

## Annex to the Letter of Invitation to the local event

### **“Implementing the Urban Agenda for the EU: Technical Assistance to support EU funded programmes to build more sustainable cities and communities”**

*The joint JASPERS-Committee of the Regions local event will be held in Vienna on 09.05.2017 and is hosted by Presov, Slovakia, Novo Mesto, Slovenia, Pilsen, Czech Republic and Rijeka, Croatia.*

The EU Urban Agenda draws attention to cities and focuses on improving regulation, funding and knowledge. EU Cohesion Policy and its ESIF instruments can support smarter and more resilient urban development. As an instrument of Cohesion Policy, JASPERS provides advisory support to ESIF Managing Authorities and beneficiaries such as cities. The aim is to channel ESIF resources to fund cities' comprehensive development plans and use urban areas to their maximum advantage, which includes tackling challenges related to air quality, integration of migrants, segregation, urban blight etc.

The local workshop will provide a platform for cities to present their strategies, plans and projects and highlight their experience. In addition, JASPERS will present its advisory support to cities. Participating cities can expect to have an active role in moderated sessions and smaller break-out sessions. In particular, the interface between cities' (technical) needs and JASPERS technical assistance will be explored to see how cities can benefit from JASPERS advisory support. The following section will highlight some past and/or on-going JASPERS technical assistance support to cities.

#### ***JASPERS Technical advisory support in cities***

JASPERS advisory support focuses on upstream project development with the aim of preparing projects to be ready for EU grant funding and beyond. This includes advice on the design and implementation of strategies and plans, project pipeline development, set up of investment programmes, project documentation, state aid issues and environmental assessments. The following non-exhaustive list provides examples of JASPERS past or on-going advisory support.

- **Valletta urban regeneration programme** focusing on social housing, cultural heritage and business incubation focusing on design-based innovation (Malta)
  - In particular, JASPERS contracted consultants to undertake an analysis of the investment programme. The exercise involved preparation of a bespoke methodology to appraise the investment programme as a whole and to optimise the sequencing of individual elements within the programme.
- **Preparation of Integrated Territorial Investment** such as in Lublin and Zamosc (Poland)
  - This involves strategic advice reflecting on the spatial plans and review of prioritisation and selection criteria
- **Urban transformation project** exploiting the ELI NP Magurele Innovation Platform & Laser Valley as a catalyst for the development of the wider locale, including a science park (Romania)
  - JASPERS provided technical assistance to the preparation of the ELI Nuclear Physics facility. JASPERS support to the wider urban transformation occasioned by the RDI facility includes review of the governance set up that is to decide on and implement the development programme and may expand as needs arise
- **Development and implementation of Lodz urban regeneration projects/schemes (Poland)**
  - Project preparation support of an urban regeneration programme (institutional set up; demand, option, economic and financial analysis; environmental impact assessment; state aid issues) such as Lodz's portfolio of interconnected urban renewal projects and related socio-economic investments (Poland)

Urban support has several facets both regarding the overriding framework linking various strategies to define the urban context in which projects are launched but may also refer to sector-specific technical assistance for project preparation (including feasibility studies, methodological guidance, review of project documentation, support on state aid and environmental issues). The following examples relate to the transport and energy sectors.

- **Sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP)** are typical examples of such strategic plans and lead to subsequent infrastructure investments that are part of/complementary to a wider urban transformation, representing also major project development. A few concrete examples of JASPERS' involvement:
  - Bratislava and Kosice SUMP and support to the Ministry of Transport (MoT) for the preparation of the SUMP methodology for the country and in the review of Terms of References & plans for the 5 main cities and for the regions (Slovakia)
  - Support to the MoT and local authorities for the preparation of different SUMP/functional regional transport plans (Croatia)
  - Specific smart transport projects can also be mentioned, such as different ITS solutions for private and public transport, users real-time information, integrated smart ticketing systems, etc.) - normally such projects are embedded within SUMP and/or in specific ITS development/deployment plans – multimodal or specific for private or public transport.
- **Sustainable energy and smart grids** can improve the energy efficiency of cities
  - Development of Investment Programmes for Energy Rehabilitation of Buildings in Croatia: JASPERS supported national authorities in outlining investment schemes for the improvement of energy efficiency and use of RES in buildings in the residential, public, service and manufacturing sectors to be co-financed with ESI funds in the period 2014-2020. Amongst others, JASPERS advised on the eligibility and selection criteria to be applied for individual projects, the establishment of fixed grant rates for different types of buildings and geographical zones, the handling of State Aid issues and the organisational set-up for programme implementation. This assignment followed a similar intervention by JASPERS in Romania for energy renovation of residential and public buildings in the period 2007 – 2013.
  - Smart Grids Investment Support Strategy for the EU Funding Period 2014 – 2020: JASPERS support comprised of outlining an investment programme and funding scheme for the implementation of smart electricity grids projects, and designing and planning transition to smart grids that could be implemented in 2014 - 2020 EU programming period. Case studies from Romania and Poland are included to illustrate the proposed assessment framework.
  - Energy Efficiency in District Heating (DH) Networks in Romania: JASPERS provided technical support to local authorities in seven medium sized Municipalities for the preparation of DH network rehabilitation projects to be co-financed with ESI funds, including technical, financial, economic, institutional aspects. To be particularly highlighted was JASPERS' contribution to the development of a methodological approach for the prioritization and selection of individual network sections for rehabilitation, aimed at maximizing the socio-economic impact of the overall project, as well as for the subsequent cost-benefit analysis. JASPERS has recently started working on a similar assignment on energy efficiency in DH networks in Croatia.