

## EDITORIAL

### City leadership



It is not an accident that EUROCITIES' three priorities for 2010 – economic recovery, climate and inclusion – relate to Europe's strategic challenges, as identified by the

Commission. Our job is to convince the European institutions that in key respects these strategic challenges have local solutions: they will be won or lost in cities.

Two recent EUROCITIES initiatives underline the role of city governments in addressing these issues. Both are charters; commitments to action on which mayors have by signing, agreed to be held accountable.

The 'Green Digital Charter' initiated by Manchester and signed to date by 22 EUROCITIES members, sets out how they will reduce emissions through the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). From smart buildings to passenger transport information, ICTs can change the energy behaviour of businesses and citizens. The charter includes an undertaking to reduce the footprint of ICTs themselves by as much as 30% by 2020.

The 'Integrating Cities Charter' was launched by the Mayor of London last month with 16 cities as first signatories. It commits city administrations to improving migrant integration through policy-making, service delivery, employment and procurement. Migration enriches our cities; by embracing the skills, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurialism of all residents, regardless of their place of birth, Europe stands to emerge stronger from the recession. But the job of managing integration and realising that potential is down to city governments.

Here are two reasons then – one concerning innovation and climate, the other social inclusion and economic potential – why cities must be at the heart of European policy making. It's a message that we will continue vigorously to press.

Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Mark your calendar! Cities against poverty and exclusion - health inequalities



The first of EUROCITIES' four seminars organised as part of our campaign for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, will focus on tackling health inequalities in cities. On 21-22 April in Ghent, practitioners from four cities - Genoa, Leeds, Nottingham and Tallinn - will gather to compare their approaches to tackling health inequalities and identify opportunities for improvement.

[see p. 9](#)

### NLAO report on housing now available



What are the main challenges cities face with delivering social and supported housing services? How do they affect the people at risk of social exclusion in our cities? The first results of the EUROCITIES-Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) project are now available.

[see p. 11](#)

### EUROCITIES explores finance for climate change



Despite the disappointing outcome of the Copenhagen negotiations, EUROCITIES wants to continue building on the EU's official recognition given to the role that local authorities play in tackling global warming. The EUROCITIES Executive Committee Working Group on Climate Change and Energy met in Brussels on 25 February to evaluate progress on this front and agree on actions for 2010.

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# Key developments



## More cities sign up to EUROCITIES Green Digital Charter

A growing number of Europe's biggest cities are signing up to 'EUROCITIES Green Digital Charter' that commits them to reducing emissions through Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).

An official signing ceremony was held on 23 February as part of the High Level Event on ICT for Energy Efficiency organised by the European Commission, in cooperation with the Spanish Presidency of the EU, and EUROCITIES.

Joining the first 14 cities that signed up to the charter in November 2009, these latest 7 signatories - Amsterdam, Bologna, Helsinki, Malaga, Nice Cote d'Azur, Porto and Rijeka - have agreed to:

- Deploy five large-scale ICT pilot projects before 2015;
- Decrease ICT's direct carbon footprint by 30% by 2020; and
- Create a partnership of cities on ICT & Energy Efficiency to work until 2011.

The city of Nuremberg intends to join the group in March.

Speaking at the ICT4EE event, Francisco de la Torre Prado, Mayor of Malaga (pictured third from right) commented:

"Europe's climate targets will only be met through measures that help city governments to manage



down their carbon footprint. The Green Digital Charter aims to be a catalyst for cities to work together to find creative and imaginative ways to become smart cities."

Today, cities across Europe are responsible for a main share of emissions, but they are also well-placed to deliver solutions. In terms of specific measures aimed at reducing emissions through IT, city councils that get behind the charter will identify opportunities to use new technologies at a critical scale, provide for regulatory incentives, set up new types of public-private partnerships with business, industry and the voluntary sector, and

share expertise and practice with fellow cities.

At the event's opening ceremony, Digital Agenda Commissioner Neelie Kroes warmly welcomed the Green Digital Charter: "The commitments of cities to setting targets to reduce their own carbon footprint and also to deploy five large scale ICT pilots for cities before 2015 is truly inspiring."

The signature of the document already by 21 cities follows the Commission Recommendation adopted in October 2009 that emphasises the role of the public authorities in achieving the EU's 2020 targets. The

Commission will encourage more of these sorts of collaboration.

The Green Digital Charter originates from talks between EUROCITIES, Manchester City and the European Commission. At its launch in November 2009, the cities that signed up included Birmingham, Bristol, Genoa, Ghent, Lisbon, Manchester, Murcia, Nantes Metropole, Reykjavik, Vienna, Tallinn, The Hague, Stockholm and Zaragoza.

If your city would like to join this initiative, please get in touch ■

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

# Key developments



## Mayors sign EUROCITIES Charter on migrant integration



**M**ayors from 16 of Europe's biggest cities gathered at the EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Conference in London on 22 February to sign a charter setting out their vision on migrant integration and underlining the commitment and leadership of Europe's cities on this.

By signing the 'EUROCITIES Charter on Integrating Cities', cities commit, through their roles as policymakers, service providers, buyers of goods and services and employers, to strengthen their efforts in ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination for migrants. Other European cities are invited to sign up to this Charter and show their commitment to the continued integration of migrant communities.

The EUROCITIES Charter was an integral part of the Integrating Cities Conference "Towards a Shared Vision for Migrant Integration", hosted by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, EUROCITIES and the European Commission at London's City Hall.

Speaking at the conference, Mayor Johnson said: "London is a city shaped and enriched by the people who have come here from all corners of the globe. Our history is not only English, but is also the history of the Italians, French,

Scandinavians, Jews, Jamaicans, Irish, Asians, and countless more."

"It is then fitting that London should be at the forefront of work to enable migrants to play a full and rich part in our society. Only by embracing the skill, enthusiasm, and entrepreneurialism of all of our residents – regardless of their place of birth – will London, and Europe, emerge from the global downturn stronger, brighter, and ready for the future."

Newly appointed Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, sent a message to the conference participants: "Integration is a responsibility to be shared between immigrants and host societies, as well as between different levels of governance. The European Commission supports local governance initiatives because it is at local level that stakeholders develop contacts and forge relationships. With the signature of this Charter, the 'Integrating Cities' process has produced an ambitious outcome that I will be happy to promote within a new EU strategy on integration based on the common policy framework provided by the Lisbon Treaty and the Stockholm Programme".

The conference is the fourth such conference in the Integrating Cities process, a EUROCITIES series examining

migrant integration in Europe, focusing on the work done at city level around this issue. It was part of the Diversity and Equality in European (DIVE) Cities project, which was co-financed by the Commission.

### Who signed up?

Athens  
Amsterdam  
Barcelona  
Berlin  
Copenhagen  
Genoa  
Ghent  
Helsinki  
Milan  
Munich  
Oslo  
Rome  
Stockholm (Chair of EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum)  
Tampere  
Utrecht

If your city is interested in this initiative, please get in touch ■

Theresa Moloney, EUROCITIES Project Officer - Migration and Integration: [theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu](mailto:theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu)

# Culture



## Celebrating 25 years of European Capitals of Culture

Brussels | 23-24 March 2010

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the European Capitals of Culture, which were launched in 1985. On 23-24 March 2010 the European Commission will host a celebratory event and conference to look back at the achievements of the past 25 years, and to reflect strategically on its legacy and impact.

The conference will be opened by European Commission President Barroso and Jack Lang, who was the founder of the idea along with the late Melina Mercouri, former Minister of Culture for Greece.

The event on 23 March will feature an information day for future bidding cities as well as an opportunity to exchange practices with past, current and future cities. A conference will take place on 24 March, which will be open to past, present, future, and potential bidding Capitals, as well as other interested stakeholders.

EUROCITIES will be represented by Bjorn Holmvik from Bergen in the workshop entitled 'Leaving legacy' ■



European Capitals of Culture: [ec.europa.eu/culture/news/pdf/agenda\\_ecoc.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/pdf/agenda_ecoc.pdf)

## Projects supported by the Culture programme: give your opinion!

The Commission has entrusted Ecotec Research and Consulting to conduct an external evaluation of the first three years of implementation (2007-2009) of the Culture programme. The evaluation will examine whether the objectives of the programme are still relevant, how the programme functions and the initial outputs and early effects of financed projects.

An external evaluation report will be made publicly available in summer 2010. The Commission will use it to write an official report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European

Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

In March 2009 member cities of the EURO CITIES Resources for Culture Working Group exchanged experiences on the Culture Programme (Culture 2000 and Culture) and produced recommendations aimed at contributing to the ongoing process of reforming and redesigning the Culture programme. These recommendations will be sent to Ecotec.

Project beneficiaries that want to take part in the survey should contact: [culture2007@ecotec.com](mailto:culture2007@ecotec.com)

## EU Spanish Presidency on culture

The Spanish Presidency will work towards achieving the three main objectives of the European Agenda for Culture: fostering intercultural dialogue; promoting culture as a catalyst for creativity; and promoting culture as

a vital element in the EU's international relations.

Reinforcing the role of cultural and creative industries in the EU 2020 Growth and Employment Strategy also will be a key issue. This should be achieved through the

forthcoming Green Paper on cultural and creative industries planned for spring 2010.

Particular attention will be given to the results of a wide study on the use of structural funds for cultural and creative projects and on their

impacts on local and regional development.

The Spanish Presidency will also work on online cultural content and the promotion of European films.

Spanish Presidency of the EU: [www.eu2010.es](http://www.eu2010.es)

# Economic Development



## 'Cohesion policy has no charity label', argues Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn

The Informal Ministerial meeting on 19 February in Zaragoza on the future of EU Cohesion Policy assembled Ministers from all EU Member States, the new EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn, the Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development Danuta Hübner, and the President of the Committee of the Regions Mercedes Bresso.

It was the first opportunity for the Regional Policy Commissioner to outline his plans before the 27 Ministers. Mr Hahn said that cohesion policy should be a key instrument for delivering the

new EU2020 strategy. For him, cohesion policy provides 'integrated, cross-sectoral approaches adapted to specific national, regional and local contexts'.

He insisted that cohesion policy should be a development not a charity policy and should cover all EU regions. He also argued for the integration of territorial cohesion into the policy as a way to address territorial problems at local, regional and transnational level. In his view, a cohesive urban policy, which is essential for a 'healthy and wealthy Europe', would be one of the main instruments for achieving this. Mr Hahn

noted cities as vital partners in delivering a policy aimed at sustaining economic development and social inclusion.

The EU Spanish Presidency argued that EU funding should be simplified considerably. Both Hübner and Bresso expressed support for the simplification of cohesion policy rules. In the context of the EU2020 strategy, Ms Bresso argued that 'cohesion policy must not be considered as a mere tool' for implementing the strategy, and that it should contribute to, but not be entirely 'absorbed' by it ■

Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

## Monitoring area-based urban regeneration

At their latest meeting last February in Madrid, members of EUROCIITIES Working Group (WG) Urban Regeneration discussed the effectiveness of area-based programmes in deprived neighbourhoods. Former EUROCIITIES staff member, Simon Guentner, now Professor at Hamburg University for Applied Sciences, presented the German 'Soziale Stadt' programme to demonstrate the importance of effectively monitoring area-based programmes. He illustrated how the programme has been modified over the past ten years in order to respond to research findings. Today, the programme focuses more on inclusion, local economy, education, residents' involvement, and places less emphasis on structural change.

The WG also discussed the recent change allowing European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) money to be used for energy efficiency measures in low-income housing. WG Chair, Ivan Tosics from the city of Budapest, described initiatives in his city

and in other parts of former Eastern Europe that aim to tackle energy issues in housing blocks. WG vice-chair, Martin Eyres from the city of Liverpool, explained how the new ERDF freedom is used in different programmes across the UK with a focus on maximising economic benefit as well as social and environmental impact. The WG has developed a survey aimed at establishing how EUROCIITIES members are using existing energy efficiency measures, and whether any social issues have been accounted for. The findings will feed into EUROCIITIES positions on cohesion policy post-2013.

**WG Urban Regeneration next meeting:** Preston, 10 June. Professor Paul Lawless from Sheffield Hallam University will discuss the outcomes of an evaluation carried out on the UK Government's 'New Deal for Communities' programme.

Ivan Tosics, City of Budapest: [tosics@mri.hu](mailto:tosics@mri.hu)

Martin Eyres, City of Liverpool: [Martin.Eyres@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Eyres@liverpool.gov.uk)

## City strategies for fostering SMEs and entrepreneurship

The EUROCIITIES Working Group (WG) Entrepreneurship and SMEs met in February in Madrid for the first time under the new chairmanship of Rotterdam represented by Louisa Broens and Barcelona as the new vice-chair, represented by Marc Sans.

The group discussed a survey that will identify

the different forms of support that cities provide to entrepreneurs and SMEs. The results of the survey will be used to analyse both the strong and weak points of cities' strategies. Knowledge exchanges between cities will serve to bridge these gaps.

A seminar will be held on 16-17 June in Barcelona in

connection with high level events on innovation. The event will look at issues of supporting innovation through the creation of new SMEs. The second part, organised with WG Employment, will discuss 'inclusive entrepreneurship'.

WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs next meeting: Preston,

10 June 2010. Discussion will focus on how to green SMEs and entrepreneurs and how to encourage sustainable business practices as a follow-up to the recent joint meeting of EUROCIITIES Forums on Economic Development and Environment (see Flash 93).

Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)



## EUROCITIES explores finance for climate change

In response to EUROCITIES' lobbying in the run up to the Copenhagen COP15 meeting in December, the European institutions gave official recognition to the role that local authorities play in tackling global warming. EUROCITIES wishes to build on this recognition, despite the disappointing outcome of the Copenhagen negotiations.

The EUROCITIES Executive Committee's Working Group on Climate Change and Energy met in Brussels last 25 February, to evaluate progress on this front and agree on actions for 2010. Discussion

mainly focused on how cities can have better access to European funds to support their climate and energy projects. Working Group co-chair Ronan Dantec, Vice President of Nantes Métropole, is exploring an approach on how to reward cities for their efforts, for example by attributing to them a fair percentage of the revenues that EU Member States will soon receive for the auctioning of CO2 credits. Such a structure would provide European cities with €7-10 billion per year by 2020. The option was welcomed by WG members, and will form the basis for

future EUROCITIES discussions with this regard.

The agenda also covered COP15-outcomes and the progress made on the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change, which has to date been signed by 83 cities. Local authorities were represented at Copenhagen to once again demonstrate their commitment to tackling climate change. Building on this momentum, EUROCITIES in collaboration with other city networks (ICLEI, Energie-Cités, CEMR and Climate Alliance), will now lobby towards COP16 ■

Eva Baños de Guisasola, Policy Officer Environment Forum, EUROCITIES: [eva.banos@eurocities.eu](mailto:eva.banos@eurocities.eu)

## Climate change: the EU's position for the post-Copenhagen era

Addressing the 27 Heads of State of the EU, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso has called for a post-Copenhagen reflection, which will feed into discussions at the EU Spring Council.

Barroso has stressed that it is time for the EU once again to take a prominent position in the international climate negotiations, which he believes can only be achieved by meeting policy with

action. At European level, it is crucial to press ahead with the implementation of the Climate and Energy Package, while globally, financing for developing countries has to remain the top priority.

That global warming is a top priority for the EU is proven by the nomination of Connie Hedegaard as Commissioner for Climate Action. In his letter to Member States, Barroso has stipulated that Ms Hedegaard's task will be to

consult all parties and restore trust in the negotiation process.

Whether these actions will embark on success remains to be seen, as the signals arising from China and the USA are less optimistic. EUROCITIES will continue to follow the negotiation process, and ensure that the interests of European cities remain acknowledged.

Barroso's letter to Member States on climate action: [tinyurl.com/yb4nzzq](http://tinyurl.com/yb4nzzq)

## Barroso's green Commissioners: new faces and rearranged competences

The new College of Commissioners was appointed on 11 February. The reshuffle of competences has had considerable impact in the field of environmental politics:

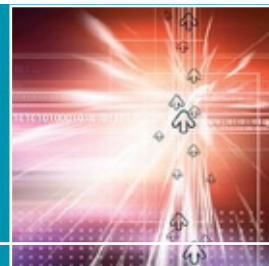
- **Connie Hedegaard (DK):** former Danish minister and chair of COP15 will lead the new Directorate General on Climate Change. She wishes to use her mandate to advance the EU's position in the international climate negotiations. Hedegaard believes in the UN system, the inclusion of climate change in all policy sectors, and the need to develop a solid transport climate package.

- **Janez Potočnik (SI):** the Commissioner for Environment will aim to move environmental issues which aren't directly related to climate change (e.g. biodiversity) higher up the EU's agenda. He sees investments in the green economy as the best way to overcome the current economic crisis, and believes that special attention should be paid to the enforcement of existing environmental legislation.

- **Günther Oettinger (DE):** the new Commissioner for Energy will prioritise the revision of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan to achieve the 20-20-20 target, energy security, and the creation of a smart grid.

During the hearings, MEPs expressed concern regarding the fragmentation of environmental competences within the new Commission. All commissioners have stated that this division will allow them to focus better on specific areas in the field and will work closely with each other to ensure for a coordinated approach for greater effectiveness.

EUROCITIES will in the following weeks contact the new commissioners to arrange meetings with each of them, and bring forward the city perspective on green issues.



## EUROCITIES discusses Intelligent Transport in Tallinn

The Knowledge Society Forum will meet in the Estonian capital, Tallinn on 24-26 March to discuss smart transport and mobility solutions.

Focusing on the topic of Intelligent Transport solutions, the conference will feature several cases from EUROCITIES members, including Helsinki, Stockholm, Tallinn and Turku. Participants will discuss the following questions:

- How to integrate Intelligent Transport Systems across different transport modes? How to plan and model transport systems?
- What new partnerships are needed? National/regional/local governments, private businesses, transport industry?
- How to put the citizen at the centre of intelligent public transport and mobility planning?
- Inter- and multimodal travel for sustainability? For example, how can intelligent travel assistant applications and demand management support 'soft' modes of transport?
- How to overcome organisational, institutional and financial barriers?

As well as technical visits throughout the city, meetings will also be held by the Knowledge Society Forum Working Groups: eInclusion; eGovernment 2.0; Broadband; and ICT&Energy Efficiency.

If you are interested in presenting activities and projects from your city, please get in touch ■

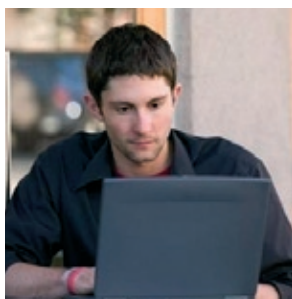
Vaino Olev, City of Tallinn: [Vaino.Olev@tallinnlv.ee](mailto:Vaino.Olev@tallinnlv.ee)  
Helen Kovask, City of Tallinn: [Helen.Kovask@tallinnlv.ee](mailto:Helen.Kovask@tallinnlv.ee)  
Registration and further information: [www.tallinn.ee/KSF](http://www.tallinn.ee/KSF)

## Should Broadband be a Universal Service?

The European Commission is consulting on how to update a 10 year old framework on Universal Service. These are services that should be available to every citizen. The current rules encompass narrowband internet access and a telephone connection. One of the key points will be whether access to high-speed internet should be mandated via the new rules.

In addition, the two following points are being discussed:

- **National flexibility and a coordinated EU approach:** The state of development of telecoms markets, availability of broadband, take-up by consumers, and government responses to the so-called 'digital divide' can vary considerably from country to country. What is the right balance between a coordinated EU-wide response



and the need for national flexibility?

- **Financing:** How should universal service be financed in the future? Should there be a financial contribution from the telecoms sector to ensure universal broadband coverage, or should the public purse intervene since other sectors of the economy and society as a whole also feel the benefits?

European Commission consultation on Universal Service: [tinyurl.com/ybf7pw8](http://tinyurl.com/ybf7pw8)

If you are interested in contributing to a common EUROCITIES viewpoint, contact Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

## Smart Cities featured at EU Sustainable Energy Week

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is an annual European-wide initiative of the European Commission that aims to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. This year it focuses on 'Intelligent energy in cities'. On 22-26 March, cities will organise their own energy days. Besides that, a wide range of workshops will be organised in Brussels.



EUROCITIES invites you to its workshop on 24 March, which will discuss Smart Cities, and is co-organised with Digital Europe. The session will bring leading experts from the ICT sector, cities and researchers together. Discussions are envisaged to evolve around how ICT can enable using energy in a more conscious and informed way to reduce emissions.

EUSEW: [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)  
Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)



## European Parliament looks at sustainable future for EU transport

The European Parliament (EP) draft report on 'A Sustainable Future for Transport' was one of the main topics of discussion at the February meeting of the EP Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee.

Following the European Commission's Communication on the same subject published last June, the EP began work on an own-initiative report under Rapporteur Mathieu Grosch MEP. The report should be seen as preparatory literature for the soon to be revised EU White Paper on Transport.

Some of the main points addressed include the need to increase the number of transport projects being implemented at the local level as well as the need for clearer data on mobility. Addressing CO<sub>2</sub> and

decarbonisation are top priorities as are pricing measures such as the internalisation of external costs. The EP advocates that these all should be considered for inclusion in any future policy document. The report also shows EU-wide training centres of excellence, the harmonisation of EU transport standards, and a competent EU road authority, as features which could benefit safety and standards of transport services.

Adoption of the report is scheduled for May ■



OEP TRAN Committee: [www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)  
Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)



## Urban mobility and competitiveness

The European Economic and Social Committee's Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) held a meeting on 5 February 2010, at which SDO President Stéphane Buffetaut, presented a draft opinion on European transport policy in the framework of the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

In his remarks, Mr Buffetaut called for a modal shift towards public transport and presented some key recommendations for cities including the establishment of an ambitious research and development plan for

transport and mobility (covering issues such as motoring, fuel, emissions reduction, energy efficiency) and setting up a forum for exchanging good practice in the area of urban and long-distance transport. Mr Buffetaut referred to European organisations, in particular the EESC and the Committee of Regions (CoR), which could assist local authorities in exchanging information on best practice.

He stated that there are challenging times ahead for cities in relation to EU transport, sustainability, and competitiveness.

SDO: [www.eesc.europa.eu/sections/sdo/index\\_en.asp](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/sections/sdo/index_en.asp)  
Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

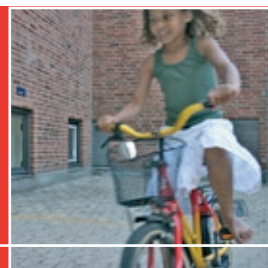
## EU Transport Ministers focus on urban mobility

The EU Action Plan on Urban Mobility was one of the main points of discussion at the Informal Meeting of Transport Ministers held on 12-13 February under the EU Spanish Presidency.

Discussions related to efficient and sustainable models for urban and metropolitan transport. There was agreement in relation to the implementation of sustainable plans and a greater integration of infrastructure planning. It is hoped that the broad consensus reached will make it possible to adopt decisions setting out strategic lines of action at the Transport Council Meeting to be held at the end of March.

EU Spanish Presidency on transport:  
[www.eu2010.es/en/unioneuropea/politicas/transporte/index.html](http://www.eu2010.es/en/unioneuropea/politicas/transporte/index.html)

# Social Affairs



## Progress report 2010 published on EU-wide education and training

**T**he progress report 'Education and Training 2010: Key Competences for a Changing World', jointly published by the European Council and the European Commission, calls for reforms and investment in education to be continued in the EU post-Lisbon Strategy. The report also stresses that lifelong learning and high quality education are essential for individuals to acquire the relevant skills to actively participate in the labour market and in society.

Based on the inputs from the 27 EU Member States, the report assesses the

progress made in implementing the objectives of the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme between 2007 and 2009. It focuses on lifelong learning policies, modernising higher education systems and providing all learners with key competences.

In particular, the report stresses the need to step up efforts to improve reading skills, prevent early school leaving and improve links between education and local labour market needs.

Although the joint report does not mention local authorities, they are

often referred to in the accompanying staff working document which contains a detailed analysis of the overall and individual performances of the EU Member States. The role of local authorities is mentioned in particular with regard to adult education, second-chance schools, prevention of early school leaving, linking education and local labour market needs and the validation of non-formal and informal learning ■

Education and Training 2010 (pdf): [tinyurl.com/yk23n84](http://tinyurl.com/yk23n84)

Anna Drozd, EUROCITIES Programme Officer - Social Inclusion: [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)

## Cities against poverty and exclusion: health inequalities

21-22 April 2010 | Ghent

The first of EUROCITIES' four seminars organised as part of our campaign for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, will focus on tackling health inequalities in cities.

Practitioners from four cities - Genoa, Leeds, Nottingham and Tallinn - will compare their approaches to tackling health inequalities, with particular emphasis on improving access to healthcare, collecting evidence on the success of health programmes and how activities in other policy areas, such as housing, contribute to improving health. The conclusions from this seminar series will contribute to the recommendations which will be submitted by EUROCITIES to the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) in December.

The seminar is organised in cooperation with the University of Ghent.

Els De Vos, City of Ghent: [els.devos@gent.be](mailto:els.devos@gent.be)

Anna Drozd, EUROCITIES Programme Officer - Social Inclusion: [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)

## Young people, migrants and low-skilled worst affected by recession

The EU's labour market continues to remain unfavourable towards vulnerable groups affected most by the recession. This is according to the latest European Commission monitoring report, 'EU Employment and Social Outlook'.

Data collected from the EU27 suggests that European economies have improved but growth remains fragile. Unemployment continues to rise, although at a more moderate pace than in the past. The labour market outlook is set only to recover in 2011.

The report also indicates that the economic downturn has had a greater impact on the traditionally more vulnerable groups:

- **Young:** the unemployment rate for young people has reached a historical high. Unemployment among the under 25s increased by 30% in 2009 and it is now more than twice as high as the overall unemployment rate in the EU (20.4% versus 8.9% for the EU27).
- **Migrants:** Non-EU migrants have been hit more than EU-nationals - the unemployment rate among non-EU migrants increased sharply in early



2009, reaching 18.9%. Migrant men were particularly affected, with their unemployment rate rising by 50%.

- **Low-skilled and temporary workers:** in the third quarter of 2009, unemployment among the low-skilled increased by 3.4% and temporary employment declined by 5.6%.

The report concludes that rises in unemployment have different social effects depending on the social support available in different Member States. However, the economic crisis has aggravated the risk of long-term unemployment, poverty and social exclusion almost everywhere.

EU Employment and Social Outlook: [tinyurl.com/yc6sg42](http://tinyurl.com/yc6sg42)

Silvia Ganzerla - EUROCITIES Senior Policy Officer-Social Affairs: [silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu](mailto:silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu)

# Participation & Cooperation



## Working with the new EP Urban Intergroup

**T**he European Parliament (EP) Urban Intergroup has presented its main objectives and work-plan for the coming months.

The intergroup will monitor the urban-related aspects of work undertaken by all of the parliament's committees. It will work to ensure that urban interests are given a place in the making of EU policies by, for example, contributing to the preparation of EU policies and legislation.

The intergroup will also work as a platform for exchange of information

between its members and partners, including EUROCITIES. Our network will lend expertise and provide all relevant information pertinent to the interests of big cities in Europe to the members of the intergroup, thus acting as a resource for one of our main partners in the Parliament.

The EP Urban Intergroup brings together almost 70 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) representing most EU Member States, all of the parliament's political groups and who are working in all parliamentary committees.

The intergroup is a cross-party, cross-committee grouping with a horizontal approach to discuss urban related issues.

The group will meet monthly in Strasbourg and discuss issues of relevance to cities, such as the impact of the financial crisis, housing, the EU2020 strategy, the 'Smart Cities' initiative, among others ■

Bernardo Rodrigues, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)



## New publication on the urban dimension in EU policies

The European Commission has published a guide looking at the ways in which cities can benefit from European Union policies.

The first part presents the framework for cohesion policy for the remainder of the 2007-2013 programming period, through its three financial instruments: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund.

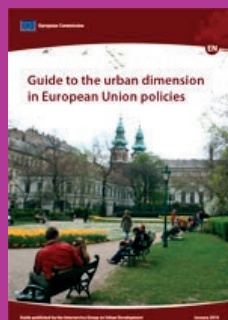
The second part describes the urban dimension of the other EU policies for the

same period, through the policies conducted by the Commission's Directorates-General (i.e. employment, social affairs and equal opportunities, environment, energy and Transport).

The guide was produced by the Commission's Inter-service group on urban development, a group coordinated by DG Regio and in which most Commission Directorates-General are represented. The group aims to promote an integrated approach to sustainable urban development across EU programming. EUROCITIES

is regularly invited to the group's meetings.

The guide is available in English, French and German.



Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

## Get ready for EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform 2010!

Newcastle-Gateshead | 20-21 May

This year's EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform will take place in Newcastle-Gateshead, on 20-21 May.

Now in its sixth edition, this annual meeting brings together all of EUROCITIES contact officers and provides an opportunity for them to meet, exchange, discuss and learn from one another.

This year's programme will include more networking opportunities for cities in new formats, as well as more in-depth discussions on the work and functioning of EUROCITIES' thematic Forums.

There will also be dedicated time to ask questions and discuss your ideas with the EUROCITIES staff.

**Programme** - Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

**Logistics** - Sinead Mullins, EUROCITIES Communications Executive: [sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu](mailto:sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu)

# Projects



## Save the dates: upcoming mobility events!

**T**he next European Conference on Mobility Management (ECOMM) focusing on the theme 'Moving people, Bridging spaces' will take place in Graz, Austria on 5-7 May 2010.

Workshops will be organised around five subthemes:

- MM in historical city centres
- MM for new districts
- Local regional and supra-regional networking
- Mobility for all generations
- New forms of mobility

The next CIVITAS Forum conference will take place in Malmo, Sweden on 27-29 September 2010.

This annual event provides an opportunity for dialogue and an exchange of views between local and European politicians and practitioners in the field of urban mobility.

Well-known for its eco-friendly neighbourhoods, its interregional commuting system with Copenhagen, and its extensive bicycle network, Malmo looks forward to participants of the CIVITAS Forum 2010 to sharing experiences on delivering cleaner and better urban transport ■



ECOMM Graz 2010: [www.ecomm2010.eu](http://www.ecomm2010.eu)

CIVITAS Malmo 2010: [www.civitas.eu/forum\\_conference\\_2010](http://www.civitas.eu/forum_conference_2010)

## NLAO report on housing now available

What are the main challenges cities face with delivering social and supported housing services and how does that affect the people at risk of social exclusion in our cities. The first results of the EUROCIITIES-Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCIITIES-NLAO) project are now available from the project's website.



The results have been gathered by LAOs in Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Stockholm, whose aim under the project is to examine how the European Active Inclusion strategy is being implemented and working at a local level

Based on the national studies produced by the five cities involved, EUROCIITIES has published a European report, 'Supporting Active Inclusion through Housing – A response from five European Cities', which provides a comparative review of policy and practice in social and

supported housing. The report analyses how local implementation matches the EU Active Inclusion principles, identifies gaps and sets out recommendations for addressing these.

Now in its second phase of research, the project will look at how employment and training services support the active inclusion of vulnerable people. The project has already produced a series of draft studies in this area and the following National Review Seminars are being held to offer more in-depth understandings:

- Stockholm: 22 March
- Bologna: 24 March
- Prague: 24 March
- Rotterdam: 29 March
- London: 29 March (affiliated with LAO Southampton)

All EUROCIITIES members are invited to join.

All reports and information related to upcoming seminars is available from the EUROCIITIES-NLAO website.

Daniela Amadio, EUROCIITIES Project Administrator - Social Inclusion: [daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu](mailto:daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu)  
EUROCIITIES-NLAO: [www.eurocities-nlao.eu](http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu)

## EUROCIITIES members shortlisted for European Mobility Week Award 2009

EUROCIITIES members - Bologna, London, Murcia and Zagreb - have been shortlisted for the European Mobility Week Award (EMW) 2009 based on their outstanding activities to promote sustainable mobility at the local level during the EMW 2009.

EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potočnik will announce the award winner and runner-up cities at a ceremony in Brussels on 23 March 2010. The ceremony is the highlight of a two-day event co-organised by EUROCIITIES. The event is targeted at national EMW coordinators and city representatives who will have the opportunity to take part in interactive workshop, with speed-networking sessions and training aimed at stimulating thinking on the 2010 year's EMW theme: 'Travel Smarter, Live Better.'

Peter Staelens, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Mobility: [peter.staelens@eurocities.eu](mailto:peter.staelens@eurocities.eu)  
EMW: [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu)

# Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
<b>23-24 March 2010</b> Brussels, Belgium	<b>Celebrating 25 years of the European Capital of Culture</b> Organised by the European Commission	<a href="http://bit.ly/9Joube">bit.ly/9Joube</a>
<b>22-26 March 2010</b> Brussels and EU-wide	<b>EU Sustainable Energy Week</b> Shaping the energy future	<a href="http://www.eusew.eu">www.eusew.eu</a>
<b>14-16 April 2010</b> La Coruña, Spain	<b>The Sustainable City 2010</b> Sixth International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability	<a href="http://bit.ly/9q4b3i">bit.ly/9q4b3i</a>
<b>26-27 April 2010</b> Madrid, Spain	<b>Integrated Urban Rehabilitation and Urban Sustainability in Europe</b> International high level conference under the EU Spanish Presidency	<a href="http://bit.ly/9em6tz">bit.ly/9em6tz</a>
<b>28-29 April 2010</b> Moscow, Russia	<b>City Marketing and Development Congress</b> Focusing on Russian cities and regions	<a href="http://en.cmdc.ru">en.cmdc.ru</a>
<b>6-9 May 2010</b> Salzburg, Austria	<b>Bringing Production Back to the City</b> SCUPAD 2010 Congress	<a href="http://www.scupad.org/site/2010">www.scupad.org/site/2010</a>
<b>18-20 May 2010</b> Vienna, Austria	<b>15th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society</b> Organised by the Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning	<a href="http://www.corp.at">www.corp.at</a>
<b>19-21 May 2010</b> Dunkerque, France	<b>6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference</b> How can local sustainability respond to current economic, social and climate challenges?	<a href="http://www.dunkerque2010.org">www.dunkerque2010.org</a>
<b>20-21 May 2010</b> Bergen, Norway	<b>Worldwide Government Solutions Forum</b> Delivering sustainable citizen services in the new economy	<a href="http://www.governmentsolutionsforum.com">www.governmentsolutionsforum.com</a>
<b>24-26 May 2010</b> Pecs, Hungary	<b>Regional Responses to Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations</b> Future regional development against today's global economy	<a href="http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk">www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk</a>

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Please send any contributions or comments concerning the contents of the Flash to: [flash@eurocities.eu](mailto:flash@eurocities.eu)

**Publisher**  
Paul Bevan, Secretary General

**Editor**  
Róisín Hughes

**Layout**  
Miguel Rodríguez-Gorman

**EUROCITIES**

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

[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

