

## EDITORIAL

### Cities – a compelling case



The future of Cohesion Policy does not sound the most riveting topic for a day's discussion, but it is vital to the

prospects cities will have of winning EU support after 2013. So our EUROCITIES working group on this issue has planned a programme of evidence-gathering and debates in order for the network to arrive at a position by next spring. The clearer and more compelling that position is, the greater our chances of convincing the new Commission, the new European Parliament, and member state governments of its merits.

We kicked off with a day's 'expert hearing' in late April, at which practitioners and independent policy analysts evaluated together the effectiveness of EU urban programmes so far. Historically EUROCITIES was hugely influential in making the case for a dedicated stream of EU funds for cities. More recently this urban priority was 'mainstreamed' into the structural funds but many cities feel that they have lost out as a result.

We know that Europe's biggest challenges – globalisation, climate and demographic change – will be won or lost in Europe's cities. We need therefore to propose funding tools for the future that are demonstrably effective in supporting cities to meet these challenges.

Chief among the hearing's conclusions was that local development works best through an integrated approach that joins up economic, social, environmental and physical measures. Integration also requires different levels of government to work more effectively together. Above all, interventions work best when those closest to the issues and those directly responsible for delivery, namely city governments, are centrally involved in the design and the implementation of European policy.

Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Cities not capitalising on EU financial recovery tools



EUROCITIES' recent survey on the impact of the financial crisis has expectantly confirmed that most member cities have suffered setbacks. Much less predictably, the study also served to expose some anomalous realities; many cities are for instance not taking advantage of available EU financial recovery tools.

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### Funding available for Covenant of Mayors' signatories



Under the European Commission 'Intelligent Energy-Europe' programme, financial support is available specifically for local government associations and cities that are, or in the process, of becoming a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. Launched in February, the Covenant of Mayors is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the EU's goal of cutting CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020.

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### Call For Entries: EUROCITIES Awards 2009



Applications are now being accepted for the EUROCITIES Awards 2009. The awards recognise outstanding achievements by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices that improve the quality of life for citizens. Projects should address the theme of 'Urban Challenges - Sustainable Solutions', which will be the focus of this year's EUROCITIES annual conference taking place on 25-28 November in Stockholm.

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# Key developments



## Cities not capitalising on EU financial recovery tools, reveals EUROCIITIES

**E**UROCIITIES' recent survey on the impact of the financial crisis has expectantly confirmed that most member cities have suffered setbacks. Much less predictably, the study also served to expose some anomalous realities; many cities are for instance not taking advantage of available EU financial recovery tools.

The survey aimed to determine the nature of the recession's impact on cities, and provided initial insights into the 'on the ground effects', as well as signposting work that may be needed.

Specifically, findings showed that physical urban development projects

have been one of the hardest hit areas. No apparent single 'affect on city' model emerged from the results. The majority of cities said that ongoing or planned projects had either been halted or amended, with some cities choosing to begin new projects as a direct response to the crisis. While manufacturing and housing sectors have been badly hit, the research and public sectors remain well-positioned, suggestive that they are potential drivers towards recovery and growth.

Several respondents indicated they are implementing a range of tools to respond to the crisis, for example introducing

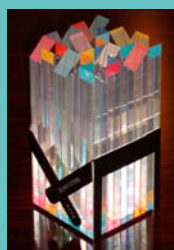
'crisis staff', strategies or support programmes for businesses and workers.

Accessing EU tools embedded in the EU Recovery Plan didn't feature highly as a reactionary measure taken up by cities. A lack of awareness and understanding about these options are the possible reasons behind this.

The EUROCIITIES Brussels Office will identify member cities' needs in relation to the crisis and recession, which a view to implementing a responsive action plan ■

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## Submit the best of your city's projects for the EUROCIITIES Awards 2009



The annual EUROCIITIES Awards recognise outstanding achievements by EUROCIITIES members in the delivery of local

activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens and are designed to inspire other cities.

The 2009 EUROCIITIES Awards will celebrate cities taking the lead in developing projects or initiatives that stimulate economic growth and combat climate change. Projects submitted this year should address the theme of 'Urban Challenges - Sustainable Solutions', which will be the focus of EUROCIITIES' annual conference on 25-28 November in Stockholm.

One of the main strengths of the EUROCIITIES network lies in what cities can learn from each other and the exchange of best practices. This coming conference will draw on cities' experiences in order for it to be as interesting and interactive as possible.

Applicant cities are encouraged to submit project proposals that

distinguish themselves in the three categories:

- **Participation:** activities or practices of a local authority which are successful in actively promoting citizen participation in solving the climate challenge or stimulating the economy.

- **Cooperation:** cooperation undertaken by a local authority with partner organisations or cities. Potential projects falling under this heading include partnerships between citizens, social stakeholders, the private sector or experts.

- **Innovation:** in the planning and implementation of activities or practices by a local authority.

Participating in the Awards will give cities an opportunity to raise their profile and be rewarded for their initiatives. By highlighting what each city can do to work for a better environment and a stronger economy, cities can inspire each other for a stronger Europe.

Shortlisted entrants will be asked to produce a short film to be shown during the annual conference.

Deadline for applications: **15 June 2009**

EUROCIITIES 2009 Stockholm: [www.eurocities2009.eu](http://www.eurocities2009.eu)

## Call for proposals: European eGovernment Awards 2009

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 edition of the European eGovernment awards.



These awards support the implementation of European eGovernment policy and action plans within the wider framework of Information Society policies and strategies (i2010) and the overall objectives of the Lisbon agenda to promote growth and jobs in the EU. In this context, the awards play a major role in the European Commission's good practice exchange initiative in the field of eGovernment.

Public administrations that deliver eGovernment services and solutions are eligible to apply. Applicants must be located in either the EU Member States, EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) or Candidate Countries (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey).

In line with the EU's strategic policy framework, there are four categories for this year's awards:

- eGovernment supporting the Single Market
- eGovernment empowering citizens
- eGovernment empowering businesses
- eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness

Winning projects will be awarded and exhibited at the eGovernment Ministerial Conference on 19-20 November 2009, to be held under the Swedish EU Presidency.

Deadline for applications: **10 June 2009**

eGovernment Awards: [www.epractice.eu/call2009](http://www.epractice.eu/call2009)

# Key developments



## Getting the word out on Europe's big cities

Improving links with external stakeholders is a core element of the communications strategy that EUROCITIES is developing to support the network's long-term vision as well as its current and future priorities, as set out in our 2009-10 work programme. As part of these efforts, we launched the first edition of a new information tool, 'Urban Voice', in April.

'Urban Voice' is an attractively designed electronic newsletter, which promotes and profiles EUROCITIES' key positions, initiatives and messages on the range of policy areas dealt with by our policy forums and working groups.

With Urban Voice, we aim to keep the network's external target

audiences informed of our views on key developments in EU legislation, policies and programmes, which impact on Europe's big cities.

The newsletter will be distributed monthly to representatives of the EU institutions and rotating Presidencies of the EU, think-tanks and research institutes, NGOs, as well as EUROCITIES' partners, associated networks, non-EUROCITIES member cities and the media. Urban Voice will help bridge the gap, and bring the views of the local level, and the political interests and concerns of Europe's great cities directly to the key opinion-shapers and policy-makers at EU level ■



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## Take part in the EUROCITIES – social Europe awareness-raising days!

As part of our partnership with the European Commission on the 'Inclusive Cities for Europe' programme, EUROCITIES is inviting junior staff from city administrations to an awareness-raising seminar in Brussels on 16-17 June 2009. The Inclusive Cities for Europe programme supports knowledge exchange activities and promotes the active involvement of cities in EU social policy processes.

This coming seminar is targeted specifically towards young officers dealing with social policies and related issues, who are interested in learning more about the EU and EUROCITIES' work in the social affairs field.

Places are available for up to twenty participants and the travel and accommodation expenses for ten of those will be reimbursed; priority will be

given to staff from cities in Eastern and Southern Europe. Eligible candidates must be officers aged 35 years or less with no more than three years of work experience. To ensure for well-balanced range of input, participants will be selected on the basis of geography, age and experience.

To apply, candidates should write a short personal statement (one page maximum) on:

**"What is, or could be, the European perspective of my work in my city administration?"**

Interested in joining? Email your personal statement to:

Rory Moody, EUROCITIES Communication Officer – Inclusive Cities:  
[rory.moody@eurocities.eu](mailto:rory.moody@eurocities.eu)

Deadline for applications:  
**1 June 2009**

## Funding available for Covenant of Mayors' signatories

Under the European Commission 'Intelligent Energy-Europe' programme, financial support is available specifically for local government associations and cities that are or in the process of becoming a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors.

Launched in February, the Covenant of Mayors is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reducing CO2 emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use. Actions that qualify for co-financing include helping communities to prepare energy benchmarking; developing a sustainable energy action plan; launching participatory approaches involving

citizens; and presenting methods for efficient information-sharing between actors.



The Intelligent Energy Europe campaign has €65 million for co-financing renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility projects up to 75% of the project's total cost. Currently, Intelligent Energy Europe co-finances 400 projects across Europe.

Under the latest call for proposals, signatories or soon to become signatories of the Covenant should look for the programme's 'Sustainable Energy Communities' category.

Deadline for applications:  
**25 June 2009**

Covenant of Mayors: [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)

Call for proposals: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>



## Public consultation: design as a driver of user-centred innovation

**T**he European Commission has launched an online consultation on the working document, 'Design as a driver of user-centred innovation', which analyses the contribution of design to innovation and competitiveness. 'Design as a driver of user-centred innovation' shows that companies which invest in design tend to be more innovative, more profitable and grow faster than those who do not. It concludes that design has the potential to become an integral part of European innovation policy.

The results of the consultation are expected to potentially shape future joint European action in the area of design and innovation as well as removing some of the barriers to the better use of design in Europe by facilitating exchange of good practice and setting common benchmarks.

Taking part within the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation, the consultation is built on the premise that design is a driver and tool for user-centred sustainable innovation

and differentiation, complementary to technological research and development, and that increased use of design could increase European competitiveness.

Deadline to contribute to consultation:  
**26 June 2009** ■

Consultation - design as a driver of user-centred innovation: <http://tinyurl.com/cntbs4>



## Commission adopts new simplified and more flexible strategy for youth

'Youth - Investing and Empowering', a new strategy developed by the European Commission acknowledges that young people are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, especially in the current economic and financial crisis, and are also a crucial resource in today's ageing society.

Addressing three main goals, the strategy aims to:

- Create more opportunities for youth in education and employment
- Improve access and full participation of all young people in society
- Foster solidarity between youth and society

The new strategy is cross-sectoral with both short and long-term actions. Key policy areas that affect Europe's young people are addressed, particularly youth education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship, social inclusion, health and sport, civic participation, and volunteering.



[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1458\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1458_en.htm)

## Cities eager to become European Capitals of Culture

Dozens of candidate European Capitals of Culture for the period 2014-2019 attended the European Commission's recent information day aimed at cities interested in bidding for the title.

The first of its kind, the information day held in Brussels on 5 May, gathered together European Commission officials and representatives from former, current and forthcoming Capitals of Culture to share their experience, advice and tips with candidate cities.

A range of information was provided - from bidding rounds, to preparing and securing a budget, to the essentials on how to implement a solid governance structure for a European Capital of Culture.

Now in its 24th year of existence, the European Capital of Culture scheme awards the title to two cities from the 27 EU Member States. Vilnius, Lithuania and Linz, Austria, are the current holders.

The EU offers a financial contribution of €1.5 million to each awarded city and cities can also use Structural Funds to co-finance their programmes. The status of co-financing for the post-2013 period remains unclear despite the Commission's confidence in maintaining the current amount.

The next EUROCIITIES Culture forum meeting to be held in Dortmund, Germany on 11-13 June 2009 will give members a chance to learn more about Essen and the Ruhr European Capital of Culture 2010, with which Dortmund is associated.

European Capital of Culture:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm)

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## European Culture Forum to attract 600 participants

Brussels | 28-30 September 2009

The second European Culture Forum to be held on 28-30 September in Brussels is expected to gather around 600 culture experts from civil society, culture-focused organisations, Member States and the EU institutions.

The conference will present past and ongoing projects funded by Culture 2000 and the Culture Programme 2007-2013, encourage exchange of experience and good practice

between cultural operators, and will take stock of progress in implementing the European Agenda for Culture and its three main objectives: cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; culture as a catalyst for creativity; and culture as a key component in international relations.

Keynote speeches, panel discussions and workshops will be held to guide debate.

European Culture Forum: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1904\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1904_en.htm)



# Economic Development



## Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurship in cities - policy and practice

**E**UROCITIES on 8 May held a meeting with European Commission officials, representatives of cities, specialist networks, regions and the private sector, to discuss the experiences of SME support in cities.

Maive Rute, European Commission Director for SME's Competitiveness highlighted the key EU level support tools and mechanisms – emphasising for example, the importance of financial tools such as JEREMIE (Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises initiative) to help support SME development.

Given the challenging economic context facing companies and entrepreneurs

within cities at present, it was timely to hear of The Hague's innovative part-EU funded support programmes for business start-ups through which loans are combined with practical guidance and training to give a comprehensive support structure.

Barcelona Activa emphasised the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs in order to make the most of cities' potential, while UEAPME (the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) highlighted that all public policy, from transport planning to education, affects the success of SMEs – and that any policies developed at local, national or EU level must be 'SME proof' ■



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## Barca report adds to cohesion policy debate

Debate on the future of the EU's cohesion policy post-2013 received a major contribution on 27 April with the publication of an independent report published at the request of the European Commission.

The report, written by Italian economist Fabrizio Barca, broadly backs the EU's current cohesion policy which aims to boost development in underperforming regions, but argues that several reforms are required for the EU's long-term goals to succeed in the post-2013 era.

A fundamental approach underpinning Barca's vision for the future is place-based interventions, moving eligibility for support (currently focusing on administrative regions) towards more functional areas e.g. the level where flows of goods and services can be identified as well as the operation of labour, transport and housing markets.

Barca advocates rationalising future funds by targeting up to 65% towards three or four key priorities such as skills and ageing. Funds would be allocated on a country-needs basis, distributed by national bodies, and would follow current proportions for distribution between lagging and non-lagging regions.

Recommendations also include promoting the principles of additionality by linking EU funds with domestic spending, as well as more flexible financial management with reduced administrative burdens on EU Member States and managing authorities. To ensure for the sharing of lessons learned through the implementation of funds, an increase in the cooperation budget (used to fund INTERREG, for example) is proposed.

The Barca report was developed after consultation with academic experts and member-state officials throughout 2008. Its recommendations are not formal European Commission policy, but will make significant contributions to the strategic debate on the issue of cohesion policy.

Report and EU official commentary: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy)

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## The 'Silver Economy' in cities – older people in the workplace

Nuremberg | 24-26 June 2009



EUROCITIES' Economic Development Forum's (EDF) next meeting in Nuremberg will focus on the impact of demographic change on the economic development of European cities.

The thematic conference will feature three sessions to discuss specific aspects of this theme, including:

- Challenges cities face as a result of the demographic change

- The impact of demographic change on labour markets and new human resource management

- New products and industries needed to satisfy future consumer needs

EUROCITIES' Working Groups on Cohesion Policy; Entrepreneurship; Spatial Planning and the City of the Future; Economic Migration; Clusters; and Urban Regeneration will also meet.

EDF Nuremberg 2009: [www.nuernberg.de/internet/eurocities\\_e/](http://www.nuernberg.de/internet/eurocities_e/)

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## Local power for climate change results

The international agreement to be reached at the Copenhagen COP15 this December will fall short of expectations if local level governments' key role in combating climate change is not recognised.

This was EUROCIITIES' message at a meeting on 28 April in Brussels with MEPs, representatives from Commissioner Piebalgs' Cabinet, and the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU.

Politicians from some of Europe's largest cities appealed for a formal recognition in the EU's contribution to the agreement. Ronan Dantec, Vice-President of Nantes Metropole, said:

"Climate protection depends not only on agreement between nation states. Making a real difference depends on how people live their everyday lives - local action led by local government. We all

know that local authorities are crucial to the effective implementation of policies and measures needed for Europe to reach its targets in this area."

EUROCIITIES argues that a formal reference to local authorities in the global agreement would pave the way for:

- 1. Informed policymaking:** The strategic accord between the world's nations needs to be complemented by the practical experience of local governments, which will be the level at which most change needs to be delivered.
- 2. Local empowerment:** If European and national governments really want results, then they must empower local governments and support them to implement climate strategies.



- 3. Results on target:** While the climate change threatens the whole planet, many of the solutions are local.

To strengthen its case, EUROCIITIES has joined with other local government networks worldwide on a two-year strategy, 'the Local Government Climate Roadmap', to work for an effective post-Kyoto climate regime with cities and local authorities at the core.

EUROCIITIES will also use its annual conference this November in Stockholm to deliver this message to the EU Swedish Presidency ■

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## Energy efficiency and eco-efficiency - priorities of EU Swedish Presidency

Energy efficiency and the EU's transition to an eco-efficient economy will be the flagship issues for the Swedish government during its presidency of the Council starting in June.

- Energy efficiency:** Stockholm intends to conclude discussions between the Council and the European Parliament on the three legislative proposals pending on energy performance (buildings, labelling of tyres and labelling of energy products).
- Eco-efficiency:** The Swedish government has also scheduled an informal meeting of energy ministers and an informal meeting of their environment counterparts in July, to look at eco-efficiency, before an informal meeting of competitiveness ministers considers the issue in October.
- Energy security:** Stockholm plans to launch the debate on the proposal of the 'energy security and solidarity package' tabled by the European Commission in November 2008 with particular reference to the review of the security of gas supply regulation.

The incoming Swedish Presidency is also holding the following events in Stockholm: an international conference on wind power (14-15 September); a high-level meeting on eco-efficient bio-energy (16-18 September); and a conference on the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (21-22 September).



EU Swedish Presidency: [www.se2009.eu](http://www.se2009.eu)

## Financing for cities' actions against climate change

Against the current economic downturn, the issue of financing for climate change has become one of heightened importance, and was in fact central to discussion at the recent meeting of the EUROCIITIES Working Group on Climate Change and Energy.

Presentations from the European Investment Bank, la Caisse des Dépôts and the German Federal Environment Agency prompted discussion on the array of financial mechanisms available to local governments. Concerns were expressed over the potential costs endured by cities in applying for funding, which were seen to vary from city to city. Participants considered the possibility of having a more suitable mechanism created for local governments.

Bearing in mind the environmental goal of cities which is to reduce over one billion ton of carbon dioxide by 2020, the economics of this translates into a final cost averaging at €30 billion per year. To reach their goal, cities not only need access to financial resources, but also 'new mechanisms that prevent them from competing for financial resources', as pointed out by Ronan Dantec, Vice-Mayor of Nantes Metropole.

The topic will be further addressed at the 'Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit' on 2-4 June 2009 in Copenhagen.

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## European Parliament blocks telecoms reform

**T**he European Parliament on 6 May blocked a wide-ranging reform of EU telecoms rules having failed to reach an agreement on an earlier compromise with EU Member States over the protection of Internet users' rights. EU lawmakers restated their support for an amendment underlining that Internet access cannot be restricted 'without prior ruling by the judicial authorities'. 407 MEPs backed the amendment, while 57 opposed it and 171 abstained.

The Council of Telecom Ministers meeting on 12 June must now review the amended proposal on which they struggled to reach a small number of concessions over the past months. If the Council rejects the amendment, the dossier will be discussed during the

Parliament's next term. It might then decide to open up other points for discussions again or stand by the work undertaken by the previous assembly.

Compromises reached on other elements of the reform e.g. creation of the new telecoms authority; investments in new generation networks; reforms in use of the radio spectrum; and protection of consumer rights and of privacy, were all approved by the Parliament. The package also holds provisions relevant to cities, in particular the geographical segmentation of markets and role of local authorities in facilitating duct sharing and 'smart' digging.

The three responsible parliamentarians in question, Catherine Trautmann (PSE; FR), Malcolm Harbour (EPP-ED; UK) and

Pilar del Castillo Vera (EPP; ES), expressed disappointment at the result. "We haven't seen the end of the telecoms package", Ms Trautmann predicted. The surprising result relates to the infamous French 'Hadopi' law, which provides for disconnecting users from the web after a series of copyright violations. The issue of the observation of fundamental rights, personal liberty, protection of privacy and access to information is a highly complex one and will not find its solution in the proposed amendment alone, Ms Trautmann pointed out ■

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## ICT for a low-carbon city

Reykjavik | 10-12 June 2009

Meeting at Iceland's capital city, Reykjavik, on 10-12 June 2009, the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum will discuss how city

governments can use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to reduce their city's carbon footprint. Specifically, discussions will focus on:

- **Service delivery:** Rethinking how innovation and green technology can be used to change traveling habits as well as energy and paper consumption and IT, online services and smart solutions can be used to help cities become carbon-neutral service providers.
- **Doing business:** Encouraging new corporate thinking and working together to find new solutions, to implement new values, new ideas, to reduce energy use and become CO2 aware.
- **Changing behaviour:** Enabling and encouraging local businesses and citizens to become environmentally friendly. The role of local authorities is not only to make policy, but to put it into practice and assist others to do the same. Local authorities need to lead by good example.



ICT for a low-carbon city: [www.reykjavik.is/eurocities](http://www.reykjavik.is/eurocities)

For logistical assistance, contact Hreinn Hreinsson: [Hreinn.hreinsson@reykjavik.is](mailto:Hreinn.hreinsson@reykjavik.is)

## EU launches consumers' digital rights guide

European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, and Meglena Kuneva, Commissioner for Consumer Protection have launched a new online guide for citizens which sets out the digital rights they enjoy as consumers under EU law.

The 'eYouGuide' gives practical advice on a range of consumers' digital rights including provisions on broadband service and use, online shopping, music downloading and online personal data protection. This last area has become more important in recent times given the surge of interest in social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.

The eYouGuide informs consumers on rights to:

- Clear information about prices and conditions before purchasing an item;
- Decide if and how their personal data is treated;
- Have goods delivered within thirty days of purchase;
- A minimum 'cooling-off' period of seven working days



after purchase for consumers to change their mind; and

- Protection against rogue vendors, and unfair contractual terms and commercial practices.

The guide aims to strengthen consumer trust in online business and support digital markets. According to Commissioner Kuneva, "lots of consumers are put off buying goods on the Internet. They are worried that goods purchased online won't be delivered or will be faulty, and they don't know what to do if there are problems".

To address these concerns, the Commission has also launched a 'Digital Agenda' for consumer rights. The plan aims to harmonise licensing systems for digital content like music and films, clarify questions of private copying of copyrighted content, improve privacy policies, and boost confidence in online payments and combat spam.

eYou Guide: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/youguide/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/youguide/index_en.htm)





## Another milestone in the life-cycle of Europe's urban mobility

Voted in by 324 to 11, Members of the European Parliament unanimously adopted the Parliament's own-initiative report on the EU Urban Mobility Action Plan in Strasbourg on 23 April.

Having supported Rapporteur Gilles Savary (PES, FR) who was leading this initiative, EUROCITIES is delighted with the outcome, believing it to be another milestone towards promoting better transport systems and modes within and between cities.

With the adoption, the Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee seeks to prompt EU action on problems relating to urban mobility such as congestion and pollution. Mr Savary justifies EU competence in this field by pointing to the EU's right to take measures towards achieving its environmental and climate change objectives.

In the report, the Committee calls for integrated sustainable urban travel plans in conurbations with over 100,000 inhabitants. Such plans would cover for example:

- the development of 'soft traffic' infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians
- intermodal car parks and exchange platforms
- adapting urban mobility networks to the needs of reduced mobility users

- better interconnection of transport networks and master plans for freight transport

The report also calls for a "charter of pedestrians and cyclists' rights", similar to that related to air passengers' rights.

The Committee suggests that a European policy be introduced for the standardisation and certification of equipment to provide for safety, comfort, network interoperability, accessibility for people with reduced mobility, soft transport, and clean engine technologies.

MEPs also recommend creating a new EU fund, as well as drawing money from the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) programme and from the EU economic recovery plan. They also propose that European state aid and co-financing in the field of urban transport be made conditional upon the development of integrated urban travel plans.

The European Commission is expected to publish the Action Plan on Urban Mobility in early July ■



Parliament report on recent vote: <http://tinyurl.com/ok5qlx>

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## European Commission promotes cycling as healthy way to travel

Speaking to 1,000 participants at the 15th Velo-City conference organised by the Brussels Region on 12-15 May, European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani responsible for transport, confirmed his commitment to presenting an action plan in the field of urban mobility this year.

"We have to promote cycling, which provides a zero emission answer to travelling in our cities. It can be an effective, healthy and fun way to get from one place to another, but it is crucial that we make sure that it is also safe," said Mr Tajani. "Around half of all journeys by car are less than 5km long, confirming that there is great potential for the use of bicycles", he continued.

To promote safe cycling, the EU helps fund the development of cycle infrastructure, for example through the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds. For the period 2007-2013, an estimated budget of more than €600 million will be used to invest in cycle infrastructure across the EU. The STEER Programme, which promotes more sustainable energy use in transport, has provided €0 million to 10 European pilot projects related to cycling.

EU funds also support the development and evaluation of new approaches to safe cycling in cities through CIVITAS, an EU initiative helping cities to achieve a more sustainable, clean and energy efficient urban transport system. The EU has co-financed the implementation and evaluation of 35 cycling-related measures across the 58 cities that participate in CIVITAS.

Velo-City 2009: [www.velo-city2009.com](http://www.velo-city2009.com)

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## EUROCITIES Mobility Forum

Lodz | 2-4 June 2009

EUROCITIES' Mobility Forum's next meeting in Lodz, Poland, will combine policy updates, exchange of best practice, as well as site visits that will highlight aspects of urban mobility which are unique to cities located in the EU's eastern member states.

The meeting's plenary session will look at 'passenger-friendly public transport', focusing on:

- The benefits of accessibility and connectivity
- Urban mobility in a time of demographic change: social inclusion, safety, security and promotion of a new mobility culture focusing on the youth and elderly
- New technologies and innovative practices at the service of passengers

Mobility projects, CIVITAS PLUS and the European Mobility Week 2009, will also be presented during the meeting.

High-level speakers from new Member States' cities, Budapest, Lodz and Warsaw, as well as business representatives from Nissan will take part in the plenary session.

The meeting will further provide space for participants to assess and define what other steps should be taken to develop more passenger-friendly public transport.

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# Social Affairs



## Experts debate future EU funding for integrated local development

Inspired by recent debates about the future of EU Cohesion Policy, and in search of effective tools to deliver integrated local development, EUROCITIES convened leading experts and city representatives for an expert hearing on 28 April in Brussels to discuss their experience of past funding periods and explore future options. The debate centered on the most effective financial mechanisms and governance structures for furthering an integrated approach to local development.

All participants agreed on the need for flexible funding instruments and tailor-made solutions to support local development now and in the future. Supporting this opinion, Professor Michael Parkinson, Director of the European Institute for Urban Affairs at Liverpool John Moores University, pointed to the importance of new financial models, such as Local Asset Based Vehicles and Tax Increment Financing.

Brian Field, Urban Planning and Development Advisor at the European Investment Bank, presented the JESSICA scheme (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment) as a flexible financial mechanism to support local development.

He underlined its capacity to foster a loan culture among European regions.

A series of local case studies were presented by city practitioners showing that institutional design should be sensitive to local situations; there is no 'one size fits all' approach for Europe. Partnerships need time to develop and, in the current period, short time-frames for programming often jeopardise strategic planning.

The findings from the hearing will feed into a EUROCITIES position on the future of integrated local development in the context of the post-2013 EU Cohesion Policy ■



## City view presented in EU peer review on social services

At the invitation of the Danish Ministry for Social Welfare, John England, the City of Leeds which is an active member of EUROCITIES' Social Affairs Forum, took part in a peer review held in April in Copenhagen to provide input on behalf of local authorities regarding the issue of 'combining choice, quality and equity in social services'.

Speaking to representatives of national governments and other experts, he presented the city perspective on the current trend towards personalisation of social services. On the role of local authorities in bringing together different strands of social and health care, Mr England stressed that care services need to account for the increasing diversity

of city populations. This challenge has recently been taken up by EUROCITIES DIVE (Diversity and Equality in European cities) project which is developing benchmarks on promoting equality and managing diversity in cities.

## 'Welfare mix demands clearer principles' says EUROCITIES at EU conference

At the EU Czech Presidency conference on 'Social Services - An Effective Tool for Active Inclusion' held in Prague last April, EUROCITIES' Senior Policy Officer for Social Affairs, Simon Guentner spoke of current trends and challenges related to local level social service delivery.

Presenting the initial results of the new EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) which monitors the local implementation of social policies, Mr Guentner highlighted the range of powers and responsibilities held by city administrations working in different welfare systems. There is an increasing trend towards a 'welfare mix' in the planning, resourcing and delivery of social services which has led to complex governance arrangements, thus heightening the need for clear and transparent principles of service quality.

Over the coming months, the EUROCITIES-NLAO project will produce five comparative studies on this subject.

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## European Parliament advocates key role for cities in EU Active Inclusion strategy

In concert with the European Commission and the European Council, the European Parliament has endorsed the 'Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market', a strategy which goes beyond employment-centered activation policies and builds on a combination of adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services.

In its report presented by MEP Jean Lambert (EGP; UK) on 8 April, the Parliament makes a strong case for every individual's right to sufficient resources and assistance to live independently. It calls for an end to asylum seekers' dependence on benefits by allowing them to work while their application for asylum is pending review.

The report also welcomes the Commission's initiative to involve local authorities in monitoring the implementation of active inclusion strategies through the EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) project and asks the Commission and EU Member States to give those observatories a strong role in the future policy process.

European Parliament report on 'Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market': <http://tinyurl.com/qxhkho>

# Participation & Cooperation



## EUROCITIES helps define the "Sustainable City"

**A**s the pan-European representative body for Europe's biggest cities, EUROCITIES has been appointed to help EU Member States and the European Commission develop a set of criteria that cities can consider in their actions aimed at making them a "sustainable city" by definition.

Following the adoption of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable Cities during the German EU Presidency two years ago, Member States led by France, decided to develop a tool that cities could use when implementing the principles included in the Charter.

What's now being developed will not be a compulsory, one-size-fits-all framework. Nor will it be linked to EU funding procedures. At least for now, it is an attempt to agree on a common practical vision of what a sustainable

city should be. By establishing this common set of criteria, all EU cities will have a reference point and a common language to help facilitate exchanges on effective ways of achieving sustainability at environmental, social and economic level. This aside, it is intended also that the framework will be flexible enough to allow cities to adapt it to their own specificities.

The framework will include three main sections:

1. Questions to guide cities in developing and/or assessing their own sustainability frameworks
2. Good practice from cities which have been successful in developing effective sustainable strategies
3. Qualitative and quantitative indicators linked to the questions to

allow for a concrete assessment of cities' performances

The work will be developed alongside that undertaken by an URBACT working group of cities. This latter group is being set up to accompany and test the outcome of the work as it progresses. EUROCITIES' Working Group European Governance & Partnerships is responsible for preparing the network's input into the process.

Concrete results of this work should be ready by 2011 and will be presented during the Hungarian EU Presidency ■

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Reference framework for sustainable cities:  
[www.rfsustainablecities.eu](http://www.rfsustainablecities.eu)

## Cities' role in European Neighbourhood Policy

Tbilisi | 25-26 June 2009

Georgia's Capital and largest city, Tbilisi, is set to host a conference on cities' role in contributing to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) objective of sharing the benefits of the EU's 2004 enlargement with neighbouring countries. The conference will take place alongside the next meeting of the EUROCITIES Working Group (WG) ENP & Enlargement.

Conference participants will discuss:

- Priority areas of cooperation from the Eastern city perspective
- Experiences and the added-value of working with EUROCITIES' Forums and WGs
- Concrete partnership opportunities between ENP and EU cities, as well as within the different Forums and WGs of EUROCITIES.

This meeting is timely as it takes place when the EU is sending a clear message of support to Eastern neighbours with the formal adoption of the Eastern Partnership in early May. This partnership is an ambitious initiative aimed at



deepening political and economic relations, increasing energy security and mobility, and giving an additional boost to pro-democratic and market-oriented reforms in Eastern partner countries (see December 2008 FLASH).

## Against the recession, networking remains priority for EUROCITIES members

On 14-15 May the City of Oslo welcomed 81 representatives from 56 EUROCITIES member cities for the 5th edition of the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform.

A networking event par excellence, the Cooperation Platform this year featured discussions on the challenges and impacts of the recession specific to the international work carried out by cities. Notably, the weight of the recession has been seen to vary considerably from city to city.

On the repercussions for EUROCITIES' function and activities, participants looked at initiatives and methods aimed at enhancing EUROCITIES' role as a dynamic support and network structure for cities to find more and better opportunities to exchange knowledge at this difficult time.

The event offered an abundance of opportunities for formal and informal exchanges allowing EUROCITIES' contact officers to explore mutually beneficial opportunities for increased and more efficient international cooperation.

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# Projects



## CIVITAS ELAN: improving urban transport through citizens' participation

**C**IVITAS ELAN is one of the five 'demonstration projects' of CIVITAS PLUS, the third phase of an EU-funded initiative which co-finances the uptake of sustainable transport measures in 25 European cities. The cities involved - Brno, Ghent, Ljubljana, Porto and Zagreb - aim to generate support for 68 measures that will mobilise citizens to develop clean mobility solutions for vital cities, ensuring health and access for all. The measures will be introduced over the next four years.

The 68 individual measures will touch on a variety of thematic areas, including energy efficiency, alternative fuels, clean vehicle fleets, planning of intermodal infrastructure, access charging, mobility management and management of public spaces, promoting walking and cycling, road safety, security in public transport, clean transport telematics, flexible mobility services, freight distribution, traveller information and ticketing.

The project will develop an overall strategy for citizens' engagement, which will define the main objectives, method, actors, principles, standards and indicators for successful public participation. This strategy will serve the basis for cities to develop action plans on citizens' engagement. Minimal standards will include appropriate information for citizens; open consultation processes; and the factoring of citizens' comments and proposals. Sustainable mobility platforms will be created to enhance the participatory process.

All CIVITAS ELAN cities are medium-sized cities with strong identities, a rich cultural heritage and large student populations. They each have ambitious infrastructure projects including the development of major transport corridors and interchanges, often combined with a complete renewal of both urban and industrial areas. Ghent will host a first series of workshops and trainings in



September to discuss approaches to citizens' participation and stakeholder consultations.

EUROCITIES, through its involvement in CIVITAS VANGUARD, a project which supports and coordinates CIVITAS training and dissemination activities, has established a partnership with the five CIVITAS ELAN-cities in order to close the gap between project operations at local and European level ■

CIVITAS: [www.civitas-initiative.org](http://www.civitas-initiative.org)

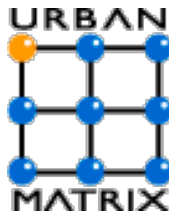
## Pros and cons of public-private partnerships for sustainable urban development

Representatives from the URBAN MATRIX partners - including EUROCIITIES member cities and academic experts - met in Malmo on 27-28 April for the 5th URBAN MATRIX thematic workshop focusing on 'Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Sustainable Urban Development'. URBAN MATRIX provides a knowledge transfer platform designed to support European local authorities in addressing sustainable urban development.

Michael Burnett, Director of the European PPP Forum, opened the workshop with an introduction to PPPs. He talked participants through various forms of PPPs, plus their advantages and disadvantages for sustainable urban development taking account of today's financial crisis.

Case studies and lessons learned from the following PPPs involving cities were presented:

- Amsterdam's public private collaboration in urban regeneration projects
- Malmo's partnership on energy provision
- Helsinki's efforts to promote eco-labeling for SMEs



Donovan Rypkema, President of Heritage Strategies International, also presented several successful PPPs established for the management and safekeep of heritage buildings in the US.

City representatives discussed the current juxtaposition caused by the financial crisis, which in many cases has meant that the financing of city projects is now being balanced against cities' environmental goals.

The workshop's presentations and report are available from the URBAN MATRIX website.

URBAN MATRIX: [www.urban-matrix.net](http://www.urban-matrix.net)

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## Save the date! CIVITAS Forum 2009

Krakow | 19-21 October 2009

The CIVITAS Forum 2009 taking place on 19-21 October in Krakow, Poland, will explore the future of urban mobility and the way forward for CIVITAS.

Supported by the European Commission, the CIVITAS initiative aims to promote cleaner and better transport in cities through the implementation of ambitious integrated sustainable urban transport strategies. The annual conference engages both local and European politicians in an exchange of dialogue and views together with practitioners in urban mobility field. EUROCIITIES is a key partner of the CIVITAS Initiative and is co-organising the 2009 Forum.

The Forum's draft programme and call for contributions will be published soon on the CIVITAS website.

CIVITAS Forum 2009:  
[www.civitas.eu/forum\\_conference\\_2009](http://www.civitas.eu/forum_conference_2009)

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# Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
<b>2-6 June 2009</b> Madrid, Spain	<b>City Futures in a Globalising World</b> Focus of 2nd City Futures Joint Conference	<a href="http://www.cityfutures2009.com">www.cityfutures2009.com</a>
<b>3-6 June 2009</b> La Baule, France	<b>Investing in Global Cities: Opportunities in Adversity</b> Focus of 2009 World Investment Conference	<a href="http://www.labaulewic.org">www.labaulewic.org</a>
<b>4-5 June 2009</b> Glasgow, United Kingdom	<b>Great Places, Great Cities</b> The role of quality public spaces and placemaking in creating sustainable, liveable cities	<a href="http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk">www.greenspacescotland.org.uk</a>
<b>7-11 June 2009</b> Vienna, Austria	<b>58th UITP World Congress and Mobility &amp; City Transport Exhibition</b> Public transport: making the right mobility choices	<a href="http://www.uitp.org/vienna2009">www.uitp.org/vienna2009</a>
<b>14-16 June 2009</b> Stuttgart, Germany	<b>Cities for Mobility World Congress 2009</b> Focusing on Socially inclusive mobility – Access for all	<a href="http://www.cities-for-mobility.org">www.cities-for-mobility.org</a>
<b>14-18 June 2009</b> Edmonton, Canada	<b>Connecting Leaders – Advancing Local Action for Sustainability</b> ICLEI World Congress	<a href="http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009">www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009</a>
<b>22-23 June 2009</b> La Baule, France	<b>The Hague, The Netherlands</b> The added-value of Satellite Information and Services	<a href="http://www.eurisy.org">www.eurisy.org</a>
<b>24 June 2009</b> Lille, France	<b>Local governance in Central and Eastern European countries</b> Organised by the Observatory on Local Autonomy	<a href="http://www.ccre.org">www.ccre.org</a>
<b>24-26 June 2009</b> Paris, France	<b>International Conference on Sustainable Urban Transport &amp; Environment</b> Organised by the Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology	<a href="http://www.waset.org">www.waset.org</a>
<b>16-18 September 2009</b> Stockholm, Sweden	<b>World Bioenergy - Clean Vehicles &amp; Fuels 2009</b> Organised by Stockholm City Council and others	<a href="http://www.elmia.se/en/wbcvf">www.elmia.se/en/wbcvf</a>

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