

## PROGRAMME

# THE URBAN DIMENSION OF EU COHESION POLICY

19-20/MAY 2021

## UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID

The urban dimension of Cohesion Policy (CP) has evolved from the 1980s to the present in close relation with the increasing policy awareness on the relevance of cities to advance towards to a more balanced, competitive and sustainable EU territory. In 2013-14, the DG-Regio was even renamed as Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, confirming the growing importance of the urban dimension in the frame of CP. Over the course of the last four programming periods of the Cohesion Policy, urban issues gained importance in terms of budget, policy relevance, and visibility. The design of the new financial and policy framework for the 2021-2027 period seems to be advancing further in this direction, with urban tools and interventions becoming more and more prominent. Nonetheless, criticism arises on how the urban issue is being addressed within the overall EU policy scene and concerning domestic determinant factors. Considering the EU complex urban policy background and the construction of the Urban Agenda for the EU, as well as the EU commitment to the UN New Urban Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the urban dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy is becoming central, even more within the new European Green Deal and the post-COVID-19 perspectives. While growing in importance, the urban dimension of EU Cohesion Policy remains ill-defined and under-researched, especially with regard to some of its relevant dimensions such as its intersection with regional policy.

The objective of this workshop is to provide a space for academic and policy debate on the evolution and future of this important dimension of EU Cohesion Policy.

The workshop will focus on cutting-edge research and will aim to push forward the debate on the following questions:

- Unpacking the urban dimension: What is the urban dimension of Cohesion policy? What are its priorities? How it evolves over time?
- Linking CP to urban planning: What is the link between the urban dimension of CP and urban planning? Are there synergies between the two? If not, how to generate them? To what extent does CP contribute to the Europeanisation of urban planning and other correlated practices?
- Urban tools and integrated territorial strategies in the frame of CP: What is the potential of Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), Community-Led Local Development and other city-focused tools for rendering the CP interventions more place-based? How can these instruments enhance institutional capacity to devising and implementing integrated territorial strategies for urban regions? To empower urban stakeholders? To connect cities to their peri-urban and rural hinterlands?

- Urban impacts of CP: What are the impacts of EU funds in cities? What are the outcomes of Article 7 of 2014-2020 ERDF regulation? What have been the effects of the earmarking of at least 5% of the national ERDF allocations to support integrated sustainable urban development strategies and giving new competencies in allocating funding to projects to urban authorities? How was this principle implemented across the European territories, and with what results?
- Building capacity: What have been the capacity-building effects of CP urban instruments, such as ITI, URBACT, Article 7 and the Innovative Urban Actions?
- Inequalities, inclusion, gender, immigration, cities and ageing: How is the CP performing to reduce inequalities and social exclusion in cities? How can the potential of urban dimension of CP be harnessed to support those goals in the post-COVID-19 period?
- Comparative analysis of the implementation contexts: What are the variations in approaches to the use of CP for cities across the EU member states and regions? Which actors and territories are able to take advantage of the CP urban dimension to a greater extent?
- Lessons for post-2020: What lessons can be drawn for the post-2020 period and the new urban political objective? Can the Urban Agenda for the EU be fully embedded in Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 period? What crucial role for the European Urban Initiative?
- Bringing EU Cohesion Policy 'closer to citizens': Is there any evidence that the urban dimension could favour citizen engagement (and by extension, citizen support for the EU)?
- How will be crucial topics such as housing and urban poverty, among others, addressed in the post-2020 period? Through what innovative approaches can CP better address the urban challenges of the post-pandemic Urban Europe? What role can be played by the New Leipzig Chart in that regard?

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Rob Atkinson** is a Professor at the University of the West of England, Bristol, in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, he is also a Member of the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments. His research interests include cross-national work on urban regeneration, urban governance and community participation, urban social exclusion and European urban and spatial policy and published widely on these areas. A key transversal aspect of this work has been a concern with sustainability and the nature of sustainable urban development. In parallel, and closely linked, he has also become increasingly interested in the role of knowledge and how different forms of knowledge are combined with particular reference to urban and spatial policies/projects. He has participated in a wide range of pan-European research projects. He is Editor of the journal *Urban Research and Practice*.



**Dorte Nielsen** is executive director in Eurocities, the network of 190 larger European cities working together for a better quality of life locally. Dorte supports and advises city authorities to reinforce their role and influence at EU level, including through the urban agenda for the EU, cohesion policy and the EU budget. She focusses on green and digital transformation and the wider strategic framework of the network and its longer term goals for urban collaboration. This also includes the overall coordination of activities between the network's 40 specialised working groups and six thematic fora. She joined EUROCITIES in 2011 from the Greater London Authority's EU office and previously worked at the Secretariat General of the European Commission.

## PROGRAMME

19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **16.00 Opening**

**Daniela Carl.** Regional Studies Association

**Nicola Francesco Dotti.** CPnet

**Julio Lumbreras.** Vice-Rector for Academic Strategy and Internationalization. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

**Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado.** Department of Urban and Spatial Planning, School of Architecture. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

### **16.15 Keynote speaker conference “*The Urban Agenda and Cohesion Policy: an uncertain relationship*”**

**Rob Atkinson** - Professor at the University of the West of England

Chair: Nicola Francesco Dotti. CPnet

### **17.00-18.15 Session 1 – What way forward for the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy?**

Chair: Nicola Francesco Dotti. CPnet

#### **Urban Policy in European Cities. Towards or alongside Cohesion Policy**

Aleksandra Wrona. Wroclaw University of Economics and Business

#### **Rescaling urban development policy in the EU: the impact of integrated place-based approaches in Cohesion Policy**

Arno Van der Zwet, Carlos Mendez. University of Strathclyde

Sylwia Borowska-Waszak. University of Strathclyde and European Commission

#### **The urban dimension is not yet enough. Still waiting for a step ahead**

Cristiana Rossignolo. Politecnico di Torino

#### **Cohesion Policy response to vulnerable neighbourhoods through the “ISUD approach” (2014-2020). Lessons learned in the Spanish case**

Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

### **18.15-19.30 Session 2 – Role and future perspectives of EU Cohesion Policy in the planning of Metropolitan cities**

Chair: Karsten Zimmerman. TU Dortmund University

Giancarlo Cotella. Politecnico di Torino.

Iwona Sagan. Institute for Development. Poland

Julien Descamps. Université Libre de Bruxelles

Valeria Lingua. University of Florence

Alena Coblence. Charles University, Czech Republic

### **19.30 End of first webinar day**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**16.00 Keynote speaker conference "*Cohesion Policy for and with cities - the perspective of Eurocities*"**

Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director of Eurocities

Chair: Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

**16.45-18.00 Session 3 – Making Cohesion Policy advance**

Chair: Eduarda Marques Da Costa. Centro de Estudos Geográficos. Universidade de Lisboa

**Exploring the functional area approach in EU urban strategies**

Carlota Fioretti, Martina Pertoldi. Joint Research Centre. European Commission

**Beyond Cohesion Policy: urban diplomacy as a translation of active subsidiarity**

Tamara Espiñeira. UMR CNRS 6590 Espaces et Sociétés / IGADI

**The Territorial Impacts of Jessica Projects in Municipalities. Evidence from the City of Poznan**

Piotz Idczak, Ida Musialkowska. Poznan University of Economics and Business

Karol Mrozik. Poznan University of Life Sciences

**Is it Rocket Science? Disentangling the domestic array of soft EU-led urban policy initiatives**

Cristina Cavaco, Luis Carvalho. Lisbon School of Architecture. Universidade Lisboa

Joao Mourato, André Pereira. Institute of Social Sciences, ICS. Universidade Lisboa

Francesco Orsi. Lisbon School of Architecture. Universidade Lisboa

**Questions and discussion**

**18.00-19.15 Session 4 – Lessons from the place-based approach, ITI and CLLD initiatives in the period 2013-2020**

Chair: Ida Musialkowska. Poznań University of Economics and Business

**The value of Cohesion Policy territorial delivery mechanism in urban areas. Current evidence and future prospects**

Martin Ferry, Stefan Kah. European Policies Research Centre Glasgow. University of Strathclyde

Neli Georgieva. European Policies Research Centre Delft. TU Delft

**When EU soft planning initiatives meet the ground. The implementation of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in Portugal**

Miriam de Oliveira Gonçalves, Cristina Cavaco. School of Architecture. Universidade Lisboa

Joao Morais Mourato. Institute of Social Sciences. Universidade Lisboa

**Potential of Integrated Territorial Investments in the territorialisation of the Cohesion Policy. Interventions and sustainable development of functional areas in Poland**

Dagmara Kociuba. Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

**Do voluntary civic engagement and nonprofit leadership challenge local political leadership in urban development?**

Oto Potluka. University of Basel.

Lenka Svecova. University of Chemistry and Technology of Prague.

Lucie Zarubova. University of West Bohemia in Pilsen.

**Questions and discussion**

**19.30 Closing and end of Workshop on behalf of the CPnet**

Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado. Member of the CPnet and local organiser of the webinar

## ORGANIZATION

Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes to allow room for discussants' feedback and debate. Speakers are encouraged to use images, diagrams, and infographics. in their presentations. Usually, a good presentation has no more than 35-50 words per slide.

All presentations will take place online and grouped in panels by theme. Each panel will last maximum 2 hours taking place on a different day, and will be organised as follow

1. Keynote lecture (about 30 minutes)
2. Three Presentations (15' minutes each)
3. Discussion

**Speakers are warmly invited to send a 1-slide image to be shared on the social media of the research network. This image should be provided before the workshop (10 May 2020) according to the CPnet Research Network layout to disseminate the event.**

Presenters will be invited to contribute to a policy statement to be released just after the event.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

This workshop will be held under the auspices of the [Regional Studies Association's Research Network on EU Cohesion Policy](#), co-organised with the Network's partners and hosted by the [Department of Urban and Spatial Planning](#) and the [Research Group LoCUS](#) of [Universidad Politécnica de Madrid](#).

More information about the Network can be found on the [RSA website](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Main Organisers for this workshop are Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) and Eduarda Marques da Costa (Universidade de Lisboa). Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado and the Research Group LoCUS are the local organisers.

Marcin Dabrowski (TU Delf), Mattia Casula (Università di Venezia- CA' Foscari) and Nicola Francesco Dotti (Vrije Universiteit Brussels) are academic convenors.

**Participation in the event is free of charge.** Participants not presenting papers but interested in attending are very welcome but will need to register.

For inquiries on the event please contact the local organiser of the workshop Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado [Sonia.degregorio@upm.es](mailto:Sonia.degregorio@upm.es)

For any other enquiries please about the CPnet, please, contact Nicola Francesco Dotti ([Nicola.Dotti@vub.be](mailto:Nicola.Dotti@vub.be)).



**POLITÉCNICA**

