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EDITORIAL

Smart cities



The significance of the urban dimension of EU regional policy is nowadays largely accepted among European policymakers. However cities' role in EU innovation policy remains less widely appreciated.

Yes, city governments' economic development efforts are well charted, and our Knowledge Society Forum has shared and showcased pioneering interventions in information and communications technologies. But European innovation policy remains preoccupied, perhaps understandably, with industrial research and development, business-university relationships and commercialisation.

So the new 'Innovation Union' is a real opportunity to challenge that paradigm and to assert the role of city governments not only as facilitators of market innovation but also as drivers of social innovation. One of the seven flagship initiatives of Europe 2020 designed to generate 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth', the Innovation Union proposes a series of 'innovation partnerships' addressing key strategic agendas. One of these is 'smart cities'.

'Smart cities' can mean many things, but the core idea is of intelligent and interconnected urban systems that enable a city to function better. Smart cities bring benefits in health and well-being, in mobility, and in energy efficiency, for example. Cities provide the 'living labs' for integrated innovation. They offer their universities, SMEs and blue-chip companies opportunities for co-production with end-users that can pilot new ideas in practice and accelerate uptake.

Since many of our member cities are leaders in the field, our executive committee invited the commission and other stakeholders in February for a political exchange on these issues. A smart cities innovation partnership has the real potential to deliver the Innovation Union on the ground by directly engaging the local level through our cities. It is therefore with keen interest that we await the emergence of this hugely important initiative later this year.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Modernising EU procurement rules for local economies



EUROCITIES is preparing its answer to the green paper on modernising EU public procurement policy. Cities hope this consultation will lead to clearer and simpler rules for both public authorities and undertakings e.g. companies, NGOs, social enterprises etc.

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EU 2020: regional policy for sustainable growth



In a communication issued in January this year, the European Commission has called for managing authorities to realign current regional policy programmes with Europe's 2020 sustainable growth objectives. The rationale given is that national, regional and local authorities should make better use of already available funds.

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Call for applications: European Youth Capital 2014



The European Youth Capital title is awarded to a European city for one year, during which it will be given the chance to showcase its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic development. The call for European Youth Capital 2014 is now open, with a first application deadline of 1 May 2011. Antwerp, a EUROCITIES member, holds the current title.

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Key developments



New budget must ensure we get more for our money, says EUROCITIES

In our recently published opinion on the EU budget review, EUROCITIES has stressed that the future EU budget must ensure that we get more for our money.

The new budget must be results-driven, based on smarter spending to ensure a critical mass as well as stronger, quicker impact, with results visible for as many citizens as possible. We also highlight that the added value of EU funding should be the promotion of an integrated approach, strengthening multi-level governance, supporting innovative approaches and ensuring solidarity.

We emphasise that Europe's overarching priority 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' will not be achieved without smart, sustainable and inclusive cities. Cities account for 75% of our population, 80% of energy use and 85% of Europe's GDP. If Europe wants to be competitive, it must invest in its cities so that they can perform economically, socially and environmentally.

As the level of government closest to on-the-ground realities, we underline that cities can help define where needs are starkest, where opportunities lie and how resources should be combined and targeted. So given that the successful delivery of Europe

2020 will depend largely on cities and metropolitan areas, we should be involved in the design and implementation of relevant policies and programmes at EU and national level.

We conclude by stating that an EU budget, better designed to empower, equip and resource cities, will put us on the right path to delivering Europe 2020. Europe as a whole will benefit if we empower and resource our cities to combat climate change, drive innovation and creativity, support skills and training, tackle social exclusion, improve public transport, deal with an ageing population and migrant integration, change behaviours and ensure environmental quality; Europe as a whole will suffer if we fail to do so.

EUROCITIES' position has been put together by our EU budget task force, which gathers representatives from all EUROCITIES forums as well as members of the EUROCITIES executive committee ■

EUROCITIES position on future EU budget: www.eurocities.eu

Vanda Knowles, EUROCITIES policy director: vanda.knowles@eurocities.eu

Cohesion policy: what member states think

The meeting of our working group on cohesion policy and structural funds held in Brussels on 24 February, involved discussions with cohesion policy experts from over ten member states' permanent representations based in Brussels.

Participants were presented EUROCITIES' response to the European Commission's fifth cohesion report and our views on the ambitious urban agenda of the future cohesion policy. A representative from the Hungarian presidency, presented the council's conclusions on the fifth cohesion report.

An exchange of views on the urban dimension of cohesion policy took place with interventions from all the national representatives. Examples of challenges faced by cities as a result of the current state of affairs were also brought to light.

EUROCITIES will continue to strengthen relations with the permanent representations to the EU, particularly on cohesion policy and once the legislative proposal for the next programming period is published.

Núria Tello, EUROCITIES policy officer - cohesion policy and EU budget:
nuriatello.clusella@eurocities.eu

'Your city, your view' - EUROCITIES 25 years special publication

Our call for contributions to the special anniversary photobook 'your city - your view' has met with tremendous interest, with over 70 member cities having confirmed their participation.

The photos should show how young people in our member cities view their city today. In line with the theme of EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, the photos should illustrate 'people and place' and convey for example scenes of planning for the future, transformation processes, wealth and poverty or liveable neighbourhoods.

Quite a number of members are organising photo competitions in their respective cities. And that's just the tip of the iceberg! Exhibitions are also planned, photography schools and youth departments have been brought on board, jury members recruited, Facebook and Flickr groups set up. But if setting up a competition is too much for your administration, you can also contribute to the photobook through a less intensive selection process.

In July 2011, the best three photos collected for/submitted to the photobook will be selected and their photographers will be invited to a special award ceremony in Genoa 2011. Of course, all city photographers are also welcome to attend.

Deadline for submissions: **1 June 2011**



EUROCITIES 25 year photos: www.eurocities.eu

Julia Ebert, EUROCITIES communications: julia.ebert@eurocities.eu

Key developments



EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa – Planning for People

Genoa | 2-4 November 2011

Too often in the past the social dimension of urban regeneration has been neglected. Because it is easier to see the results of our investment in physical change we have sometimes focused much more on 'place' e.g. on infrastructure and buildings, architecture and space, rather than 'people'.

EUROCITIES' conference taking place in Genoa this year will highlight the importance for city planners to explore different ways of achieving inclusion and prosperity. Discussions will delve into the challenges and opportunities of social cohesion and processes that involve citizens in the changes that affect their cities. The so-called 'participative democracy' - planning 'for people' but even 'with people'.

Managing flows of migrants will also be at the heart of our debate. Being at the front-line of southern Mediterranean migration, Genoa has much to share on issues of legal and illegal economic migrants and refugees. Our host, together with EUROCITIES mayors from southern Mediterranean cities and elsewhere across Europe will exchange perspectives on better managing this politically sensitive agenda.



As always, a full programme of networking opportunities and practical workshops is to be expected. In the meantime, make sure the dates - 2-4 November 2011 - are marked in your agenda!

Sinead Mullins, EUROCITIES communications executive:
sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

New year, new recruits

Nathalie Guri

Function:
Projects manager

Working languages:
EN, FR, CZ, AL



Replacing Silke Moschitz, Nathalie will assume the responsibility of managing the EUROCITIES project team, ensuring the sound planning, management, implementation and reporting of EUROCITIES projects. Nathalie started her career in Paris where she worked for Cites Unies France (The French Association of Local Government) on city twinnings and transnational projects. Most recently, she worked at Greater London Enterprise's (GLE) London and Prague offices. Nathalie holds a master degree in EU project management.

Rose Montgomery

Function:
Communications assistant

Working languages:
EN, FR, ES



Assuming a newly created position in EUROCITIES, Rose will be responsible for managing EUROCITIES' image library, case studies and providing general communications support. Rose previously worked for Luther Pendragon communications consultancy and the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union.

Denisa Naidin

Function:
Administrative assistant

Working languages:
EN, FR



Denise has joined EUROCITIES as the new administrative assistant for the European Commission PROGRESS programme, working on a part-time basis. Her academic background is in European studies and economics and she has worked previously with Brussels-based NGOs as well as the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium.

Consultation on new funding framework for research and innovation

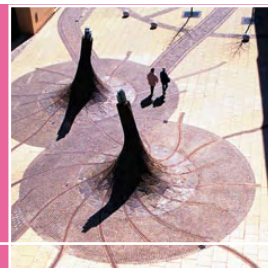
The European Commission has recently presented a green paper that proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding. The changes, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013, would bring together the current framework programme for research, the competitiveness and innovation programme, and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

EUROCITIES' response to the green paper, which is currently being prepared, is linked closely to the work of our newly formed budget task force, and should highlight the challenges and barriers that cities are facing in current EU funding on innovation and research.

If you would like to contribute to EUROCITIES' response, please contact Jan Franke at the Brussels office.

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES policy officer - knowledge society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu

European Commission consultation on future EU research and innovation funding: www.ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/



How to foster the entrepreneurial dimension of cultural and creative industries

Access to finance, market barriers, intellectual property rights, education and training, innovation and collaborative processes are key elements for strengthening entrepreneurship for cultural and creative industries.

A study commissioned by the European Commission aims to provide a better understanding of the operations and needs of companies in the cultural and creative industries, especially small and medium sized enterprises. It identifies specific challenges that could hamper entrepreneurship and prevent these industries from benefiting from the internal market and the digital shift.

The study suggests general approaches for developing a conducive environment as well as specific recommendations to provide support for each of the elements identified. Some 40 cases developed at local and regional levels illustrate the study ■



Commission study: www.tinyurl.com/5uenul5

Call for applications: European Youth Capital 2014

The European Youth Capital (EYC) is a title awarded to a European city for one year, during which it will be given the chance to showcase its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development.

The call for European Youth Capital 2014 is now open, with a first application deadline of 1 May 2011.

Antwerp, European Youth Capital 2011, will host the October 2011 meeting of the EUROCITIES Culture Forum, with a specific focus on young people and culture.



Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Creative industries working group on sustainable development

Nantes Metropole | 5-6 May 2011

Nantes Metropole will host the next meeting of the EUROCITIES creative industries working group. The meeting will focus on:

- the follow-up of the European Commission green paper on cultural and creative industries; and
- creative industries and sustainable development.

Technical visits will take place alongside the meeting and will include a tour of the artworks of the Estuaire biennale and the Quartier de la creation.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

First results of the consultation on the future culture programme

In October 2010 the European Commission launched a consultation to gather stakeholders' views on the future culture programme for 2014-2020, and more specifically on the objectives of the new programme for culture, activities within the new programme and types of support provided.

Almost 1,000 contributions were submitted by various cultural stakeholders. A first analysis of the results of the consultation was presented by the European Commission on 16 February during a public consultation meeting. The main findings are as follows:

- 93% support a specific programme for culture, whereas only 1% is in favour of mainstreaming culture in other European funding programmes
- There is a need to revise the current three priorities of the culture programme (promotion of the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector; support for the transnational circulation of cultural and artistic works and products; promotion of inter-cultural dialogue)

In its response EUROCITIES stressed the importance of: 1) the promotion of urban and regional development through culture; 2) a better equipped framework for creative industries, culture and the arts; 3) intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity; and 4) access to culture.

The responses are currently being further processed and a general analysis of the submissions is expected to be published on the commission website at the end of March 2011. It will be used by the commission to draft guidelines for the future culture programme.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Economic Development



Modernising EU procurement rules to support local economies

EUROCITIES is preparing its answer to the green paper on modernising EU public procurement policy. Cities hope this consultation will lead to clarification and simplification of rules to make life easier for both public authorities and undertakings e.g. companies, NGOs, social enterprises etc.

Public procurement accounts for roughly 17% of the EU's GDP. Putting this 17% to the best possible use is essential for re-launching our economy and creating jobs, even more so in a period of budgetary cuts and economic difficulties. Companies, especially SMEs (estimated to secure between 31% and 38% in terms of total contract value of public procurement), need better and easier access to public contracts throughout the EU so that they can reap the full benefits of a truly European procurement market.

Facilitating the use of public procurement by regional and local authorities is also mentioned as an objective of the green paper. For local authorities, procedures should be better adapted to new challenges, e.g. the need for more efficient use of public funds as well as taking into account social and environmental concerns, and supporting local innovative companies.

EUROCITIES is developing its position through a dedicated expert group who will gather the input of various EUROCITIES working groups that deal with services of general interest, greening the local economy, entrepreneurship – as well as our

mobility forum, our Green Digital Charter signatories, and our Network of Local Authorities on Active Inclusion.

If your city is interested in contributing and has not been approached yet, please contact Marie Ranty at the EUROCITIES office ■



Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES policy officer - economic development:
marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Area-based regeneration in deprived neighbourhoods

Munich | 6 April 2011

During the next EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum, our working group on urban regeneration will organise a special meeting to present case studies and a final report on area-based regeneration in deprived neighbourhoods.



The report is prepared by the NICIS Institute and is based on study visits to six cities. It will be used primarily as a good practice guide on area-based regeneration and is targeted at practitioners in the field.

The working group will also discuss its work programme for 2011 and how it can contribute to the EUROCITIES annual meeting 2011 in Genoa.

Martin Eyres, city of Liverpool:
martin.eyres@liverpool.gov.uk

Giving new impetus to the small business act

On 23 February the European Commission published a review of the Small Business Act (SBA). In place since 2008 the SBA, a non-binding instrument, is the first comprehensive SME policy framework for the EU and its member states. It aims to improve the overall approach to entrepreneurship, to anchor the 'Think Small First' principle in policy making and to promote SMEs' growth. The review aims to better align the SBA to the Europe 2020 priorities.



The commission is proposing an action plan focused on improving SMEs' access to finance. This includes better access to loan guarantee schemes, government contracts and venture capital markets, along with increased visibility measures. There is also emphasis on cutting red tape and in light of the economic crisis, it is also suggested that rules for bankruptcy are kept simple so that honest entrepreneurs have a second chance.

Since the SBA has been implemented unevenly across member states, the review proposes stronger governance, urging member states, regional authorities and cities to set up SBA implementation plans at both national and local levels. This would be reinforced by a monitoring mechanism and an SME envoy who will oversee the implementation of the SBA.

SBA review: www.tiny.cc/he5tl

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu



EU 2020: regional policy for sustainable growth

In a communication issued in January this year, the European Commission has called for managing authorities to realign current regional policy programmes with Europe's 2020 sustainable growth objectives. The rationale given is that national, regional and local authorities should make better use of already available funds.

In the communication, the commission has also highlighted the crucial role of local and regional authorities in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy and has called for two kinds of actions:

1. **Investing 'more' in sustainable growth** i.e. increased use of available funds for projects related to renewables, natural capital, natural risk prevention, ICT for the green economy etc. that have a high impact on sustainability.
2. **Investing 'better' in sustainable growth** i.e. mainstreaming sustainable development principles into all

spending under regional policy. This would involve applying sustainability principles to all parts of a project life-cycle that is being financed by the EU ■



European Commission communication: <http://tinyurl.com/6yu9nfw>

Michael Klinkenberg, EUROCITIES policy officer – environment:
michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

EU ministers reject binding energy efficiency target

At their meeting on 4 February, European heads of states and governments agreed that as of 1 January 2012, all EU member states should include energy efficiency in public procurement for relevant public buildings and services, while taking into account the EU 20% target of improved energy efficiency. However, the ministers did not make the 20% EU target binding.

While a binding target on energy efficiency would be applied to national governments, its achievement would depend a great deal on the implementation of measures at local level, not least because 80% of Europe's energy is consumed in cities.

According to official statements, the council also agreed to review the implementation of the 20% energy efficiency target by 2013 and to "consider further measures if necessary". In the same communication, the council further proposed "due consideration" for fixing intermediary targets related to a 80-95% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050.

Council conclusions on energy: www.tinyurl.com/6f3jg6j

Michael Klinkenberg, EUROCITIES policy officer – environment:
michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Green light for cleaner, more fuel efficient vans

The European Parliament on 15 February approved a regulation fixing limits of CO₂ emissions for light commercial vehicles. The new limits will support overall efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of goods transport, including in cities where vans are often used.

The agreed text requires manufacturers to reduce CO₂ emissions from new vans by 14% compared to the 2007 average of 203 g/km. The legislation also sets an emissions target for 2020 of 147g CO₂/km, equivalent to a 20% reduction. According to the commission, vans account for around 12% of the European market for so-called light-duty vehicles (passenger cars and vans), and they are responsible for around 1.5% of total EU CO₂ emissions.

Once the council has formally approved the agreement, probably within the next few weeks, the regulation will be signed into law.

European Parliament press release: www.tinyurl.com/6jrhzja

Michael Klinkenberg, EUROCITIES policy officer – environment:
michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Covenant of Mayors events during Europe's energy week

As part of the EU's sustainable energy week taking place on 11-15 April, the following Covenant of Mayors events will be held to discuss local energy practices:

- **Local and regional actions for sustainable energy workshop, Brussels, 13 April 2011**

Here case studies on smart districts, regional authorities and local authorities' actions and energy plans will be discussed. The second part of the workshop will address the financial instruments of the

EU's cohesion policy and the new ELENA facility.

- **Covenant of Mayors thematic discussion groups, Brussels, 14 April 2011**

Signatories and supporting structures will be encouraged to share best practice and experiences through various innovative and interactive ways. Three thematic discussions are foreseen:

1. Regions, networks and provinces providing support to signatories

2. Methodologies, small and medium sized municipalities

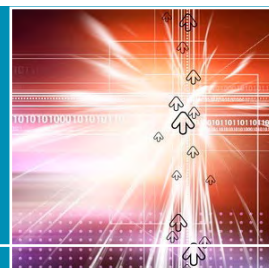
3. Exchanging big cities' Sustainable energy action plans

Registration is now open and we recommend registering as soon as possible.

Covenant of Mayors: www.eumayors.eu

Dion Wierds, EUROCITIES project officer – climate and energy: dion.wierds@eurocities.eu

Knowledge Society



Join the digital agenda community!

Brussels | 4-5 April 2011

EUROCITIES is assisting in the organisation of a high-level conference on localising the EU's 'digital agenda', which will take place in Brussels from 4-5 April.

The digital agenda for Europe is one of EU2020's flagship initiatives that was presented by the European Commission in May 2010. The plan will shape and dominate regulation and funding in the area of ICT and the information society for the coming five years.

Within this context, the upcoming conference aims to gather local institutions and authorities from across Europe for an exchange of ideas on how the EU's digital agenda can support regions and cities. European Commissioner Neelie Kroes and other top-level commission officials will be present for discussions with participants. This is an important event and would be of interest to all politicians and managers who are involved in local change and the decision-making processes in this field.

The conference marks a first step towards linking up partners involved in local change processes and economic/social crisis management, who have a real understanding of current problems as well as the transformative power of ICT, and who are in a position to take action.

The event will also help prepare the revision of the EU's digital agenda, which is planned for summer 2011 ■

Register for digital agenda goes local event and join the online community:
www.daegoeshlocal.com/info@daegoeshlocal.com

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES policy officer - knowledge society:
jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Funding call on open innovation for Internet-enabled services in smart cities

Under the 5th call for proposals within the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP), the European Commission has plans to support several pilot projects with the aim of accelerating the uptake of innovative 'ultrafast Internet'-based technologies and services in cities, based on shared platforms.

Each pilot project should combine, in an appropriate way, the three following elements:

- User-driven open innovation ecosystems, such as Living Labs;
- A cross-border network of 'smart cities'; and
- Innovative Internet-based services.

The funding for objective 5.1 under this call - 'Open Innovation for Internet-enabled services in 'smart' cities' - amounts to €14 million.

Deadline for applications: 1 June 2011

The ICT PSP aims to stimulate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by accelerating the wider uptake and best use of innovative digital technologies and content by citizens, governments and businesses. It provides EU funding to support the realisation of the digital agenda for Europe.

ICT PSP Work Programme 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/4kr6jkk>

Call 5 Objective 5.1: <http://tinyurl.com/4tdvvr>

Forum focus: citizens' engagement through ICT

Ghent | 7-8 April 2011

EUROCITIES' Knowledge Society Forum's vice-chair, Ghent, will host the forum's next event on 7-8 April 2011 to look at 'involvement and engagement through ICT'.



The theme stems from the view that the knowledge and practices shared among EUROCITIES'

Knowledge Society Forum member cities can also lead to a better integration of ICT in cities and help citizens become more involved and engaged in city decisions and agenda-setting. At the Ghent meeting, we expect to discuss the priorities identified by the forum for 2011 - e-Inclusion, open data, broadband, smart cities and the EU services directive.

The full programme will be made available soon.

Register for the event: www.bit.ly/f5RP2d

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES policy officer - knowledge society:
jan.franke@eurocities.eu



More coordinated transport funds?

As the end of the current financial programming period of the EU draws nearer, the European Commission remains reserved about the suggestion to consolidate all EU transport financial instruments such as the Trans-European Transport Networks – TEN-T, structural funds, and research and development into a single transport fund.

Addressing Members of the European Parliament recently, transport commissioner Siim Kallas suggested that instead of a single fund, the commission

is now considering better coordination between various budgets. According to EU media source, Europolitics, Commissioner Kallas reported a planned investment of €43 billion earmarked as structural funds, €10 billion for research and development, and just under €8 billion for TEN-T (€1.1 billion annually).

EUROCITIES has developed a strategy on the future EU cohesion policy and the EU budget for 2014-2020. Our new EU budget task-force met in February to discuss the network's position.

EUROCITIES' Mobility Forum is also working on a paper regarding future urban mobility financing opportunities ■

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Member states approve revision of Eurovignette directive

EU transport ministers have recently approved a position on the revision of the Eurovignette directive, thereby giving member states the right to adjust road tolls based on external costs of road use by transportation vehicles.

The directive aims to provide a framework of rules for the use of roads by goods transport vehicles, by calculating their true impact on society and the environment and endeavouring to shift the transportation of goods to other modes of transport (namely rail and waterways).

External costs are defined as noise and air pollution. Congestion does not qualify as an external cost, but member states are given the option to increase 'infrastructure access charges' during peak hours to minimise goods transport vehicles travelling at those times. These access charges will be allowed to be up to 175% more than the average charges. Several transport vehicles are exempt from the extra costs, including cleaner vehicles such as hybrid and electric heavy goods vehicles.

According to an EU media source, Europolitics, despite a majority approval, the revision has been opposed by some member states. Among those, Ireland has argued that the application of external costs should not be directed at a particular transport mode or transport user, and is concerned about the effects of these added costs in the current economic climate. Italy agrees with this position and raises the issue of geographic inequalities (for example, charges in mountainous regions could be twice as high as elsewhere).

EUROCITIES has been following this EU dossier, which was also a priority of the Belgian presidency of the EU. Urban areas are still excluded from the scope of this revision, but any further development will be closely monitored.

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

TEN-T policy review

On 8 February 2011, the Hungarian EU presidency hosted a discussion on the policy review of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T). It was attended by transport ministers of the 27 member states, transport commissioner Siim Kallas and chairman of the European Parliament transport committee, Brian Simpson.

The main policy objectives of the TEN-T include the contribution to economic growth, enhancing Europe's competitiveness and sustainability, and facilitating balanced development of European regions.

The meeting revealed consensus on a variety of issues:

- The need for better coordination between TEN-T and cohesion policy;
- Support for the dual-layer (core and comprehensive) network structure; and
- EU funds to concentrate mainly on the core network.

However, it was also agreed that EU resources should remain available to the comprehensive network and that additional sources of revenue must be created, for example from the internalisation of external costs.

As an outcome of the recent TEN-T consultation, the commission has recognised cities as crucial nodes in the core transport network. This is an important step towards additional recognition of the urban dimension of the TEN-T. EUROCITIES has contributed to the TEN-T policy review and has helped ensure that the revised TEN-T guidelines include cities in the definition and operation of TEN-T. The next step will be for cities to cooperate with national governments to ensure they are featured in the new core network maps. This is a strategic time for cities if they want to be part of the core network on the corridors of the TEN-T.

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu



New report: how Europe can help the working poor

Europe's 'working poor', that's to say those who remain in relative poverty despite being employed, need to be better taken into account in the EU's poverty and social exclusion strategy.

In the EU, around 17 million workers are 'poor' – that is, that they live in households in which the income level is below 60% of the national average income. The Europe 2020 strategy has as a goal to lift 20 million people out of poverty by the year 2020. In-work poverty is therefore likely to become more important.

A recently published European Commission report offers fresh thinking on how progress can be made on in-work poverty and shows variations of its scale across the EU. These variations can be

explained by structural differences in economies and the extent of labour market segmentation. However, the extent to which EU member states intervene both to limit and regulate the amount of labour market segmentation, and specifically to alleviate its worst effects, plays a very significant role. The report concludes that progress needs to be made in four main areas:

- raising public awareness and political priority;
- enhancing data and analysis;
- improving monitoring and reporting; and
- enhancing the mainstreaming of social inclusion goals in economic and employment policies ■



EU in-work poverty report:
<http://tinyurl.com/5sv3j4q>

Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCITIES programme officer - social affairs: dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

Cities for active inclusion - 2011 activities

This year will be intense and ambitious for the nine partner cities involved in the EUROCITIES-NLAO project. They will each continue their research on the main trends and challenges for cities striving to integrate the most disadvantaged people into employment. The focus for the first six months of 2011 will be on the active inclusion of young people.

The nine observatories will work with national and European policy makers through national workshops and will communicate efforts on a regular basis. The workshops serve as an opportunity for participants to meet national and local stakeholders, share good practice and learn about key developments on active inclusion at EU level. A closing event will take place in Brussels in the autumn, where the NLAO partners will present their research findings and talk with representatives from the EU institutions.

Michele Corbetta, EUROCITIES LAO network coordinator: michele.corbetta@eurocities.eu

Forum focus: new ways of tackling social exclusion

Grenoble Alpes Metropole | 26-27 May 2011

Confronted with tight budgets, prevailing social exclusion and demographic change, cities as providers and buyers of social services must constantly innovate. In this context, the next EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum meeting, to be hosted by Grenoble Alpes Metropole on 26-27 May, will examine both the process and the outcomes of social innovation.

Social innovation encompasses new organisational models and processes which often incorporate a stronger customer-focus, as well as new legal frameworks e.g. service contracts. The approach also uses new tools or concepts e.g. user involvement, citizens' budgets, and socially responsible procurement to help cities to absorb external costs.

Participants at the next forum meeting will look at the concept of social innovation and identify how it can be fostered with the right people

involved and the necessary resources to roll out successful pilots.

This discussion is particularly timely given that the Europe 2020 strategy, which outlines the EU's goals for the next ten years, explicitly aims to support social innovation.



Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCITIES programme officer - social affairs:
dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

Cooperation



Territorial dialogue for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Territorial dialogues have been taking place once a year since 2006 at the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Brussels. These meetings aim to convene regional and local authorities to discuss the implementation of overarching strategies decided by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission.

This year, the 6th territorial dialogue concentrated on the idea of territorial pacts to implement Europe 2020. Territorial pacts are agreements made at country level to help national, regional and local authorities design and execute national reform programmes deriving from the Europe 2020 strategy.

Among other interventions at this recent dialogue, MEP Van Nistelrooij stressed that 'Europe 2020 needs to become concrete and go local, or else it would fail like the Lisbon strategy because of lack of ownership from those delivering it'.

Rob van Gijssel, Mayor of Eindhoven, presented the lessons learnt by his city during the crisis of the 1990s and how it helped them face the current economic downturn. Eindhoven's strategy has been exemplified by a stimulation fund – the brainport foundation. Based on cooperation between different levels of government, industry and educational institutions, it fosters a continuous research and innovation process throughout the Eindhoven metropolitan area. This example of 'network

economy' at the local level shows how Europe 2020 – through such initiatives as the new skills and jobs flagship – can become relevant at the local level.

The meeting concluded with words from Krzysztof Kasprzyk, counselor for regional and cohesion policy at the Permanent Representation of Poland, who made the link between cohesion policy and the Europe 2020 strategy. He argued for a practical and integrated connection between Europe 2020 and cohesion policy. Mr Kasprzyk said that Europe needs a territory-specific cohesion policy, able to adapt to all the challenges and potentials faced by Europe's regions and cities.

Also during conclusions, the CoR announced the launch of a survey on the implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan on the ground ■

CoR survey: www.tinyurl.com/4rb2qzs

The 6th territorial dialogue: www.tinyurl.com/4vjqmth

Soraya Zanardo, assistant to EUROCITIES policy director: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES discusses city, region and nation branding processes

The EUROCITIES working group on branding management and city attractiveness had its first meeting of 2011 in Gothenburg on 17-18 February.

The overall theme of the meeting was the complex interrelations between city, region, and nation branding processes. Representatives from different organisations were invited to discuss the

theme using examples of place branding carried out at different levels in Sweden.

The seminar also included discussions where group members shared experiences from different European cities. Gothenburg presented its ambitions to start an online discussion forum on city branding.

Gothenburg has also issued an online publication depicting the events of the working group meeting.

Gothenburg publication: www.bit.ly/fGc6cD

Anton Cesar, city of Gothenburg: anton.cesar@cityhall.goteborg.se

The role of cities in macro-regional strategies

Brussels | 16 March 2011

A macro-region is an area including territory from a number of different countries or associated regions that deal with one or more common features or challenges.

The first-ever European macro-region, the Baltic Sea strategy, was set up by the European Commission in 2009. Through the development of 46 transnational projects, it aims to make this part of Europe more environmentally sustainable, more prosperous, more accessible and attractive, safer and more secure.

Following the same model, the commission is about to launch the

strategy for the Danube region, and is also discussing a Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategy.

These developments will form the backdrop of the next meeting of the EUROCITIES working group governance on 16 March. The group will discuss this developing trend towards territorial cohesion for the EU. Cooperation between different level of governments from different countries, EU funding and projects, and the role of cities in such strategies, will also be on the agenda.

Soraya Zanardo, assistant to EUROCITIES policy director: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

European neighbourhood policy and enlargement

Brussels | 22-23 March 2011

Members of the EUROCITIES European neighbourhood policy and enlargement working group will gather in Brussels for a two-day meeting on 22-23 March. They plan to hold talks with Brussels-based representatives of cities and regions, as well as with representatives from the European institutions.

Keti Garenashvili, city of Tbilisi: q.garenashvili@tbilisi.gov.ge

Regina Wiala Zimm, city of Vienna: regina.wiala-zimm@wien.gv.at

Projects



MIXITIES: EUROCITIES project on integration of migrants gathers momentum

MIXITIES (Making integration work in Europe's cities), launched in November 2010, is currently developing benchmarks set to be piloted at this year's three peer reviews:

- Anti-discrimination policies: Ghent | 6-10 June
- Introductory courses for newcomers, including language courses: Stockholm | 26-30 September
- Diversity competences in public services: Barcelona | 24-28 October

Once tested, the project's thematic leaders MigrationWork CIC, a non-profit consultancy, together with the Berlin Senate for integration and migration, as well as MIXITIES partners and EUROCITIES will work on finalising the benchmarks.

In addition, a toolkit for each of the three above-mentioned themes, will be developed using the experience from the peer reviews and include concrete examples of how cities can achieve good practice in local integration policies.

Most notably, the project has also selected six peers from local migrant organisations to form part of the peer review team. This group of people will be consulted on key areas of the project,



including the benchmarks to be presented at the peer review training meeting in Brussels on 6-7 April.

MIXITIES partners include the cities of Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Belfast, Copenhagen, Dublin, Florence, Genoa, Ghent, Helsinki, Malmö, Munich, Nuremberg, Oslo, Stockholm and Tampere.

The project is co-financed by the European Commission, DG Home Affairs through the European Integration Fund ■

MIXITIES: www.integratingcities.eu

Ana Feder, EUROCITIES project officer – migration and integration: ana.feder@eurocities.eu

Economic recession: a new dawn for mobility management

Toulouse | 18-20 May 2011

Register now for the European Conference on Mobility Management (ECOMM) taking place on 18-20 May in Toulouse, France.

This high-level event will gather European and international experts for discussions on the main conference theme, 'economic recession: a new dawn for mobility management'.

Conference workshops will be designed as trainings, standard presentations and also using less conventional approaches. They will focus on the four following sub-themes:

- Mobility management as a profession, a career, a business
- Mobility management, public space and road safety
- Mobility management and planning, especially land use planning
- Mobility management as an economic and commercial activity

Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more from the experience of Toulouse by meeting local experts showcasing their projects and their best practices.



ECOMM 2011: www.ecomm2011.eu

Melanie Leroy, EUROCITIES project officer - mobility management: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

Digitising clusters

The city of Helsinki hosted the latest CLUSNET policy seminar on 9-11 March, offering the project's partners an in-depth policy analysis on how to organise a cluster of digital services.

Using the host city's Forum Virium Helsinki (FVH) as a starting point, participants discussed membership issues related to cooperation clusters and how to structure cooperation between public and private organisations. The FVH, which is made up of both public and private sector entities is a cooperation cluster that promotes the development of digital services. Its anchor companies are the most prominent telecommunications operators in Finland, major broadcasting companies and various other major companies, including Nokia.

This latest meeting followed the Dortmund workshop held in November 2010 which looked at the city's approach on how to connect different clusters so that they support each other and are more innovative and efficient.

Eindhoven will follow with workshops on open innovation systems on 18-20 May. The CLUSNET project will finish at the end of this year with a final seminar in Lyon on 13-14 October.

CLUSNET is an INTERREG IVC funded project that brings major cities, EUROCITIES and the Stockholm School of Economics together to analyse and improve cluster support policies.

Susana Forjan, EUROCITIES project assistant: susana.forjan@eurocities.eu

Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
23-25 March 2011 Seville, Spain	Velocity 2011 The cycle of life	www.velo-city2011.com
28 March – 3 April 2011 Thessaloniki, Greece	ECOWEEK 2011 urban communities and green architecture International conference for architecture and design	www.ecoweb.netfirms.com/ecoweb.gr/ecoweb2011/index.html
5 April 2011 Brussels, Belgium	EU digital agenda goes local Organised by the European Commission	www.tinyurl.com/digitalagenda2011
11-15 April 2011 Brussels/Europe-wide	EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) Largest sustainable energy initiative in Europe	www.eusew.eu
13-15 April 2011 York, United Kingdom	Housing in hard times Class, poverty and social exclusion	www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/hsa/conference.htm
6-7 May 2011 Oslo, Norway	Governance and Change on the Urban Fringe The European Urban Research Association workshop	www.iss.uio.no/aktuelt/arrangementer/gov
12-13 May 2011 Duisburg, Germany	Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated Development of Deprived Urban Areas RegGov final conference	www.urbact.eu/en
18-20 May 2011 Duisburg, Germany	REAL CORP 2011 Change for stability: lifecycles of cities and regions	www.corp.at
19-20 May 2011 Bordeaux, France	EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform Annual event for EUROCITIES contact officers	www.eurocities.eu
19-21 May 2011 Belfast, United Kingdom	Urban Conflicts International Conference Ethno-National Divisions, States and Cities	www.conflictincities.org
22-25 May 2011 Stockholm, Sweden	Cities of the Future Sustainable urban planning and water management	www.cof2011stockholm.org

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Please send any contributions or comments concerning the contents of the Flash to: flash@eurocities.eu

Publisher
Paul Bevan, Secretary General

Editor
Róisín Hughes

Layout
Rob Harris Productions

EUROCITIES

1 Square de Meeûs
B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 552 0888
Fax: +32 2 552 0889
e-mail: info@eurocities.eu

www.eurocities.eu



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