban policy and developments

France's *City Policy* dates back to 1977, when the first city contracts were established to respond to the need for affordable housing. Over time, the focus of city contracts broadened to include other development priorities. The 1994-2006 city contracts focused on a range of priorities, from housing rehabilitation to employment and transport. The 2006-2014 urban social cohesion contracts focused on neighbourhoods in difficulty (French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports, 2014).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *2014 City Policy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Low |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *City Policy* (*Politique de la Ville)* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Germany

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Urban Development Policy – a joint initiative of the federal, state and local governments* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2007 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Administrative guidance/framework document |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Spatial Development Concept and Strategy* (2006) |
| Stage of development | Monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation, resolution of parliament, resolution of standing conference of ministers responsible for urban development |
| Implementing body | Ministry of the Environment and Building |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | General urban development authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | National Urban Development Board |

## Current national urban policy

In 2007, in response to the Leipzig-Charter on Sustainable European Cities adopted in 2007, Germany released the memorandum, *Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany*, which defines a national policy approach to urbanisation. It highlighted six key areas of work:

1. **civil society** – focusing on actively engaging with citizens in their city;
2. **social city** – creating opportunities and preserving cohesion;
3. **innovative city** – focusing on developing cities as drivers of economic development;
4. **climate protection and global responsibility**;
5. **building culture and improving urban design**; and
6. **regionalisation** – focusing on the region as a critical part of the city's future (UN-Habitat, 2015).

The memorandum resulted in the *Papenburg Declaration on National Urban Policy* (2007).

The Joint Initiative of the federal, the state and the local level, serves as both a framework and a communication platform, attempting to engage a wide variety of stakeholders in order to implement the general principles on integrated urban development laid down in the Leipzig-Charter (UN-Habitat, 2015). The creation of the National Urban Development Board opens planning to a wide range of

stakeholders (Dodson et al., 2015). The National Urban Development Policy Board includes representatives of all levels of government, professionals, tenants and property-owners, the construction industry and building trades, and civil society groups (including cultural, religious, environmental and social associations). The *National Urban Development Policy* serves as a platform of exchange and transfer on integrated urban development approaches. In particular, the annual federal congresses of the Joint Initiative offer a central forum for cities and local authorities in Germany. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of specific offices, mainly those of the federal government (UN-Habitat, 2015). The various urban development promotion programmes are under current evaluation, like the programme *Aktive Stadt- und Ortsteilzentren* ("active quarters of cities and municipalities") and the programme *Soziale Stadt* ("social city") (OECD, 2015).

In early 2014, responsibility for the national urban policy framework was moved to the Ministry for the Environment. This shift has focused attention on access to green space in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, as well as the increase in urban housing prices and how cities can accommodate refugees (OECD, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in *Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

Germany's National Urban Policy includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# Greece

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No explicit policy. Two urban policies, *Spatial and Urban Planning Reform – Sustainable Development*, and *Environmental Improvement and Private Urban Planning – Sustainable Development – Regulation of Forest Legislature and Further Provisions* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2014 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Act of the legislature |
| Previous/secondary policies | No information available |
| Stage of development | Monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | - Ministry of Environment and Energy (more specifically, Directorate of Urban Planning and Land Bank) is responsible for sustainable development for cities<br>- For Athens, with Article 31 of PD 100, as was modified by Article 40 of Law 4305/2014, the Directory of Planning of Metropolitan Urban and Suburban Areas assumed the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the *Regulatory Plan for Athens*<br>- The Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism is responsible for the overall development strategy including urban development and is mainly responsible for financing the actions undertaken for urban development |
| Government system | No information available |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Law 4269/2014 (142/A/28.6.2014) *Spatial and Urban Planning Reform - Sustainable Development*: sets new conditions and procedures for national, regional and local spatial and urban planning and the development of cities, replacing Law 2508/97.

Furthermore, Law 4280/2014 *Environmental Improvement and Private Urban Planning – Sustainable Development – Regulation of Forest Legislature and Further Provisions*, further details the provisions for urban planning and land use.

Especially for Athens, Law 4277/2014 (156/A/2014) *New Regulatory Plan for Athens,* sets up the new regulatory provisions for the planning and development for the Region of Attica on one hand, and the greater Athens area on the other.

The Ministry of Environment and Energy (more specifically, the Directorate of Urban Planning and Land Bank) is responsible for sustainable development for cities.

For Athens, Article 31 of PD 100, as was modified by Article 40 of Law 4305/2014, the Directory of Planning of Metropolitan Urban and Suburban Areas assumed the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the Regulatory Plan for Athens.

The Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism is responsible for the overall development strategy including urban development and is mainly responsible for financing the actions undertaken for urban development.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in *Law 4269/2014 (142/A/28.6.2014) Spatial and Urban Planning Reform - Sustainable Development* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | No information available |
| Spatial structure | No information available |
| Human development | No information available |
| Environmental sustainability | No information available |
| Climate resilience | No information available |

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# Hungary

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Settlement Policy* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2016-2017 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Government resolution |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Development 2030 – National Development and Territorial Development Concept (NDTC)* |
| Stage of development | Formulation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Prime Minister's Office |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available (in process) |

## Current national urban policy

Currently Hungary does not have a single national urban policy document, but it does provide national guidelines on sustainable and integrated urban development. Explicit national urban policy (*National Settlement Policy*) is under preparation by the Prime Minister's Office, in parallel with European and UN Habitat urban agendas. Until its acceptance by the government, the *National Development and Territorial Development Concept* (covering 2014-2030) incorporates general principles for urban policy (OECD, 2015). The NDTC explicitly includes development objectives for urban areas, primarily under objective 3.1.4: "Development of a city network guaranteeing a multi-centered spatial structure", which provides a vision for urban development, focuses on developing a network of cities and fostering functional urban areas, and pays specific attention to the Budapest area (Government of Hungary, 2014).

Other smaller sectoral policies affect urban development, such as the *Law on Shaping and Protecting the Built Environment* (Act LXXVIII, 1997) and the *Law on Spatial Development and Physical Planning* (Act XXI, 1996), but these laws are not well integrated or connected (UN-Habitat, 2015).

The *NDTC* is the responsibility of the Ministry of National Economy. The Prime Minister's Office provides the legal framework for spatial and urban planning, co-ordinates development and provides knowledge support to municipalities (OECD, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Settlement Policy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *National Settlement Policy* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Iceland

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Iceland 2020* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2011 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Administrative guidance |
| Previous/secondary policies | Not applicable |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Prime Minister's Office |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Iceland does not have a national urban policy, but its *Iceland 2020 – governmental policy statement for the economy and community,* provides guidance for regional development (OECD, 2015; Icelandic Prime Minister's Office, 2011). It emphasises the need to strengthen municipalities, in part by transferring projects from the national government to the municipalities. It also proposes the formulation of a policy for the Reykjavik area, under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as special regional planning for the southwest region (which includes Reykjavik), under the responsibility of the Ministry for the Environment (Icelandic Prime Minister's Office, 2011).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral Representation in *Iceland 2020* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Not applicable |
| Spatial structure | Not applicable |
| Human development | Not applicable |
| Environmental sustainability | Not applicable |
| Climate resilience | Not applicable |

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# Ireland

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Planning Framework* |
| Date of national urban policy | Being formulated (expected early 2017) |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Development Plan (NDP)* and the *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (NSS)* |
| Stage of development | Formulation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation |
| Implementing body | Department of Environment, Community and Local Government |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable |

## Current national urban policy

Ireland does not have an explicit national urban policy. However, its *National Planning Framework*, which has been under development since 2013 and is expected to be complete in early 2017, will likely include objectives for cities and towns. The roadmap for the *National Planning Framework* published in December 2015 outlines four potential themes:

1. maximising the potential of our cities, towns and rural areas to be successful, sustainable places;
2. identifying infrastructural priorities;
3. transitioning to a low carbon society; and
4. ensuring the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets (Irish Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2015).

The theme of maximising the potential of cities, towns and rural areas would include objectives related to regional cities and strategic regional towns (Irish Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2015).

In 2016, the general election returned a new government who reaffirmed the commitment of the previous government to preparing the *National Planning Framework* (Coveney, 2016).

While the *National Planning Framework* is under development, Ireland's National Spatial Strategy (2002) remains in effect (Coveney, 2016). The three main aims of this strategy are to balance regional importance, to develop co-operation and partnerships between cities and regions, and to focus on infrastructure development (UN-Habitat, 2015). The implementation of the *National Spatial Strategy* was complicated by the need for co-ordination across multiple levels of government. In

particular, the regions were unable to provide the requisite economic and implementation support to achieve its objectives (Dodson et al., 2015). The *National Spatial Strategy* was reinforced by the *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010*, which required local and regional plans to align with it (Coveney, 2016).

## Other policies relevant to urban development

The *Programme for Partnership Government,* published in May 2016, sets out the priority attached to urban regeneration. It includes a series of specific actions to facilitate the regeneration of Ireland's urban centres many of which were adversely impacted by Ireland's recent economic difficulties (Irish Department of the Taoiseach, 2016). For example, it proposes a new *Town and Village Renewal Scheme* to support revitalisation of towns and villages and to improve the living and working environment of communities. Further actions under the new Programme are to examine a series of initiatives, including, among other things:

- The introduction of a similar scheme to the *Living City Initiative* to regenerate urban centres and villages throughout Ireland. The *Living City Initiative* is a scheme of property tax incentives which applies in certain "special regeneration areas" in the centres of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford and Kilkenny (areas designated by Order of the Minister for Finance).
- The establishment of a national register of derelict sites, in addition to the new vacant site levy, to bring vacant and underutilised sites into beneficial use for housing and urban regeneration purposes.
- The mandating of local authorities with better land management powers.
- Reclassifying and incentivising the use of underutilised or vacant areas over ground floor premises in urban areas, for both residential and commercial use.
- Examining the scope to reform the *Derelict Sites Act* to tackle the under-use and hoarding of derelict land by the state, semi-state and private sectors.

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Ireland enacted *Urban Renewal Schemes* in the country's five major urban areas in 1985. The extension of this programme, the new *Urban Renewal Scheme* of 1999, was finally implemented in 5 cities and 38 towns (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Planning Framework* (based on the roadmap) |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Moderate |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *National Planning Framework* aims to include the following characteristics, based on the roadmap for its development (Irish Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2015):

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Israel[1]

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Comprehensive National Master Plan for Construction, Development and Conservation (National Master Plan 35,* or *Tama 35)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2005, amended 2016 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National statutory spatial plan |
| Previous/secondary policies[2] | Governmental housing programmes, including urban renewal programmes, approval of plans by the National Committee for the Promotion of Construction in Priority Housing Areas (CPHA), the national urban board, and others |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Recommended by the National Planning Board (after a review process including comments from the six District Planning Commissions, which, in turn, solicit and receive comments from their constituent municipalities) and approved by the government. As of 2013, the approving body is the "Housing Cabinet" (a ministerial committee for planning, construction, real estate and housing) |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Finance - Israel Planning Administration (IPA) |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | National Planning Administration – a professional unit appended to the Ministry of Finance |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Israel is currently in a process aimed at consolidating a national urban policy (see further).

Since 2005 its national spatial plan, the *Comprehensive National Outline Plan for Construction, Development and Conservation* (also referred to as NOP 35, National Master Plan 35, NMP 35 or *Tama* 35) influences urban development (OECD, 2015; Assif, n.d.; Reut Institute, 2009).

## The NMP 35

The NMP 35 is based on three principles:

1. **concentrated dispersion**, which aims to disperse the population at the national level but concentrate them into urbanised areas at the regional level;
2. **metropolitan structure**, which identifies four metropolitan regions: Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and Beersheba; and
3. **spatial structuring of open space**, which promotes a national "green spine" running from north to south and green buffers in metropolitan areas (Assif, n.d., Reut Institute, 2009).

The NMP 35 sets the rules by which development takes place. It creates categories of "textures" or "patterns" to distinguish between development-oriented and preservation-oriented areas. It also promotes public transportation, integration of infrastructure corridors, the reduction of social inequality and environmental sustainability (OECD, 2015).

## Other policies relevant to urban development

The main other policies and tools affecting urban development are as follows:

- The National Urban Board, launched by the Ministry of Construction and Housing (a co-operation between several ministries and other stakeholders such as civil society, local authorities, academia etc.). The National Urban Board aims at producing a *National Urban Strategy* alongside tools to promote it. Alongside broader aims, key policy principles were defined in the framework of this process – the city as "an opportunity", multi-dimensional governance, encompassing all cities, walkability, public spaces, diversity and mutuality, regeneration and sustainability.
- *Governmental Housing Strategic Plan* (in preparation, led by the National Economic Council and Israel Planning Administration).
- Preferential programmes including a variety of marketing mechanisms for state owned land, subsidies and incentives for housing acquisition/rental.
- Frame agreements between the central government and local municipalities supporting provision of housing at the local level.
- Urban renewal programmes, including the *Clearance and Construction Programme*, the *Taxation Programme* and the *Increased Building Rights Programme*. In addition, a bill has been proposed to promote urban renewal through an Urban Renewal Authority under the Ministry of Construction and Housing.
- Establishment of the CPHA (National Committee for the Promotion of Construction in Priority Housing Areas) to increase the number of housing units built in Israel through a fast track process.
- National Master Plan 38 – strengthening of structures against earthquake damage, serves also as urban renewal and development means.
- The reform – Amendment 101 to the Planning and Building Law (2014) – decentralisation of planning power to local authorities.
- Promotion and preparation of Local Comprehensive Plans throughout the country, addressing city and citizens' needs and giving a framework for the future development and growth of cities.
- Manuals, guidelines and strategies such as – an update guide for usage and allocation of public areas (both land and facilities), (Planning Administration, July 2016), *The City Works* – a strategy for sustainable urbanism (Ministry of Environmental Protection, 2015), a strategic plan for public transport development (Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Finance, 2012), guidelines for planning streets in cities (Ministry of Construction and Housing, 2009).
- The *Wake up city project*, a competition, open to professionals and the general public, initiated by the Planning Administration in 2016, aiming to identify innovative tools and ideas to address the main urban challenges in Israel.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in *NMP 35* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Low |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *NMP 35* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

# Notes

1 The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

2 Those policies are not specifically derived from NMP 35 but rather they should be considered together with the NMP as constituents of the national urban policy.

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# Italy

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No national policy. There is sectoral urban policy co-ordination at the national level |
| Date of national urban policy | Not applicable |
| Explicit or partial | Not applicable |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *URBAN I 1994-1999*;<br>*URBAN II 2000-2008*, and additional programmes, the so-called "complex programmes" (so-called *Priu, PRU, Contratti di Quartiere, PRUSS, SISTeMA – Porti & Stazioni – PUM*);<br>*National Operative Program METRO 2014-20* |
| Stage of development | Not applicable |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Implementing body | Not applicable, although there is an Inter-ministerial Committee for Urban Policy for policy co-ordination |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | Not applicable |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable, although there is an Inter-ministerial Committee for Urban Policy for policy co-ordination |

## Current national urban policy

Italy does not have a national urban policy. The country however enacted a nationwide restructuring of the provincial administrative system in a way that gave cities greater responsibilities. The Law n.56 of 7 April 2014, on *Metropolitan Cities, Provinces, Municipal Unions and Municipal Mergers* created 10 Metropolitan Cities: Torino, Milano, Venezia, Genova, Bologna, Firenze, Bari, Napoli, Reggio Calabria, and Roma Capitale. These cities replaced their corresponding provinces and provincial government with a metropolitan government led by a president and represented by the mayor of the metropolitan area's primary city (OECD, 2015).

The purpose of metropolitan cities is the strategic development of the metropolitan area, integrated management of public services, development of infrastructure and communications networks, strengthened institutional relations with municipalities in the area and with other metropolitan areas in Europe, and the simplification of bodies and functions of provinces (OECD, 2015). This is the context of the recent *National Operational Program Metropolitan Cities (METRO) 2014-20,* which is specifically dedicated to the development of the recently instituted metropolitan cities and financed by the Funds SIE 2014-20 and by national funds.

An integrated approach has emerged and addressed, in the first place, disadvantaged neighbourhoods through a series of physical and socio-economic regeneration programmes (*URBAN I 1994-1999; URBAN II 2000-2008*). Furthermore, additional

programmes, the so-called "complex programmes" (*Priu, PRU, Contratti di Quartiere, PRUSST*) were also put in place. The latest generation of complex programmes aims to promote innovative urban and regional development methods focusing on the role of cities as catalysts of sustainable regional networks for competitiveness and cohesion (SISTeMA – *Porti & Stazioni* – PUM). Besides which, additional programmes and initiatives have been implemented to activate multi-sectoral intervention policies for support to growth and employment, with particular attention to "territorial logistics".

At the national level, urban policy is overseen by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Urban Policy. This committee was established by Law n.134 of 7 August 2012, to address three main issues:

1. the sometimes conflicting relationship between institutional boundaries and planning activities to increase effectiveness in policy making;
2. the phenomenon of urban sprawl, territorial congestion and the need for efficient infrastructure; and
3. the maintenance and strategic management of the process of recovery and renewal of housing stock. (OECD, 2015).

Recently, the Italian government, with the last two Stability Laws (Law n.190/2014 and Law n.208/2015), has promoted two national programmes, respectively on poor urban areas and on urban periphery. Finally, the government has prepared the National Report on sustainable urban development for the Habitat III Conference of the United Nations.

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# Japan

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Spatial Strategy* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National spatial plan |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Urban Renaissance Special Measures Law* (2002, revised 2016); *FutureCity* Initiative (2011) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Cabinet Office; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Through participation of civil society and private sector stakeholders |

## Current national urban policy

*National Spatial Strategy* (2015) includes objectives for cities and metropolitan regions. The key elements of its basic national land concept are promoting regional revitalisation; supporting multi-layered, resilient, compact and networked structures; and correcting excessive concentration in Tokyo and positioning it as a metropolitan region. Specific objectives include:

1. fostering unique local communities;
2. developing vigorous metropolitan regions; and
3. enhancing global interactions and attracting foreign investment to increase growth (Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, 2015).

The *National Spatial Strategy* provides long-term principles for land development drawn from the *Grand Design for National Spatial Development* (Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, 2014), as well as the policies and measures needed for the appropriate ministries to realise these principles (OECD, 2015).

In addition to the spatial strategy, a number of other national-level policies inform urban development, many of which focus on building sustainable, attractive and competitive cities; compact city policies; efficient transport systems; private sector participation; and mitigating environmental impacts, ageing societies and disaster management (OECD, 2015). These include the Urban Renaissance Special Measures Law, which was enacted in 2002 to enhance urban functions and improve the living environment and competitiveness of urban areas (OECD 2015; Prime Minister of Japan, 2004). In 2016, it was revised to enhance international competitiveness and the disaster resilience of urban areas and to make cities in rural areas which have problems such as population decline and ageing societies more attractive. The

*FutureCity Initiative* (2011) also focuses on the livability and sustainable development of cities (Dodson et al., 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Spatial Strategy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The 2015 *National Spatial Strategy* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Korea

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Comprehensive National Territorial Plan (CNTP)* |
| Date of national urban policy | Started in 1972, the 4th CNTP is for the period 2000-2020 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Administrative guidance |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Provincial Territorial Plan* |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Research and discussions with experts and municipal government officials |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Implemented by local governments by *Provincial Territorial Plan* and *City Territorial Plan* under the *CNTP* |

## Current national urban policy

The *Comprehensive National Territorial Plan* (CNTP) is the top-level plan regarding national territory. CNTP establishes long-term comprehensive policies for the land use, development and conservation of national territory. It outlines an image of the future and established long-term development strategies in response to future economic and social changes, stating policies for population reorganisation, industry placement, infrastructure supply, living environment improvement, resource-management of national territory, and environmental conservation.

CNTP is for a term of 20 years. The 4th CNTP, the recent plan that was revised in 2011, applies from 2000 to 2020. The plan aims to achieve balanced national territory, green national territory, opened national territory and unified national territory.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral coverage in the *4th CNTP* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *4th CNTP* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Latvia

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030; National Development Plan 2014-2020; Regional Policy Guidelines until 2019* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2010; 2012; 2013 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | *Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030* and the *National Development Plan* 2014-2020 are hierarchically highest in the state's strategic development planning documents, adopted by the national parliament – accordingly they have the status of legal act |
| Previous/secondary policies | Particular sectoral policy planning documents partially cover urban policy issues, for instance: *Transport Development Guidelines 2014-2020*; *National Industrial Policy guidelines 2014-2020*; *Social Services Development Guidelines 2014-2020*; *Education Development Guidelines 2014-2020*; etc. |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | All the above-mentioned documents were developed using a wide scale participatory approach, among others involving all relevant stakeholders |
| Implementing body | The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development; line ministries; planning regions, local municipalities and local communities |
| Government system | Partially decentralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority. The State Regional Development Agency – a national regulatory authority promoting regional development, operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development provides vertical and horizontal policy co-ordination. The Regional Development Coordination Council, consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, relevant line ministries, and other stakeholders, evaluates local development programmes, investment plans. |

## Current national urban policy

Latvia does not have an explicit national urban policy. Urban policy is a part of comprehensive national regional policy defined by the following development planning documents:

1. *Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia* until 2030 (the main long-term territorial development planning document in Latvia, adopted by the Latvian Parliament in 2010);
2. *Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020* (the main medium-term territorial development planning document in Latvia, adopted by the Latvian Parliament in 2012); and
3. *Regional Policy Guidelines* until 2019 (medium-term policy planning document, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2013).

National regional policy defines the network of development centres – 9 cities or development centres of national importance and 21 of the largest towns that are defined as development centres of regional importance (these towns are part of urban-rural municipalities). This network is considered as the main "backbone" of polycentric settlement structure, which can reduce the existing negative regional disparities and provide balanced and sustainable regional development. The network of cities and towns

was determined during the elaboration of the national long-term strategy and is based on the size of settlements, their development indicators and potential, amount of services provided, their service areas and location, as well as taking into account regional level planning documents. The distances between the closest cities and towns that form the network ranges from 25-90 km which means that on average every development centre is at the reach of maximum 50 km distance (with a few exceptions). In these centres there is concentrated economic and social activity and resources that are crucial for growth – 71% of population, 100% of higher education institutions, 84% of commercial companies, 81% of employed people, and more than 80% of direct foreign investment.

Since Latvia is facing significant demographic challenges, as the number of inhabitants is decreasing in the whole country except the areas around the capital city, it is important to stimulate entrepreneurship in the centres throughout the country that have the most development potential in order to provide employment opportunities for the remaining population.

In order to fully enable the 30 largest cities and towns to fulfil the role of a development centre of national and regional significance, since 2007 specifically targeted support measures are available for these urban areas. The mentioned cities and towns can decide on investment projects that are the most crucial for their development according to their integrated local development strategy.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030;* the *Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020* and the *Regional Policy Guidelines until 2019* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Luxembourg

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Master Programme for Spatial Planning* (*Programme Directeur d'Aménagement du Territoire*) or *PDAT* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2003 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Legally-binding government decision |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Integrated Transport and Spatial Planning Concept* (*Concept intégré des transports et du développement spatial pour le Luxembourg*) or *IVL*, 2004; *Global Strategy for Sustainable Mobility* (*Stratégie globale pour une mobilité durable*) or *MODU*, 2012 |
| Stage of development | Implementation /monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation on the basis of a government decision |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | National spatial planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Representatives of national ministries, local authorities and experts meet on a regular basis to steer the spatial planning process |

## Current national urban policy

Luxembourg does not have an explicit national urban policy, but its national spatial plan, the *2003 Master Programme for Spatial Planning (PDAT)*, does cover urban policy issues. It determines the government's general guidelines and priority objectives for the sustainable development of the "living environment". An update of the PDAT is planned for 2018 (OECD, 2015). The *Integrated Transport and Spatial Planning Concept (IVL)*, developed in 2004, guides the implementation of the main targets set out in the PDAT and defines more precisely the polycentric urban spatial model of Luxembourg.

The PDAT is oriented around three policy areas, each of which contains several objectives:

1. **urban and rural development**, including objectives related to sustainable spatial development, urban-rural partnerships, and polycentrism or "concentrated deconcentration";
2. **transport and telecommunications**, including objectives related to reducing congestion, increasing accessibility and shifting to sustainable means of transport; and
3. **environment and natural resources**, including objectives related to sustainable land use and resource management and preserving a network of ecological habitats (Luxembourg Ministry of the Interior and Spatial Planning, 2005).

The *Global Strategy for Sustainable Mobility (MODU)* presents an integrated approach to the challenges of sustainable mobility in Luxembourg and is complementary to the PDAT as well as the IVL.

Inter-municipal co-operation is a main feature of spatial planning in Luxembourg. The non-binding Conventions of State-Municipal Territorial Cooperation (*Conventions de Coopération Territoriale État-Communes*) promote inter-municipal and multi-level co-operation to foster sustainable regional development. The partners to each convention develop a joint working programme to design an integrated development strategy and implement it through concrete pilot projects. Representatives of the national authorities (sector ministries), local authorities and experts meet regularly in order to steer the spatial development process (developing ideas, launching studies as well as surveys, and implementing concrete projects) (OECD 2015).

Monitoring and evaluation is also an integrated part of spatial planning and represents one of the recommendations of the 2004 final report of the IVL. In 2008, the first evaluation of the IVL was concluded and included an assessment of 29 indicators related to polycentrism, functional diversity, urban density, mobility, and the natural environment. The Observatory of Spatial Development (*Observatoire du Développement spatial*, ODS) updates these indicators on a regular basis and has published several thematic reports on spatial development in Luxembourg (Luxembourg Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, 2014).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Master Programme for Spatial Planning* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The 2003 PDAT includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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Luxembourg Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure (2014), "Monitoring IVL", webpage of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Department of Territorial Development, Luxembourg, http://www.dat.public.lu/strategies_territoriales (accessed 13 June 2016).

OECD (2015), "Regional Outlook Survey Results: Luxembourg", unpublished.

# Mexico

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Urban Development Programme 2014-2018* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2014 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Strategic document of the national government that sets the national objectives, strategies and priorities for inclusive urban development. It serves as a reference to urban plans and programmes adopted by subnational governments. |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Housing Programme* (*Programa Nacional de Vivienda* 2014-18) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU) |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | SEDATU is the General National Authority for Mexico |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Mexico's national urban policy is articulated in the *National Urban Development Program 2014-2018*, which aligns with Mexico's *National Development Plan 2013-2018* (OECD, 2015). The *National Urban Development Program* contains six objectives:

1. control urban sprawl and consolidate existing cities to improve the living conditions of their inhabitants;
2. consolidate an urban development model that creates well-being for city dwellers and guarantees social, economic and environmental sustainability;
3. design and implement normative, fiscal, administrative and regulatory instruments for land-use management;
4. promote a sustainable mobility policy that ensures the quality, availability, connectivity and accessibility of urban trips;
5. avoid human settlements in risk zones and reduce the vulnerability of urban populations to natural disasters; and
6. consolidate the National Regional Development Policy based on local economies' capabilities and potential (SEDATU, 2014).

A major goal underpinning these objectives is reducing the costs of urban infrastructure provision through better co-ordination, as well as improving governance to ensure better co-ordination (Dodson et al., 2015).

In addition to the *National Urban Development Programme*, housing policy is regulated by the *National Housing Programme* (*Programa nacional de vivienda*) 2014-18. It aims to: improve inter-institutional co-ordination; transition towards a sustainable and smart urban development model; responsibly address the housing gap; and provide decent housing for all

Mexicans (OECD, 2015). The two national programmes work together, by making resources and a housing investment contingent on the application of an urban containment strategy by the relevant municipalities (Dodson et al., 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Urban Development Programme* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *National Urban Development Program 2014-2018* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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UN Habitat (2017, forthcoming). *A Consolidated Report of Regional National Urban Policy Reviews (Africa, Arab States, Asia and Pacific Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean)*, Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# Netherlands

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Dutch Urban Agenda (Agenda Stad)* |
| Date of national urban policy | Currently being formulated – initial proposal submitted to the House of Representatives in June 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Policy Strategy for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning (SVIR)*, 2012 |
| Stage of development | Formulation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation involving the national government, cities and a range of non-governmental stakeholders |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Proposed implementation mechanism is through city deals |

## Current national urban policy

The Netherlands does not have a national urban policy, but the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and four other ministries, is co-ordinating the development of the *Dutch Urban Agenda* (*Agenda Stad*) (OECD, 2015). The agenda includes measures to boost economic growth, quality of life and innovation in Dutch cities, and is based on three principles:

1. eliminating obstacles to allow cities the resources and regulatory ability to grow, differentiate themselves and experiment with solutions;
2. co-operation within and between urban areas to encourage cities to work together across administrative boundaries, with the goal of strengthening their international competitiveness; and
3. creating conditions for innovation that will improve quality of life and attract entrepreneurs, including through fostering networks of data, energy and transport infrastructure (Agenda Stad, 2016).

The *Urban Agenda* is being developed through the co-operation of the national government, municipal governments and other stakeholders (Agenda Stad, 2016).The instrument used for the *Dutch Urban Agenda* is the *City Deal*, which cities and public and/or private stakeholders would design, and which are concluded in partnership with the national government.

The *National Policy Strategy for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning* (SVIR) was released by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in 2012 and promotes the efficient use of space. The related *Spatial Planning Decree* (BRO) introduces a

sustainable urbanisation ladder, which provides a decision-making hierarchy of three "rungs", intended to encourage development within existing cities or near multiple modes of transport (OECD, 2015).

### Previous national urban policy and developments

From 1994 to 2009, the national government ran the *Metropolitan (Grotestedenbeleid) Programme*, targeting deprived neighbourhoods in 27 cities. The programme aimed to increase decentralisation while growing the capacity of local government and increasing participation. This programme was then replaced by the *Wijkaanpak*, which was intended to run until 2017 and was to focus on development in 40 deprived neighbourhoods around the country, but was interrupted in 2010 when the national government changed (UN-Habitat, 2015).

### Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The urban agenda is a programme built on partnerships with cities and research about city development. The outcome of its activities can lead to adaptation of existing policies.

The *Pact of Amsterdam* (establishing the *Urban Agenda* for the European Union [EU]) was agreed upon during the informal Ministerial Meeting of EU Ministers responsible for Urban Matters in Amsterdam on 30 May 2016. The *Urban Agenda* for the EU strives to involve urban authorities in achieving better regulation, better funding and better knowledge (knowledge base and exchange). This requires a joint approach between sectoral policies (integrated) and different levels of government (multi-level). In the *Pact of Amsterdam*, partnerships have been identified as the key delivery mechanism to get recommendations on 12 priority themes within the *Urban Agenda* for the EU, which can contribute to the HABITAT III-goals.

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UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# New Zealand

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity* |
| Date of national urban policy | Under formulation, expected to come into effect by November 2016 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Executive order which will be accompanied by administrative guidance |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Urban Design Protocol* (2005) |
| Stage of development | Formulation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation (but a formal legislative process under the *Resource Management Act* 1991) |
| Implementing body | Local government |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority (but implemented by local authorities) |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Local, but local authorities encouraged to work with other local authorities and utility providers to assess development capacity needs |

## Current national urban policy

Current national urban policy in New Zealand is "partial" and expressed through a range of broader legislation and policies. However, a *National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity* is currently under development by the Minister for the Environment, and for Building and Housing. It is planned for promulgation by November 2016 (OECD, 2015). The *National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity* will direct local authorities to provide, in their land-use planning decisions, sufficient capacity for housing and business development to meet demand in the short, medium and long terms. The *National Policy Statement* has five themes:

1. enabling urban growth and development, while managing their effects;
2. meeting a range of demands for housing and business land;
3. understanding and enabling a competitive land and development market;
4. improving the alignment between land-use planning and infrastructure; and
5. fostering co-operative roles and relationships between councils (New Zealand Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016).

Seven over-arching objectives aim to improve the outcomes of, and evidence for, decision making, to co-ordinate decision making and the evidence base, and to make planning more responsive. Policies to implement these objectives are differentiated by whether they apply to all local authorities, only to those with medium and high-growth urban areas, or only to those with high-growth urban areas (New Zealand Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Partial urban policy is expressed as part of key legislation under which decisions affecting urban development are made. This legislation includes the Resource Management Act, Local Government Act, Local Government Auckland Amendment Act, and Land Transport Management Act.

The Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013 enables local authorities in areas with less affordable housing, to streamline decision-making processes under the Resource Management Act, to enable residential development to happen faster.

The *2005 Urban Design Protocol* is a voluntary commitment, by public and private organisations, to make New Zealand's towns and cities more successful through quality urban design initiatives (OECD, 2015). It included an evaluation mechanism which sought to determine the extent to which the programme enhanced greater collaboration and strengthened sustainable development (Dodson et al., 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (consultation document)* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Low |
| Environmental sustainability | Moderate |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity* (consultation document) includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Norway

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No partial or explicit national urban policy |
| Date of national urban policy | Not applicable |
| Explicit or partial | Not applicable |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Grorud Valley Initiative* (*Groruddalssatsingen*) (2007-2016) and local level planning; White Paper "Tolerant Secure and Creative Oslo Region" (2006-2007) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable |

## Current national urban policy

Norway does not have a national urban policy. The governmental system in Norway is highly decentralised, and therefore most of the responsibility for urban development falls at the local level. There are examples of programmes, however, where different levels of government have co-ordinated successfully together. The 2007-2016 *Grorud Valley Initiative* (*Groruddalssatsingen*) is directed at improving living conditions in the Grorud Valley (in the Oslo area), which is characterised by high levels of deprivation. The programme focuses on improving the quality of life of residents and is a joint implementation between the national government and the city of Oslo (UN-Habitat, 2015).

In addition, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is in the process of creating larger municipalities and counties. Related white papers are expected to be presented in 2016 (OECD, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

In 2007, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development published a white paper on the Oslo region, *A Tolerant, Secure and Creative Oslo Region – Report on the Capital Region of Norway*. In this document, the Ministry called for a differentiated regional policy and reinforcement of Oslo as an attractive city internationally. The document also had an integrated approach, encompassing economy and business, living conditions, environment, welfare, research and education facilities, diversity and tolerance, childcare and schools, safety, culture, and innovation (Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, 2007).

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UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# Poland

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *National Urban Policy 2023* |
| Date of national urban policy | 20 October 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Approved by Council of Ministers |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Strategy for Regional Development 2010*-2020: Regions, cities, Rural Areas (adopted 2010); *National Spatial Development Concept 2030* (adopted 2011). The direct basis for drawing up the *National Urban Policy* was the assumptions of the *National Urban Policy until 2020* adopted by the Council of Ministers on 16 July 2013. |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation – based on a participatory approach, the document was the subject of a broad debate among stakeholders, including: local governments (not only urban) and their organisations, regions, economic and social partners involved in the urban areas, ministries, organisations, and advisory committees |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Economic Development (previously Ministry of Infrastructure and Development), although responsibility for urban areas is spread among ministries and agencies |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Municipal-level dialogues and public consultation. Specific provisions of national urban policy on the activities of government institutions (not just ministries, but also to the institution subordinated, government agencies, etc.) should be treated as a direct commitment – that is, in their actions, these institutions have sought to enter the designated national urban policy lines of action. As national urban policy emphasises the independence of local government, it does not impose direct obligations on urban authorities. However, the content relating to cities should be regarded as a desirable direction of their development and actions. National urban policy is also a part of the implementation of the regional policy. |

## Current national urban policy

Poland created a *National Urban Policy* in 2015, which sets out the government's urban-policy related activities within the context of the medium-term *National Development Strategy* and the *National Strategy for Regional Development*. The goal of the *National Urban Policy* is to strengthen the capacity of cities and urbanised areas for sustainable development and job creation, as well as improving the quality of life of the residents. The challenges diagnosed in the national urban policy were formed into five specific objectives, contributing to the achievement of the strategic objective. In line with these objectives, all urban policy actors must strive to create a city that is efficient, compact, sustainable, coherent – and as a result – competitive and strong. It is organised around 10 thematic areas:

1. **development of space**, including reducing urban sprawl, ensuring consistent spatial policy in cities and creating multifunctional space;
2. **public participation**, including municipal-level dialogue and public consultations in the development process;

3. **transport and urban mobility**, including prioritising public transport and integrating transport systems;
4. **low-carbon and energy efficiency**, including increasing building energy efficiency and promoting a low-carbon economy;
5. **regeneration**, including social, economic, spatial, environmental, functional and technical aspects, as well as improving housing, knowledge sharing, monitoring and evaluation;
6. **investment policy**, conducting investment in a reasonable manner that follows the sustainable development principles, including providing technical assistance in preparing urban investments;
7. **economic development**, including developing local specialisations, promoting innovations and strengthening local businesses;
8. **environmental protection and adaptation to climate change**, including green infrastructure, water management, re-use of already developed areas that have lost their original functions, using brownfields instead of greenfields;
9. **demography**, including addressing ageing and shrinking urban populations; and
10. **management of urban areas**, including multi-level governance and co-operation within functional urban areas.

The *National Urban Policy* is addressed directly to national ministries and other government institutions and indirectly to regions, cities, citizens, NGOs and experts. It is intended to be implemented at the national, regional and local levels. The *National Urban Policy* will be supported through dedicated tools (including EU funds), national instruments, programmes and sectoral activities. A legal act dedicated to revitalisation came into being on 18 November 2015. It introduces new solutions to organise the revitalisation process, define the most important concepts and issues, as well as to introduce a uniform procedure for local authorities in the preparation for their own municipal revitalisation programmes. Revitalisation is defined as a complex, multidimensional process and its main aim is to improve the quality of life in deprived areas.

The new *Revitalisation Act* (2015) allows a municipality to use an adjacency levy and expanded real estate tax in designated areas in order to better capture increases in land value resulting from public investments. The recently passed *Metropolitan Association Act* (2015) establishes a legal framework for metropolitan co-operation.

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Previously, many policy documents addressed urban development, including the *National Strategy for Regional Development*, which provided a vision and policy tools for regional development, the *Medium-Term National Development Strategy*, which defined national development policy, the *National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013* in support of growth and jobs, and the *National Cohesion Strategy* which guided EU structural fund spending (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *National Urban Policy* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The 2015 *National Urban Policy* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.

# Portugal

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Sustainable Cities 2020* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National principles and non-binding guidelines; does not directly link to financing, which is instead framed within the EU Partnership Agreement |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Política de Cidades, 2007-2014*; EU urban planning programmes such as *JESSICA Initiative* (2009) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Government resolution |
| Implementing body | Directorate-General for Territorial Development |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Portugal produced *Sustainable Cities 2020* (*Cidades Sustentáveis 2020*), its national principles and guidelines for sustainable urban development, in 2015. It covers three dimensions: interurban (urban cores), city-region (functional urban areas and urban-rural linkages) and interurban (networks of cities). Its 52 strategic guidelines are organised around four axes:

1. **smartness and competitiveness**, including connectivity, innovation, and information technology;
2. **sustainability and efficiency**, including urban regeneration, housing, low-carbon and climate-resilient development, and urban-rural integration;
3. **inclusion and human capital**, including social inclusion and fostering culture and urban communities; and
4. **place-based governance**, including knowledge-sharing and networking (Portuguese Directorate-General for Territorial Development 2015a; 2015b).

*Sustainable Cities 2020* provides a strategic framework for sustainable urban development, but does not directly link its elements to financing. Financing and implementation is instead framed within the EU Partnership Agreement for the use of EU Structural and Investment Funds and its associated regulations, including Strategic Plans for Urban Development, Integrated Territorial Investment, and Community-Led Local Development aimed at communities mainly within metropolitan areas (all within the context of Regional Operational Programmes) (OECD, 2015).

The Directorate-General for Territorial Development (*Direcção-Geral do Território*) produced the *Sustainable Cities 2020* framework (Portuguese Directorate-General for Territorial Development 2015a; 2015b). The *Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana* implements housing and regeneration policies. Portugal also has a number of EU-level urban initiatives, such as the *JESSICA Initiative*, which has been operating in Portugal since 2009. Many urban projects are focused on infrastructure, although there are a wide range of European funded urban projects, such as the *Urban Environment Improvement Program (MCOTA)*, the *Digital City Projects*, and the *Urban Rehabilitation Program PRU* (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

Portugal's *Cities Policy* (*Política de Cidades*) 2007-2014, was an economic and spatial development plan that operated at the national level and was implemented at the regional and local levels. It had a broad mandate, covering areas such as innovation and competitiveness, integrated urban planning, urban governance, environment and social cohesion (Dodson et al., 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in *Sustainable Cities 2020* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Moderate |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

*Sustainable Cities 2020* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Slovak Republic

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Urban Development Policy* |
| Date of national urban policy | Under formulation |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Regional Development Strategy 2020* |
| Stage of development | Formulation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | No information available |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable |

## Current national urban policy

The Slovak Republic does not yet have a national urban policy framework, but one is under development. The *Urban Development Policy* is being prepared by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, with the broad participation of representatives of other central administration bodies, municipalities, academia, business and civil society. The main element of the future policy will be a strategic, integrated and multi-governance approach in order to systematically support livable and productive cities. The national urban policy will operate within the existing administrative context, where cities are self-governing units that are responsible for directing their own socio-economic development (OECD, 2015).

Urban issues are also addressed in the *National Regional Development Strategy 2020*. The national government developed it in 2008 to provide a comprehensive strategy at the national level for promoting regional development and to help guide regions and municipalities in their growth (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

From 2004-06, the Slovak Republic had both a *National Development Plan* and a *Community Support Framework*, which were both developed in conjunction with the European Commission and the national government to decide how to use European funds in communities (UN-Habitat, 2015).

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# Slovenia

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (SDSS)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2004 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Act of the legislature (approved by National Assembly). |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Spatial Planning Act* (2007) |
| Stage of development | Implementation/monitoring and evaluation; assessment of SDSS implementation done in 2014, currently the SDSS is under the process of revision |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Participatory approach with different stakeholder groups following the participatory process plan |
| Implementing body | Spatial planning at national level (for national infrastructures) is co-ordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The procedure is initiated by the ministries responsible for the infrastructure in question and planning is performed by contracting parties |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | The implementation of the Strategy is conducted at national level through other sectoral policy by the mechanism of intersectoral co-ordination and through National Spatial Plans (for spatial arrangements of national importance); and at local level through the Municipal Spatial Plan Act (a mandatory document for every municipality), in co-operation between the municipality and ministry – prepared by the municipality, overseen by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning |

## Current national urban policy

Slovenia does not have a national urban policy, but the development of the country's urban system is an important feature of the *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia* (SDSS), adopted in 2004 by the National Parliament. The SDSS is based on a polycentric urban system and identifies urban centres of national and regional importance (OECD, 2015). The SDSS provides guidelines for spatial development on a national, regional and local level, and is organised around eight priorities:

1. **integration of Slovenia into the European space under equal terms**, including strengthening the competitiveness of Slovenian cities and towns within European urban networks;
2. **polycentric urban system and regional spatial development**, including designating national and regional centres and other urban centres that are priorities for development and services;
3. **vital and well-managed cities and towns**, including comprehensive planning to increase attractiveness and environmental quality;
4. **harmonised development of wider urban areas**, including inter-municipal co-operation and managing traffic flows;

5. **integrated and harmonised development of transport and settlement networks and the construction of public infrastructure facilities**, including development of the transport network;
6. **vitality and attractiveness of rural areas**, including supporting economic diversification and the development of jobs in the urban settlements of rural areas;
7. **enhancing the recognisability of valuable natural and cultural landscape characteristics**, including balancing conservation, cultural, urban and agricultural land uses; and
8. **spatial development in areas with special potential and problems**, including identifying areas in need of strengthened public services and areas at risk of natural disasters (Slovenian Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, 2004).

The SDSS focuses on promoting vital and attractive cities and other settlements through quality management and planning, considering in particular cultural heritage, revitalisation, provision of infrastructure, access to public services and safety. Reconstruction and revitalisation are considered the key strategic policies for development within existing urban areas. There is a particular focus in cities on renewing residential areas, on rehabilitating and stabilising deprived neighbourhoods, and on reusing derelict and conversion land. In addition to promoting urban renewal and developing social and cultural infrastructure with green and public spaces, the SDSS supports proximity to the workplace and good accessibility. Hierarchically lower spatial planning acts (detailed spatial plans for national infrastructure, municipal spatial plans), have to be in line with the SDSS guidelines, as well as with other documents (programmes, development plans etc.) (OECD, 2015).

An evaluation of the SDSS conducted in 2014, found that key programmes in the area of urban renewal and land-use policy were not implemented, and the preparation and adoption of local spatial development plans were delayed. Obstacles included an absence of sector co-ordination, organisational changes, legislative change and lack of financial resources, including lack of capacity for spatial planning at the local level. The Ministry was however successful in terms of communicating information, promoting spatial planning and increasing public participation (OECD, 2015; Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning, 2014).

Urban development is also addressed in the Spatial Planning Act (Slovenia Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, 2007), which stipulates principles for directing urban settlement. Municipalities are required to prepare an urban plan that serves as the starting point for detailed urban land-use and planning regimes. The Act's goals include sustainable development, the efficient use of land, integrated urban renewal, and prioritising the development of land with existing infrastructure in urban areas before the development of new settlements (OECD, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Low |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Low |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia* (SDSS) includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# Spain

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Spanish Strategy on Local Urban Sustainability (Estrategia Española de Sostenibilidad Urbana y Local* or *EESUL* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2011 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National strategy |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Housing Plan* (2005) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation |
| Implementing body | Ministry of Development |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Spain produced a national urban policy, the *Spanish Strategy on Local Urban Sustainability* (*Estrategia Española de Sostenibilidad Urbana y Local* or EESUL) in 2011 (OECD, 2015). It provides general guidelines and specific measures for each of six thematic areas:

1. **urban form and urban planning instruments**, including urban revitalisation and mixed use;
2. **accessibility, mobility and sustainable transport**;
3. **urban management, governance and citizen participation**;
4. **building construction**;
5. **mitigation and adaptation to climate change**; and
6. **urban-rural relationships**.

Overarching these themes are principles including managing urban growth, integrating transport and land-use planning, horizontal and vertical governance, managing the metabolism and environmental impact of cities, and pursuing a territorial approach to planning (Spain Ministry of Development, 2011). Spain also has strong sectoral policies that guide urban development, including the *Housing Plan* (2005) (UN-Habitat, 2015).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Spanish Strategy on Local Urban Sustainability* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Moderate |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Extensive |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The Spanish Strategy on Local Urban Sustainability includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Sweden

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No national policy but a *National Platform for Sustainable Urban Development* |
| Date of national urban policy | Not applicable |
| Explicit or partial | Not applicable |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | *National Negotiation on Housing and Infrastructure*; urban environment agreements |
| Stage of development | Not applicable |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Implementing body | Urban issues are handled by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the National Platform is co-ordinated by the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (*Boverket*) |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Not applicable |

## Current national urban policy

Sweden does not have a national urban policy, but it does have several national initiatives that focus on urban development. Chief among them is the *National Platform for Sustainable Urban Development,* which was launched in 2014. It is co-ordinated by the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (*Boverket*), with the involvement of the Swedish Energy Agency (*Energimyndigheten*), the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (*Naturvårdsverket*), the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (*Tillväxtverket*) and the Swedish Transport Administration (*Trafikverket*). One of the aims of the Platform is to increase co-operation, co-ordination and sharing of knowledge and experience among players in different sectors and at different levels regarding sustainable urban development. One area of focus includes how to improve co-ordination between sectors. The Platform also supports efforts for sustainable urban development within the regional structural fund programmes. The Platform is an ongoing assignment with no end date (Boverket, 2015; OECD, 2015).

Other national urban initiatives include the *National Negotiation on Housing and Infrastructure*, which seeks to build the first high-speed railway for trains between Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The government has also announced plans for public transport-related investments to improve urban environments ("urban environment agreements"), which are currently being prepared by the government offices. Finally, the national government supports municipalities in their efforts to combat segregation, and provides grants to increase and facilitate refurbishment and energy efficiency in apartment buildings in vulnerable residential areas (OECD, 2015).

The Ministry for the Environment and Energy oversees urban development. The role includes co-ordinating sustainable urban development within the government. Responsibility for grants within the area of housing, planning and building; and laws and regulations concerning planning and construction, as well as regional policy is handled by the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation.

Sweden's regional policy, *Sweden's National Strategy for Sustainable Regional Growth and Attractiveness*, released in 2015, will be used as a framework to guide investment. The Strategy provides a policy framework for the development of all regions in Sweden, and focuses on investing in enabling factors utilising a place-based approach. The national strategy for regional growth provides a framework for investing in regions including urban areas. The national policy goal for regional development is to develop the potential in all parts of the country with stronger local and regional competitiveness (Government of Sweden, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

The *Storstadspolitiken Program*, between 1998 and 2010, was a support programme joining the national level and local level governments, aimed at the integration of immigrant populations and increasing economic activity in deprived areas. From 2008 to 2010, the national government implemented a national strategy for integration. One major aim of this strategy was the minimisation of exclusion in urban areas (UN-Habitat, 2015).

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# Switzerland

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2015 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Adopted by the Federal Council |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Federal Agglomeration Policy* (2001) |
| Stage of development | Implementation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | National administration in co-operation with local and regional bodies and actors |
| Implementing body | Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), in association with other federal offices |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | *Bundesverwaltung* (federal administration) |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Financial support for specific tasks in different sectoral and intersectoral policies (e.g. co-ordination of transport and urban development, economic activities at regional level), and implementation based on regulations issued at the national, regional (*cantons*) and municipal (*communes*) levels |

## Current national urban policy

Switzerland's national urban policy has been in place since the 2001 *Federal Agglomeration Policy*. On 18 February 2015, the Swiss Federal Council adopted the new strategy for the coming ten years (*Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+*). In order to ensure coherent spatial development, this policy has been put in place in parallel with the policy on rural space. Common strategies and tools have been defined for both policies. The updated version was developed by the federal administration based on a common strategy developed by the federal government, *cantons*, cities and municipalities (*communes*). It longs for concrete results and improves collaboration between cities, towns and rural areas (OECD, 2015).

The overarching objectives of the *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* are higher quality of life, higher economic attractiveness, quality urban developments, and efficient collaboration. These are operationalised through six themes:

1. **political governance in a functional space**, which includes strengthening vertical, horizontal and multi-sectoral collaboration;
2. **co-ordination of urbanisation and transport**, which focuses on efficient co-ordination and development;
3. **sustainable urbanism and sustainable development of open spaces**, which recognises the importance of open space to urban quality of life;

4. **reinforcement of social cohesion**, which promotes integration of different groups of the population;
5. **reinforcement of competitiveness**, which recognises the importance of agglomerations offering framework conditions to foster a diversified and competitive economy; and
6. **financing and compensation of special charges**, which recognises that urban centres provide services and activities that benefit their regions, and seeks to compensate them appropriately (Swiss Federal Council, 2015).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

The Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+ has replaced the 2001 Federal Agglomeration Policy.

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Extensive |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | X |

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# Turkey

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2010 |
| Explicit or partial | Explicit |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | National strategy |
| Previous/secondary policies | *Urban Transformation Law* (2012); *Metropolitan Municipality Law* (2014) |
| Stage of development | Implementation /monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Stakeholder participation |
| Implementing body | Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization |
| Government system | Centralised |
| Type of national urban agency | General national planning authority |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | No information available |

## Current national urban policy

Turkey's national urban policy is the *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023* (KENTGES). Adopted in 2010, KENTGES establishes principles, strategies and actions for providing healthy, balanced and livable urban development, as well as structural solutions for urbanisation. These are grouped under three main axes:

1. **restructuring the spatial planning system,** including strengthening it, improving co-ordination across relevant agencies, and building capacity;
2. **improving the quality of space and life in settlements**, including sustainable urban form and transport; integration of infrastructure investment into spatial planning; revitalisation of central business districts and neighbourhoods; balanced distribution of social services; preservation of open space and cultural and historic areas; disaster risk mitigation; and building safety standards; and
3. **strengthening the economic and social structures of settlements**, including managing rural-urban migration by strengthening rural settlements; increasing urban solidarity, integration and tolerance; providing services to disadvantaged groups; and ensuring citizen participation in the spatial planning process (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Public Works and Settlement 2010; OECD, 2015).

The process of developing KENTGES started with an Urbanization Council held in 2009. Ten separate commissions featuring 500 experts from 151 institutions convened to identify Turkey's urban development challenges and set an agenda through 2023. Their report, *KENTGES Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan (2010-2023)*

was adopted by the High Council in 2010 and provides a roadmap for national and local governments for urbanisation and planning. Institutional and legislative reform followed, including the establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization in 2011, the enactment of the *2012 Urban Transformation Law*, which addressed rapid growth and urban disaster risk management, and the update in 2104 of the *Metropolitan Municipality Law*, which extended the borders of metropolitan municipalities up to provincial borders (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, 2014).

The *Turkey HABITAT-III National Report* (2014) evaluated some of the challenges related to implementing KENTGES, and found that it was limited in its response to urbanisation. This was due, in part, to the fact that spatial planning was not better co-ordinated and distributed between central and local authorities. This has resulted in increased rural-urban migration and spatial segregation in cities. On the other hand, the KENTGES target of "Creating a Sustainable Urban Transportation System" was being implemented and the central government was providing technical and financial assistance to local governments (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, 2014).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Extensive |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Extensive |
| Climate resilience | Moderate |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

Turkey's *Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2023 (KENTGES)* includes the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | X |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | X |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# United Kingdom

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | *Cities and Local Government Devolution Act (City Deals)* |
| Date of national urban policy | 2016 |
| Explicit or partial | Partial |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Act of Parliament and administrative guidance |
| Previous/secondary policies | *City Deals* (2011-2015); *Urban Living Action Plan* (2014-2015) |
| Stage of development | Monitoring and evaluation |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | City deals are negotiated between the Department of Communities and Local Government, participating national government departments and recipient cities |
| Implementing body | Department of Communities and Local Government |
| Government system | Unitary, with devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland |
| Type of national urban agency | There is no national urban agency. Two central government departments (the Department for Communities and Local Government; and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) have general overall responsibility for cities policy |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Involvement of multiple national government departments/agencies, including national-local co-ordination |

## Current national urban policy

The United Kingdom does not have an explicit national urban policy, but since 2011, it has been actively engaged in decentralising urban policy through its *City Deals* for English cities and for some cities in the devolved administrations. The 2016 *Cities and Local Government Devolution Act* provided a more explicit legislative framework for the *City Deals*.

The *City Deals* allow a degree of "tailored" devolution of responsibility to English cities. They require better horizontal (across departments) and vertical (between the centre and the cities) co-ordination, and strengthened local capacity. These agreements between national and local governments give cities control to:

1. take responsibility for decisions that affect their area;
2. design their own strategies to help businesses grow;
3. create economic growth; and
4. decide how public money should be spent.

The City Deals are focused on institutional alignments and re-centring local governments as key agents of urban planning (Dodson et al., 2015).

The first wave of *City Deals* in 2011-12, involved the eight largest English cities outside of London, known as the "core cities". A second subsequent wave involved 20 cities – the next 14 largest cities outside of London and their wider areas plus the 6 cities with the highest population growth during 2001 to 2010. With the help of the Cities and

Local Growth Unit – a partnership between the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, these cities have negotiated deals with the national government that have given each city new powers in exchange for greater responsibility to stimulate and support economic growth in their area. A new round of Devolution Deals began after the May 2015 election. A total of 38 proposed devolution deals were put forward by cities, towns and counties across the United Kingdom by the September 2015 deadline, covering urban as well as rural areas (OECD, 2015). Eight of these were enacted between October 2015 and May 2016 (Government of the United Kingdom, 2016a).

In February 2016, Parliament enacted the *Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016*. The Act was intended to provide a national legal framework to simplify the process of devolving more powers to local governments and provides support for the 2016-17 round of City Deals proposed in 2015. The Act grants greater powers to some cities and creates the framework for electing a city-wide metro mayor (United Kingdom Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015; Government of the United Kingdom, 2016b). Within the devolved administrations, the United Kingdom and devolved administration governments are jointly investing in City Deals which so far have included striking deals with Aberdeen, Cardiff Capital Region, Glasgow and Clyde Valley, and Inverness and the Highlands, with Tayside and Stirling to follow (House of Commons Library, 2016a).

## Areas covered by current urban policy

| Sector | Sectoral representation in the *City Deals* |
|---|---|
| Economic development | Extensive |
| Spatial structure | Low |
| Human development | Moderate |
| Environmental sustainability | Low |
| Climate resilience | Low |

## Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The UK's *City Deals* (based on the 2016 *Cities and Local Government Devolution Act*) include the following characteristics:

| Criteria for national urban policies | Appears in the policy |
|---|---|
| Responds to population dynamics | X |
| Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages) | X |
| Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities | X |
| Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space) | X |
| Promotes urban land-use efficiency | |
| Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change | |
| Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment) | X |
| Promotes effective municipal finance systems | X |
| Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors | X |
| Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.) | X |
| Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data | |

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# United States

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of national urban policy | No national urban policy, but cross-agency and cross-sector federal initiatives and locally-driven efforts, including *Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2)*, *Partnership for Sustainable Communities, Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative* and other place-based efforts |
| Date of national urban policy | 2009 |
| Explicit or partial | Not applicable |
| Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.) | Not applicable |
| Previous/secondary policies | Executive Order 13602 establishing a White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities, 2012; Executive Order 13503 establishing the White House Office of Urban Affairs, 2009 |
| Stage of development | Not applicable |
| How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.) | Legislative enactment with stakeholder engagement and locally-driven implementation |
| Implementing body | The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) manages federal programmes for housing and urban development. |
| Government system | Federal |
| Type of national urban agency | Not applicable |
| Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination) | Involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination |

## Current national urban policy

The US Federal Government has instigated a variety of initiatives related to urban development and housing. The current Administration has outlined its role in urban policy as leading, empowering, and maximising the power of metropolitan areas. Initiatives strive to build integration, flexibility and accountability into municipal programmes and strategies. A selection of those initiatives is:

- *Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Initiative,* established in 2012 to strengthen the capacity of distressed cities to achieve economic development goals. SC2 and its partners are working together to co-ordinate federal programmes and investments to catalyse economic growth in distressed areas and create stronger co-operation between community organisations, local leadership, and the federal government. SC2 currently is working in over 20 communities and regions across the United States.
- *Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC)* works to co-ordinate federal housing, transportation, water, and other infrastructure investments to make neighbourhoods more prosperous, allow people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce pollution. The partnership agencies, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), incorporate six principles of livability into federal funding programmes, policies,

and future legislative proposals: i) provide more transportation choices; ii) promote equitable, affordable housing; iii) enhance economic competitiveness; iv) support existing communities; v) co-ordinate and leverage federal policies and investment; and vi) value communities and neighbourhoods.

- *Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative* was established in 2007 as a framework to help local communities enforce the Administration's place-based strategy to revitalise neighbourhoods with concentrated poverty into areas of opportunity. The Initiative is a cross-department, interagency partnership between the White House, the HUD, DOE, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Treasury. The agencies collaborations have focused on four existing programmes (*Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Zones, Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation*, and *Community Health Center*). Best practices are shared through the *White House Neighborhood Revitalization Report* (US White House, n.d.b).
- *Choice Neighborhoods program* supports locally driven strategies to address struggling neighbourhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighbourhood transformation. The programme is designed to catalyse critical improvements in neighbourhood assets, including vacant property, housing, services and schools. *Choice Neighborhoods* was a continuation of the work from *HOPE VI Program*, which was developed to address severely distressed public housing by making physical improvements. It expands on *HOPE VI* by increasing its focus on the neighbourhood and including private developments in their reconstruction plan.
- *Promise Zones* are a mechanism to designate high-poverty urban, rural and tribal communities that will receive private and public funds to create jobs, leverage investments, increase economic activities, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime rates. For the communities selected, the federal government will partner to help the *Promise Zones* access resources and expertise. In 2015, 12 agencies are providing preferential access in 37 programmes (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, n.d.b).

## Previous national urban policy and developments

The White House Office of Urban Affairs was established in 2009, via Executive Order 13503, to consult widely with state and metropolitan stakeholders on federal policy, and the office is woven within the work of the White House Domestic Policy Council. However, little information is available on the outcome of this effort (Dodson et al., 2015; US White House, n.d.b) as it co-ordinates across all agencies and the White House. Previous urban policies in other administrations have been less holistic, with movements towards tax relief to ensure economic development but with little social investment. Predominantly, the focus has been on housing affordability.

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# National Urban Policy in OECD Countries

Cities are crucial for national economic, social and environmental performance. A national urban policy (NUP) has been recognised by the international community as an important instrument for harnessing urbanisation to achieve national and global goals. This report, prepared for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), provides an assessment of the state and scope of NUPs across 35 OECD countries. It also describes how urban policy, and its place in national political agendas, is evolving.

This publication has been prepared for the Habitat III conference and builds on existing United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) methodology. It is inspired by the joint work of UN-Habitat and the OECD following their co-leadership of Policy Unit 3 on National Urban Policies during the preparations for the New Urban Agenda. The findings of this report will contribute to the global monitoring process of National Urban Policy, as will the Global Report on National Urban Policy, jointly produced by UN Habitat and the OECD.

Consult this publication on line at ***http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264271906-en***.

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