The New Leipzig Charter and urban innovation

What role for national governments?

3 December 2020

6th Webinar - SMARTER 2020 Conference
The New Leipzig Charter
The transformative power of cities for the common good

- Is embedded in EU and global sustainability agendas: SDGs, NUA, European Green Deal, etc.);
- Provides a non-binding framework for integrated sustainable urban development of the EU city;
- Focuses on principles for good urban governance, highlighting the importance of policies for the common good;
- Invites urban actors to make maximum use of the transformative power of cities;
- Fosters multi-level policy alignment in support of cities, building on the Urban Agenda for the EU;
- Emphasises intergovernmental cooperation and cooperation between Member States and the European Commission.
The New Leipzig Charter – Urban governance innovation

unfolds along:
- 5 key principles of good urban governance

applied to:
- 3 dimensions of the city
- 3 spatial levels of the city

empowers cities to transform through:

For strong urban governance to ensure the common good cities need:
- Legal framework conditions
- Investment capacities
- Adequately skilled employees
- Steerability and shaping of infrastructure, public services/welfare

For strong urban governance to ensure the common good cities need:
- Active and strategic land policy and land use planning
- Active shaping of digital transformation

Adequate Policies and funding for cities:
- Powerful national urban policy framework and funding
- Coherent EU regulation and funding instruments
The New Leipzig Charter – Multilevel governance

- The NLC is a milestone of MS’ intergovernmental cooperation in urban matters;

- The NLC aims to ensure the continuation of the UAEU, calling for strengthened multilevel governance in action and co-creation;

- Links to the new Cohesion Policy, including Smart Specialisation (S3) Strategies, emphasising participation, co-creation and place-based approaches.
The New Leipzig Charter – Digitalisation

New Leipzig Charter

• Digitilisation is a transformative, cross-sectoral trend which underpins sustainable transformations: just, green, productive dimensions of the city

• An instrument to integrate smart city strategies

Smart Specialisation

• S3 strategies embrace a broad view of innovation: economic, environmental, social, and political

• Digitalisation is one way of driving innovation
The role of national governments – Learning from Czechia

SMART CZECHIA: the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 (February 2019)

• Promoting the CZ as a country of the future;

• Promotion of ‘smart cities’ is a direct competence of the national level (Min. of Regional Development);

• **SMART cities as a cross-cutting concept** to be applied at the city, metro, and regional levels;

• **SRSP Project**: Systematic Approach to Financing Smart Solutions in the Czech Republic
The role of national governments – Learning from Estonia

E-ESTONIA

- Key mechanism driving Estonia’s Digital Strategy 2020 to become an ‘innovation hub’;
- 20 years of investment in digital technology;
- Digital governance / digital society model as an example worldwide;
- Multi-stakeholder process towards an inclusive transformation: all citizens to have digital access (e-residency).

https://e-estonia.com/what-it-takes-to-build-a-seamless-state/
The role of national governments - Learning from Spain

THE SPANISH URBAN AGENDA

- Operational roadmap enshrining national strategic objectives;

- Setting an informal framework to localise national objectives + EU and global agendas towards smart, sustainable and inclusive urban development;

- Bottom-up approach informed by all urban areas in Spain;

- Non-regulatory framework to be adapted by each province/ city / municipality / town;

- Emphasises co-creation and knowledge exchange via city-to-city dialogue.
Challenges and opportunities for national governments

Challenge:
Fragmentation in urban governance / competences in the EU

Opportunities:
The European Urban Initiative (art.10 ERDF Regulation)

• New instrument building on synergies;
• Support to innovative actions (strand a);
• Support to the continuation of the UAEU (via multi-level governance, intergovernmental cooperation, and EC-MS cooperation).

The EUI may provide a more coherent, integrated framework for cities to develop and implement sustainable development strategies, including S3 strategies.
To conclude

Key role of national governments in supporting cities to transform

S3 strategies as a means to implement innovation as outlined by the NLC

- in urban governance (based on multilevel governance, co-creation / participation, integrated, place-based approaches);

- via digitalisation applied to different fields / sectors.
Thank you!

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