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EDITORIAL

Beyond boundaries



There is always a risk that in pressing the interests of big cities in EU policy we provoke those representing rural areas and small

towns. Indeed regional authorities often seem to champion those causes to redress the perceived dominance of their hub cities.

But the conclusions reached by our working group on metropolitan areas, led by Lille and Oslo, and conveyed in our latest position, remind us that these divisions are artificial. There is invariably a strong symbiosis between big cities and surrounding regions. In fact, this interdependency is increasingly recognised through cooperative governance arrangements that span the functional area; the 'communauté urbaine' in France is a good example.

Many city mayors nowadays find it not just expedient, but extremely beneficial to work with their surrounding municipalities in fields such as planning, transport and economic development. In fact, since it is often commuter patterns that define the functional area most accurately, it makes sense to plan on the basis of real economic geography rather than arbitrary administrative boundaries, be they local or regional.

All this has profound implications for future EU cohesion policy, for it is the metropolitan area, not the wider region, that should be the focus for development strategies, coordinating urban, suburban and rural actions. This new functional geography also highlights the key role of hub cities themselves as the key drivers of, and brands for, the regional economy.

Strengthening these hubs does not come at the expense of everywhere else. On the contrary. Harnessing their positive force benefits not only the whole metropolitan area itself, but also boosts the competitiveness of the region, the nation and Europe as a whole.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

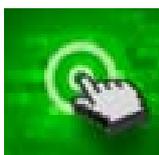
"Pull together to pull through", says EUROCITIES



The road to Europe's economy recovery will be long enough, but even longer without the political involvement of Europe's cities and metropolitan centres. This was the main message relayed by EUROCITIES' president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, to European Commission President Barroso at their meeting in Brussels on 16 June.

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NiCE new project for EUROCITIES



Following a successful bid to the European Commission, EUROCITIES is taking the lead on a new project that will promote and support signatory cities of the Green Digital Charter. The project known as 'NiCE' (Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency), aims to help EUROCITIES members fulfil their commitments, made under the charter, to using ICT for greater energy efficiency.

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Brest and Derry join our culture club!



The cities of Brest in France and Derry, Northern Ireland - UK, have joined the EUROCITIES Culture Forum as associated partners. Among Brest's cultural priorities are supporting artistic creation and using culture as a tool to broaden education. Derry has made history as the first ever UK City of Culture and will play host to a year-long celebration of culture in 2013.

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Key developments



“Pull together to pull through”, says EUROCIITIES

The road to Europe’s economy recovery will be long enough, but even longer without the political involvement of Europe’s cities and metropolitan centres. This was EUROCIITIES’ main message to European Commission President Barroso (left) at a meeting in Brussels on 16 June.

EUROCIITIES has been repeating this appeal both to the commission and EU heads of state since the Lisbon Treaty came into force in 2009. The treaty signalled a clear ‘upgrade’ of multi-level governance in the EU, raising expectations of greater involvement of cities and regions in shaping and delivering strategic priorities, such as Europe 2020, cohesion policy and the future EU budget. Two years on however and little has changed.

EUROCIITIES president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen (right), called for a response to cities’ demands which are long overdue:

“We want a practical partnership with Europe, not a paper one. We are demanding full recognition of our right of place. The sooner we pull all levels of government together to take concerted action for economic recovery, the sooner Europe’s economy will pull through. We believe our citizens deserve that chance.”

On EU regional policy, Jensen urged president Barroso to stand by the commission’s own ambitions to support Europe’s cities more strongly in future:



“If we want Europe to compete globally, to deliver a high quality of life for all of our 500 million Europeans wherever they live, we must invest more in our cities. All of us need Europe’s cities to really perform - economically, socially and environmentally, driving the development of their regions and countries.” ■

Soraya Zanardo, EUROCIITIES policy assistant – coordination & governance: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

Open days, open doors

Brussels | 12 October 2011

Following a successful first run last year, EUROCIITIES will this year again organise an ‘open house’ for all our members and partners on the afternoon of Wednesday 12 October.

If you are in Brussels for the Open Days 2011, feel free to drop by our office for a coffee and a chat with the EUROCIITIES team of staff. If you want to meet someone specifically, please contact that person in advance to arrange a time.

Now in its ninth year, the Open Days have become a highlight in the Brussels calendar, attracting colleagues from cities and regions across Europe. Under the overall organisation of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, this year’s ‘European Week of Regions and Cities’ offers a full agenda of events, conferences, exhibitions and workshops from 10 to 13 October.

So if you’re in Brussels then, be sure to come by!

Nicola Vatthauer, EUROCIITIES communications director: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

NiCE new project for EUROCIITIES

Following a successful bid to the European Commission, EUROCIITIES is taking the lead on a new project - NiCE (Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency), which will kick off in September 2011.

Working with our project partners, Clicks and Links, the city of Manchester and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development, we will use NiCE to promote and support the implementation of commitments made by the Green Digital Charter signatory cities. Over 20 EUROCIITIES members have signed up to the charter with a view to using ICT to significantly reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

The NiCE project will run for two and half years. During that time, we will develop a common implementation framework, reporting tools and information resources for classifying, measuring, reporting and

supporting city actions in the context of the Green Digital Charter. We’ll also organise a series of exchanges and learning activities for cities, including expert training sessions and study visits to guide cities in executing their intelligent energy initiatives.

Networking and public relations events will also be central to the project’s roll-out as we not only want to build on our number of signatories but also showcase opportunities for cooperation with relevant stakeholders. We will also be linking up with a group of Chinese cities that are developing similar initiatives.

If your city is interested in getting involved, in signing the charter or learning more about it, please get in touch with Nathalie Guri or Jan Franke at the Brussels office.

Nathalie Guri, EUROCIITIES projects manager: nathalie.guri@eurocities.eu

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

Key developments



A winning trio for EUROCITIES 25 - Banja Luka, Heraklion and Novi Sad



EUROCITIES has named the winning entries for its photo competition launched earlier this year to commemorate 25 years of business. The winning photos are from member cities Banja Luka (middle), Heraklion (left) and Novi Sad (right). The trio was selected from over 70 photos reviewed by an independent jury in mid-June.

We were absolutely delighted with the interest shown by members in our competition. Many of you launched competitions and used social media to reach out to young people in your city: a truly remarkable effort to engage local people in Europe and

one which shows the role of cities in making the link between the grassroots and the EU.

All photos submitted will be published in our special 25 years photo book, 'my city – my view', which we'll present at our annual conference in Genoa this year ■

Rose Montgomery, EUROCITIES communications assistant:
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Green cities for Europe's growth

Europe's cities stand ready to deliver 'green growth' by fostering jobs and wealth creation while reducing carbon footprints. That was the message relayed by EUROCITIES executive committee mayors to EU climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard (left) at their meeting in Copenhagen on 22 June.

Recognised around the world for pioneering climate action, mayors of Europe believe it both possible and profitable for the EU to meet economic needs while advancing environmental priorities. By concentrating population and providing the critical mass for innovation in resource efficiency, cities offer the most sustainable form of development for the future.

At the meeting, EUROCITIES president, Frank Jensen, Mayor of Copenhagen (right) said:

"Europe will never meet targets for climate action and economic growth without smart solutions from cities, citizens and businesses. City mayors are uniquely placed to lead this change in



how we live, work and travel. It's essential that the EU and our national governments support us more strongly in these efforts."

As of June 2011, the EU's internationally renowned Covenant of Mayors had attracted some 2,700 signatories, local mayors all committed to cutting CO2 emissions by and beyond 20% by 2020. Referring to the initiative's success, Commissioner Hedegaard said:

"While the international negotiations are moving forward at depressingly slow speed, it is extremely encouraging to observe how much is going on at other levels. Cities have huge potential to involve their citizens and businesses in green growth, to innovate, test new solutions and bring them to the market."

Across Europe, cities are demonstrating the financial and social gains of sustainable approaches by creating programmes in partnership with universities, technologists and the private sector. Copenhagen's goal to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025, for example, is supported by practical plans ranging across transport, health, energy, industry and the service sector.

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

Culture



Using culture to re-think the city

Aarhus city's arts and culture will be pivotal in the coming years as the city council has applied to become European capital of culture 2017. As host to the latest EUROCIITIES Culture Forum, it was explained why 'rethink' has been chosen as the overall theme for the city's bid.

'Rethink' underlines the multiple global challenges which require cities to rethink, redesign, reconnect and rebuild on many levels - urban infrastructure, transport, energy and resources, climate, cultural co-existence, democracy, diversity, sustainability, social polarisation, economic and financial models. Putting this into practice, Aarhus is for example trying to inject new life into its harbour district with a multimedia library that integrates new knowledge sharing and open source innovation environments with traditional books.

As well as learning about Aarhus's ventures, participants also discussed the use of cultural mapping and planning to rethink cultural models in cities and, more broadly, how to use culture to re-think the future of the city.

The topic also linked up to a debate on cultural governance. Cultural governance is about the leadership of cultural

institutions and connects to wider questions on the independence of arts institutions and the relationship between them and political structures. Participants reviewed ways in which cities re-evaluate their priorities and methods for structuring, supporting and controlling the cultural sector.

Finally, a session was held on volunteering in the arts and culture sector ahead of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

The EUROCIITIES Culture Forum will meet again in Antwerp on 26-28 October 2011 to discuss cultural heritage and democracy. Particular attention will be paid to the role of young people with Antwerp being this year's European Youth Capital ■

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

Wroclaw selected as European capital of culture 2016

EUROCIITIES member Wroclaw in Poland has been selected to hold the European capital of culture title in 2016. It will be one of two cities holding the title along with one of our associated partners, Donostia-San Sebastian in Spain.

Wroclaw, in south-western Poland, chose 'spaces for beauty' as its bid slogan, with the aim to create spaces for people to become closer to art and culture, to restore sustainable and aesthetically pleasing environments and to encourage more fulfilling lifestyles.



The cities were recommended for the title by an independent panel made up of 13 culture experts. The competition attracted huge interest in both countries with 11 applicant cities in Poland and 15 in Spain.



Under the slogan 'peace and co-existence', Donostia-San Sebastian will explore ways in which culture and education can contribute to building a diverse, pluralistic and peaceful Europe.

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

Brest and Derry join our culture club!



The cities of Brest in France and Derry, Northern Ireland - UK, have joined the EUROCIITIES Culture Forum as associated partners.

Located at the westernmost tip of France, Brest is at the heart of the Brittany marine cluster. Brest's priorities are making culture accessible, supporting artistic creation, developing forms of solidarity and social diversity, and using culture as a tool to broaden education and citizenship.

Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland. In 2010, Derry made history after successfully winning its bid to become the first ever UK City of Culture. It will play host to a year-long celebration of culture in 2013.

Brest and Derry bring a wealth of expertise and experience to our culture forum. EUROCIITIES is delighted to have both on board!

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

Economic Development



Local public services back on the EU agenda – time for cities to be heard

Local public services are the pillars of Europe's social model and the basis of a good quality of life in our cities. But under current EU legislation and the new Lisbon Treaty, are local authorities fully equipped to adapt their services in response to today's demographic, social and economic trends? This is the crucial issue which EUROCIITIES' working group on services of general interest (SGIs) is looking into. Members of the group would welcome participation from other member cities to work on this issue of local public services, which are at the heart of a booming local economy.

At its latest meeting in Munich, the group discussed specifically whether current legislation:

- sufficiently guarantees the autonomy of local authorities in developing innovative local public services that respond to the needs of citizens;
- provides watertight legal clarity and understanding that internal market rules do not prevail over principles of public service; or

- whether the introduction of a legal framework on SGIs would do more to protect local public services.

Some members believe that the autonomy of local authorities can only be safeguarded through the adoption of a broad EU legal framework. Others recommend that it is more efficient to promote local autonomy by asking for exemptions at the introduction of each new piece of legislation, based on the principle of subsidiarity, which was reinforced in the Lisbon Treaty.

Concerning the European Commission's recently proposed revision of state aid rules for small-scale services, we are advocating simplified rules for local authorities and in particular, we want the current obligation of notifying the commission regarding subsidies for small-scale services, removed.

By the end of 2011/beginning 2012, the commission will also publish a review on SGIs that should take stock of changes in the different pieces of legislation concerning SGIs, as well as rulings from the European Court of Justice. The



commission will eventually propose further actions and/or new legislation.

From our side, EUROCIITIES will meet with Michel Barnier, the European Commissioner in charge of internal market and services and our working group will continue to discuss these issues at their next meeting in September 2011. If your city would like to be part of this work, please contact Marie Ranty at the Brussels office ■

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Creative industries for growing economies

In 2009, Ernő Rubik, one of the ambassadors of the European year of creativity and innovation offered to European Commission President Barroso (pictured) the famous cube that he invented. This cube was conceived especially for the occasion. Since that year, much has been said on what creativity and new thinking can bring to Europe. But what do we mean by 'creativity'? And how exactly do creative industries contribute to the regeneration of big cities? These questions were at the heart of discussions held during the latest EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum meeting in Lille.

Three different site visits showed theory working in practice in terms of what small-scale creative industries can bring to deprived neighbourhoods. The site visits featured:

- a cluster of fashion designers at the centre of one of Lille's deprived neighbourhood;
- a 1930s hospital retrofitted by Japanese designer Katsuhito Nishikawa that has changed the life of its patients; and
- the presentation of an up-and-coming cluster of digital-oriented SMEs in an urban brown field.

The main meeting kicked off with an inspirational speech by London-based consultant Tom Fleming, who elaborated on the unmistakable link between creative industries and urban regeneration, and in particular the snowball effect that creative people can very often initiate in local economies.



A panel debate followed with the Vice-Mayor of Eindhoven, Mary-Ann Schreurs, Councillor Nick Small of Liverpool and Vice-Mayor of Poznan Tomasz Kayser, where each highlighted how important it is for politicians to take into account the value of creative industries as part of integrated territorial development.

Focusing on effective instruments that support territorial development, the forum's next meeting in Warsaw on 24-26 October 2011 will link up to a conference of the Polish EU presidency.

Soraya Zanardo, EUROCIITIES policy assistant – coordination and governance: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu



Public sector as a beacon for EU's energy efficiency plans

EUROCITIES is currently working on its advocacy plan and reaction to the European Commission's proposed directive that's been designed to reduce the EU's energy consumption by 20%.

As forecast in last month's issue of Flash, the new directive will as of 2014, oblige local authorities to renovate at least 3% of public building stock every year to progressively reduce the energy consumed on their own premises.

The commission wishes to set a precedent with plans relating to the public sector. Its proposal, for example, features a legal clause that would require local authorities to purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services thus producing additional savings and encouraging broader market uptake.

Other provisions include more accurate individual energy metering, incentives for SMEs and obligations for large

companies to undergo energy audits and establish national heat and cooling plans. Urban spatial plans should support these efforts by ensuring that as much waste heat as possible is used for heating and cooling, for instance by connecting electricity plants to the local district heating or cooling network.

The proposal will now go both to the European Parliament and Council, both of which will need to work out their respective positions. Should they agree on a common position, the directive will be adopted and rolled out by member states ■

Energy efficiency directive: www.tinyurl.com/64tdzah

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

A breath of fresh air

The European Commission has started a welcome review of existing air quality legislation and implementation in another attempt towards cleaning up Europe.

According to the commission, there are about half a million premature deaths associated with high air pollution. And, as the world's population becomes more and more urban, air quality becomes an increasingly large problem for cities, not least in terms of traffic management and planning.



That's why EUROCITIES is taking part in the commission's expert group that is helping to prepare the EU's new air quality policy, in addition to our de facto recommendation that will be submitted on behalf of the network.

Among our main points, we want to make sure that cities are given scope to do their best to improve air quality with proper support from EU legislation determining national emission ceilings and reduced emissions from individual sources e.g. road vehicles and industrial installations.

Although the legislation in place has helped contain air pollution in recent decades, more efforts are needed to improve air quality, not least in urban areas, where particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide are still in some cases excessive.

The commission's proposals on the review of EU air quality policy are expected to be completed by 2013.

EU air quality: www.tinyurl.com/6l74jfa

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

Call for applications: European Green Capital 2014

Follow in the footsteps of EUROCITIES members Stockholm, Hamburg and Nantes Metropole by putting your city in the running for the 2014 European Green Capital title.

The initiative rewards cities that are at the forefront of environmentally friendly urban living and that can act as role models for other cities.

From a public relations perspective, the European Green Capital award can do a lot for reputation building and city attractiveness. And in the political context, the award shows a rather ambitious commitment towards environmental improvement and sustainable development.

All cities across Europe with more than 200,000 inhabitants can apply for the title. In countries where there is no city with more than 200,000 inhabitants,



the largest city is eligible to apply.

Entries are assessed on the basis of 12 indicators: local contribution to global climate change, transport, green urban areas, noise, waste production and management, nature and biodiversity, air, water consumption, waste water treatment, eco-innovation and sustainable employment, environmental management of the local authority and energy performance.

Deadline for applications: **14 October 2011**

European Green Capital 2014: www.tinyurl.com/5sn9qhl



Get involved in Local Digital Agenda eXCHANGE

EUROCITIES has been invited to support a new initiative, Local Digital Agenda (LDA) eXCHANGE, which was presented at the recent Digital Agenda Assembly on 16-17 June 2011.

LDA eXCHANGE is a mentoring programme that aims to generate integral sustainable development in regions and cities by:

1. Helping local authorities develop LDAs
2. Promoting the implementation of LDAs in as many local/regional societies as possible
3. Encouraging the set-up of an EU-level 'smart specialisation' strategy based on local strengths enforced by every local authority that is implementing an LDA

Members interested in playing an active part in this programme should contact Jan Franke at the Brussels office.

Also, as part of the EU's research efforts, Robert Madelin, European Commission director-general for the EU's digital agenda and other key officials are planning Europe-wide visits to meet with high-level city officials responsible for ICT and structural funds. Ideally these meetings should involve the relevant structural funds' implementing authority. If you are interested in inviting the commission to visit your city, please get in touch with John Doyle, below ■

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

To organise a European Commission visit: John Doyle, European Commission: john.doyle@ec.europa.eu

Blue sky thinking: knowledge management in cities



Knowledge management is necessary for any city to achieve its core responsibility of delivering services to people. At last month's EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum in Dresden, around 50 participants from 30 cities gathered to review ways in which the EU services directive could benefit the reorganisation and knowledge management in cities.

UK business policy advisor Laura Danilaviciute and researcher Rami-Habib Eid-Sabbagh provided insights into the implementation of the directive while representatives of Dresden spoke of their experience in adapting front- and back- office processes.

Participants were also updated on the European SPOCS project on seamless cross-border electronic procedures with a presentation from the project's coordinator Dinand Tinholt.

Forum presentations and material: www.eurocities.eu (members area)

Implementing the EU services directive: www.eubusiness.com/topics/single-market/be-services/brochure.11/?searchterm=services%20directive

SPOCS: www.eu-spocs.eu

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

Working group updates

The smart cities and open data working groups met in Dresden last month for the second time since their launch.

- **Smart cities:** Maria Serrano from Terrassa metropolitan area presented the 'Smart City 2020' strategy, which is being implemented in the city of San Cugat, Spain. This is the first example from a best practice series that will form part of the group's work plan and will help contribute to creating guidelines on implementing smart city strategies.

Dave Carter, from Manchester city council reported back on the Internet Future Week held in Budapest on 17-19 May 2011. It will be crucial to link cities' activities to the European Commission's work on future internet to ensure user-driven development of platforms and applications, he advised.

- **Open data:** three best practice case studies in creating open data contests were

presented - Munich (MogDy), Berlin (Apps4berlin) and Sunderland (Social Southwick). Members also learned about the European-wide LOD2 project, which aims to create a single point of access for all public sector data relating to public authorities in Europe.

Elsewhere, the group is piloting a collaboration workspace through Quicr. If you'd like to join this workspace, please get in touch with Jan Franke at the Brussels office.

Finally, the results from the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum open data survey, were discussed. If you haven't already taken part in the survey, there's still time to do so by visiting the website below.

Working groups on inclusion and the EU services directive also met in Dresden. All available presentations and background material from the meetings are available from the EUROCITIES website.

Open data survey: www.nets.upf.edu/pages/opencities

Join open data collaboration space on Quicr: www.wsdomino.eurocities.eu

Meeting materials: www.eurocities.eu (members area)

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



Intelligent transport for smarter cities

The EU's new €80 million smart cities and communities initiative launched on 21 June, will provide greater breeding ground for ICT-based solutions that respond to cities' sustainability challenges, today and in the future. ICT based intelligent transport systems (ITSs) are central to sustainability as was shown by the range of transport projects presented to participants at the smart cities launch.

For the most part, the technology needed to create a smart city already exists. What remains to be seen is the necessary communication and cooperation between industry, local authorities and citizens to ensure that ITSs are used efficiently and as much as possible.

Congestion, emissions, noise pollution, health effects, land use and economic impacts are just some of challenges that every city must contend with today, and as urban populations soar, these issues will only become more pressing. EUROCITIES supports the commission's latest initiative and is confident of its potential to help bring about smarter city transport in Europe ■

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

Eurovignette nearing the end of the road



The green light has finally been given to the Eurovignette by a clear majority of Members of the European Parliament who approved the directive on 9 June.

The new directive will allow EU member states - who are willing though not obliged - to tax hauliers for air and noise pollution costs. Money raised is intended for roads and

sustainable transport systems across the EU and while participation is voluntary it could become mandatory in four years.

EUROCITIES members can be assured that congestion charging in cities remains excluded from the directive, which doesn't touch the principle of subsidiarity.

The revision includes an effort to decrease congestion through discouraging freight transport during peak times, by giving member states the possibility to charge higher rates (up to 175% of the average tariff) for a maximum of 5 hours a day. Member states will also be able to put aside 15% of the revenues to improve transport sustainability.

As regards the next and final step, the EU Council must approve the new directive before its adoption.

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

EU journey planner in the horizon

"I want to travel through Europe, switching from air to rail or sea, to urban or road transport with a single ticket planned and bought online...The technology already exists, we just need to get things started so that millions of Europeans are able to plan their journey with just a few simple clicks".



This statement was made by EU transport commissioner, Siim Kallas, during his recent announcement of a new competition ambitiously aimed at finding the most user-friendly Europe-wide journey planning options.

Currently, it's not possible to book a journey through Europe - switching from air to rail or sea, to urban or road transport - in one single go and online. So with the launch of this competition, the commission's end goal is to create a one-stop-shop to make access to

Europe-wide travel information and booking much easier.

The resulting service should provide details on journey times, fares and booking facilities from any point in Europe to another. It should also offer information regarding the different means of transport, such as air, waterways, rail, road, and public transport, possibly including bike-sharing and parking information, and real-time information for passengers during their journey.

Both businesses and the general public are invited to submit ideas and the ultimate winners are to receive financial aid from the European Commission to promote their ideas. Why not call on your communities to take up the challenge?

Deadline for ideas:
9 September 2011

Europe-wide journey planner challenge: www.eujourneyplanner.eu

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



EUROCITIES joins first stakeholder meeting for poverty platform

On 22 June, EUROCITIES took part in a first meeting of the stakeholder group that's been set up for the European platform against poverty. The stakeholder group intends to meet twice a year to share information, ideas and discuss social policy issues with the European Commission.

During its first meeting, the group representatives, which come from local and regional authorities, NGOs, civil society and social partners, were presented with the Polish EU presidency's concept of the platform's main event - the annual convention on poverty and social exclusion. The presidency is encouraging national delegations to send a local or regional politician to the first convention taking place on 17-18 October in Krakow.

Launched in 2010, the European platform against poverty is part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It sets out actions to reach the EU target of reducing poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020 ■

Anna Drozd, EUROCITIES programme officer social inclusion – PROGRESS: anna.drozd@eurocities.eu

New research: active inclusion of young people



New reports on the challenges and experiences of cities implementing active inclusion policies are now available.

Produced under our Cities for Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) strand of work, these latest reports illustrate why cities are prioritising support for youth employment and young people's participation in society in times of growing youth unemployment rates.

The reports document the experiences of the nine cities involved in our work on active inclusion - Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Sofia. Each of the cities show that effective local policies and practice can

help young people achieve their educational and career goals, and therefore contribute to broader local and regional economic development.

The cities are also shown to prevent the social exclusion of young people by taking action against early school leaving, empowering young people through mobility and entrepreneurship projects, and offering employment possibilities to young people with disabilities through partnerships with the third sector.

Individual city reports are already available to download from the project website and an overview of the nine studies will be made available soon.

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

Mirte Kortbeek, EUROCITIES social policy researcher – NLAO: mirte.kortbeek@eurocities.eu

Raising awareness, raising abilities

Participants of the third EUROCITIES awareness raising days gathered in Brussels on 23-24 June for a two-day training on European social affairs policy.

Launched in 2009, this annual event is targeted at city staff who are new to their position. In particular, it aims to:



Bronze statues representing hope located outside the European Commission Charlemagne building

- introduce and develop participants' knowledge of EUROCITIES social affairs activities and our work in general;
- explain how the EU works, its legislative procedures and main institutions;
- outline the benefits of EU funding and how cities can apply for it; and
- give city contacts a chance to meet with each other as well as with staff of EUROCITIES.

This year's training featured a presentation from Istvan Vanyolos from the European Commission's department for employment, social affairs and inclusion as well as a visit to the European Parliament.

Caroline Greene, EUROCITIES communication officer – social affairs: caroline.greene@eurocities.eu

Cooperation



Good practice guide on integrated urban governance

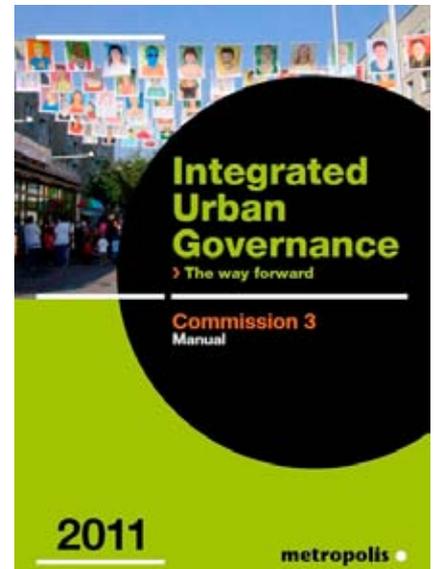
In trying to address the many challenges faced today, cities have found that sectoral approaches are quite often expensive and inefficient. It is against this background that EUROCIITIES member Berlin, has developed a manual on integrated urban governance.

The manual stresses that cities shouldn't simply adopt an integrated approach for the sake of it but that complex challenges should be addressed by measures that are tailored to local situations and involving local actors.

While the manual does not pretend to be a blueprint on governance, it does illustrate which approaches are seen to work in big cities. Case studies are presented from large cities located both in Europe and internationally. And although for example the differences are vast between upgrading disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Medellin, Colombia, and regenerating Stockholm's Järva neighbourhood, the integrated method remains a common thread throughout all.

The new guide was presented at a conference in Brussels on 23 June, where MEP Jan Olbrycht highlighted that there are conflicting interpretations of what an integrated approach actually means. At European level, it refers to the combining of sectoral approaches managed by one single actor and where it makes sense. In contrast, the local level advocates involving all relevant actors in the design and implementation of a strategy for effective integrated governance. It would seem urgent that

all stakeholders clarify and agree on the definition of what will be one of the most recurrent buzzwords for the next financial period of the European Union ■



Integrated urban governance manual: www.tinyurl.com/3fzd8bd

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The Polish EU presidency on local issues

EUROCIITIES' working group on governance and partnerships met in Brussels on 6 July to discuss what the Polish EU presidency has in mind for profiling local level issues during its six month term.

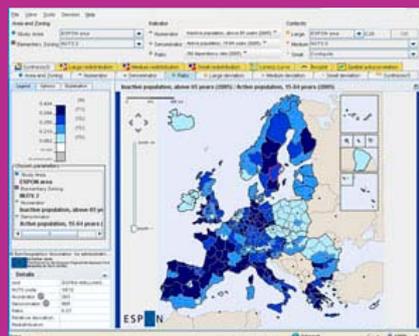
Given the decision-making process and timing around the design of the cohesion policy post-2013, this topic and territorial development in general, will be high on the agenda for the remainder of 2011.

The working group also reviewed EUROCIITIES' work on the national reform programmes (NRPs), which involve cities in the design of the NRPs social chapters.

Looking ahead, the group also looked at ways in which to structure its work to better connect cities within EUROCIITIES and how work more effectively with the EU institutions.

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ESPON hyperatlas: how does your region compare?



The ESPON hyperatlas is now available, providing spatial analysis and indicators for practitioners across Europe. The tool allows users to compare and analyse their regions' relative position at European, national and local levels for criteria such as GDP per capita, unemployment, accessibility and ageing.

The hyperatlas is available as a web application and allows users to design maps based on data selected for comparisons. One of the downsides is that the latest data available is only from as recent as 2005. Nevertheless, the atlas successfully shows the importance of territory-based analysis for developing sectoral policies by helping users to draw comparisons and conclusions from the different economic and social situations across Europe.

ESPON hyperatlas: www.espon.eu

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Projects



MIXITIES goes to Ghent

Representatives from cities across Europe were welcomed by Daniël Termont, Mayor of Ghent on 6-10 June for the first in a series of peer reviews to be held under the EUROCIITIES MIXITIES project in the coming year.

Peer review visits are a core element of the MIXITIES project and a valuable opportunity for exchange of practice and know-how on migrant integration. The Ghent review involved a series of interviews and workshops held with council staff, politicians and stakeholders. The city's commitment to tackling discrimination was made clear both from their accounts but also from the views shared by some of the city's migrants who volunteered to be interviewed.

As part of the exercise, the city carried out a self-assessment of its own progress against an anti-discrimination best practice model, known as the MIXITIES benchmark. Throughout the process, it became apparent that Ghent, like many cities across Europe, is grappling with complex challenges and bottlenecks in attempts to advance its anti-discrimination agenda.

The peer review team, led by MigrationWork CIC, a non-profit consultancy, presented a series of preliminary findings and recommendations which will be further developed in a final report to be presented to Ghent in the coming weeks.

The MIXITIES project is co-financed by the European Commission, DG Home Affairs through the European Integration Fund. Partners include the cities of Amsterdam, Athens,



Barcelona, Belfast, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Florence, Genoa, Ghent, Helsinki, Malmo, Munich, Nuremberg, Oslo, Stockholm and Tampere.

Next MIXITIES peer review:
Stockholm | 26-30 September | Language and newcomer courses ■

MIXITIES: www.integratingcities.eu

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CASCADE – EUROCIITIES' new project on local energy leadership launched

The CASCADE project - cities exchanging on local energy leadership – is now up and running after a successful launch on 29-30 June in Brussels.

Under our leadership, the CASCADE consortium will design and deliver large-scale mutual learning actions among EUROCIITIES member cities. Through a three-year programme packed with peer exchanges, study tours, mentoring and national seminars, the project will bring about improvements in local energy practice.

Already this summer, the project partners will develop a benchmark for structuring mutual learning actions, focusing on:

- energy in urban planning and refurbishment
- renewable energy sources and distributed generation, including combined heat and power
- energy in urban transport

CASCADE involves 19 EUROCIITIES members including Amaroussion, Amsterdam, Birmingham, Burgas, Edinburgh, Eindhoven, Gateshead, Genoa, Gijon, Malmo, Mannheim, Milan, Nantes, Stockholm, Sunderland, Tampere, Terrassa, Venice and Warsaw. The project is co-financed by the European Commission, Executive Agency of Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) through the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

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Sustainable mobility in European regions

London | 4-5 October 2011

How can we influence the people that matter? What mobility management policies are being implemented in our cities? What are the success factors of mobility management measures? These are just some of the questions that delegates will discuss at the PIMMS-TRANSFER conference on 4-5 October in London.

PIMMS-TRANSFER is a three-year project, which promotes and enables the exchange of sustainable mobility management practices between 14 regions in Europe, and implements innovative projects in mobility management.

The October 2011 event will deal with three main themes, specifically:

- **Innovation:** both in terms of the project and conference; be prepared to tweet in the Twitter lounge, take part in speed-networking and interactive workshop sessions
- **Inter-regional cooperation:** speak to and learn from like-minded colleagues from across Europe
- **Ideas:** find out about new policies and projects to implement in your region

PIMMS-TRANSFER: www.pimms-transfer.eu.org

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
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
29 September 2011 London, United Kingdom	Public sector reform Opening up services growth	www.publicserviceevents.co.uk
10-13 October 2011	OPEN DAYS 2011 Regions & cities delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	www.ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2011/index.cfm
18-19 October 2011 Stockholm, Sweden	Future cities: creating tomorrow's urban world Organised by The Economist	www.cemea.economistconferences.com/event/future-cities
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
2-5 November 2011 Genoa, Italy	EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa Planning for people	www.eurocities2011.eu
8-10 November 2011 Hamburg, Germany	Intelligent Cities EXPO Technologies and solutions for smarter cities	www.intelligentcitiesexpo.com
17 November 2011 Barcelona, Spain	BCN networking day 2011 Focus on entrepreneurship	www.barcelonanetactiva.com
29-30 November 2011 Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Smart cities 2011 global conference Intelligent infrastructures for the information age	www.smartcitiesglobal.com

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