Urban Innovative Actions

Warsaw, 09 February 2017

Structure of the presentation

- Introduce UIA Initiative (objectives, key figures, eligible urban authorities, thematic coverage)

- Focus on main criteria for assessment

- Practical information for 2nd Call for Proposals

Main objectives

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

Key figures

- 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

Eligible urban authorities

UIA Delegated Act:

• Any urban authority of a **local administrative unit (municipalities)** defined according to the **degree of urbanisation** as city, town or suburb comprising at least **50.000 inhabitants**

• Any association or grouping of urban authorities of local administrative units defined according to the degree of urbanisation as city, town or suburb where the total population is at least 50.000 inhabitants

Thematic coverage

- Thematic alignment of UIA with the 12 urban topics identified in the framework of the EU Urban Agenda

- Limited number of topics selected by the Commission for each UIA Call for Proposals

- Detailed description of the topics selected for each Call in the specific Terms of Reference

- Topic 2nd Call: **Inclusion of migrants and refugees; urban mobility; circular economy**

Main features of UIA projects

Requirements:

- Be related to sustainable urban development
- Be of relevance at Union level
- Support the thematic objectives and investment priorities for ERDF

Characteristics:

- **Innovative:** *To what extent the project proposal is a new solution that has the clear potential to add value?*
- **Built and delivered in partnership:** *To what extent is the involvement of key stakeholders relevant for the implementation of the project?*
- **With measurable results:** *To what extent will the project deliver measurable results?*
- **Transferable:** *To what extent will the project be transferable to other urban areas across Europe?*
- **Of good quality:** *To what extent is the work plan realistic, consistent and coherent? To what extent is the budget coherent and proportionate?*

Focus on Innovation (1)

- Agreed definition: « *Products, services and processes able to add value to the specific policy field and never been tested before in Europe* »

- 2 main elements:
    - Focus on products, services and processes
    - Never been tested before in Europe (spot, support and capitalize on most innovative projects in Europe)

- 2 typologies:
    - Revolutionary: totally new approaches never tested before
    - Evolutionary:
        - ✓ Building on and combining traditional elements to create new meanings
        - ✓ Changing scale
        - ✓ Testing traditional approaches with different target groups

Focus on Innovation (2)

- Complex set of actions
  - Average number of actions proposed: between 5 and 10
  - Not all actions can be innovative
  - Challenge 1: ensure the centrality of innovative elements
  - Challenge 2: ensure the overall coherence and integration

- Evolutionary innovation more than revolutionary innovation

- Specific innovative trends per topic
  - **Energy efficiency**: focus on local governance and energy delivery
  - **Migrants and refugees**: empowerment, one stop shop approach and testing « traditional » services on new target groups
  - **Jobs and skills**: anticipating economic transitions (3rd industrial revolution, industry 4.0), focus on skills enhancement and social enterprises
  - **Urban poverty**: testing revolutionary approaches (urban common goods and basic minimum income), area based integrated approach (one stop shop)
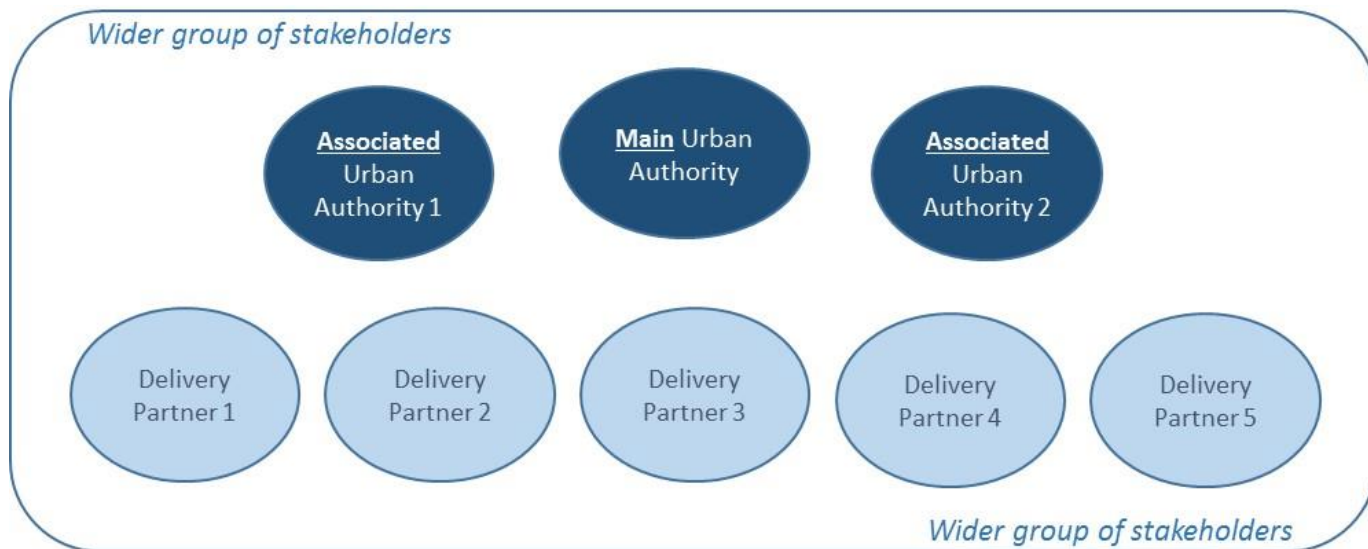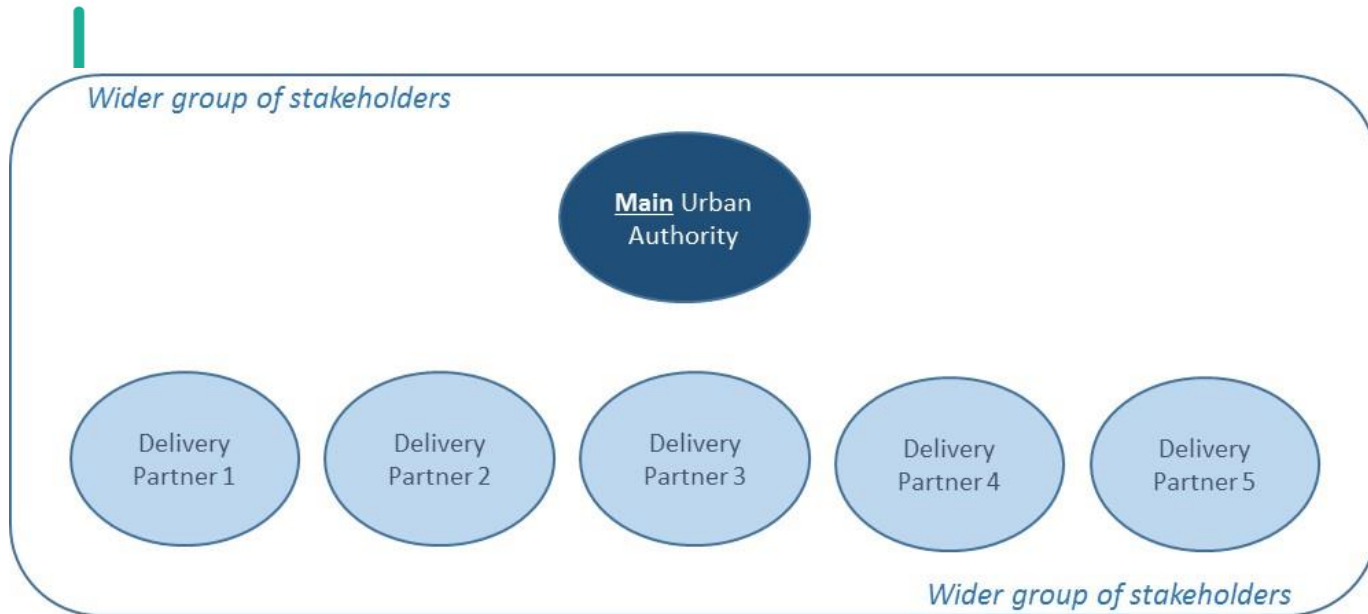
Focus on Innovation (3)

Conditions to generate innovation within urban authorities:

✓ Leadership

✓ Setting up multi-disciplinary teams

✓ Looking at existing ideas not yet exploited

✓ Being open to ideas coming from local stakeholders

✓ Being inspired by other experiences (transnational networking)

Focus on Partnership (2)

Delivery Partners:

✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations that will have an active role in the implementation of the project

✓ Able to bring knowledge and expertise into project design and implementation

✓ Responsible for the delivery of specific activities and the production of the related deliverables/outputs

✓ Dedicated budget and local co-financing

✓ To be selected through fair and transparent procedures

Focus on partnership (3)

Wider group of stakeholders:

✓ Institutions, agencies, organisations, private sector partners, associations without an active role but that can be involved in the design and implementation of the project

✓ No dedicated budget

✓ No official status of partner

✓ Urban authorities shall design mechanism to ensure their involvement

Focus on partnership (4)

Co-designing innovative projects:

- ✓ Make use of existing local partnership structures

- ✓ Create ad-hoc consultation groups

- ✓ Co-define challenges (understanding the problem with target groups)

- ✓ Organise public call for ideas (open to institutions and/or citizens)

- ✓ Organise co-creation workshops (living labs)

- ✓ Task partners to develop feasibility studies for concept testing

- ✓ Try to upscale already existing prototypes

- ✓ Check relevance of identified ideas with target groups

Co-implementing innovative projects:

- ✓ Delivery partners to play an active role in the implementation process

- ✓ Different arrangements depending on the policy field, type of project, local context, previous experiences of the urban authority

- ✓ Task and responsibilities to be defined in the Application Form and formally agreed in the Partnership Agreement

- ✓ Urban authority to retain overall legal and financial responsibility vis-à-vis UIA

- ✓ Importance of setting up effective (and innovative) management mechanisms and procedures

Focus on measurability

- ✓ Measurability part of the philosophy of creating urban laboratories in each selected city

- ✓ Importance of defining parameters and indicators (especially at the level of results)

- ✓ Monitoring and measurement to be designed as part of a learning loop (continuous improvement of strategy and actions being implemented) for urban authorities

- ✓ Methodologies and techniques can be particularly innovative (e.g. theory of change, Randomised Control Trials, use of big data, etc.)

Focus on Scaling up and Transferability

Scaling up:
- Explain how to scale up in case of succesfull experimentation (conditions, extent of scaling up, needed resources)

Transferability:
- To demonstrate that the challange addressed is relevant to other urban authorities in Europe
- To explain what conditions and resources would be needed by other urban authorities to transfer the practice locally

Focus on Quality of the proposal

- ✓ Importance of intervention logic (link between objectives, activities, outputs and expected results)

- ✓ Needed clarity at the level of the work plan

- ✓ Attention to the value for money (in relation to the expcted results) and need to provide detailed description of activities and expenditures

- ✓ Importance management structures (potential for innovation)

- ✓ Communication activities instrumental to the project

Application Process (1)

- Call for Proposals:
  - ✓ **Opening: 15 December 2016**
  - ✓ **Deadline: 14 April 2017 at 12h CET**

- Documents to be submitted (via Electronic Exchange Platform - EEP):
  - ✓ **Application Form**
  - ✓ **Signed Confirmation Sheet**

- Reference documents:
  - ✓ **Terms of Reference**
  - ✓ **UIA Guidance**
  - ✓ **Application Form – Working Document**

Application Process (2)

Application Forms can be submitted in any EU language **BUT** applicants are strongly recommended to do it in proper English

Application Forms not submitted in English shall be translated by the Secretariat for the assessment and the quality of the translation cannot be guaranteed

Application process (3)

If you can't explain it simply, you do not understand it well enough.
- Albert Einstein

Keep it Short and Simple !

- Character limits

- Make sure assessors can quickly understand what your project is about and the solution you propose

3-step Selection Process

Eligibility and admissibility check	**May 2017**
Strategic Assessment	**End of June 2017**
Operational Assessment	**September 2017**
Approval	**October 2017**

Thank you for your attention

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