



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN FRANCE

Name of national urban policy	City Policy (<i>Politique de la ville</i>), <i>City Contracts 2015-2020</i>
Date of national urban policy	2014
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Ministerial policy; reformed by the law of 21 February 2014 programming for cities and urban cohesion
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Social Cohesion Contracts (Les Contrats Urbains de Cohésion Sociale - CUCS) 2006-2014</i>
Stage of development	Implementation/monitoring and evaluation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Participatory process: city contracts are developed with public and civil society partners at the municipal or inter-municipal level
Implementing body	The General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET), is the national body advising and supporting the government in the design and implementation of the <i>City Policy</i> . Attached to the office of the Prime Minister, it monitors and ensures the interministerial co-ordination of <i>City Policy</i> through the Inter-ministerial Committee of Cities (CIV) and more recently the Inter-ministerial Committee for Equality and Citizenship (CIEC). CGET oversees the National Agency for Urban Renovation (<i>Agence nationale pour la rénovation urbaine - Anru</i>).
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	Specialised national urban agency: National Agency for Urban Renewal (ANRU) for the urban renewal part of the city contract
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	City contracts are implemented by partner cities

Current national urban policy

In 2014, France updated its *City Policy (Politique de la Ville)*, which establishes city contracts between the national government and inter-municipal bodies and municipalities. The 2015-2020 city contracts act simultaneously on a wide range of levels, organised around three pillars:

1. **development of economic activities and employment**, including ensuring the presence of an employment centre, youth employment assistance and support for local entrepreneurs;
2. **social cohesion**, including support for investments in education, health, law enforcement, and social, cultural and sports activities; and
3. **living conditions and urban renewal**, including housing redevelopment and neighbourhood services and activities, and improving relationships between the police and the community (CGET, 2015; OECD, 2015).

The CGET supports the preparation and organisation of the Inter-Ministerial Cities Committee and ensures the monitoring of its decisions.

The CGET also oversees the National agency for urban renovation (*l'Agence nationale pour la rénovation urbaine (Anru)*).

Monitoring and evaluation are built in to the city contracts by the CGET, and the monitoring of the priority neighbourhoods is handled by the National Observatory for City Policy (ONPV, *Observatoire national de la Politique de la ville*).

The 2015-2020 city contracts are notable for the explicit role they give to the inhabitants of the target inter-municipalities and cities, who are represented by citizen councils. These councils allow for the exchange of information and for inhabitants to propose initiatives that respond to their needs (CGET, 2015).

In addition, an ambitious reform on metropolitan governance took place in 2015-16 which identifies 15 metropolitan areas including three large metropolitan areas (Paris, Lyon and Marseille) with special status. The new “system of metropolises” influence the responsibilities devoted to other levels of government on urban matters.

Previous national urban policy and developments

France’s *City Policy* dates back to 1977, when the first city contracts were established to respond to the need for affordable housing. Over time, the focus of city contracts broadened to include other development priorities. The 1994-2006 city contracts focused on a range of priorities, from housing rehabilitation to employment and transport. The 2006-2014 urban social cohesion contracts focused on neighbourhoods in difficulty (French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports, 2014).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the 2014 City Policy
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Moderate
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Low
Climate resilience	Low

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *City Policy (Politique de la Ville)* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	X
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	X

Bibliography

CGET (General Commission on Territorial Equality/*Commissariat Général à l'Égalité des Territoires*) (2015), *Les contrats de ville* [City contracts], CGET webpage, updated 29 July 2015, www.cget.gouv.fr/contrats-de-ville (accessed 6 June 2016).

French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports (*Ministère de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports*) (2014), *Contractualisation*, French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports webpage, updated 29 October 2014, www.ville.gouv.fr/?contractualisation,3542 (accessed 6 June 2016).

French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports (*Ministère de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports*) (2011), *Cadre institutionnel* [Institutional framework], French Ministry of the City, Youth and Sports webpage, updated 24 October 2011, www.ville.gouv.fr/?cadre-institutionnel (accessed 6 June 2016).

OECD (2015), “Regional Outlook Survey Results: France”, unpublished.