

The Trio Presidency Theme of small and medium-sized cities in the EU

Challenges and directions for economic growth and territorial development

Workshop on the potential of small and medium cities
in cross-border polycentric regions
Luxembourg, 30th June 2015

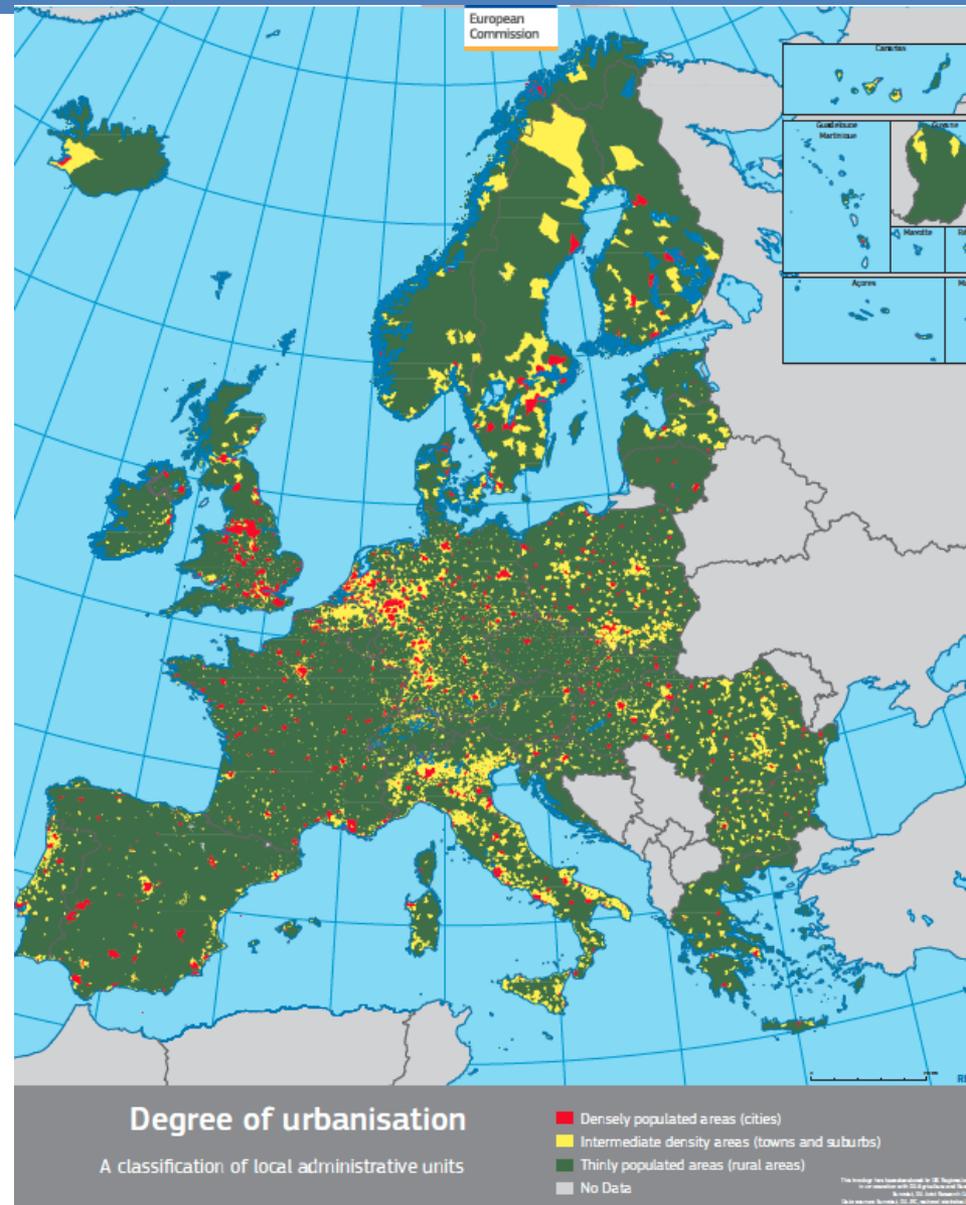
The Trio theme

Small and medium-sized cities

- Role in urban and regional policy, incl. their particular challenges / potentials
- Urban dimension in territorial cohesion and link with the EU Urban Agenda

Rationale

- Lack of attention in policy and research
- Their significance:
 - 66% of EU urban population in urban areas >500,000 inhabitants
 - Backbone of Europe's territory



Italian Presidency contribution

Inner areas theme

- accessibility basic services in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas, far from large and medium-sized cities
- stresses function centres for hinterland
- link theme of urban development with territorial cohesion
- Significance of inner areas for many MS, incl. Italy (60% national territory)



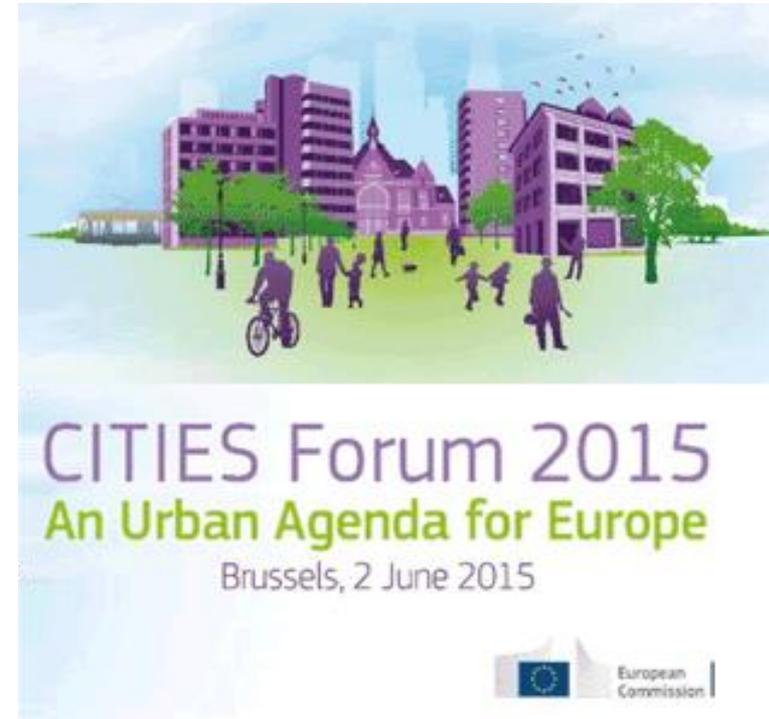
Latvian Presidency contribution

- Challenges and potentials of small and medium-sized urban areas
- Riga Declaration 10 June 2015: economic and social functions for inhabitants and hinterland
- Small can be more!
- Smart development strategies: cooperation, networking, diversification, specialisation, connectivity, accessibility, innovation, leadership and funding
- Requires national and EU support, incl. Integrated actions, CLLD, ITI



Link EU urban agenda

- Significance of small and medium-sized cities for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth objectives EU
- Role of small and medium-sized cities in themes of EU urban agenda: recognise diversity of urban Europe
- Territorial perspective on EU urban agenda: role small and medium-sized cities in balanced territorial development



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