

ESPON URDICO
**Urban Dimension of Cohesion
Policy and other EU
programmes**

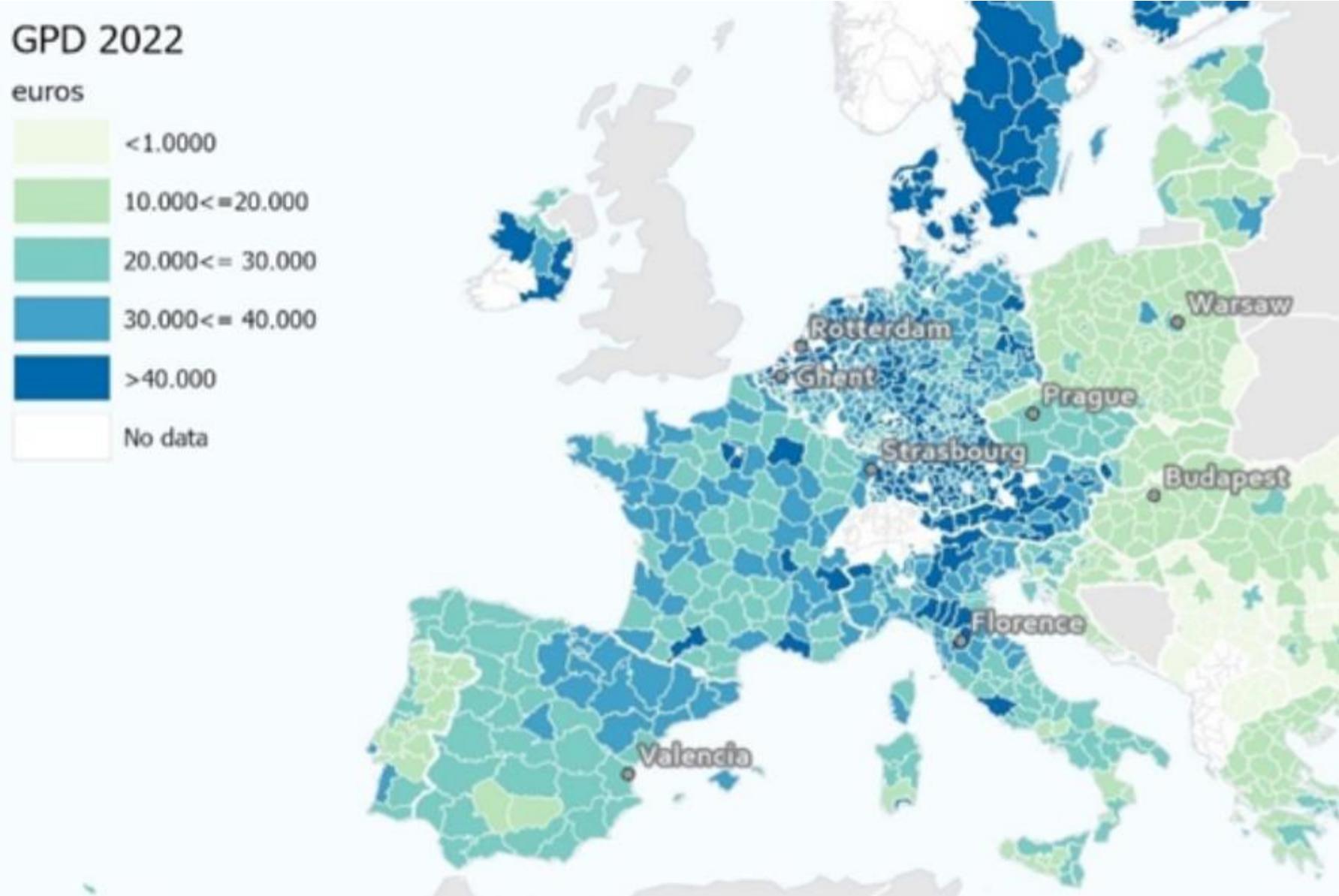
**Metropolitan Research Institute Budapest – Politecnico Torino –
University of Valencia**

14 October 2025

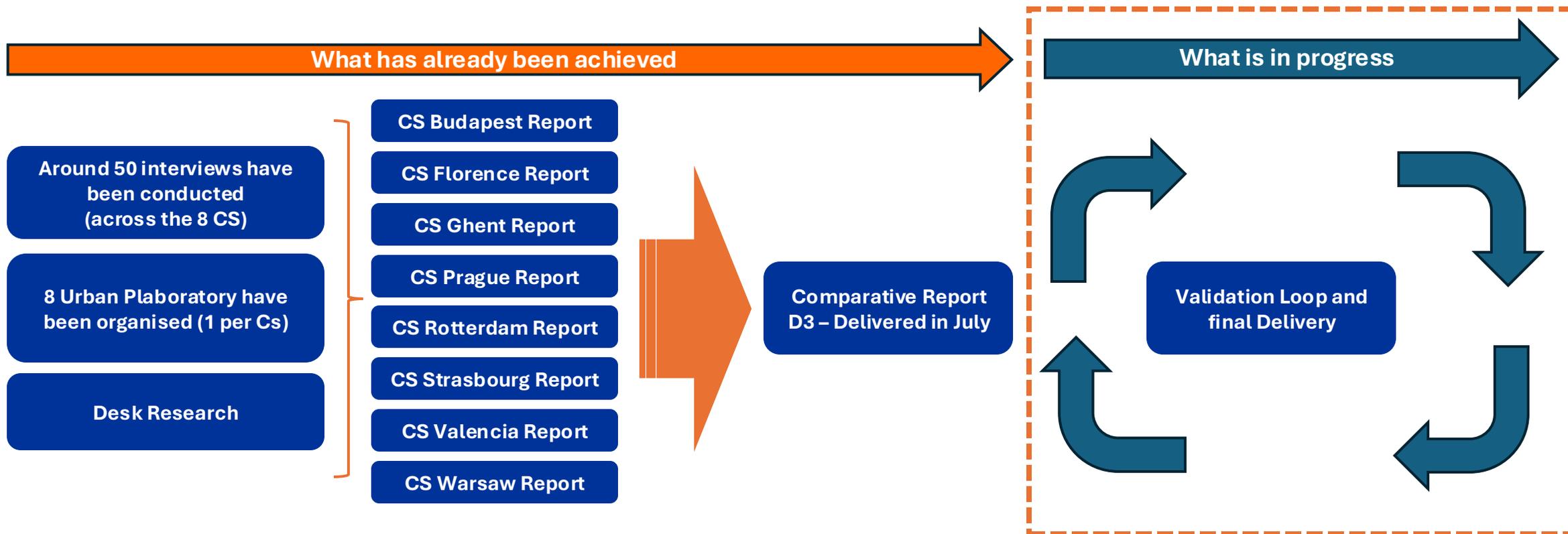
Brussels



URDICO: 8 city stories during 2014-2020 and 2021-2027



Qualitative data collection and analysis



Quantitative data collection and analysis

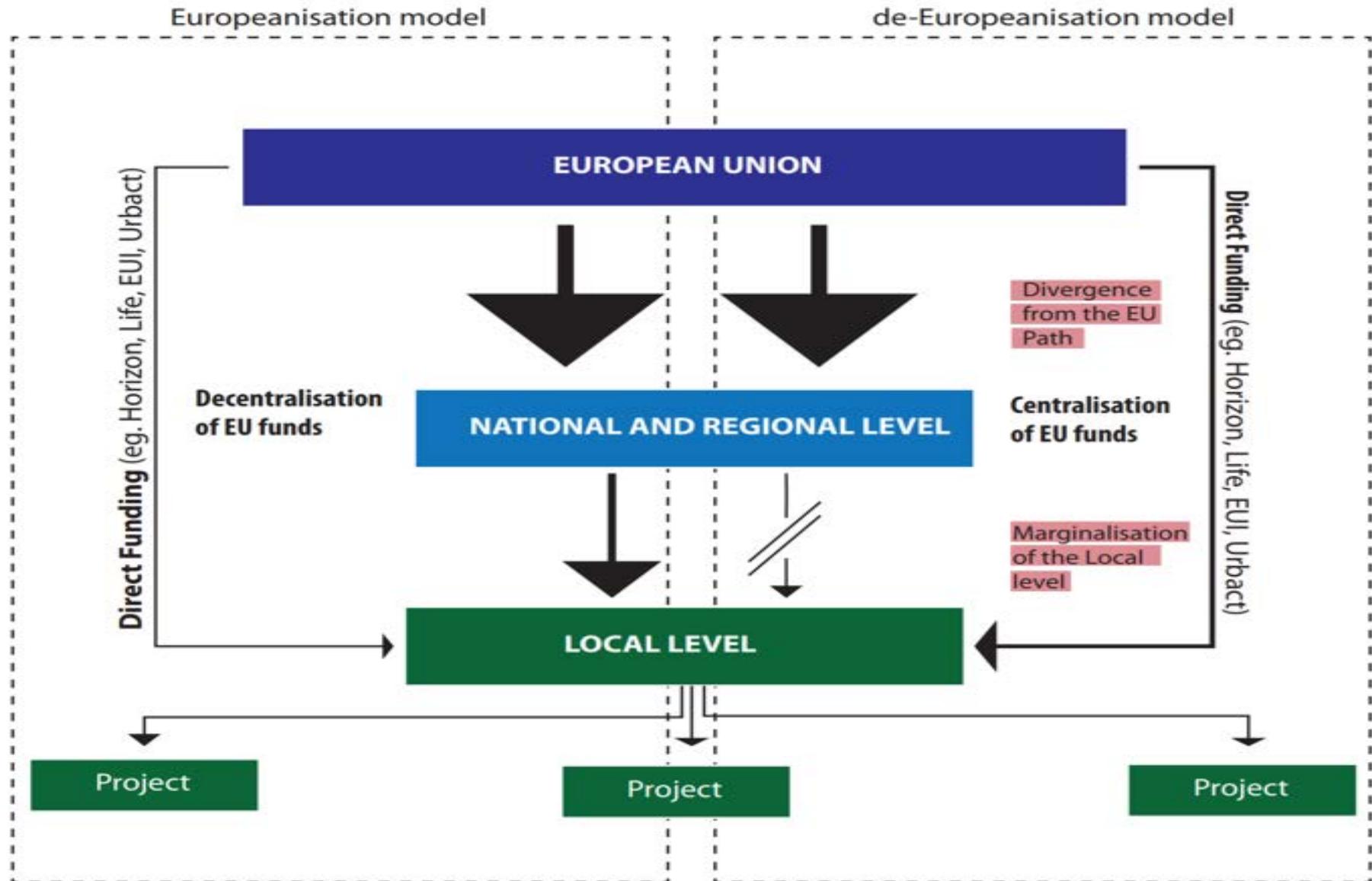
THE IDEA

- Decision on which of the local public authorities/bodies as beneficiaries of EU funding are included.
- Decision on which of the EU funds and programmes are included.
- CS experts with the help of the CS stakeholders fill out an agreed template with all the EU funded projects in the CS area according to the selected beneficiaries

LIMITATIONS

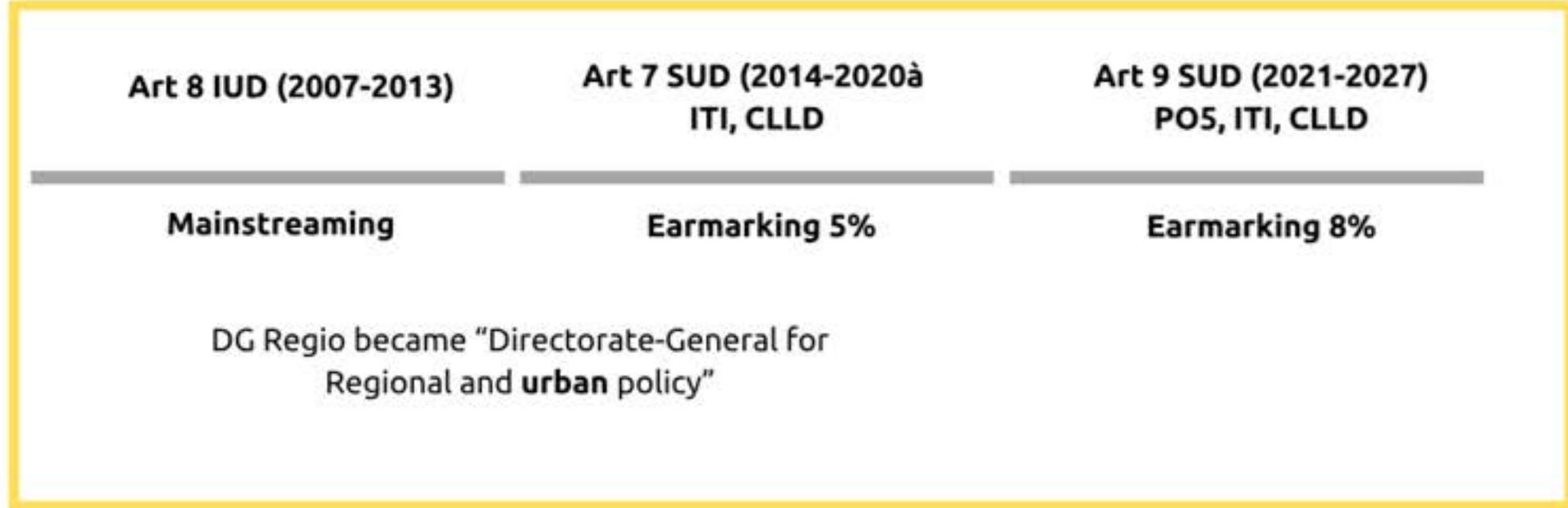
- There is no complete European database about EU funded projects existing on the **local level**:
 - Data is divided depending on the fund or programme in different webpages
 - The different webpages show data in different ways and not always show the same data
- Manual data mining is needed to find the data, this is very time- and resource consuming
- Local authorities and CS Stakeholders have not all projects from all funds and programs easily accessible
- There is a big gap in data published about the current Programming Period

The original hypothesis: gate-keeper role of the national (regional) governments



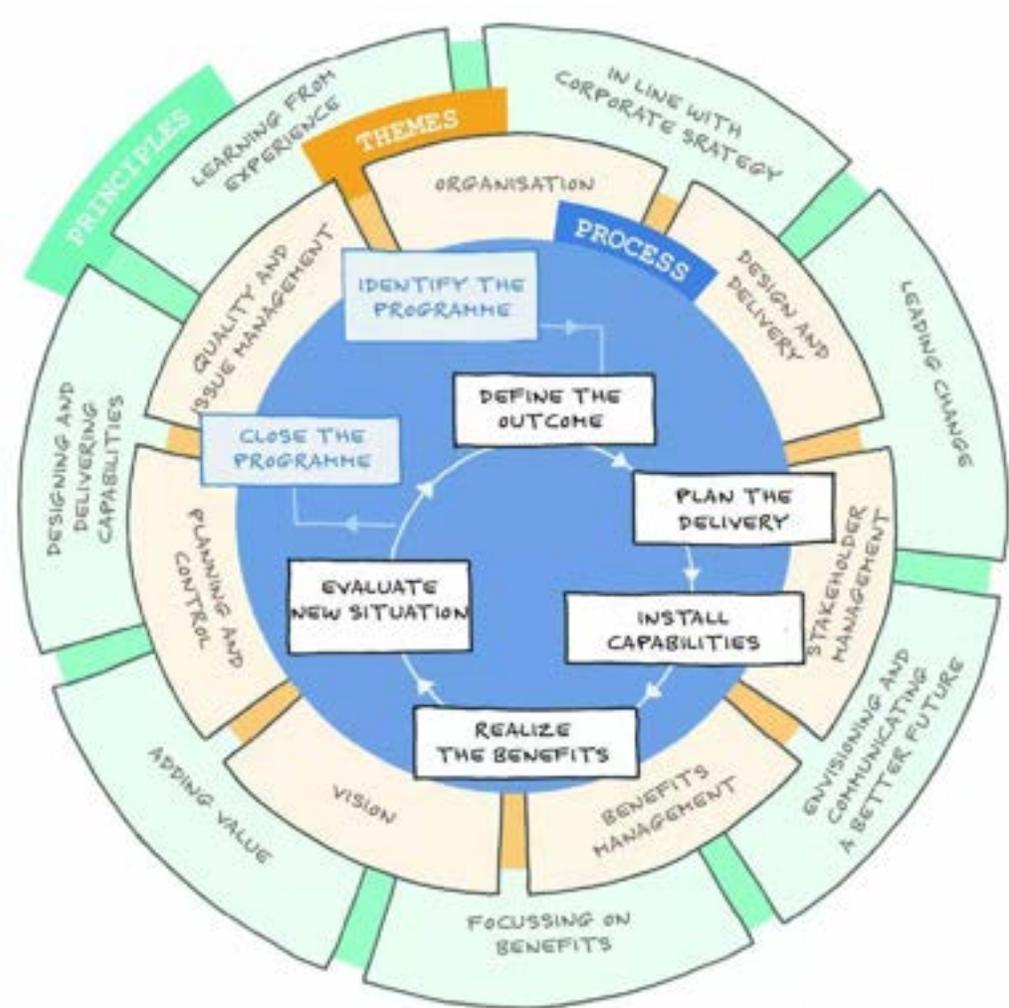
1. Changing role of urban areas in Cohesion policy

URBAN II (2000-2006)



Sustainable Urban Development, and new tools of Integrated Territorial Investments and CLLD

- **place-based development** with strategic focus on specific areas to identify their challenges and potentials;
- **dedicated investments** in integrated strategies with different territorial versions, supporting also functional territories;
- **multi-level governance models** combining central/regional direction with local participation.



Ghent's Integrated Neighbourhood Approach: strong area-based integrated approach with participative methods; **combining social, economic, and environmental investments** into comprehensive programmes, supported by both **local budgets and EU funds**.

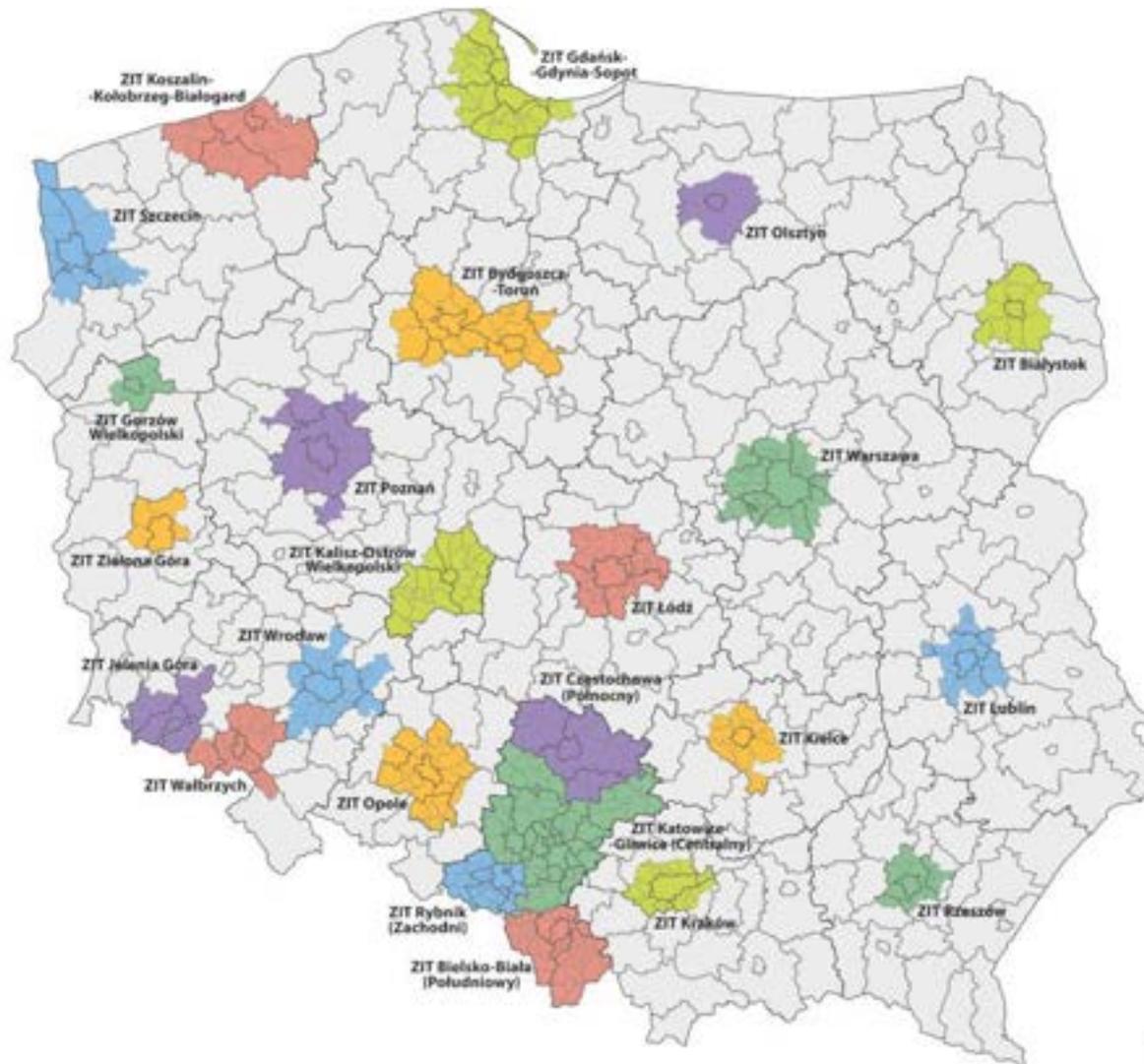
Source: <https://stad.gent/en/city-governance-organisation/city-policy/ghent-international/funded-projects/urban-renewal-programmes-neighbourhoods>



Rotterdam BRIDGE project, URBACT, UIA, ERDF: in the poor Rotterdam South area increasing and promoting the employability and employment of young people, through bringing together 68 primary schools, 20 secondary schools and 3 vocational schools in South Rotterdam, all pupils and their parents. Aim: 50% of secondary vocational training students in Rotterdam South will have chosen a career in one of the major growth sectors of the city.

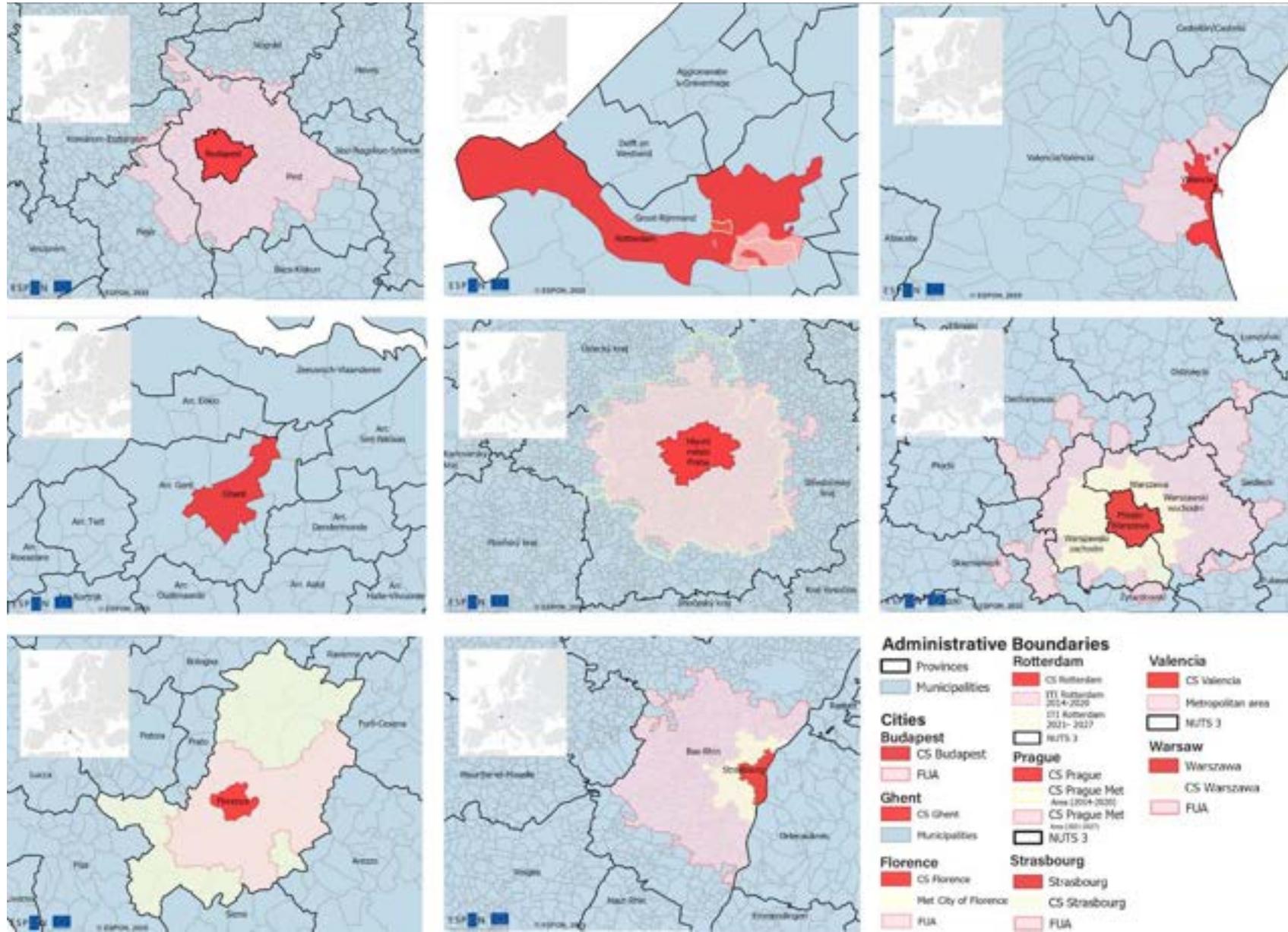
Source: https://www.uia-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2020-03/Rotterdam_BRIDGE_%20Journal%205.pdf

Innovative cooperation in FUA ITIs: Poland



	Region	SUD ITI Functional Urban Area	Legal Form	Number of municipalities
1	Dobrużskie	Jelenia Góra Functional Area	Agreement	15
2	Dobrużskie	Wałbrzych Agglomeration	Agreement	22
3	Dobrużskie	Wrocław Functional Area	Agreement	15
4	Kujawsko-Pomorskie	Bydgoszcz-Toruń Functional Area	Agreement	26
5	Łódzkie	Łódź Metropolitan Area	Association	23
6	Lubelskie	Lublin Metropolitan Area	Agreement	15
7	Lubuskie	Gorzów Wielkopolski Functional Area	Agreement	5
8	Lubuskie	Zielona Góra Functional Area	Agreement	6
9	Mazowieckie	Cracow Functional Area	Association	15
10	Mazowieckie	Warsaw Functional Area	Agreement	43
11	Opolskie	Opole Agglomeration	Association	21
12	Podkarpackie	Rzeszów Functional Area	Agreement	13
13	Podlaskie	Białystok Functional Area	Association	9
14	Pomorskie	Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area	Association	30
15	Śląskie	Central Subregion	Association	73
16	Śląskie	Northern Subregion	Agreement	34
17	Śląskie	Southern Subregion	Agreement	38
18	Śląskie	Western Subregion	Association	26
19	Świętokrzyskie	Kielce Functional Area	Agreement	12
20	Warmińsko-Mazurskie	Olsztyn Functional Area	Agreement	7
21	Wielkopolskie	Kalisz-Ostrow Wielkopolski Agglomeration	Association	24
22	Wielkopolskie	Poznań Functional Area	Association	22
23	Zachodniopomorskie	Koszalin-Kołobrzeg-Białogrod Functional Area	Agreement	19
24	Zachodniopomorskie	Szczecin Metropolitan Area	Association	13
TOTAL				522

Functional urban area cooperation in the 8 cities



2. Cities' influence in Cohesion policy: multi-level governance partnership

- The 2013 CP reform aimed to move away from former sectoral, ministry-led investments towards **territorially focused and integrated approaches**. Beyond the allocation of earmarked SUD resources the key is the functioning of the multilevel governance partnership.
- The **Italian NOP METRO** is a decentralised governance model in a multi-level approach, where the **14 metropolitan cities act as Intermediate Bodies**, assuming full responsibility for programming, implementing, and monitoring interventions through a formal delegation from the Managing Authority.
- **Florence** appreciates the NOP METRO programme: the metropolitan area has benefited from this **truly place-based fund**, with the local level being included in the design process from the outset. Florence, having an **IB role**, could determine metropolitan projects.
- The NOP METRO experience shows **effective subsidiarity**, based on **trust across governance levels** (MLG), and a well defined place-based approach.



Financial allocation per Metropolitan City

Budget devoted to More Developed Region's Cities
(Central and Northern Cities)



142 M€

Budget devoted to Less Developed Region's Cities
(Islands and Southern Cities)



225 M€

Priority 1



Priority 2



Priority 3



Priority 4



Priority 7



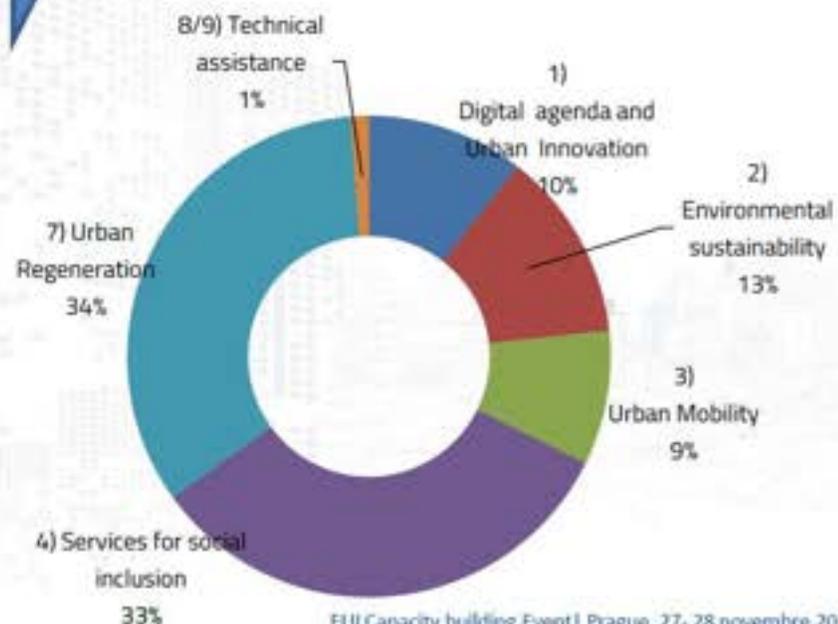
Priority 8



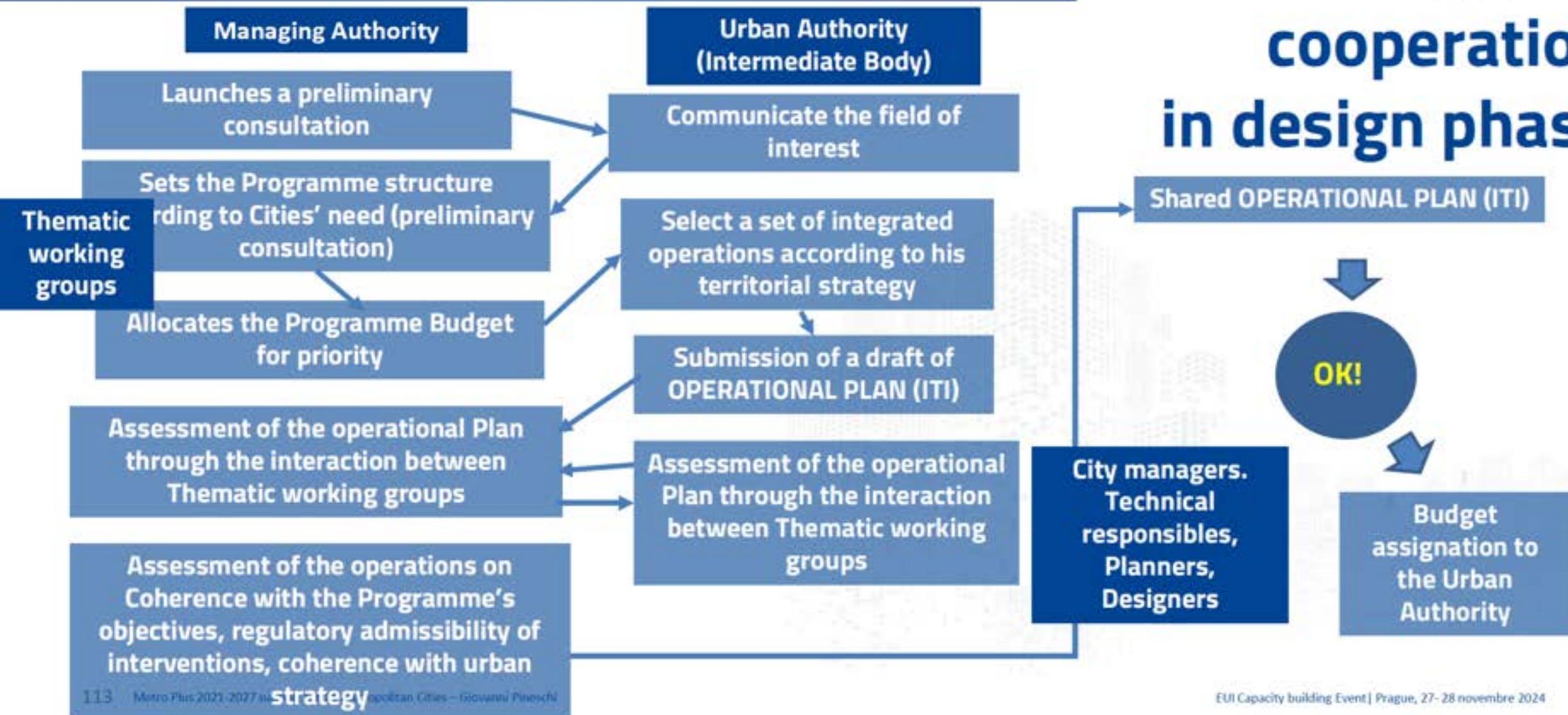
Priority 9



Each metropolitan city,
as an intermediate body,
develops an ITI
(Operational Plan)



Governance model: Vertical cooperation in design phase



Programme linkage with urban strategies

