

The Agora  
JPI Urban Europe Stakeholder Involvement Platform  
Workshop:

*The effects of recent migration dynamics and forced displacement  
on urban areas in Europe.*

14 November 2017  
Berlin

## Documentation and results

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## Introduction

“The EU-28 saw a steep rise in the numbers of applications for asylum starting in recent years<sup>1</sup> and is faced with high numbers of incoming migrants due to crises and war in the Middle-East, Africa and South and Central Asia. Although policies are mainly made on national level, urban areas across Europe have been affected the most by the changing demographics. Countries, cities and neighbourhoods show a different ability and strategies to deal with the questions arising with the arriving of large numbers of incoming people such as a.) *social, cultural and structural integration* b.) *tendencies of segregation* c.) and *service provision*. Within the workshop, experts discussed these challenges and exchange their experience and knowledge.

The JPI Urban Europe organised this one day workshop to bring together the knowledge and expertise from experts and research projects dealing with migration, forced displacement and social integration across Europe. The aim was to identify the potential for further joint activities among the participants from JPI Urban Europe and other (inter-)national projects, people working on the topic and a wider group of experts. The results of this workshop contribute to the strategic discussions within JPI Urban Europe regarding the alignment of national R&I activities as well as the development of specific joint measures. It is intended to provide recommendations for urban policy.

## The Agora – JPI Urban Europe Stakeholder Involvement Platform

This workshop was organised in the course of **The Agora – JPI Urban Europe’s Stakeholder Involvement Platform** which aims at creating the space to meet and exchange for urban actors with a diversity of background (researchers, practitioners, public administrators, entrepreneurs, social innovators, etc.), discussing current urban themes and priorities and addressing the most pressing urban challenges of today and the future. The Agora uses various formats to facilitate thematic debates and strategic reflections.

## Objectives of the workshop

- Identify the potential for further joint activities among the participants from JPI Urban Europe and other (inter-)national projects, people working on the topic and a wider group of experts
- Identify themes, projects and approaches with the potential for alignment activities to feed into future strategic development of the JPI Urban Europe
- Create an overview of national and international research activities and results
- Generate input for policy recommendations

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<sup>1</sup> EUROSTAT: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Asylum\\_applications\\_\(non-EU\)\\_in\\_the\\_EU-28\\_Member\\_States,\\_2006%E2%80%932016\\_\(thousands\)\\_YB17.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Asylum_applications_(non-EU)_in_the_EU-28_Member_States,_2006%E2%80%932016_(thousands)_YB17.png)

## Workshop summary

### Session 1: Creating a common picture by connecting expertise and knowledge.

The participants were asked to send in short abstracts in advance to allow a preparation of the sessions and discussions. According to the inputs and fields of expertise the participants were grouped into three teams for starting into an exchange on challenges regarding:

- Arrival cities – issues related to migrants and refugees arriving in cities and neighborhoods
- Managing migration – urban multi-level governance and policy issues
- Urban planning and housing – issues related to integration and cohesion

Table 1 summarizes the key challenges identified. After collecting the key challenges, participants could vote for the challenges which, from their point of view, are the most pressing in the urban context at the moment. The three key challenges with the highest votes were taken up in session 2 for developing policy recommendations.

Table 1: Key challenges identified for the three expert clusters

Arrival cities & neighborhoods	Managing migration	Urban planning and housing
Risk of losing social cohesion in the neighbourhood resulting in socio-spatial segregation	Cities' capacities and competences to deal with migrants and refugees	Managing dynamics and ensuring flexibility and innovation in urban governance of housing issues
Aligning policies and actions between local and national level	Informed debates – provision of serious data and role of media for informing political and public discourses	Increasing public tolerance through tackling decreasing social mobility and affordable housing
Active citizenship	Migrants and refugees skills and contributions – considering down-skilling, gender dimension, mobilising women	Integration of integration efforts in 'smart' and 'green' as well as design and spatial planning urban development approaches
Finding suitable brokerage of knowledge and information	Diverse understanding of and approaches for integration throughout European cities, including countries used mainly as entry hubs	
Flexible approaches to multi-level policy making (local, national and supranational)	Return of migrants and refugees – responsibilities, roles and interaction of different stakeholders	

## **Session 2: Recommendations for urban policies – A roleplay**

For elaborating input for policy recommendations a roleplay was set up allowing to consider different needs, priorities or capabilities of the stakeholder groups involved. The participants were therefore asked to put themselves in different roles of stakeholder groups who might be able to contribute to tackling the challenges: **a) citizen; the social innovator; b) scientists/researchers; c) local politician; d) city administration; e) business owner; f) forcefully displaced person.** After preparing among peers who chose the same character participants attended a “meeting” which brought together the different roles on one table to discuss what strategies could be found to tackle one of the selected challenges.

### **Challenge 1: Risk of losing social cohesion in the neighbourhood resulting in socio-spatial segregation**

Key messages:

- Many actors need to be involved including refugees
- Win-Win situations for all social/stakeholder groups including business
- Long term policy strategies are needed for social cohesion
- Central question: How to create a real active citizenship?

### **Challenge 2: Informed debates – provision of serious data/evidence and role of media for informing political and public discourses**

Key messages:

- Showcasing success stories – researchers as ‘translators’
- Social media and digital communication as means for integration
- Knowledge brokers linking migrants/refugees groups and information
- Events where local residents and refugees meet including people from business and politics.

### **Challenge 3: Managing dynamics and ensuring flexibility and innovation in urban governance of housing issues**

Key messages:

- Sustainable structure for collaboration between public sector and civil society
- Inclusive living spaces
- Ensuring quality accommodation
- Facilitating a flexible dialogue between all stakeholders
- Public sector innovation and capacity building

### Session 3: Identifying need for action and potential for transnational alignment activities

Finally this session was used to identify research topics that would benefit from transnational cooperation to tackle the challenges of urban migration and forced displacement. After a brief brainstorming session on what challenges would have the potential for benefitting from transnational collaboration, smaller groups of participants exchanged on more concrete details.

Housing & multi-level governance	
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-segregation policies</li> <li>- Open places with high quality to support communication</li> <li>- Housing market integration instead of housing market discrimination</li> <li>- Diversity and functional mix in housing to stop “ghettoization” in urban areas</li> <li>- Sustainable, flexible and affordable housing solutions (e.g. houseboat concept)</li> <li>- Urban governance and local government room for manoeuvre in housing and spatial integration</li> <li>- Cities as main focus and drivers for integration</li> <li>- Neighbourhood change in the context of the whole city</li> </ul>
Research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to plan for the unplanned influx of refugees to create decent housing and social integration?</li> <li>- How to make room in an already pressurized housing market and growing cities?</li> <li>- How are neighbourhood demands and city need recognized?</li> <li>- How to overcome existing structural/legal restrictions?</li> <li>- What is the room of manoeuvre and interests of urban areas, municipalities and neighbourhoods?</li> <li>- How to counteract segregation in already ethnically and socially segregated cities/neighbourhoods?</li> <li>- What are municipalities doing to cope with the increased settlements of refugees?</li> </ul>
Added value by addressing it transnationally:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyse different housing conditions and tenure systems</li> <li>- What are the important/determining mechanisms?</li> <li>- Urban concentration</li> <li>- Potential to identify areas for public and social innovation</li> </ul>
Related projects, policies, stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing buddy system (eg. Flüchtlinge willkommen)</li> <li>- NPOs/NGOs including organisations such as CARITAS</li> <li>- Welcoming Cities (Weimar)</li> <li>- “Social housing factory for and with newcomers, young and old” – VINNOVA funded</li> </ul>

Rethinking citizenship by rethinking active citizenship	
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify what active citizenship is on city level</li> <li>- For whom is active citizenship</li> <li>- Scales of citizenship: the city scale, the right to the city</li> <li>- Welfare rights</li> <li>- Identity rights: Religion, build environment (churches/mosques)</li> <li>- Local/global in relation to the city – transcending national borders</li> </ul>
Research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do migrants/forcefully displaced people practice citizenship?</li> <li>- Who has the right to the city? and to what city?</li> <li>- How do cities exclude and include different demographics through regimes of urban citizenship?</li> </ul>
Added value by addressing it transnationally:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International comparison of local urban contexts</li> <li>- Establishing connection in citizenship club</li> </ul>
Related projects, policies, stakeholders	-

Migrant urbanisms	
Description:	<p>Migrants' strategies regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local and transnational networks</li> <li>- Access to welfare, mutual support</li> <li>- Dwelling, formal and informal access to housing</li> <li>- Urban context of the informal and formal city</li> <li>- “the invisible city”</li> <li>- Self-organisation of migrants/forcefully displaced people</li> <li>- Survival strategies in jobs, dwellings, network in everyday life</li> </ul>
Research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In what way do locality affect the self-organisation among migrants? (law, policy, economy, city structure, etc.)</li> <li>- How do social networks connect migrants locally, across the city and on a global scale?</li> <li>- How do migrant networks shape access to jobs and dwelling in the city?</li> <li>- How are these networks organised? (social stratification, migrant status, economies, social, religious background)</li> </ul>
Added value by addressing it transnationally:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International comparison of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Locality</li> <li>o National asylum regulation</li> <li>o Regulated and unregulated labour market</li> <li>o Local organisation in economy and governance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Related projects, policies, stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Migrant groups</li> <li>- Human rights organisations</li> <li>- City governments</li> <li>- EHFSS, Paris</li> <li>- “Practical hack” – project focussing on informal networks funded by VINNOVA (more info: contact Felicia Gustafsson/VINNOVA)</li> <li>- Klara Ödberg (Malmö University)</li> </ul>
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Attitude Change	
Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measuring attitudes and its changes</li> <li>- Understanding drivers (e.g. media, culture, education, events), scale and sustainability</li> <li>- Evidence of general attitudes</li> <li>- Supporting attitudes for open and inclusive societies</li> <li>- Evidence of large scale attitude change in relation to migration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Where? Why? What context?</li> <li>o Historical reasons? Personality fixed?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- How to measure and understand drivers for attitudes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Media</li> <li>o Education</li> <li>o Shared experience</li> <li>o Culture</li> <li>o Iconic events</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Scale</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Rational vs. emotional</li> </ul>
Research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to change attitudes and culture to become more open and pro inclusive?</li> <li>- Are urban settings different?</li> <li>- Can good planning help?</li> <li>- What generates hostile attitudes/groups?</li> <li>- How does policy influence attitudes?</li> <li>- How can people be encouraged to do things together?</li> </ul>
Added value by addressing it transnationally:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comparative perspective</li> <li>- Influence of different drivers/contexts</li> <li>- Best practise</li> <li>- Interventions</li> </ul>
Related projects, policies, stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ESS</li> <li>- Media analysis (content – including movies)</li> <li>- Political education</li> <li>- Arts</li> </ul>

Besides the challenges / issues outlined above, the following table shows more challenges which have been identified to have potential to being addressed transnationally:

Challenge	Description
<b>Sustainable reception and integration systems of refugees</b>	Development of sustainable reception and integration systems that cope with the dynamics of refugee immigration based on comparative analysis between European countries regarding the current mechanisms
<b>Arriving migrants and refugees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying knowledge brokers from newly arriving migrant groups and designing an information exchange strategy</li> <li>• Improving recognition for newcomers in cities</li> <li>• Shortening the time from newly arrived to integrated, contributing and satisfied individuals (structural, sectoral, etc. measures)</li> <li>• Role of institutions and organisations in arrival spaces</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction of migrants</b>	Comparison of settlement, introduction and qualification measures for refugees to identify what works for whom
<b>Urban governance capacities</b>	Regarding policy innovation, future migrant flows and numbers, multi-level governance (neighbourhood, city, municipality, city)
<b>Accumulated welfare problems among migrants</b>	Including social exclusion in different spheres, e.g. labor market, housing, health, social integration, economy and the relationship between these issues and the need for action on city level
<b>Migration politics</b>	The connection of migration politics and labor-market politics
<b>Migrant youth</b>	Urban governance responses to migrant youth
<b>Long-term scenarios</b>	Scenarios for urban governance and policy making when current migration / refugee trends continue
<b>Accessible social infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and integration</li> <li>• Process of social cohesion</li> </ul>

### Follow up activities:

- Continue exchange with Urban Agenda Partnership on *Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees* at Cities Forum on future cooperation
- Developing policy recommendations for selected challenges based on the workshop's results
- Selection of concrete research issues for a JPI Urban Europe alignment call related to the effects of migration/forced displacement on urban areas



## Annex:

### Participants of the workshop

Name	Affiliation
Agita Luse	Riga Stradiņš University
Andreas Netz	VINNOVA
Andrzej Klimek	Research and Innovation Centre Pro-Akademia
Anila Noor	ISS / Betterfuture
Elaine Chase (Pevsner)	University College London
Felicia Gustafsson	VINNOVA
Frank Eckardt	Bauhaus University in Weimar
Gabriela Echegoyen-Nava	ESRC
Johannes Riegler	JPI Urban Europe
Jonas Bylund	JPI Urban Europe
Klara Odberg	Malmö University
Kristian Tronstad	Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences
Margit Noll	JPI Urban Europe
Michael Fäustlin	City of Augsburg
Michael Keith	University of Oxford
Sabine Beißwenger	ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development
Stephen McNair	JPI More Year Better Lives
Susanne Søholt	Oslo and Akershus University
Tycho Walaardt	Ministry of Security and Justice NL
Yvonne Franz	University of Vienna

### Agenda of the workshop

09.00	Registration
09.30-09.45	Opening and Welcome
09.45-10.05	Introduction to Workshop
10.05-10.25	Tour de Table
10.25-12.00	<b>Session 1:</b> Creating a common picture by connecting expertise and knowledge.
12.00-13.00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13.00-15.00	<b>Session 2:</b> Recommendations for urban policies – A roleplay
15.00-15.15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15.15-16.15	<b>Session 3:</b> Identifying need for action and potential for transnational alignment activities
16.15-16.45	Key Messages from Sessions
16.45-17.00	Reflections and next steps
17.00	<b>Closing</b>