



The difficulties and beauties to build up an integrated approach

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Urban Forum



- Some 700 people came together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of urban areas where 80% of the EU population live.
- Leading politicians emphasized that EU policies must become more “urban-sensitive”, dealing with the urban economy (growth and jobs), the sustainability of the urban environment, social inclusion through more urban regeneration and improved links between the different levels of government.
- The Commission promised to continue the urban agenda.
- Where and when...?

VIENNA, 1998



EU Cohesion Policy: a promising attempt in the 2010s

Early 2010s: acceptance to ringfence financing for integrated development with ITI as compulsory tool for it. ITI was promising from many aspects:

- to put strategic thinking ahead of project based actions,
- to support functional area approaches both on neighbourhood and on city-region level as opposed to the administrative territories,
- to push for integration between policy fields and between funds,
- to acknowledge the local/metropolitan level as direct client in Structural Funds policy (delegation)

No wonder that many cities became excited and raised high expectations for getting such a 'block grant'.



Unwilling Member States, cautious Commission, hesitating Parliament

The brave proposals of the Commission have been substantially “watered down” during the 2010-2012 debates with the MS-s.

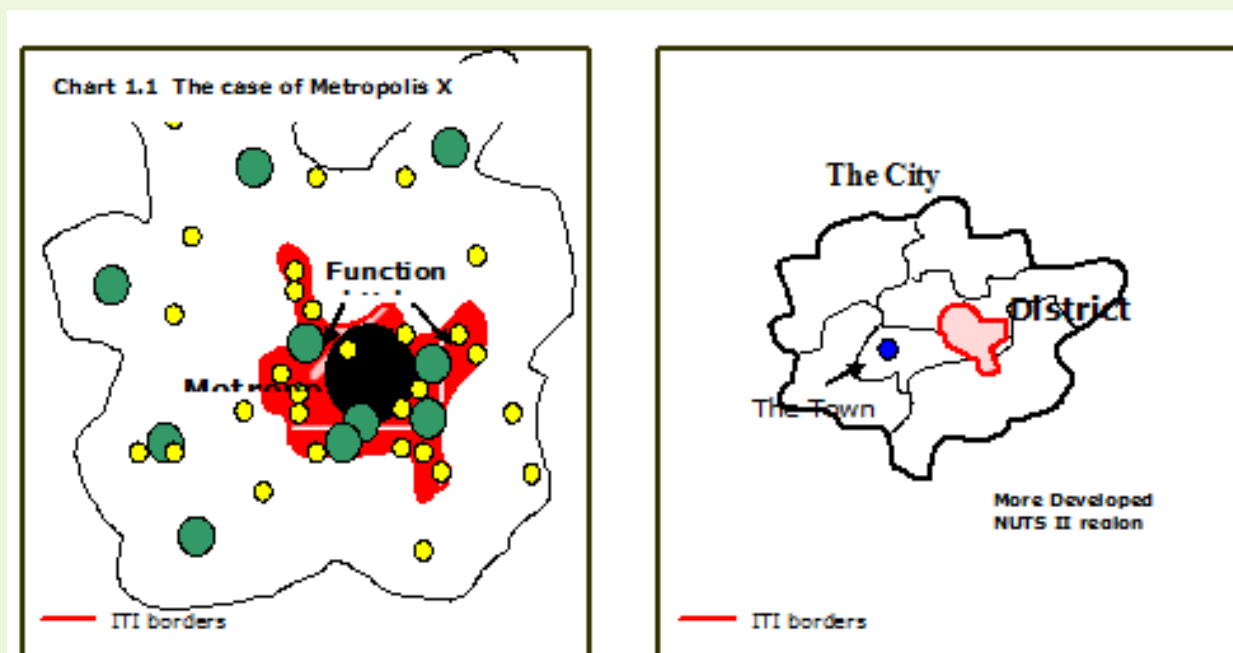
- the broad application of multi-fund financing was unrealistic as not even the Commission itself could achieve better cooperation between ERDF and ESF
- the delegation to the city level was a wish of the EC and EP but the national and regional level was completely against it
- the new ideas for integrated approach would have needed clear explanations but the Commission was in serious delay with documents helping to operationalize ITI

As a consequence the resulting regulation-compromise proved to be too weak to achieve the originally aimed strong position of the European cities.



Main types of ITI-s: suggested by the Commission

Four 'Scenarios' for ITIs: metropolitan urban area, deprived urban area, territory with specific features, integrated regional development with urban rural linkages.



By the end of 2014 only the first two were available as non-binding materials

Integrated development is a difficult business

Integrated development requires different types of cooperation

- on the functional territorial levels
(metropolitan areas, neighbourhoods)
- between the policy sectors
- between the different levels of government







The importance of metropolitan areas

Tools are needed to force/initiate municipalities, belonging to the same FUA, to prepare joint plan.

To get the metropolitan level as a fully fledged administrative level is a difficult and long process.

,Second best' solutions can be helpful:

- Willing ministry can cooperate with willing mayors/metro areas to create pilot cases.
- ,Guerilla metropolitan coordination' can be initiated from below which later, as good cases, can influence other cities.
- Ministries can force administrative regions to consider metropolitan ideas if prepared according to some minimum standards of representation.



ITI as a stick for better cooperation

ITI can be a good tool to force neighbouring municipalities to cooperate – if the national level is strongly behind it.

Good consultancy, mentoring and capacity building at city (metropolitan) level are of key importance

- good consultancy and mentoring has to be developed in a country... there must be enough capacity to convince cities that they should cooperate with their neighbours
- for capacity building at city (metropolitan) level besides the national efforts URBACT and UDN are good opportunities



Difficulties of supra-national efforts

All over the world the national level is strong; the EU has difficult task for 28 countries to achieve joint position, the UN is in even more difficult position.

There are some areas where the EU achieved progress to build up supra-national control. Unfortunately these are largely sectoral tools and lack the integrated dimension (e.g. EPBD directive).

There are some good efforts in the EU towards integrated development

- ITI as a tool to initiate FUA-wide strategic planning
- EU Urban Agenda partnership approach to take an inventory on how things are in the most important aspects of urban development
- The performance of these tools, the good cases should be reported widely.



Thank you for your attention

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