

Annex

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT THEMES AND CHALLENGES

Thematic areas: sectoral principles/areas in relation to sustainable urban development			Description
level 1	level 2	topics that could be covered	
Productive, smart and connected	Research and Innovation	Social Innovation, Business Incubation	Focuses on social innovation, business incubation, and fostering entrepreneurial solutions to urban challenges. Examples: Innovation hubs, social impact startups.
	Digital transition	Digital economy; Digital technologies and processes (AI, data standardisation); Data protection (GDPR)	Covers the digital economy, technologies, and processes driving urban transformation. Examples: AI applications, data standardization, cybersecurity.
	Local production	green industrialisation; crafts - creative industries	Addresses green industrialization and creative industries, promoting sustainable local manufacturing and cultural entrepreneurship. Examples: artisanal crafts.
	Mobility	Active mobility; walkable cities; cycling; Traffic Management	Encompasses active mobility, walkable cities, cycling, and efficient traffic management to create sustainable transportation systems. Examples: Pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, bike-sharing programs.
	Transportation and logistics systems	sustainable supply chains and logistics	Involves developing sustainable supply chains, distribution networks, and innovative transportation solutions for urban areas. Examples: Last-mile delivery optimization, urban freight consolidation.
	Sustainable tourism		Promotes responsible tourism practices that minimize negative impacts on the environment and local communities. Examples: Eco-tourism, cultural heritage preservation in tourism destinations.
	Circular Economy	sustainable production and consumption patterns.	Emphasizes the transition from a linear to a circular economy, focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency, and closed-loop systems. Examples: Recycling programs, product lifecycle management.
	Job creation and entrepreneurship	Social entrepreneurship; social economy; jobs all type of industries	Focuses on social entrepreneurship, social economy, and inclusive job opportunities to drive sustainable urban economic growth. Examples: Social enterprise incubators

Green	Sustainable soil and land use	land take; underused land; sustainable use of land	Addresses issues such as land take, underused land, and sustainable land management practices. Examples: Urban agriculture, brownfield redevelopment.
	Food systems		Covers the entire food production-to-consumption cycle, including sustainable farming practices, local food distribution, and reducing food waste. Examples: Community gardens, farmers' markets, food rescue initiatives.
	Resilient environments	flood management; fire management; risk prevention and management	Focuses on managing and adapting to environmental risks, such as flood and fire management, and overall disaster risk prevention. Examples: Flood-resistant infrastructure, fire-safe urban planning.
	Climate adaptation	heat-islands; Nature Based Solutions	Addresses measures to mitigate heat islands and promote nature-based solutions for climate resilience. Examples: Green roofs, urban parks and green spaces.
	Climate change mitigation	air-quality; air pollution; depollution	Covers strategies and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and promote cleaner energy sources.
	Water management	water conservation, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment.	Focuses on water conservation, stormwater management, wastewater treatment, and sustainable water use in urban areas. Examples: Rainwater harvesting systems, constructed wetlands.
	Nature protection and biodiversity	nature based solutions; urban forest; green infrastructure	Highlights the importance of preserving and enhancing urban biodiversity through nature-based solutions and green infrastructure. Examples: Urban forests, biodiversity corridors.
	Energy transition	Energy retrofitting, energy production; renewable energy; smart energy grids; energy efficiency; energy production, energy storage; Positive Energy Districts	Encompasses energy retrofitting, renewable energy generation, smart grids, energy efficiency, energy storage, and the development of Positive Energy Districts. Examples: Solar panel installations, energy-efficient street lighting.
	Waste management	waste and recycling; water management; waste management; construction materials	Addresses waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable waste management practices in urban areas. Examples: Recycling programs, waste-to-energy plants.

Just and Inclusive	Social inclusion	multidimensional poverty; social integration and exclusion; vulnerable groups; youth; children; ageing; migrants and refugees; inequality; gender equality	Focuses on addressing equality principle and its access, focussing on vulnerable groups more concretely multidimensional poverty, promoting social integration, and ensuring equitable access to essential services. Examples: Integration of migrants and refugees, children poverty
	Affordable housing	social housing; homelessness; affordable housing; sustainable housing; right to housing; gentrification; co-housing; housing cooperative	Covers social housing initiatives, homelessness prevention, sustainable housing solutions, and promoting the right to housing for all. Examples: Affordable housing cooperatives, supportive housing programs.
	Education and employment	employability; training; life-long learning; apprenticeship; skills; talent management; education	Encompasses initiatives that enhance employability, provide lifelong learning opportunities, and promote skills development for urban residents. Examples: Vocational training centers, job placement programs.
	Health and well-being		Focuses on creating healthy and supportive urban environments that promote physical and mental well-being. Examples: Loneliness support, accessible healthcare facilities.
	Culture and cultural heritage	cultural preservation	Involves preserving cultural diversity, protecting heritage sites, and promoting cultural expression within urban development. Examples: Historic preservation initiatives, public art installations.
	Safe and secure urban environment		Addresses issues of urban safety, crime prevention, and the creation of secure public spaces. Examples: safety perception programs, surveillance systems.
	Urban regeneration	brownfield regeneration, revitalisation of city centres, shrinking cities	

Operational topics: implementation related topics			Description
level 1	level 2	topics that could be covered	
Strategy	Global agendas and policy frameworks	synergies with global agendas and other policy frameworks, Links with public policies (national, regional), EU policies and policy frameworks (New Leipzig Charter) and Global agendas	Addresses the role of regulations and policy frameworks and global agendas, such as the New Leipzig Charter and the Urban Agenda 2030, in guiding sustainable urban development initiatives and how take them into account in urban strategies
	Strategy design	analysis, knowledge-based strategy making, creating strategic capacities at local level	
	SUD strategy implementation	all content related to bridging strategies and operational programmes, project pipelines	
Governance	Multi-level governance	links between national, regional, local levels	Examines the relationships and coordination between national, regional, and local levels of governance in implementing sustainable urban development.
	Multi-stakeholder approach	partnership creation, stakeholder dialogue, consultation	Focuses on creating and managing partnerships, engaging diverse stakeholders, and facilitating stakeholder dialogue in decision-making processes.
Participation and Communication	Citizen engagement	co-creation participation strategy and processes	Explores strategies and processes for involving citizens in co-creating sustainable urban development solutions and promoting participatory decision-making.
	Communication with beneficiaries	awareness campaign	Emphasizes effective communication channels, awareness campaigns, and outreach efforts to engage and inform the target beneficiaries of sustainable urban development initiatives.
Resource and funding	Access to funding	sources of funding, selection procedures, criteria for funding; preparation of funding applications	Focuses on identifying and accessing diverse sources of funding, understanding selection procedures and criteria, and preparing funding applications for sustainable urban development projects.
	Financial sustainability		Addresses the development of business models and strategies to ensure the long-term financial viability and sustainability of sustainable urban development initiatives.
	Public Procurement	financial schemes; tendering; awarding	Examines financial schemes, tendering processes, and awarding procedures related to public procurement for sustainable urban development projects.
Data management and evaluation	Data collection and analysis	data management; data interoperability	Covers practices and tools for managing and analyzing data relevant to sustainable urban development, including data interoperability and integration.

	Monitoring and evaluation	data collection for monitoring purposes; assessment; measuring success, localising SDGs	Explores methodologies for collecting data to monitor progress, assess the impact of sustainable urban development initiatives, and measure success, including localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Scaling up and transfer	Capitalisation	learning from experience; modelling knowledge	Focuses on learning from experiences and best practices to capitalize on knowledge gained from successful sustainable urban development projects.
	Scaling up	from small scale to bigger scale	Examines the process of replicating and expanding successful small-scale initiatives to larger scales, considering the challenges and opportunities involved.
	Transfer/Replication	adapting public policies to other contexts	Addresses the adaptation and transfer of successful public policies, strategies, and approaches from one context to another, considering contextual differences.
Territorial focus	Functional urban areas	urban- rural linkages	Explores the linkages and interactions between urban and rural areas, considering the integration and cooperation necessary for sustainable development.
	Integrated territorial tools	Community-led local development Led, Integrated Territorial Investment, Other Territorial Tools	Encompasses energy retrofitting, renewable energy generation, smart grids, energy efficiency, energy storage, and the development of Positive Energy Districts. Examples: Solar panel installations, energy-efficient street lighting.
	Territorial Impact Assessment		Focuses on assessing the potential impacts of sustainable urban development projects and policies on the overall territorial context.
	Urban design	design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, and establishing frameworks and procedures that will deliver successful development (including attention to use, design thinking approaches)	Covers place making processes linked to design: spatial adaptability, temporary urbanism, activation of spaces, attention to use
	Small and medium sized cities	Atlas JRC, URBACT	Considers the specific challenges and opportunities faced by smaller urban areas in implementing sustainable urban development strategies.