

# *Experimentation & Learning in the Urban Agenda for the EU*

Urban Futures Studio



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**EUROPE OF CITIES**

START

Total of 11.533.426 citizens

Amsterdam - 821.752

Arnhem  
152.293

Oberhausen - 210.934

Düsseldorf - 612.178

Utrecht  
334.176

Regensburg - 145.465

Duisburg - 491.231

Frankfurt - 732.668

Linz - 188.966

Köln - 1.060.582

St. Pölten - 54.213

Bonn - 318.809

Mainz  
209.779

Koblenz1  
12.586

Nürnberg  
509.975

Wels 58.431

END

Wien - 1.674.118

Würzburg - 124.873

Passau -  
51.781

Amstetten - 23.045



**BUIKSLOTERHAM, AMSTERDAM**



**BUKSLATERHAM, AMSTERDAM**



**BUIKSLOTERHAM, AMSTERDAM**

How can the unique strength of cities – their experimental potential – be used to address big global issues?



PACT OF AMSTERDAM, MAY 2016





PARTNERSHIP CIRCULAR ECONOMY

# LEARNING WITH CITIES, LEARNING FOR CITIES

The Golden Opportunity of the Urban Agenda for the EU

Suzanne Potjer & Maarten Hajer

## PRINCIPLE

## URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU

## SYSTEM OF EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING

Local



Recognition of cities as playing a vital role in addressing European challenges.

Through experimentation, cities create innovation.

Horizontal



Starting from the practical experiences of cities and see what can be learnt from them.

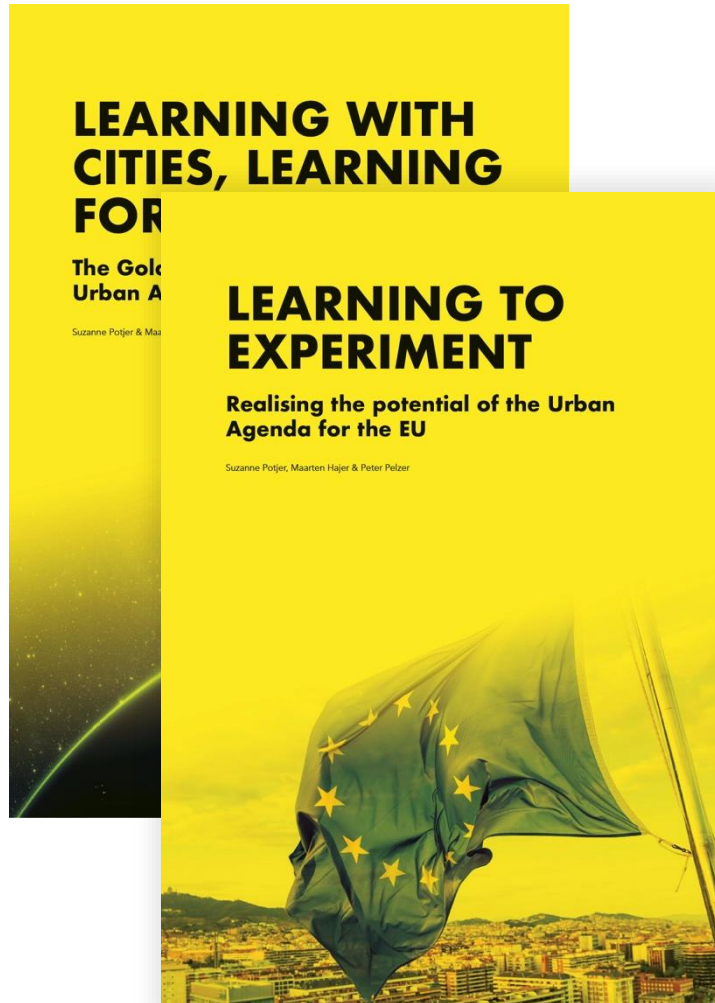
Through intercity collaboration, cities together catalyze urban action.

Vertical



Finding out how barriers to effective governance on the urban level can be resolved at all three levels of government.

Through multi-level collaboration, city, national and European levels of government together institutionalize experiments and an experimental way of working.



## Empirical research into:

- Political context
- Practical work of partnerships
- Urban Agenda

# Practical work of partnerships



	<b>INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES</b>	<b>AIR QUALITY</b>	<b>CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b>
<b>PHASE</b>	1st generation, action plan delivered	1st generation, action plan delivered	2nd generation, action plan in the making
<b>THEME</b>	Social	Environmental	Environmental
<b>POLICY ISSUE</b>	Relatively new issue, incited by European refugee crisis, with dynamic policy on EU level	Relatively old issue, with well-established policy on EU level	Relatively new and innovative issue, with little policy on EU level
<b>COORDINATION</b>	Coordinated by city (Amsterdam) together with Commission (DG Home)	Coordinated by member state (the Netherlands)	Coordinated by city (Oslo)

# Political Context

*"The whole Amsterdam Pact, all the action, is based on a voluntary base. So it's not obligatory. Of course this is the weakness, but it was not possible."*

**JAN OLBRYCHT** MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

*"It's voluntary. It's informal. And that's the strength of it: it's worth a try, it adds an extra dimension without being immediately pinned to it."*

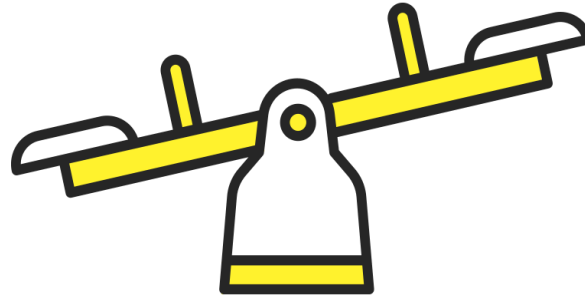
**NICOLAAS BEETS** DUTCH URBAN ENVOY

# Balancing act



## Practical

- Practical actions
- Creating something new



## Fundamental

- Fundamental issues
- Changing what exists





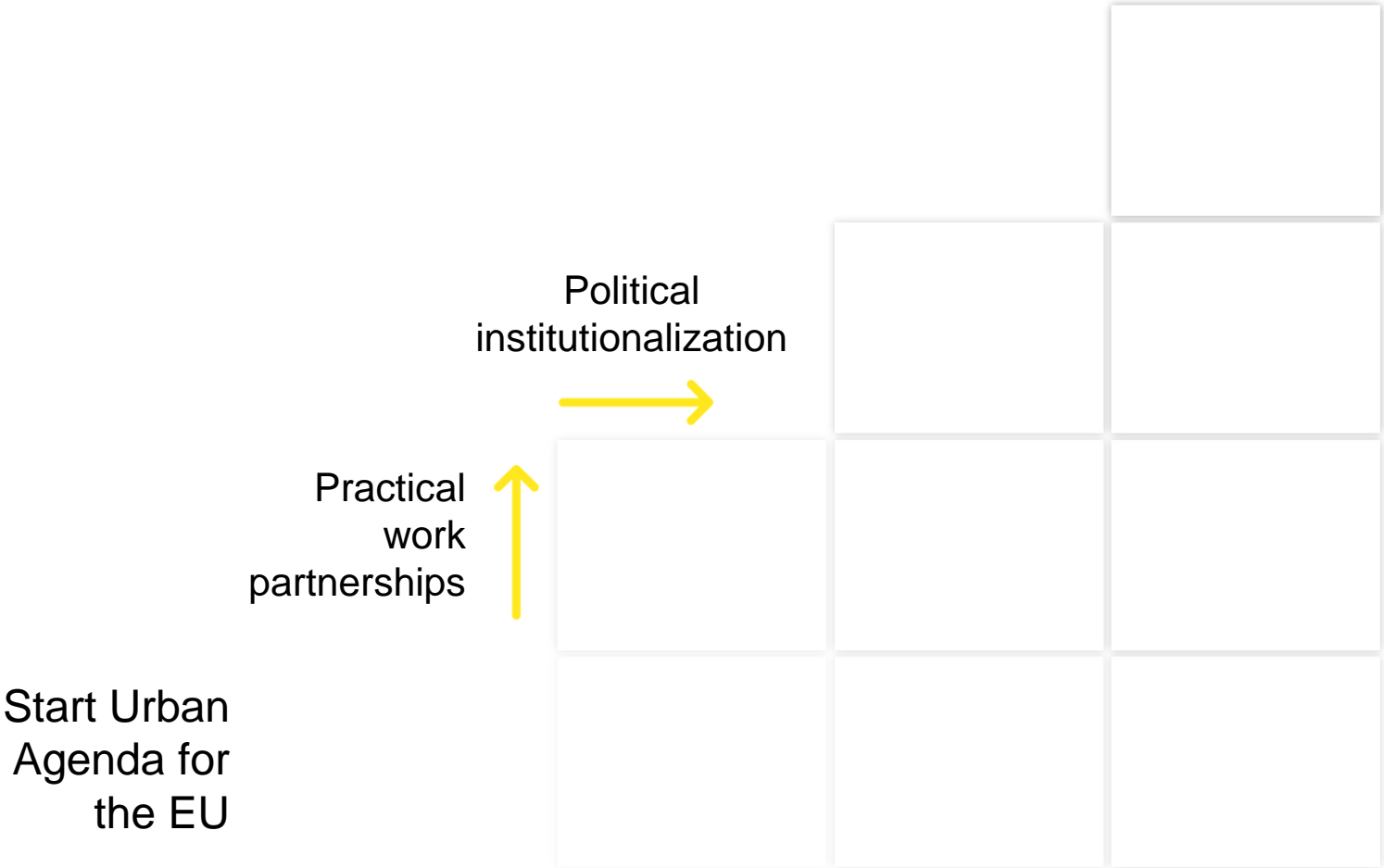
*“I think we need – what I would call – a general form of experimentation. In the sense of: regulation causes bottlenecks in a few ways. Let’s take those regulations and let’s see if we can experiment within them, with various solutions that can bring the circular economy closer. I think that’s the direction to go, and member states and the Commission should provide space for that.”*

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**JAN HARKO POST** CIRCULAR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP, CITY OF THE HAGUE

# Future development

EU multi-level governance  
that fully utilizes the strength  
of cities





- Potjer, S. & Hajer, M. (2017) Learning with cities, learning for cities. The golden opportunity of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Urban Futures Studio. Available through: <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/essay-learning-with-cities-learningfor-cities>
- Potjer, S., Hajer, M. & Pelzer, P. (2018) Learning to experiment. Realising the potential of the Urban Agenda for the EU. Urban Futures Studio. Available through: <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/urban-agenda-for-the-eu-offers-unique-opportunity-for-experimentation>
- New Project: 'Experimenting with Cities': <https://www.uu.nl/en/research/urban-futures-studio/initiatives/experimenting-with-cities>

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