



Innovative solutions against urban poverty

The UIA contribution

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Structure of the presentation



- Why Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)?
- Why urban poverty?
- Why minimum income?
- Why B-Mincome?



Why Urban Innovative Actions?



- European Union is a major actor for the promotion of sustainable urban development
 - No explicit urban competences for EU
 - 80% of EU population lives in urban areas
 - Cities places of threats and opportunities
 - Reducing unbalances between urban areas key factor for the success of EU policies
 - Since '80 process of « urbanisation » of Cohesion Policy to support urban development
 - Several funds and mechanisms available for urban authorities
 - 2014/2020:
 - only through art.7 ERDF, more than 17 billions € for sustainable urban development available at national and regional level
 - Several other schemes and fundings available (H2020, Life, AMIF, etc.)

Why Urban Innovative Actions?



- Since 2007 financial crisis – the **perfect storm** for urban authorities:
 - Increasing complexity of urban challenges (e.g. social and spatial polarization, globalization, migration, climate change, etc.)
 - Decreasing availability of financial means (reduction of national and regional transfers, reduction of the local tax basis)
 - Increasing willingness of the civil society to contribute to quality of life in cities (also thanks to new communication technologies)
- Consequences for urban authorities:
 - Need to do more with less
 - Need to become more open to ideas coming from civil society
 - Need to move from main service providers to ecosystem managers
 - Need to test new radical solutions (and take risks)





Art.8 ERDF regulation 2014/2020: *“...To identify and test new solutions which address issues related to sustainable urban development and are of relevance at Union level.”*

- To provide urban authorities with resources to test how new and unproven solutions work in practice and how they respond to the complexity of real life
- To draw lessons and share knowledge with other urban authorities across Europe



Urban Innovative Actions



- UIA budget: EUR 372 Mio ERDF
- Co-financing per project: max. EUR 5 Mio ERDF
- Co-financing rate: max. 80%
- Project duration: max. 3 years



An Urban Innovative Action project is:

- **Innovative:** New processes, products, services never been tested before in Europe and able to add value to the specific policy fields
- **Built and delivered in partnership:** Bringing together a wide range of local stakeholders able to contribute with ideas, expertise and competencies
- **With measurable results:** Clearly defining the results to be achieved (the change in the local situation) and able to measure the achievements at local level. Able to design a monitoring and evaluation process conceived as a “learning loop”.
- **Transferable:** Relevant for and transferable to other urban authorities in Europe
- **Of good quality:** Built on solid and coherent basis (work plan and budget)

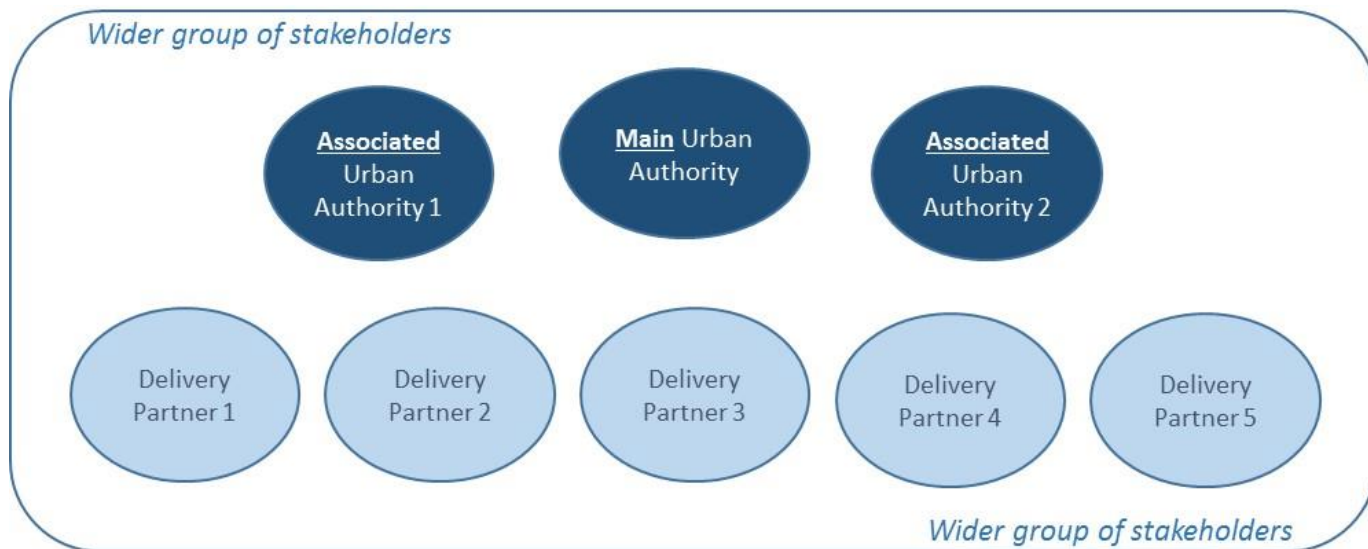
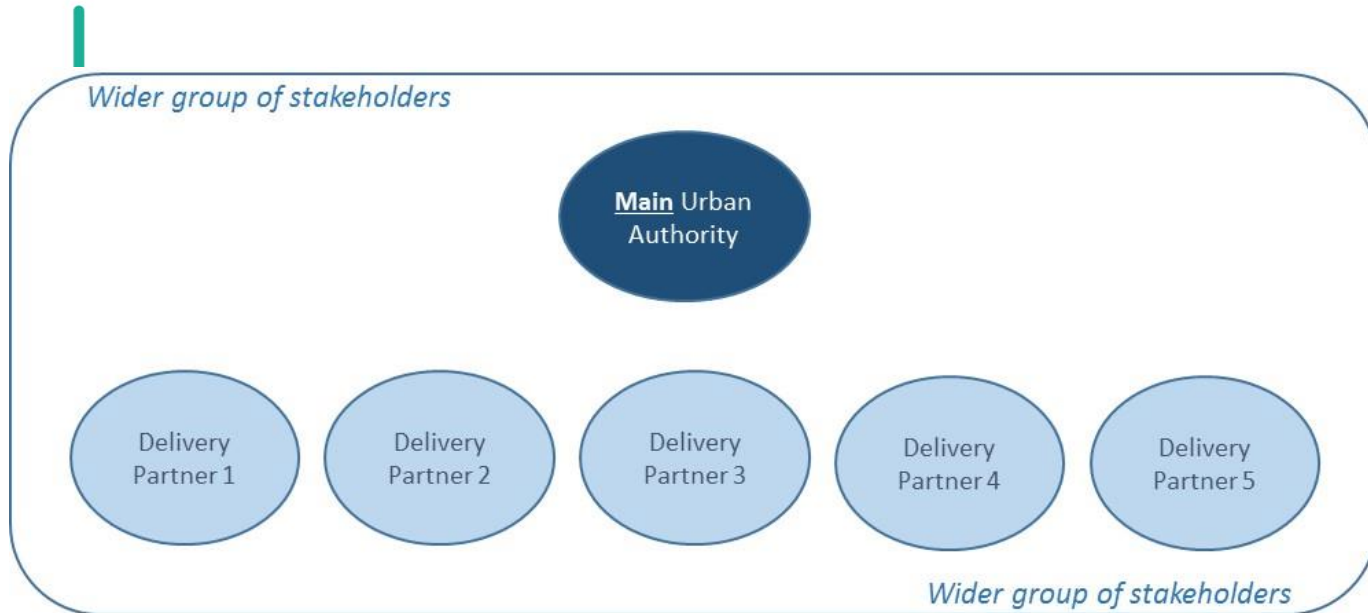
Urban Innovative Actions



- Who can apply:
 - Single urban authority with at least 50.000 inhabitants
 - Several urban authorities reaching together at least 50.000 inhabitants
 - Organised agglomerations with at least 50.000 inhabitants (Area metropolitana, Mancomunidades, etc.)

- Who can be involved as partner (Delivery Partner):
 - Provincial, regional, national authorities
 - Universities, research centers
 - NGOs, associations
 - Private partners (multinationals as well as start up)

Focus on Partnership (1)



Urban Innovative Actions



Thematic coverage:

- Alignment with 12 topics of the Urban Agenda for the EU
- **E**nergy Efficiency, **C**limate Adaptation, **A**ir Quality, **S**ustainable use of land, **U**rban mobility, **C**ircular economy, **J**obs and skills, **D**igital Transition, **H**ousing, **I**nclusion of migrants and refugees, **U**rban Poverty
- Limited number of topics selected by the Commission for each UIA Call for Proposals
- First UIA Call for Proposals: Energy Efficiency, Jobs and Skills, Inclusion of migrants and refugees, **Urban poverty (6 projects approved)**



Why urban poverty?



- One of EU2020 objectives: lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020
- In 2015, 119 millions of EU citizens (23,7%) at risk of poverty and/or social exclusions (34 millions living in cities, 24 millions living in towns or suburbs)
- Gradual improvement of employment situation (lowest level since 2008 but still big differences between MS – Germany 3,6%/Spain 17%/Greece 21%)
- Long-lasting effects of the financial crisis:
 - ✓ Social and spatial polarization
 - ✓ Pressure on traditional welfare schemes (austerity)
 - ✓ Evictions – precarious housing
 - ✓ Precarious new jobs created
 - ✓ Health inequalities
 - ✓ Insecurity and radicalization
 - ✓ Disillusion against traditional political parties

UIA & Urban Poverty



- One of the topics of the 1° UIA Call: 90 proposals received (out of 380)
- 6 projects funded proposing different innovative approaches against urban poverty:
 - Area based approaches introducing new urban functions: **Lille** (community kitchen); **Nantes** (integrated center for homeless); **Pozzuoli** (using abandoned space for urban agriculture)
 - Changing the role of urban authorities: **Turin** (co-responsibility pacts) and **Birmingham** (connecting micro and macro assets)
 - Testing new welfare schemes: **Barcelona** (Guaranteed minimum income)



Why minimum income (UBI, GMI, etc)?



- More than a welfare scheme but a radical shift in the conception of wealth and its fair redistribution within the society
- Not a new approach but one still unproven and highly conflictual (at political level)
- A complex approach with high level of risks (political, financial, operational)
- A growing attention and several ongoing pilots (the year of the pilot)
- Urban level right scale to produce meaningful results



Why B-Mincome?



- Innovation:
 - Assuming political risk
 - Testing unproven approach in a real urban scale
 - Going beyond previous experiences and testing different combinations of passive and active policies
 - Designing an « citizen-centric » approach
 - Connecting GMI to wider policies and strategies for urban regeneration
- Partnership:
 - Involving relevant partners
 - Opening to « unusual suspect »
 - Sharing responsibilities for co-implementation (and for success/failure)
- Measurability of results:
 - Centrality of ongoing monitoring and evaluation as learning loop
 - Innovativeness of the methodology proposed



UIA next steps



- Calls for Proposal to be launched every year till 2020
- 3rd Call for Proposals
 - Opening: Dec. 2017 / Closing: April 2018
 - Topics: Climate adaptation, Air quality, Housing, Jobs and skills
 - Total budget: approx. 100 ml €
 - Applicants seminars: January/February in Bucarest, Malmö, Zagreb and Bruxelles
- 4th Call for Proposals:
 - Opening: Oct. 2018 / Closing Feb. 2019
 - Topics: Digital Transition, Urban Poverty, Security





Thank you for your attention

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