

Socially sustainable urban development and European cities after the 2008 economic recession

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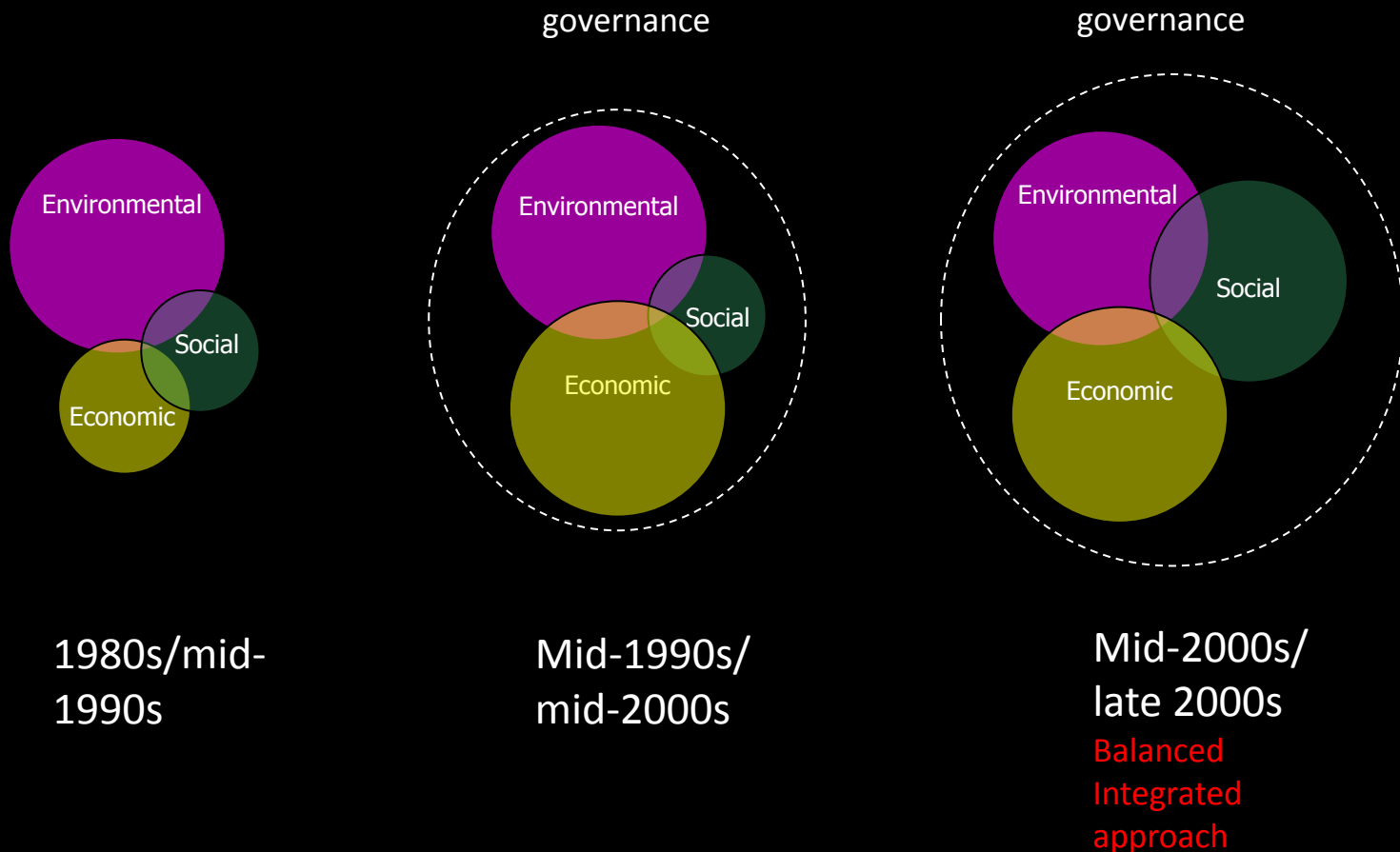
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The social dimension of sustainable urban development

The least studied and often overlooked dimension of sustainable urban development



Social Sustainability Key Themes and Domains

Traditional

Basic needs, including
Housing

Education and skills

Equity

Employment

Human rights

Poverty

Social justice

Health and Safety

Emerging

Demographic change (ageing
and international migration)

**Empowerment, Participation
and Access**

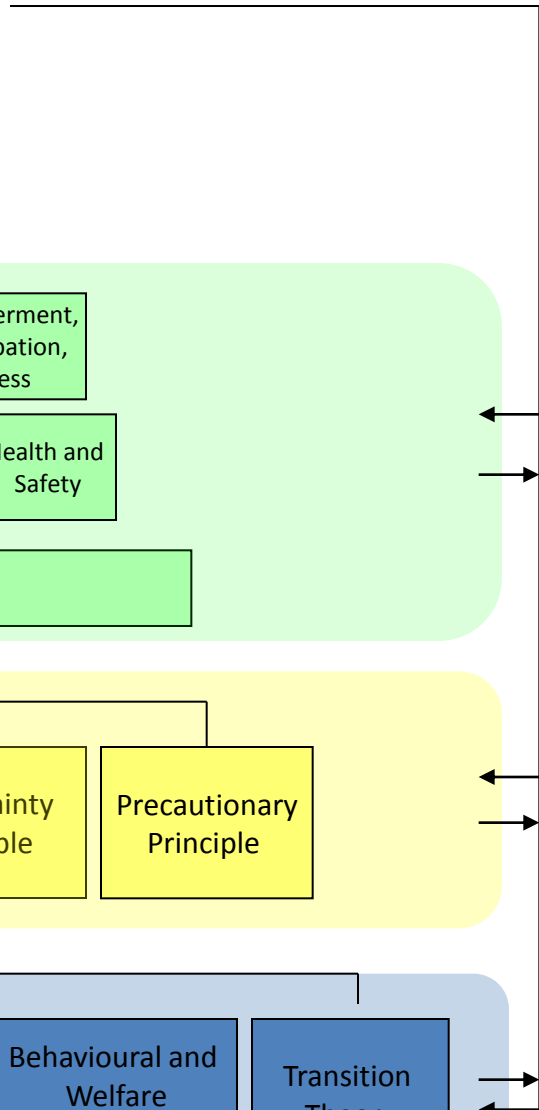
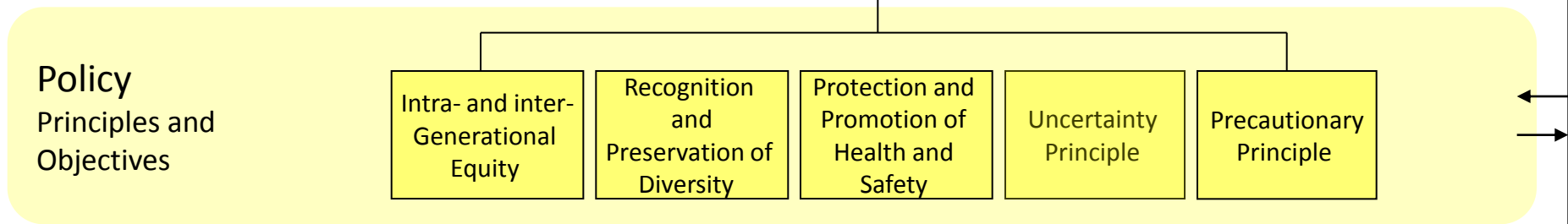
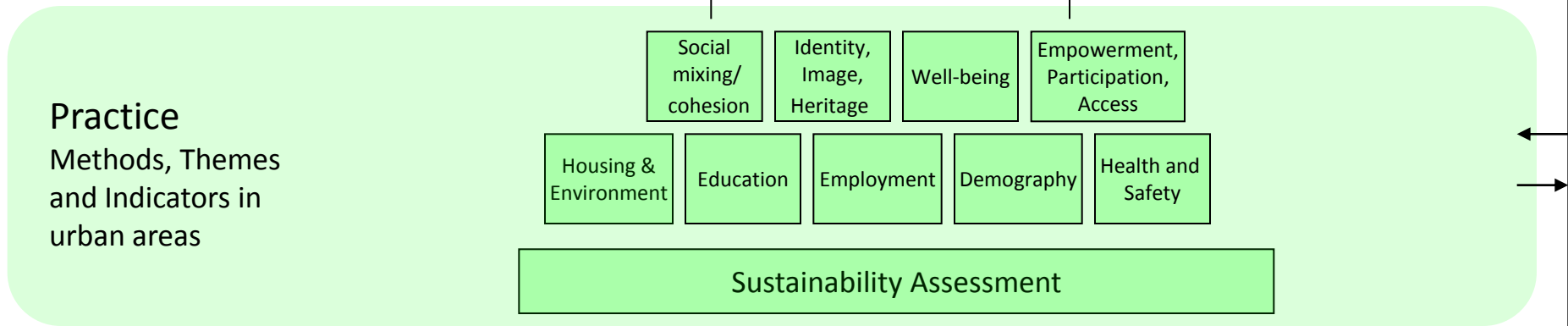
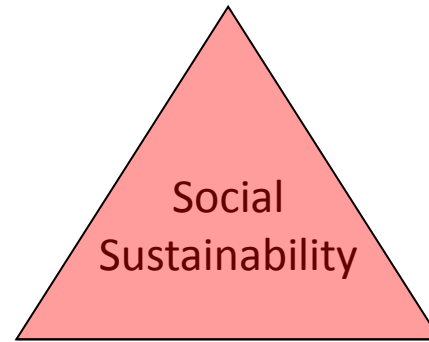
**Identity, Sense of Place and
Culture**

Social mixing and cohesion

Social Capital

Well being, Happiness and
Quality of life

Theory, Policy and Practice of Social Sustainability



The 2008 Economic Recession

European Metromonitor beta

Cities and the economic recession since 2008

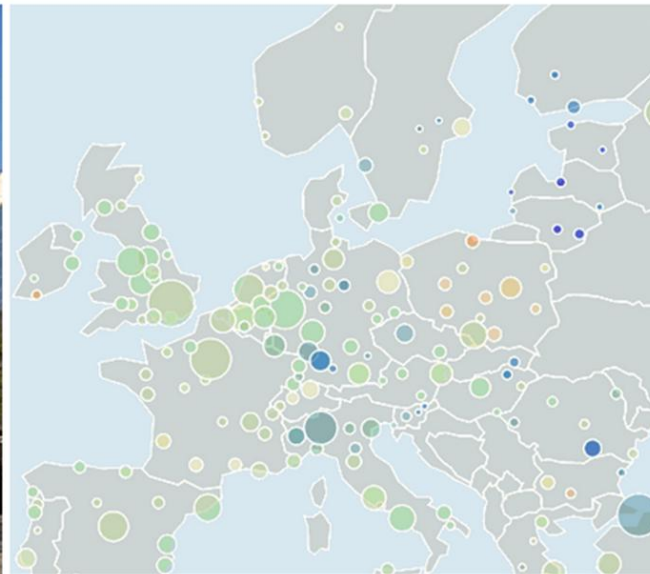


HOME INTERACTIVE MAP LESSONS FROM PREVIOUS CRISIS WORKSHOPS CONTACTS



Lessons from previous crisis

Case studies from Barcelona, Munich, Turin and policy lessons from EU and Asian cities



MetroMonitor

An interactive exploration of the response of European cities to the crisis

European Metromonitor

The *European Metromonitor* project draws on LSE Cities' current research on the economic resilience of European Cities in order to establish an interactive exchange platform for the dissemination of key findings and case studies relating to metro-level responses to the economic crisis. The platform aims to engage EU city leaders, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, the third sector and the public through an interactive dialogue that synergistically explores best responses and adaptation strategies of cities to the crisis.

European Metromonitor beta

Cities and the economic recession since 2008



HOME

INTERACTIVE MAP

PERFORMANCE BY CITY TYPE

METRO VS NATIONAL PERFORMANCE

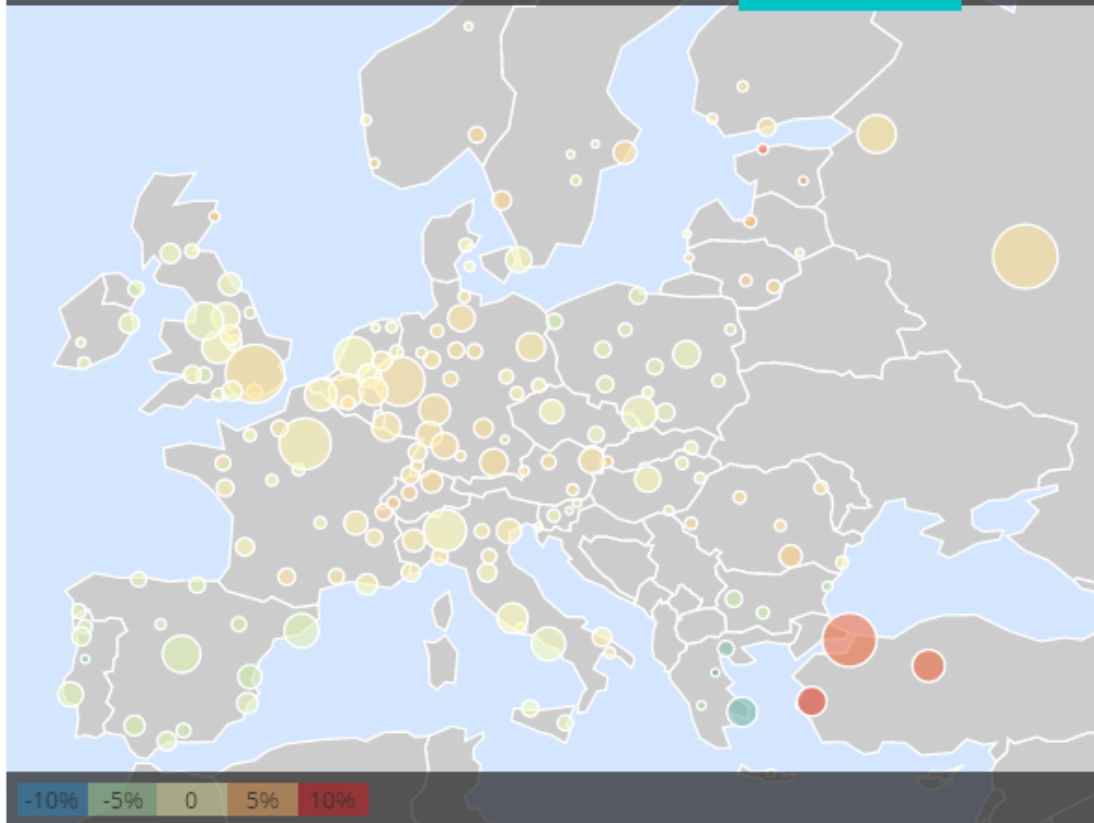
RESILIENCE

METHODOLOGY

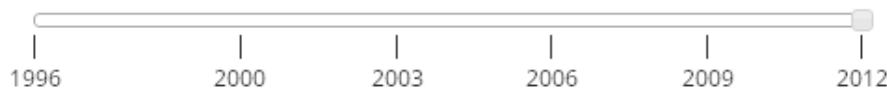
2012

EMPLOYMENT

GVA



For more information on data sources and data selection, see the [methodology and data sources](#) page.



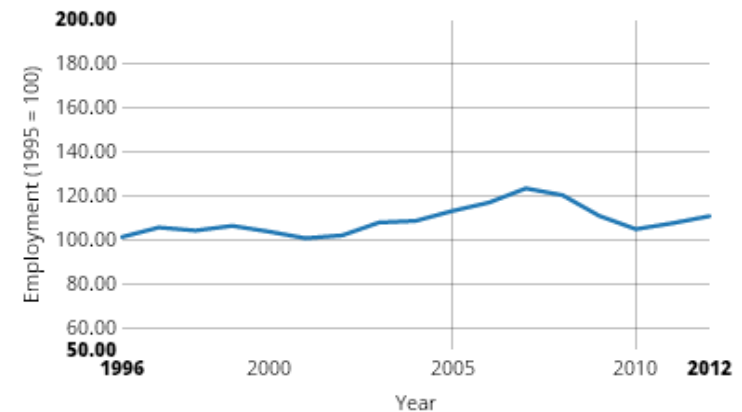
Vilnius

Population: **825802**

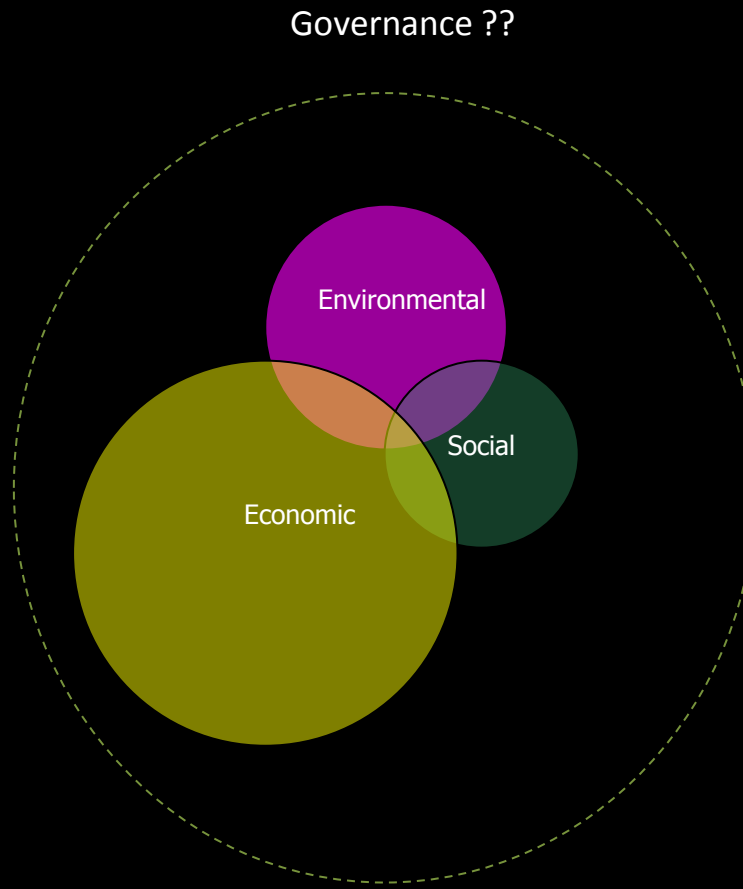
Employment growth rate: **2.99%**

Vilnius is the 1st metropolitan region in Lithuania by population and the 109th metropolitan region in the sample.

In 2012, it was the 1st metropolitan region in Lithuania in terms of Employment growth and has been growing without interruption for 2 years. From 1996 to 2012, it has known 6 years of negative growth rates.



Weight of Sustainable Development Pillars after 2008



Main Social Sustainability Key Themes and Domains after 2008

Traditional	Emerging
Basic needs, including Housing	Demographic change (ageing and international migration)
Education and skills	Empowerment, Participation and Access
Equity	Identity, Sense of Place and Culture
Employment	Social mixing and cohesion
Human rights	Social Capital
Poverty	Well being, Happiness and Quality of life
Social justice	
Health and Safety	

Pre-recession sustainable urban development in Europe

1990 – late 2000s

EU level

- Clear objectives (cohesion, convergence)
- Guiding principles (complementarity and subsidiarity)
- Requirements (partnership, integrated approach)
- EU structural funds (obj 1& 2 in urban areas)
- Urban programmes (Urban I, II, Urbact etc.)

National level

- Urban programmes

(City challenge and Urban taskforce UK; Big Cities policy, Netherlands, Social Stadt, Germany ; Neighbourhood Contracts, Italy; Quartiers en Crisis, France etc.)

- Setting up of development agencies

(Local Development Agencies in UK, Regional Development Agencies in Italy, Spain, France etc.)

EXPLICIT PROMOTION OF URBAN
REGENERATION

Local level

A large number of EU cities embarked upon urban regeneration projects to promote more sustainable forms of development

Re-emergence of community as main policy arena for the delivery of sustainable development

Strong local leadership

The Urban Dimension after 2008

EU level

Europe 2020 : EU's growth strategy for this decade

Smart growth

- Digital agenda for Europe
- Innovation Union
- Youth on the move

Sustainable growth

- Resource efficient Europe
- An industrial policy for the globalisation era

Inclusive growth

- An agenda for new skills and jobs
- European platform against poverty

Great emphasis on

- Employment,
- Education and skills and
- Poverty reduction

At the expenses of other 'softer' social sustainability themes

But also mixed messages concerning the urban dimension of the strategy

2014-2020: Member States should earmark at least 5% of ERDF resources for integrated territorial/urban development initiatives

2014-2020: Urban innovative actions

Up to 0.2% of the total ERDF allocation (at EU level) = ca. 370 Mio. € (2014-2020)

EIB's Jessica

However

*Europe's 2020 objectives will never be achieved without Europe's cities. EU needs to translate Europe 2020 into clear urban objective but **EU urban development is not on the top of the political agenda** (Johannes Hahn, 2012)*

National Level

- No main urban development programmes
- Many local development agencies have been dismantled: governance concerning the implementation of sustainable urban development policies is unclear (e.g. national and local competencies and institutions)

Local Level

Local authorities high debt, with a few exception (e.g. Bilbao etc.)

Land value-based development policies are not feasible any more

High costs of maintaining infrastructure that were built in the two/three decades preceding the crisis

No main new urban regeneration programmes or projects have been launched since the crisis

Conclusions

- The crisis has had an impact on the social sustainability discourse and its main themes
- Social sustainability is not an absolute concept but it is context-dependent and closely linked to political and economic issues
- Risk of forgetting or not learning from the research and policy progresses made in the two decades preceding the recession to deal with the immediacy of the current economic crisis

- At EU level: Urban dimension in the new growth strategy is still a work in progress
- Mixed messages concerning the importance of urban-specific policies and the role of cities in the next operating programme
- Reference framework for the implementation is unclear (e.g. principles, objectives etc.)
- Lack of concrete urban programmes at EU level (e.g. beyond statements and frameworks)

- New trend: Strong emphasis on the promotion of industrial policies, especially manufacturing, at the expenses of services (re-shoring from emerging economies etc.)
- Will we see the re-emerge of the 'industrial city' for the 21st century e.g. nanotechnology based industries?