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Maria-Angeliki Evliati ○ Policy support officer

Table of contents

Introduction	3
What is the SEiSMiC project?	3
Global urban watch	4
Global trend: Cities and citizens in global policy making	4
Global event: Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda	4
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy	5
Climate Chance, Nantes	5
COP 22, Marrakech	5
Global Sharing Week	6
New Cities Foundation and New Cities Summit	6
EU status report	7
Urban Agenda for the EU	7
City Makers Summit	9
Basque Declaration: European cities and towns for a liveable and inclusive Europe	10
European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities: Citizen Focus	11
Urban Innovative Actions: Urban authorities to test new solutions	12
From Social Innovation Europe to Social Innovation Community	12
Selected European projects and initiatives related to SEiSMiC	13
Updates on National Network activities	15
UK National Network activities	15
German National Network activities	16
Hungarian National Network activities	17
Local urban solutions	18
Austria — Samstag in der Stadt	18
Czech Republic — A new methodology to identify social enterprises	19
Germany — Utopiastadt	19
Italy — MappiNa	20
Netherlands — Seinwezen and Stadsgarage	20
UK — Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre	21
Conclusions	22
Acknowledgments and references	24

Introduction

SEiSMiC Policy Watch reports have been published twice a year between January 2015 and October 2016. These reports provide updates to the initial scoping paper¹ that was published in September 2014.

The Policy Watch reports keep project participants aware of the state of play of key European and national policies in the urban and social innovation fields. They also link these policies to debates taking place within the SEiSMiC National Networks.

This edition features a section on global urban trends, provides a European policy update, and also has a section highlighting good practices in local initiatives. The objective is to show what is being discussed internationally and what is being done in cities to find creative solutions to societal problems (social innovation) and to bridge science and society.

What is the SEiSMiC project?

1. SEiSMiC is about thinking about urban development in Europe in a socially innovative way — that is, imagining solutions to social challenges at the same time as empowering society to act on them.
2. The two main objectives of SEiSMiC are to:
 - create 10 national networks² gathering a large variety of stakeholders working on urban development; and
 - gather the ideas coming from these networks and feed them back at the European level towards initiatives such as the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe³.
3. The SEiSMiC project is funded by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.
4. The 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) is the source of funding. The work theme "Science in Society" is the inspiration for the strong link that SEiSMiC aims to create between stakeholders in urban development and urban research.
5. SEiSMiC project activities are carried out by a consortium comprising organisations from different countries that team up and share planned tasks in order to achieve the project objectives.

Global urban watch

The Global urban watch section highlights current high-level trends related to urban development and social innovation. It sheds light on citizen engagement at the global level, introduces Habitat III (a major United Nations conference taking place in October 2016), and outlines the New Urban Agenda, which will provide a guiding framework for urban development for the coming two decades. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Climate Chance, COP22, Global Sharing Week and the New Cities Foundation are also introduced: these are important global-level initiatives and events that are building momentum for civil society and stakeholder engagement, as well as city-to-city cooperation in urban policy making and implementation.

Global trend: Cities and citizens in global policy making

The spread of decentralisation, dating from the 1990s, offers opportunities for better governance and democracy at local level.⁴ Non-state actors — cities, urban areas and citizens' groups in particular — are gaining recognition in global policy making. City-to-city cooperation, stakeholder engagement, co-creation and co-design are combining to form new narratives of urban planning. The Paris Agreement in 2015 was a turning point in the recognition of non-state actors in the fight against global warming, as they implement around 70 percent of climate-related decisions.⁵ Relationships between cities are becoming as important as those between countries.

Global event: Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda



Habitat conferences have been taking place every 20 years since 1976. Each of these conferences discusses an agenda for global urban development for the following 20 years. The New Urban Agenda is the expected outcome of Habitat III⁶, which will link up to Sustainable Development Goal No. 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)⁷ and includes an action plan to achieve its objectives by 2036. The New Urban Agenda will be a universal framework of actions for housing and sustainable urban development. Between May

and July 2016, local authorities' associations and civil society organisations contributed to the "zero draft", which has also been open for online dialogue. Nation states, city and regional leaders, international development funders, United Nations programmes and civil society have been welcome to provide their input during a series of broad-ranging regional and thematic consultations.

By bringing together high-level representatives from member states, multilateral organisations, local governments, the private sector and civil society, Habitat III events present an opportunity to build stronger cooperation between local and national-level stakeholders. The New Urban Agenda will provide guidance to urban stakeholders on how to think about and approach cities, urbanisation and sustainable development. While the agenda is not legally binding, it addresses rules and regulations, planning, design and finance at the municipal level, while also considering national policies for urban development.⁸

The draft New Urban Agenda recognises civil society and local authorities as the relevant stakeholders to pursue its implementation. However, the "right to the city", a paradigm that regards the city as part of the commons and calls for local leaders to experiment with forms of co-creation and participation, remains a controversial point.⁹

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy



Two city-led climate change and energy initiatives, the EU Covenant of Mayors and the Compact of Mayors, announced the formation of a new global initiative of cities and local governments leading the fight against climate change. Launched after the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the Global Covenant will be the largest coalition — more than 7,100 cities from 119 countries and six continents — committed to climate leadership.¹⁰ A Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy website will be launched by January 2017, which will allow

cities and regions to compare their achievements in energy- and climate-related actions.

Climate Chance, Nantes



The Paris Agreement marked a change in direction as regards climate action, confirming the targets of keeping the rise in temperature below 2°C and recognising non-state actors, including cities and civil society.¹¹ As a means of maintaining momentum, Climate Chance is an initiative of Nantes Metropole, France, that highlights the role of civil society in the fight against climate change.

The event on September 26–28, 2016, brought together international non-state actors to take stock of COP21 and actions carried out since the signing of the Paris Agreement in December 2015. Exhibitors included businesses, start-ups, local authorities, scientists, members of research institutes, NGOs, farmers' associations, trade union representatives, representatives of indigenous populations, and young people's, women's and gender rights representatives. The summit also provided an opportunity for non-state actors to summarise their messages prior to COP22, which will take place in Marrakech in November 2016.

COP 22, Marrakech



The Conference of Parties (COP) is the annual United Nations climate change conference. This year's event, COP22, will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, on November 7–18. COP22 will build on the Paris Agreement to limit the rise in global temperature to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To accomplish this target, states have set the target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 50 percent by 2050. COP22 will encourage countries to commit to a low-carbon economy and will focus on adaptation, transparency, technology transfer, mitigation and capacity building.

Global Sharing Week



The sharing economy is an emerging paradigm that offers a new way of understanding goods and services, and where access and shared use rather than ownership — such as co-working, co-housing, car and bike sharing — is at the core of the urban economy. The People Who Share published a guide for urban policy makers and cities in 2013, and an updated version will be released in autumn 2016. The guide curates innovative, high-impact policies that city governments in the United States have put in place to help citizens share resources, co-produce and create their own jobs in the food, housing and transportation sectors.

Organised by The People Who Share and Shareable¹², Global Sharing Week 2016 took place on June 5–11, 2016, in more than 70 cities worldwide¹³. Over 220 events were organised in order to help millions of people discover and participate in the Real Sharing Economy, a movement that promotes the sharing of community resources, cooperative enterprises, and other commons-based projects.

The Global Sharing Week online platform provides supplementary material, on both how to participate and how to organise community sharing events.¹⁴ Such events include swapping knowledge on how to do anything, from knitting to carpentry (Skillshares), mapping shared resources in a city (#MapJams), the sharing of seeds among gardening enthusiasts (Seed Swaps), repairing broken appliances (repair cafes), cyclists taking over the streets to challenge the dominance of oil and cars in transport (Critical Mass), and collective meals and activities to promote neighbourly interaction (social streets). In the Netherlands, SHARE NL has launched a collaborative and sharing economy research library that curates and shares high-quality research, making it easy to find scientific studies that inspire innovation and public discourse on the collaborative and sharing economy.¹⁵

New Cities Foundation and New Cities Summit



The New Cities Foundation is a non-profit organisation that was established in 2010. Its core mission is to foster urban innovation and entrepreneurship, and its members are global companies, non-profits, and philanthropic and research organisations. The New Cities Foundation focuses on start-ups and social enterprises that use technology to address specific urban challenges.

The New Cities Summit is the flagship event of the foundation and a leading global event on urban innovation. This year's summit took place on June 21–23 in Montreal, bringing together top entrepreneurs, innovators, change makers, policy makers, investors and thinkers. Previous summits were held in Paris, Sao Paulo, Dallas and Jakarta.¹⁶

EU status report

The EU status report gives an overview of urban development policies and European initiatives relevant to the SEiSMiC project. This section presents the Pact of Amsterdam, which established the Urban Agenda for the EU, and outlines the next steps to address the changing European landscape. The Urban Agenda has strategic importance in terms of providing momentum at EU level to boost the role of cities. It calls for attention to the urban dimension of policies and raises awareness of the need to better coordinate EU policies that have an impact on cities.

This section also features the City Makers Summit, an event that gathers social innovators across Europe and highlights the role of civil society in European policy making. It further includes the Basque Declaration and recent developments in digital social innovation, including the work of the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities. The section closes with an outline of the European Commission initiative Urban Innovative Actions and a selection of European projects relevant to SEiSMiC.

Urban Agenda for the EU

Three events during the first half of 2016 — the informal ministerial council meeting, the European Committee of the Regions forum on the Urban Agenda for the EU, and the City Makers Summit — as well as the Basque Declaration, have all underlined the role of cities and civil society in responding to global challenges through new ways of working together.



The Dutch EU presidency secured an agreement on the Pact of Amsterdam, thereby establishing the Urban Agenda for the EU, at an informal council meeting on urban matters held on May 30, 2016. The agenda is the outcome of two years of preparatory work and negotiations between member states, the European Commission and stakeholders, including EURO CITIES. The agenda provides a new framework for cities' involvement in developing and implementing EU policy, working directly with member states and the Commission. It also aims to improve the coordination of policies that have an impact on cities. The Pact of Amsterdam recognises the potential of civil society to co-create innovative solutions to urban challenges.

The agenda identifies 12 priority themes, including air quality, jobs and skills in the local economy, the inclusion of migrants and refugees, and circular economy.¹⁷ Citizen participation is a cross-cutting issue that is included in all of the priority themes. With the Urban Agenda, EU member states pledge the greater involvement of urban and regional authorities in the preparation and evaluation of relevant EU policies. The European Commission is to play an active role in facilitating the implementation of the Urban Agenda and in strengthening the urban dimension of EU policies that have an impact on urban areas.¹⁸

Through thematic partnerships, cities can work directly with the European Commission and member states on the priority themes. Five cities may participate alongside an equal number of member states, Commission representatives and other stakeholders in each of the partnerships. This is a challenging working method that requires negotiators to agree on objectives and a partnership action plan to be implemented over a three-year period. The partnerships will address challenges and bottlenecks with a focus on regulation, funding and knowledge sharing. Participation requires resources to travel to and participate in meetings, as well as to deliver work in between.

Four pilot partnerships (on air quality, housing, urban poverty, and the integration of refugees and migrants) have already started work. More partnerships based on Urban Agenda themes, as well as an online one-stop-shop providing information about the Urban Agenda, will be launched by the end of 2016. Remaining partnerships are expected to be launched by the first half of 2017. Slovakia, holder of the presidency of the EU Council from July to December, has recognised the working methods of partnerships and is committed to working on the Urban Agenda for the EU.



City Makers Summit

Pakhuis de Zwijger is a cultural organisation and an independent platform run for and by the city of Amsterdam and its inhabitants. It organises online and offline activities (e.g. screenings and field trips) on current urban challenges under the themes of creative industry, the city and global trends. Through 28 city embassies in European countries, the New Europe — Cities in Transition platform communicates how City Makers from all over Europe are contributing to the Urban Agenda. The *New Europe* magazine catalogues co-creation practices across Europe.¹⁹

City Makers are people actively engaged in changing their urban surroundings and shaping their city. Forming a Europe-wide network will help create recognition and legitimacy for local initiatives in policy making. The purpose of the summit was to underline the importance of including civil society in urban policy making at EU, national and local levels. Citizens, entrepreneurs, civil society organisations, place makers, urbanists, designers, developers, architects, civil servants, politicians and social innovators gathered in Amsterdam at the very moment the Pact of Amsterdam was being signed just a few hundred metres away. The European Cultural Foundation also launched a magazine to raise awareness of innovative civil-public partnerships across Europe. The 26 partnerships featured in *Build the City — How people are changing their cities* use culture as a driver to engage people, with a special focus on living together in diverse communities.



City Makers presented their agenda, the (Im)Pact of Amsterdam²⁰, at the ministerial council meeting, and stressed the need for co-creation and multilevel governance. The (Im)Pact of Amsterdam calls for experimentation as a default orientation for city making, and for a shift in focus from best practice to best process so that the contextual differences from which initiatives emerge are recognised. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of providing access to finance through public procurement and support to alternative and community financing.

The next summit will take place in Athens on May 17–21, 2017. Pakhuis de Zwijger is crowdsourcing ideas and reflections for the next steps from all actors interested in making a contribution.



Basque Declaration: European cities and towns for a liveable and inclusive Europe

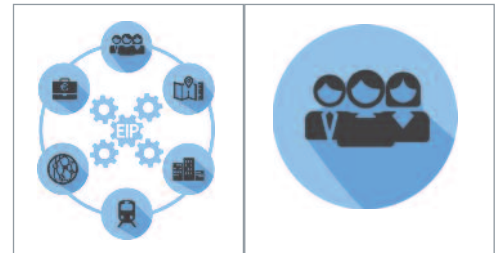
The Basque Declaration is a political document in which cities declare their readiness to support national and regional governments and the European Union in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and in the alignment of the newly adopted Urban Agenda for the EU within those global frameworks.²¹

Central to the Basque Declaration is the promotion of social innovation, social enterprises and civic engagement for the education, training and social inclusion of marginalised groups and immigrants. The declaration was acclaimed by participants at the Eighth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, held in the Basque Country on April 27–29, 2016.

European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities: Citizen Focus

Several different schemes and funds are providing support for smart cities projects testing new technological solutions. However, the complexity of such projects requires that citizens' needs and behaviour are taken into account. To this end, the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC) brings together industries, cities, SMEs, banks, researchers and other smart city actors across Europe.

Citizens' engagement strategies and solutions are at the core of the Citizen Focus Action Cluster, one of six clusters²² of the EIP-SCC, which involves stakeholders interested in citizens' participation in information and communication technology (ICT), energy and mobility in cities. The Citizen Focus Action Cluster comprises three initiatives: Citizen City, Citizen-Centric Approach to Data, and Citizen and Stakeholders Communication Platforms.



- Citizen City²³ aims to increase citizen participation right from the start of smart cities projects and policies. How does the use of innovative methods and tools such as co-design and co-creation dedicated to participation and engagement meet the needs of citizens? The current partners in the initiative are BEDA, ERRIN, KLEPA, DESIGN4EU, Small Giants, Mondragon Corporation, and Designit. Meanwhile, new members are being recruited.
- Citizen-Centric Approach to Data²⁴ works to protect citizens' right to privacy. As Europe finalises its General Data Protection Regulation²⁵, this initiative seeks to provide data protection guidelines from a citizen's point of view. At the moment, there are about 25 partners drawing support from PRIPARE and the IPEN community.
- Citizen and Stakeholders Communication Platforms²⁶ aim to engage citizens and stakeholders with effective communication platforms.

Tools for citizens' engagement in smart cities projects

The Citizen Focus Action Cluster has produced a concrete tool for smart city stakeholders based on the experience of the EIP-SCC.²⁷ According to the toolkit, smart city projects and digital platforms must be simple, reciprocal, participatory and inclusive, ensuring that they cater to all social groups. In order to involve citizens, cities need to go where the people are — whether in physical or virtual spaces — and both online and offline interventions should be used, depending on the purpose. Furthermore, privacy and rights are important elements in building trust from the very beginning. Basic awareness of human feelings in addressing problems and proposing solutions is also essential. Finally, the toolkit suggests that smart city projects can profit from partnering with the municipality and using crowdfunding for solutions that meet citizens' needs.

Inclusive Smart Cities: A European Manifesto on Citizen Engagement

To increase the involvement of regional and local authorities in concrete policy measures and tools, the Citizen Focus Action Cluster will hold an event in Brussels on November 23, 2016. Inclusive Smart Cities will bring together the main EU-level networks of regional and local authorities, civil society organisations, knowledgeable scholars and practitioners, as well as industry representatives, to cooperate and commit to active citizen involvement.

Urban Innovative Actions: Urban authorities to test new solutions



Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an initiative of the European Commission to support innovation in urban areas. The UIA links to the Urban Agenda for the EU in two ways. First, the knowledge generated by cities involved in the UIA will be available to practitioners and policy makers in Europe and beyond. Second, it will feed into the work of the Urban Agenda partnerships. The UIA topics relate to the 12 topics of the Urban Agenda.

Urban authorities receive resources to test and experiment with new, daring and unproven solutions for which there is otherwise no room in daily operations. The first call, launched at the end of 2015, addressed topics such as energy transition, urban poverty (with a focus on deprived urban neighbourhoods), the inclusion of migrants and refugees, and jobs and skills in the local economy. Applications reflected current trends in the SEiSMiC countries. Urban authorities from Germany and Austria, which are among those countries receiving the highest number of asylum requests in Europe, submitted a proportionately high number of applications related to the integration of migrants and refugees. Italy has shown strong interest in the jobs and skills topic, along with other European countries where unemployment rates are above the EU average. British urban authorities demonstrated a strong interest in 'the urban poverty topic.

The UIA initiative will launch its second call for proposals in November 2016, which will focus on sustainable urban mobility, the circular economy, and the integration of migrants and refugees.

From Social Innovation Europe to Social Innovation Community



Social Innovation Europe (SIE)²⁸ has been Europe's largest active social innovation community since 2011. The first pilot action from the European Commission (DG GROW) on social innovation, the SIE provides a platform for communicating the who, what, how and why related to activities taking place across Europe.

As of July 2016, the SIE project ceased to exist after passing the baton to the Social Innovation Community (SIC), a Horizon 2020-funded project launched in Brussels on September 26–27. The SIC is a network that will engage, strengthen and connect existing social innovation networks, including public sector and digital social innovators, intermediaries, social economy actors and more. The SIC will also generate social innovation and spread knowledge more effectively in order to improve practice and policy making.

Selected European projects and initiatives related to SEiSMiC

JPI Urban Europe Stakeholder Involvement Platform



The Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe is a member state-led initiative that coordinates the urban-related research programmes of participating countries in order to benefit from synergies between national and European research programmes.²⁹

The JPI Urban Research Agenda, launched in 2015, outlines the research programme and thematic priorities of JPI Urban Europe: Vibrant urban economies; Welfare and finance; Urban environmental sustainability and resilience; Accessibility and connectivity; and Urban governance and participation. JPI aims to team up with cities and urban stakeholders in order to jointly decide themes of research for pressing urban challenges.³⁰

For this reason, the Stakeholder Involvement Platform (SIP) was created.³¹ The SIP is a core panel and online database representing stakeholder groups with sufficient regional spread across Europe. The most active participants and social innovators in the SEiSMiC networks will be invited to continue to deliver ideas for European urban research, thereby carrying forward the SEiSMiC legacy.

Since 2010, JPI Urban Europe has prepared and processed three joint calls (Pilot Calls I and II, and ERA-NET Co-fund Smart Cities and Communities).³² A fourth call, ERA-NET Co-fund Smart Urban Futures (ENSUF), opened in December 2015, and successful proposals will be announced in December 2016. The topics in the ENSUF call are:

- concepts and strategies for smart urban transformation, growth and shrinkage;
- new dynamics of public services; and
- inclusive, vibrant and accessible urban communities.

All JPI Urban Europe calls are open to researchers, practitioners, innovators, cities, municipalities, consumers, companies, NGOs, research institutions and other stakeholders dedicated to the development of urban areas in Europe. The table on page 14 shows a selection of JPI Urban Europe projects relevant to SEiSMiC.

New URBACT calls for networks



Transnational learning networks are among the core strands of activities of the URBACT programme.³³ Following the call for the creation of 21 Action-Planning Networks in March 2015³⁴, a new call for implementation networks was launched in March 2016. Project submissions are currently being assessed.

In spring 2017, URBACT will launch a call for the creation of up to 15 Transfer Networks. The third type of URBACT network, Transfer Networks support cities to adapt and re-use good practices from other cities or countries to enhance their own urban policies.

SimsCity ValueCap 2014–2017	<p>Anticipating less public sector involvement for urban transformation, this project seeks to develop strategies and tools that promote and stimulate collaboration between, for example, property owners, residents, retailers and companies in taking personal initiative for urban transformation. Examples of such strategies include business improvement districts and urban land readjustment.</p>
PARENT 2016–2019	<p>The PARENT project will develop an innovative and marketable platform for participatory energy management. The project will operate in four cities in Europe to study social acceptance within the user communities of these cities. This knowledge will translate into guidelines for reducing household energy consumption at multiple levels in Europe, taking requirements for responsible innovation and public engagement into account.</p>
me2 2016–2018	<p>me2 (mobility + electricity = synergy) is a platform that connects citizens and helps them to be more aware of their energy consumption. It incentivises changes in individual and collective behaviour to save electricity costs. The me2 platform, which will be piloted and demonstrated in Lisbon and Amsterdam, can be employed by various actors, enabling them to control user behaviour in order to achieve more efficient electric grids.</p>
URB@Exp 2014–2017	<p>A currently popular approach to urban challenges is urban labs (living labs and city labs). The URB@Exp project will review experiences of urban labs, conducting action research in five European cities. The project will develop guidelines needed to address the types of problems for which urban labs are most suited and how they can best be organised and integrated into formal local government organisations.</p>
SmartGov 2016–2019	<p>Smart cities provide new ways of designing and managing public services, infrastructure, sustainable mobility, economic development and social inclusion. However, two-way communication between citizens and urban policy makers is sorely lacking. The SmartGov project aims to create new support tools that effectively incorporate linked open data and social media into fuzzy cognitive maps (FCMs). These FCMs are useful modelling and visualisation tools for discussing policy scenarios between citizens and governments. The developed tools will be tested and implemented in four European cities.</p>

Updates on National Network activities

UK National Network activities

The UK National Network meeting took place on April 11, 2016, in Stoke-on-Trent and focused on the issue of the engagement of public authorities with community organisations. Social and community organisations that have often grown out of local communities are at the heart of many social innovation projects.³⁵ These organisations have gained recognition under the European Structural and Investment Funds for making a special contribution to society and the modern economy by generating innovative approaches to deeply entrenched problems. They help public agencies to deliver services more efficiently and can transform the community atmosphere.

Community enterprises, however, face many of the problems encountered by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). European Commission DG GROW has been active for several years in addressing the regulatory framework for social investment funds, developing microcredit, and setting up an EU financial instrument to provide easier access to funding for social entrepreneurs.³⁶ It has further provided practical support, such as a guide to social innovation and contributions to the reform of public procurement rules, to raise the profile and quality of working conditions.

In partnership with the Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre (CASIC) at Keele University, and in collaboration with community animators from the New Vic Theatre, the UK National Network facilitated a debate on the challenges that both community enterprises and formal organisations (e.g. funding agencies, local authorities) face in accessing or giving funding.

Strengths and weaknesses of community enterprises	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Life experience helps to address day-to-day problems encountered in any social endeavour	Staff recruited based on commitment rather than skills or potential contribution
Enthusiasm and dedication, often beyond that associated with conventional employment	Low formal educational attainment among a significant proportion of the participants
Deep roots in the community and valuable insights into the needs and preferences of targeted consumers or users	Little experience of dealing with formal bodies, including local government, or of business administration practices
Insights that enable innovative solutions can also make significant social contributions	Participants not used to involvement in shared endeavours
Experience of finding practical solutions to everyday problems	Difficulties in maintaining commitment from individuals who are often asked to make substantial contributions for little material reward, at least initially

In general, in the UK, there are well-established organisations providing support to social enterprises. Social Enterprise UK, for example, offers a range of training, advice and other services. The Young Foundation supports social ventures through specialised programmes, such as The Accelerator, and provides a range of resources to support developments by social and community enterprises. UNLtd is an organisation with a wide base, providing funding, ongoing advice, networking and practical support.

Other forms of support are available through business support agencies, which have been financed through European Structural Funds. As part of the SEISMiC project, the UK coordinators have conducted a study of business incubators that support social innovation.

German National Network activities

The last two National Network meetings in Germany focused on temporary uses of urban spaces and new funding opportunities. At the spring meeting in Dortmund, 75 participants discussed temporary uses of inactive and vacant properties, and how civil society, owners, administrations and policy makers deal with these differently. A timeline showing the complete process of transformation of a local compound was developed, and follow-up needs were identified.

The final meeting, held in Berlin in September, focused on how urban initiatives purchase urban space to ensure their long-term activity. Zukunftsakademie NRW and re:Kreators jointly organised the meeting. The Cooperative Fund for Citymakers workshop departed from the point of view that funding is crucial for kick-starting civil society projects, arguing that traditional funds are often either highly competitive or have too big a threshold for starting initiatives. Participants discussed new funding opportunities based on partnerships with the financing sector — with foundations, for example. By joining forces and expertise and minimising risk, it was claimed, a group of urban initiatives and foundations can become interesting for bigger funds. The future of a post-SEISMiC national network was also discussed.





Hungarian National Network activities

As one of its core tasks in SEiSMiC, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) has been working on a guide for secondary school teachers on the topic of socially innovative solutions to urban challenges. The first draft of *Streetsmarts* recently underwent trials in secondary schools in Hungary, and in July 2016, at an international workshop on environmental sciences in Minsk, Belarus³⁷, involving 29 participants from Belarus, Russia, several EU member states, and places as far afield as Columbia and Tanzania.

The REC led a Streetsmarts workshop on July 24–26, where students presented a case from their home countries on topics such as social innovation, social exclusion, utilisation of disused urban space, and green transport systems. Several students highlighted problems common in the post-Soviet world — for example “factory cities” were built to support industries that died following the collapse of the protected common market. Participants also played a game called Two Islands, which splits participants into two teams, each vying to outdo the other in creating a sustainable, resilient society. The activity involved building 3D models from creative materials, and then going through 14 case studies in the Streetsmarts teachers guide and suggesting solutions. Overall, participants gave positive reviews, and feedback has been assimilated into the guide’s final draft. With Streetsmarts content finalised, it is now being designed and formatted into a website so that teachers around the world will be able to utilise and incorporate it into their existing curricula.

Local urban solutions

Good practice examples are processes or procedures that lead to improved performance of SEiSMiC as a project (e.g. in project management or network management) or social innovation in general, namely with regard to capacity for improving the social fabric in an urban context.

SEiSMiC national coordinators have identified cases in their national networks, based on certain criteria that were developed during the project. These include: whether a practice has contributed to the objectives of social Innovation; whether it has led to improved performance; and whether it has inspired change and is transferable from one country or urban area to another. More specific criteria have also been used, including: effectiveness, efficiency, innovation, sustainability and value added.

The cases highlighted in this section are presented in alphabetical order (Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom).

Austria — Samstag in der Stadt



Samstag in der Stadt (Saturday in the City) has been actively working for an inclusive community and the revitalisation of dormant places — particularly market areas — for more than five years. Artistic and cultural interventions highlight the meaning of public spaces as “democratic” places, and different social groups are invited to design and use them. From summer 2010, Samstag has been at the Schwendermarkt, a neglected market place in Vienna’s 15th District. The district has the lowest per capita income and the highest percentage of immigrant population in Vienna, and more than 160 languages are spoken in the district.

In cooperation with neighbours and people working in the vicinity, the association has planted a garden and organises events at which people cook and eat together. Different interest groups that are part of the association meet regularly and discuss the importance of public space, food matters and the “right to the city”. Furthermore, Samstag has offered free social care from 2011.

Samstag is a grassroots organisation with a flexible structure that was developed by deeply engaged individuals. In 2015, it was part of the first Vienna Biennale: with the help of architects, participants developed a mobile market kitchen³⁸ that appeared at various spots around the city. Samstag, together with locals, cooked and ate in public spaces, using food that would otherwise have been thrown away.

The association relies on an engaged community and communal funds. Its business model is transferable to other sectors, but active citizen engagement is also crucial. Similar networks can be developed in the business sector for the sourcing and exchange of ideas.

Czech Republic — A new methodology to identify social enterprises

The Czech National Network was created during the SEiSMiC project in 2014 with the aim of mapping and connecting social enterprises, which are quite new in the Czech Republic. Charles University in Prague intensified its research activities to identify social enterprises, and best practices were shared more effectively during the National Network meetings. The Karlin school, for example, used SEiSMiC practices in preparing a conference to involve city stakeholders.

The Czech network has developed a new methodology to identify social enterprises. It operates through an open and trustworthy platform consisting of a team of citizens, researchers, social entrepreneurs and for-profit entrepreneurs. The network's resilience relies on public policy, which in the case of the Czech Republic, is currently under reform, as the national government is in the process of approving the Law on Social Enterprises. The network needs financial support to create a platform for sharing know-how and best practices.

Germany — Utopiastadt



For years, funds for cultural projects in Germany have been reduced, requiring local communities to become increasingly responsible for procuring their own urban spaces for cultural activities. The Utopiastadt (Utopian City) project, established in 2011, describes itself as a "creative cluster" that demonstrates how communities can accomplish this, but without public administration giving up its own responsibility. In the city of Wuppertal, an abandoned train station was transformed into an open, creative and cultural space comprising offices, a hacking space, rentable ateliers and studios for artists, a pub, a workshop, event rooms and a large outdoor area.³⁹

Utopiastadt is a local and social meeting point developed to promote charitable activities, education, science, sports, arts and culture, and to encourage the preservation of heritage-protected buildings. As a registered association, Utopiastadt offers means, project management support and facilities as venues where civil society actors can meet and exchange ideas. It also supports mutual learning via working groups, organising events and communication channels.

Utopiastadt has clearly defined qualitative objectives and development stages. One of them is to build a "campus" with spaces for handicraft activities, rehearsal rooms and a hostel. Over the years, Utopiastadt has gained a lot of tactical knowledge through negotiations and by allying with the city administration, and has learned detailed financing concepts. Moreover, the Utopiastadt team is a good example of how to visualise development ideas and how to channel support from a broad range of stakeholders. Utopiastadt is dependent on donations (e.g. by foundations) and public incentives. The operational model could be adapted in other cities facing similar cases.

Italy — MappiNa

MappiNa, or Mappa Alternativa delle Città (Alternative Map of Cities), is an open platform for urban communication built on collaborative mapping.⁴⁰ The aim is to create a different image of the city through contributions from residents: young people, cultural workers and start-ups, among others. The project started as an “Alternative Map of Naples” in 2013, which then extended to Rome, Milan and Mestre (Venice) to become what is today an “Alternative Map of Cities”. It uses technological innovation, open data and geo-referencing to empower citizens to create a new narrative of the city based on everyday experience and beyond the iconic images we find on postcards.⁴¹ Besides the online platform, MappiNa organises offline activities such as Open Labs to co-design and repurpose community spaces and to re-imagine abandoned spaces. Open Labs include audio-visual mapping, in which citizens are invited to explore, critically rethink and reclaim these territories as places to share, learn from and experience.

The project, managed by an interdisciplinary team of young women, promotes the direct participation of inhabitants to create an alternative map of the city. At present — despite the loss of a big amount of data from a platform hack in 2015 — 400 mappers have contributed more than 1,600 items of content (images, video, audio and text). There are also more than 4,400 fans on Facebook and roughly 3,700 people using the platform on at least a weekly basis.

MappiNa is a non-profit initiative and entirely self-produced. It led a successful crowdfunding campaign that surpassed the initial target, raising EUR 44,600. Besides a widespread set of actors that manages the platform, uploads data and images, and organises and leads open labs and workshops, MappiNa has also been part of the URBACT network USEACT, in partnership with the municipality of Naples.

Urban governments can use collaborative mapping to foster citizen participation, to become acquainted with problems in the city, and to provide better services. Citizens can use it for sharing goods and services. The initiative has already scaled up at European level, thanks to the SEiSMiC project. MappiNa coordinated a transnational working group on collaborative mapping that resulted in a European platform⁴² — a Map of Maps — for practice exchange and mutual learning.

Netherlands — Seinwezen and Stadsgarage



De Stadsgarage (City Garage)⁴³ was established in 2011 in the Seinwezen historical industrial building in Haarlem. The initiative aims to turn the building and city monument into a sustainable social and multifunctional space that produces energy both for itself and for the neighbourhood. The idea to expand energy cooperation contributes to the city's goal of becoming climate neutral by 2030. Moreover, Stadsgarage touches on issues related to social entrepreneurship, the accommodation of refugees, and artistic production. It also establishes informal neighbourhood structures for medical support.

Through the Meet, Match, Monitor method, members of society work closely with researchers, businesses and industry, as well as with municipal stakeholders who come together to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The fact that Seinwezen is a real place that people can visit and where matchmaking can actually take place is a critical success factor. The building hosts the first collective solar panel roof in the province of Noord-Holland, and has already established the citizen-run energy company Buurtcoöperatie. Other anticipated outcomes are the setting up of an urban farming space and organising workshops.

The programme is developed through an iterative process with a loose organisational structure. Stadsgarage meetings and group membership have been increasing; the challenge, however, is to find the right balance in terms of uncompensated volunteer effort. Nonetheless, personal involvement, energy and enthusiasm are keys to success, even if performed for free.

The business plan is based on renting spaces and producing social innovation. The energy company is self-sustainable and working towards a zero environmental footprint. By joining the municipality in its initiatives, or by actively contributing to the city of Haarlem's municipal goals, Stadsgarage is eligible to receive municipal funding.

Seinwezen and Stadsgarage demonstrate that it is possible for a poorly designed industrial building and city monument, governed by rigid renovation rules, to be given new life as a social and energy-efficient space. The combination of a cornerstone building and the achievement of municipal goals can hold true in other sectors and contexts, making the case transferable to other urban areas across Europe.

UK — Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre

The Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre (CASIC)⁴⁴ was founded in March 2015. Part of Keele University in the UK, it was created to foster community-based research using creative and artistic ways to engage local communities, particularly performance and theatre. The aims are to build capacity for community-centred solutions to local and global issues, to improve the co-production of knowledge by academics and communities, and to ameliorate the social conditions of individuals and communities.

CASIC facilitates dialogue between academia and grassroots initiatives working with health issues, energy use, food poverty, urban ageing, violence, exclusion and communities in crisis. It collaborates with local authorities, the National Health Service, food banks, community groups, theatres and artists' centres.

Research results and national and international connections demonstrate the social impact of its activities. CASIC has specific indicators to measure the progress of its activities, such as the level of inclusivity, the level of participants' enjoyment and engagement, the extent to which participants benefit from cultural animation activities, whether participants are learning, and whether they will be able to replicate the co-production approach.

CASIC relies on research funds: it runs on an initial university research grant and a social innovation grant, which was later complemented by additional external funding. One of CASIC's strengths is that it operates through "structured informality". Relationships with each member, especially NGOs, community groups and individuals, are informal and direct. One lesson learned is that it is necessary to secure resources covering administrative tasks so that managers can focus on strategy and operations.

CASIC is innovative for two reasons. First, it has developed a highly diverse pool of members to make sure that each member is equally considered in projects. Second, given the grassroots nature of the centre, CASIC can respond very quickly to projects, compared to most research and academic organisations.

Conclusions

Good practices identified across SEiSMiC countries address social and environmental issues in an urban context — community engagement first and foremost. Core topics in the outlined initiatives are: inclusion of disadvantaged social groups, energy self-sufficiency at neighbourhood level, employment, and food matters.

The objectives range from rethinking and (re)using public space through online and offline actions (Austria, Italy), linking social enterprises (Czech Republic), and promoting culture, science and sports while preserving and reusing heritage buildings (Germany) to former industrial buildings producing energy for the neighbourhood (Netherlands) and community-based research using theatre and performance (UK).

Good practices identified by SEiSMiC national network coordinators are innovative because they demonstrate not only social connections and cross-sectoral work with local action groups, public administration and business, but also concrete outcomes such as the transformation of former industrial buildings and city monuments into social spaces, a citizen-run energy company and grassroots organisations that are very flexible as opposed to well-established ones.

Organisational structure varies across projects. Some are well established (Utopiastadt, for example, is a limited company, and CASIC is part of Keele University) but direct and informal relationships are common across all of them, with stakeholder engagement being of key importance. Some projects monitor their progress quantitatively or qualitatively and are aware of the impact they produce. CASIC, for example, has published a report on the legacy of animative and iterative connected communities projects.

As far as self-sustainability is concerned, this is highly dependent on the given business model. Crowdfunding, having a physical space or producing energy can boost a project's self-sustainability; however, most of the presented good practices have a tendency to rely on an engaged community, public policy, donations, public incentives and research grants.

Important lessons learned that are useful for those planning to initiate a social innovation project include the following:

- Explain the way of working to all participants straight from the start, especially when the method goes beyond business as usual and fosters creative thinking.
- Personal involvement is key to success, but brings in limited revenue.
- Have a minimum of resources for administrative costs so that the management team can focus on vision and project development.
- Communication and collaboration with city administration provides tactical knowledge regarding negotiations, allies and financing concepts.
- Join municipal goals or team up with initiatives in order to gain access to funding.
- Find a balance between self-financing due to reduced funds, but without releasing the public administration from its responsibility.
- A user-friendly online platform can boost participation.
- Crowdfunding has the potential to make the project self-sustainable.

NOTES

- 1 The scoping paper can be downloaded from the Library section of the SEISMiC website (www.seismicproject.eu).
- 2 National networks were established in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.
- 3 The aim of JPI Urban Europe is to pool national research efforts and resources and tackle common issues such as urbanisation.
- 4 UN Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016* (<http://wcr.unhabitat.org/>).
- 5 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reached a historic agreement to combat climate change and intensify the actions needed for a sustainable low-carbon future.
- 6 Habitat III will take place on October 17–20 in Quito, Ecuador. For more information see www.habitat3.org/.
- 7 The 17 Sustainable Development Goals came into force in January 2016 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 8 The New Urban Agenda: www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda
- 9 Habitat III Policy Paper Framework 1: The Right to the City and Cities for All: <https://goo.gl/McsmWm>
- 10 www.compactofmayors.org/globalcovenantofmayors/
- 11 European cities with more ambitious targets than those of national governments. EUROCIITIES policy statement "European cities and climate action: Towards COP21", June 2015: <http://goo.gl/TYXAvE>
- 12 The People Who Share is a social enterprise that helps people and companies discover and access the sharing economy. Shareable is a non-profit news, action and connection hub for the sharing transformation. More information at www.thepeoplewhoshare.com/ and www.shareable.net/
- 13 Initially Global Sharing Day, the event grew into a week-long celebration: www.globalsharingweek.org/
- 14 "Global Sharing Week, 14 Guides on Throwing Awesome Community Sharing Events": <http://goo.gl/xoVfzu>
- 15 SHARE NL: www.sharenl.nl/collaborative-and-sharing-economy-research-library/
- 16 New Cities Foundation, New Cities Summit: www.newcitiesfoundation.org/new-cities-summit/
- 17 Establishing the Urban Agenda for the EU Pact of Amsterdam, May 30, 2016: <http://goo.gl/JQSQXH>
- 18 Urban Agenda: Cities' new role brings EU closer to citizens: <http://goo.gl/x97UMg>
- 19 Pakhuis de Zwijger, New Europe #01, <https://goo.gl/gmehQH> https://issuu.com/eutopian.org/docs/20160529_wemakeeurope_report/12
- 20 The (Im)Pact of Amsterdam is a living document that is open for contributions through fb.com/necitiesintransition or via Twitter: @cityembassies.
- 21 The Basque Declaration: New Pathways for European Cities and Towns: <http://goo.gl/x6f5z5>
- 22 For more information on the clusters see <https://eu-smartcities.eu/action-clusters> and Policy Watch 2
- 23 Citizen City: <https://goo.gl/vl2ATP>
- 24 Citizen-Centric Approach to Data: <https://goo.gl/EGbKE4>
- 25 Full enforcement of the GDPR will take place in 2018, which means that all ongoing smart city initiatives must ensure privacy management to comply with the GDPR. EC, Reform of EU data protection rules: <http://goo.gl/rhZg7p>
- 26 Citizen and stakeholder communication platforms: <https://goo.gl/nSloc8>
- 27 Marketplace on the EIP-SCC, "Principles and enablers for citizen engagement", May 21, 2015: <https://goo.gl/3zSDCC>
- 28 <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/socialinnovationeurope/en/>
- 29 Currently, JPI Urban Europe has 13 members: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Turkey are observers, as is the European Commission. Membership of JPI Urban Europe is open to all EU member states and associated states of the EU Framework Programme. Other countries may contribute to JPI Urban Europe activities on an individual basis.
- 30 JPI Urban Europe, Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: <http://goo.gl/mjPIBL>
- 31 Presentation by Margit Noll "Stakeholder involvement in JPI Urban Europe", January 15, 2016, Annual Joint Programming Conference, Brussels: <https://goo.gl/rDsmH7>
- 32 For a full list of JPI projects, see JPI Urban Europe, Projects Catalogue, Stockholm 2016: <http://goo.gl/wDgD1b>
- 33 Depending on their local situation and needs, cities may join three different URBACT networks: Action-Planning Networks, Implementation Networks, and Transfer Networks. For more information, see: <http://urbact.eu/open-calls-networks>
- 34 For a list of the 21 selected Action-Planning Networks see <http://goo.gl/ozCWd>; and for those relevant to SEISMiC, see Policy Watch No. 3.
- 35 By "community enterprises" in SEISMiC we mean groups of people or organisations within communities that carry out (legal) activities that can be regarded as economical. In practice, most community enterprises are social enterprises, in the sense that they have a wide range of social objectives beyond making a profit. They also face a number of similar issues.
- 36 European Commission, New Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI): <http://goo.gl/M8FqFm>
- 37 The Belarus workshop was held under the auspices of the 2016 Summer University of the European Environmental Sciences Student Association (EURENSSA).
- 38 Vienna Biennale, 2015: Smart Life in the City: <http://goo.gl/gfWKfP>
- 39 www.clownfish.eu/utopia-stadt/
- 40 www.mappi-na.it
- 41 Social Life: An alternative map of cities: http://www.social-life.co/blog/post/Mappina_maps_alternative/
- 42 www.collaborativemapping.eu
- 43 www.seinwezen.nl/; and www.stadsgaragehaarlem.nl
- 44 Community Animation and Social Innovation Centre: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/casic/>

Acknowledgments and references

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