The Urban Agenda and the importance of evidence-based policy making

Hugo Poelman
European Commission
DG Regional and Urban Policy
Policy Development and Economic Analysis Unit

hugo.poelman@ec.europa.eu

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Regional and urban Policy

The Urban Agenda for the EU: what and why?

- Objective: include the urban dimension in policies
  - Policies working more on urban matters
  - Involve cities in policy design
  - Mobilise cities in policy delivery

- Output: Action plans for selected themes
  - Actions (better legislation, funding and knowledge)
  - Upscaling and transferring good projects

- Governance: Work in partnership
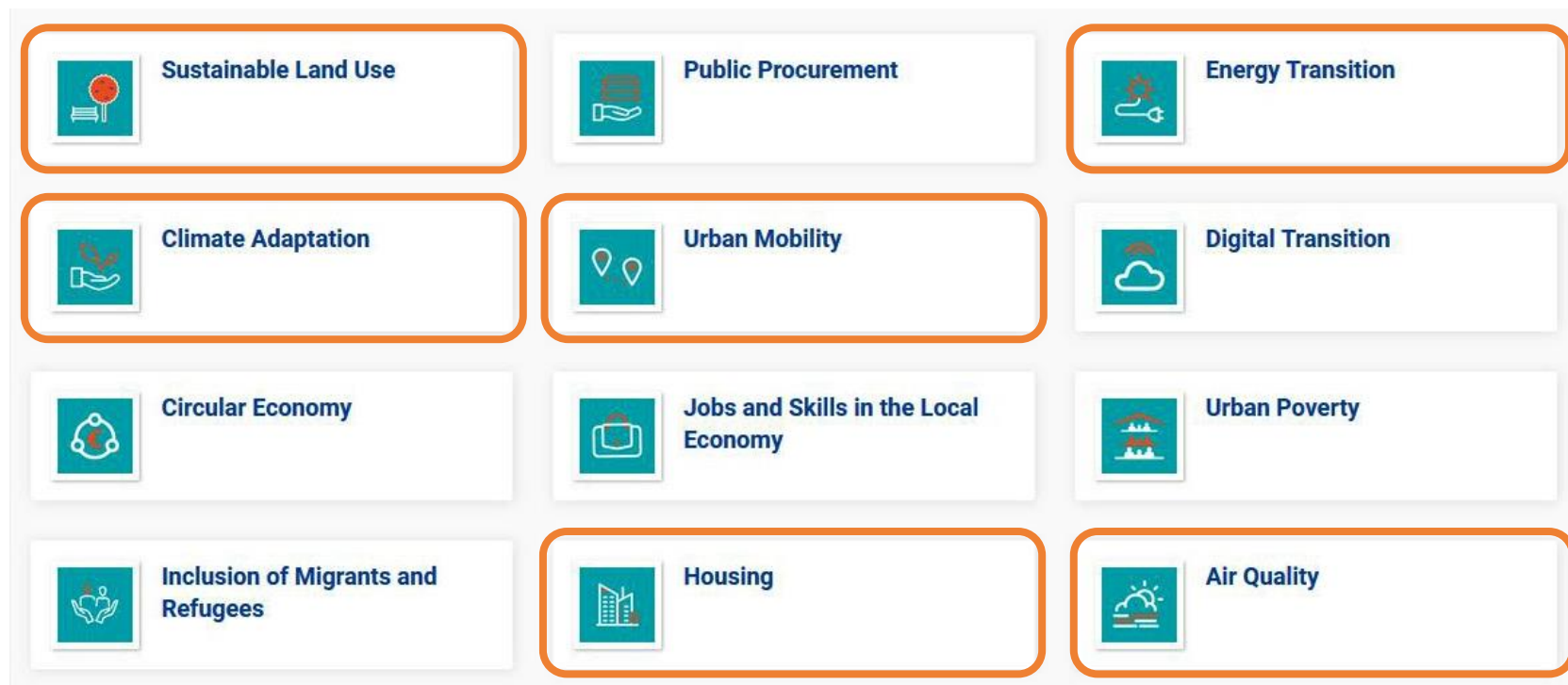 - EU, Member States, cities and stakeholders

The Urban Agenda for the EU: 3 pillars

- Better regulation
- Better funding
- Better knowledge
  - Improve the knowledge base
  - Exchange of best practices and knowledge
  - Enhance evidence-based urban policy making

A wide range of partnerships

Sustainable Land Use	Public Procurement	Energy Transition
Climate Adaptation	Urban Mobility	Digital Transition
Circular Economy	Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy	Urban Poverty
Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees	Housing	Air Quality

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Thematic partnerships' actions

- Often aiming at improving indicators and analysis
  - A few examples from the Sustainable Land Use Partnership:
    - Indicators of land take
    - Assessing urban green structures
    - Brownfields (re)development
- Several links with UN Sustainable Development Goals indicators
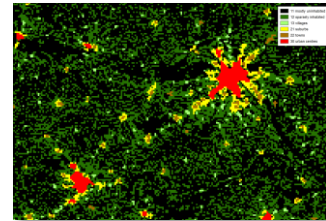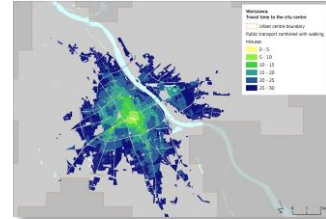
An adequate data infrastructure for urban policy making?

- Some criteria
  - Open and easily accessible
  - Suitable for use at various geographical levels
  - Sustainable production flows
  - Timely availability
  - Using harmonised concepts and definitions
  - Focus on Europe, but global whenever relevant

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Copernicus services and related products

- Urban Atlas land use / land cover
- Imperviousness layer
- Built-up areas (JRC European Settlement Map and GHSL)
- Building height in selected urban centres

Some analytical use cases

- SDG indicators
  - Change in land use per capita
  - Convenient access to urban public transport
  - Access to green urban areas
- Territorial typologies at global level
  - Cities and degree of urbanisation
- Enhancing analysis requires smart combinations with other geospatial data sources
  - Various INSPIRE data themes
  - Georeferenced statistical data

Some thoughts on the way forward

- Enhance production processes, schedules, timeliness, resolution

- Tighten the relationship between Copernicus products and other geospatial sources
  - Combine the strengths of each of the sources
  - Continue and enhance information exchange and coordination
    - Copernicus services, INSPIRE, spatially enabled statistics, UN-GGIM:Europe working groups on core data and data integration,…

- Continue showcasing interesting use cases at various geographical levels