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EDITORIAL

Defining success



Without doubt EUROCITIES' greatest achievement has been to secure the development of an urban policy agenda at the European level. Besides the stream of funding initiatives that followed the dialogue begun by EUROCITIES' early members with the European Commission between the 80s and 90s, there was a growing commitment to a common urban agenda from member states themselves. Milestones included the 'Urban Forum' in Vienna in 1998, the 'Lille Action Programme' of 2000, the 2004 'Urban Acquis' agreed in Rotterdam, and the 2005 'Bristol Accord'.

All of these EU political declarations were steps towards the seminal Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, adopted in 2007. The charter celebrates the merits of integrated urban policy, which is at the core of EUROCITIES case for improving the effectiveness of EU programmes.

The charter prompted collaborative work to define the measurable characteristics of a sustainable city, and four years on the city of Leipzig is hosting a conference this month to review the resulting 'sustainable reference framework'.

The European urban model is a competitive advantage in an increasingly urbanised global economy. The slower pace of European urbanisation allowed us to protect the liveability of our cities. Investment in infrastructure and public services in our cities may not be as high as we want, but we have largely avoided excess sprawl and unregulated development. European cities also boast cultural and commercial assets that promote social cohesion and continue to attract investment and talent.

Concentrated urban development is the most sustainable form of human settlement, making best use of land and resources, and creating critical mass for public services, innovation and business markets. The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities in the making will help us define more clearly the secrets of successful European cities.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Creative industries and urban regeneration



The notion that creativity should be a driving force behind the regeneration of post-industrial cities has become omnipresent in local policymaking due to the benefits associated with investing in cultural infrastructure. Meeting in Lille Metropole on 16 June, the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum will discuss how best to harness this creative potential for growth and redevelopment.

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Launch of EU Smart Cities & Communities initiative



Cities are encouraged to come to Brussels on 21 June for the launch event of the European Commission's Smart Cities & Communities initiative. EUROCITIES has responded to the commission's consultation on the new scheme, which ultimately intends to help cities combine technical change with economic and organisational innovation and increase energy efficiency across all aspects of urban life.

[see p. 2 & 7](#)

Talks with EU social affairs commissioner



Last month's newsletter reported on the increasing attention that EUROCITIES is giving to the European Social Fund (ESF). Our work on this front reached a recent high-point with a meeting held between our vice-president, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw and László Andor, EU commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion.

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www.eurocities.eu

Key developments



EUROCITIES position on Smart Cities & Communities initiative

EUROCITIES has responded to a European Commission consultation on the Smart Cities & Communities initiative. This is a new scheme which ultimately intends to help cities combine technical change with economic and organisational innovation and increase energy efficiency across all aspects of urban life.

We believe that Smart Cities & Communities should provide fertile ground for more ambitious and large-scale actions that surpass the EU's 20-20-20 goals and enable Europe's major cities to proactively drive forward delivery. In our position, we emphasise specifically that the initiative should:

- maintain a strong focus on Europe's big urban areas because strategic investments in big cities will deliver greater results more quickly and more visibly.
- support the deployment of state-of-the-art green and smart technologies, strongly focusing on the demand-side of energy production and consumption and building on the input received through the Smart Cities stakeholder platform; a supply-led initiative dominated by interests of supplying industry, we believe, will risk weak take-up and transferability.

- broadly select the 'pioneering cities' to be funded; different climate regions and levels of economic and sustainable development, population size and governance structures should all be considered.

- explore new ways to foster market uptake and promote green technology lead markets. This will require new models of partnership and risk-benefit sharing between city governments, the private sector and the end-user.

In view of the EU's innovation partnership on smart cities, the current initiative needs to make room for more flexible funding arrangements and explore new ways of financial assistance and engineering.

Smart Cities & Communities will be launched at a conference on 21 June in Brussels ■

Programme and registration: www.tinyurl.com/67mobjy

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

Planning with people in Amsterdam

EUROCITIES' latest good practice case study looks at how Amsterdam is giving its local inhabitants a say in the city's urban planning process.

Launched in 2009, the 'Free State of Amsterdam' is an innovative scheme that encourages citizens to put forward their own visions for the city's structural future. Through the use of social media, public discussions and exhibitions, the city's planning authorities have been able to gather ideas from people who would otherwise not be involved.

This marked a new 'soft' side to urban planning, allowing visionary thinking and unbridled creativity to supersede the traditional, technical aspects. Over the past five years, this method has become the basis for planning practice in Amsterdam, with conventional considerations such as finance, legislation and procedures – popular since the 1980s – taking a back seat. Amsterdam's authorities have successfully removed the barriers to urban planning, resulting in an environment of communally-formulated ideas.

Updated monthly, EUROCITIES' good practice series aims to showcase the innovative and results-focused work carried out by our members. The case studies have a permanent online place on our public website and are distributed at meetings and to



members of the press. If you've got a project you'd like to share, please get in touch.

Rose Montgomery, EUROCITIES communications assistant: rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu

Free State of Amsterdam: www.vrijstaat.amsterdam.nl

Urban Gateway - a new online community

UN-HABITAT has launched its new URBAN GATEWAY, an online community to help cities and urban practitioners across the world unite to share knowledge and take action for sustainable cities in a rapidly urbanising world.

The website will enable everyone involved in cities, urban planning, and urban management, including policy makers, academics and neighbourhoods to keep informed of developments as the world urbanises faster than ever before. Users of the gateway will be able to find and contact other

members, form common interest groups, offer and apply for opportunities, share experiences and get the latest local and global news on urban issues in their language.

Spatial features are expected to be added in the next phase of the gateway to allow users to zoom into a particular city and find out about the urban conditions, such as access to urban services, and innovations to tackle city problems.

Urban Gateway: www.urbangateway.org

Key developments



The Budapest communiqué on European urban areas

Member states' ministries responsible for urban development met at director general level in Budapest on 2 May (Urban Development Group), where they agreed on the 'Budapest Communiqué on European urban areas facing demographic and climate challenges'. These were the two themes that the Hungarian EU presidency prioritised for the urban agenda. EUROCITIES participates as a key stakeholder in these meetings, which are chaired by the rotating EU presidency.

The communiqué drew on two reports prepared by the Hungarians:

- Climate-friendly cities: a handbook on the task and possibilities of European cities in relation to climate change
- The impact of European demographic trends on regional and urban development

The directors general of these national ministries already submitted a joint response to the 5th cohesion report and are now preparing a joint response to the consultation on a strategic framework for innovation and research funding.

Two sub-groups have been set up within the UDG, the first of which is preparing a statement on the urban dimension of cohesion policy. The second is building an overview of existing initiatives on urban research and aims to develop a more strategic

approach for the future. EUROCITIES will contribute to both groups.

An update was also given on the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities (RFSC), which is now in the pilot phase and is being tested by some cities. Recommendations will be made for finalising the tool by November.

Urban ministers will not meet during the Hungarian EU presidency but there will be an informal meeting of ministers responsible for spatial planning and territorial development. EUROCITIES has been invited to attend and the Mayor of Budapest, István Tarlós, will have the opportunity to address ministers on our behalf.

Under the incoming Polish EU presidency, urban ministers will meet next on 25 November in Poznan, alongside a meeting of ministers responsible for regional policy and territorial cohesion. This informal ministerial will gather results from a substantial work programme on cohesion policy, which is a key priority for the Polish presidency ■

EU Hungarian presidency reports: www.eukn.org

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Vienna on European news television channel!

Austria's capital, Vienna, is the latest member of EUROCITIES to have taken part in 'euronews metropolitans', the television and web series which offers the spotlight to Europe's big cities and highlights how local governments are responding to today's major challenges.

'Vienna, a city of soundscapes', broadcast in April 2011, looks at Vienna's long history of unique musical sound but also its ambitious new €4 billion development project involving the construction of a new train station, thousands of flats, offices and a park.

The euronews metropolitan series is a joint media partnership between EUROCITIES and euronews. All EUROCITIES member and partner cities are eligible to



take part in the metropolitans series.

In addition to Vienna, broadcasts to date have featured the cities of Manchester, Dusseldorf, Gijon, Lyon, Katowice, Poznan, Leipzig, Sofia and Plovdiv.

If your city is interested in taking part, contact Nicola at the Brussels office.

Euronews Metropolitans: www.euronews.net/europa/metropolitans

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Cities get column inches in new European media

EUROCITIES has taken advantage of a brand new pan-European media portal to raise awareness of the role of big cities in the EU's most pressing debates on climate, inclusion and recovery.

Alongside senior EU officials and politicians, EUROCITIES was one of the handful of contributors featured for the launch of www.publicserviceeurope.com, the European spin-off from the UK focused Public Servant magazine. Our lead article discussed the value that should be accredited to cities in negotiations on the future EU cohesion policy and their role in getting the EU's economy back on track.

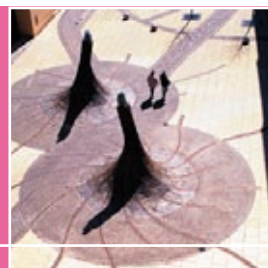
The website covers the broad spectrum of EU policy and has a section dedicated specifically to municipalities. Speaking to EUROCITIES about this feature, editor Dean Carroll said:

"Municipalities are the engines of economic growth as well as the best place for politicians to learn their trade. We recognise this at PublicServiceEurope.com and will give just as much credence and prominence to municipal debates as we will to national and supranational discussions."

Cities that have a story for the news website should get in touch with Dean at dcarroll@publicserviceeurope.com

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PublicServiceEurope.com: www.publicserviceeurope.com



EU should help cities support cultural and creative industries, reveals consultation

An analysis of responses submitted to a European Commission consultation has clearly highlighted the key role of cities in helping develop cultural and creative industries. EUROCITIES is pleased to note that several points in the analysis, which has been based on the 350 consultation responses received, are in line with our network's position on the sector.

Many respondents showed support both for intervention from all government levels in the sector and cooperation between the various departments of city administrations. Most important, respondents recommended that the EU should:

- help local and regional authorities to better support cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and that when developing policies and instruments, the EU should always take into account the specific role that CCIs can play in regional and local economic development;
- raise greater awareness among local, regional and national authorities regarding the potential of structural funds to contribute to the economic development and attractiveness of cities and regions. This could potentially lead to a more efficient use of European structural funding; and

- help cities and regions develop new financial mechanisms for CCIs through the use of structural funds and raise awareness among regional and local authorities, managing authorities and entrepreneurs on how support for CCIs can contribute to the EU's cohesion policy objectives.

The analysis also indicated shared thinking regarding the use of old industrial infrastructures in cities. Many respondents suggested these be converted into collaborative spaces that could ideally act as professional hubs for cultural and creative industries, thus providing leverage for local economic development and contributing to the emergence of 'creative communities'.

Responses to the consultation will inform the commission's thinking and help ensure that future EU programmes and policies involving CCIs are fit for purpose. The commission will publish a communication later in 2011 to explain the follow-up procedures to the green paper on cultural and creative industries and its related consultation ■

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

Rethinking cities' cultural models

EUROCITIES Culture Forum I Aarhus | 9-12 June 2011

The EUROCITIES Culture Forum meeting in June will look at cultural mapping, rethinking cultural models in cities and cultural governance. Denmark's second largest city will be our host for the occasion.

Aarhus is well-placed to speak about the agenda's topics having itself started up a range of projects to map culture at local and regional level. Some of Aarhus's projects have involved an analysis of the city's arts and culture organisations, its creative companies, and so-called 'visions workshops' that rely on the participation of residents through public debates. Participants meeting in Aarhus will learn more about the host city's efforts in this area.

The meeting will also review cultural governance. Cities' institutional and financial arrangements that support local and regional cultural activities have been hard hit



by cutbacks in public funding, changes to local and regional government structures and priorities, as well as increasing requirements for transparency, accessibility and pressures to involve citizens in public affairs. Participants will discuss how cities re-evaluate their priorities and methods for structuring, supporting and controlling the cultural sector.

The forum's working groups - resources for culture; young people and culture; mobility of artists and culture professionals; and access to culture - will also meet separately in Aarhus.

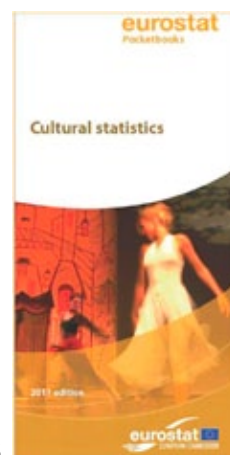
Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

New statistics on culture in Europe

A new EUROSTAT cultural statistics pocketbook presents comparable data on cultural heritage, cultural employment, enterprises and external trade in cultural goods, cultural expenditure and participation in the EU 27 member states, EFTA countries (Norway; Iceland; Switzerland and Liechtenstein) and candidate countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey.

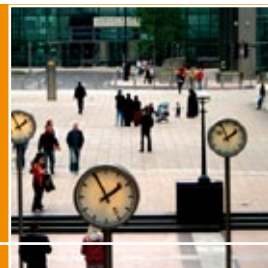
Its key findings are as follows:

- At EU-27 level in 2009, 3.6 million people were employed in the cultural sector, representing 1.7% of total employment.
- Regardless of how it is defined, culture holds a prominent place in the lives of Europeans. Over three quarters (77%) of all persons surveyed answered that culture was important to them.
- About 45% of Europeans aged 25–64 years declared having participated in cultural activities such as going to the cinema, attending live performances and visiting cultural sites at least once in the 12 months up to the end of 2009. Education remains the most determining socio-demographic factor that influences cultural participation.



EUROSTAT cultural statistics: www.tinyurl.com/5t9r9jo

Economic Development



Institutional thinking on future EU cohesion policy

Although progress has been made in the last couple of years at minimising economic discrepancies between regions across the EU, cohesion funding will need to remain a substantial part of the EU's budget in the future.

Amounting to €50 billion a year – about a third of the EU's total budget – the EU institutions are now giving their initial views on what the future funding policy should look like. These reviews are in anticipation of new regulations that the European Commission will present this summer 2011 for the next programming period 2013-2020.

The Committee of Regions (CoR) has stressed that cohesion policy must continue with sufficient resourcing to be able to reach its targets and has advised against linking funds to a small set of imposed priorities. It is also arguing that the EU must take into account the development needs of regions and cities rather than only focusing on initiatives that support the Europe 2020 goals. Thus, priorities should differ per region depending on an analysis of its weak and strong points.

The CoR further argues that cohesion policy should cover all European regions, with a focus on the less developed regions. To allow for more targeted support, they suggest considering the creation of a new 'intermediate' funding category for those regions whose GDP is between 75% and 90% of the EU average.

The added value of the European Social Fund within cohesion policy is also emphasised.

The European Parliament's regional development (REGI) committee has two draft reports on the table:

- the European urban agenda and its future in cohesion policy
- the European Commission 5th cohesion report and the strategy for the post-2013 cohesion policy

The first report is generally in line with EUROCITIES position. It focuses on the context of the urban dimension, multi-level governance and the partnership principle. The second dwells more on the overarching architecture of the future cohesion policy and in some areas, contradicts points made in the first report. Negotiations are underway and a vote on 26 May will determine the committee's common opinion, which will then go to the European Parliament plenary in June ■

CoR opinion: www.tinyurl.com/3s3tnhr

European Parliament REGI committee opinion: <http://tinyurl.com/3otcsax>

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Economic Development Policy Officer: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

RegioStars awards 2011 & 2012

EUROCITIES members Amsterdam, Antwerp, Charleroi, Cologne, Ghent, Oulu, Lille, Lisbon and London, are among the 31 finalists for the RegioStars awards 2011. These annual awards seek to reward the most innovative projects which have benefited from co-funding from EU regional policy.

The applicants this year had to demonstrate excellence in one of the five award categories which dealt with networking and clusters for regional growth and SME access to global markets; anticipating economic change; sustainable energy; integrated, clean urban transport projects; and a promotional photo of a co-funded project.

The winners will be announced at the 'regions for economic change' conference taking place in Brussels on 23-24 June 2011.

If you didn't have a chance to submit an application for the 2011 RegioStars, don't worry! The application period for the RegioStars 2012 awards is now open with a deadline of 15 July 2011.

RegioStars awards: www.tinyurl.com/68k7k9k

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Economic Development Policy Officer: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Creative industries driving urban regeneration

EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum I Lille | 15-17 June 2011

The notion that creativity should be a driving force behind the regeneration of post-industrial cities has become omnipresent in local policymaking over the past decade. This is due to the many perceived benefits that are associated with investing in cultural infrastructure, fostering creative industry clusters and attracting members of the so-called 'creative class'. The debate on how to best harness this creative potential for growth and physical redevelopment will be explored at the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum (EDF) meeting in Lille Metropole on 16 June.

Our host city is an excellent example of this creativity theory in practice. Lille is an urban conglomeration, which from the beginning of the 20th century until about the 1980s, was dependent on mining and industrial scale textile production. Since then, smart policies rolled out in recent decades have helped develop a new wave of creative industries as part of the city's transition to a more knowledge-based service economy.



In addition, general investments in cultural events have given a real boost to Lille's image and quality of life. Lille for example was the European Capital of Culture in 2004.

Through a series of workshops on themes of design, image and fashion, which are all connected to various different urban regeneration projects developed in Lille, meeting participants will get a taste of the kinds of approaches the city's authorities are taking to stimulate growth and development.

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New funding available for local climate action

The European Investment Bank, the European Commission and the German government-owned KfW development bank, have introduced additional ELENA funding mechanisms and a new energy efficiency facility in a bid to boost climate action at the local level. The new tools were presented on 13 April at the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels.

ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance) grants already cover a large share of the cost for technical support that is necessary to prepare, implement and finance investments in sustainable energy at the local level. These new mechanisms will not only broaden the scope of projects that are eligible for ELENA support but will also mobilise investments of less than 50 million.

The first of the new ELENA financing mechanism consists of two complementary schemes: one that provides global loans to local participating banks in order to target smaller investments, and another that includes carbon crediting as a new financing

element. These two schemes under the ELENA-KfW facility can either be combined or offered separately. In a similar vein, a new ELENA-CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank) mechanism, specifically targeting projects with a social housing component, will also be introduced later in 2011.

Also just launched, the European energy efficiency facility offers new financing opportunities for projects on energy efficiency and savings, renewables and clean urban transport. The facility will focus on relatively low-cost projects, in particular those implemented in urban environments that provide relatively low but positive returns on investment. Worth about €200 million, this new investment fund is mainly financed by unspent funds from the EU recovery package of 2009/10 ■

ELENA - EUSEW 2011 workshop conclusions: www.tinyurl.com/43p495x

European energy efficiency facility: www.tinyurl.com/3f7ap4z

Forum focus: conclusions on climate change mitigation and adaptation

The EUROCITIES Environment Forum met in Genoa on 27-29 April to look at climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and how to finance them. MEP Francesca Balzani was also invited to talk about the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF).

Participants had a chance to discuss their experiences with regard to Sustainable Energy Action Plans, climate adaptation strategies and noise and safety issues. EU environmental policy developments were also reviewed.

In a parallel session, politicians agreed on a set of conclusions, which, among other things, ask EU institutions and national governments to:

- recognise the key role of cities in increasing sustainability, mitigating climate change and protecting citizens from its unavoidable consequences;
 - provide financial support for cities' environmental and climate action through effective funding mechanisms;
 - involve cities in designing a regulatory framework that supports city efforts with effective policies that address the sources of emissions;
 - ensure a quick analysis of Sustainable Energy Action Plans and timely feedback to cities.
- The politicians also urged all EUROCITIES members to:
- continue their efforts for a better quality of life, protecting the environment and limiting climate change;
 - set and implement ambitious, long-term targets;
 - further develop integrated approaches to sustainability projects;
 - ensure close involvement of citizens and local businesses; and
 - continue to support international cooperation in the field where possible, through bilateral cooperation with cities in other regions, taking Genoa's example of cooperation with cities in the Mediterranean region.

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Covenant of Mayors going east

Local authorities from countries based in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia now have a chance to apply for financial support through a new European Commission call for proposals.

Launched under the Covenant of Mayors, the €2.5 million made available under this call is intended to support eastern European countries in contributing more actively to climate change mitigation.

Through the initiative, the commission wants to foster partnerships between existing EU covenant signatories and local authorities from:

- **Eastern Partnership countries:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine; and
- **Central Asian countries:** Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The Covenant of Mayors is broadly recognised as one of the EU's biggest success stories, with almost 2,500 municipalities across Europe having signed up to it. Since its launch in 2009, EUROCITIES has worked in partnership with several other networks on the project.

The covenant's initial aim has been to encourage mayors of cities and towns based primarily in EU countries to significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Signatories enter a formal commitment to curb their CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020, going beyond the 20-20-20 targets of the EU's climate action and energy package.

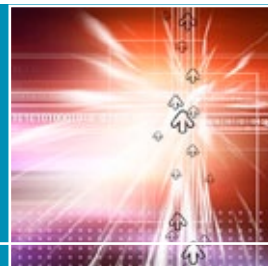
This latest expansion to the east of Europe will no doubt open up new horizons for the Covenant of Mayors and the EU's green agenda. Those interested in taking advantage of the new funding opportunity available should attend the information session scheduled for 23 May in Kiev.

Deadline for funding applications: **22 July 2011**

Covenant of Mayors: www.eumayors.eu

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Knowledge Society



Launch of EU Smart Cities & Communities initiative

Brussels | 21 June 2011

The European Commission is launching the Smart Cities & Communities initiative at a conference in Brussels on 21 June.

This event will bring together high-profile speakers including EU energy commissioner Günther Oettinger and representatives from different branches of the energy industry, including energy service companies, the ICT sector, as well as local politicians and officers, academics, and EU experts on financing instruments, energy, transport and ICT politics.

Participants will:

- learn about the results of the recent public consultation on the Smart Cities and Communities initiative and how its

stakeholder forum will facilitate city partnering, business opportunities and the replication of successful smart solutions;

- learn from examples in avant-garde cities and communities;
- get an overview of relevant European instruments and activities; and
- form partnerships for the forthcoming Smart Cities and Communities call ■

Programme and registration: www.tinyurl.com/5vtuw7k

Be part of the EU's 1st Digital Assembly 2011

Brussels | 16-17 June 2011

Outcomes of the recent 'digital agenda goes local' event co-organised by EUROCITIES in Brussels will be taken forward into the 1st Digital Agenda Assembly (DAA) taking place on 16-17 June in Brussels. In particular, learning points on how cities and regions can benefit from the European digital agenda will be fed into the workshop on local and regional activities on 17 June.

To facilitate wider discussion and idea generation, a 'Local2020' website has been set-up. Any suggestions and propositions

made through it will also contribute to the DAA with the overall aim of prompting the European Commission to take up concrete action, for example facilitating access to unused structural funds or helping to set up a peer mentoring network on the role of ICT at local level.

The best proposals made through the Local2020 website will be presented at the June assembly.

Deadline for proposals: **1 June 2011**

Local2020: www.local2020.eu

Digital Agenda Assembly:
www.ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/daa/index_en.htm

Bristol: a smart and connected city

Bristol city council has commissioned a report on the future of Bristol as a smart city. The aim of this initiative has been to identify how Bristol could drive emission reductions with the use of smart technology in the principal areas of housing, transport and the public sector.

The report was financed as a result of a successful bid to the UK government's department for energy and climate change's local carbon framework programme and the findings were presented at a smart cities event held in Bristol last March.

Following the outcome of the report, Bristol city council plans to pursue investment opportunities in smart grids and meters, smart transport systems and smart technology, including open data and inter-connectivity of networks and data streams.

Bristol's smart city report:
www.slideshare.net/Bristolcc/bristol-smart-city-report-7579696

Lorraine Hudson, Bristol city council:
lorraine.hudson@bristol.gov.uk

Knowledge management in cities - hidden profits of the EU services directive

EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum | Dresden | 20-21 June 2011



Meeting in Dresden on 20-21 June, the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum will discuss the hidden profits of implementing the EU service directive for better organisation and knowledge management in cities.

The conference will highlight the potential of the EU services directive and related changes in front and back-office operations in city administrations as a driver of process reorganisation and knowledge management.

Programme and registration: www.eventbrite.com/event/1418054439

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Integrating sustainable transport and urban planning

EUROCITIES Mobility Forum | Oslo | 6-7 June 2011

The city of Oslo will host the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum on 6-7 June to discuss integrating sustainable transport and urban planning.

Sustainability is a basic principle for the development and growth of cities and the transport sector is a big part of this. The Oslo event will feature various European projects that offer guidance on how cities can develop sustainable urban mobility plans and monitor their efficiency. The possibilities and limits of European and national support in implementing broader sustainable energy action plans, following an integrated approach, will also be discussed.

Oslo will present its ongoing work on the 'Fjord City' for which new solutions to transport issues play a pivotal role. Four of the forum's working groups will meet, and participants will also enjoy site visits. Also as part of the programme, updates and briefings on current and future policy on EU mobility followed by EUROCITIES, will be given.

On European projects, participants will also hear more about the European Platform on Mobility Management (EPOMM)



and a workshop on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), organised by the Commission, will take also take place.

Deadline for registration: **20 May 2011** ■

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Green eMotion: the future of electromobility in Europe

The European Commission has taken a step towards the widespread use of electric vehicles in cities, contributing €24.2 million to an initiative called 'Green eMotion'. This amount is part of the overall projected budget of €42 million, with the rest of the costs being covered by project partners.

Green eMotion brings together industry, utilities, car manufacturers, universities and research institutions, technology institutions and cities including EUROCITIES members Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Malaga, Malmo and Rome. The partners will develop and test existing and new electromobility options with the aim of encouraging public buy-in and a transition to the use of electric vehicles. Some European regions will test the practicalities of implementing relevant infrastructure and technology, such as battery swapping and charging stations, and payment systems.

Green eMotion falls under the commission's 'Green Cars' initiative,



which is part of the European Economic Recovery Plan and is aimed at boosting the automobile industry following the 2008 economic downturn.

The initiative complements the commission's plan for the future of transport in cities by working towards the phasing-out of conventional vehicles by 2050. But although the new plan addresses emissions and noise targets in urban mobility, it fails to address and promote the pressing issue of congestion in cities, a solution to which would be a shift to more environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.

Green eMotion: www.greenemotion-project.eu

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer- Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2011 and electric mobility

Over 700 events across Europe were organised as part of this year's EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in March. The week served to promote and exchange best practice and present technological and policy developments in the area of sustainable energy for a range of sectors.

In terms of mobility, the future of electric vehicles was a prominent theme. Presentations from the European Commission, cities, and industry demonstrated the EU's commitment to more sustainable transport choices in the future. This falls in line with the new EU transport strategy, introduced in late March, which envisions the phasing-out of conventional internal-combustion engines by 2050.

Mobility-related events held in Brussels during the EUSEW featured electric vehicles, future transport fuels and car-sharing in cities.

Videos of EUSEW events:
www.eusew.eu/component/content/article/51

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Social Affairs



Talks with EU social affairs commissioner on future EU cohesion policy

Last month's newsletter reported on the increasing attention that EUROCITIES is giving to the European Social Fund (ESF). Our work on this front reached a recent high-point when our vice-president, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw met László Andor, EU commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion.

Meeting on 13 April in Brussels, Mayor Gronkiewicz-Waltz presented the commissioner EUROCITIES' position on cohesion policy and stressed that the future policy must include an ambitious urban dimension to ensure the delivery of the EU's 2020 priorities.

Key points raised in the meeting were the need to ensure cities had a stronger role and clearer involvement in the overall process of defining priorities and operational programmes as well as the importance of making it easier to combine both ESF and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Both are essential

if cities are to take a truly integrated approach to tackling issues such as fighting unemployment and social exclusion. The mayor stressed the importance of building on cities' work in this area, and spoke of the difficulties that cities are facing with the current ESF.

The meeting concluded with mention of the EUROCITIES partnership with the European Commission on social affairs, supported by PROGRESS. This joint undertaking has helped strengthen EUROCITIES activities in social field and has further involved EUROCITIES members in European consultations, policy-making, debates and research ■

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Hungarian EU presidency on urban consequences of demographic change

'Address the challenge of ageing societies together with citizens instead of ignoring it' was one of the key messages delivered by the Hungarian EU presidency at a recent conference on the urban consequences of demographic change.

Held on 4 May in Budapest, the event successfully demonstrated that many aspects of demographic change have to be tackled locally, for instance adapting services to a growing number of elderly people. As one of the topics to be targeted by EU cohesion policies, demographic change backs EUROCITIES' position that the local level has to be on board in priority setting and management of the next round of cohesion policy.

A presentation from Birmingham, now growing after decades of population loss, demonstrated that building new visions, changing the local economic base and making the city more attractive, are key to reversing a negative demographic trend. Brno, a demographically stable city, showed how it's developing a strategy for active

ageing by 2012. Adapting to demographic change clearly underlines the potential of transnational learning between European cities.

Prospective population losses are expected to be strongest in central and eastern Europe. The population of Romania, for instance, is projected to halve by 2050. As current mobility patterns within the EU benefit mainly the older member states, the question of whether more people should be admitted into the EU, is part of the demographic equation. A speaker from the European Commission's directorate general for home affairs appealed to member state representatives to "properly frame" the debate on migration and to engage EU citizens in the topic. The European Commission's latest demography report also urges national policy makers to encourage mobility and to reform social policies, including raising the retirement age.

Inclusive Cities: www.inclusivecities.eu

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New report: cities fostering active inclusion

The latest in a series of EUROCITIES reports on the trends, challenges and processes experienced by European cities that are implementing active inclusion policies, is now available.

This latest report details how ten cities are delivering social services and social economy initiatives as part of their active inclusion policies.

The handful of cities studied, including Barcelona, Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm, have demonstrated a move towards improved coordination, decentralisation and personalisation of services as well as increased outsourcing to social economy organisations.

The study also shows that budget cuts have stretched their capacities in delivering effective and efficient social services to an urban population increasingly at risk of social exclusion. Cities have been further challenged in maintaining support for social economy initiatives such as social enterprises facilitating the integration of disadvantaged people into the labour market.

In the face of current financial difficulties, these cities have proved their ability to innovate forward and have come up with new measures such as training employees in understanding quality issues and improving the conditions of social workers. The study also highlights how the ten partner cities have also piloted innovative measures in the social economy sector, and are helping to increase the business skills of people working in this area.

EUROCITIES will publish another related report on youth and active inclusion by summer 2011.

Cities for Active Inclusion: www.eurocities-nlao.eu

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Cooperation



EU urban experts on metropolitan governance

They are known across Europe as city regions, functional areas, urban agglomerations, metropolitan areas. The wider areas surrounding our cities are the basis for cooperation and coordination of policies, strategies and service delivery. They are also the spaces that bring together urban and rural. It was in this context that the European Parliament Intergroup, with METREX and EUROCITIES, met on 14 April in Brussels to discuss urban-rural relations and metropolitan areas.

During the seminar, members of the EUROCITIES working group metropolitan areas presented their experiences and participated in panel discussions with representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and Metrex.

The question of the role of each actor, from the core city to peripheral towns

within metropolitan areas was explored and it was noted that the usual urban-rural opposition has no sense but that cooperation among all is crucial. Speaking on behalf of EUROCITIES, Thierry Baert from Lille Metropole development agency, remarked that 'core cities are logical leaders in metropolitan areas: not imposing their vision but acting together with peers from peripheral or rural regions to spearhead common development'.

Also raised were questions concerning EU action for fostering the model of metropolitan areas: what can the EU do to help? Is it an observer or an active partner? Does the commission have the power to put pressure on member states to recognise metropolitan areas?

Finding common definitions for metropolitan areas and more generally for territorial cohesion were also issues



at the heart of the debate. While such discussions might seem academic given that metropolitan areas are a de facto reality, MEP Jan Olbrycht underlined that definitions remain crucial for identifying future funding for these hybrid entities ■

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Expectations for EU Polish presidency

In July 2011 Poland will take up the role of a rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. The challenge of the task is considerable. The Poles are faced with the context of building new the EU financial perspective and launching structural discussions on the future of EU cohesion policy as well as starting a new trio presidency.

The incoming presidency has identified three main priorities:

- European integration as a source of growth
- A secure Europe
- Europe benefiting from openness

The first priority is logical given that negotiations on the post-2013 EU budget will begin during Poland's term. The future presidency has already stated that the EU budget should remain an investment tool within which cohesion policy should serve as a strong investment instrument. For this same growth through European integration, the Single Market Act will be central and a Single Market Forum will be organised to discuss its potential.

For a secure Europe, the presidency is taking into account a broad range of issues from regaining trust in financial markets



to examining the EU's energy policy. The scope of activity will also involve a revision of the Frontex regulation and adopting an approach to the Common Agricultural Policy as a means towards food security.

The third priority deals with the EU's external policy. Here, the Poles are making a clear commitment to the European Neighbourhood Policy and to developing free trade areas with countries of the Eastern Partnership. The Polish EU presidency will also want to establish a new framework for cooperation between the EU and Russia. Accession negotiations with candidate will also continue, in particular those concerning Croatia and Iceland.

And with Poland, a new 'trio presidency' is launched. Next in line are Denmark and Cyprus, who will take up the presidency in the Council of the European Union respectively in the first and second half of 2012. The work programme to be executed by all the three countries should be presented by 1 July.

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EU Polish presidency: www.prezydencjaue.gov.pl/en

More on city promotion and marketing

Warsaw | 26-27 May 2011

What are the new trends in city promotion and who's setting them? How can new modern marketing communication tools be used to promote cities?

These questions and more will be the focus of the next meeting held by EUROCITIES' branding management and city attractiveness working group.

The group will gather in Warsaw on 26-27 May to come to grips with tools such as internet virals, online competitions and social media, with demonstrations from representatives from Warsaw who are already putting them into practice.

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Projects



EUROCITIES project on integration of migrants kicks off in Brussels

EUROCITIES convened partners of the MIXITIES project for the first time in Brussels on 6-7 April to offer a training on the methodology that will be used to carry out the project.

MIXITIES (making integration work in Europe's cities) is a project of mutual learning through which cities will find out how they can best deliver their commitments in the EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter. The charter commits signatory cities to provide equal opportunities for all residents, integrate migrants and embrace the diversity of their cities' population.

MIXITIES uses the peer review method to develop this learning. Focusing on three key themes of the Integrating Cities Charter, it builds a model of best practice in integration work, a benchmark, and then tests it against real experience in European cities, by the peer review process.

The training in Brussels gathered over 40 participants from city administrations as well as representatives of local migrant organisations to provide them with tools and practical knowledge of how a peer review works. It was led by EUROCITIES together with thematic leaders MigrationWork CIC, a non-profit consultancy, together with the Berlin Senate for integration and migration.

The peer reviews that will be held under the aegis of the MIXITIES project include:

- Ghent | 6-10 June, focusing on anti-discrimination policies
- Stockholm | 26-30 September, focusing on introductory courses for newcomers, including language courses



- Barcelona | 24-28 October, focusing on promoting cultural diversity

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

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

MIXITIES: www.integratingcities.eu

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CIVITAS FORUM – call for speaker contributions now open



The CIVITAS Forum secretariat has launched a call for speaker contributions to the eight technical sessions of the CIVITAS Forum conference taking place in Funchal on 17-19 October 2011. EUROCITIES members interested in submitting one or more proposals, are encouraged to apply.

The CIVITAS Forum conference is one of the main European events focusing on urban mobility. It offers a platform for politicians and practitioners to

discuss the latest developments on integrated sustainable urban transport strategies.

EUROCITIES collaborates with the CIVITAS Initiative and the organisation of the Forum 2011 in Funchal through the support action CIVITAS VANGUARD.

Deadline for applications:
25 May 2011

Guidelines and proposal form: www.civitas.eu/forum_conference_2011

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Save the date: CLUSNET final conference!

Lyon | 13-14 October 2011

The CLUSNET project's final conference will be held in Lyon on 13-14 October 2011. CLUSNET is an INTERREG IVC funded project that brings major cities, EUROCITIES and Stockholm School of Economics together to analyse and improve cluster support policies. This two-day meeting will showcase the project's findings on how to improve cluster performance in Europe.

The conference will give an opportunity to representatives from clusters across Europe to network and learn during a series of thematic workshops. City leaders will also join for an exchange of experiences, best practice and lessons learnt. On the second day, participants will have the chance of taking part in site visits to Lyon's clusters.

This event will summarise the observations and lessons learnt from the nine city visits – Barcelona, Budapest, Dortmund, Eindhoven, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Leipzig, Lyon and Manchester – that have taken place since the project began in January 2009.

CLUSNET: www.clusnet.eu

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
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
23-25 May 2011 Prato, Italy	Major cities of Europe conference Themes: do more with less & smart cities	www.majorcities.org
25-27 May 2011 Leipzig, Germany	International transport forum Transport and society	www.internationaltransportforum.org
15-16 June 2011 Barcelona, Spain	BIZ BARCELONA Supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and SMEs in Barcelona	www.diaemprenedor-barcelona.cat/en/
23-25 June 2011 Copenhagen, Denmark	Cities without limits Organised by European Urban Research Association	www.eura.org
7-9 July 2011 Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Dealing with diversity in 21st century urban settings Annual RC21 conference 2011	www.rc21.org/conferences/amsterdam2011
12-14 September 2011 Brussels, Belgium	Cities in Europe 2020 – Enhance sustainability now! ICLEI European Convention 2011	www.convention2011.iclei-europe.org
12-16 September 2011 Berlin, Germany	Urban education conference Organised by European Educational Research Association	www.eera-ecer.eu
28-30 September 2011 Delft, The Netherlands	28th urban data management symposium UDMS at 40 years: making contributions to the future	www.udms.net
27-28 October 2011 Lisbon, Portugal	How to make sustainable transport easy to use by all? Organised in the framework of the START Project	www.start-project.eu

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