



# GRAGE

*Grey and Green in Europe: elderly living in urban areas*



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## GREENER URBAN AREAS FOR MORE ACTIVE CITIZENS

D2.2

### GRAGE: *Grey and green in Europe: elderly living in urban areas*

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**OTHER**

<sup>2</sup> PU= Public; CO= Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

# GREENER URBAN AREAS FOR MORE ACTIVE CITIZENS

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*European green urbanism is admirably comprehensive in scope and holistic in vision, and this is another important lesson.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> T. BEATLEY, *Green urbanism: Learning from European cities*, Island Press, 2012. The author talks of a ‘European green model’ for the American system (p. 215) and makes a reference to Rifkin (p. 5) speaking of a ‘European dream’ also for other countries in the world. See also J.R. MCNEILL, P. ENGELKE, *The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene Since 1945*, Harvard University Press, 2016.

## 1. Introduction. Overview of European Policies on Urban Environment

According to the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) ‘The Union is densely populated and by 2020, 80 percent of its population is likely to live in urban and peri-urban areas. Quality of life will be directly influenced by the state of the urban environment. [...] Most cities face a common set of core environmental problems, including air quality concerns, high levels of noise, traffic congestion, GHG emissions, biodiversity loss and degradation, water scarcity, floods and storms, diminishing green areas, contaminated sites, brownfields and inappropriate waste and energy management.’<sup>3</sup>

In response to this challenge, over the past decades the European Union, as well as other parts of the world,<sup>4</sup> has put in place a broad range of environmental policies instruments and legislation and the European Commission has been increasing its focus on urban environment.

In line with the principle of subsidiarity, the EU works closely with Member States and local authorities to ensure a high level of protection for citizens who live and work in urban environments.

The EU policy tools intended to improve a sustainable urban environment operate through an ‘integrated approach’ aimed at combining several policy instruments and areas/sector.<sup>5</sup> The European Commission Environment Directorate General (DG Environment) works on improving the urban environment through the EU’s general environmental legislation, addressing issues such, air quality, noise pollution, waste and water pollution, and sustainable energy, protecting nature and biodiversity, and promoting better green infrastructure

Many of the EU’s laws and policies in areas such as environmental protection, regional development and transport, are measures aimed specifically at protecting and managing the urban environment. Among these areas, a specific policy is dedicated to the improvement of ‘Green Cities.’

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<sup>3</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for the Environment, *General Union environment action programme to 2020. Living well, within the limits of our planet*, Decision No 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013, Luxembourg, 2013, p. 74. See also European Commission, *Cities of tomorrow*, SWD(2012)0101, Bruxelles, 2011, [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow\\_final.pdfpassim](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/citiesoftomorrow/citiesoftomorrow_final.pdfpassim).

<sup>4</sup> B. KATZ, J. BRADLEY, *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities And Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics And Fragile Economy*, Brookings Institution Press, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> ‘It is increasingly clear that the various challenges facing urban areas – economic, environmental, climate, social and demographic – are interwoven and success in urban development can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Hence, measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection. The development of strong partnerships involving local citizens, civil society, the local economy and the various levels of government is an indispensable element. Combining capacities and local knowledge is essential to identify shared solutions and to achieve well accepted and sustainable results. Such an approach is especially important at this time, given the seriousness of the challenges European cities currently face.’ European Commission, *Integrated Sustainable Urban Development. Cohesion Policy 2014-2020*, Bruxelles, 2014, p. 2.

The EU acts in different ways: setting policies, adopting legislation including minimum quality standards, encouraging cooperation, and providing financial resources to support initiatives. It promotes EU wide exchange of best practices in urban development and fosters sharing of experiences and information among local governments (urban authorities), providing cities with networking opportunities in order to develop cooperation between urban authorities.

The four key elements of the EU's 'integrated approach' to the urban environment are:

- creating urban-specific investment priorities /financial instruments;
- promoting partnerships;
- supporting innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development.

The political importance of the issue is demonstrated by its inclusion in the '7th Environmental Action Programme (7EAP)' under Priority Objective 8, entitled, Sustainable Cities: 'Working together for Common Solutions'. The '7th Environmental Action Programme (7EAP) will be guiding European environment policy until 2020 with the overall objective to enhance the sustainability of EU cities to achieve by 2050 that all Europeans are 'living well, within the limits of the planet'.<sup>6</sup>

This report reviews the way in which the EU supports citizens and local governments in their efforts to make European cities clean and healthy, green and pleasant, 'environmentally-friendly' and sustainable.<sup>7</sup>

## 2. EU Programmes and Initiatives for Green Cities

### 2.1. *European Green Capital and European Green Leaf*

One of the way the European Commission Environment Directorate General (DG Environment) works on improving the urban environment is through programmes and awards which allow European cities to showcase their environmental performance, assessing progress in comparison with other similar cities, sharing best practices and experience and tracking improvement over time.

The **European Green Capital** and the **European Green Leaf** initiatives are only two of the numerous policy tools the European Commission is using to address the environmental challenges:

The European Green Capital Award (EGCA)<sup>8</sup> recognises and rewards local efforts to improve the environment, the economy and the quality of life in cities. The EGCA is given each year to a city, which is leading the way in

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for the Environment, General Union environment action programme to 2020. Living well, within the limits of our planet, cit.

<sup>7</sup> European Commission, *Making Our Cities Attractive and Sustainable: How the EU Contributes to Improving the Urban Environment*, Bruxelles, 2010, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Making-our-cities-attractive-and-sustainable.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> See European Commission, *European Green Capital Award*, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/>

environmentally friendly urban living and which can thus act as a role-model to inspire other cities.

Following the success of the EGCA (or ‘in addition to the EGCA’) the European Commission launched a new pilot – the European Green Leaf (EGL)<sup>9</sup> – in 2015. The European Green Leaf initiative is a new competition open to all towns and cities across Europe with between 20,000 – 100,000 inhabitants. The EGL recognises commitment to better environmental outcomes, with a particular accent on efforts that generate green growth and new jobs.

The objectives of the European Green Leaf are threefold:

- To recognise cities that demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth;
- To encourage cities to actively develop citizens’ environmental awareness and involvement;
- To identify cities able to act as a ‘green ambassador’ and to encourage other cities to progress towards a better sustainability outcomes.

The European Green Leaf is awarded on an annual basis by the European Commission in conjunction with the European Green Capital Award.

## 2.2. *Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*

After the European Union climate and energy package was adopted in 2008, the European Commission also supported the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy to endorse the efforts deployed by local authorities in the implementation of sustainable energy policies. The Covenant of Major is a European co-operation movement involving local and regional authorities. Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors voluntarily commit to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on their territories. By their commitment, they support the European Union 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective to be reached by 2020.<sup>10</sup>

## 2.3. *European Environmental Action Plans and Policy Instruments*

In addition to these policies tools there are a range of European Environmental Action Plans and Policy Instruments in place across Europe which support European cities and communities in becoming more sustainable, green and ‘environmentally-friendly’:

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<sup>9</sup> See European Commission, *European Green Leaf*, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/europeangreenleaf/>

<sup>10</sup> Heralded as the “world’s biggest urban climate and energy initiative” by Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives on their territory. The website of the initiative is <http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/>

a) *Urban Agenda for the EU*<sup>11</sup>

The Council adopted the EU Urban Agenda – also known as the Pact of Amsterdam – on 30 May 2016. It is a new working method aimed at promoting cooperation between Member States, the European Commission, cities and other stakeholders ‘in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe’ and ‘to ensure that the urban dimension is strengthened in EU policies’ (with the ultimate aim of improving the urban dimension of EU-policy).

One of the main mechanisms to implement the Urban Agenda for the EU is the setting up of thematic partnerships. Each Partnership will focus on improvements in three areas: 1) Improving the development, implementation and evaluation of EU legislation (better regulation).<sup>12</sup> 2) Ensuring better access to and utilisation of European funds by urban areas (better use of financial instruments). 3) Improving the EU urban knowledge base and stimulating the sharing of best practices and cooperation between cities (better knowledge exchange).

Four (pilot) partnerships were already launched with support of the Dutch EU Presidency,<sup>13</sup> dealing with air quality, housing, integration of migrants and refugees, and urban poverty.

b) *7th Environment Action Programme (EAP)*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme (EAP) launched a new environmental programme by the European Commission in 2013. The programme sets out a strategic agenda for environmental policy-making with 9 priority objectives to be achieved by 2020. It helps to establish a common understanding of the main environmental challenges Europe faces and what needs to be done to tackle them effectively.

Protecting and enhancing natural capital, encouraging more resource efficiency and accelerating the transition to the low-carbon economy are key features of the programme, which also seeks to tackle new and emerging environmental risks (e.g. poor air quality, high levels of noise, GHG emissions, water scarcity, contaminated sites, brownfields and waste) and to help safe guard health and welfare of EU citizens. In order to enhance the sustainability of EU cities, the 7th EAP set the target that by 2020 a majority of cities in the EU will be implementing policies for sustainable urban planning and design.

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<sup>11</sup> See: <http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/introduction/> and [http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Pact-of-Amsterdam\\_v7\\_WEB.pdf](http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Pact-of-Amsterdam_v7_WEB.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> “Obviously, principles of subsidiarity and proportionality should be taken into account”.

<sup>13</sup> Air Quality, coordinated by the Netherlands (*Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment*); Housing, coordinated by Slovakia (*Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development*); Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, coordinated by the city of Amsterdam (NL); Urban Poverty, coordinated by Belgium (*Federal Public Service Social Integration*) and France (*Commissariat General à l’Egalité des Territoires*).

c) *Reference Framework for Sustainable European Cities (RFSC)*

The RFSC is a tool that was created to enable the implementation of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities following the Declaration of Marseille of European Ministers responsible for Sustainable Cities<sup>14</sup>. In November 2008, a joint governance of all Members States, the European Commission as well as Local authorities Networks decided to take part in its development and testing. European Member States mandated the French government to lead this joint initiative.

The RFSC will support European cities and municipalities in their work on integrated and sustainable urban development. The RFSC aims to provide a common framework for sustainable urban development, promoting the benefits of integrated urban development policy approaches. The tool will allow for communication within and between cities on the basis of a common format that can also be adapted to the cities' individual needs. It also encourages the dialogue and exchange within and beyond the cities of Europe on sustainable urban development policies and best practices. The tool can be used by politicians, planners, project managers, stakeholders as well as citizens.

It is built around the four key pillars of sustainability 'Economy, Social, Environment and Governance' and covers a wide-range of topics including housing, green space, transport to youth unemployment. To make the most of the benefits offered by the RFSC, cities and municipalities can also apply for the RFSC City or Ambassador City status.

d) *The roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571)*

The Resource Efficiency Roadmap is part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Europe 2020 Strategy is the European Union's growth strategy for the next decade and aims at establishing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. It supports the shift towards sustainable growth via a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy.

The European Commission has set out a roadmap aimed at transforming Europe's economy into a sustainable one by 2050. It proposes ways to increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impact.

2.4. *Funding programmes for Green Initiatives*

In the new EU budget 2014-2020, at least 5% of the European Regional Development Fund will have to be used for sustainable urban development.

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<sup>14</sup> With this charter, the 28 member states have, for the first time, outlined an ideal model for the European Sustainable City and laid the foundations for an integrated urban policy.

Cities can take advantage of the Structural Funds, for example, by forming a thematic urban network under URBACT II or by making use of the European Urban Knowledge Network.

Some funding programmes are as follows:

*e) LIFE+*

LIFE+ is the European Union's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the Union and in some candidate and neighbouring countries.

Since 1992 LIFE has co-financed some 2,750 projects for a total of €1.35 billion. DG Environment proposes to fund up to 15 large-scale projects (€10 million) each involving two or more cities in the next phase (2014 to 2020) of the environmental financing programme, LIFE+.

The LIFE (the Financial Instrument for the Environment) Regulation, which was published on 20 December 2013, sets a budget for the next funding period, 2014–2020, of €3.4 billion in current prices.

*f) URBACT*

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

URBACT aims to enable cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. The programme helps cities to develop solutions (to urban challenges and share good practices, lessons learnt and potential solutions, with all stakeholders involved in urban policy throughout Europe) that are innovative and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions.

URBACT was initially established in 2002 and is currently in its third stage (URBACT III) which will end in 2020. It is proposed that URBACT III (2014 – 2020) will cover all of the 28 Member States of the European Union as well as the two partner countries of Norway and Switzerland.

*g) INTERREG IVC*

INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation across Europe. It is implemented under the European Community's territorial co-operation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Operational Programme was approved in September 2007. The INTERREG IIIC programme ran from 2002-2006 and the INTERREG IVC programme ran from 2007 until 2013. Interregional cooperation continues in the 2014 to 2020 period under the name INTERREG EUROPE. The draft of the

INTERREG EUROPE cooperation programme was finalised on 20 December 2013.<sup>15</sup>

*h) Horizon 2020*

Horizon 2020 is part of proposals for next EU budget, complementing Structural Funds, education, etc.

It is a core part of Europe 2020, Innovation Union & European Research Area:

- Responding to the economic crisis to invest in future jobs and growth
- Addressing peoples' concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment.
- Strengthening the EU's global position in research, innovation and technology

*i) Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership*

The *Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership* was launched by the Commission in July 2012 (DG ENER, CONNECT & MOVE).

The partnership proposes to pool resources to support the demonstration of energy, transport and information and communication technologies (ICT) in urban areas. This will enable innovative, integrated and efficient technologies to roll out and enter the market more easily, while placing cities at the centre of innovation.

The funding will be awarded through yearly calls for proposals. Funding is foreseen mainly from FP7 and the Horizon 2020.

### **3. European Policies for the protection of elderly human rights on urban areas**

'The European population is ageing rapidly, but living longer does not necessarily mean living healthier, more active and independent life. The number of Europeans over 65 will double in the next 50 years, and the number of over 80's will almost triple. Life expectancy will continue to increase, yet unhealthy life years make up around 20% of a person's life. Active and healthy ageing is a societal challenge shared by all European countries, but also an opportunity. It is a chance for Europe to establish itself as a global leader that is capable of providing innovative solutions'.<sup>16</sup>

In this context, European Institutions pay particular attention to the needs of elderly people and the protection of their rights, as the growing of ageing population in Europe. European Institutions and Countries from all over Europe are primarily committed to implementing strategies for the creation of age-friendly environments which support active and healthy ageing of the European population.

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<sup>15</sup> See: <http://www.interregeurope.eu/>

<sup>16</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/about-the-partnership\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/about-the-partnership_en)

Starting from 2009, with the Communication on ‘**Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU**’, the European Commission has recognised the need to tackle the impact of ageing populations on the European social models.

In October 2011, a report called ‘**Cities of Tomorrow – Challenges, visions, ways forward**’ was published by the European Commission,<sup>17</sup> identifies four main threats to the European urban development model: demographic decline, threats to economic development and competitiveness, growing social polarization and the depletion of natural resources. It underlines the connection between cities and ageing population and the new challenge faced by the cities of adapting to the needs, demands and requirements of an ageing population. According to the report, an ageing but socially, culturally and economically active population should not be seen only as a disadvantage. Cities with a high quality of life, especially in terms of climate, leisure and cultural and social services, have the potential to attract affluent retired people, who will contribute to a viable residential economy. In both cases, cities will have to meet a growing demand for social services, notably health. They will have to adapt public transport and improve accessibility to public places and housing. The very old will demand particular care, especially as the number of people affected by age-related neurological diseases has risen steeply. These demographic developments are not entirely negative for cities. The need for new and different forms of services and advanced health care will create business and job opportunities and scope for both social and more market-oriented innovation.

To cope the first threat (‘demographic decline’), the EC launched, within the project URBACT a workstream called ‘**Shrinking Cities: Challenges and Opportunities**,’<sup>17</sup> which focuses, in general, on the development of sustainable strategy options for shrinking cities and, in particular, on the transformation of present cities in ‘age-friendly cities,’<sup>18</sup> ‘where the physical and social environments enable people to remain healthy, independent and autonomous long into their old age.’

Finally in 2011 the European Commission launched a pilot initiative called ‘**The European Innovation Partnership in Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA)**’ under the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union to foster innovation in the field of active and healthy ageing.<sup>19</sup>

The concept of European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) is a new approach to EU research and innovation and the EIP in the field of Active and Healthy Ageing was the first EIP created in 2011.

The EIP on AHA is not a funding instrument. It aims to bring together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels across different policy areas to handle with specific societal challenges and involves all the innovation chain

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<sup>17</sup> C. MARTINEZ□FERNANDEZ, I. AUDIRAC, S. FOL, E. CUNNINGHAM□SABOT, *Shrinking cities: Urban challenges of globalization*, in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 2, 2012.

<sup>18</sup> T. MOULAERT, S. GARON (a cura di), *Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in International Comparison: Political Lessons, Scientific Avenues, and Democratic Issues*, Springer, Heidelberg, 2015.

<sup>19</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/home\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/home_en)

levels. It also aims to bring stakeholders together to exchange ideas, create and partner in projects, which produce concrete deliverables.

Its goal is to increase by two years the average healthy life years of EU citizens by 2020.

The partnership brings together public and private stakeholders across boards and sectors to accelerate the uptake of innovation and to pursue a ‘Triple Win’ for Europe: 1) Improving the health and quality of life of Europeans with a focus on older people; 2) Supporting the long-term sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems; 3) Enhancing the competitiveness of EU industry through business and expansion in new markets.

The EIP on AHA includes 6 action groups committing to work on specific issues related to ageing.<sup>20</sup>

Among the 6 Action Groups set up so far, the ‘**Action Group D4 - Innovation for age friendly buildings, cities and environments.**’ The current Action Group brings together partners representing around 70 multi-stakeholders who are composed of regional and local authorities from across the EU, European NGOs, technology providers, research centers, and SMEs who are committed to implementing strategies for the creation of age-friendly environments which support active and healthy ageing of the European population.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> An ‘Action Group’ is an assembly of partners committing to work on specific issue related to ageing, by sharing the knowledge and expertise with their peers, giving added-value to their national and local experience and identifying gaps that need to be fulfilled at European level. Stakeholders wishing to get involved in one of the 6 Action Groups set up so far were selected through an ‘Invitation for Commitment’ application process. The initial Invitation for Commitment was launched upon the adoption of the Commission Communication on the EIP Strategic Implementation Plan (29th February 2012) and closed on 3 June 2012.

<sup>21</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/sites/eipaha/files/library/renovated\\_action\\_plan\\_2016-2018\\_ag\\_d4.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/sites/eipaha/files/library/renovated_action_plan_2016-2018_ag_d4.pdf)

LIST OF EU URBAN GREEN POLICIES

POLICY	MAIN FEATURES	WEBSITE
<b>European Green Capital Award (EGCA)</b>	The EGCA recognises and rewards local efforts to improve the environment, the economy and the quality of life in cities. The EGCA is given each year to a city, which is leading the way in environmentally friendly urban living and which can thus act as a role-model to inspire other cities. The EGCA allows European cities to showcase their environmental performance, assessing progress in comparison with other similar cities, sharing best practices and experience.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/</a>  Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/index_en.htm</a>
<b>The European Green Leaf (EGL)</b>	The EGL is a competition open to all towns and cities across Europe with between 20,000 – 100,000 inhabitants. It recognises commitment to better environmental outcomes, with a particular accent on efforts that generate green growth and new jobs.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/europeangreenleaf/index.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/europeangreenleaf/index.html</a>
<b>Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy</b>	The Covenant of Major is a European co-operation movement involving local and regional authorities committed to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on their territories.	<a href="http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html">http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html</a>
<b>The EU Urban Agenda for the EU (also known as the “Pact of Amsterdam”)</b>	It is a new working method aimed at promoting cooperation between Member States, the European Commission, cities and other stakeholders “in order to stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe” with the ultimate intent on improving the urban dimension of EU-policy. One of the main mechanisms to implement the Urban Agenda for the EU is the setting up of thematic partnerships. Each Partnership focuses on improvements in three areas: 1) better regulation; 2) better use of financial instruments; 3) better knowledge exchange. Four (pilot) partnerships were already launched, dealing with air quality, housing, integration of migrants and refugees, and urban poverty.	<a href="http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/">http://urbanagendaforthe.eu/</a>
<b>7th Environment Action Programme (EAP)</b>	The programme sets out a strategic agenda for environmental policy-making with 9 priority objectives to be achieved by 2020. It helps to establish a common understanding of the main environmental challenges Europe faces and what needs to be done to tackle them effectively. Protecting and enhancing natural capital, encouraging more resource efficiency and accelerating the transition to the low-carbon economy are key features of the programme, which also seeks to tackle emerging environmental risks (e.g. poor air quality, high levels of noise, GHG emissions, water scarcity, contaminated sites, brownfields and waste) and to help safe guard health and welfare of EU citizens.	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/</a>

<p><b>The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC).</b></p>	<p>The RFSC is a tool that was created to support European cities and municipalities in their work on integrated and sustainable urban development. The RFSC aims to provide a common framework for sustainable urban development, promoting the benefits of integrated urban development policy approaches. The tool will allow for communication within and between cities on the basis of a common format that can also be adapted to the cities' individual needs. It also encourages the dialogue and exchange within and beyond the cities of Europe on sustainable urban development policies and best practices. The tool can be used by politicians, planners, project managers, stakeholders as well as citizens.</p> <p>It is built around the four key pillars of sustainability 'Economy, Social, Environment and Governance' and covers a wide-range of topics including housing, green space, transport to youth unemployment.</p>	<p><a href="http://rfsc.eu/">http://rfsc.eu/</a></p>
<p><b>The roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571)</b></p>	<p>The Resource Efficiency Roadmap is part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Europe 2020 Strategy is the European Union's growth strategy for the next decade and aims at establishing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. It supports the shift towards sustainable growth via a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy.</p> <p>The European Commission has set out a roadmap aimed at transforming Europe's economy into a sustainable one by 2050. It proposes ways to increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impact.</p>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/about/roadmap/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/resource_efficiency/about/roadmap/index_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment</b></p>	<p>It aims to promote a more integrated approach to urban management and support cities in their efforts to this end.</p>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/urban/index_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)</b></p>	<p>The renewed EU SDS sets out a strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment of tackling the challenges of sustainable development. It reaffirms the need for global solidarity and recognises the importance of strengthening our work with partners outside the EU, including those rapidly developing countries which will have a significant impact on global sustainable development.</p>	
<p><b>Green thinking and Best Practice Guides and Reports</b></p>	<p>It provides information and examples of existing solutions to municipalities and local authorities, allowing them to learn from each other and to develop plans adapted to their specific situation.</p>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/press-communications/egca-publications/index.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/press-communications/egca-publications/index.html</a></p>

<p><b>Funding programmes for Green Initiatives</b></p>	<p>In the new EU budget 2014-2020, at least 5% of the European Regional Development Fund will have to be used for sustainable urban development. Cities can take advantage of the Structural Funds, for example, by forming a thematic urban network under URBACT II or by making use of the European Urban Knowledge Network.</p> <p>Some funding programmes are as follows:</p> <p>LIFE+  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepus.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifepus.htm</a></p> <p>URBACT  <a href="http://urbact.eu/">http://urbact.eu/</a>  <a href="http://urbact.eu/our-funding">http://urbact.eu/our-funding</a></p> <p>INTERREG IVC  <a href="http://www.interreg4c.eu/about_programme.html">http://www.interreg4c.eu/about_programme.html</a>  <a href="http://www.interregeurope.eu/">http://www.interregeurope.eu/</a></p> <p>Horizon 2020  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020">http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020</a></p> <p>Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/">http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/</a></p>	<p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/about-the-award/policy-guidance/index.html#Funding%20for%20Green%20Initiatives">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/about-the-award/policy-guidance/index.html#Funding%20for%20Green%20Initiatives</a></p>
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EUROPEAN POLICIES ON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND ELDERLY CITIZENS

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>MAIN FEATURES</b>	<b>WEBSITE</b>
<b>Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU'</b>	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU (2009 Ageing Report) /* COM/2009/0180 final */	<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52009DC0180">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52009DC0180</a>
<b>Cities of Tomorrow – Challenges, visions, ways forward'</b>	Report. The report identifies four main threats to the European urban development model: demographic decline, threats to economic development and competitiveness, growing social polarization and the depletion of natural resources.	
<b>Shrinking Cities: Challenges and Opportunities</b>	Workstream launched by the Commission within the project URBACT. It focuses, in general, on the development of sustainable strategy options for shrinking cities and, in particular, on the transformation of present cities in 'age-friendly cities'	
<b>The European Innovation Partnership in Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA)''</b>		<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/">https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/</a>

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