

The new Leipzig Charter and the EU Territorial Agenda 2030 adopted by the ministers of the countries of the European community

About 60 percent of the world's people live in cities. In the European Union, this percentage is even higher. The development of cities and peri-urban areas and related challenges, such as climate protection, access to infrastructure, demographic changes, are among the most important issues raised in international fora. They were also the subject of the Monday and Tuesday meetings of representatives of European Union governments, local governments and European institutions dealing with urban policy. Both events also provided an opportunity to adopt two documents important for the European community.

We bet on a new Charter

The first is the New Leipzig Charter, which sets the directions for the development of European cities, emphasizes the need for their transformation and indicates the principles of good city management. The new Leipzig Charter is an update of the first version of the Leipzig Charter for the sustainable development of European cities adopted by EU ministers in 2007. The ministers argued for the need to update it in the 2019 Bucharest Declaration.

The New Leipzig Charter is a set of strategic principles and directions for good city management, which defines urban policy in Europe after 2020. The demands from the first version of the document are still valid, while the New Leipzig Charter strongly emphasizes the need for transformation towards fair, green and productive cities.

Poland was an active partner of the German presidency during the dialogue on the assumptions of the New Leipzig Charter and the process of preparing this document. This is a good example of European cooperation for urban development. We want to use it during the preparations for the 11th edition of the World City Forum, which will be held in Katowice in 2022

- emphasized Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak.

The deputy minister also recalled that international documents on urban development are important points of reference for the conduct of national urban policy.

Consistency in diversity

The second document, adopted by European ministers on December 1, is the EU Territorial Agenda 2030, which defines the actions necessary to strengthen territorial cohesion, i.e. to ensure good living conditions for all inhabitants of Europe.

Territorial cohesion should play an important role in getting the European economy back on track after the pandemic crisis. Territorial cooperation, including macro-regional cooperation, defines common goals needed to combat the crisis and will contribute to increasing resilience and developing more effective pathways for development after a pandemic. We can only achieve this by paying more attention to the diversity of places in Europe and their development potential. This possibility is offered by the EU 2030 Territorial Agenda adopted today