

Luxembourg/Bruxelles, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Madam, Sir,

The JASPERS Networking Platform was created to complement JASPERS project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and targeted capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences among JASPERS stakeholders.

Its activities combine the organization of specific knowledge sharing activities (roundtables, seminars, workshops and training events) and the development of a dedicated website to facilitate the dissemination of JASPERS guidance and capacity building documents, horizontal studies and other relevant guidelines and best practices. More information is available at [www.jaspersnetwork.org](http://www.jaspersnetwork.org)

We would herewith like to invite you to a workshop on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Vienna on the implementation of the EU Urban Agenda, which is being organised jointly by the EIB/JASPERS and the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The event serves to

- discuss topics related to core actions of the EU Urban Agenda from a municipal perspective,
- give an overview of the available ESIF budget available for urban development tasks and
- outline the way JASPERS may support the preparation of projects or programmes in the areas of its competence, irrespective of their scale or financial volume including, for example, urban regeneration, social housing, smart city development, smart and sustainable urban mobility, waste management and energy efficiency.

The workshop in Vienna is based on expressions of interests from cities in four countries – Plzen (Czech Republic), Presov (Slovakia), Novo Mesto (Slovenia) and Rijeka (Croatia). It aims to provide a basis for future cooperation between JASPERS and those cities and other interested municipalities in your country. The Vienna event is the first of a series of 4 similar workshops, with others taking place in Athens, Sofia ( and Gdansk.

The JASPERS/CoR events will complement the Urban Development Network (UDN) workshops that DG REGIO is also organising during the coming months. The choice of the appropriate format and location is therefore important.

A participatory format or "citizens/stakeholders dialogue" will be included as an additional session of each local event to build a political debate led by CoR members involved on specific issues related to the future of their cities in line with the objectives of the new CoR "Reflecting on Europe" campaign 2017. Other partners such as Urbact could be involved. To this end, the CoR will support the preparation and implementation of this dialogue session (a specific Vademecum will be available for the partners).

The workshop will take place in the premises of the Czech embassy in Vienna. It will be opened by the Czech Ambassador in Vienna, EIB Vice President Vazil Hudak and the CoR member of the city of Plzen. EU Commission officials will participate as well. To facilitate communication among participants of the four countries, the workshop will be held in English only.

We would like to suggest that you forward this invitation to interested mayors and city officials among your members. The event will explicitly encourage proactive participation and every attendee will have the opportunity in targeted sessions (see draft agenda) to present his/her city's challenges, expectations and requests related to the topic of the agenda to JASPERS, the EIB at large, the EU Commission and the CoR.

Please find attached an explanatory annex and the draft agenda of the workshop. Should you have any further queries, don't hesitate to contact Joachim Schneider and/or Jeroen Bakker as the event's organisers and coordinators. We will also try to contact you on the phone in the days to come.

We look forward to welcoming you in Vienna.

Kind regards,



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Division



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