

# The European Union and urban development policies: a redefinition of the governance of cities?

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The examples of Paris, Berlin and Warsaw

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“We're not playing together. But then again, we're not playing against each other either. It's like the Nature Channel. You don't see piranhas eating each other, do you?”

*The Rounders, 1998*



Urban development is becoming a European issue, but the European Union has no formal competence in this field: a paradoxical situation.



Interministerial meeting to adopt the Leipzig Charter in 2007

Source : URBACT

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*How can a geographical approach lead to analyse this paradoxical European policy and its impact on the implementation of multi-level governance? To what extent is the urban dimension of the EU policy leading to a redefinition of governance methods within European cities?*

*As a result of the EU's involvement in this area, and despite its lack of competence, are the stakeholders in European urban development now playing together and not against each other in multi-level governance?*

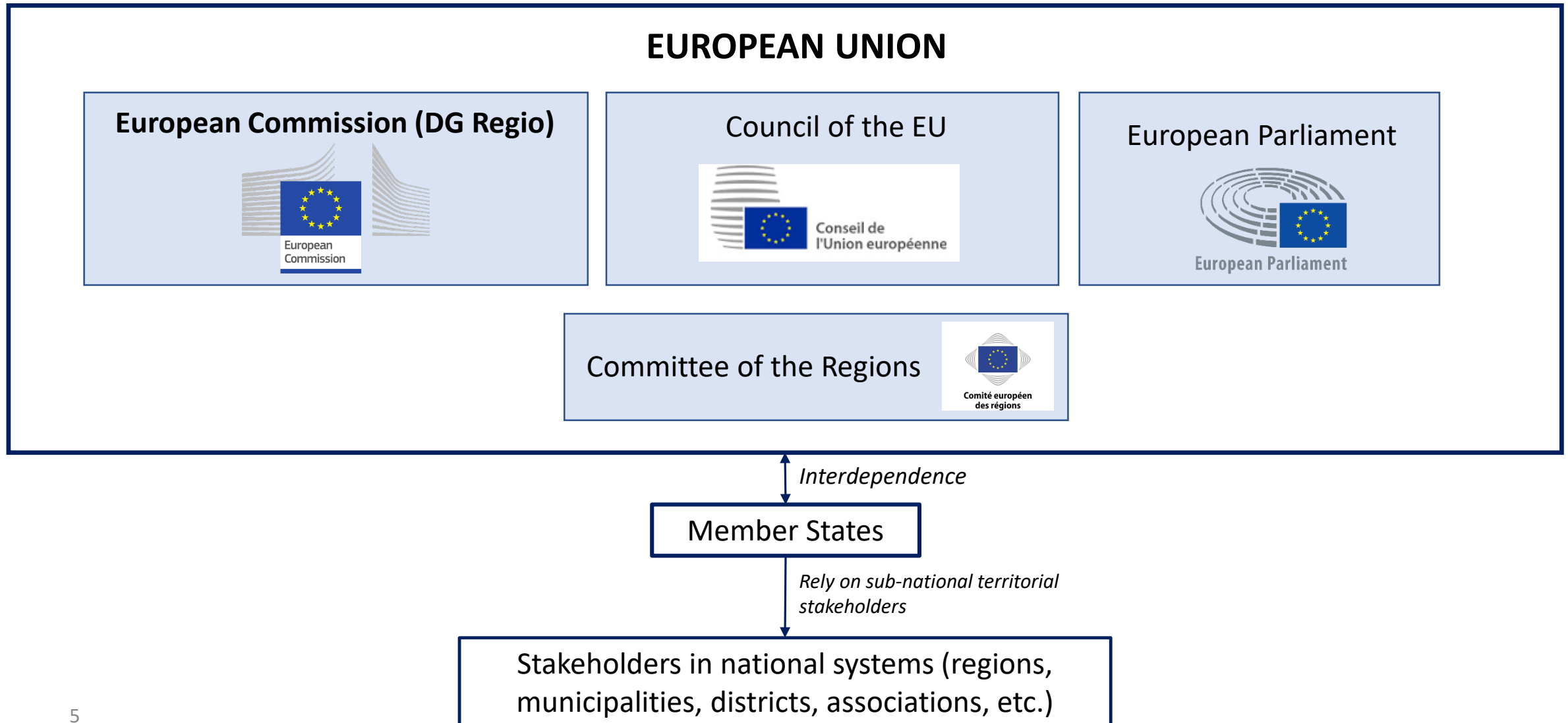
# The singular framework of the urban dimension of regional policy

*Subsidiarity: the structuring and ambiguous principle of European urban policies*

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- The principle of subsidiarity: Urban development remains a State competence and the national level is still central.
- An ambiguous principle, not only reaffirming the competences of the State, but also accepting that sometimes the European institutions have a role to play (Begg, 2008).
- The example of URBACT as an illustration of a new theoretical balance between different stakeholders - including the EU - is established: towards a multi-level governance.

# The singular framework of the urban dimension of regional policy



# The singular framework of the urban dimension of regional policy

## COHESION POLICY

The general framework for intervention:  
the Structural and Investment Funds

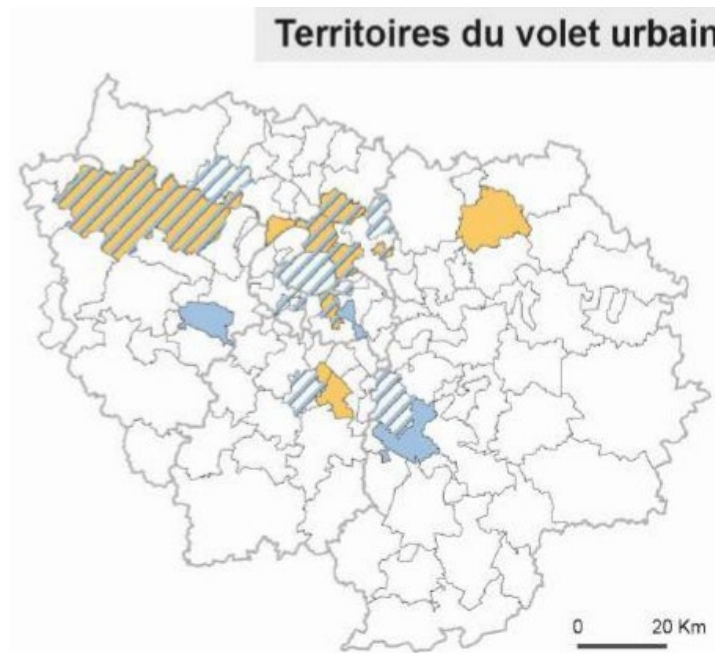


European Territorial Cooperation



# Political science and/or geography: what approach to the European urban dimension?

- Understanding European action in urban areas: an approach based on instruments (Lascoumes, Le Galès, 2011).
- A necessary use of political geography for the study of a territorialised policy : rethinking political concepts through the lens of political geography (Mboumoua, 2007; Boulineau, 2017).
- Analyzing the Europeanisation of the urban territories: the examples of the Integrated Territorial Investments.



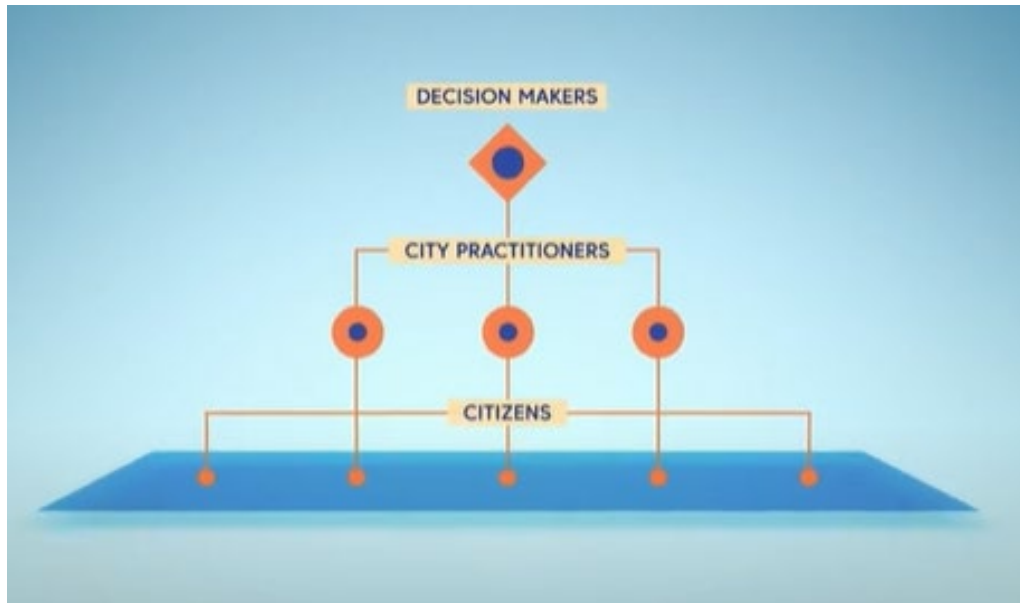
“Spatial distribution of the urban dimension of European cohesion policy since 2007 in Île-de-France”  
Source: Brice Laménie et Liliane Lizzi UMR Géographie Cités



Spatial distribution of the Integrated Territorial Investments –Warsaw  
Source : Strategy for the Integrated Territorial Investments  
for the Warsaw Functional Area 2014-2020+

# What the territory says about the European urban dimension

- The European urban dimension: an evolution in the balance of power between the actors involved, at different levels, leaving more room for local actors.
- Governance and territoriality: debating on the transformation of the State, with an analysis of the interplay between scales (Brenner, 1999; Pinson, 2021; Kahn, 2014).



Vertical integration in the URBACT programme  
Source: *Learn all about the URBACT method!*, URBACT

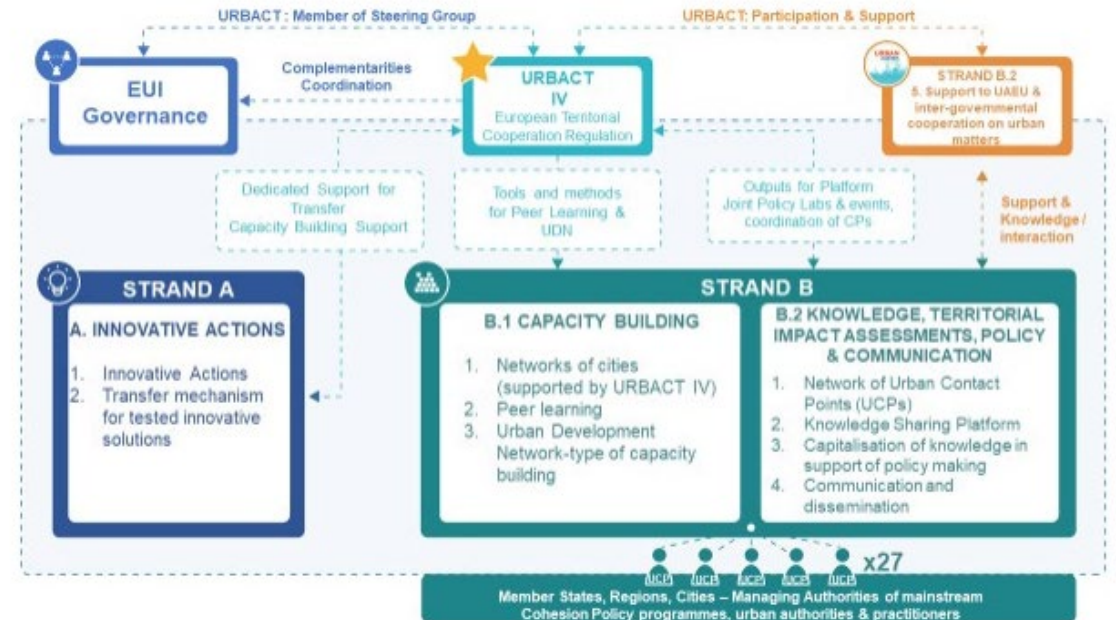
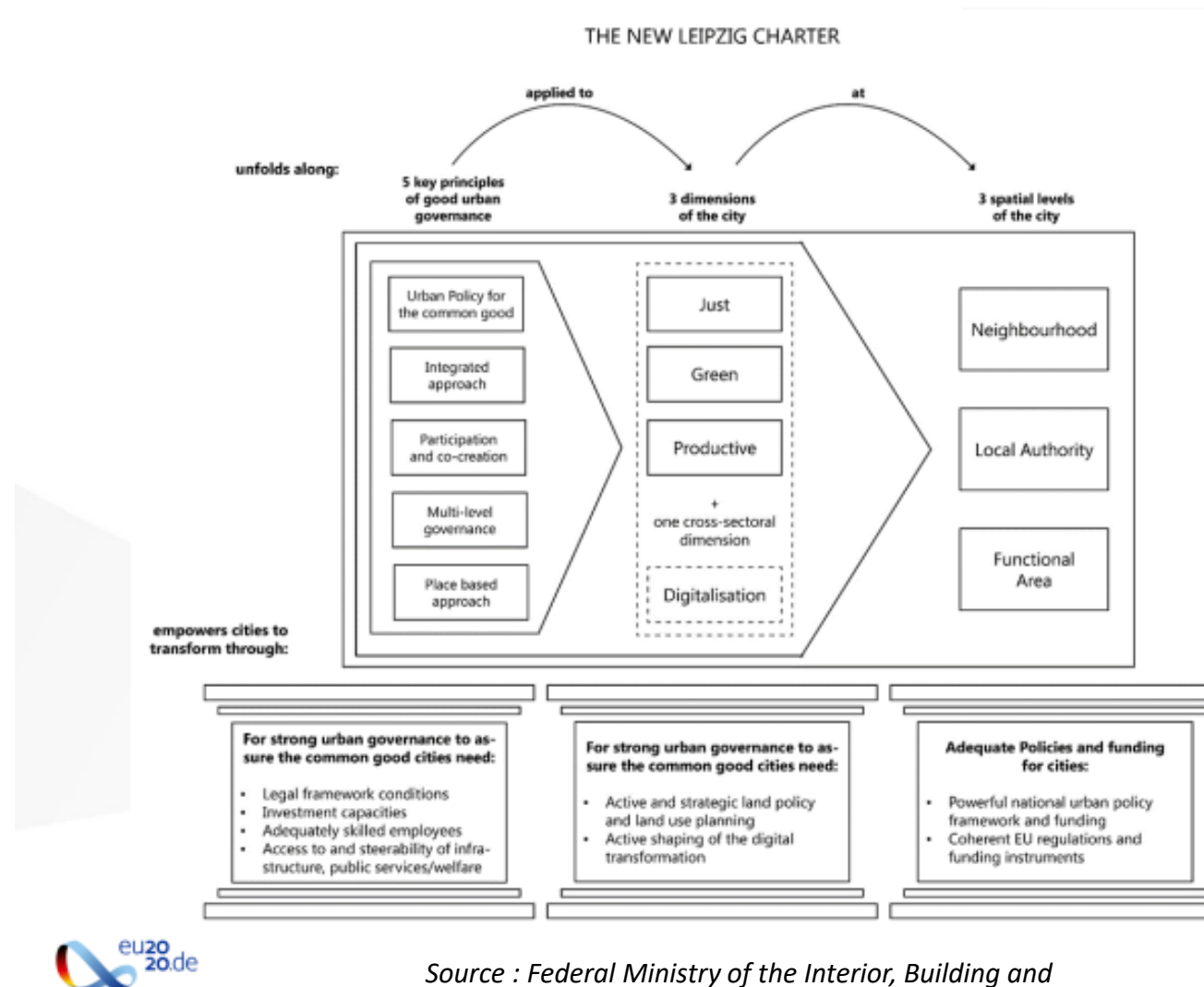


Figure 2. Interconnections between URBACT IV and the EUI intervention logic.  
Source : *European Urban Initiative*



# What the territory says about the European urban dimension

- Comparing three European capital-cities to understand the influence of the pre-existing national structures on the implementation of a multi-level governance through the European urban dimension.



Source : Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany

## Europa in den Bezirken

Ihr kürzester Draht nach Brüssel!

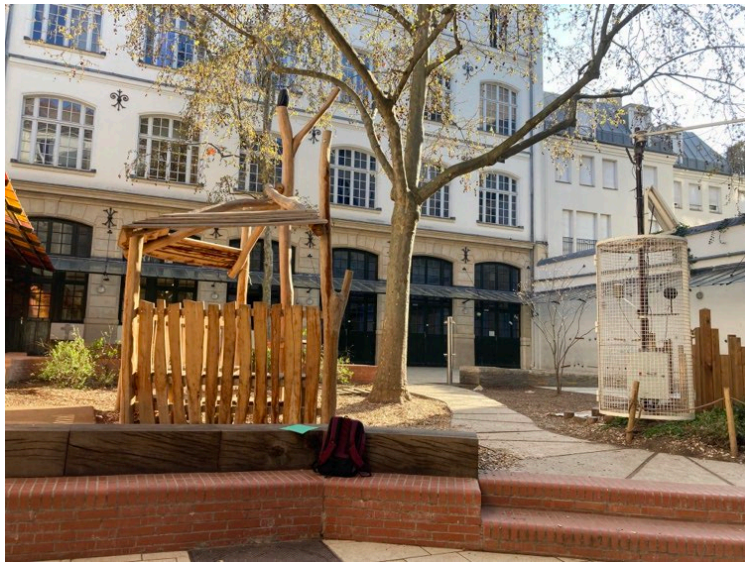


« Europe in the districts – Your shortest connection to Brussels! »

Source: Berlin City Hall

# Spatialising the analysis of instruments to combine governance and territoriality

- Public policy vs. public action: the example of the Cours Oasis in Paris.
- A typology of the European instruments in the field of urban development: a tangible and an intangible dimension.



A Cour Oasis in Paris  
*Source: Personal photography*



Parking lot Park&Ride – An integrated Territorial Investment in Warsaw  
*Source: Warsaw Public Transport Authority*



Project Kosmosviertel  
*Source: Personal photography*

# The reconfiguration of governance and territoriality: a process that needs to be questioned

“Experimentation” as the keystone of a laboratory for public action.

For the EU and its institutions, experimentation as a tool to get involved locally and overcome their lack of competence in the field of urban development.

An approach with internal contradictions that hinder the reconfiguration of governance and territoriality.

The reconfiguration of the governance : a deep-rooted trend or an instrumentalization of European opportunities at the local level?

"Where I felt it most was in different areas. Firstly, the fact that we were on a one-shot basis. And that was very useful, quite simply, but also in terms of negotiating points. And having the legitimacy to say: "It's an experiment, so we're going further in what we're proposing, we're giving ourselves the means to do something that will really break with what we've done before, precisely because we're in this framework“, *Project manager of the “Cours Oasis” in Paris.*



# Thank you for your attention !



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