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The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040

for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean
(4th draft)

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UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and communities in the Mediterranean

4th Draft[1]

Following the deliberations of the UfM Thematic Working Groups on Affordable and Sustainable Housing and Urban Regeneration

The UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan 2040 (henceforth the Action Plan) is an inter-governmental initiative that complements and acts on the UfM Urban Agenda adopted by the Ministers in charge of housing, municipal affairs and urban development of UfM Member States at the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, held in Cairo on 22 May 2017.

It offers a framework for integrated, sustainable urban development across the Euro-Mediterranean region by encouraging coordination of policy and action and by promoting partnerships around the planning and design of the built environment; by highlighting the role of the conservation of cultural heritage in urban regeneration and sustainable development; by promoting local empowerment and capacity building; by encouraging citizen engagement; and by supporting implementation and monitoring of urban and regional spatial interventions.

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INDEX

List of figures

List of boxes

1. Preamble

Following the "Union for the Mediterranean Urban Agenda" outlined at the Second Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Sustainable Urban Development in Cairo on 22 May 2017, this Action Plan aims to provide a cross-sectoral and multi-dimensional long-term framework for urban regeneration and development across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM builds on the Barcelona Process, a long-standing project for Mediterranean integration, and its mission "to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of projects and initiatives with tangible impact on our citizens, with an emphasis on young people and women, in order to address the three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development and integration" (UfM, 2020), culminating in the Barcelona Declaration of 1995 (European Commission, 1995).

This Action Plan is conceived within the framework of the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development. Discussions and conclusions from the thematic working groups on Urban Regeneration and Affordable and Sustainable Housing were taken into account in its design.

The Action Plan reflects UfM countries' commitment to sustainable, fair, inclusive and resilient urban and regional development, taking into account the global progression to a circular economy, the sustainability of food production from farm to fork, the movement towards future-proof energy, buildings and mobility, and the need to ensure a fair and inclusive transition. UfM countries commit to respecting key principles of good governance and policy-making, to fulfilling existing commitments under international agreements, to transforming social and economic models, to prioritising and fast-tracking actions for the poorest and most marginalised in society ("leave no one and no place behind"), to recognising the limits to our planetary resources, to respecting human rights and the rule of law, and to ensuring consistency of policies in moving towards a more sustainable Euro-Mediterranean region by 2040.

This Action Plan takes as its main policy frameworks: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN-DESA, 2015), the New Urban Agenda, the Urban Agenda for the European Union (the Pact of Amsterdam), the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, the New Leipzig Charter, the European Green Deal and the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030. It addresses the Mediterranean countries' commitment to implement all the goals of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on Goal 11 to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", as well as countries' pledges made at the Third United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

This Action Plan is further anchored on the vast shared heritage of the Euro-Mediterranean region and its enormous potential to foster sustainable development, social inclusion, equitable economic development, and enhanced resilience. It does so through improved international coordination, partnerships and capacity building for the protection and use of that heritage as a resource for sustainable development, through a number of mutually reinforcing actions. In line with 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972), and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape approach (UNESCO, 2011), the Action Plan considers the shared past of UfM countries as a foundation upon which a shared sustainable, fair and resilient future can be built.

In this sense, this Action Plan sees the Mediterranean Sea as the region's great commons, binding it together in its history and identity, while recognising the cultural richness and diversity of the region, and the particular situation of countries affected by political upheaval, conflict, mass migration and most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which happen against the background of a global economic recession and ongoing climate crisis. These common challenges entail shared responsibilities concerning the climate, the preservation and

regeneration of the environment, as well as challenges connected to global trade, mobility, migration, health and development.

This Action Plan also recognises the great variety of societal models and levels of development in the Mediterranean region, which are also reflected in different planning traditions and urbanisation patterns in each country, which demand tailor-made, but collective and coordinated responses.

2. Foundations and principles

This document builds upon the priorities set out in the UfM Urban Agenda, namely:

- To realise the full potential and contribution of urban areas towards achieving the urban dimension of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda;
- To establish a more effective integrated and coordinated approach in the Euro-Mediterranean countries with regard to policies, legislation and investments with a potential impact on urban areas, and hereby endeavours to contribute to regional and social cohesion by reducing socio-economic inequality experienced in urban areas and regions around the Mediterranean;
- To encourage input by national and local authorities, including the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), in the design and implementation of policies with direct and indirect impacts on towns and cities and their functional urban areas (Dijkstra et al., 2019), while respecting national administrative structures and policies that have a significant impact on urban areas, and to strengthen the urban dimension of these policies. The UfM Urban Agenda aims to enable local authorities to work in a more systematic and coherent way towards achieving overarching goals (UfM, 2017).

Further, this Action Plan follows the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (UN-Habitat, Arab Republic of Egypt, & ACMHC, 2015), which reaffirms "all the outcomes of major UN conferences on population, development, women, children and climate" and recognises:

"The importance of ensuring gender equality and empowering women to access adequate housing and to contribute effectively to the development process of the society;

"The necessity of ensuring the rehabilitation and integration of vulnerable and marginalised categories and people with special needs in urban communities as well as promoting the integration of youth and unleashing their creative potentials to develop their civil societies;

"The importance of developing rural areas and providing livelihoods to promote stability and work there along with promoting economic opportunities and building bridges of communication with nearby cities" (UN-Habitat et al., 2015).

This Action Plan takes into account the 2013 Cairo Declaration on Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World (UNFPA-ICPD, 2013) and its recommendations on public policies centred on dignity and equality, health, place and environment sustainability, and governance. It recognises the many challenges related to gender equality, the needs of migrant and displaced persons, the window of opportunity granted by the young demographic outlook of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the challenges presented by longer life-expectancy all over the region, and the needs and appeals of people with disabilities.

Furthermore, this Action Plan caters to the "holistic, integrated, place-based and long-term approach to sustainable urban development, necessary to promote well-managed, economically prosperous, gender and socially inclusive, just, safe, healthy, accessible and resilient, as well as resource-efficient and low-carbon environmentally sustainable cities" put forward by the UfM Urban Agenda (UfM, 2017).

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A cornerstone of this Action Plan is a long-term, integrated, trans-scalar and trans-sectoral approach to urban regeneration and development with a focus on affordable and sustainable housing. This is in line with three basic directions in Europe's Better Regulation Guidelines (European Commission, 2019a) that policies should be:

(i) integrated,
(ii) science-led and evidence-based,
(iii) participatory.

Following these policy principles, this Action Plan is a strategic metagovernance framework that seeks to coordinate urban and regional development and bring forward the strategic value of projects and spatial interventions, in order to boost their effectiveness. Its definition of the concepts of "urban regeneration" and "urban development" is broad, meaning actions to improve, upgrade, adapt and democratise the built environment in the Mediterranean Basin, including, but not limited to, strong action in the housing sector.

By this token, **this Action Plan is not a blueprint but a governance document that seeks to shape the attention of stakeholders towards a common strategic vision for sustainable urban development.** The goal is to advance mutual understanding and common frameworks based on increased mutual comprehensibility and mutual learning, which will enable very diverse stakeholders to cooperate and work towards common visions and shared objectives (Lyles, 2012). In this sense, actions described in this plan are cumulative and mutually reinforcing, but the absence of a given action does not jeopardise the whole plan.

The plan emphasises the key role of stakeholder involvement and citizen and community engagement in governance arrangements as a means of achieving long-term social sustainability, the bedrock upon which environmental and economic sustainability, and resilience, can be built.

This Action Plan also adopts the EU-OECD methodology for delineation of cities and urban and rural areas (OECD & European Commission, 2020), to facilitate broader statistical comparison of national definitions of urban and rural areas. This Action Plan focuses on Functional Urban Areas (OECD, 2019b) as a way to define urbanisation that takes into account citizens' spaces of action as a measure of people-centred development. It also takes into account definitions of citizens as social agents with rights and responsibilities, rather than simply people in a specific governance entity.

Furthermore, it builds on modern urban policy **principles** established in a number of international policy frameworks listed in Annexe B: Non-exhaustive list of policy frameworks used in the elaboration of this Action Plan

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	New Urban Agenda	The Barcelona Declara-tion	UfM Urban Agenda	EU Neighbour-hood Policy
Pact of Amsterdam	UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape	1972 UNESCO Convention	UN-Habitat New Strategic Orientation	The Economy of well-being OECD-EC
Towards a Sustainable Europe 2030	Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	7th EU Report Economic, Social & Territorial Cohesion	EC Better Regulation Framework	The Just Transition Mechanism European Green Deal
New Leipzig Charter	AIVP Agenda 2030	OECD Better Policies 2030	Paris Agreement	UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages
OECD Council Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development	Charter for Multilevel Governance for Europe	Circular Economy Action Plan The European Green Deal	European Framework Action Cultural Heritage	Arab Strategy Housing Sustainable Development
OECD Territorial Approach SDGs	Cairo Declaration Housing Sustainable Development	The Sendai Framework		

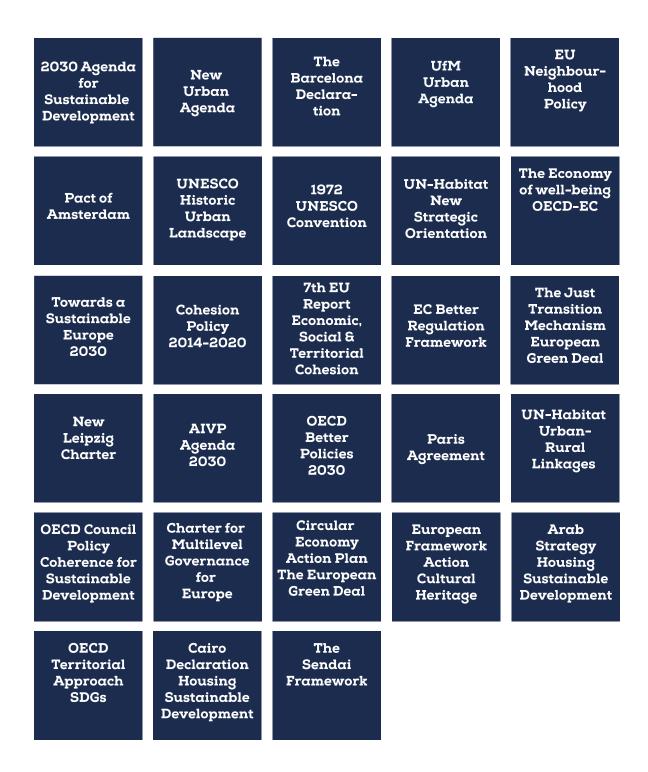Figure 1: Main policy frameworks used in the elaboration of this Action Plan.

The UfM Urban Agenda (UfM, 2017) established several policy priorities:

- Urban rules and regulations, reiterating the role of urban planning;
- Balanced urban and territorial development, with emphasis on integrated territorial development and the relationship between rapidly urbanising coastal areas and rural hinterlands affected by depopulation;

- Environment, with emphasis on sustainable resource management (water, waste, energy, and food), sustainable land use, reduction of urban sprawl and landscape protection;
- Climate, with emphasis on enhanced urban resilience and green infrastructures;
- Habitat, which refers to "integrated approaches to sustainable, affordable and adequate housing and basic urban services provision (water, sanitation, waste management, electricity)" and the creation of socially diverse neighbourhoods;
- Transport and Mobility, with emphasis on integrated, inclusive and affordable public transport as well as safe non-motorised transport;
- Migration, with emphasis on strengthening the capacity and basic services of cities hosting migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The UfM Urban Agenda also refers to ways of implementation that include policy measures concerning capacity building, financing and data collection and management. This focus has been developed into integrative strategies reflected in the actions proposed. These include:

1. **Integrative territorial governance.** The notion of good urban and regional governance and planning, based on integrated urban development and investment, and on principles of multi-level governance and meta governance that help national, regional and local governments establish:
   (i)   partnerships and shared visions,
   (ii)   coordinated and integrative spatial strategies in designated territories around axes of spatial intervention, and
   (iii)   coordinated and integrative key spatial interventions, including cross-border infrastructures.
2. **Integrative urban and regional development.** The potentially integrative nature of sustainable and resilient urban and regional development. This must go beyond technological intervention to simultaneously address the social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions of development.
3. **Sustainable urbanisation and development.** The mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanisation and sustainable development, highlighted in SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda, and the UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach. This addresses the need to regenerate existing neighbourhoods and communities while also protecting heritage values; to provide affordable sustainable housing, as well as explore the development of new districts and cities in the region.
4. **Integrated heritage.** The conservation and sustainable use of the valuable cultural heritage of the region, including its architectural and urban heritage, while integrating heritage conservation with sustainable urban development. The unique historic heritage of cities around the Mediterranean calls for special attention to traditional modes of urbanisation, with the conservation of unique architectural and urban heritage, including some of the most impressive human achievements in urbanisation and architecture. The Euro-Mediterranean region is home to a large number of UNESCO World Heritage properties (UNESCO, 2020b) that testify to rich, long, and multi-layered history of the region.
5. **Governance of transitions.** The governance of sustainable urban and regional development and transitions to sustainability, with emphasis on historical urban areas, local geographical particularities, polycentric governance, and local empowerment, including sound financing and results monitoring and evaluation.
6. **Evidence-based policy.** Evidence-based, science-led policymaking and shared knowledge development. Actions should be based on understanding of the impacts, involving local universities and international academic networks. This dimension highlights the need for cooperation and partnerships, using shared definitions, common data collection & analysis instruments, and boosting capacity to design and implement integrated strategic plans, with focus on design-thinking.
7. **Community and stakeholder engagement,** as co-creators, to deliver sounder, well-grounded, fair and democratic urban development. This caters for the social sustainability of policies and spatial interventions through open and transparent decision-making, with citizens and communities' contribution throughout the policymaking process. "Community participation, broad-based

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consultation and the implementation of bottom-up approaches are key elements of local and regional development" (CMI, 2018, p. 15). This includes special attention to vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees and IDPs, and people with disabilities – notably in terms of accessibility in the built environment. This also includes attention to gender equality, and attention to the engagement of people from all age groups, with diverse socio-economic, cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds. This includes the use of new forms of e-democracy and digital engagement.

8. **Socio-spatial justice** as a cornerstone of sustainability, including the spatial challenges connected to citizen engagement and participation, gender equality, public health, childcare, old age and the needs of migrants and IDPs, and people with disabilities.

9. **Integrated sustainable housing.** Housing as a motor for integrated city development and regeneration. This is reflected in a special axis of intervention focused on housing, following the work done by the UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing. It concludes that housing must be adequate, sustainable, affordable, integrated, culture-specific, context appropriate and connected to transport systems, with access to sustainable, healthy and inclusive urban environments. Sustainable integrated housing is a central element in the actions described in the Axis of Intervention 1 (UfM Action Plan for Housing).

10. **Networked peer-learning** between cities, and local capacity building. These are tools to empower communities and local authorities and make local empowerment and polycentric governance possible.

This Action Plan incorporates elements and principles of EU Cohesion Policy, fostering local development needs and potential while reducing disparities between regions. It seeks to build on synergies between policy and implementation, to raise living standards and the quality of regional and urban development as well as governance.

EU Cohesion Policy supports the idea of Integrated Territorial Development and advances two minimum requirements for its post-2020 urban investments:

(i) Investments have to be based on integrated development strategies (multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, optionally cross-territorial);

(ii) A relevant local or territorial body shall select or shall be involved in the selection of operations (multi-level, optionally community-led). In governance terms, EU Cohesion Policy integrates three approaches: multi-sectoral, multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder. In territorial terms, it combines a functional area approach with a community-led approach (Takacs, 2018, European Commission Legislative Proposal, 2018)[2].

Following these principles, the present Action Plan has a place-based approach, in which local governments have a central role in shared vision-making, design and implementation. However, the plan simultaneously encourages long-term, transnational and transregional, trans-scalar and cross-sectoral partnerships to achieve integrated territorial development, while recognising the role of the Mediterranean Sea and its associated bodies of water as carriers of life, economic activity and culture, highlighting the layers of history and cultural heritage that form the identity of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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[2] In the European case, this territorial governance approach is consolidated in 5 policy objectives, usually abbreviated to PO5:
1. A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation);
2. A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management);
3. A more connected Europe (mobility and ICT connectivity);
4. A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights);
5. A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives).

3. Main challenges and expected outcomes

The Mediterranean region faces many interconnected challenges to the sustainable development of its cities, towns and communities. Given increasing urbanisation and the crucial role that sustainable urban development plays in the quality of people's lives, it is important for the UfM and its Member States to define a shared vision for coordinated territorial development. This shared vision should be based on the policy frameworks listed in the Preamble, among other policy frameworks, and pave the way for the adoption of a comprehensive and operational agenda on this topic.

The Mediterranean region has one of the fastest urbanisation rates in the world. Currently, 60% of the region's population lives in urban areas. This urban population is expected to increase by an additional 22.5 million by 2030 due to migration away from rural areas and endogenous urban growth (UN & Grid Arendal, 2013).

Mediterranean cities also find themselves particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as water scarcity, droughts, forest fires and heatwaves (EEA, 2012). The Mediterranean Basin is being hit harder than other parts of the world, as the temperature increase has already reached 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, which means that warming in this region is 20 per cent faster than the global average (UfM, 2019).

Rapid and unplanned development of major urban areas has caused a fast decline of many historical city centres, raising concerns on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties, endangering cultural heritage, urban landscapes and the unique identity of the Mediterranean region. These processes have been accentuated by political upheaval, economic disarray and most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the 2015 Cairo Declaration "the delicate situation which some Arab states are going through and the cruelty of civil conflicts and terrorism suffered by urban and rural communities, [have] caused a systematic demolition of the ancient Arab cities and [properties inscribed in the UNESCO] world heritage [list] in many Arab cities" (UN-Habitat et al., 2015). Culture, heritage and historical landscapes are key to creating sustainable and inclusive economies in the region, not only through tourism but also via the cultural and social embeddedness of the solutions pursued. Housing and public services are major elements of people's living standards and there is a need to improve basic facilities and infrastructure for all, including migrants, refugees and IDPs.

BOX 1: The Medieval Arab city as a paradigm for dense, compact and liveable urban centres

"Many historians point to the medieval Arab cities (such as Fez in Morocco and Aleppo in Syria) as supreme representations of dense, compact and liveable urban centres. In the past century, those urban systems progressively became representations of underdeveloped urban systems as modernist planning theory prevailed, focusing on urban functional segregation, private car orientation, and low-density spatial layouts – the international norm. However, many unforeseen impacts of the modernist city, such as depopulated centres, traffic congestion, urban air pollution, or fragmentation, have led Western planners and urban theorists to rediscover the viability of compact cities. The compact city concept, however, is still not one of the drivers of most of today's planners in the Middle East and North Africa, and many countries have taken the modernist planning theory to its extreme" (World Bank, 2020, p. 43). The unique architectural and urbanist heritage of the medinas of Northern Africa deserves not only preservation but active study of the urban fabric as examples of compact, climate-adapted, culturally rich city form.

Mediterranean countries also face challenges related to migration and refugees, adding to pressure on urban areas. The Mediterranean Sea is not only a "sea route to Europe". Almost all countries around the

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Mediterranean Basin, both on its northern and southern shores, face high numbers of immigrants in search of better economic opportunities or refugees escaping conflict (UNHCR, 2020). This situation has been aggravated by the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, which has revealed systemic shortcomings in cities around the world, including many Mediterranean cities, particularly in terms of housing (OECD, 2020b, 2020c). This includes a high prevalence of substandard informal urbanisation, deterioration of the housing stock in the historic urban centres, deterioration of some traditional settlements and historic centres abandoned by their populations (such as historic cities in the northern Mediterranean region and *ksour* in the southern regions), and issues around access to water, transport and green areas, as well as a structural crisis in affordability and access to housing. All these factors affect the health and welfare of citizens and need addressing in an integrated manner.

In view of the challenges outlined above, this Action Plan proposes integrative, trans-scalar and cross-sectoral measures, with a long-term perspective and multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary approaches connecting technology, society and culture, to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Climate action** – for overall social, economic and environmental sustainability, to strengthen climate resilience and improve urban environments. Rising sea levels and temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns and other environmental challenges are fuelling irregular migration and forced displacement and affecting all Mediterranean countries simultaneously (European Commission, 2020b). Therefore, this Action Plan aims to encourage emergency climate action to strengthen overall sustainability, improve resilience and enhance urban environments by encouraging the integration of the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement (UN, 2015) into national urban policies (NUPs) and integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) (Matsumoto, Allain-Dupré, Crook, & Robert, 2019), and integrating urban heritage in the solutions for climate action.

  Emergency climate action will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. It will promote efficiency and fairness in the use and distribution of natural resources and the protection of ecological assets, as well as the effective and timely adaptation of communities and infrastructures to climate change. This should happen by promoting sustainable energy transition, sound water management, implementation of green/blue infrastructure and anti-desertification measures, and through holistic and integrated science-led urban planning and design that is environmentally sound and sensitive to context. This is especially significant in light of the forecast average temperature rise in the region and predicted increase in "heat island" effects in urban areas. These objectives cannot be separated from the social and spatial structures within which they take place. Social sustainability is crucial to overall sustainability, and social sustainability is rooted in socio-spatial justice: the fair redistribution of the burdens and benefits of sustainable development.

  In this sense, this Action Plan acknowledges that climate action must be rooted in multi-level, polycentric, democratic governance that allows for citizen participation, civil society engagement, fair and transparent business practices and public sector efficiency and accountability, based on a vision of solidarity and collective action necessary to realise fair, inclusive and sustainable cities, regions and communities.

- **Urban resilience.** The multidimensional and interconnected nature of the threats and challenges faced by cities, regions and communities demands integrated systemic approaches that address these issues holistically. Systemic crises must be met with collective, concerted action. Cities and regions must be able to respond, mitigate, recover and, where possible, avoid crises, whether these be environmental, political, economic, sanitary, hydric, or energy, climate or health related. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has demonstrated that these issues are deeply intertwined in complex systems, and that a notion of urban and regional resilience must go far beyond the environment to embrace coordinated collective reform in several interconnected areas of human activity.

  "People, institutions and states need the right tools, assets and skills to deal with an increasingly complex, interconnected and evolving risk landscape, while retaining the ability to seize opportunities to increase overall well-being, is widely accepted" (OECD, 2014). The notion of resilience adopted here

goes beyond the ability of households, communities, cities, regions and nations to absorb and recover from shocks and crises, but embraces the idea that they must "positively adapt and transform their structures and means for living in the face of long-term stresses, change and uncertainty" (OECD, 2014), using principles of "build back better" (UNISDR, 2017) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Urban resilience includes issues of self-reliance and security, including security of food, health, water and housing.

- **Spatial equity and justice, reducing spatial inequality and poverty.** Population movements across the Mediterranean and within countries due to migration or forced displacement produce unbalanced regional and urban development. Spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum can be reduced by increasing access to basic services, to sustainable and interoperable transport and to quality public spaces; also by increased and secure access to land, to adequate, affordable and sustainable housing, and through sustainable, fair and inclusive urban regeneration and careful and sustainable expansion when absolutely necessary.
  Socio-spatial equity means prioritising vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; issues of gender equality, youth education and opportunity, elderly care and disability must be addressed, as must the needs of immigrants, refugees and IDPs. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that urban fragmentation, poverty, and a lack of basic urban services, affordable housing and economic opportunities cannot be considered problems of specific socio-economic groups but have an effect on society as a whole.

- **Heritage conservation and heritage-based solutions for sustainable development.** Sustainable heritage management can be achieved through careful conservation, reuse, and valorisation of the distinctive cultural heritage of the Euro-Mediterranean region, while enhancing the role of heritage in solutions for sustainable urban development, following the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 1972), the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and the 2018 Davos Declaration (Swiss Confederation, 2018).

- **Crisis prevention.** Urban disaster risk reduction and crisis management capabilities can be reinforced by enhancing integration of infrastructure, improving living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and IDPs, and by enhancing resilience of the built environment and infrastructure, with due attention to security in public spaces (European Commission, 2019i), essential infrastructure, systems of power, water and sanitation, transport and telecommunications.

- **Enhanced prosperity.** Shared prosperity of cities and regions can be enhanced by improving spatial connectivity and efficiency, invigorating local economies, and expanding use of high-end technologies and innovation, while evaluating the impact of urban development on neighbouring regions and natural systems.

- **Better regulation and good governance.** Good governance is not possible without an efficient, transparent and accountable public service that not only listens to its citizens, civil society organisations, businesses and academic institutions but also actively harnesses their energy and knowledge to achieve agreed societal objectives. Following principles set out in the EU Better Regulation Agenda, better regulation aims to ensure that decision-making is open and transparent, that citizens and stakeholders can contribute throughout the policy- and law-making process, and that public sector actions are based on evidence and understanding of their impacts, including minimising regulatory burdens on businesses, citizens or public administrations (European Commission, 2017b, 2019b). Better regulation also aims to digitalise public services in order to improve their quality and accessibility, ensuring that governments at different levels use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to embrace good governance principles and achieve policy goals (OECD, 2020a).

- **Improved living standards for all citizens.** The overall objective of this Action Plan is to improve living standards for all citizens, leaving no one and no place behind. Frameworks, benchmarks and indicators of living standards improvement are given in the text.

Climate Action	Urban Resilience	Spatial Equity & Justice	Heritage-led Development
Crisis Prevention	Enhanced Prosperity	Better Regulation & Good Governance	Improved Living Standards

Figure 2: The Action Plan's intended outcomes.

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4. Integrated Strategic Actions

Figure 3: Integrated actions in this Action Plan.

This Action Plan is based on SIX COMPREHENSIVE ACTIONS listed below, each subdivided into subsidiary actions.

The actions are presented in an integrated wheel, meaning they are relatively independent but mutually reinforcing. National and local governments can start anywhere in the strategic plan. Engagement with local authorities means that priority actions may differ from country to country. Each action encompasses a number of steps and smaller actions framed temporally as short term (1-3 years), medium term (3-10 years) and long term (10-20 years). The six actions are:

1. TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION
2. TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY
3. TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER
4. TO CONNECT & PROTECT
5. TO IMPLEMENT & MANAGE
6. TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE

The dynamic wheel of intervention and learning aims to develop a UfM community of stakeholders in sustainable territorial regeneration and development. The wheel indicates that actions can be carried out simultaneously and that there are multiple entry points for stakeholders. The same holds for the subsidiary actions. The wheel provides guidance for practices that will be repeated and refined over time, encouraging stakeholders to seek mutually beneficial partnerships for learning.

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For all actions proposed, a crucial first step is to consider existing initiatives in order to define the approach and the capacities of stakeholders involved, and to weigh the value added as well as possible complementarities between the actions. For this purpose, a separate UfM Framework for Project Description and Evaluation was created as an online tool to evaluate ongoing initiatives and assess new ones. This framework is presented in Annex A.

ACTION 1: TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION

To promote the design, regional coordination and cohesion of national urban policies (NUPs) and city development strategies (CDSs) across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

This action focuses on the development, harmonisation and cohesion of two complementary instruments at national and local levels: national urban policy documents (NUPs) and integrated city development strategies (ICDSs), to build regional and local governance instruments. NUPs and ICDSs are the main instruments of cohesion, coordination and action. Mapping, elaboration (where necessary) and harmonisation of NUPs and ICDSs are carried out by National Ministries and local authorities, with the UfM acting as a networking and advisory platform.

A 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). National urban policies (NUPs) provide public sector actors with frameworks and objectives for coordinated action; they also provide the legal frameworks and tools to formulate city development strategies (CDSs). This is why efforts should be made to coordinate NUPs and seek cohesion in a shared vision for sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Cohesion is understood as coordination of action areas, harmonisation of definitions, methodologies, and monitoring, respecting the particularities and legal frameworks of each country.

NUPs can also have an impact in countries with a federative tradition or regional autonomy (such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany or Spain), where they are used replaced by coordinated regional urban policies. Regional urban policies must nevertheless be coordinated and integrated.

National urban policies should also promote dynamic synergies and linkages between urban areas, peripheral and peri-urban and rural areas, across scales, following principles of integrated urban and territorial planning and development. UN-Habitat defines urban-rural linkages as diverse, non-linear interactions within an urban-rural space, including flows of people, goods, capital and information, but also between sectors and activities such as agriculture, services and manufacturing (UN-Habitat, 2019). "Due to many changes in the dynamic relationships between rural and urban areas, the binary divide between urban and rural is no longer functional (…). As urbanisation takes place, the peri-urban and rural areas should be considered as integral to sustainable urban development. The functional and spatial development gaps between predominantly urban and predominantly rural areas are widening with grave economic, social and environmental consequences." (UN-Habitat, 2020a). NUPs should also recognise principles of multi-level governance and subsidiarity, in which local authorities play a central role. This includes the important role of secondary or intermediate cities in creating and distributing prosperity.

Integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) refer to local strategies that secure the coherence of urban actions, avoiding gaps between design, programming and implementation. They:
- Target a well-defined area, ideally a functional urban area, identifying interconnected challenges and objectives based on local needs and ensuring coherence across various locally relevant instruments and investments.
- Are developed with appropriate citizen involvement and endorsed by relevant local or other territorial authorities or bodies.

- Contain a focused and sound analysis of the development needs and potentials identified in the targeted area, to trigger evidence-based policies and investments.
- Describe the integrated approach and corresponding alignment of policies, instruments and investments to address the identified urban development needs and potentials, establishing correlations between policy fields and unlocking synergies between a wider range of actions and funding sources (multi-level).
- Contain a description of the involvement of partners through, for instance, proactive strategic consultations at all stages of the policy and investment cycles (multi-stakeholders and local empowerment).
- Align procurement strategies with the CDSs through the strategic use of public procurement.
- Provide a description of the actions envisaged, tools to be used, outputs and results indicators.

These documents exist in many countries and cities across the region but are lacking in several of them. The OECD and UN-Habitat deliver programmes that help countries develop NUPs, including the UN-Habitat five-step NUP development programme currently in operation in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. The technical capacity to develop ICDSs remains a challenge across the region, especially in secondary and tertiary cities off coastal areas, therefore this action must be undertaken in combination with other actions in this plan, especially

ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY.

Cohesion and coordination are also overall objectives of the Action Plan as a whole, so the remaining five actions support ACTION 1.

BOX 2: What is a national urban policy (NUP)?

A national urban policy (NUP) is a "coherent set of decisions from a government-led process of coordinating various actors for a common vision that will promote more productive, inclusive and resilient urban development. [It] has been recognised by the international community as an essential policy instrument to harness the dynamics of urbanisation in order to achieve national and global goals. An NUP does not replace local urban policies but complements them to create the necessary conditions for sustainable urban development" (Lefebvre, 1996; OECD, 2017). In this Action Plan, NUPs are understood to offer a general framework for local city development strategies (CDSs) in harmony with this Action Plan and with international agreements.

1.1. Key objectives

To promote and support the overall coordinated development of UfM's cities and regions; to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by promoting coordination in governance, policy, planning and implementation capacity nationally, regionally and at metropolitan, urban and district levels, towards convergence in planning standards. Developing and coordinating NUPs and ICDSs across the region has the potential to boost development and prosperity by stimulating integrated urban development strategies. Rapid and unplanned urbanisation in the southern shores of the Mediterranean, and the concentration of populations in coastal cities all around, has left inland communities behind, deprived of access to services and improved life chances. Renewed attention to the regional scale and regional infrastructures at the sub-national level can help create more balanced development, reconnecting vigorous port cities with hinterlands lagging behind. Regional planning and design are key to achieving these objectives.

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BOX 3: What is regional design? Facilitating dialogue about spatial and institutional change

Spatial planning approaches have changed over the last decade. Competing claims – often due to urgent climate mitigation and adaptation measures – and dilemmas stemming from structural social, economic and political change have resulted in a greater appreciation of soft, adaptive spatial planning approaches. Such approaches involve knowledge about particular areas, place-based community-led initiatives, tailored temporary governance arrangements and more transformative perceptions of natural, metabolistic and evolutionary spatial change. Amid uncertainty, contentiousness and complexity, they are intended to unlock greater and more timely societal responses to problems in the built environment while maintaining robust, long-term planning reasoning.

Studies of soft modes of spatial planning indicate that they enhance the role of vision and spatial design. The changes described above have inspired more iterative and reflexive planning processes, often involving a wider variety of knowledge and actors. Spatial analysis, imaginative spatial metaphors and the "art" of making spatial representations have emerged as respected tools for building capacity and consensus in the interactive multi-actor settings that flexible planning involves. In various European regions, design-led approaches have become intimately part of regional spatial planning. *Regional design* – as an exploration of spatial solutions to problems on a larger scale – emerged as a distinctive discipline that contributes to uncovering the mechanisms of regional spatial development, mediating the divisions and conflicting reasoning caused by mismatches between spaces and administrative boundaries, and encouraging local action while also supporting accountable coordination of such action across multiple and multi-scalar territories.

The UfM's mission is to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of projects and initiatives with a tangible impact on citizens. In European regions, planners are experimenting with design-led approaches to decision-making. It is advisable to learn from their experiences in regional design as a distinct form of dialogue, and to draw on research into these.

Text by: Dr Verena Balz, Delft University of Technology

1.2. Key tools

1. NUPs: Promotion of the creation and harmonisation of national urban policy documents (NUPs).
   (i) Development and implementation of NUPs in UfM Member States who do not have an NUP, following common agreed frameworks.
   (ii) Comparison and coordination of existing NUPs to this Action Plan.

2. ICDSs: Promotion of the creation and harmonisation of integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) based on evidence-led principles of strategic territorial planning.
   (i) To establish shared visions for medium- and long-term development, consolidating democratic transition processes by empowering local governments and fostering stakeholder engagement and community and citizen participation, and
   (ii) To ensure that the ICDSs protect and value the cultural heritage of places (including historic city centres); that they build on inherited building practices and identity; and that they integrate heritage conservation with sustainable urban development plans.

1.3. Key actors

National authorities, local authorities and key universities, global and regional organisations (UN-Habitat, OECD) and other key stakeholders.

1.4. Possible financial tools or provision

International finance institutions (IFIs) and other donor programmes and initiatives (to be identified), and EU programmes and initiatives, such as the EU Bilateral Cooperation Programme, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Clima-Med project, PESETA IV, COST Actions, TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission) and Twinning (European Union instrument for

institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and of beneficiary or partner countries).

1.5. Key reference frameworks

The OECD and UN-Habitat National Urban Policy Programme, the OECD Principles on Urban Policy (OECD, 2019c), SUDS (Sustainable Urban Development Strategies), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the Pact of Amsterdam, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), the New Leipzig Charter, the UfM Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean, the European Green Deal, the Water Management Directive, the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, Council Conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, the EU Member States' expert group on High-quality Architecture and Built Environment for Everyone, and the OECD Integrated approach to the Paris Climate Agreement: The role of regions and cities (Matsumoto et al., 2019).

1.6. Time frame

Medium term (3-10 years)

1.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

(i) Assessing and evaluating the potential cooperation and added value of the UfM support to set up NUPs and ICDSs with UN-Habitat and the OECD, and other partner organisations involved in existing programmes.

(ii) Ensuring the commitment of Member States, and sub-national authorities to pursue the development of NUPs and ICDSs in the context of this Action Plan, building on existing tools and support activities.

(iii) Mapping trends (including megatrends), risks and challenges for national and local urban planning (e.g. hotspots of climate emergency building on the PESETA IV project, environmental degradation and other disaster risks as well as forced displacement), for inclusion of such challenges in NUPs and ICDSs. To be carried out by National Ministries, a network of local and international universities (the Universities Network), the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub (MSU), and partners.

(iv) Mapping and critical assessment of the development of NUPs across the region (OECD, 2017), by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(v) Mapping of the development of NUPs and ICDSs across the region, carried out by the UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) (hereafter referred to as the UfM Regional Platform), the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(vi) Mapping the governance of spatial development across the region, to be carried out by the UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(vii) Promoting dialogue between national planning authorities to harmonise NUPs to this Action Plan and evaluate/monitor this harmonisation, to be carried out by National Ministries, the UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(viii) Mapping of key cultural heritage in towns and cities across the region, to be carried out by National Ministries, UNESCO, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(ix) Helping national authorities to develop NUPs that are in line with this Action Plan in content and overall goals and objectives, to be carried out by the OECD, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(x) Connecting municipalities to help them exchange experiences while developing ICDSs (in connection with ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY, through living labs and with support from local universities). To be carried out by local authorities, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(xi) Encouraging stronger regional governance in NUPs. To be carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

(xii)   Mapping and encouraging the strengthening of water-related governance in NUPs (sea and fresh water resources), including the governance of the Mediterranean waters and associated water bodies in reference to urban development, using the Charter for Multilevel Governance in Europe (European Committee of the Regions, 2014) and ideas contained in the Guidance Document 8 "Public Participation in Relation to the Water Framework Directive" (European Commission, 2003). To be carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the MSU Knowledge Hub and partners.

1.8. Model for implementation. (Model adapted from (MedCities, 2018)

BOX 4: Urban and territorial development projects in the Mediterranean: A compendium of experiences of the CMI Urban Hub (text adapted)

Component 1: Elaboration of a number of integrated city development strategies (ICDSs) within existing NUPs.
Organisation and start-up to identify the municipal service that will oversee the design of the strategy and define the scope given to citizen participation. A steering committee at national level including the concerned ministries, public bodies, universities, civil society and, upon invitation, UfM representatives is established.

Phase 1 – A pre-diagnosis is carried out using various methods, including the "Facts, Challenges and Projects" method. A "Descriptive Memory" report offers a vision of the different variables that make up the urban reality including (i) urban infrastructure; (ii) green infrastructures; (iii) cultural and natural heritage; (iv) employment in traditional industries and trades; (v) institutional and legal frameworks; (iv) local economic development; and (vii) innovative port-related development.

Phase 2 – A strategic diagnosis specifies how to deal with the challenges. A document (Strategic Diagnosis Report) defines the key issues and trends and their territorialised impacts.

Phase 3 – A strategic framework summarises the general objective ("city vision") and the strategic lines ("city mission") for the city. Connections with regional strategies are established.

Phase 4 – An Action Plan is formulated. It includes a wide range of projects that aim to achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Framework.

Phase 5 – A monitoring and evaluation mechanism is set up to move forward from a planning document to a living dynamic process of transformation of the city through the creation of a Local Development Office which will be leading the implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

Component 2: Involvement, upon invitation, of NGOs (e.g. AVITEM, MedCities and Réseau des Villes Euromed etc.) in the development and implementation city development strategies in the Mediterranean. This component takes the Mediterranean Sea as the commons that ties together the whole region through water, and the activities and flows it affords, including shipping and commodity flows, as well as the cultural heritage of the Euro-Mediterranean region and identity, all the while facing the same challenges of globalisation and competition (competition vs. collaboration).
(CMI, 2018, p. 24; MedCities, 2018).

1.9. Criteria of success

(i)   Number of countries with NUPs rises significantly to more than 80% in three to five years.
(ii)   Number of cities with ICDSs rises significantly to more than 80% in three to five years.
(iii)   Networks of local authorities are actively involved.
(iv)   A number of NUPs and ICDSs are identified by UfM as achieving coordination with this Action Plan.
(v)   Number of local action plans connected to ICDSs rises significantly in three to five years.

ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY

To promote and support planning and design education and build capacity that supports the objectives of this Action Plan.

Empowering local authorities and strengthening their planning capacity is crucial to enable them to respond to the challenges of sustainable development and to consolidate democratic governance across countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Strengthening their planning capacity helps foster multilevel governance for actions aimed at sustainability and resilience. Lack of planning and coordination capacity at the local level, especially in secondary and tertiary cities off coastal areas in the Mediterranean, leads to increased divergence in levels of development (World Bank, 2020). This action aims to foster shared learning through the exchange of experiences, tools, concepts and frameworks for sustainable integrated development.

The science-policy interface is a key dimension for enlarging capacity and vision. Stimulating and facilitating lifelong learning for professionals, comparing urban planning and design curriculums, and teaching methodologies, and "educating the educators" are central issues for action. Universities should be part of local planning and design ecosystems, in order to help develop solutions for local contexts, catalysing interactions between city authorities and other actors on the ground, while connecting knowledge throughout the region and internationally. This can be done through specific programmes and platforms such as URBACT, the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe (URBACT, 2020). This can also be achieved through innovative partnerships between public sector, private sector and civil society in real-life, design-based, problem-oriented Urban Living Labs channelling tools and knowledge to local stakeholders (citizens, local industry, local NGOs, local governmental bodies, etc.), or via massive open online courses (MOOCs) learning modules developed by key experts from the UfM network.

Universities across the Euro-Mediterranean region are seen here as catalysts, providing on-the-job training to planning professionals, through lifelong learning programmes (LLPs) and educating the next generation of urban planners and designers. Local universities must build bridges between science and research on the one hand, and spatial policies and urban interventions on the other. This requires harmonisation and coordination of the curriculums of planning and architecture schools, including coordination of terminology and conceptualisation, methods of analysis, planning frameworks, tools and resources, as well as areas of study – in accordance with specific national and local needs, in agreement with this Action Plan, and respecting the traditions and specialisation of each university. This is important if we wish to create a large community of planners and designers who "speak the same language" and have roughly the same capabilities to implement positive change, without losing sight of the cultural differences and teaching and learning traditions of each country. An important source of coordination in planning and design education is the UN-Habitat "International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning" (UN-Habitat, 2015a).
Further emphasis should be given to heritage conservation, science and technology for conservation, and heritage studies connected to sustainability and resilience, in line with the tools proposed by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and the 2018 Davos Declaration (Swiss Confederation, 2018).

This action is partially inspired by the Madinatouna programme in Tunisia, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tunisia in partnership with MedCities, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Centre International de Développement pour la Gouvernance Locale Innovante (CILG–VNG), the Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes (FNVT), and the Centre of Training and Decentralisation Support (CFAD). The project aims to address "the challenge of balanced development in

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secondary cities through the elaboration of city development strategies" (CMI, 2018, p.27), taking an inclusive and participatory approach. Strategic urban planning capacities of local authorities and Tunisian experts were strengthened. The learning dynamic was also supported through the sharing of experience between cities.

BOX 5: What is a secondary city?

Secondary city is a term commonly used to describe the second-tier level of a hierarchical system of cities based on population thresholds. Most countries have orders, or levels, of cities starting at the primate, or primary, level. A primate city is defined as "the leading city in its country or region, disproportionately larger than any others in the urban hierarchy" (Goodall, 1987). It is likely to be a country's leading political, economic, media, cultural or university centre and be "at least twice as large as the next largest city and more than twice as significant (Jefferson, 1939). In some countries (Australia, Brazil, China, India and USA) there are multiple primate cities, so it is difficult to apply the concept of primacy in these places. (…) Primary cities are usually large metropolitan cities; however, primary cities in small-population countries can range from a few hundred thousand upwards. On a global scale, many smaller primary cities have secondary or even lesser status, but they still perform primary-city functions within the context of the countries in which they are located.

There is an extensive body of literature covering the subject of secondary cities and many definitions of the term. The term "secondary city" or "second-order city" has different meanings, depending upon the context in which it is used. It can relate to population size, administrative area, political, economic and historical significance of a system of cities below the primary order of cities within a country or geographic region. Most countries refer to secondary cities as part of a hierarchical classification of cities determined by population size or role; however, there are significant variations in the definition between countries. UN-Habitat defines a "secondary city" as an urban area generally having a population of between 100,000 and 500,000 (UN-Habitat, 1996:13). This definition is based on a classification of cities developed in the 1950s (Davis, 1955). However, a secondary city today can have a population of several million people and in China some secondary cities have populations of over five million – a long way from being comparable in size to secondary cities in Ethiopia, which have urban populations of less than 200,000 (Roberts, 2014).

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BOX 6: The Madinatouna programme in Tunisia

This programme is led by UNDP Tunisia. It is aimed at strengthening and disseminating strategic urban planning initiatives in Tunisia, focused particularly on the cities of the hinterland. The initiative is implemented within the framework of the Cities Alliance country programme under the coordination of UNDP, and in partnership with MedCities, GIZ, CILG-VNG, FNVT and CFAD. The general objective of the programme is to contribute to integrated development and local governance of the cities in Tunisia, through the reinforcement of the urban participation and strategic planning in Tunisia. The project is addressed to eight Tunisian cities and aims at developing participative urban planning strategies. MedCities is responsible for the methodological component of the project and will accompany the cities of Kairouan and Gabès in the definition of their urban strategies. Results included:

-Strategic urban planning component: Local authorities in eight cities have developed and are prepared to implement a participatory and inclusive city strategy.

- Component training and networking: The capacity for strategic urban planning of local authorities and Tunisian experts was strengthened and a shared learning dynamic through the sharing of experiences between cities was supported.

- Component capitalization and dissemination: National and regional authorities, in particular the FNVT, are involved in the reflection on strategic planning and support is provided to local authorities to capitalise strategic planning approaches and their dissemination.

Partners: MedCities, a member of the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Tunisian section, Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes, Centre de Développement International pour la Gouvernance Locale Innovante CILG-VNG, the Cities of Beja, Gabès, Jendouba, Kairouan, Médenine, Monastir, Sidi Bouzid, and Tataouine (Adapted from (MedCities, 2019).

2.1. Key objectives

To promote and support planning and design capacities in the region.

2.2. Key tools

(i)   Identification of key schools and universities across the region, by the UfM Regional Platform on SUD and the Universities Network.

(ii)   A conference with heads of schools, seeking a joint declaration by heads of schools subscribing to this Action Plan, carried out by the UfM Regional Platform on SUD and the Universities Network.

(iii)   A conference with the Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities (RETE) on port cities in the Mediterranean (scheduled for 2021), organised by RETE, the UfM Regional Platform on SUD and the Universities Network.

(iv)   Establishing links between key universities in support of project development and evaluation, to be carried out by National Ministries, the UfM Regional Platform on SUD and the Universities Network.

(v)   Updating and coordinating the curriculums of planning and architecture schools.

(vi)   LLPs (lifelong learning programmes).

(vii)   Pilot training programme for planners and policymakers modelled on the Tunisian Madinatouna capacity building programme, with a focus on secondary and tertiary cities.

(viii)   Short capacity-building workshops, led by a network of local and international universities and partners, e.g. AVITEM.

(ix)   Online urban planning and design education via MOOCs (massive open online courses), led by the Universities Network.

(x)   Design-focused planning exercises based on the UN-Habitat Global Network of Urban Planning and Design Labs, led by the Universities Network.

(xi) Forum of academics concerned with the built environment: gatherings of academics dealing with spatial development across the region, in the form of symposiums or conferences. Other forms of engagement will be used, and other groups will be targeted in different or combined events (policymakers, NGOs, planners, etc.).

(xii) Summer school for spatial planning and design students from the region, led by the Universities Network.

(xiii) Summer school on coastlines and port cities for young policymakers, led by the Universities Network.

(xiv) Short- and long-term activities (workshops and short courses) to promote conservation of World Heritage sites and valuable national heritage, led by UNESCO.

(xv) Setting up a network for Urban World Heritage cities in the Euro-Mediterranean region, to collaborate on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including heritage protection and peer-to-peer learning and exchange among local, regional and national policymakers on financing and managing the conservation and adaptive re-use of built heritage in cities in line with circular economy models. This would enable better management of heritage and better integrated city development strategies (ICDSs). Study visits and exchanges could provide training, mobilise knowledge and foster innovative and tailored solutions. To be carried out by UfM Regional Platform on SUD, the Universities Network and UNESCO.

(xvi) Working group towards a Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub (same as **ACTION 3: TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER**), based at a partner university, aiming to monitor urbanisation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, to monitor the progress of this Action Plan and to support policymaking in the regional Action Plan and the region.

(xvii) Urban Living Labs, led by the Universities Network and UNESCO.

(xviii) Policy Labs, led by the Universities Network, UN-Habitat and UNESCO.

(xix) Territorial expertise workshops in metropolitan, rural and Sahelo-Saharan contexts, focusing on the interface between different institutional levels (e.g AVITEM territorial expertise workshops)

(xx) Inter-university workshops, focusing on real contexts and results that could inspire elected officials and local project owners (e.g. AVITEM Tangier-Tetouan workshop).

(xxi) Erasmus+ capacity building in the field of higher education (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency).

2.3. Key actors

Key universities in the Euro-Mediterranean region, key international universities organised in a network, global and regional organisations (the UfM, the European Commission, UNESCO, AVITEM, UNDP, URBACT), National Ministries and authorities, the European Network of Living Labs, and other stakeholders.

2.4. Relevant ongoing technical assistance projects

IFI and other donor programmes and initiatives (to be identified) and EU programmes and initiatives, such as: COST Actions (European Cooperation in Science and Technology), TAIEX-Twinning, Erasmus+, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Creative Europe, the Skills for Youth Employability programme, and the BUILD UP Skills initiative.

URBACT, the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe.

CIVIS (a European universities initiative), creating a network of European universities cooperating with Mediterranean partners; the Blueprint project (Erasmus+) for skills for the construction industry; and IMPAQT, the Integrative Multidisciplinary People-centred Architectural Qualification & Training (Erasmus+), are examples of projects.

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2.5. Key reference frameworks

The Tunisian Madinatouna capacity building programme, the UN-Habitat Global Network of Urban Planning and Design Labs, the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, the OECD Programme for Secondary Cities, Council Conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, the EU Member States' expert group on High-quality Architecture and Built Environment for Everyone, the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF), the European Qualifications Framework, the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO), the UfM Urban Agenda, the Urban Agenda for the EU, the European Network of Living Labs, UNESCO, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), URBACT and AVITEM.

2.6. Time frame

Short to medium term

2.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

i. Identification of key schools and universities across the region, to be carried out by the UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network and partners.

ii. Conference with heads of schools, seeking Joint Declaration by heads of schools subscribing to this Action Plan, to be carried out by the UfM Regional Platform and the Universities Network.

iii. Conference with RETE on port cities in the Mediterranean (already scheduled for 2021), to be carried out by RETE, the UfM Regional Platform and the Universities Network.

iv. Mid- to long term: implement a pilot training programme following the Medinatouna capacity building programme in partnership with UN-Habitat and national universities, carried out by National Ministries, UN-Habitat, the UfM Regional Platform and the Universities Network.

v. Mid- to long-term: establish links between key universities to support project development and evaluation, carried out by National Ministries, the UfM Regional Platform and the Universities Network.

vi. Mid- to long term: open cooperation to explore the possibility of setting up a Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub (multi-university research centre) in one of the partner universities, to monitor urbanisation in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the progress of this Action Plan, and to support policymaking in the region (in combination with ACTION 6: TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE). To be carried out by National Ministries, UN-Habitat, the UfM Regional Platform and the Universities Network.

vii. Establish a network for Urban World Heritage cities in the Euro-Mediterranean region (Heritage Knowledge Hub), collaborating on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and projects, including heritage protection and peer-to-peer learning and exchange of experiences for local, regional and national policymakers on financing and managing the conservation and re-use of built heritage in cities in line with circular economy models. This would enable better management of heritage and better integrated city development strategies (ICDSs). Study visits and exchanges could provide training, mobilise knowledge and foster innovative and tailored solutions. To be carried out by the UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network and UNESCO.

viii. Summer schools and workshops by partner universities for young planners, urban policymakers and designers; to discuss and apply this Action Plan in a research and design studio setting. To be carried out by UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network and UNESCO.

2.8. Model for implementation of pilot training programme. Adapted from the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI, 2018, p.29)

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BOX 7: The European Qualifications Framework and the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)

The EU developed the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) as a translation tool to make national qualifications more comparable and easier to understand. The EQF seeks to support cross-border mobility of learners and workers, and promote lifelong learning and professional development across Europe. The EQF covers all types and all levels of qualifications and the use of learning outcomes makes it clear what a person knows, understands and is able to do. The EQF was set up in 2008 and revised in 2017 (European Commission, 2017c)

A total of 38 countries participate in the EQF: all EU Member States, the European Economic Area countries, all EU candidate countries and potential candidates and Switzerland. Most countries in the Mediterranean Area are developing national qualifications frameworks containing qualifications inspired by the EQF. The EQF recommendation invites the European Commission and the EU Member States to "*explore possibilities for the development and application of criteria and procedures to enable (…) the comparison of third countries' national and regional qualifications frameworks with the EQF*".

The European Classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO) (European Commission, 2019c) is a key reference framework that can be used for identifying skills and knowledge needed by architects. The European Commission developed ESCO to describe, identify and classify professional occupations, skills and qualifications relevant for the EU labour market and education and training. ESCO provides descriptions of 2,942 occupations and 13,485 skills linked to these occupations, translated into all official EU languages plus Icelandic, Norwegian and Arabic.
ESCO can help people understand what knowledge and skills are usually required when working in a specific occupation and what knowledge and skills are obtained as a result of a specific qualification. It can therefore be used to support mobility of architects and to identify relevant training needs.

BOX 8: Urban and territorial development projects in the Mediterranean: a compendium of experiences of the CMI Urban Hub

Step 1: **Strategic urban planning** aims to support local authorities in designing city development strategies in a participatory and inclusive manner and contribute to localising the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Pilot cities are chosen, taking into account: (i) low human development index (HDI), (ii) poverty indexes at city and urban agglomeration scales, (iii) existing collaborations between cities and project partners with a special interest and/or specialisation, (iv) the interest of cities in participating in the project.
Step 2: **Training and networking** aims to strengthen urban planning and project development capacities and foster a dynamic of shared learning through the exchange of experiences between cities. Training courses strengthen expert support for cities in developing their strategies, plans, programmes and projects; a number across the region are selected to train project leaders in designing the ICDSs at each stage of the methodological approach.
Experience exchange and networking involves inter-city exchange meetings as well as, at a broader scale, an exchange event with cities in the Maghreb and Mediterranean, and a final closing workshop.
Step 3 – **Learning, dissemination and scaling up** aims to support national and regional authorities in their thinking on strategic planning and support them in preparing the city development strategies (CDSs) to be created by local authorities in partnership with local universities.
Learning consists of coaching partner cities on how to analyse and organise results and lessons, and disseminate the knowledge produced.
Using multilevel governance mechanisms to disseminate approaches aims to raise awareness of National Ministries and regional authorities by promoting their participation in city-level workshop and, vice versa, encourage the participation of city representatives in regional meetings where the ICDSs are discussed. Scaling up aims to discuss how the strategic urban planning approach could be reproduced in other cities, through FNVT and relevant national bodies.
World Heritage City Labs could be developed with UNESCO as a modality for developing wider integrated strategies and solutions for sustainable urban development in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (CMI, 2018, p.29).
The Tunisian Medinatouna programme mentioned earlier is another important reference framework.

2.9. Criteria of success

(i)   A network of local and international universities and other research institutes is created to support this action.

(ii)   A conference with heads of school from the region is organised: a joint declaration is signed towards training and capacity building involving a significant number of schools in the region.

(iii)   A RETE conference is organised, and connections are made with this action.

(iv)   A "Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub" is established at one of the partner universities.

(v)   Partner universities, organizations, or associations make a first proposal for a Heritage Knowledge Hub in partnership with UNESCO, the form and location of which have yet to be decided.

(vi)   A significant number of capacity building courses and summer schools are organised by partner universities.

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ACTION 3: TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER

To promote community and stakeholder engagement and co-creation of shared visions for the region. To promote cross-border cooperation and coordination, and the exchange of knowledge between local and national planning authorities.

Cities and regions have a crucial role to play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to the OECD, it is estimated that as much as 65 per cent of the 169 targets underlying the 17 SDGs will not be reached without proper engagement of and coordination with local and regional governments. "Cities and regions should go beyond the 'compliance' agenda and embrace the full potential of the SDGs as a policy tool" (OECD, 2020d, p. 5).

In the context of negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations assigns an important role to multi-stakeholder partnerships. The long-term sustainability and fairness of urban development and regeneration solutions relies on the representation of multiple perspectives from conception to implementation, evaluation and monitoring through multi-level and polycentric governance.

BOX 9: What is polycentric governance?

"Polycentricity is a fundamental concept in the work of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom. The term connotes a complex form of governance with multiple centres of decision-making, each of which operates with some degree of autonomy (E. Ostrom, 2005) (V. Ostrom et al., 1961). The decision-making units in a polycentric governance arrangement are often described as overlapping because they are nested at multiple jurisdictional levels (e.g., local, state, and national) and also include special-purpose governance units that cut across jurisdictions (McGinnis & Ostrom, 2011; E. Ostrom, 2005). This multilevel configuration means that governance arrangements exhibiting polycentric characteristics may be capable of striking a balance between centralised and fully decentralised or community-based governance (Imperial, 1999)" (Carlisle & Gruby, 2019, p. 921).

There are a number of advantages to polycentric governance systems from the point of view of strategic planning, including the incorporation of multiple perspectives that allow for a better assessment of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

Crucially, polycentric governance, if well managed, may increase the potential for just outcomes, especially if vulnerable groups are also represented and have their stakes recognised. Polycentric governance may also enhance "adaptive capacity, provision of good institutional fit, and mitigation of risk on account of redundant governance actors and institutions" (Carlisle & Gruby, 2019, p. 921). In sum, polycentric governance is a desirable tool for the conception, implementation and management of territorial development spatial strategies.

But polycentric governance must be integrated by and complemented with other types of governance, depending on the context and type of project. In fact, hierarchic governance (vertical integration through rules and regulations) and market governance (market sensitive ways of steering and managing) are also crucial in territorial management, planning and design processes. These styles of governance are complementary and must be coordinated. Coordination is crucial for the success of complex governance processes.

Territorial strategies that are long term, trans-scalar and cross-sectoral have the potential to provide a multitude of stakeholders with a common direction, once consensus on a shared vision is reached. In other words, territorial strategies have the potential to function as territorial metagovernance frameworks that coordinate and integrate actions towards the SDGs. "Metagovernance or the governing of governing is a means by which a society attempts to establish some degree of coordinated governance. The goal is to achieve the best possible outcome from the viewpoint of those responsible for the performance of public sector organisations" (Bejakovic, 2019).

Territorial metagovernance allows for the acknowledgment and integration of multiple scales, sectors and styles of governance which must be integrated into spatial strategies. An example of how these ideas are percolating into policymaking is the OECD New Regional Development Paradigm, "which promotes a holistic, multi-sectoral, bottom-up, participatory and place-based approach to territorial development" (OECD, 2020d, p. 5).

As part of governance structures, citizen and community engagement are crucial to achieve fair and inclusive cities and communities. Cities and community engagement, with a focus on the inclusion of diverse groups of stakeholders, are a central tenet of this Action Plan, as they speak to a robust notion of sustainability that embraces three crucial dimensions: social, economic and environmental (Larsen, 2012). The social dimension of sustainability, to which citizen engagement speaks more closely, is seen here as the bedrock on which overall sustainability and resilience rest. Social sustainability and resilience also speak to the idea of justice and inclusion, and the legitimacy, acceptability and fitness of policy and may boost compliance. Furthermore, the

shared cultural heritage and identity of the region provide a valuable anchor for promoting social cohesion around spatial strategies grounded in these concepts.

This brings us to the potential of strategic spatial planning to enhance democracy and enable citizens to exert and access their rights, including their Right to the City.

BOX 10: The Right to the City

"It was the French sociologist and philosopher Henri Lefebvre who in 1968 coined the phrase 'Le droit à la ville', 'the right to the city' (Lefebvre, 1968, 1996; V. Ostrom, Tiebout, & Warren, 1961). This right, to Lefebvre, has both a more abstract and a more real or concrete dimension. The abstract dimension is the right to be part of the city as an oeuvre, i.e. the right to belong to and the right to co-produce the urban spaces that are created by city dwellers, or, in other words: 'the right not to be alienated from the spaces of everyday life' (Mitchell & Villanueva, 2010, p. 667). The real dimension is a concrete claim to integrated social, political and economic rights, the right to education, work, health, leisure and accommodation in an urban context that contributes to developing people and space rather than destroying or exploiting people and space: the right to the city is 'like a cry and a demand' and 'can only be formulated as a transformed and renewed right to urban life' (Lefebvre, 1996, p. 158)." (Aalbers & Gibb, 2014).

Later, David Harvey redefined the right to the city as the power to shape people's living environment to their wishes and desires: "To claim the right to the city in the sense I mean it here is to claim some kind of shaping power over the processes of urbanisation, over the ways in which our cities are made and re-made and to do so in a fundamental and radical way" (Harvey, 2008).

3.1. Key objectives

To promote community and stakeholder engagement in planning for the creation of shared visions for the Euro-Mediterranean region, at national and local levels.

3.2. Key tools

(i)   Design of metagovernance frameworks (transnational policy frameworks and multi-stakeholder partnerships at national and local levels) for key action areas, including: climate action, spatial justice, urban identity and form, cultural heritage as a resource for sustainable urban development, community engagement and democratic participation, carried out by National Ministries with support of the Universities Network.

(ii)   Inclusion of citizen participation and stakeholder engagement frameworks in NUPs and ICDSs, carried out by National Ministries and local authorities, with support of the Universities Network and the UfM Regional Platform.

(iii)   Promotion of good governance and community participation in NUPs and ICDSs, carried out by National Ministries and local authorities, with support of the Universities Network and the UfM Regional Platform.

(iv)   Showcasing of best practices in the UfM Action Plan, by the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform and the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub.

3.3. Key actors

National Ministries, organised citizens, local authorities, the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform, the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub, and the Citizen Focused Action Cluster.

3.4. Relevant ongoing technical assistance projects

IFIs and other donor programmes and initiatives (to be identified) and EU programmes and initiatives, such as: COST Actions, TAIEX, Twinning, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), and EU Bilateral Cooperation.

3.5. Key reference frameworks

(i) Charter for Multilevel Governance in Europe (European Committee of the Regions, 2014),
(ii) European Green Deal (European Commission, 2019e),
(iii) EU Water Framework Directive (European Commission, 2003).
(iv) European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage (European Commission, 2019d),
(v) Council Conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 (The European Council, 2018),
(vi) EU Member States' expert group on High-quality Architecture and Built Environment for Everyone (ACE-CAE, 2019),
(vii) Living-in.eu Declaration (EUROCITIES, 2020),
(viii) Tallinn Ministerial Declaration on eGovernment, including its Annex with specific reference to 'City Engagement' (European Commission, 2017d),
(ix) The European Manifesto on Citizen Engagement (European Commission, 2016b),
(x) Citizen focus under the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC), including the citizen-centric approach to data, the participatory budgeting for inclusive smart cities and communities (EIP-SCC, 2018a),
(xi) The European Network of City Policy Labs and its Synchronicity Project (EIP-SCC, 2018b),
(xii) EU-funded projects as Civitas Destinations, Portis, COREALIS, PortForward, PIXEL, and Coastal urban development through the lenses of resiliency (CUTLER),
(xiii) Participatory Citywide Urban Upgrading in Egypt Programme (UN-Habitat, 2020b),
(xiv) OECD Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals (OECD, 2020d).

3.6. Time frame: mid- to long term

3.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

(i) Inventory/overview of the existing knowledge platforms or hubs hosting open data on cities and territories in the Euro-Mediterranean, carried out by the UfM Regional Platform, the Universities Network and partners.
(ii) Mapping of participatory/engagement tools and mechanisms across the region, carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform, the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub, [Joint Research Centre (JRC)], and partners.
(iii) Creation of a "Citizen Engagement Index" across cities in the region, based on the OECD Better Life Index (Civic Engagement)(OECD, 2019a) and the Economist Intelligence Unit Civic Engagement Index (EIU, 2018), and promotion of citizen participation thresholds, to be carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform, the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub, [JRC], and partners.
(iv) Cataloguing of best practices in citizen and stakeholder engagement, carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform, the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub, [JRC], and partners.
(v) Comparative analysis (including contextualisation) of spatial plan governance models across the region, by the Universities Network, in combination with ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY.
(vi) Workshops on governance and institutional learning, in combination with ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY, led by the Universities Network and partners.

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(vii) Brainstorming group/working group towards the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub.

(viii) Strengthening engagement of local communities in actions in historic cities and urban centres, including properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

3.8. Model for implementation

OECD Better Life Index (Civic Engagement)(OECD, 2019a) and the Economist Intelligence Unit Civic Engagement Index (EIU, 2018), France's Citizens Convention on the Climate (CCC, 2019).

3.9. Criteria of success

(i) An overview of the existing knowledge platforms or hubs hosting open data on cities and territories in the Euro-Mediterranean is produced.

(ii) Partners produce a comparative analysis of the existence, modality and efficacy of citizen engagement tools across the region.

(iii) A "Citizen Engagement Index" is created by the Universities Network, as mentioned in ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY.

(iv) An updated catalogue of best governance practices across the region is published every five years by the Universities Network, the UfM Regional Platform and the Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub.

(v) A contextualised analysis of spatial planning governance models across the region is produced.

(vi) Workshops on governance and institutional learning are organised by partner universities.

(vii) A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is established on the creation of a Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub.

(viii) Engagement of local communities is evidenced in actions and projects in historic urban centres of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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ACTION 4: TO CONNECT & PROTECT

To promote the conception and implementation of urban and peri-urban infrastructures that support cross-border integration around the region. To improve the region's infrastructure interoperability for better connectivity and resilience in case of natural disasters or conflict.

Integration is the process of spatial, economic, environmental and social interaction in which states, sub-regions and cities collaborate to achieve shared visions for the future. Integration can happen through common institutions and rules (**ACTION 1: TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION**), coordinated efforts and shared decision-making processes.

Integration in the Action Plan supports the interoperability of crucial systems in the region, particularly to keep basic functions operational in the case of natural or human disasters, while facilitating the physical integration of countries in the region, in line with the Sendai Framework (UNDRR, 2020). Interoperability of basic systems in functional urban areas links up with issues of regional connectivity (UN-ESCAP, 2014), climate action, energy transition, ecosystems services (FABIS, 2018), water management, anti-desertification actions, epidemic responses, disaster risk reduction, port automation, data traffic, international borders and maritime and coastal resources management, and more.

This Action Plan also embraces self-reliance and security in connection with the built environment, including housing security (or housing stability) in the UfM Action Plan on Sustainable Housing.

Additionally, port cities are seen as the main nodes in networked landscapes of mobility, production and exchange that reach deep into the hinterland of the countries involved, constituting "port cityscapes".

"Port-related flows of goods, people and ideas cross institutional boundaries and create complex, fuzzy territories without strong, mutually supportive governance frameworks, legal systems and planning guidelines. Multi-scalar markets and global value chains leave their imprint on the spaces of the port, and on neighbouring urban and rural territories. Stakeholders in these areas are multiple and pursue different goals and functions. Politicians, planners and researchers grapple with the need to provide guidance for spatial and institutional development to deal with the ongoing fragmentation and transformation of extended port city territories, overlapping governance systems and flexible coalitions of actors in different power positions. As ports have grown beyond the territories of the cities that generated them, the number of governance actors that have a say in port development has increased" (Hein, 2019).

Trade, transport, cultural and natural heritage and tourism routes, in particular, are pathways to integrate and reinforce the connections between the countries in the region.

4.1. Key objectives

(i)   To recognise and address the specificities of Mediterranean territories by using strategic territorial diagnoses to better understand their reality in terms of functionality, vulnerability and potential.

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(ii)   To promote and support the implementation of urban and peri-urban infrastructures and spatial interventions that integrate countries around the region, focusing on shared resources (including the Mediterranean Sea and ecosystem services), commerce and mobility around the notion of port cityscapes and the interoperability of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

(iii)   To promote cross-border cooperation and coordination, and voluntary knowledge exchange between local and national planning authorities in regard to the planning, design and management of key regional infrastructures and resources, with a focus on water management.

(iv)   To promote strategic macro-regional thinking and macro-regional governance of crucial infrastructure.

(v)   To provide gateway-cities (equipped with a port or an airport) and cities more engaged with global trade with the capacity to endure disruptions and threats.

(vi)   To consolidate the links between metropolitan areas and the surrounding cities likely to support them and strengthen their capacity for resilience in the event of economic, social or environmental crises.

(vii)   To integrate built heritage in disaster risk reduction plans and to ensure disaster risk reduction plans for urban heritage, in particular, properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

4.2. Key tools

(i)   Future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network (TMN-T) (an ongoing project of infrastructural integration spurred by the Barcelona Process)(RAM, 2014), to be connected to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), and the existing map of transport infrastructure in the Southern Mediterranean Sea.

(ii)   Water-related partnerships, including use and control of resources, and commercial shipping.

(iii)   Macro-regional visions outlined in international Policy Labs. (UfM)

(iv)   Policy Labs (e.g. Policy Lab organised by the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) on port cities on 13 March 2020, in Brest, France).

(v)   Digital Innovation Hubs, Living Labs, and ICT for fighting climate change and addressing extreme weather events, in particular relying on data and urban platforms.

(vi)   Joint activities with the UNESCO Chair on Water, Culture and Historic Urban Landscapes.

4.3. Key actors

National authorities, local authorities, key universities in the region, the UfM, the European Commission, the OECD, UN Agencies, the World Bank, IFIs and other donors, and other regional stakeholders, such as the Ford Foundation and VNG International.

4.4. Relevant ongoing technical assistance projects

IFI and other donor programmes and initiatives (to be identified) and EU programmes and initiatives, such as: COST Actions, TAIEX, Twinning, Erasmus+, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), the Global Covenant of Mayors, the Clima-Med project.

4.5. Key reference frameworks

The UfM Regional Transport Action Plan, the Cohesion policy (the European Union's strategy to promote and support the "overall harmonious development" of its Member States and regions, TFUE Article 174). Further: the European Green Deal, the Water Management Directive, the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage, Council Conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, the EU Member States' expert group on High-quality Architecture and Built Environment for Everyone, the UfM Urban Agenda,

the Urban Agenda for the EU, the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (European Commission, 2020a), the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (European Commission, 2020c), and A Comprehensive EU Strategy with Africa (European Commission, 2020d).

4.6. Time frame: long term

BOX 11: From European Regional Policy to a spatial development policy

The EU's Regional Policy was only initiated in 1975, 40 years ago, by a Council decision on the basis of Article 235 of the Treaty of Rome (European Economic Community). Since then, the aim of regional policy has been to contribute to "redressing the most important regional imbalances in the Community". The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was created for this purpose. The spatial dimension still played a distinctly secondary role in this regional policy. The Single European Act (SEA), which took effect on 1 July 1987, strengthened the regional policy objective. Articles 130 (a-e) of the EC Treaty are particularly important to regional policy. In paragraph 2, the text of Article 130a employs wording found in the preamble to the EC Treaty, thus adding a special spatial objective to that of the first paragraph: "In particular, the Community shall aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least- favoured regions." The Treaty on European Union (TEU) signed on 7 February 1992 in Maastricht takes this a step further. Inter alia, in a reworded Article 130d of the EC Treaty it provides in particular for the creation of a "cohesion fund" through which funding was to be provided to projects in the environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure. The EU Treaty of Maastricht very clearly sets new directions for a European spatial development policy in several areas:

- increased democratic control by the European Parliament in the form of a right of veto in the setting up of the Structural Fund (Art. 130d EC Treaty);
- introduction of the generally applicable principle of subsidiarity (Art. 3b EC Treaty); and
- establishment of the "Committee of the Regions (CoR)" as a regional body "consisting of representatives of regional and local bodies" (Art. 198a-c EC Treaty).

In addition, this Treaty contained general regulations on the spatial development of the Union with respect to the "creation of an area without internal borders" and "the promotion of economic and social cohesion", to be crystallised in the following goals and measures of spatial development:
- reducing disparities between the levels of development of regions (Art. 130a EC Treaty);
- developing trans-European networks (Art. 129b §1 EC Treaty);
- preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment (Art. 130r §1, EC Treaty);
- prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources (Art. 130r, §1, EC Treaty); and
- respecting national and regional diversity (Art. 128, §1, EC Treaty).

These jurisdictional provisions of the Treaty enabled the Union to be more active in regional policy, even though the Maastricht Treaty itself did not provide for any independent authority in spatial development policy. (Guillermo-Ramirez & Nikolov, 2015)

4.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

(i)   Catalogue cross-border initiatives in UfM Member States as part of the future Trans-Mediterranean Network for Transport.

(ii)   Integrate cross-border cooperation provisions in NUPs, carried out by the Universities Network and partners.

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(iii)   Map the impact of climate change on coastlines and coastal (port) cities through sea-level rise and on hinterland cities through droughts, floods and other changing water/environmental patterns, carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network and partners.

(iv)   Map coastal geohazard risks in coastal (port) cities to reinforce coastal geo-disaster resilience, carried out by National Ministries, the Universities Network and partners.

(v)   Develop regional interoperability strategies [integrated in NUPs].

4.8. Model for implementation: Interreg Europe. Interreg helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy, by creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions and learning. It ensures that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts have an integrated and sustainable impact for people and places (ERDF, 2019). EU Communication on "Boosting growth and Cohesion in EU Border Regions" (European Commission, 2017a).

4.9. Criteria of success

(i)   Cross-border cooperation provisions are integrated in NUPs.

(ii)   A comparative report is published on the impact of climate change on coastlines and coastal (port) cities and on hinterland cities due to droughts, floods and other changing water/environmental patterns.

(iii)   Coastal geohazard risks in coastal (port) cities are mapped.

(iv)   Urban heritage in the Euro-Mediterranean region is mapped and analysed for hazard risks and disaster risk management plans and strategies are developed.

(v)   A review of this Action is published after three years.

ACTION 5: TO IMPLEMENT & MANAGE

To promote the design of integrative strategic projects for cities in the Euro-Mediterranean region in a set of thematic axes of action. To implement common frameworks for project management.

This action identifies key areas for the implementation of strategic integrated projects requiring priority attention from stakeholders involved in delivering integrated territorial development.

Integrated territorial and urban development are crucial to face the interconnected challenges experienced by contemporary societies, and to achieve the SDGs. The mutually reinforcing relationship between sustainable urbanisation and development has been recognised in SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, but the speed and intensity of change, and the nature of ever more frequent systemic crises, demand decisive collective action and increased coordination. The costs of inaction are high, but so far urgencies in the present have overtaken planning for a sustainable future. In other words, firefighting policymaking should give way to integrated vision and strategy-making.

The Mediterranean Basin is one of the most prominent hotspots of climate and environmental change in the world. According to the MedEC network (MedEC, 2019), the Mediterranean region is warming 20 per cent faster than the global average, and the regional temperature will increase by 2.2°C by 2040 if current trends persist. The magnitude of climate change in the region has the potential to significantly disrupt the lives and economies in the region. The availability of fresh water is expected to decrease by up to 15 per cent (one of the largest decreases in the world). Sea level rises may exceed 1 meter by 2100, affecting a third of the region's population. Half of the 20 global cities likely to suffer most from sea-level rises are in the Mediterranean (EEA, 2019). The increases in frequency, intensity and duration of heatwaves imply significant health risks for vulnerable populations, especially in cities. The regional response to those challenges will be aligned with the European Green Deal (European Commission, 2019e), which will shape not only the EU's internal actions for the next 30 years but also its international actions via Green Deal Diplomacy (European Commission, 2019e).

Integrated spatial interventions are tangible tools to achieve shared visions for a desirable future. But spatial interventions and projects need to be part of integrated territorial strategies that join up different sectors and scales for coherent and sustainable results (see Actions 1, 2, 3, 4). When doing so, spatial interventions become strategic integrated projects, with a variety of positive spin-off effects for cities and city-regions, catalysing and accelerating sustainable and resilient urban transformation.

In this sense, strategic spatial interventions require sound process management and integrated territorial investments (ITI) that coordinate the actions of stakeholders from civil society, public sector and the private sector, monitor their intended and unintended effects, oversee funding and guarantee accountability from conception to implementation. These tools should help local, regional or national authorities to integrate priorities from different scales of intervention and different sectors, and to combine financing for a territorial development strategy.

Equally important is the democratic potential of city-making, where citizens aspire to participate in order to help shape their own living environments, fulfilling their Right to the City.

Apart from the Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, the Pact of Amsterdam (the Urban Agenda for the EU), the New Leipzig Charter, and the Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean, there are several frameworks that help coordinate and integrate spatial interventions into spatial strategies, addressing interconnected challenges; the OECD "Better Policies for 2030: An OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals" (OECD, 2016),

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the OECD "Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals" (OECD, 2020d), the UN-Habitat Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages (UN-Habitat, 2019), the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and the European Green Deal (European Commission, 2019e) are just a few examples of policy frameworks using an integrated territorial approach.

The general mandate and mission of the UfM Secretariat were defined in the 2008 Paris and Marseille Declarations as well as in the Statutes adopted on 3 March 2010. A number of sectoral mandates, agendas, action plans and financial strategies have been adopted since 2010. The UfM labelling process was updated in 2018 in line with the 2017 UfM Roadmap for Action. In this context, the general mandate of the UfM Secretariat is to promote UfM-labelled projects and initiatives through communication and networking. All proposals for UfM labelling have to comply with the UfM project/initiative general criteria in line with the UfM's core values and principles, while conforming to the related UfM sectoral policy mandates. Proposals for labelling are processed according to the general Project Guidelines of the UfM and evaluated against the UfM project/initiative criteria. The UfM Secretariat does not carry out in-depth technical studies, such as feasibility studies or environmental assessments, nor technical reviews of any existing studies, but relies on those carried out by the promoter or potential funders.

The UfM establishes and maintains partnerships with global/regional IGOs, NGOs, universities, IFIs and other donors, particularly with those in the Euro-Mediterranean ecosystem. Areas of cooperation and partnership are outlined in memorandums of understanding (MoUs) concluded with partner organisations. MoUs are implemented through joint activity programmes agreed with partners on a regular basis. Within the framework provided by this Action Plan, the UfM's role will be key to signal priority areas, and to ensure policy references are followed, while facilitating the access to a network of partners, donors and international financial institutions, and accompanying the promoters in their fundraising and preparation of implementation strategy. In addition, the UfM will also continue to identify projects of regional and thematic significance. Member States will keep their prominent role with regard to sharing, using and publicising the Action Plan.

BOX 12: Integrated territorial approach

An integrated territorial investment (ITI) is an instrument that provides for integrated delivery arrangements for investments under more than one priority axes or more than one operational programmes. Funding from several priority axes and programmes can be combined into an integrated investment strategy for a certain territory or functional area. This can take the form of an integrated strategy for urban development, but also for inter-municipal cooperation in specific territories. It allows the managing authorities to delegate the implementation of parts of different priority axes to one body (a local authority) to ensure that investments are undertaken in a complementary manner. Within an ITI some components can be undertaken through community-led development combining the two approaches (URBACT, 2019).

ACTION 5 addresses the integration of the ideas and frameworks in this Action Plan into strategic projects to enhance integrated territorial development. These integrated projects are organised into a set of priority thematic axes of intervention, listed below. Action 5 is further subdivided into nine PRIORITY AXES OF INTERVENTION, presented here to guide the strategic priorities and projects. These are thematic areas of intervention where actors can come together to address a salient issue of urban development through integrative spatial visions and strategies. They provide for an integrated, rather than sectoral, approach.

NOTE: Only the first axis of intervention (HOUSING) has been fully developed so far, given the crucial role of housing for the success of the Action Plan. The remaining axes of intervention will be developed separately with partner institutions.

These projects must be integrated, formulated across sectors with public participation and aligned with a set of priority thematic axes of action, listed below. These thematic axes have emerged from consultation and consensus among UfM stakeholders on the priorities in the Euro-Mediterranean region, through discussions promoted in the framework of the UfM Working Groups on Affordable and Sustainable Housing, and Urban Regeneration. The axes of intervention are:

(i) **Adequate, sustainable and affordable housing** as a vector for inclusive, integrated and sustainable urban development and regeneration.

(ii) **Forelands, port areas, port cities and their hinterlands**, as drivers of sustainable and resilient economic prosperity.

(iii) **Blue and green infrastructure** regeneration and implementation, nature-based solutions, re-naturing, preservation and enhancement, in tandem with the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructures (European Commission, 2013a, 2013b), the European Green Deal (European Commission, 2019e), the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (European Commission, 2020c), the report on EU research and innovation policy agenda for nature-based solutions and re-naturing cities (European Commission, 2015) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

(iv) **Heritage conservation-based strategies for sustainable urban development** that promote social cohesion, sustainable livelihoods, and enhanced resilience, including sustainable tourism sustainable regeneration of historic urban centres, based on the recognition of the shared history and identity of the region.

(v) **Informal settlements and deprived neighbourhoods** as focal points for the creation of inclusive cities and communities, and in relation to affordable and sustainable housing provision (Axis 1).

(vi) **Brownfield sites, former railway sites and abandoned or underused buildings** as focal points for urban regeneration and area redevelopment (ESPON, 2020; European Commission, 2018c) .

(vii) **Urban infrastructures,** climate-smart urban mobility, mobility hubs and nodes as carriers and distributors of improved life chances and economic opportunity.

(viii) **Public and shared spaces regeneration** as vectors for sustainable urbanisation, safety, public life and democracy building (European Commission, 2019i) .

(ix) **New Towns, urban extensions and new neighbourhoods** as drivers of responsible, inclusive, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable urbanisation.

5.1. Key objectives

(i) To develop and validate the Framework for Project Description and Evaluation (Annexe A) as a central identification tool and reference checklist.

(ii) To use this framework to identify and promote integrative regional projects, with a view to labelling them as UfM projects.

(iii) To support the preparation and access to finance of labelled projects

(iv) To disseminate the framework widely, familiarising partner organisations, IFIs and donors with it in order to accelerate and improve the financing and implementation of projects and initiatives in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

(v) To identify key priority thematic axes of intervention in territorial, urban, peri-urban and urban functional areas of integrated development.

(vi) To formulate integrated territorial development strategies (in ACTION 2: TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY).

(vii) To promote vision and strategy-making between sectors around priority thematic axes of action (ACTIONS 1, 2, 3, 6).

(viii) To promote cooperation and exchange of knowledge on how to design and manage strategic projects (ACTIONS 1, 2, 3, 6).

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(ix)   To identify good practices and notable examples of integrated project conception, design and implementation (ACTIONS 1,2,3,6).

(x)   To design territorial metagovernance that includes a package of coordinated actions and policies (All ACTIONS).

5.2. Key tools

(i)   The framework provided by the UfM Strategic Urban Development Action Plan and its promotion (Annexe A).

(ii)   The role of the UfM in supporting regional initiatives and projects.

(iii)   A catalogue of inter-sectoral strategies for urban regeneration and development across the region.

(iv)   The integration of inter-sectoral governance tools in NUPs (national urban policies) and ICDSs (integrated city development strategies).

(v)   UNESCO World Heritage City Labs work to integrate urban heritage conservation and sustainable urban development, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO Category II Centres.

(vi)   "City design workshops" based on the City Labs methodology developed by URBACT: plenary, (intro/scene setting); "stars and bars" exercises; "fishbowl" sessions; and parallel workshops focused on a specific theme and case studies, allowing for triangulation with partners from the larger international network.

(vii)   "Planning by Design Workshops" based on UN-Habitat Urban Labs methodology.

(viii)   Intensive use of citizen assemblies for collective vision-making.

(ix)   The OECD & International Transport Forum "New Paradigm for Urban Mobility" (OECD & ITF, 2015).

(x)   The Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), led by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and intended to identify and support potentially replicable and innovative urban integrated projects by offering grants for project preparation and subsequent funding.

(xi)   The City Climate Finance Gap Fund, designed to support cities in developing and emerging countries in the preparation of climate-friendly and resilient infrastructure projects, particularly in the early stages (IUC, 2020).

BOX 13: What are EU integrated territorial instruments (ITIs)?

ITIs are instruments for delivery of integrated territorial development in EU Cohesion Policy. They are voluntary programming instruments to implement integrated urban or territorial strategies. Post 2020 ITIs allow funding from multiple investment priorities (at least two) and allow combinations of programmes, funds and policy objectives. The funds potentially concerned are the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund and rural development funds. In this respect, ITIs are not exclusive to any policy objective or fund. They are flexible instruments for "funds blending". The key elements of an ITI are: a designated territory and integrated development strategy – the territory of an ITI can be any geographical area (urban, urban-rural, sub-regional, or inter-regional) or functional area, and a package of actions to be implemented. CP Managing Authorities (MAs) have the final responsibility for ITIs. However, intermediate bodies (IBs – local authorities, regional development bodies etc.) may be appointed to carry out delegated tasks (European Commission, 2019g).

BOX 14: What is community-led local development (CLLD)?

Community-led local development is a term used by the European Commission to describe a Cohesion Policy delivery instrument that turns traditional "top down" development policy on its head. CLLDs are at the same time territorial development and governance instruments. CLLDs provide a specific method to enhance bottom up participatory approaches and apply for local community initiatives. CLLDs put local actors in the driving seat for sustainable development of local areas and ensure flexible and adaptable programming arrangements. In the post 2O2O programming period, CLLDs can be used flexibly under any Policy Objective, be it by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Under CLLD, local people are called to form a local partnership that designs and implements an integrated development strategy. The strategy is designed to build on the community's social, environmental and economic strengths or "assets" rather than simply compensate for its problems. For this, the partnership receives long term funding – and decides how it is spent. CLLD focuses on the local level (sub-regional areas). It is led by a local action group with no majority from any interest group, which puts forward an integrated multi-sectoral local strategy. It must include innovative features and cooperation that promotes social innovation (European Commission, 2018a).

BOX 15: UN Habitat Urban Labs: a three-pronged approach

The teams are organised in one-year planning labs selected from a pool of talented planners. The teams work according to the "three-pronged approach", which means that they propose plans that, in addition to planning and design, have a legal and financial component. To accommodate this, the teams also receive funds to hire legal and financial expertise. The labs provide an opportunity to help local governments overcome their countries' challenges, which include rapid urbanisation, post-disaster planning, and planning of new towns and economic development. In this process, design plays a crucial role. "In many contexts, design arrives at the end of the planning process, after all the problems have exhaustively been defined and the goals have been set," says Rogier van den Berg, project leader of the Urban Planning and Design LAB at UN-Habitat. "With the planning labs, we integrate design throughout the planning process, since design explorations can actually also contribute to problem definition and goal-setting. And as clear plans ease political buy-in, design also has the capacity to accelerate governments' decision-making processes, where plans often end up in gridlock." The labs' collaboration with local planners also gives local planners the chance to gain crucial expertise in a "learning by doing" way. This unique collaboration gives Dutch urban planners and architects an opportunity to work on the future EU and the UN agenda on urbanisation. This Agenda will address inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development globally. (UN-Habitat, 2015b)

5.3. Key actors

National governments, cities, national development banks, urban development agencies, international financial institutions through programmes like the Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), and the European Commission through programmes such as the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIF), the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), and UfM.

5.4. Relevant ongoing technical assistance projects

IFI and other donor programmes and initiatives such as the Urban Projects Finance Initiative – Economic Resilience Initiative (UPFI-ERI) and EU programmes and initiatives: the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIF), EU Bilateral Cooperation and the City Climate Finance Gap Fund.

5.5. Key reference frameworks

National urban policies, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the UfM Urban Agenda, the Urban Agenda for the EU, the New Leipzig Charter, EU Cohesion Policy post-2020, concepts of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), integrated territorial

investments (ITI), community-led local development (CLLD), the OECD & International Transport Forum "New Paradigm for Urban Mobility" (OECD & ITF, 2015), and the City Climate Finance Gap Fund.

5.6. Time frame: short and long term, depending on action
5.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

(i) Identify and recognise regional initiatives or projects being implemented in the region with the UfM label and promote them among UfM Member States as tools to reach the agreed objectives of this Action Plan.

(ii) Identify exemplary projects and recognise them with the UfM label. Support and promote them under the umbrella of this Action Plan as exemplary initiatives or projects to be replicated in the region, using the tools proposed in this Action Plan.

(iii) Create an inventory of integrative initiatives or projects in the region.

(iv) Create an inventory and classify integrative strategic initiatives or projects for selected cities in the region according to the nine axes of intervention. Axes of intervention are defined here as thematic priority intervention areas guiding the relationship between this Action Plan, national urban policies (NUPs) and integrated city development strategies (ICDSs), integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD) initiatives or projects. Using these priority axes of intervention, this Action Plan wishes to promote collaborative creation, envisioning and assessment (ACTIONS 2, 3 and 6) in the form of partnerships and working groups, based on integrated territorial development.

Housing is one of the priority axes of intervention, and plays a central role, as the challenge of providing dignified, adequate, affordable, sustainable, resilient and integrated housing unites many of the issues addressed in this Action Plan.

5.8. Model for implementation
Each axis of intervention has its own specific implementation streamline. To be developed separately.

5.9. Criteria of success
Assessment and certification through the UfM Framework for Project Description and Evaluation (FPDE, ANNEXE A). The FPDE is a support tool that helps identify key criteria for initiatives or projects to be aligned with this Action Plan.

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ACTION 6: TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE

To establish a results-based, systematic evaluation, monitoring and reporting system in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
To establish a system for peer review and monitoring of project design and implementation, through the constitution of a network of partner cities and universities.

This Action Plan abides by the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 29 January 2014 (A/RES/69/261) on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, recognising that "official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation" and the remaining principles expressed in that resolution (UN, 2014). Acknowledging the urgency of achieving the sustainable development goals, the Action Plan encourages the adoption of the Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UNStats, 2020) and supports the implementation of the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators (UNESCO, 2019a). It assumes a mutually reinforcing relationship between sustainable, fair and inclusive urbanisation and development, anchored on the principles of the New Urban Agenda, the Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean, the Pact of Amsterdam and the New Leipzig Charter, and thus focuses on SDG 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) as a vehicle to achieve many of the remaining SDGs. It further recognises the need to tailor indicators to the Mediterranean context, and to define crucial ones to measure the status of key relevant regional issues, such as climate change, housing security and socio-spatial inclusion.

There is commonly an emphasis on the material aspects of sustainability and less attention to the political, social and cultural aspects of sustainable development. These are crucial elements in social sustainability, by which we mean society's ability to find consensus around societal objectives and the processes designed to achieve those objectives. By managing and monitoring those processes effectively and transparently, and by engaging citizens, businesses and civil society, we ensure support, ownership and ultimately the political feasibility and continuity of these strategies.

Implementing complex long-term strategies and projects requires the mobilisation of many stakeholders across sectors and scales. Polycentric networked multilevel governance ensures access to a variety of data, expertise, capabilities and perspectives, but it challenges efficiency and accountability. Managing and monitoring complex territorial strategies and projects demands new streamlined approaches that help institutions learn and monitor results while also ensuring accountability and efficiency.

This Action addresses those challenges and caters for the need to make processes transparent, participatory and fair.

To this effect, this Action Plan adopts as a model the results-based programming, budgeting, management, monitoring and reporting (RBM) implemented by UNESCO. It also uses the EU Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox introduced in 2015 and updated in 2017, which include methodologies for assessing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies, and specific requirements for public consultation and involving stakeholders in policymaking (ACTION 3: TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER). This reinforces the commitment of this Action Plan to evidence-based, integrated and participatory policymaking.

The Action Plan also proposes a mechanism by which members of the UfM partner network can evaluate progress towards its objectives. This partner network consists of National Ministries, local city administrations, regional authorities, relevant international organisations (UNDP, UNESCO, OECD, UN-Habitat etc.), significant civil society groups, and local and international universities. This partner network will ensure the dissemination of knowledge and will assist with peer review and evaluation processes.

This mechanism has two thrusts:

(i)   Sharing of information on the implementation of projects, by IFIs and promoters in the UfM-IFIs Urban Project Committee.
(ii)   Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan itself.

The first is the responsibility of UfM Member Countries, at various levels of implementation and oversight, supported by the UfM partner network. The latter will be done by the UfM and the partner network, notably a Universities Network from the region.

Figure 4: The EU policy cycle, as shown in the Better Regulation Guidelines.

Source: Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox (European Commission, 2017b).

6.1. Key objectives

(i)   To formulate benchmarks of success based on the several policy frameworks used for the formulation of the Action Plan, with an emphasis on SDG indicators tailored to the Mediterranean context.
(ii) To monitor cohesion and coordination of governance.
(iii) To monitor the implementation and success of projects effectively, by integrating lessons learned in decision-making.
(iv) To measure progress on SDG indicators and the New Urban Agenda resulting from implementation of the Action. This complementary objective could be the task of a Mediterranean Sustainable Urbanisation Knowledge Hub, mentioned in ACTIONS 2 and 3.
(v)   To implement UNESCO Culture 2030 Indicators to assess and enhance the role of cultural heritage and creativity at the urban level.

6.2. Key tools

Global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UNStats, 2020) and the SDGs Global Dashboard (UN, 2020)

Results-based programming, budgeting, management, monitoring and reporting (RBM), as implemented by UNESCO.

BOX 16: Results-based programming, budgeting, management, monitoring and reporting (RBM)

RBM is a management strategy aimed at changing the way institutions operate, by improving performance, programmatic focus and delivery. It reflects the way an organisation applies processes and resources to undertake development interventions to achieve desired results (i.e., outputs, outcomes, impacts) integrating evidence and lessons learned on past performance and actual results into management decision-making.

RBM is a participatory and team-based management approach that focuses on performance and achieving results, that is applied at all stages of the programme cycle. It is designed to improve programme delivery and strengthen management effectiveness, efficiency and accountability. The essence of the RBM approach is to move from input and activity accountability – that is how the resources have been spent and what has been undertaken – and place focus on the results achieved for the resources invested. Hence, RBM which encompasses programme, financial and human resources management, helps moving the focus of programming, managing and decision-making from inputs and activities to the results to be achieved (UNESCO, 2019b, p.8).

6.3. Key actors
National authorities, national statistical offices, local authorities, the UfM, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the OECD, UN Agencies, the World Bank.

6.4. Possible financial tool/provision
IFIs and other donor programmes and initiatives (to be identified) and EU programmes and initiatives, such as: EU Bilateral Cooperation, TAIEX-Twinning.

6.5. Key reference frameworks
SDGs and related indicators, UNESCO's results-based programming, budgeting, management, monitoring and reporting programme (RBM) (UNESCO, 2019b), UNESCO Culture 2030 Indicators, the INSPIRE Directive (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community).

6.6. Time frame: Medium to long term

6.7. Proposed actions and indicative list of implementers

(i) To adopt a functional statistical definition of what constitutes the city and its boundaries (JRC) [Box 11].
(ii) To strengthen supportive frameworks and capacity development for better SDG monitoring, both at national and local levels (National Ministries, partner network) in the frame of key priorities identified by the Action Plan.

(iii) To define mechanisms for review of projects proposed in the framework of this Action Plan by members of the UfM Regional Platform and UFM-IFIs Urban Project Committee.

(iv) To strengthen the coordination of national statistical systems.

BOX 17: OECD-EC definitions of functional urban areas (FUA) and cities

The Cities in the World report: A New Perspective on Urbanisation proposes two new concepts for broadly defining cities and their immediate surrounding areas: The degree of urbanisation and the functional urban area (FUA). The degree of urbanisation reflects the urban-rural continuum and proposes three classes instead of only the dichotomy urban or rural. The three classes are: 1) cities (or densely populated areas); 2) towns and semi-dense areas (or intermediate density areas); and 3) rural areas (or thinly populated areas). Functional urban areas extend beyond cities, including cities' commuting zones. By considering commuting flows, the FUA takes into account the economic reality of a city. Thus, it better reflects the full extent of its labour market and other functional linkages. In this report, functional areas are referred to as metropolitan areas (OECD & EC, 2020). The report lists the following advantages of a harmonised definition of urbanisation:
1.   Highly suitable to policymaking.
2.   Designed to monitor access to services and infrastructures.
3.   Enable a common measurement of SDG indicators.
4.   People-based definitions that capture the potential for agglomeration economies.
5.   Enhance international comparability of cities and metropolitan areas.
6.   Consistent classification of settlements of the same size.
7.   Capture the full settlement hierarchy from a small village to a mega city.
8.   Simple, transparent and robust methods that can be applied to every country in the world.
9.   Rely primarily on population size and density.

"The Degree of Urbanisation paints a more nuanced picture than the traditional distinction between urban and rural areas. Until 2050, city populations will keep rapidly growing and are projected to grow by 50% between 2015-50. The population of towns and semi-dense areas will grow by around 25% in 2015-50, but growth is set to slow over time. Even though the share of the global rural population will fall, in absolute numbers total rural population will still increase by 20% between 2015 and 2050 given total global population growth." (OECD & European Commission, 2020).

According to Dijkstra et al. (2019) "Making sound international comparisons of cities requires using units of comparable size. However, there are also other aspects to consider, primarily related to the concept that scholars and policymakers use to understand cities, their evolution and economic performance. For simplicity, we can identify two main different but complementary concepts to describe the extent of cities. The first encompasses the space covered by an area of high population density with a minimum size of population. Such a definition, which we call 'city' from now on, accounts only for the agglomeration of people in space using a consistent threshold of density and total population. (…) FUAs are a powerful tool to compare socio-economic and spatial trends in cities and to design urban development policy. FUAs are better suited than administrative areas to capture agglomeration economies and they encompass the full extent of the city's labour market. It can guide national and city governments when they plan infrastructure, transportation, housing, schools, and spaces for culture and recreation. In summary, FUAs can trigger a change in the way policies are planned and implemented by providing the right scale to address issues that affect both the city and its surrounding commuting zone.
(…) Our definition of urban centres, cities and FUAs is people-based because it only uses density and size of population and the daily mobility of the latter. It is not a definition based on built-up area or morphology. (…)

A functional urban area (FUA) can be defined in four steps:
1. Identify an urban centre: a set of contiguous, high density (1,500 residents per square kilometre) grid cells with a population of 50,000 in the contiguous cells;
2. Identify a city: one or more local units that have at least 50% of their residents inside an urban centre;
3. Identify a commuting zone: a set of contiguous local units that have at least 15% of their employed residents working in the city;
4. A functional urban area is the combination of the city with its commuting zone".

"A city consists of one or more local units with at least 50% of their population in an urban centre. A local unit can be either administrative or statistical. Examples of administrative units include a municipality, a district, a neighbourhood or metropolitan area. Some of these administrative units also play a political role as electoral districts or local government areas. Statistical units can be enumeration areas, census blocks, census tracts, wards, super output areas, named places or small areas. Examples of local units used in OECD countries are communes in France, municipalities in Italy, sigungu in Korea and Census Subdivisions in Canada. The best local unit for this definition is the smallest unit for which commuting data is available". (Dijkstra, Poelman, & Veneri, 2019)

6.8. Model for implementation, extracted from the results-based programming, budgeting, management, monitoring and reporting (RBM) approach as applied in UNESCO Guiding Principles (UNESCO, 2019b)

(i) **Establishing a results chain:** Defining the contribution to the higher-level results in order to ensure coherence between the results at different levels and thereby forming a logical and coherent chain of results. The purpose of the results chain is to ensure an overall programmatic coherence where all resources are invested in the pursuit of the highest-level results. It aims to answer the "So what?" question.

(ii) **Analysing the needs to be addressed and issues to be tackled** and determining their causes and effects: A situation analysis ensures a thorough appreciation of a specific context in order to identify and prioritise the needs to be addressed and issues to be tackled as well as corresponding baselines. Apart from considering global priority gender equality, human-rights based and risk management approaches, the geographical scope, stakeholders, resources available and those to be mobilised will need to be identified. The purpose of this assessment is to define the scope of the results to be achieved. It aims to answer the "Why?" question.

(iii) **Designing the Results Framework** and in particular formulating results in clear, measurable terms. Following the situation analysis, results are formulated expressing how the situation is expected to become different from the current situation. For each result, quantitative and/or qualitative performance indicators and associated baselines and targets need to be identified, specifying exactly what is to be measured. It aims to answer the "So what?" and What?" questions.

(iv) **Developing an implementation strategy** by providing the conceptual framework on how to move from the current situation to the one described in the outcome(s). This summarises and links all key information, ensuring the context, what is to be achieved, what is to be delivered and how it is to be undertaken are all understood. It aims to answer the "How?" question.

(v) **Monitoring progress towards the achievement of results** with appropriate performance and impact monitoring, drawing on data of actual outputs delivered, and outcomes achieved. The purpose of monitoring is to assess the actual situation compared with the programming information originally defined, to keep track of implementation and progress towards results and take remedial actions when needed.

(vi) **Evaluation** provides timely assessments of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of development interventions. Evaluation allows us to learn from successful as well as less successful programmes and projects. It is a critical tool for accountable, transparent and effective management led by evidence-informed decision-making that uses lessons from experience and incorporates them into future planning and programming. Considering the views and perspectives of all stakeholders and asking to what extent they have been satisfied with the results achieved are among the quality criteria for an evaluation.

(vii) **Reporting to key stakeholders** on progress achieved, comparing the intended results with the actual achievements, the beneficiaries, the partners involved, and the resources invested. Results-based reporting aims to provide key stakeholders with evidence-based information on performance and impact, analysing eventual discrepancies between the "expected" and the "achieved" results. This informs internal management, governing bodies and the donors; facilitates decision-making (including on remedial actions required); inform future programme design and policy development; and disseminates for discussion results achieved and lessons learned in a transparent and iterative way.

6.9. Criteria of success: included in RBM

5. Annexe A: UfM Framework for Project Description and Evaluation

Intended for online format: most questions are multiple choice. Most multiple-choice questions admit multiple answers, except where indicated.

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. Person filling in this form:
2. Affiliation (ministry, local authority, other institution):
3. Department:
4. Position:
5. Email:

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

6. Title of the project:
7. Country:
8. City:
9. A significant image or plan describing the project:

10. Type of project (multiple alternatives possible):
    (i)   Large infrastructure
    (ii)   Transport hub, mobility
    (iii)   Urban regeneration
    (iv)   Water related/water management
    (v)   World heritage site/ protected heritage site/ historic urban centre
    (vi)   Energy related/energy transition related
    (vii)   Housing
    (viii)   Public space, park, green space
    (ix)   Urban facility/ cultural facility
    (x)   Soft mobility (bike lanes),
    (xi)   Former port or brownfield urbanisation
    (xii)   Public spaces (squares, sidewalks, parks)
    (xiii)   Industrial development (industrial parks, industrial districts)
    (xiv)   Makers' district/ start-up districts/ creative hubs
    (xv)   Cultural sites (museums, memorials, public art)
    (xvi)   Urban extension/ new town/ new urban development
    (xvii)   Business district/ office hub/ advanced producer services hub
    (xviii)   Other (please, use keyword)

11. Which action in the Strategic/Housing Action Plan does your project currently address?

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(i) TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION
(ii) TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY
(iii) TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER
(iv) TO INTEGRATE & PROTECT
(v) TO IMPLEMENT & MANAGE
(vi) TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE

12. Main project promoter(s)/ main executing agency:

(i)   Supranational (EU, African Union, other)
(ii)   National authority
(iii)   Regional authority
(iv)   Local authority
(v)   Private sector in partnership with the public sector
(vi)   Public sector in partnership with the private sector
(vii)   Private sector
(viii) Cross-regional authorities
(ix)   Cross-municipal authorities
(x)   Citizens' initiative
(xi)   Port authority
(xii)   Water authority
(xiii) Transport authority
(xiv)   Other (use keywords)

13. What are associate external agencies in this project? (EU, UNESCO, World Bank etc.):
    ….

14. What is the scale of impact of the project you are submitting?
    (i)   Strictly local
    (ii)   Urban
    (iii)   Metropolitan
    (iv)   Regional
    (v)   National
    (vi)   International
    (vii)   Cross scales (define)

15. Website of the project:
16. Project timeline. Year started: Year completed: (expected completion)

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C. TO COORDINATE & ENHANCE COHESION

17. In your opinion, is there awareness in the responsible authority about similar interventions abroad? Is there awareness of good practices/ failed projects elsewhere? (Y/N)
18. In case of an affirmative answer to the previous question, which projects have inspired the project you are submitting? Which projects are similar to it? (Mention title and place …)
19. Are you having/ have you had exchanges and collaboration with other cities to plan and design this project? (Y/N) Which city?
20. In your opinion, is there awareness of path dependency in the responsible authority (how have similar projects in your country worked in the past)? (Y/N)
21. What is the degree of integration of this project into:
    (i)   Local city strategies (grade 1-10)
    (ii)   Metropolitan or regional strategies and plans (grade 1-10)
    (iii)   National strategy or plan (grade 1-10)
22. Is this project conceived and managed by different ministries or departments? (Y/N)
23. Is this project conceived and managed by departments at different governance levels (national, regional, local)? (Y/N)
24. If yes, what ministries and/or departments?

D. TO EDUCATE & STRENGTHEN CAPACITY

25. Who are possible peers (officials in foreign administrations, universities, architects, planners) who can be invited to assess your project? (Name, affiliation and e-mail address)
26. Are universities or research institutions involved in the planning, design, implementation or monitoring of this project? (Y/N)
27. If yes, please name them:
28. Is this project connected to a learning experience? (Training, on-the-job training, traineeship programme?) (Y/N)
29. Which external agencies are advising on this project? (Name, affiliation and e-mail address)

E. TO ENVISION & GOVERN TOGETHER

30. Please, indicate the degree of citizen engagement:
(i)   No citizen engagement.
(ii)   Citizens are informed via the press and/or websites.
(iii)   Citizens' concerns and wishes are listened to via assemblies.
(iv)   Citizens are consulted in the elaboration of this project via assemblies and/or websites.
(v)   Citizens' concerns are listened to and influence the outcomes of the project.
(vi)   Citizens are partners in the elaboration of the project, actively providing input to it.
(vii)   Citizens are partially responsible for the elaboration, design and/or implementation of this project.

(viii)   Citizens are co-designers of this project and responsible for its implementation.
(ix)   This is a citizen-led initiative.
(x)   This is a private sector-led initiative, with no or little citizen involvement.

31. Has participatory budgeting played a role in this project? (Yes, no, don't know)
32. Do citizens have access to financial information about this project?
33. Do citizens have oversight of the project? (Through assemblies, or other means?)

F. TO INTEGRATE & PROTECT

34. Is this project connected with a climate action in view of the Paris Agreement on climate change? (Y/N)
35. Is this project connected with export/import of commodities or merchandise? (Y/N)
36. Is this project connected to defence or security? (Y/N)
37. Is this project connected with coastal erosion prevention/mitigation? (Y/N)
38. Is this project connected with energy transition? (Y/N)
39. Is this project connected with circular economy? (Y/N)
40. Is this project connected with transport and mobility infrastructure?
41. Is this project connected with housing security?
42. Is this project connected with health security?
43. Is this project connected with biodiversity in urban areas?

G. TO IMPLEMENT & MANAGE

44. Project budget (approximately, in euros, if available):
45. Main source of funding:
    (i)   EU
    (ii)   International funding agency (Which?)
    (iii)   National authority (Ministry, which?)
    (iv)   Sectoral authority (Water, energy, port, transport. Which?)
    (v)   Regional authority (Which?)
    (vi)   Local authority (Which?)
    (vii)   Private sector (Mention companies)
    (viii)   Public private partnership (PPP) (Mention partners)
    (ix)   Private initiative (Mention companies)
    (x)   Other, please specify

46. Has this project had an environmental impact analysis? (Yes, no, don't know)
47. Has this project passed a risk analysis exercise? (Yes, no, don't know)
48. Has this project had a social impact analysis? (Yes, no, don't know)
49. Has this project passed a financial feasibility assessment? (Yes, no, don't know)
50. Has this project passed a heritage impact assessment? (Yes, no, don't know)
51. If the project is in or around a UNESCO World Heritage property, has the UNESCO World Heritage Centre been notified and consulted on the proposal? (Yes, no, don't know).
52. Has this project been externally audited?
53. Is there external financial oversight of this project?

54. If completed, has an impact assessment been carried out on the project? (Not completed, no impact assessment, impact assessment)
55. Has this project had an impact on how your city is adapting to climate change?/Has this project made your city more climate resilient? (More, less, no impact)
56. Does your country have an affordable housing policy?
57. Does this project have a housing component? (Y/N)
58. If yes, how much of the total amount of new units can be considered as affordable housing?
59. If yes, are there schemes to facilitate/finance access to housing in this project?

H. TO MONITOR & COMMUNICATE

60. How is the project being communicated/ promoted? (multiple alternatives possible):
    (i)   Website
    (ii)   TV commercials
    (iii)   Signage outdoors
    (iv)   Citizen assemblies
    (v)   Stakeholder assemblies
    (vi)   Published reports (online and printed)
    (vii)   Social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter etc.)
    (viii)   Other

61. Has this project had an impact on (multiple answers possible) (i) social cohesion/ social welfare, (ii) climate resilience, (iii) economic vitality?
62. How would you grade this project in terms of success achieved so far? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
63. How would you grade this project in terms of public appreciation? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
64. How would you grade this project in terms of financial health? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
65. How would you grade this project in terms of environmental soundness? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
66. How would you grade this project in terms of heritage preservation and valorisation? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
67. How would you grade this project in terms of international partners and collaboration? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
68. How would you grade this project in terms of collaboration with planning and architecture schools? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
69. How would you grade this project in terms of respect for heritage plans/use of UNESCO's Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape? (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, Almost satisfactory, Unsatisfactory)
70. Say a few words summarising your impression of this project (max. 200 words).

6. Annexe B: Non-exhaustive list of policy frameworks used in the elaboration of this Action Plan

Policy frameworks are listed chronologically.

1. (1972) The 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972).
2. (1995) The Barcelona Declaration (European Commission, 1995).
3. (2008) Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean (Council of Europe, 2008).
4. (2009) Integrated Urban Water Management: Arid and Semi-Arid Regions (Mays, 2009).
5. (2009) UN-Habitat The Right to Adequate Housing (UN-Habitat, 2009).
6. (2011) The 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011).
7. (2011) The SWITCH (Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrow's Cities' Health) Transition Manual: Managing Water for the City of the Future (Jefferies & Duffy, 2011).
8. (2013) Cairo Declaration: Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World (UNFPA-ICPD, 2013).
9. (2014) Charter for Multilevel Governance for Europe (European Committee of the Regions, 2014).
10. (2014) The policy framework "Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: Integrated Sustainable Urban Development" (European Commission, 2014).
11. (2015) Cairo Declaration on Housing, and Sustainable Urban Development (UN-Habitat et al., 2015).
12. (2015) The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (with a focus on Goal 11) (UN-DESA, 2015).
13. (2015) The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing (UNECE, 2015).
14. (2015) The Paris Agreement (UN, 2015).
15. (2015) The Sendai Framework (UNISDR, 2015).
16. (2016) European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (European Commission, 2016a).
17. (2016) The New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat, 2016).
18. (2016) The OECD Better Policies for 2030: An OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals (OECD, 2016).
19. (2016) The Pact of Amsterdam. An Urban Agenda for the EU (European Commission, 2016c) .
20. (2016) Urban Water Agenda (European Commission, 2016d).
21. (2017) The Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030 (League of Arab States, 2017).
22. (2017) The Report "My Region, My Europe, Our Future: Seventh report on economic, social and territorial cohesion" (Dijkstra, 2017).
23. (2017) The Union for the Mediterranean Urban Agenda (UfM, 2017).
24. (2018) Davos Declaration: Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe (Swiss Confederation, 2018).
25. (2018) Policy Guidelines for Affordable Housing in European Cities (European Commission, 2018b).
26. (2018) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (COP 15 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020) (CBD, 2018).

27. (2018) The Housing Partnership Action Plan of the Urban Agenda for the EU (European Commission, 2018d).
28. (2018) United Nations Secretary-General's Plan: Water Action Decade 2018-2028 (UN, 2018).
29. (2019) European Commission Explanatory Memo: European Urban Initiative Post-2020 (European Commission, 2019f).
30. (2019) Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (UN, 2019).
31. (2019) The Discussion Paper on the "UfM Action Plan on Affordable and Sustainable Housing" produced by the UfM Thematic Working Group on Affordable and Sustainable Housing (draft) (UfM Housing, 2019).
32. (2019) The EC "Better Regulation Framework" included in the document "Better Regulation: taking stock and sustaining our commitment" (European Commission, 2019b).
33. (2019) The European Green Deal (European Commission, 2019e)[3].
34. (2019) The OECD Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (OECD, 2019d).
35. (2019) The Reflection Paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" (European Commission, 2019h).
36. (2019) UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (UN-Habitat, 2019).
37. (2019) Urban Disaster Resilience through Risk Assessment and Sustainable Planning (UD-RASP) (Hagenlocher & Harb, 2019).
38. (2019)The New Strategic Orientation of UN-Habitat (UN-ESC, 2019).
39. (2020) European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage (European Commission, 2019d).
40. (2020) An updated version of the Leipzig Charter (EUKN, 2020).
41. (2020) OECD Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals (OECD, 2020d).
42. (2020) The AIVP (The worldwide network of port cities) Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Port Cities (AIVP, 2020).
43. (2020) UN-Habitat Mainstreaming Urban-Rural linkages in National Urban Policies (UN-Habitat, 2020a).
44. (2020) United Nations World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change (UNESCO, 2020a).
45. (2020) EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (European Commission, 2020c).
46. (2020) Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa (European Commission, 2020d).

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[3] Initiatives announced in the political guidelines:

Legislative proposals • European Climate Law • Proposal to extend the EU Emissions Trading System to the maritime sector and reduce the free allowances allocated to airlines over time; and to extend this further to cover traffic and construction • Carbon Border Tax • Review of the Energy Taxation Directive * Strategies and Action Plans • New industrial strategy • Strategy for green financing and a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan • Comprehensive plan to increase the EU emissions reduction target for 2030 towards 55% • 'Farm to Fork Strategy' on sustainable food along the whole value chain • Cross-cutting strategy to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution • Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 • New Circular Economy Action Plan; tackling micro-plastics* Financing instruments • New Just Transition Fund • Proposal to turn parts of the European Investment Bank into Europe's climate bank * Non-legislative initiatives • European Climate Pact • Lead the world at the 2020 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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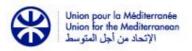
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