

18 Month Programme for the Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters

28-08-2017

To: The DG meetings on the Territorial Cohesion and on the Urban Matters

From: The Trio Presidency (EE, BG, AT)

1. The purpose of this paper from the current Trio Presidency (EE, BG and AT) is to highlight the intentions of the Trio Presidency on the Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters until 31 December 2018.
2. The Trio intends to ensure continuity for cooperation in both policy fields. The Trio shares a common understanding that territorial and urban development shall be promoted in an integrated way, where urban areas of all sizes are considered as an integrated but yet specific part of territorial development, and on the other side have an important function in stimulating territorial development. The thematic focuses of the Trio Presidency reflect the priorities of the Territorial Agenda 2020 and the Urban Agenda for the EU – polycentric and integrated territorial and urban development, effective governance mechanisms, territorial specificities and common challenges for increasing the competitiveness. The Trio will strive for reinforcing the connection between Urban and Territorial Agendas 2020+ and for providing directions for further integration of territorial and urban dimensions within the EU Cohesion and other policies. These long term multilevel working processes will require close cooperation and partnership with the European Institutions (in particular with the European Commission) and other stakeholders (in particular with ESPON programme) as well as future Presidencies in order to be effective.
3. The Trio will closely work together for a continuous implementation of the Urban Agenda for the EU process, in particular on the following priorities:
 - Ensuring the regular reporting of the action plans of the Amsterdam and Bratislava partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU
 - Starting the implementation of the action plans of the Maltese partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU
 - Reflecting on the results of the Amsterdam partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU
 - Providing for the discussion of the first report on the implementation and results of Urban Agenda for the EU
 - Focus on cross-cutting issues of the Urban Agenda for the EU as a special priority of the Bulgarian Presidency
 - Starting the preparatory work for continuation/renewal/amending the Urban Agenda for the EU (new topics and partnerships, implementation arrangements)

4. The Trio will work closely together in the domain of the Urban Matters on the following:
- Focus on digitalisation of urban public services as a special priority of the Estonian Presidency
 - Focus on integrated urban development as a special priority of the Bulgarian Presidency
 - Focus on effective (territorial and) urban governance as a special priority of the Austrian Presidency
5. The Trio will work closely together in the domain of Territorial Cohesion on the following:
- Agreement on the roadmap and preparatory work (e.g. undertaken by the ESPON Programme) towards Territorial Agenda post-2020
 - Discussion of the Commission's communication on cross-border obstacles
 - Focus on strategies for declining/shrinking cities and regions as a special priority of the Estonian Presidency
 - Focus on instruments to strengthen polycentric development and integrated territorial development as a special priority of the Bulgarian Presidency
 - Focus on effective territorial (and urban) governance as a special priority of the Austrian Presidency
 - Reflection of the first insights of the Territorial Reference Framework for Europe 2050 by ESPON

Calendar of events:

Date	Event (place)
25 September 2017	NTCCP (Tallinn)
26 September 2017	UDG (Tallinn)
23 October 2017	DGTC (Tallinn)
24 October 2017	DGUM (Tallinn)
04 – 08 December 2017	ESPON Week (Tallinn)
28 February 2018	NTCCP (Sofia)
01 March 2018	UDG (Sofia)
19 April 2018	DGTC (Sofia)
20 April 2018	DGUM (Sofia)
28 May – 1 June 2018	ESPON Week (Sofia)
19 – 21 September 2018 (tbc)	NTCCP and UDG (Vienna)
12 – 14 November 2018 (tbc)	DGUM and DGTC (Vienna)
Beginning of December 2018 (tbc)	ESPON Week (Vienna)