

DELIVERABLE D.T3.9.2

“Report on recommendations for policy
makers”

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Table of Content

1. Introduction	2
2. Transnational recommendations to the policy level on integration of environmental land management strategies into functional urban areas development	4
2.1. How could we integrate sectorial and spatial planning strategies?.....	4
2.2. Do we need new institutional solutions?	6
2.3. How could European strategies (Regional development/Agriculture) support the topic?.....	8
3. Transnational recommendations to the policy level on integration of environmental land management instruments into functional urban areas development.....	11
3.1. Should planning instruments be modified?.....	11
3.2. Do you have specific recommendation towards financial instruments?	13
3.3. Do we need complementary economic instruments e.g. in relation with Ecosystem Service approach?	16



1. Introduction

The purpose of this report, Report on Recommendations for Policymakers (D.T3.9.2), is to summarize the lessons learned from the implementation of LUMAT and the recommendations of the project partners in relation to transnational recommendations to the policy level on integration of environmental land management instruments and strategies into functional urban areas development.

The report was based on a questionnaire to be completed by the project partners, which included the following structure:

- What kind of recommendations do you have on integration of environmental land management strategies into functional urban areas development
 - How could we integrate sectorial and spatial planning strategies? (*considering several levels*)
 - Do we need new institutional solutions? (*considering several levels*)
 - How could European strategies (Regional development/Agriculture) support the topic? (*short notes about EU programs or national programs*)
- What kind of recommendations do you have on integration of environmental land management instruments into functional urban areas development
 - Should planning instruments be modified? (*short description of each instrument with possible modifications*)
 - Do you have specific recommendation towards financial instruments? (*local/regional/national or European*)
 - Do we need complementary economic instruments e.g. in relation with Ecosystem Service approach? (*short description of possible suggestions*)

Since the different topics to be worked on by the project partners led to different experiences, in the following the individual contributions to the questions are presented country by country.

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2. Transnational recommendations to the policy level on integration of environmental land management strategies into functional urban areas development

2.1. How could we integrate sectorial and spatial planning strategies?

Poland

The need for integration of sectorial and spatial planning is reflected in European strategic documents: Spatial Development Perspective - Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union and Territorial Agenda of the European Union. There are also documents related to urban policy development such as: European Urban Charter, Charter of European Cities and Towns Towards Sustainability Aalborg Charter. The necessity for integration of planning activities has been particularly strongly stressed in the Leipzig Charter concerning sustainable European cities (Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities). These documents show general direction showing how the urban planning systems should be re-shaped.

In Poland also there is a need for integrated urban development planning. with drafting a city document that integrates all plans, programs, and projects.

Embodiment of this idea is the territorial-functional approach to creating development policy (place based policy). This approach aims at the greater consideration of different conditions of development and optimal use of endogenous resources (i.e. the territorial capital) in the dynamization of development processes. It emphasizes the need for change in the method of strategic planning of the development of territorial units and creating the so-called integrated plans.

The Polish urban planners indicate to the necessity of providing a systemic solution for gathering of all the data that are essential for action planning and integration in the city, as well as assuring proper information circulation between the planning functions at various levels and in various departments. A particular role should be assigned to strategic spatial planning, recognizing that spatial action coordination is an essential factor which contributes to the effectiveness increase and sustainability of urban development.

Germany

The interests of stakeholders on the inter-municipal territorial level should be understood. Through dialog it should become possible to understand how the interests of various stakeholders can be helped by integrated environmental management. With an overview of the interests, it is possible to manage the stakeholders by showing them potential which achieve their interests through integrated environmental planning. For example, the goals belonging to a hydrologist and those belonging to a climate adaptation officer of the city can both potentially benefit from the de-sealing of a brownfield site which exacerbates overwarming and water run off due to the impermeability of concrete structures. Solutions must allow for cross sectoral coordination and the integrated analysis of environmental data, so that a complete picture of the potentials can be found.



Italy

In order to integrate sectoral and general spatial planning strategies, it is necessary to eliminate fragmentation and overlapping of functions and competences between different institutions. At the same time it is necessary to strengthen the system of coordination and institutional collaboration, through the sharing of common objectives and an adequate exchange of information and certified data.

It is hoped that action will be taken at national and regional level to complete the institutional reform and the redistribution of territorial government functions (including socio-economic development and environmental protection), also through a revision of the system of rules, pointing to multidisciplinary integration, simplification and guiding territorial and strategic planning in the experimentation of new forms of supra-communal cooperation, also taking inspiration from experimentation with models and integrated approaches for the soil management (eg LUMAT).

In this sense, a fundamental role will have to be reserved for training, information and increasing the skills and knowledge of all the subjects operating in the area, from the level of political decision-makers, to the level of the technicians who work in the administrations and of the experts involved in all the planning sectors.

Austria

There are a number of documents at the transnational level dealing with the development of cities and reflect also the need for integration of sectoral and spatial planning, such as: the European City Charter, Charter of European cities and municipalities for sustainability Aalborg Charter. The need to integrate planning activities is particularly emphasized in the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable European Cities. This also concerns the integration of environmental land management strategies into functional urban areas development.

Based on these strategic guidelines, the planning documents should be taken into account at national, regional and local level. Currently, however, the planning approach to the functional urban areas is hardly considered. This is also due to the fact that certain strategic and planning documents are adapted only at intervals of several years. This is currently also the case for the current regional development strategy in Styria. Based on the results of LUMAT, e.g. On the basis of best-practice examples, experiences and requirements for the implementation of regional strategies at regional and local level are made.

Slovakia

There are two possibilities, either through the thematic fields, so called domains or directly in the territory, through territorial spatial planning.

Czech Republic

Spatial planning in the Czech Republic is not legislated as a whole, but consists of several parts. In practice, it can be divided into regional and urban planning. At the state level, these are the activities of the Ministry for Regional Development.

Sectoral planning is then supervised by individual ministries. At the regional level, a similar situation is repeated between the regional unions and it is very similar at the city level.

A key element for integrating individual strategies is to share information as much as possible to respond flexibly to sectoral requirements and needs. At regional level, this process could take place via an internal



information portal. Less sophisticated but probably more effective is the regular joint meeting (in the same concept, the Working Group for the Promotion of Brownfield Regeneration) where the basic information on the upcoming steps would be exchanged on a relatively informal level.

Integration into one system would be very appropriate. At present, it is effectively provided by the SEA process and inter-ministerial negotiations.

Organizationally, it would be best to merge individual assets at regional (strategic) planning level. In contrast to urban planning, regional planning has less limited statutory procedures. This has more flexibility.

For transnational recommendation, it is advisable to merge strategic and urban l planning activities under one organizational unit to obtain comprehensive documents that support the development of areas and do not create institutional barriers through its fragmentation.

Slovenia

National level:

- Preparation and acceptance of national long term urban renovation programme as a multisectoral programme (including goals, priorities and concepts of urban renewal; allocation of financial resources; possible establishment of national renewal investment fund; national renewal action programme)

2.2. Do we need new institutional solutions?

Poland

According to the need for integrated development management at all levels the discussion on institutional changes shows that in general it is not necessary to establish new structures. Instead the need for coordination of spatial planning and sectoral development is stressed at the national, regional and local levels. Integrated approach should therefore manifest itself in locating development processes in space, in introducing spatial planning to the system of development management. This coordination will serve to enhancement of the spatial planning importance in programming and implementing development policy.

However there the is the need for institutional solutions in case of functional urban areas. These areas are not formally delimited. They are identified by the real connections resulting from functional links such as transportation routes, infrastructure etc. But FUAs do not constitute administration entities. Therefore FUAs cannot be beneficiaries of financial means offered by various European funds. In each case while applying for common projects the only solution is to establish an intentional structure (e.g. association, union, consortium) for one particular project.

Germany

In some regions, new and innovative institutional solutions already exist for the implementation of sustainable action on the functional urban area level. One example of this as presented in the LUMAT project is the Green Ring of Leipzig working group which includes 13 municipalities and 2 counties for implementing common land management goals. These groupings can benefit from the further evaluation of the existing data for the sustainable development in the region.



The reality is that such intermunicipal workings groups do not exist in most of Central European functional urban areas. The trend in such areas is a further consumption of soil, water and energy by each municipality without the inclusion of the neighbors or other thematic working groups. There is a need for new institutional solutions so that environmental goals may be reached and the interests of various parties may be understood

Italy

It is not desirable to identify new institutional bodies but it is absolutely necessary to have a global rethinking and a redistribution of competences as well as an effective and regulated inter-institutional coordination oriented towards integration, and the elimination of overlapping competences.

The current approach, distributing fragmented skills without an effective coordination has contributed to complicating and making all the planning, authorization and management phases of the territorial interventions complicated and lengthy.

The regulatory system, hyper-sectorialised, does not provide the actors of the territory with the conditions to operate smoothly according to an integrated, multidisciplinary approach that is above all suited to the current needs, therefore its architecture needs to be reviewed.

Austria

In Austria, state planning is the responsibility of the federal states (9). The introduction of new institutional solutions is, as the past has already shown, a long and often laborious process, as it affects state laws.

The experience of LUMAT shows that the use of existing structures is an efficient way if these structures are appropriately informed, supported and integrated in a timely manner. But there is a need for institutional solutions in a case of functional urban areas. Many of the current problems can and must be solved at the local level and thus close to the citizen, which means close cooperation between the municipalities. An important element here is the use of data, this means decisions should be made data-driven. Another element concerns the consideration of sustainability of decisions taken. A well-developed environmental land management strategy can be of great help to a given functional urban area without having to build up new administrative structures.

Slovakia

We need to integrate environmental land management strategies either:

- at the strong central governance level, following the OECD principles, or
- to intervene at the level of natural spatial planning units (regions, FUAs) in order to react to common problems and commons challenges.

For that we need new soft institutional arrangements for easier forms of cooperation and decision-making.

Czech Republic

If we developed or wanted to develop FUA separately, its institutional support and anchorage would be necessary.

In the Czech Republic, there was a territorial administrative unit “district”, which was a link between municipalities and the region. Today they are in a similar but not the same position of a municipality with extended powers.



One way in which institutional support could go is to set several agglomerations as self-governing units with elected councils. Such institutional anchoring would certainly be useful for large agglomerations (FUA).

For transnational recommendation, the provision of such territorial units is appropriate, but it is at the discretion of each state whether such a unit is effective in terms of population and cannot be replaced only by strengthening the powers of the superior or subordinate territorial unit.

Slovenia

For a systematic and accelerated process of degraded areas renovation, it is essential to provide a stable hierarchical system with professional staff at all levels (state, region, municipality) and a system of their coordination and mutual communication. When establishing the system, it is essential to properly interconnect existing structures (e.g. office for foreign investments, spatial planners, developers ...) and to provide a system of training and transfer of practices and experience within the group.

2.3. How could European strategies (Regional development/Agriculture) support the topic?

Poland

European documents concerning regional policy are stressing that various dimensions of urban life - economic, social, cultural and environmental are closely related. Therefore, urban development has the potential to play an important role in promoting the Europe 2020 strategy and delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. In consequence, the EU has put the urban dimension at the heart of cohesion policy, with at least half of the resources foreseen under the European regional development fund being invested in urban areas. The European Commission estimates that during this six-year period some 10 billion EUR from the European regional development fund will be allocated to sustainable urban development, covering around 750 different European cities. The European policy is targeting among others at integrated sustainable urban development. It means that in particular the issues of integrated sustainable land management are included in the range of integrated sustainable urban development.

Germany

The strategies which are present on the European scale should be changed to address ecosystem services. Growth and consumption should not remain to be the first preferred decision for cities and regions. Instead, an agreed upon concept of sustainability should be the number one priority which is then supported by land management actions. The allocation of funding should be dependent upon the guaranteeing of sustainable result from fund usage.

Italy

Guaranteeing the sustainable use of the soil and its integrated environmental management is not only one of the ways to guarantee the liveability of places and to improve the quality of life but it is, above all, one of the ways to preserve Ecosystem Services (water, food, oxygen, fibers, etc.) returned for free to man for his own survival. It is a key priority that can and must be grasped through targeted programming actions, sharing experience, dialogue between institutions and program management authorities, also listening to stakeholders, exploiting knowledge capital, creating networks of people and skills. Soil is a priority that



must bring together, for all levels of government, different political directions such as agriculture, climate, environment, health, social and economic.

Austria

Existing strategies at European level should focus more on the use of ecosystem services. Sustainability should also progressively take precedence over growth and consumption for making decisions for cities and regions. For this purpose, it is necessary that appropriate packages of measures for the various areas such as regional development, agriculture, etc. are developed and converted. The allocation of funds should depend on ensuring a sustainable outcome from the use of funds.

The process of programming the European Cohesion Policy 2020+ has started. Among the goals of cohesion policies, it is essential to include the reuse of underused areas (brownfields) and the activation of these. It is also necessary to consistently integrate the principle of rational use of space in all EU strategies and documents and their actions, which result in planning and interventions in space.

Slovakia

95% of finance from the public sources for EU strategies are key for the integration of environmental land management. Also the EU strategies should not be sectorial but integrative, with a new instrument of integrative investment packages.

Czech Republic

In the area of regional development, the Ministry for Regional Development draws up and puts into practice conceptual documents and strategies, provides assistance through support programs, and prepares strategies for the rehabilitation of affected territories after natural and other disasters. The basic instrument of regional policy, which is the responsibility of the Ministry for Regional Development, is now the Regional Development Strategy of the Czech Republic valid for the period 2014-2020 Ensures the coherence of national regional policy with regional policy of the European Union and other sectoral policies influencing the development of the territory. Development programs funded exclusively from national sources or co-financed by the European Union. The Regional Development Strategy 21 + is currently being prepared.

Conceptual and strategic documents approved by the ministry, government or European Union in the area of spatial planning and building regulations. Territorial Development Policy of the Czech Republic Architecture and Building Culture Policy of the Czech Republic Territorial Studies Taken by the MRD Common Territorial Development Strategy of the V4 + 2 Countries

Strategy documents under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment

State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2012 - 2020 is an umbrella strategic document defining the implementation of effective environmental protection in the Czech Republic by 2020

The Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic (also Adaptation Strategy) puts into context the adaptation measures proposed in the various strategic sectoral documents and complements the directions of adaptation measures in areas for which such measures were not.

Strategy for the Protection of Biodiversity of the Czech Republic is a basic strategic document defining priorities in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Czech Republic.



- The State Nature and Landscape Protection Program of the Czech Republic analyzes the state of the natural and landscape environment and formulates long-term goals and measures necessary to achieve them.
- Mid-term strategy (up to 2020) for improving air quality in the Czech Republic sets priorities in air quality protection and emissions reduction, evaluates existing measures to improve air quality in locations with deteriorated air quality
- The National Emission Reduction Program analyzes the state and development of the air in the Czech Republic, causes of pollution, pollutant emissions from individual sectors of the economy, scenarios of air pollution development, international commitments of the Czech Republic and their compliance.
- Climate protection policy in the Czech Republic represents the concept of the Czech government, which sets the basic (until 2020 and 2030) and indicative long-term (until 2040 and 2050) goals of the Czech Republic in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thus represents a long-term low-carbon development strategy ČR.
- The State Program of Environmental Education, Enlightenment and Environmental Counseling for 2016-2025 is a key strategic document for environmental education in the Czech Republic.
- The National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants 2018-2023 is the main national strategy paper for fulfilling the commitments referred to in Article 7 of this Global Environmental Agreement.
- The Environmental Safety Concept 2015-2020, with a view to 2030, provides a comprehensive view of environmental security, including both nature and human society and its activities, as well as linking the time horizon of crisis management and the time frame for achieving sustainability and adaptation to climate change.

Slovenia

The process of programming the European Cohesion Policy 2020+ has started. Among the objectives of cohesion policies, it is essential to include the renewal of degraded areas and the activation of these. Measures shall be integrated into the country's program documents.

It is necessary to consistently integrate the principle of rational use of space in all EU strategies and documents and their actions, which result in planning and interventions in space.



3. Transnational recommendations to the policy level on integration of environmental land management instruments into functional urban areas development

3.1. Should planning instruments be modified?

Poland

Planning instruments in Poland are on national, regional and local level.

Concept of the National Spatial Plan is the most important strategic document in the Polish spatial planning system. It includes a vision of the national spatial plan until 2030, objectives and rules conditioning human activities on the land.

The obligation of creating Regional Spatial Plan belongs to the regional self-government. The document should be compatible to the Concept of the National Spatial Plan as well as to the Regional Development Strategy which is relating to all development activities of the region (voivodeship).

Study of conditions and courses of spatial management in the borough is a planning document which is elaborated as an obligation for the area of each borough. It is presenting of the spatial policy. It is not a local legal act, but it gives a basis for the Local Land Use Plan. The Study is presenting a diagnosis of the present social-economic situation of a borough and also the courses of its spatial development.

The Local Land Use Plan is the main planning document which is defining the land use on the area of a borough. It constitutes a local legal act therefore it gives the basis for all administrative decisions including building permissions.

There is no obligation to have the Local Land Use Plan. The Plan cannot concern area beyond the borough territory. It may be elaborated for a part of the borough area. Therefore on the area there may be several land use plans but they cannot overlap.

The land use planning system is organized in relation to administrative territories at all three levels: national, regional and local. Therefore, these planning instruments cannot be used directly for functional urban areas. It is necessary to co-ordinate plans of the individual cities constituting the functional urban area.

Germany

Compensation measures as they are currently carried out are often counterproductive if not directly harmful. The creation of new ecological spaces should not take place on agricultural land. All the potentials on previously used and built land to create compensation measures must be fully used first. This has many measurable benefits; land for agricultural production is saved for future use and sites which have been previously built upon can be revitalized to improve ecosystem services which are often hampered by unnecessary soil sealing. Further, brownfield sites located outside of the urban centers, typically characterized as “C” sites due to their unfavorable urban location, can find a new productive use through the implementation of compensation measures on these sites.



Italy

The fragmentation and distribution of competences to administrative bodies with different degrees of authority and power, as well as the absence of their adequate coordination, is reflected in the respective spatial planning tools. In this context, there is the need to implement integrated environmental management (in Italy not yet adequately regulated) in a complex system.

The technical and administrative procedures necessary for the preparation or adaptation of urban planning instruments are today extremely complex and long (even 5-6 years to approve a wide area plan). This inevitably leads to having to operate with instruments that are often inadequate to the needs that in the meantime they can also be changed substantially.

On the other hand, it is necessary to acknowledge the real difficulties of the Municipalities in effectively implementing integrated planning, especially for all those aspects that at the municipal level cannot be effectively managed because they require a supra-local vision, both for their planning both for their implementation and management.

In Italy, functional urban areas (as defined by OECD) are not considered areas of interest for planning (often they are not even known by the planners themselves). In any case FUAS do not seem to represent the local functional contexts (also in consideration of the extreme rapidity with which the territory in recent decades changes the functional relationships within it and with its surroundings).

In summary, it is recommended: a general simplification of the rules, a clarification of roles and functions, an increasingly strong focus on integrated planning, both on issues and on planning subjects.

Austria

In Austria, the land-use planning system is organized in administrative areas on all three levels: national, regional and local. For functional urban areas, these planning tools cannot be used directly. This means that the different plans of the individual communities, which form the functional urban area, must be coordinated. On the basis of the predefined goals for a planning region on the part of federal planning, the regional development plans are to be created, which in turn constitutes an essential basis for local zoning planning. At the level of regional development planning, appropriate modifications should be taken into account here in the future that contain objectives for the functional urban area, which can then be implemented at a local level (zoning plan) in coordination with the other municipalities. This also requires the cooperation of the affected communities in the conception, selection and financing of implementation projects.

Slovakia

In the core of modification there should be the integration of socio-economic planning with land use planning.

Czech Republic

Environmental land management is involved in the field of urban planning tools, regional planning and nature conservation. The results of the LUMAT project have shown a strong link to urban planning tools. These tools can be key to implementing environmental plans. Urban analytical documents should make greater use of existing data bases and use digitization.



Brownfields can serve as an example. Their evidence is today fragmented into a number of databases and their unification under territorial analytical materials, including the determination of a uniform attribute structure, would bring about a significant streamlining of the process.

For the strategy papers referred to in section 2.1. action plans are being drawn up. Action plans are being implemented by both financial and non-financial instruments. The most important financial instrument for implementing the Action Plan is the European Structural and Investment Funds, the thematic focus of national subsidy programs. Their diversity leads to a number of inefficiencies resulting from a narrow focus on a particular problem (a range of issues) without the possibility of a broader concept.

Slovenia

The already established spatial planning instruments enable adequate renovation of degraded areas. Disadvantages are the implementation of the measures envisaged in the spatial plans and the introduction and use of land policy instruments.

In addition, the preparation of quality spatial plans (at the regional level of regional spatial plans) requires more detailed analyses of degraded areas with an assessment of the feasibility of their renovation in view of the importance of the site for the development of the region, the feasibility assessment regarding ownership, the costs of renovation and the environmental burden on the site.

3.2. Do you have specific recommendation towards financial instruments?

Poland

In addition to the standard activities / projects implemented under the Regional Operational Program and programs under the ERDF, there are returnable and non-returnable mechanisms supporting various activities.

JESSICA (ang. Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment In City Areas - joint European support for sustainable investments in urban areas) - is an initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank. It allows Member States to finance sustainable investments in urban areas. Financing of investments takes place in the form of repayable instruments (e.g. loans), thanks to which once invested funds can be used many times. Co-financing projects with JESSICA funds is possible only if they are included in the urban regeneration plans.

EEA Funds

The scope of support is determined individually for each program of the 3rd edition of the Norwegian and EEA Funds. Details will be presented after signing further agreements on the implementation of programs. Program areas available in the third edition of the Norwegian and EEA Funds are: Entrepreneurship and innovation development, Local development, Research, Education, Environment, energy and climate change, Culture, Health, Justice, Internal affairs, Civil society, Social dialogue - decent work, Fund bilateral cooperation.

Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an Initiative of the European Union that provides urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges. Based on article 8 of ERDF, the Initiative has a total ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for 2014-2020.



Approximately 359 million people - 72% of the total EU population - live in cities, towns and suburbs. Urban areas face multiple and interconnected challenges related to employment, migration, demography, water and soil pollution ... But they are also engines of new ideas and solutions, dynamic places where changes happen on a larger scale and at a fast pace.

To answer the increasingly complex challenges they face, urban authorities need to go beyond traditional policies and services - they need to be bold and innovative.

UIA funds projects that are:

Innovative: be bold, creative and propose a project that has never been implemented anywhere else in Europe. Demonstrate that your idea is experimental and not part of your normal activities.

Participative: involve the key stakeholders that will bring expertise and knowledge to your project, both during the design and the implementation phase of a project.

Of good quality: define realistic ambitions, coherent activities and effective management. A logically interlinked work plan, a coherent and proportionate budget as well as effective management arrangements will make things happen.

Measurable: how will you describe the change you want to see in your local situation if the project is successful? How would you measure this change? Defining clear results that can be measured and quantified is key. **Transferable:** address an urban challenge that can be relevant to other urban authorities in Europe, draw lessons on your experiment and share them with a wider audience of policy makers and practitioners.

In the new financing perspective there is a need for further supporting measures in Structural Funds for urban development projects. An overarching framework should be worked out for setting out eligible expenditure types or projects for urban development measures. There is a well-developed basis for dealing with SME support measures and it should be also made for urban development. The existing financial instruments should also be available for functional urban areas as beneficiaries. Therefore an appropriate mechanism should be proposed to enable them to apply for funds.

Germany

The European Union provides already so many types of funding and financial instruments. The consequent updating and optimization of these for the needs of sustainability would be a desirable target for European Union financed development to strive for. For example, the European Union could actively develop inter-municipal cooperation in Central Europe. Such cooperation is not wide spread within the region. New working structures of cooperation between cities and counties should be geared towards increasing sustainable development which takes into account local potentials.

Further, the financial incentives given to owners of sites of agricultural production as mostly located in the hinterland areas often lead to monoculture landscapes which are heavily dependent upon the use of pesticides and fertilizers and have a low level of biodiversity. The payment to these site owners should be critically questioned in respect to the sustainability of the funds use. Where possible, the use of the funds given by the EU to these site owners should be upheld to standards of sustainability in the region.

ERDF funds should be allocated to directly address threats to sustainable city development. Threats related to persistent brownfields, areas of excessive soil sealing and the loss of ecosystem services should all be addressed in a coherent manner.

Italy

Today, European resources do not directly reach the local bodies, which must actually operate in the area, but are managed at the national and regional levels. This implies, also because of the extreme heterogeneity



of the territory and of the needs, that the national and regional objectives often do not coincide with the real needs of the territory.

Identifying direct funding channels from Europe towards the metropolitan cities, would strongly help to carry out integrated environmental management strategies of the FUAs of these territories.

Austria

The European Union provides a comprehensive set of various programs, instruments and financing. Consistently updating and optimizing these for the needs of sustainability would be a desirable target for European Union-funded development. In terms of functional urban areas, much stronger inter-municipal cooperation in Central Europe would have to be promoted.

Currently, such collaborations are hardly common in Austria. This would result in new structures of cooperation between cities and hinterland, and sustainable development, taking into account the promotion of local potential, would certainly be a result.

ERDF funds should also be made available in the next funding period to directly address threats to sustainable urban development. Threats associated with ongoing brownfields, areas of excessive soil sealing and the loss of ecosystem services should be addressed coherently.

Slovakia

There should be new investment packages at the level of the EU substituting operational sectorial EU programs.

Czech Republic

In Czech Republic existing many a few grants support brownfield redevelopment

For example the Ministry for Regional Development announces calls for submission of applications for the Program for the Revitalization of Territories in the Demolition of Buildings in Socially Excluded Localities Program and Support for Brownfield Regeneration for Non-Business Use. This is one of the subsidy titles.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is preparing a financial revolving instrument to support development in the territory. The use of revolving financial instruments compared to subsidies has a major effect in motivating sustainable projects.

The main recommendation is more organizational than factual. Each provider has its own specific reporting conditions, specific eligible cost, and special reporting environments. These lead to a huge loss of time in management. Therefore, we recommend to unify both the conditions for applicants, the conditions of registration and the conditions of reporting, so that it is not always necessary to study multi-page methodical instructions.

The second recommendation is rather to limit the granting of grants, - subsidies that lead to market failure.

Slovenia

No recommendations.



3.3. Do we need complementary economic instruments e.g. in relation with Ecosystem Service approach?

Poland

Ecosystem services analysis and assessment is an approach which can support decision making by indicating benefits and losses which are difficult to be expressed in financial quantities. On the other hand decision making procedures are based on financial calculations therefore it would be necessary to include ecosystem services estimation in economic categories. Some types of ecosystem services are already quantified and can be taken into financial analysis of a particular undertaking. There is a need for further research in order to develop methodology for expressing remaining types of ecosystem services estimation in economic categories.

Germany

The necessity to persuade stakeholders to action through improved environmental conditions should not be underestimated. Local and regional levels will need to decide what their commitment is to a sustainable future for their residents. The environmental aspects of brownfield regeneration and the alleviation of soil threats, as presented in the LUMAT pilot sites, should gain more consideration in land use management practices. The economic underscoring of the provision of ecosystem services should be critically evaluated in this case. Instead, the focus should remain on the ecological benefits and the improvements which may be made to the living conditions of everyday residents.

Italy

The issue of ecosystem services is very current in Italy today, however also at the academic level there are different points of view about the utility of identifying payment methods for ecosystem services.

In particular, the results of the different experiences taking place in the territory to assign an economic value to the ESs seem to show an extreme difficulty in evaluations and a low reliability of the results, strongly influenced by subjective evaluations and by the scarcity and low reliability of the input data.

At the moment it is considered that the introduction of complementary economic instruments is not necessary.

Instead, it would be more useful to direct resources in a more explicit and strong manner towards the more general topic of integrated territorial planning (also to allow the effective tackling of current complex problems such as those of climate change).

Austria

The use of ecosystem services in Austria already has some tradition in the alpine areas (eg use of forests as protection forests against avalanches or leisure use of retention basins, which also serve as flood protection), nevertheless it makes sense, this approach to problem solving in the functional urban area stronger to take into account.

The analysis and evaluation of ecosystem services is an approach to support decision-making by identifying benefits and losses that cannot always be expressed in financial terms and are therefore often underestimated. In terms of sustainable development, this approach can also help convince stakeholders. The transformation of ecosystem services into an economic instrument is desirable, but only a few types of ecosystem services are already quantified and can be included in financial analysis. Consequently, further



research is needed to develop the methodology for presenting the various types of ecosystem services estimation in economic categories.

Slovakia

Indeed, we need such instruments. VAT of Ecosystem services approach must be included in GDP and there must be a shift from solidarity payments to payments for Ecosystem services, as the balance between positive and negative externalities.

Czech Republic

We do not need a complementary tool. What is needed is a tool that unites ecosystem services and thus supports the application effect of the tool with the maximization of synergy effects.

It is necessary to accept the whole complex of ecosystem services, not to diversify into individual segments, water, agriculture, flora, fauna ...).

Slovenia

Every activity supported by the economic instruments should be evaluated if it complements / supports the ecosystem service approach and contributes to the increase of environmental quality. In this respect it is not about complementarity of economic instruments but rather about the coherence of impact of supported activities with other environmental and social goals.