

8-9 maja 2017 r.

Nairobi, Kenia

Special theme of 26th UN Habitat session:

Main theme: “ Opportunities for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda”

followed by sub-theme: promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing.

Urban areas play a **key role in the implementation** of the the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. **At the European level**, the **implementation of the New Urban Agenda** is ensured **through** the **EU Urban Agenda** and cooperation within its thematic partnerships **in which Poland and polish cities are very active.**

At national level, countries are urged to implement the provisions of the New Urban Agenda **within** implementation of their **urban policies.**

In Poland, many **objectives identified in the New Urban Agenda are already and will be implemented at national level**, as part of our **urban policy** (adopted in 2015) **and** national **Strategy for Responsible Development** (2017).

The convergence of the Agenda 2030, New Urban Agenda and Polish Development Strategy **can be seen at the level of objectives, priority actions and interventions.**

The **areas with the greatest consistency** are taken within **activities around:**

- education, participation, social inclusion;
- GDP growth, financial services, infrastructure;
- research and development, economic innovation;
- entrepreneurship, including small and medium enterprises, employment;
- sustainable agriculture, industry;
- adaptation to climate change and counteracting pollution.

We also **implement a number of priorities in other areas** at the level of a specific goal or intervention. These include, among others:

- combating poverty,

- health and care,
- counteracting corruption,
- diversity and equality,
- human rights,
- security,
- resource management and urban planning.

We have identified over one hundred strategic project which implementation will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provisions of New Urban Agenda.

We **concentrate support on all cities** regardless of their size, location or social, economic and administrative functions, however **with the special attention to the three areas** of influence:

- The largest agglomerations;
- Medium sized cities losing their social and economic functions;
- Areas at risk of permanent marginalization, including small towns and rural areas.

Within the strategic projects which are going to be implemented in the coming years, **contributing also to the implementation of New Urban Agenda**, there are among others those referring to:

- **creating public spaces available to all residents,**
- **advisory support center for local authorities,**
- **urban-planning and construction code,**
- **a rational system of financing local government units,**

For the implementation of New Urban Agenda, as well as our national urban policies, it is **essential to cooperate with local authorities and relevant stakeholders**, what we are doing successfully within national – local partnerships.

I would like to refer at this point to one issue, that **negatively affects social and territorial cohesion**, which is the **housing situation**.

The **housing deficit** in Poland is **still very high** (351.5 inhabitants per 1,000 inhabitants and in the EU average is 466). The level of **housing shortage** is estimated at **about 1.5 million**.

As a **result**, we observe **adverse socio-economic effects**: poor housing conditions hamper the labour mobility, results in the **accumulation of people and entire socially excluded families in certain areas** (ghettoization), promotes the **inheritance of poverty** and **deepens negative demographic trends** by resigning on having children.

Among actions Poland has planned under one of the Strategy's goals – Socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development – **are**:

- increasing access to affordable housing,
- improving the functioning of the private rental market,
- development of assisted housing for people at risk of social exclusion.

One of the **strategic projects to be implemented by 2020** is the **National Housing Program**. It is designed to **meet the housing needs of low-income families and people at risk of social exclusion** by increasing access to housing for those whose incomes currently prevent acquiring or renting housing on a commercial basis.

What we **particularly underline the responsible development as a process in which the needs of the present generation can be implemented without diminishing the chances of future generations to meet them**.

It is important to **properly create the relationship between the competitiveness of the economy, the care for the environment and the quality of life**.