THE ROLE OF THE URBAN AREAS IN THE COHESION POLICY POST 2020

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Structure of the presentation

1. Problems of recent urban development frameworks

2. New political approaches to local urban development

3. The weaknesses of the present EU framework for urban development

4. Dilemmas of the next EU framework, post 2020 Cohesion Policy
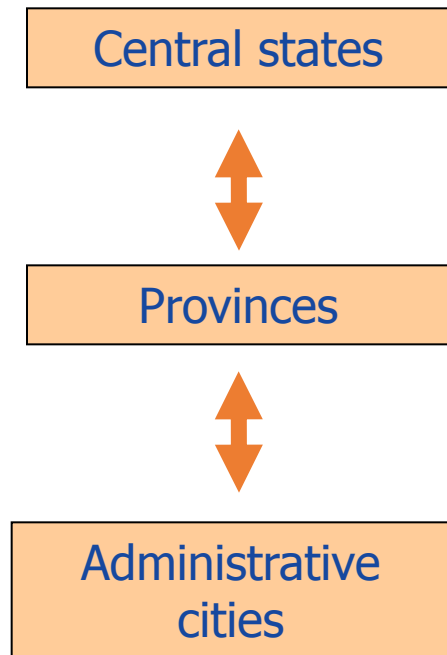
5. URBACT's contribution to the debates
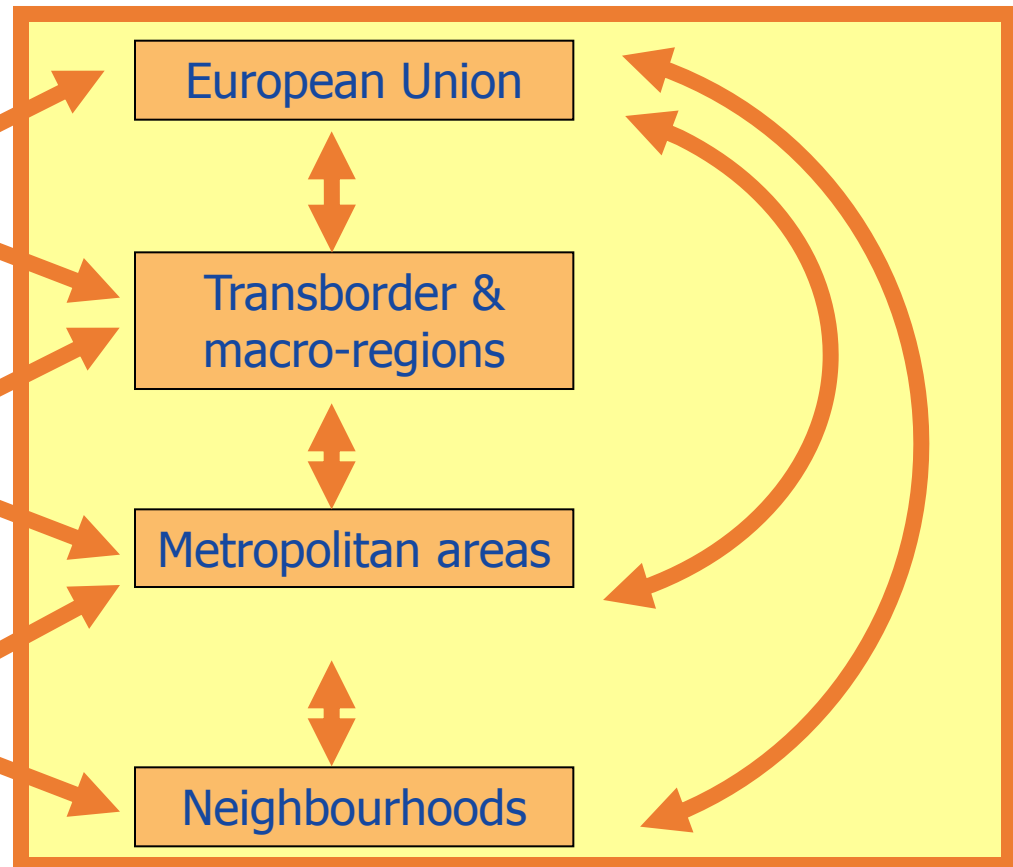
Problems of recent urban development frameworks

- **spatial mismatch**: outdated administrative borders GP: GRAND PARIS, BORDEAUX, GENEVA

- **democracy mismatch**: lack of meaningful public participation GP: NAPLES URBAN CIVIC USE REGULATION

- **planning mismatch**: failure of top-down, blue-print planning GP: ANTWERP, OSTRAVA, GLASGOW, MURCIA...

Government and governance

Old: fixed action space

New: flexible action space

Central states

Provinces

Administrative cities

European Union

Transborder & macro-regions

Metropolitan areas

Neighbourhoods

Adapted from Jacquier, 2010

Bologna: city-wide law about the urban commons

390 m long wooden bridge links the city centre with the northern abandoned industrial zone. On the top of Schieblock a rooftop urban garden has ben established.

New political approaches to local urban development

- **more active role of the local public sector** within the capitalist system GP: Zagreb Public Spaces, Lisbon Urban Renewal, Cascais Participative Budget

- **towards more social Europe, against inequalities** (e.g. more affordable housing); GP: Barcelona Against Evictions; Dupnitsa BG Building Housing For The Roma

The weaknesses of the present EU framework for urban development

- **Art 7 of ERDF** was an attempt into the good direction. However, it has been **watered down by member states** and many countries acted against the spirit of the tool

- In the last years **urban seems to lose in relative influence** on EU level against smart, sustainable, EU financed large infrastructure projects

- **Spatially blind allocation of EU money** for research and development: squeezed allocation of money in H2020; UIA no city from new member states among the winners

Horizon 2020: uptake by region
EUR per head/year, 2014-2016
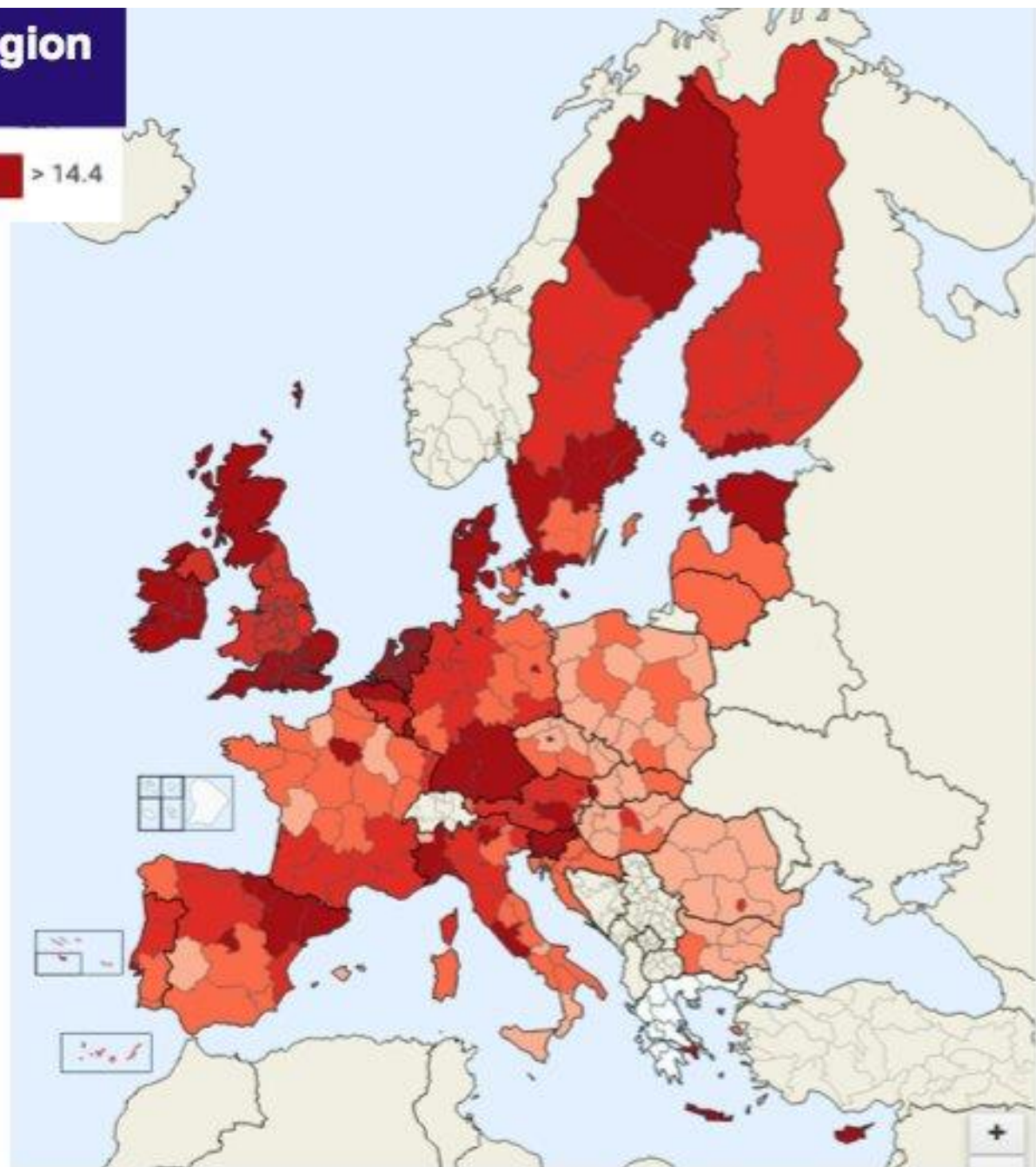
Legend:
- < 1.7
- 1.7 - 6.9
- 6.9 - 14.4
- > 14.4

Spatially blind selection

Statement: it is important not to mix up the spatially blind initiatives with those which are for creating solidarity!

Counter-argument: place-based approaches to policy are more effective as they are tailored to the particularities of places and specifically the context-dependent nature and importance of institutions as sources of local growth. Even the best spatially blind development strategy can be undermined by poor institutional environments.

Figure 13: Numbers of EU27 applicants and requested EU financial contribution (in € million) in retained proposals for FP7 calls concluded in 2007-2011 by country.
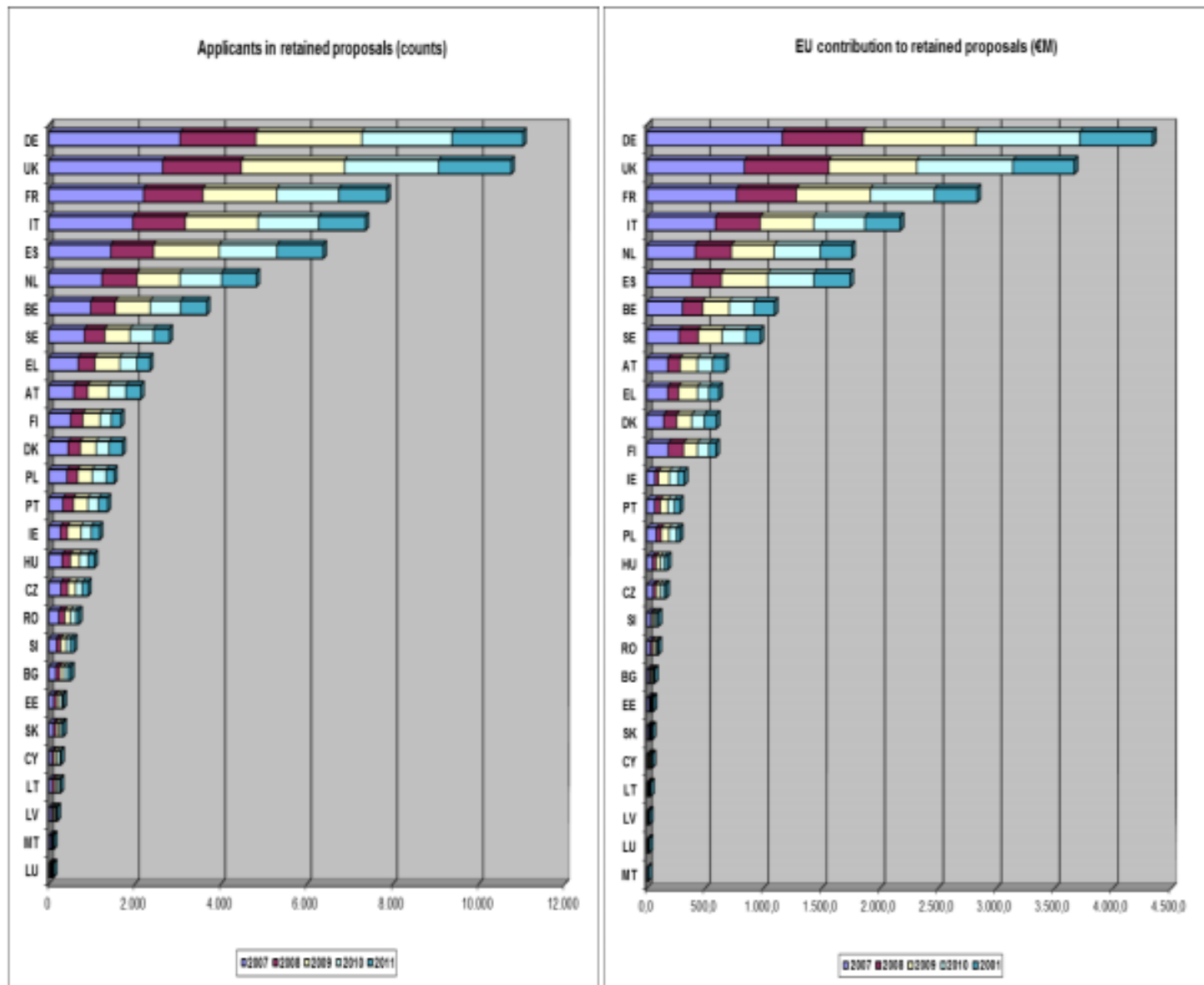
Figure 14: Requested EU financial contribution per applicant (in € thousand) in retained proposals for FP7 calls concluded in 2007-2011 by country.

Average EU contribution per applicant (2007-2011) (€K)
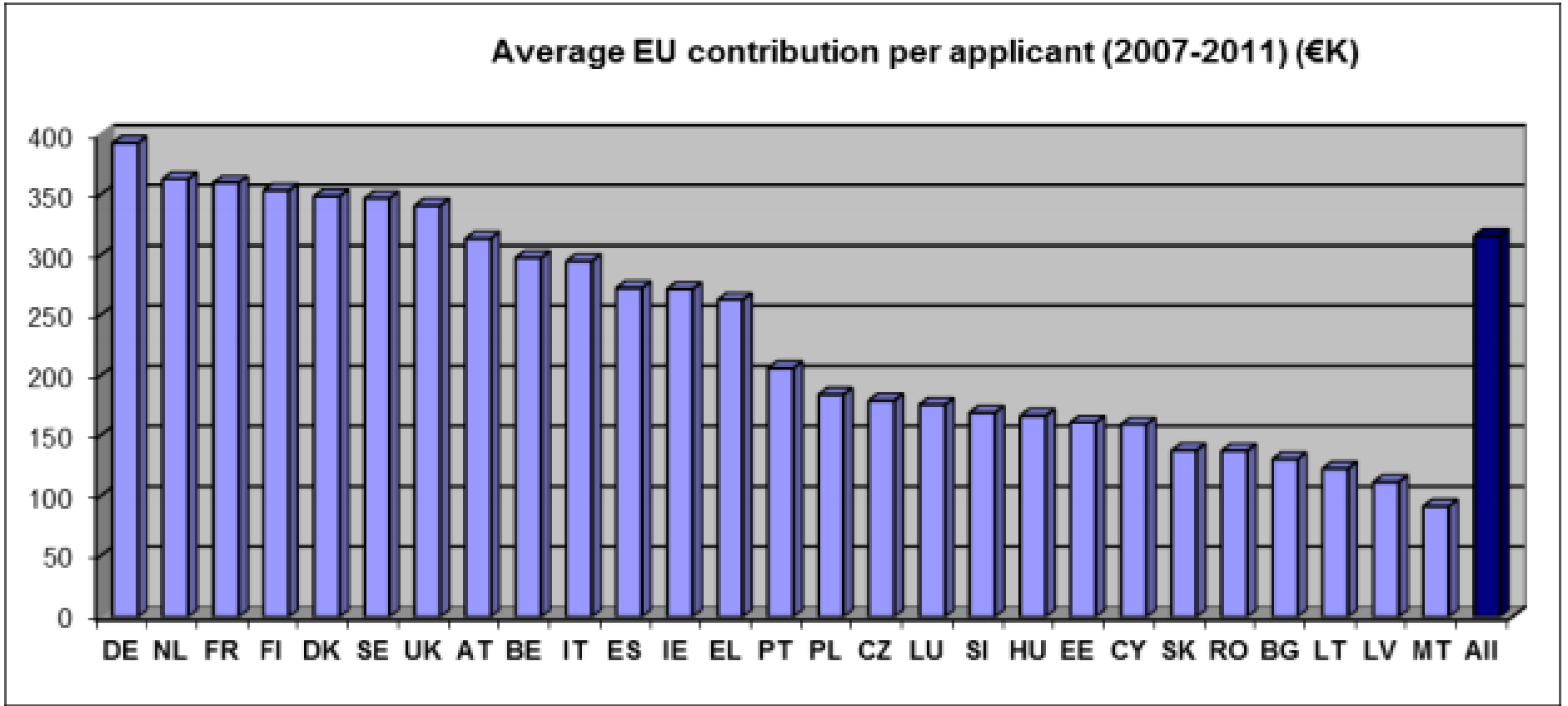
FP7, SSH programme

- SSH programmes: 560 mill eur allocated in 246 projects

- Hungarian institutions: only 2 project leaders.

- Only one east-central European university among the first 30 (Leuven University 26 projects, Amsterdam University 25 projects, LSE 22 projects…)

The spatially blind selection will lead to unequal distribution of funds and to solutions difficult to apply in those areas where the problems are.

Dilemmas of the next EU framework, post 2020 Cohesion Policy

Future of Cohesion Policy: **unfortunate external conditions** from Brexit till re-nationalizing efforts; less money (also) for Cohesion Policy

Difficult dilemma between **flexibility/simplification** and the need for more **conditionality**.

- Need for differentiation **between projects** (large-small) and **between countries** (reliable institutional systems and policies or not...).

- Oettinger: the **Semester and CSR should be more binding**, from the beginning on the spot, down to the regions, defining strength/weaknesses, determine priorities and the funds through these.

Urban Agenda for EU: attempt to increase the importance of urban areas.

Urban Poverty Partnership: brave suggestions for

- new instrument (Block Grant),

- new implementation modality (Local Pact),

- new urban thematic objective and a new ex-ante conditionality (National Social Inclusion Strategies).

These new elements aim at **financing local authorities focussing on strong social objectives** (child poverty reduction, zero homelessness objective, Roma population integration, desegregation in territories).

URBACT's contribution to the debates

- **Action planning** (URBACT II: 500 partner cities in 52 networks) enforcing integrated development with LAP and participation with ULSG

- **Implementation** (exploring barriers and help cities overcome with indicators)

- **Good Practices and Transfer**: intelligent adoption

- **Capitalization towards EU UA**: contract based local pact (and also horizontal)

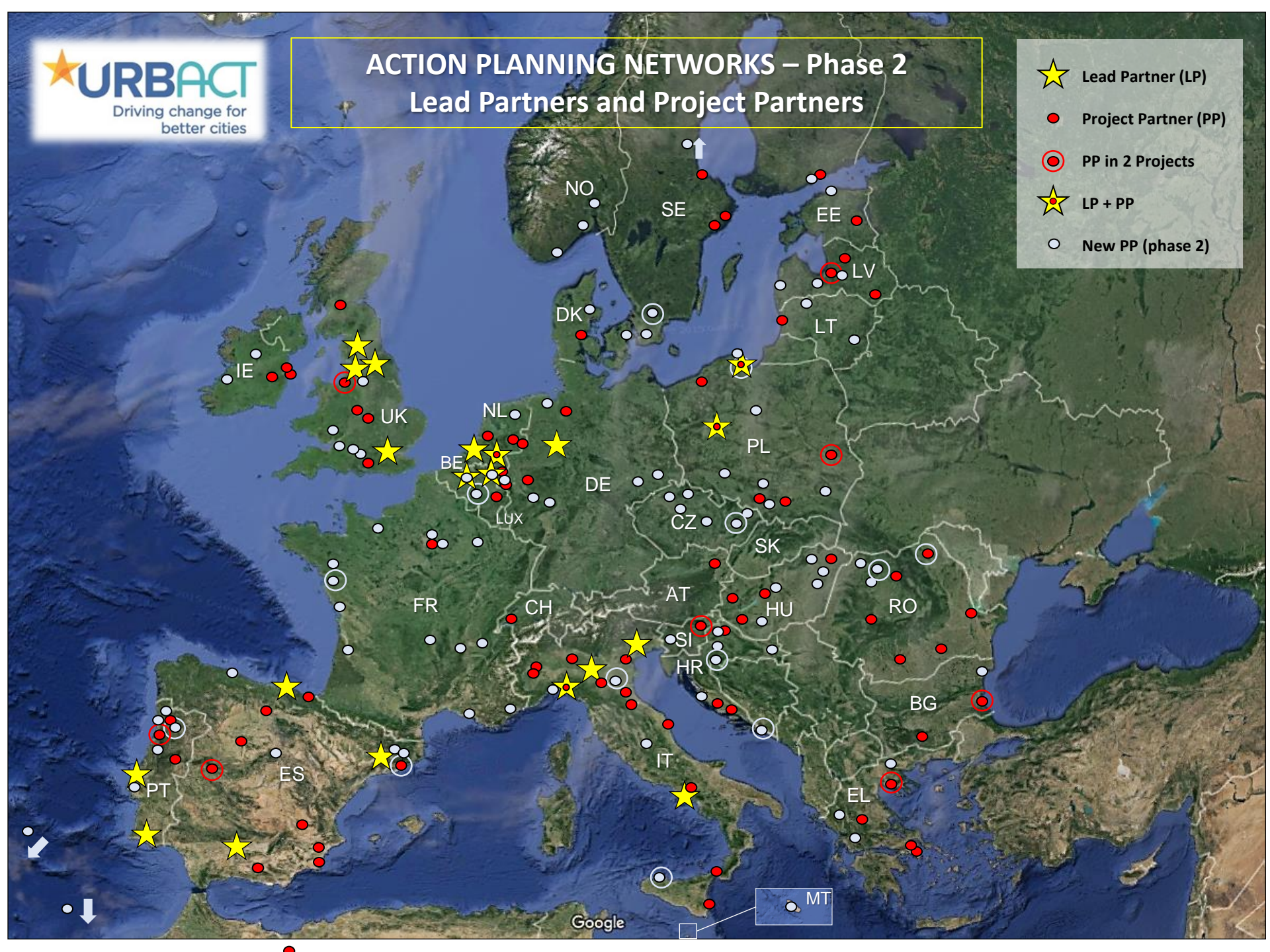**City Festival** in Tallinn, 3-6 October

ACTION PLANNING NETWORKS – Phase 2
Lead Partners and Project Partners

Thanks for your attention!

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