



The New Leipzig Charter and urban innovation

What role for national governments?

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European Urban
Knowledge Network



The New Leipzig Charter

The transformative power of cities for the common good

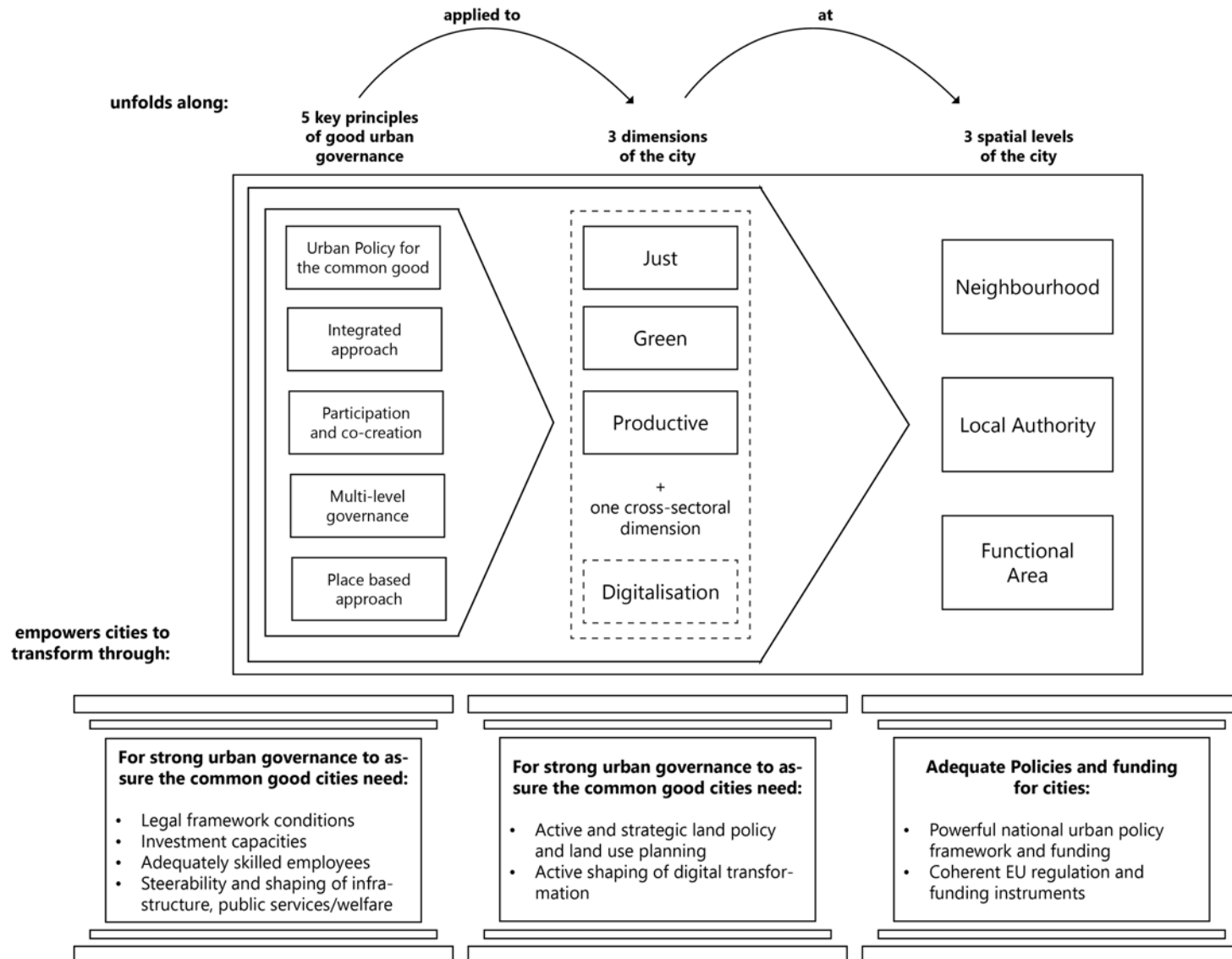
- Is **embedded** in EU and global sustainability agendas: SDGs, NUA, European Green Deal, etc.);
- Provides a **non-binding framework** for integrated sustainable urban development of the EU city;
- Focuses on **principles for good urban governance**, highlighting the importance of policies for the **common good**;
- Invites urban actors to make maximum use of the **transformative power** of cities;
- Fosters multi-level policy alignment in support of cities, **building on the Urban Agenda for the EU**;
- Emphasises **intergovernmental cooperation and cooperation between Member States and the European Commission**.



THE NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER

The transformative power of
cities for the common good

The New Leipzig Charter – Urban governance innovation



The New Leipzig Charter – Multilevel governance



- The NLC is a milestone of MS' **intergovernmental cooperation** in urban matters;
- The NLC aims to ensure the continuation of the UAEU, calling for strengthened **multilevel governance in action and co-creation**;
- Links to the new Cohesion Policy, including **Smart Specialisation (S3) Strategies**, emphasising **participation, co-creation and place-based approaches**.



The New Leipzig Charter – Digitalisation



New Leipzig Charter

- **Digitilisation is a transformative, cross-sectoral trend** which underpins sustainable transformations: **just, green, productive dimensions of the city**
- An instrument to integrate smart city strategies



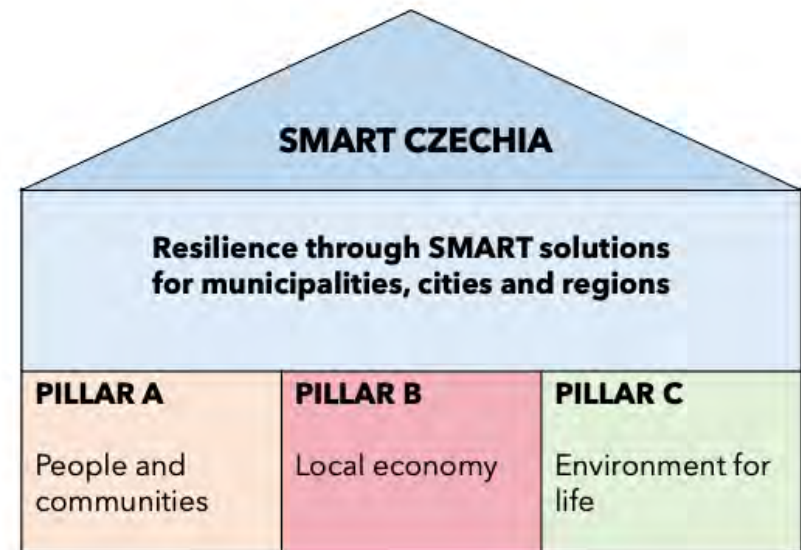
Smart Specialisation

- **S3 strategies embrace a broad view of innovation:** economic, environmental, social, and political
- Digitalisation is one way of driving innovation

The role of national governments – Learning from Czechia

SMART CZECHIA: the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2030 (February 2019)

- Promoting the CZ as a country of the future;
- Promotion of 'smart cities' is a direct competence of the **national level** (Min. of Regional Development);
- **SMART cities as a cross-cutting concept** to be applied at the city, metro, and regional levels;
- **SRSP Project:** Systematic Approach to Financing Smart Solutions in the Czech Republic



The role of national governments – Learning from Estonia

E-ESTONIA



<https://e-estonia.com/what-it-takes-to-build-a-seamless-state/>

- Key mechanism driving **Estonia's Digital Strategy 2020** to become an 'innovation hub';
- 20 years of investment in digital technology;
- **Digital governance / digital society model** as an example worldwide;
- Multi-stakeholder process towards an **inclusive transformation**: all citizens to have digital access (e-residency).

The role of national governments – Learning from Spain

THE SPANISH URBAN AGENDA

- Operational roadmap enshrining **national strategic objectives**;
- Setting an **informal framework to localise national objectives** + EU and global agendas towards smart, sustainable and inclusive urban development;
- **Bottom-up** approach informed by all urban areas in Spain;
- Non-regulatory framework to be adapted by each province/ city / municipality / town;
- Emphasises **co-creation and knowledge exchange** via city-to-city dialogue.



Challenges and opportunities for national governments

Challenge:

Fragmentation in urban governance / competences in the EU

Opportunities:

The **European Urban Initiative** (art.10 ERDF Regulation)

- New instrument building on synergies;
- Support to innovative actions (strand a);
- Support to the continuation of the UAEU (via multi-level governance, intergovernmental cooperation, and EC-MS cooperation).

The EUI may provide a **more coherent, integrated framework for cities** to develop and implement sustainable development strategies, including S3 strategies.

To conclude

Key role of **national governments** in supporting cities to transform

S3 strategies as a means to implement innovation as outlined by the NLC

- in **urban governance** (based on multilevel governance, co-creation / participation, integrated, place-based approaches);
- via **digitalisation** applied to different fields / sectors.

Thank you!

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