A Possible European Urban Agenda Seen from an Applied Research Perspective
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Abstract

An agenda is an agenda is an agenda! What might sound like a staircase joke, is bitter reality. Urban actors, for whom an urban agenda should be, are bombarded by initiatives, strategies, papers and whatever kind of regulations and standards. Seldom, these activities do meet the needs of local actors neither do they meet the challenge to better coordinate policies and programmes on regional, national and supranational levels nor making them even more user-oriented and place-based.

The presentation aims at a provocation taken from the point of view of an institution – as the BBSR is – that serves the interface between (applied) research and policy-advice as well as policy-making, particularly against the background of a federal state structure.

Agendas for cities and communities should first of all detect inner-urban and inner-regional disparities as well as they should put on top of the priority list the inequalities that still exist in our mega-diverse single societies as well as in our mega-diverse EU. And they should be aware of what the private sector, yet also the NGO scene, in an increasing manner is striving for: common and globally valid standards for developing and managing the planet’s territorial entities.