

NATIONAL URBAN POLICY EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA REPORT



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FOREWORD



I am delighted to present the State of National Urban Policies Report in Europe and North America, an assessment of urban policies in the most urbanized region of the world. The report is a valuable source of information, based on UN-Habitat's case studies of the state of national urban policies in Europe and North America.

The New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of Habitat III, alongside with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, recognized the transformative power of urbanization as an endogenous source of development, prosperity and employment. While urbanization has historically been associated with economic and social progress, and holds the potential for a more efficient and sustainable use of resources, it is crucial to acknowledge that such opportunities do not occur by coincidence, but must be harnessed through comprehensive and coordinated urban policies, accompanied with the fundamentals of urbanization – rules and regulations, planning and design and a financing model.

The leading role of national governments in the definition and implementation of inclusive and effective urban policies has been increasingly emphasized in the New Urban Agenda. As the stakes of urbanization reach far beyond the city, policies cannot be confined to a single sectorial issue and must encompass an increasingly diverse range of stakeholders. Therefore, responsibility ultimately lies with national governments to lead, direct and coordinate urban policies to enable and facilitate sustainable urban development.

The purpose of this report is not to provide a universal blueprint for national urban policies, but rather to highlight potential challenges, risks and opportunities for the development of national urban policies in Europe and North America, to spark further discussion, reflection and action. The report includes innovative practices, particularly in terms of governance, stakeholder engagement and participation, and the particularity of the supranational influence of the European Union, which illustrate the crucial importance of consensus building and collaboration in the process of national urban policies.

The report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD. These studies are timely, as they follow up on Habitat III and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and accompany the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, to be held in Paris, France in May 2017.

I believe that this series of regional reports contributes to building empirical knowledge on the NUP process and will provide useful insight for academia, policy makers and practitioners to further refine guidance and practice in NUP development, thus contributing to the implementation of the global agenda on sustainable development.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-Habitat

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national urban policy in Europe and North America. Surveying the experience of countries throughout this region, and highlighting both minor and major case studies, the report emphasizes the diversity of national urban policy characteristics on a regional level, but also identifies certain key regional characteristics. They include: a strong commitment to developing urban policy at national level; the widespread existence of national and regional development plans; an emphasis on balanced regional development, sometimes including restraint on growth of major cities; revitalization of urban areas as a recurrent goal; the frequent encountering of challenges in implementation, resulting in some cases in a perceived lack of impact; and the effects of government retrenchment and austerity in restraining innovation in urban policy.

Also evident among those countries that are member states of the European Union (EU), is the general influence of the EU on development of urban policy in the region through for instance various directives and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. This influence is complemented by the broader importance of policy learning in cross-border contexts. At the same time, weight must also be given to the influence of particular historical and political circumstances in varying states. Case studies have demonstrated the importance of these variables. In reviewing the regional overview and case studies, and considering all of these variations, the report's conclusions reinforce the need, in any case where NUP is being contemplated, for a period of patient building of political will.



Paris © Moyan Brenn



1

INTRODUCTION

London, the city © Francesco Sgroi

1.1 NUPs and the global agenda for sustainable development

This regional study aims both to illuminate the state of urban policy at the national level in the European and North American region, and to identify important themes that can be made commensurable with findings in other global regions. While particular approaches to national level urban guidance are dependent on complex country-level variables – such as the state of urbanization, patterns of intergovernmental relations, and level of administrative capacity – there is a growing global consensus about the crucial role that urban areas play for national development.

Cities have indeed become the arenas of globalization, drawing in large population movements, as people migrate for work and with the hope of better living conditions and concentrating an increasingly large share of economic power as industries continue to cluster in urban areas. Today, they comprise the majority (54 per cent) of the world population, a proportion that is expected to reach two thirds (66 per cent) by the middle of the century. While the phenomenon of urbanization is a necessary condition for national economic growth, and has the potential to bring about increased social prosperity, cohesion and more sustainable environmental management; if left uncontrolled and unplanned, it can also have opposite effects, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities, a rise in unemployment and the spread of slums, and environmental degradation. Because the potential effects of such challenges and opportunities extend beyond traditional urban boundaries, urbanization has been recognized globally as an agenda priority, and nationally as a governmental responsibility.

In the past few years, global agreements and programmes have taken increasing notice of the importance of urbanization. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction followed by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change for instance, recognized the particular vulnerability and responsibility of urban areas with regard to climate

change. One of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development also exclusively relates to urban areas. SDG-11: “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” Finally, and most significantly, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was the first intergovernmental conference following these sustainable development milestones and adopted the New Urban Agenda, promoting the need for proactive policies to leverage the dynamics of urbanization as instruments of sustainable development.

This growing recognition of the importance of managing urbanization within intergovernmental frameworks and agreements make national governments responsible for the adaptation, implementation and monitoring of these global imperatives. For instance, in Europe, the Nordic Declaration of 16 December 2016, a multi-stakeholder declaration acknowledging the New Urban Agenda and suggesting ways to adapt and implement it, clearly acknowledges governments’ responsibility, emphasizing the “essential role” of “political leadership” in order to “jointly define challenges” and “develop shared visions”.

NUPs – defined as a “coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long-term (UN-Habitat, 2014) – have therefore been recognized as a primary governmental tool to coordinate the global urban agenda and specific national paths to sustainable development. Indeed, in the preparation leading to Habitat III, NUPs were selected as one of 10 Habitat III policy units, and the accompanying policy paper recommended in its conclusion that “it is necessary to recognize that a NUP can be a key instrument to measure the achievement of the SDGs and should constitute an important part of any serious attempt to implement the SDGs” (Habitat III Policy Paper Framework 3, National Urban Policies, p.25). Moreover, the New Urban Agenda identifies them as “drivers of change”.

NUPs constitute a framework through which governments can direct a more sustainable and productive urbanization process, by developing more integrated policies and mobilizing and engaging all levels of government, civil society and the private sector in decision-making. The process of NUP elaboration itself ensures greater cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders and the increased capacity of subnational governments, for the emergence of a truly inclusive and shared national vision for urban development. This fulfils SDG 11.a and the second commitment of the Nordic declaration: "We are convinced that political leadership plays an essential role in order to jointly define challenges, developing shared visions, building coalitions and creating conditions for courageous actors"; but also the declaration's insistence on co-production, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach, participation and capacity building (Nordic Declaration - paragraph 5).

This report contributes to addressing such objectives at both regional and, through broader comparison, global levels. It is part of a series of five regional reports that consider the state of National Urban Policy at the regional level, which complement the Global State of National Urban Policy Report, prepared by UN-Habitat and OECD.

1.2 Background

The study of a "region" consisting of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and North America inevitably contends with wide variations in the state of urban policy and in governmental approaches to urbanization. Policy is inextricable from politics and history, and countries in North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe are extremely varied in their backgrounds and levels of development. This reality will inevitably present itself in the current study. North American and Western European countries are comparatively well advanced in their consideration of cities and the process of urbanization, while some Eastern European countries are at a different point in the process due to their political backgrounds and past conflicts. While comparisons are inherently complex, it is still useful to explore how the

policy processes of Eastern European countries compare with those of North America and Western Europe, and also how supranational organizations (such as the European Union) are dealing with the spectrum of approaches to urban policy that exist within their jurisdictions.

1.3 Definitions and Methodology

For the purposes of this study, National Urban Policy (NUP) is defined as:

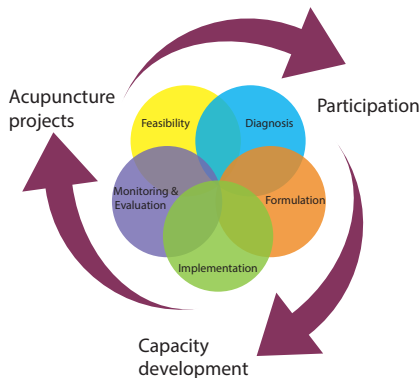
"A coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term" (UN-Habitat, 2014).

According to UN-Habitat, the NUP should enable:

- (a) Identification of urban development priorities towards socially and economically equitable and environmentally friendly urban and territorial development;
- (b) Guidance on the future development of the national urban system and its spatial configuration, concretized through national and regional spatial plans for territorial development;
- (c) Enhanced coordination and guidance of actions by national actors, as well as all levels of government in all sectors;
- (d) Increased and more coordinated private and public investments in urban development and consequent improvement in the following key areas: the productivity of cities, inclusiveness and environmental conditions, subnational and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility, urban energy requirements, and job creation.

When considering NUPs within this report, attention is given to the five phases of a NUP, as defined by UN Habitat: feasibility, diagnosis,

formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The diagram below helps to illustrate the phases of NUP:



Included within the phases of a NUP should always be consideration of the three pillars of a NUP, according to UN Habitat: participation, capacity development and demonstration projects (UN Habitat, 2015).

Beyond the given definition of a NUP, urban policy can be recognized more broadly as the *“explicit decisions and actions by national governments to address the challenges and possibilities arising from the urban transition... [expressing] what governments aim to do within their cities and towns...to make them function better – economically, socially and ecologically”* (Turok and Borel-Saladin, 2014). Thus, countries that do not have an explicit national urban policy as set out above, may nevertheless still have an “urban strategy” or “urban framework.” These are certainly relevant urban policies and are a valuable source of comparison and contextualization to examine countries with a more explicitly stated national urban policy. Therefore, while this study is primarily a regional review of national urban policy, in order to be all-encompassing, it may also be considered to be an assessment of national-level urban policy more broadly defined.

While the study draws inferences of regional and global significance, a key element of its methodology lies in its attention to case studies, the methodology for which was based on a semi-structured approach. Although a portion

of the case study analysis was based on provided structured guidance, the case studies also encapsulate semi-structured analysis that occurred outside of it. The analysis of the case studies themselves took into account the UN-Habitat approach to national urban policy formation, and took particular interest in the approaches taken by the case study countries in the diagnostic, formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation phases of urban policy. The research for each case study was based primarily on desk research. The sources used were located in part through systematic searches via Google and Google Scholar. Key word searches varied by country and were outlined in each case study. Key word search for the rest of the countries in the regional profile used search terms such as: “country + national urban policy”, “country + urban policy”, “country + urban strategy”, “country + urban development”, “country + urban”. Searches on government websites were carried out to locate important policy documents related to urbanization. Google Translate was used (only when necessary) to translate terms when searches in English produced no results. Google Translate was also used to translate documents found only in languages other than English. Searches were also conducted through the OECD Library, and key scholarly analyses of relevant policy areas were consulted.

While case study analysis has inherent limitations: by definition, it lacks the degree of comprehensiveness that can be attained through national studies that are more detailed, although also more restricted and isolated; the strength of case study analysis lies in enabling comparisons to be made and commensurability to be defined. Accordingly, this report will be structured to provide a survey of the Western and Eastern European and North American region – with selected minor case studies fully integrated – followed by in-depth consideration of five major case studies. The evaluation of the state and effectiveness of national urban policy in the region is based on inferences from both minor and major case studies, and concluding insights and recommendations point the way towards the urban agenda of the future.



2

SURVEY OF THE REGION AND SELECTED NUP MINOR CASE STUDIES

Seattle, downtown © HyunJae Park

As noted above, while the consideration of North America, Western Europe and Eastern Europe as a region is difficult due to geographical, political and historical differences, general patterns can still be observed.

First, commitment to urban affairs, and so to urban policy, is present across the region, even though there are only a few examples of explicit national urban policies, as defined by UN-Habitat. The case studies of Ireland, Germany and the Czech Republic demonstrate a commitment to urban policy at the national level, although the three countries are at different stages. Ireland is in the process of phasing out its national spatial strategy, and although there has been commitment to a new policy, this has not yet surfaced. The Czech Republic also has not yet followed up on its post-2013 commitment to the next stages of a NUP, while Germany has successfully built consensus and momentum for the formulation of its NUP. As mentioned, however, there is a positive and active interest in urban policy at the national level, expressed throughout the region in a variety of forms, as demonstrated by the additional examples below:

- ✓ **United States:** The 2009 signing of Executive Order 13503, which established the White House Office of Urban Affairs, signalled the recognition by the federal government of the importance of urban areas to national success.
- ✓ **Portugal:** The *Política de Cidades* is a national-level policy that is implemented at the regional and local levels. It has a broad mandate, covering areas such as innovation and competitiveness, integrated urban planning, urban governance, environment and social cohesion.
- ✓ **Finland:** The interdepartmental Finnish Committee for Urban Policy, is a national level committee which is responsible for strengthening of networks and partnerships between different levels of government, providing coordinated approaches to urban development, and monitoring programme implementation.
- ✓ **Belgium:** At the national level in 2000, the Belgian Government launched the Federal Big City Policy (*Grootstedenbeleid / Politique des Grandes Villes*). The policy is implemented through contracts with cities, which have a wide range of objectives: neighbourhood regeneration, climate change, housing upgrades, etc.
- ✓ **France:** National urban development in France is guided by the *Politique de la Ville*, which was first established in the 1980s, but most recently updated in February 2014.



New York, high line © Shinya Suzuki

Despite a lack of explicit national urban policies in most of the region, a broader look at urban policy reveals the widespread existence of national and regional development plans, indicative of a commitment to sustainable growth management. While most of the documents are not explicitly urban, it is possible that they may serve as good entry points to begin the discussion of future NUP formation. As demonstrated through the Czech Republic major case study, review and evaluation of current development plans often form a useful platform in the diagnostic stage of a NUP. Below are a number of countries within the region with examples of national development plans, regional plans, national strategies, etc.

- ✓ **Romania:** In Romania, a national development plan and a national regional development plan co-exist, both within the jurisdiction of the national government.
- ✓ **Poland:** In Poland, many policy documents address urban development, including the National Strategy for Regional Development, which provides a vision and policy tools for regional development, the Mid-Term National Development Strategy, which defines national development policy, the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 in support of growth and jobs, and the National Cohesion Strategy which guides EU structural fund spending.
- ✓ **Slovenia:** The Spatial Planning Act was revised in 2007 and particularly includes goals in sustainable development and quality of life for residents. The Act emphasizes integrated urban development, including infill using brownfield sites. However, this is not the only measure pertaining to urban matters. There is also the 2004 Spatial Development Strategy, which also focuses on quality of life and improvement of residential areas, especially social housing. Spatial planning and regional development in Slovenia, however, are treated as two separate policy fields, with regional development carrying more weight. Regional development agencies are responsible for developing regional development plans, which pertain mostly to local economic development and do not include spatial elements.
- ✓ **Slovakia:** From 2004 to 2006 Slovakia had both a national development plan and a community support framework, which were both developed in conjunction with the European Commission and the government to decide how to use European Union funds in communities. In 2008 the government developed a national regional development strategy that aimed to provide a comprehensive strategy at the national level for promoting regional development in the country to help guide regions and municipalities in their growth.
- ✓ **Bulgaria:** In 2005, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme, the government produced the National Strategy and Action Plan on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion in Urban Areas. In 2005, the National Regional Development Strategy was produced, which emphasized sustainable urban development, cultural heritage protection and the redevelopment of industrial areas and housing in deprived neighbourhoods. The operational programme Regions of Growth 2014-2020 followed on from the operational program Regional Development 2007-2013, which identified urban development as one of the five key axes for development.
- ✓ **Serbia:** The Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2010 – 2014 – 2025 was launched in 2010 and is a legally binding document. The government has expressed the hope that it will be more than just a spatial plan, and will initiate broader reforms outside the sphere of physical planning, in areas such as governance and economic development.

- ✓ **Estonia:** Estonia's Regional Development Strategy 2005-2015 was implemented in 2005. The strategy focuses on the development of a regional balance so that living standards and competitiveness are equal across the country, and on ensuring "sustainable development of all regions, based on the development advantages and features inherent to the regions and qualitative development of the competitive ability of the capital region and other urban regions". In its main goals, the strategy expressly lists the development of a national urban policy as one of the goals, yet so far this has not developed.

Stemming, perhaps, from the prevalence of national and regional level development plans, the region is also characterized by a trend in policies promoting balanced regional development as a core goal, and even attempting to limit growth in major cities.

The Irish case study provides the most thorough illustration of this type of policy in this study, although the regional overview revealed other examples:

- ✓ **Moldova:** To reduce the economic and social inequalities between Chisinau and the rest of the country, the government is developing "poles of growth" that are organized through the National Plan of Territorial Arrangement.
- ✓ **Estonia:** Estonia's Regional Development Strategy 2005-2015 was implemented in 2005. The strategy focuses firstly on the development of a regional balance, so that living standards and competitiveness are equal across the country, and to "ensure sustainable development of all regions, based on the development advantages and features inherent to the regions and qualitative development of the competitive ability of the capital region and other urban regions".

Perhaps unsurprisingly, in Western Europe there is a trend towards isolated national level strategies and policies focusing on revitalization as a main goal. The strategies vary in scope, from the neighbourhood level to the regional level. A number of examples are presented below:

- ✓ **Finland:** From 2008 to 2011 there was a national programme implemented, the Lähiöohjelma, which worked in partnership with local governments to facilitate district revitalization.
- ✓ **The Netherlands:** From 1994 to 2009 the national government ran the Grotestedenbeleid (Metropolitan) Programme, targeting deprived neighbourhoods in 27 cities.
- ✓ **Norway:** The 2007–2016 Groruddalssatsingen programme is directed at improving living conditions in the Grorud Valley, an area of Norway with particularly high levels of deprivation. The programme focuses on improving the quality of life of residents and is a joint implementation between the national government and the city of Oslo.
- ✓ **Italy:** Urban Italia (2001 – 2007) and Porti & Stazioni (since 2002) are examples of a newer generation of urban programmes that attempt to provide a broader approach. Both of these programmes focus on urban development in deprived neighbourhoods and infrastructure upgrading, but have broader social and economic aspects as well.
- ✓ **Denmark:** In October 2010, a national level strategy entitled "Ghetto Strategy" (ghetto-strategi) was enacted in 29 programme areas. The projects were aimed mostly at the housing sector (improving housing stock, providing greater diversity in housing options), and also included projects in social integration.



Copenhagen, Nyhavn © Joe deSousa

Lastly, the regional analysis highlights a number of countries that have encountered serious challenges in the implementation phase of their policies, resulting in a perceived lack of impact. The exact causes of this perceived implementation failure remain unclear, although the suggestion can be made that an incomplete devolution of power to regional and local governments or a lack of capacity at different governmental levels can both contribute to a perceived implementation lapse. The most fully explored example within this report is the Irish case study, but Portugal also provides a clear example, detailed below:

- ✓ **Portugal:** The *Política de Cidades* is a national-level policy that is implemented at the regional and local levels. It has a broad mandate, covering areas such as innovation and competitiveness, integrated urban planning, urban governance, environment and social cohesion. Despite these programmes, it is felt that there has been little impact and that the central government has struggled to connect national level policies with local-level implementation.

In addition to the above, there are also a number of broader themes and trends that have emerged clearly from the regional analysis:

✓ **Influence of the European Union**

A recurring theme in the NUP regional assessment in Europe is the influence of the European Union directives on urban affairs. This finding confirms the power of supranational organizations, such as the EU, to shape responses to urban growth patterns at a broader, regional scale. This influence of the European Union is expressed in various forms when considering the European countries of the case studies. The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, for example, was unquestionably an important context for the beginning stages of national urban policy formulation in Germany – all the more so because Germany was influential in prompting the charter's creation – and it was crucial to the formulation of the extended memorandum that in Germany was the founding document for the national urban policy. In the Czech case, moreover, the EU directives were carefully considered when building the main principles that would guide a national urban policy in the future, and effectively provided a framework within which these principles were elaborated. Interestingly, the Czech document also considers both the goals of the country's own principles on urban issues, and the tools of the EU that were needed to access funding. This introduces another aspect of the influence of the EU, beyond providing a guiding framework to direct urban development: access to

EU funding is conditional on the application of pre-determined standards, which are clearly present in the urban policy documents of examined countries.

✓ **The Transnational Element of NUP**

The complexity and cross-cutting nature of urban issues demands a coordinated approach to urban development in order to achieve the most effective results, which is one of the main reasons why NUPs constitute such a necessary and effective tool for governments. Within this study however, an interesting case demonstrates the possibility for trans-border cooperation, in order to further urban goals.

The Irish case study focuses on its National Spatial Strategy (NSS), discussed in greater detail below. As part of this policy, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (part of the United Kingdom) were able to coordinate their urban approaches to achieve sustainable growth throughout the island of Ireland, beyond their respective borders. Therefore, not only has the NSS contributed notably to international policy sharing in space management (Clifford and Morphet, 2014; p.4), but it has been innovative in terms of cross-border policies.

These two countries have effectively coordinated spatial strategies and retain an ongoing practice of close consultation in this area. They even reaffirmed their commitment to these strategies through the publication of the National Spatial Strategy: Update and Outlook report in 2010. In 2011, they also published a joint consultation document entitled, Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Framework for Collaboration (Walsh et al., 2011).

Such cooperation holds important promise for coordinated cross-border policies, especially once the current post-recession era comes to an end and urban policy receives renewed consideration.

✓ **The trend towards government retrenchment**

The recession of 2008 and its aftermath has had serious repercussions in many policy areas, including that of urban policy. Although time will tell whether this will be a long-lasting or purely contingent phenomenon, it is impossible to ignore the limitations that the recession has imposed on state investment in urban areas. In Canada in particular, where the complexities of federalism already complicate the formation of national level urban policy, the aftermath of the recession has seen two somewhat contrasting processes. The federal government invested temporarily in infrastructure projects as a means of creating employment, and municipalities were able to avail themselves of these opportunities. At a deeper level, however, the fiscal strains of the recession also had the effect of intensifying the “downloading” of responsibilities in urban matters from the fiscally-strapped provinces to the municipalities; this meant not only that the cities were financially stretched but also that any possibility of developing coordinated policy guidance was greatly weakened. Ireland, too, was hard hit by the recession, which undercut many of the development initiatives that underpinned its national urban strategy. The effects of the recession were also felt across the other countries of the region, and made it all the more evident that the development of NUP is inevitably impacted by the economic and fiscal stresses of any given era.



3

MAJOR CASE STUDIES

The five in-depth case studies undertaken for Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic and Canada support and deepen the regional analysis. They provide a more detailed understanding of the urban policy process in each country and allow – where an explicit national urban policy was deemed to be present – a closer look at the NUP cycle in that country's context. It is important to note, however, that national urban policies never exist in a vacuum, as is demonstrated by the regional analysis and the major case studies, particularly with European countries. Urban policy in Europe is indeed elaborated within the policy structure of the European Union, and so is never immune to its influence. While this situation brings undeniable benefits, it also exemplifies how national policy - theoretically internal to one country – is, in fact, affected by regional tendencies.

The following case studies are not meant to be exhaustive but, rather, the analysis focuses on the particular phase of the NUP cycle each country is engaged in, and attempts to draw broader lessons from their particular experience. Considered not individually but as a series, the case studies present a comprehensive view of the NUP at each phase and therefore constitute an interesting opportunity to reach a better understanding of NUPs as a process, rather than as a static product.

Below is a review of each case study, ordered along the sequence of NUP phases; and a highlight of their contribution to this analysis.

3.1 Canada: Making a Case for National Urban Policies

Canada does not have an explicit NUP, as a federal state in which urban policy does not fall under federal competence. Even further, municipalities, and therefore their relationship to the federal government, are not officially recognized by the constitution. The responsibility for municipal affairs and local government falls to the provinces. This constitutional particularity has proved to be a major obstacle in the elaboration of an NUP for Canada, leaving a paradox at the centre of federal-municipal relations: “While the federal government has no formal power over municipal governments, many of its activities and spending have either a direct or an indirect impact on municipalities” (Friendly, 2016, citing Stoney and Graham, 2009). Conversely, cities in Canada are drivers of national economic development, with 81 per cent of the Canadian population living in them.

As a result, urban policies in Canada are inherently fragmented and the development of urban areas is uneven. Although urban communities still manage to thrive, some are affected by chronic deficits in crucial areas such as infrastructure. Special federal programmes only partly address these issues and, although they are useful in fixing crises, they do not work towards a proactive and comprehensive vision for urban development. Moreover, the fiscal constraints of the municipalities are significant and will demand increasing attention in the future.



Halifax, Canada © Kevin Veau

Streamlining of federal, provincial and municipal approaches through more comprehensive national-level urban policy guidance addresses the multi-dimensional and interlinked challenges of cities and would therefore constitute a certain national benefit. This realization is not new, and has appeared on the Canadian federal agenda multiple times, either in response to perceived urban crises after the Second World War or in the 1960s, or to the call of a growing coalition of local authorities and civil society for a national agenda for cities in the late 1990s (Friendly, 2016). This last instance, with the advocacy of the Big Mayors Caucus, and the creation of such institutions as a Cities Secretariat and a caucus task force on urban issues, built the momentum for the announcement of a New Deal for Cities, meant to constitute partnerships between the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government for urban development. However, with a change of administration, this project never came to fruition.

Moreover, despite these instances of increased attention to urban affairs at the national level, the obstacles to the elaboration of a NUP in practice seem intractable. Provincial protectiveness towards perceived encroachments by the federal government is one persistent impediment, while the federal government itself has a disincentive in pursuing such coordination to avoid future demands on federal resources by municipalities with large financial needs.

However, international policy learning may convince Canadians and their governments that the creation of a NUP must become a genuine national priority. A federal state such as Germany has been able to achieve high levels of coordination through its development and implementation of a NUP. Moreover, the lack of central coordination on urban affairs, and the problems this generates, such as a lack of municipal fiscal capacity and the disjointedness of federal, provincial and municipal interventions, seem to make the case that Canada is a country that would benefit from the development of an NUP.

Canada's complex state apparatus, however, does not lend itself easily to any national level interventions on urban affairs. Nevertheless,

the successful example of the German NUP demonstrates that a complex federal system is not an unsurmountable obstacle. In 2015, urban affairs were once again on the national agenda during the elections, and the newly elected liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has recommitted the federal government to a new deal for cities,

3.2 Czech Republic: Beyond a Diagnostic

The Principles of Urban Policy were drafted by the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, and acknowledge the need for an overarching urban policy to link sectoral policies. Although a comprehensive national urban policy has not been drafted in the Czech Republic, the Principles of Urban Policy is meant to act as an initiator of the development of such a policy in the post 2013 re-drafting period. The Principles of Urban Policy provide an extensive overview of both the state of urbanization in the Czech Republic and urban policy in Europe. It is an interesting review of the challenges of urbanization in the Czech Republic and of EU guidance and policy, which end in a reflective set of principles to guide Czech urban development.

While not a national urban policy, the Principles of Urban Policy provide an excellent example of what can be produced in the preparatory stages of NUP formation; that is, the crucial diagnostic phase. This document is especially interesting in that it was prepared to lay the foundation for a future NUP, yet also has an important function on its own. It was elaborated through a consideration of both internal urban challenges and EU requirements, not only to prepare for the creation of a NUP, but also to serve as a guide in the interim for other policies framing a government-approved approach to urban areas. It therefore provided a framework for the governmental urban objectives determined through research. While the NUP diagnostic phase could commonly be thought of as a transitory phase which only serves to generate and bring together data to be used in the following formation phase, this illustrates how the diagnostic phase can lead to the definition of core urban issues, and of the guiding principles to address these problems in the NUP.



Prague, Czech Republic © Roman Boed

Two interesting lessons for this first phase of the NUP process therefore emerge from the Czech experience:

- Firstly, it highlights the opportunity to generate a number of core principles from which a broader policy can be developed. While diagnosis certainly involves data collection, further analysis to identify key urban goals, problems or principles for urban development is beneficial during the progression to the formulation stage.
- Secondly, it brings about the recognition of the diagnostic phase as more than simply a transitory, data-collection phase. The length of time needed to successfully complete the NUP process is different in each country and is dependent on various factors, such as political will or financial capacity. In the case of the Czech Republic, it was determined that, even though urban affairs were a priority, the introduction of the national urban policy in the middle of a programme period would not be beneficial. Therefore, while serving as an important diagnostic tool, the Principles of Urban Policy also offered guidance in the interim. This illustrates the reality that all stages of the NUP are interconnected and can and should be adapted to the local context. The Czech case demonstrates that the diagnostic phase can be used as an excellent tool to drive the NUP process forward.

3.3 Germany: Formulation with Collaboration

Germany is a state that, with its complex federal system, might initially seem unlikely for the development of an innovative and coherent NUP. In reality, it has emerged as a regional leader in this area. While the country's National Urban Development Policy continues to be under ongoing development, analysis indicates a substantial degree of buy-in across a wide social and governmental spectrum for its core principles (building civil society, with citizens involved in their city; creating opportunities and preserving social cohesion; making the innovative city a driver of economic development; building the city of tomorrow that will be effective in combating climate change and assuming global responsibility; improving urban design; and urban enhancement through regionalization)

Germany's federal system is complex, with three of the country's 16 states being cities (Berlin, Bremen, and Hamburg) and the remaining 13 states divided between old and new Länder as a result of the former Cold War division of the country, which also marks a divide in levels of economic strength and prosperity. Cities themselves also have differential levels of economic health and societal coherence. Nevertheless, the NUP was brought into effect in 2007 despite such complications and has prompted considerable progress towards its six core principles.

Part of the explanation lies in the role of the “Red-Green” federal coalition government of 1998-2005, which succeeded in making the social, economic and environmental development of cities a priority on the national agenda, transcending partisan politics. This broad-based commitment to urban issues also has its roots in German history. Because of the destruction caused during the Second World War for instance, reconstruction and urban regeneration was a national preoccupation. Later, with the reunification of 1990, the urgent need to address East-West disparities encompassed urban policies.

The German case also shows the importance of patiently building a national consensus during the formulation phase, or at least as much of a consensus as complex country dynamics will allow. One of the distinctive features of the German case study is its formation of a National Urban Development Policy Board. While individual projects will typically have their own stakeholder involvement structures at a more local level, the overall National Urban Development Policy Board includes representatives of a wide variety of stakeholders, including all levels of government, architects, planners, engineers, chambers of commerce, property-owners, tenants, craft associations, the construction industry and retailers. Civil society groups represented on

the board include major churches as well as cultural, social and environmental associations, while the board is also rounded out by several distinguished individuals with academic and other forms of expertise in relevant areas. Board members provide a broad oversight of the NUP, though specific administration, monitoring and evaluation (as in the case of the programme noted above) would be the responsibility of specific offices, frequently those of the federal government. The Policy Board constitutes an excellent forum for discussion at all stages of the NUP process, particularly when building consensus during the formulation stage which, as demonstrated through other case studies, is of paramount importance.

The German case shows clearly not only that a federal system is compatible with a NUP when the right conditions of national consensus and commitment exist, but also that the use of a board or committee for a NUP can be a powerful tool throughout the NUP process, particularly when building consensus during the formulation stage. In the German case, the collaboration among the various levels of government and diverse stakeholders that made the launch of the National Urban Development Policy possible in 2007 has subsequently become a hallmark of the active development of the policy through many programmes and projects.



Munich, Germany © Klaas Brumann

3.4 Ireland: Considerations for Implementation

Ireland does not have an explicit NUP, although it has had key policy documents that bear directly on urban questions. Specifically, these include the National Development Plan (NPD) and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) (Government of Ireland, 2000; 2002; 2007). In February 2013, the Irish Government announced the suspension of the NSS, and that it would be replaced by a new policy “in about a year”. Today Ireland prepares to launch a public consultation on a new National Planning Framework. This framework will last until 2040 and has been presented as having learnt from the mistakes of the NSS, which selected a limited number of towns on which to concentrate development efforts. The new framework will still aim to balance growth throughout the country and stop rural decline, taking into consideration future demographic changes such as an ageing population and demographic increase (Radio Telefís Éireann, 2017). In the meantime, the NSS and its principles continue to be on many government and others’ websites and continue to be cited there as policy. Nevertheless, the suspension was not met with much surprise.

The Irish National Trust said: “The original NSS from 2002 has been allowed to completely fail and must be reviewed with clear, forward-looking evidence based policy choices. However,

of even greater importance, is the reform of Ireland’s obsolete local governance structures” (The National Trust for Ireland, 2012; p.4).

For this report, the implementation challenges provide excellent lessons for future NUP development. Implementation of the overall strategy has been characterized by inconsistencies. The most important was the internal lack of support that the policy garnered within the Irish Government from the beginning, which therefore set the stage for an unwillingness amongst policymakers to put it into action. A lack of internal consensus meant that policies implemented after the NSS conflicted with the intended results of the NSS, thus undermining the policy.

Moreover, the implementation planning of the NSS left much responsibility with the regional and local tiers of government to develop local-level plans that would adhere to, and act as the implementation arm of the NSS. This raised several issues that the government failed to resolve. Although national in form, the NSS is essentially regional in implementation. The “regions” were made up of counties, which, alone, could not provide the economic drive and planning support that was necessary for the project and did not have the institutional connections to make unified actions. The main problem, therefore, was to delegate large responsibilities for the implementation to local governments that lacked the capacity to fulfil them.



Temple Bar, Dublin © René Silvio H.

The Irish case provides an excellent learning experience for the implementation phase of the NUP process. Two key lessons can be highlighted:

- Firstly, the case illustrates the crucial importance of consensus in government, especially in terms of urban affairs, which are inevitably cross cutting (horizontally and vertically). The failure of the NSS implementation illustrates one possible result when full support is not assured. Taking the time, therefore, to gain full support for a NUP is of paramount importance and will not only ensure the longevity of the policy but also drive the harmonization of other policies, so that they are coherent with the overarching goals of the NUP, rather than potentially undermining them.
- Secondly, this case also demonstrates the importance of having the necessary capacity in all tiers of government prior to the full implementation of the NUP. Lacking such capacity can result in the inability of lower-level governments to implement the policy – or in a limited implementation based on what they believe they have the capacity to achieve – which leads to an implementation gap between the declared objectives of the strategy and the actual realizations. Moreover, it highlights the importance of a well-conceived devolution process, which is essential when a NUP attributes responsibilities to lower levels of

government. Therefore, a proper capacity assessment of all levels of government and a well-planned and executed devolution process prior to implementation are both elements of the NUP process that must be allocated enough time and resources to be properly performed, otherwise the success of the policy itself is at risk.

3.5 The United Kingdom: A National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The United Kingdom has a long history of urban policy initiatives. From the 1980s the focus of urban policy was property and market driven. Urban policies of that time were developed with the hope that economic benefits in these areas would trickle down to deprived populations. However, in the 1990s and 2000s, urban policy shifted from market-driven interventions to a focus on disadvantaged groups at the neighbourhood level. Urban policy then contained both economic and social regeneration goals. With the development of the Regional Development Agencies in 1998, the government aimed to reconcile regional disparities. However, these agencies were disbanded in 2012 and policy shifted to promoting local economic growth through local economic partnerships and to devolve certain powers to English cities through city deals.



Manchester, UK © Stacey MacNaught

Despite the wide range of approaches to urban policy, urban development and regeneration strategies in the United Kingdom have not always achieved their intended objectives. The end of the 1990s saw a government acknowledgment of past urban regeneration and urban policy failures: "There have been many initiatives aimed at tackling the broader problems of poor neighbourhoods from the 1960s onwards... all tried new approaches and all had some successes. But none really succeeded in setting in motion a virtuous circle of regeneration, with improvements in jobs, crime, education, health and housing all reinforcing each other" (Social Exclusion Unit, 1998, p.4). New policies and evaluation processes followed, promising a more holistic approach to regeneration – reasoning that 'joined-up problems' had never been addressed in 'joined-up ways'" (Tiesdell and Allmendinger, 2010; p.263).

Evaluation was expected to play a key role in reform of British urban policy. The 2003 document released by HM Treasury, "The Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government", and the 2004 follow-up document, which focused specifically on evaluation for spatial projects, "Assessing the Impacts of Spatial Interventions: Regeneration, Renewal, and Regional Development, The 3R's Guidance", released by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, offer guidance on how best to evaluate urban regeneration strategies. The UK Parliamentary Committee on Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions (2003) declared that "there is a widespread consensus on the importance of early, persistent and rigorous evaluation of regeneration initiatives" (UK Parliament, 2003). The use of indicator-based approaches to the evaluation of urban regeneration therefore gained currency in the United Kingdom due to its ability to give a clear, quantitative picture of the performance and cost-effectiveness of specific programmes (Hemphill et. al., 2004). The 2003 Green Book on Policy Evaluation, and the 3R's Guidance of

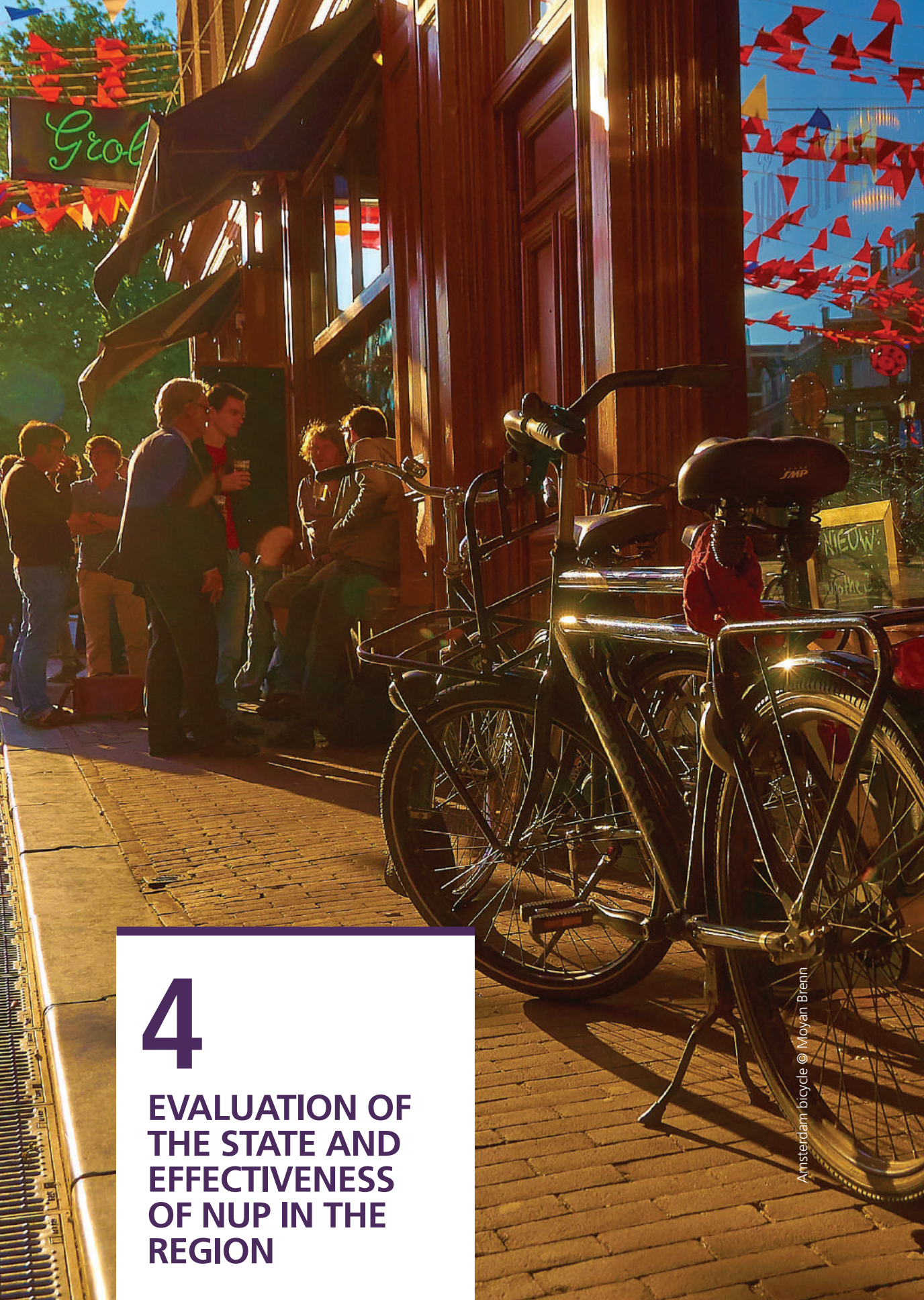
2004 together form the foundation of the United Kingdom's governmental approach on evaluation of public policy and urban regeneration strategies. Although this commitment to monitoring and evaluation in the United Kingdom was certainly positive, measurability criteria have created the tendency for government guidance "to ignore indicators that required a more subjective or qualitative assessment, given that these tended to be more difficult to measure" (Hemphill et. al., 2004; p.750). Elements such as quality of life and beneficiary experience, which defy reduction to a numerical analysis, are at the same time, matters of genuine importance that are extremely difficult to compare according to "before" and "after" scenarios.

The case of the United Kingdom provides valuable lessons for the monitoring and evaluation phase of NUP:

- Commitment at the national level to monitoring and evaluation can mean that proper and thorough data collection can be undertaken prior to the implementation of an initiative or a policy. By promoting this at the national level through the provision of guidance, such as "The Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government", monitoring and evaluation procedures can be mainstreamed through government.
- Secondly, the provision of a second document, "Assessing the Impacts of Spatial Interventions: Regeneration, Renewal and Regional Development, The 3R's Guidance", highlights the need for monitoring and evaluation guidance that is dedicated particularly to the complexities of spatial interventions in urban areas.

Finally, the five case-study countries, when considered together, offer particularly valuable insights for the five different phases of a NUP, as the following table indicates:

Stage	Country	Notes
Making a case for NUP and policy learning	Canada	Problems with distribution of power and financial resources in the Canadian system have resulted in uneven urban growth and an uncoordinated approach to urban interventions. While Canada has often blamed its lack of national urban guidance on constitutional barriers, the evidence of successful NUP in other federal states (Germany and Australia) make Canada an excellent case for demonstrating the need for policy learning and benefits that can be brought from a NUP.
Diagnosis	Czech Republic	It is clear through looking at this case study that the diagnosis phase of the NUP can act as much more than a temporary, data collection stage. The Czech Republic demonstrates the important role that the diagnosis phase can take and the interconnected nature of all the NUP stages.
Formulation	Germany	The use of a board or committee that allows diverse stakeholders to interact during the NUP process is shown through the German case to be of paramount importance. Formulation of a policy can be difficult, as a variety of stakeholders and interests are engaged. Having a forum to facilitate dialogue is an excellent way to ensure that consensus is built.
Implementation	Ireland	Ireland's case study illustrates possible challenges in implementation and should be considered when preparing a NUP for implementation. The building of consensus and ensuring a complete devolution of necessary powers to lower levels of government, as well as the completion of a capacity assessment at all levels, are all important considerations for successful implementation.
Monitoring and Evaluation	United Kingdom	With its directive on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of spatial projects, the United Kingdom is unique in its approach to M&E. Though it was demonstrated through the case study that how evaluation should be undertaken is debatable, overall it should be noted that having government taking the lead in M&E through specialized guidance will only benefit NUP moving forward.



4

EVALUATION OF THE STATE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NUP IN THE REGION

As noted above, there exist significant variations in the state of development, in implementation progress, and in perceived and actual effectiveness of national urban policy in the Eastern and Western European and North American region. Nevertheless, certain recurring themes and lessons stand out.

First, the region is characterized by a strong commitment to urban policy-making at the national level. While this is not always expressed in the form of explicit NUPs, the existence of documents such as national and regional development plans in the region shows a belief – within a more general preoccupation with revitalization – in the need for sustainable growth and growth management in the region, and offers a useful entry point to promoting discussion of future NUP formation.

Second, with respect to the European countries studied, the influence of the EU is marked and is complemented by a significant openness to transnational approaches to policy-making.

Thirdly, however, implementation continues to present substantial challenges, and these have been further complicated by government retrenchment following the 2008 recession. The steps to be taken towards further development of NUP in the region will clearly depend in part on the continuing global economic recovery, and on a consequent willingness of national governments to allocate resources to implementation of urban policy and alleviate the downloading of problems to regional/provincial and municipal authorities. Assuming that this return to economic and political health will take

place, important lessons and insights – as set out in the conclusions and recommendations below – may be derived from this study as guidance for the further development of NUP.

A further crucial consideration, however, concerns the time required for the creation of a NUP. Among selected case studies, there were differences in the amount of time taken to produce the policy, with varying results. The Irish NSS was produced between January 2000 and November 2002. Although this was a relatively short period and so was economical with time, the policy eventually lacked the support it needed internally and suffered from lack of capacity at the regional and local levels, prompting a question about whether it could have benefited from a longer elaboration. The Czech Republic, on the other hand, has had a much slower process. The Principles of Urban Policy, an output from a diagnostic phase, were adopted by the government in 2010, yet there was no plan to move to a subsequent phase until 2013. As outlined above, there were positive repercussions from this decision, and yet even after 2013, there does not seem to be any discernible move to advance the agenda. This raises the question of a need for momentum in the process and the possibility that an extended stalling period may be detrimental. What is clear, however, is that the time to produce the policy is heavily contextual and dependent on factors that will differ in each case, such as political will, financial capability and existing capacity in the country. Therefore, the lessons to be drawn from this study must be adapted in each country to conform to the opportunities and constraints that determine optimum time scales.

5

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Overall, the study of this region presents a variety of approaches to urban policy. It is difficult to isolate national urban policy characteristics on a regional level. Due to the variation in political and historical backgrounds between countries in the region, there is a variety of experiences with urban policy and of stages at which countries find themselves. In such a diverse region, regional characteristics could be difficult to identify. However, as detailed above, a number have emerged:

- A healthy interest across the region in urban policy at the national level in a variety of forms.
- A broader look at urban policy reveals the widespread existence of national and regional development plans in the region.
- The region also shows trends of policies promoting, as one of the core goals, balanced regional development and going even further to limit growth of major cities.
- In Western Europe, there is a trend towards isolated national level strategies and policies that focused on revitalization as a main goal.
- Lastly, the regional analysis has shown several examples of countries that have encountered serious challenges in the implementation phase of their policies, resulting in a perceived lack of impact.

What can also be highlighted is the general influence of the European Union on development of urban policy in the region (excluding North American case study countries). There is a clear recognition of the importance of urban policy in the region, visible at both supranational and national levels. Urban health and sustainability are goals that can command wide support, although varying circumstances and political

and economic constraints mean that this degree of transnational consensus is not necessarily reflected in the explicit or effective building of NUP.

Finally, the importance of policy learning is demonstrated in the cross-border experience in Ireland, in the influence of EU guidance in the Czech case, and in the role of Germany in facilitating the Leipzig Charter and then building its own NUP on this foundation. Facilitating policy sharing and policy learning is key to moving forward with more sophisticated NUP on a global basis. While each state has its own distinctive approach to policy, and its own degree of commitment to goals affecting urban health and sustainability, there is a measure of agreement among all that these are important outcomes.

As always when considering policy transfer, weight must also be given to the influence of particular historical and political circumstances in varying states. Case studies certainly demonstrate the importance of these variables. For example, whereas in Germany, recent historical trends worked strongly in favour of the development of NUP, in Canada the opposite has been true. These are both federal states, but their particular contexts are very different. Similarly, in the unitary states of Ireland, the Czech Republic and (allowing for the variations arising from devolution) the United Kingdom, there are again differences that affect such diverse considerations as the nature of the policy-making process and the extent to which stakeholder involvement has traditionally been welcomed and encouraged. In reviewing the regional overview and case studies, and considering all of these variations, conclusions certainly reinforce the need, in any case where NUP is being contemplated, for a period of patient building of political will.

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ANNEX: COUNTRY PROFILES, REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

Country Name	State of NUP
Albania	Albania is one of Eastern Europe's poorest countries and has significant work to do to formalize urban policy and processes. In general, Albania's urban policy has been created and implemented in an ad hoc way and on an as-needed basis. There is no national guidance on urban policy. The country has been working closely with the World Bank and other organizations to formalize urban policy, particularly in the areas of land management and real estate and urban legislation, in order to strengthen planning policy and implementation and enforcement mechanisms.
Andorra	Andorra's policies affecting urbanization remain quite sectoral as it does not have an explicit NUP. It does have, however, a Ministry of Territorial Planning.
Armenia	The republic of Armenia directs urban affairs at the national levels, through two main documents: the General Resettlement Project (GRP) and the Project on Spatial Planning (PSP). The GRP, developed in 2003 and regularly updated, inherits the planning tradition of the Soviet era, with the distribution and resettlement of production capacities. It outlines the strategic directions of spatial development in the country based on its socio-economic development priorities and plans, with the objectives of a safe and healthy habitat, sustainable development of settlements and preservation of natural, historic and cultural heritage,; as well as limitation of the expansion of major urban areas. The PSP applies the directions of the GRP for the spatial planning of the regions.
Austria	There is no national level urban policy in Austria. Most urban development and urban renewal schemes happen at the local level, as opposed to the national or regional. There are examples of sectoral policies that are co-funded by different levels of government, such as the transportation policy, Integrated Transport Service and Tariff Systems, which is co-funded by the national government and by local governments. There is no federal ministry that deals with urban affairs, as urban policy or spatial planning are not recognized constitutionally, meaning that the majority of policies dealing with urban areas are sectoral. However, it did develop a voluntary strategic planning instrument: the Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK 2011), which covers urban areas; and developed an Austrian Agglomeration policy. It is led by the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) and aims to strengthen horizontal and vertical cooperation within government, as well as the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, and focuses on areas such as regional and national competitiveness; social diversity and solidarity; climate change adaptation and resource efficiency; and cooperative and efficient governance.

Azerbaijan	Urban development in Azerbaijan is supported by the Asian Development Bank, and its Urban Operational Plan 2012-2020. In 2016, a National Urban Assessment workshop was organized in Baiku by the ADB to identify strategic priorities for regionally balanced urbanization to support the delivery of the government of Azerbaijan’s vision document: Azerbaijan 2020.
Belarus	The Ministry of Architecture and Construction in Belarus directs urban growth and development. The State Scheme of the Territorial Organization of the Republic of Belarus is the key policy document that works to direct urban growth from the national level. The scheme supports planning at the territorial level and dictates priorities for the medium and long terms. It is, however, not the only policy document that exists that attempts to direct urban growth. The National Housing Programme, adopted in 1999 and the National Concept for the Development of Towns and Cities in the Republic of Belarus, the National Action Plan for the Development of Towns and Cities in the Republic of Belarus up to the year 2000, and the National Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Belarus are other documents which, over time, have been implementing change in Belarusian urban areas.
Belgium	At the national level, in 2000, the Belgian government launched the Federal Big City Policy (Grootstedenbeleid / Politique des Grandes Villes). The policy is implemented through contracts with cities, which have a wide range of objectives: neighbourhood regeneration, climate change, housing upgrades, etc. In addition to this national policy, each of the three regions has its own regional urban policies, which also have broad aims: to foster innovation, to build partnerships between the regional and local governments, create jobs, regenerate urban areas, etc.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The completely decentralized political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with two independent entities – the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – makes the formation of a national urban policy difficult. In 2007, the Republic of Srpska adopted a spatial Plan to guide its spatial development while the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a spatial plan. There are, unfortunately, no strong enforcement mechanisms for planning legislation, and the private sector is more in control of development than the public sector. Decline in building standards and lack of adherence to building and design codes are problems.
Bulgaria	Bulgaria has a network of policies that relate to urban and regional development. In 2005, in conjunction with UNDP, the government produced the National Strategy and Action Plan on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion in Urban Areas. In 2005 the National Regional Development Strategy was produced, which emphasized sustainable urban development, cultural heritage protection and the redevelopment of industrial areas and housing in deprived neighborhoods. The operational programme “Regions of Growth” 2014-2020 followed on the operational programme “Regional Development” 2007-2013, which identified urban development as one of the five key axes for development. Of Particular focus was economic development and job creation in cities as well as housing redevelopment in disadvantaged areas. Finally, the National Program for Development in Bulgaria: 2020 was adopted in 2012. Despite the numerous national strategies, there is not one that deals exclusively with urban development.

Canada	<p>According to the Constitution Act of 1982, both local government and land-use planning are the domains of the provincial governments, in Canada, putting limitations on the amount of influence the federal government has directly in urban areas. The federal government has more influence, however, in sectoral areas, such as monetary policy, economic policy, and housing (through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), which are in the federal domain. Canada, therefore, has no national urban policy, and the last unified federal action on urban affairs was the 2001 Prime Minister’s Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues. Certain federal institutions were also established regarding cities such as the Cities Secretariat within the Privy Council office, which was subsequently combined with Infrastructure Canada, as well as a governmental External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities. In 2004/05, New Deals for cities and communities were developed to ensure better funding to the local level and greater coordination among governmental levels. Despite this lack of explicit NUP, it has been argued that the Canadian Federal Government implements an implicit NUP by directing urban growth through sectoral policies (Bourne and Simmons, 2003; p. 37), although there exists neither an implicit nor an explicit NUP, and there is no urban growth strategy.</p>
Croatia	<p>No explicit NUP exists in Croatia. The Physical Planning Strategy and Programme of the Physical Plans aim to tackle a severe housing problem by contributing to cultural and historical heritage restoration, repair or reconstruction of destroyed and damaged buildings, living environment improvement, development of public space and the improvement of technical infrastructure. Implementation of urban projects is carried out at the regional and municipal levels.</p>
Cyprus	<p>Cyprus has had a long history of urban planning regulation at the national level, first established in the 1940’s under British rule. Today, the Cyprus government has a Town Planning and Housing department and elaborated in 1982 a Town and Country Planning Act, still applied today. Its urban policies and projects are often done in collaboration with the European Union.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>The Czech Republic has a network of urban development policies: the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic up to 2013, the National Strategic Reference Framework of the Czech Republic 2007–2013, the Sustainable Development Strategic Framework, the Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic 2008, and in other sectoral policies. The “Principles of Urban Policy” was drafted by the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, acknowledging the need for an overarching urban policy to link sectoral policies. The principles acknowledged the need for integrated actions between sectors, saying that “isolated actions seeking to solve a local problem are very often misguided and generally displace the negative effects being tackled to another location. It is therefore necessary to prepare and implement more comprehensive strategies facilitating the coordination of specific activities by ministries, regions and towns.” Although a comprehensive National Urban Policy has not been drafted in the Czech Republic, the “Principles of Urban Policy” is meant to act as an initiator of the development of this policy in the post 2013 re-drafting period.</p>

Denmark	<p>Under the national-level Planning Act, municipalities are required to develop an urban development plan and accompanying local plans. At the national level, urban development is overseen by the Urban Committee, which was formed in 1993 and brings together representatives from all the various ministries that operate in the urban sphere. The Ministry of Urban Affairs was formed in 1998 but abolished in 2001. In October 2010, a national level strategy entitled “Ghetto Strategy” (ghetto-strategi) was enacted in 29 programme areas. The projects were aimed mostly at the housing sector (improving housing stock, providing greater diversity in housing options), and also projects in social integration. In 2015, it also established the Danish Act on Urban Renewal and Urban Development, guiding municipalities in their efforts for urban and housing policy.</p>
Estonia	<p>Estonia does not have an explicit NUP, urban affairs are encompassed in its Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020, it addresses issues such as demographic concentration in large cities and the decline of secondary cities through four main goals: providing opportunities in both larger and smaller urban centres, international competitiveness of cities through innovation and attractive living environments, optimising regional resources and specializations; increasing connectedness and cooperation among regions. It replaces the previous Regional Development Strategy 2005-2015, whose main objectives were similar, but insists more strongly on cooperation within urban governance, and promoting country centres as engines for regional development. The previous strategy also announced the development of a NUP, but it was not carried out.</p>
Finland	<p>The interdepartmental Finnish Committee for Urban Policy, is a national level committee which is responsible for strengthening networks and partnerships between different levels of government, providing coordinated approaches to urban development, and monitoring programme implementation. From 2008 to 2011 there was a national programme implemented, the Lähiöohjelma, which worked in partnership with local governments to facilitate district revitalization. The Finnish government also established Urban growth agreements with local governments to foster economic growth and increase the competitiveness of participating cities. Another national level policy focused on cities is the Innovative Cities Programme (INKA, 2014-2017) which aims to generate new business and new companies to foster employment. There are also a number of other sectoral programmes which operate in urban areas in Finland: a metropolitan policy (Metropolipolitiikka / Suurten kaupunkiseutujen), for example, which was launched in 2007 by the Ministry of the Interior. It has a wide-ranging mandate, dealing with issues such as economic competitiveness, urban land-use planning, municipal housing policy, and segregation. Furthermore, as most urban areas in Finland are relatively small, the regional level is very important and has a number of regionally specific policies, such as Regional Centre Programme, which focus specifically on the competitiveness of regional areas.</p>

France

National urban development in France is guided by the “Politique de la Ville,” which was first established in the 1980s, but most recently updated in February 2014. This document focuses mainly on deprived areas and the reduction of inequalities. The policy is implemented through the Contrats Urbains de Cohésion Sociale, which are contracts for limited terms between the government and municipalities, the latter implementing the projects. It focuses around three pillars: the development of economic activities and employment; social cohesion; and living conditions and urban renewal. The General Commission for Territorial Equality is a national body advising and supporting the government in the design and implementation of the policy. The monitoring of the Politique de la Ville is carried out by the Observatoire National de la Politique de la Ville. Other agencies operating in the urban sphere include the Agence Nationale pour la Rénovation Urbaine, and Agence Nationale pour la Cohésion Sociale et l’Egalité des Chances, which deal with urban regeneration and urban social cohesion respectively.

Germany

In 2007, in response to the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, Germany released the memorandum entitled “Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany that defines a national policy approach to urbanization in Germany”. It highlighted six key areas of work: civil society: focusing on actively engaging with citizens in their city; social city: creating opportunities and preserving cohesion; innovative city: focusing on developing cities as drivers of economic development; climate protection and global responsibility; building culture and improving urban design; regionalisation: focusing on the region as a critical part of the city’s future. It then led to the Papenburg Declaration on National Urban Policy (2007) . This joint initiative between the federal, state and local levels serves as both a framework and a communication platform, attempting to engage a wide variety of stakeholders. There is a committee dedicated to monitoring this policy that is directly under the Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development.

Greece

Law 4269/2014 “Spatial and Urban Planning Reform – Sustainable Development” replaces Law 2508/97 and provides the new legal framework for sustainable growth in Greek cities. It has a broad mandate, which covers environmental concerns, housing, cultural preservation, etc. Law 4280/2014 “Environmental Improvement and Private Urban Planning – Sustainable Development – Regulation of Forest Legislature and Further Provisions” further details the provisions for urban planning and land use. Although there is not a national urban policy, regional plans and city plans are used as the implementation tools for these goals. The Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works is at the head of urban projects and is responsible particularly for the monitoring of urban renewal programmes. European initiatives, such as URBAN II, have generated more scope for national level projects, particularly in deprived areas, but it remains true that there is no national level urban policy.

Hungary	<p>In Hungary, each of the 3, 200 towns and cities has a local government with governing rights based on the 2007 Law on Local Governments, making each one relatively autonomous and funded by their own tax base. An over-arching NUP is currently under preparation: the National Settlement Policy. In the meantime, the central government provides general principles for urban policy through the National Development and Territorial Development Concept (2014-2030). There are other, smaller sectoral policies, such as the Law on Shaping and Protecting the Built Environment (Act LXXVIII, 1997) and the Law on Spatial Development and Physical Planning (Act XXI, 1996), but these laws are not well integrated or connected.</p>
Iceland	<p>Iceland does not have a national urban policy, but regional development is guided at the national level through the “Iceland 2020 – governmental policy statement for the economy and community”. It aims to strengthen municipalities, and suggests the elaboration of a specific policy for the Reykjavik area, under the Ministry of the Interior and a special regional planning framework for the southwest region, overseen by the Ministry for the Environment.</p>
Ireland	<p>Ireland enacted Urban Renewal Schemes in the five major urban areas in 1985, and the extension of this programme, the new Urban Renewal Scheme of 1999, was finally implemented in 5 cities and 38 towns. In 2002, the government launched the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020. The strategy targets social, economic, and physical challenges in cities and towns. The three main aims of this strategy are (1) to balance regional importance (too much emphasis on Dublin) (2) to develop cooperation and partnerships between cities and in regions and (3) to focus on infrastructural development. Ireland is also currently developing a national planning framework that will include objectives for urban areas, and focus on the following themes: maximizing the potential of cities, towns and rural areas to be successful, sustainable places; identifying infrastructural priorities; transitioning to a low- carbon society; and ensuring the resilience of natural resources and cultural assets.</p>
Italy	<p>Italy has no national level urban policy. Urban affairs are overseen at the national level by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Urban Policy, established in 2012 to address the issues of conflicts between institutional boundaries and planning activities; urban sprawl, territorial congestion and the need for efficient infrastructure; the maintenance and strategic management of recovery and renewal of the housing stock. Then a number of ministries address urban areas sectorally: Cer (National Housing Committee), the Dipartimento per il Coordinamento dello Sviluppo del Territorio (Department for the Coordination of Regional Development of the Ministry of Public Works) and the Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport). There have been a number of sectoral programmes working in urban development. Urban Italia (2001 – 2007) and Porti & Stazioni (since 2002) are examples of a newer generation of urban programmes that attempt to provide a broader approach. Both of these programmes have focuses on urban development in deprived neighbourhoods and infrastructure upgrading, but have both social and economic aspects as well.</p>

Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan does not have an explicit NUP, but urban affairs are addressed within the broader framework of its Regional Development Programme 2012-2020, which promotes a more equitable regional development and aims to increase living standards in the region by strengthening local economies and the responsibilities and capacities of local administrations. It is overseen by the Ministry of Regional Development and unites seven previous sectoral programmes. A particular challenge in the country is the existence of mono-cities, inherited from the planned economy of the Soviet era, which are particularly vulnerable and declining in the market economy, and whose economic base needs to be diversified.
Kosovo	With the support of UN- Habitat, Kosovo enacted the Law on Spatial Planning in 2003. UN-Habitat also supported the ministry in drafting the Kosovo Spatial Plan and those of all of Kosovo's municipalities. The Law on Spatial Planning was revised in 2008, and dictates that the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for the drafting of the new Spatial Plan of Kosovo and Spatial Plans for Special Areas. Municipalities are responsible for the creation of Municipal Development Plans and Urban Development Plans.
Latvia	Although no national level guidance exists, in order to be eligible for support from the European Regional Development Fund, cities must have in place an integrated local development strategy. Thirty-five municipalities are in the process of producing these. At the national level, there are two main strategic planning and development guidelines: the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia up to 2030 (SDSL) and the Latvian National Development Plan 2007–2013 (NDP). The Sustainable Development Strategy covers a wide variety of sectors, such as culture, education, health care, employment, infrastructure, and spatial development. The need for capacity building at all government levels and the development of strongly intergovernmental communications are both necessary before the successful implementation of a national strategy.
Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein does not have an explicit national urban policy. At the national level, urban affairs are principally managed by the Ministry for Infrastructure, Environment and Sport.
Lithuania	The Lithuanian Housing Strategy 2004 – 2020 was enacted in order to attempt to deal with the poor state of housing infrastructure in the country resulting from the privatization of housing the stock in the 1990s. The country has no national urban policy, but Vilnius, the capital, has various spatial plans: Vilnius City Strategic Plan 2002 – 2011 and the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of Vilnius City Municipality. Other cities, such as Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys and Šiauliai, also have similar plans. The lack of communication between government levels is an obstacle to planning in Lithuania, which states that “an integral strategic system of urban development should be developed, which could engage all the national institutions at all governmental levels, in charge for strategic and tactical objectives.” The level of interaction between major planning policies in the country, such as, the Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania and Long-term Development Strategy of the State, remain questionable.

Luxembourg	<p>Given the small size of its territory and its limited number of cities, Luxembourg does not have an explicit NUP, and urban areas are more generally managed within the larger context of spatial development. In this regard, the Ministry of the Interior and of Spatial Development provides an overarching sustainable urban development policy to be followed at all spatial and sectoral levels: the Programme d’Amenagement du Territoire, 2003. It promotes the development of dynamic attractive and competitive urban regions, the development of sustainable structures through diversification and increased density of use in urban areas, spatially balanced cities offering a high quality of life; partnerships between cities and rural areas and cooperation between municipalities. Aside from the ministry, a number of integrated national institutions assist in overseeing this policy: the Department for Spatial Development conducts studies for its implementation, the Inter-ministerial Committee of Spatial Development prepares decisions on sectoral plans, and the Superior Council of Spatial Development gives advice. In terms of urban planning, full autonomy is granted to municipalities by the constitution. Finally , Luxembourg also takes part in cross-border cooperation, particularly the Saarlortlux transnational quattropole urban network of the Grand Region.</p>
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	<p>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia does not have an explicit NUP, but the central government has produced a Spatial Plan of the Republic of Macedonia. The main ministries responsible are the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Transport and Communication. Its system still suffers from a lack of decentralization, citizen participation and harmonization of legal frameworks and by laws.</p>
Malta	<p>Urban policies in Malta are managed at the national level by the Malta Environment and Planning Agency, responsible for the implementation of the Environment Protection Act of 2001, and the Development Planning act of 1992.</p>
Moldova	<p>The Moldovan capital, Chisinau, is by far the country’s largest municipality, being 4.5 times larger than the next largest city in 2004. Chisinau, therefore, has its own plan, the General Plan of Chisinau’s Development un till 2020. There is also a Law on Urban Planning and Territory Arrangement Bases (1996) and a Concept of Sustainable Development of Settlements of the Republic of Moldova (2001), which acts as a part of the Regional Development Policy, controlled by the national government. No explicit NUP exists. To reduce the economic and social inequalities between Chisinau and the rest of the country, the government is developing “poles of growth” that are organized through the National Plan of Territorial Arrangement.</p>
Monaco	<p>As a city state, national urban policies are essentially national development policies for Monaco, which remain quite sectoral. It does have a Ministry of Public Works, the Environment and Urban Development, and is committed to a proactive policy for sustainable development.</p>

Montenegro	Montenegro inherits a tradition of central planning, and its policies relating to urbanization remain quite sectoral. The Directorate of Spatial Planning is responsible for the National Spatial Plan for Montenegro until 2020, established in 2002, and focuses on energy, infrastructure expansion and, tourism development.
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Netherlands	There have been a number of coordinated national level programmes in urban areas, although none currently qualifying to be a NUP. From 1994 to 2009 the national government ran the Grotestedenbeleid (Metropolitan) Programme, targeting deprived neighbourhoods in 27 cities. The programme aimed to increase decentralization while growing the capacity of local government and increasing participation. This programme was then replaced by the Wijkaanpak, which was intended to run until 2017 and was to focus on development in 40 deprived neighbourhoods around the country, but was interrupted when national government changed. The National Policy Strategy for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning (SVIR), released by the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in 2012, promotes the efficient use of space. Its accompanying Spatial Planning Decree (BRO) introduces a sustainable urbanization ladder for municipal decision-making. Today, the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, in partnership with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, is developing the Dutch Urban Agenda (Agenda Stad). This new document will include measures to boost economic growth, quality of life and innovation in Dutch cities, based on the following principles: eliminating obstacles to allow cities the resources and regulatory ability to grow, differentiate themselves and experiment with solutions; cooperating within and between urban areas to strengthen cities' international competitiveness and creating conditions for innovation that will improve quality of life and attract entrepreneurs.
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Norway	The governmental system in Norway is highly decentralized, and therefore most of the responsibility for urban development falls at the local level. There are examples of programmes, however, where different levels of government have coordinated successfully together. The 2007 – 2016 Groruddalssatsingen programme is directed at improving living conditions in the Grorud Valley, an area of Norway with particularly high levels of deprivation. The programme focuses on improving the quality of life of residents and is a joint implementation between the national government and the city of Oslo. The OECD Territorial Review of Norway stated that: "the lack of a comprehensive urban policy in Norway up until now, although certain traits of urban policy can be found in different policy tools, has not permitted to clearly bring forward the links between urban development and regional competitiveness." The Territorial Review also suggested that despite Norway's gains from programmes such as the Groruddalssatsingen, a more coordinated approach, such as a NUP, would make Norwegian cities and regions better placed in the global market.
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Poland	Poland established a NUP in 2015 until 2023, setting out the government's urban-policy related activities within the context of the National Development Strategy and the National Strategy for Regional Development. The new NUP aims to strengthen the capacity of cities and urbanized areas for sustainable development and create jobs, as well as improve the quality of life of its residents. It is addressed directly to national ministries and other government institutions, and indirectly to local tiers of governments, civil society and the private sector; and is intended to be implemented at the national regional and local levels. Previously, many other policy documents addressed urban development, including the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 in support of growth and jobs, and the National Cohesion Strategy, which guides EU structural fund spending.
Portugal	Portugal's NUP is "Sustainable Cities 2020" (Cidades Sustentaveis 2020), established in 2015 and providing national principles and guidelines for sustainable urban development. It is organized around four axes: smartness and competitiveness, sustainability and efficiency, inclusion and human capital, and place-based planning and governance. Financing and implementation are framed within the EU Partnership Agreement for the use of EU structural and investment funds. The NUP was produced by the Directorate General for Territorial Development (Direcção-Geral do Ordenamento do Território e Desenvolvimento Urbano), the national level coordinating body for urban affairs. The Institute of Housing and Urban Rehabilitation (Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana) implements housing and regeneration policies. Portugal also has a number of EU level urban initiatives such as the JESSICA Initiative, which has been operating in Portugal since 2009, and a wide range of European funded urban projects, such as Urban Environment Improvement programme (MCOTA), the Digital City Projects, and the Urban Rehabilitation Programme PRU.
Romania	Romania has a four-tier governing system: the national government, regional units, counties, and municipalities (and communes, which are essentially groups of linked villages). The main legislation for territorial and urban planning activities is the Territorial and Urban Planning Act (350/2001). Activities in this field are carried out at the national level by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, which deals with territorial and urban planning. There also exist a National Development Plan and a National Regional Development Plan, which are within the jurisdiction of the national government. The Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing is also active in planning, being in charge of spatial planning and policy. In addition, Regional Development Councils fund and direct the Regional Development Agencies which coordinate regional planning in the respective regions. Furthermore, municipalities have planning power, although it is sanctioned through the regions. This complex system results in inefficiency and suffers from problems with interagency communication.

Russian Federation	The Russian Federation is the largest territory of the region, and is highly urbanized (73,7%), with Moscow the capital comprising 11% of the urban population and bringing in 20% of the GDP. However, no comprehensive NUP of urban development framework exists at the federal level, and development is managed at a sectoral level rather than territorial.
San Marino	San Marino is a city state, in which territorial planning is managed by the Territory and Environment Department, responsible for the development, implementation, management and control of the General Town Planning Scheme.
Serbia	In 1996 Serbia enacted the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia. The follow up to this, the expressed Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2010 – 2014 – 2025, was launched in 2010 and is a legally binding document. Through the document, the government has the hope that it will be more than just a spatial plan, but will initiate broader reforms outside only the sphere of physical planning of areas such as governance and economic development. UN- Habitat has undertaken past projects in the country which were said to have resulted in “Improved national urban policy frameworks through legal, regulatory, institutional reform and the formulation of strategic programmes based on broad public consensus.” While having the Spatial Plan is positive, the 2010 plan is thought to be very similar to the 1996 Plan. The 1996 Plan is thought to have been relatively unsuccessful in achieving its goals and it is unclear how the 2010 plan will differ.
Slovakia	From 2004-2006 Slovakia had both a National Development Plan and a Community Support Framework, which were both developed in conjunction with the European Commission and the government to decide how to use European funds in communities. In 2008, the government developed a National Regional Development Strategy that aimed to provide a comprehensive strategy at the national level for promoting regional development in the country to help guide regions and municipalities in their growth. The National Regional Development Strategy provides national guidance, but not in a form that is exclusively urban. The country is currently developing an NUP: the Urban Development Strategy, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. Its main element will be a strategic, integrated and multi-governance approach in order to systematically support liveable and productive cities.
Slovenia	Slovenia has no all-encompassing urban policy, but there is a national level act which provides a framework for urban spatial development. The Spatial Planning Act was revised in 2007 and particularly includes goals in sustainable development and quality of life for residents. The Act emphasizes integrated urban development, including infill using brownfield sites. However, this is not the only act pertaining to urban matters. There is also the 2004 Spatial Development Strategy, which focuses on quality of life and improvement of residential areas, especially social housing. Spatial planning and regional development in Slovenia, however, are treated as two separate policy fields, with regional development carrying more weight. Regional Development Agencies are responsible for developing Regional Development Plans, which pertain mostly to local economic development and do not include spatial elements.

Spain	<p>Spain's new constitution in 1978 saw power decentralized from a central administration to seventeen autonomous regional units. Urban policy making, therefore, exists at the national, regional, and metropolitan levels. The country produced an NUP: the Spanish Strategy on Local Urban Sustainability (Estrategia Espanola de Sostenibilidad Urbana y Local) in 2011, providing general guidelines for six thematic areas: urban form and planning instruments; accessibility, mobility and sustainable transport; urban management, governance and citizen participation; building construction; mitigation and adaptation to climate change and urban-rural relationships. It also has strong sectoral policies which guide urban formation. The Housing Plan (2005) and the Land Policy are examples of these.</p>
Sweden	<p>Sweden is highly decentralized and local governments have a high level of responsibility for implementation of programmes. While the country does not explicitly have a NUP, there exist a large variety of policies directed at urban areas. The Storstadspolitiken programme, between 1998 and 2010, was a support programme joining the national level and local level governments, aimed at the integration of immigrant populations and increasing economic activity in deprived areas. From 2008 to 2010, the national government implemented a national strategy for integration. One major aim of this strategy was the minimisation of exclusion in urban areas. Another important national initiative is the National Platform for Sustainable Urban Development, launched in 2014. Its aim is to increase cooperation, coordination and sharing of knowledge and experience among players in different sectors and at different levels for sustainable development. Another initiative is the National Negotiation on Housing and Infrastructure, seeking to build the first high speed railway for trains between Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmo. For the most part, however, urban development is the responsibility of the municipalities and national involvement comes for the most part as funding.</p>
Switzerland	<p>The Federal Agglomeration Policy (Agglomerationspolitik des Bundes) from 2001 has been a coordinated approach from all levels of government that is focused on the economic competitiveness of cities and general quality of life for residents. It has been updated in 2015 for the next ten years: Federal Agglomeration Policy 2016+, and has been developed in parallel with the policy on rural space, with which it shares common strategies and tools. Its overarching objectives are: higher quality of life, higher economic attractiveness, quality urban developments, and efficient collaboration. Also, the second pilot phase of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Development II (NaQu II) project between 2009 to 2010 worked at the city level to develop web-based tools to be used to promote sustainable planning. Therefore, while there is no national urban policy, Switzerland has been making strides in providing a coordinated governmental approach to urbanization.</p>
Tajikistan	<p>Tajikistan has entered into a Country Partnership Strategy with the Asian Development Bank, which established a National Development Strategy 2016-2030 focused on energy security and efficiency, food security and economic diversification and competitiveness. In terms of urban development, the strategy insists on infrastructure development as part of an energy-transport-urban nexus,</p>

Turkey	National Urban Policy in Turkey is the Integrated Urban Development Strategy and Action plan 2010-2023, adopted in 2010. It aims to promote healthy, balanced and liveable urban areas and structural solutions for urbanization, along three main directions: a restructuring of the spatial planning system for increased coordination and capacity; improving the quality of space and life in settlements through transport, revitalization, social services, infrastructure, risk mitigation and cultural and natural preservation; and strengthening the social structures of settlements, including managing urban migration increasing urban solidarity, considering disadvantaged groups and encouraging citizen participation in the planning process.
Ukraine	Despite having minimal national level guidance on urban areas, Ukraine does currently have a State Strategy for Regional Development: 2020. This Regional Development Strategy is not directly urban-focused, and is mainly concerned with economic competitiveness. Those sections dealing with urban areas primarily see cities as ways of increasing national competitiveness and concentrate on the need for expanded infrastructure, including improved road and rail networks and provision of public transport.
United Kingdom	The UK has a long history of urban regeneration policy, but no explicit national urban policy. A large variety of policy instruments over the past 50 years have been used to combat the effects of deindustrialization and deprived areas in cities. The most recent policy approach by the coalition government favours a more decentralized style, focusing on local economic development and on people, rather than places. This is a direct offshoot of a feeling that decades of urban policy in the UK have led to little change or improvement and that instead, emphasis should be on people, and giving them the skills to improve their areas rather than on physical place. Emphasis, therefore, is on social capital and local social enterprise, and strengthening the connection between local and regional. Since 2011, it carries out the decentralization of urban policy through City Deals for English cities, for which the 2016 Cities and Local Government Devolution Act provided a more explicit legislative framework.
United States	The 2009 signing of Executive Order 13503, which established the White House Office of Urban Affairs, signalled the recognition by the federal government of the importance of urban areas to national success. Although there has been no establishment of an explicit NUP, there have been significant investments since 2009 in key areas that shape urban growth, thus establishing an implicit NUP framework. Key investment areas have been infrastructure, energy, housing, education, transportation, and urban security. Also, the previous administration had outlined its role in urban policy as leading, empowering, and maximising the power of metropolitan areas, and launched initiatives such as Strong Cities, Strong Communities to strengthen capacities; Partnership for Sustainable Communities, to coordinate federal housing, transportation, water and other infrastructure investments in neighbourhoods; the Neighbourhood Revitalization Initiative; the Choice Neighbourhood Programme; and Promise Zones.,



The focus of this report is to assess the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of National Urban Policy in Europe and North America, one of the most urbanized regions in the world, with a long and informative tradition of urban and territorial planning. Surveying the experience of countries throughout this region, and highlighting both minor and major case studies, the report emphasizes the diversity of national urban policy characteristics on a regional level, but also attempts to identify certain key regional characteristics.

This study highlights challenges, risks and opportunities for the development of National Urban Policies, defined by UN-Habitat as “a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term”. In doing

so, it still identifies innovative practices in terms of governance, stakeholder engagement and participation, supranational coordination, which all illustrate the crucial importance of consensus building and collaboration in the process of National Urban Policies. This report is a good reference for policy-makers, practitioners and academia and contribute to the elaboration of policies that enable and facilitate sustainable urban development.

The report is part of a series of five regional reports assessing the state of national urban policies that complement the Global State of National Urban Policies Report, conducted in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the OECD. These studies are timely, as they follow up on Habitat III and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development the role of National Urban Policies, and accompany the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy.

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