

„The Future of Urban Policy” Conference

April 21, 2021

Conclusions:

1. There are several areas the future EU urban policy should focus on that EURE project advocates. Among the key ones are:
 - topics supporting sustainable development of the cities and adaptations to climate change (assurance of future water supplies ; reducing flood risk and underground water pollution; strengthening circular economy approach; reinforcing energy efficiency measures; reducing air and noise pollution; strengthening biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure in the urban environment; promotion of sustainable intermodal urban mobility);
 - territorial topics (strengthening policentrism; development orientation to functional urban areas and polycentric urban systems; promotion of integrated territorial strategies);
 - good governance topics (empowering public and social participation of the local administration; greater relevance given to strategic planning);
 - financing mechanisms (encouragement and financial support for the reduction of urban sprawl; political and financial decentralization supporting the local administration; an increase in national and EU financial support to cities).
2. The year 2020 may have been a turning point for cities, especially the small and medium-sized. Depending on their next governance and development choices, it might lead them to regression (and collapse) or new opportunities. The main factors of success or failure are in: leadership and management; ability to get inhabitants, local businesses and other stakeholders involved; combining financial sources; ability to transform local economy; horizontal and vertical collaboration.
3. Opportunities for small and medium-sized cities are based, among others, on: rapidly growing awareness of global, European and national challenges among small and medium-sized cities; increasing awareness of public participation significance; extensive experience in recent years in advanced development activities (ITIs, revitalization, collaboration across administrative boundaries, social innovations, etc.); less inertia than in large cities in terms of management, flexibility, resilience; great potential for wise use of the EU Cohesion Policy Funds 2021-27 and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.
4. Update of the national Urban Policy (2030) is aiming at a more sustainable transformation of Polish cities with a strategic goal to strengthening the capacity of cities and urban areas for sustainable development and job creation, improving lives of residents along the way.

5. World Urban Forum in 2022 and the process of its preparation is a great opportunity for all cities to get involved in the discussion about urban matters on a global scale.
6. Basic allocation for the European Funds for Lubelskie 2021-2027 program amounts to EUR 1.768 billion of the EU contribution. Under the Program Contract, among others, it is assumed for support of Strategic Intervention Areas of national importance, including: areas at risk of permanent marginalization and medium-sized cities losing their socio-economic functions, regional Strategic Intervention Areas (including Urban Functional Areas) and priority projects.
7. Main focus of the EU funds allocation in Lubelskie Region will be on: (i) Research and innovation; (ii) Economic and digital transformation; (iii) Protection of environmental and climate resources; (iv) Efficient use of energy; (v) Sustainable transport system; (vi) Development of social and health infrastructure; (vii) Increasing social cohesion; (viii) Satisfying the needs of the labour market; (ix) Better education; and (x) Territorially balanced development.
8. The planned, future shape of territorial instruments is based on continuation of ITI instrument for urban functional areas, different territorial instrument for supporting areas at risk of permanent marginalization and different territorial instrument for the revitalization of urban and rural areas.
9. ITI in Lublin Functional Area in the financial perspective 2014-2020 was a success – 16 municipalities participated in ITI implementation and 120 mln EUR was spent on joint projects in the areas of sustainable transport, nature protection and revitalisation.
10. There will be several modifications in ITIs implementation in Lubelskie Region in the EU financial period 2021-2027 with regards to the 2014-2020 period. Among others: 17 FUAs that has been identified in the Regional Development Strategy will be covered by the ITI instrument; there will be no intermediate bodies; both ERDF and ESF funds will be engaged; greater role of territorial strategies and the involvement of stakeholders.