

EDITORIAL

Simply the best



Which city is the best in Europe? Or in the world? A whole industry has emerged over the past decade or so dedicated to measuring cities' success and ranking the results.

At least 30 such global ranking systems exist. Most assess specifics, such as academic excellence, retailing or the quality of hotels. Others combine a range of indicators to represent 'liveability' or 'quality of life'.

Those working for cities treat these indices cautiously. A composite quality of life measure conceals a host of judgements. Does an international airport hub enhance or diminish quality of life? Are low house prices good because they're affordable, or bad because they discourage new investment?

Even so these rankings grab headlines. That's their intention. Our citizens, and the politicians that represent them, are delighted when their city scores highly – particularly if it is found 'officially' to be 'the best'.

People are less impressed when their city comes towards the bottom. Local newspapers start asking if city leaders are up to the job. And city officials spend scarce time dissecting the data to show why low scores should be disregarded.

It is this dilemma that has drawn us to make city ranking the focus of this year's EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform, taking place on 20-21 May in Newcastle/Gateshead. How much attention should we give to city rankings? How much notice do others, investors for instance, take? Are some indices more credible than others?

The Cooperation Platform is an annual event that brings together the contact officers of all our member cities. It provides an excellent opportunity to catch up on the EUROCITIES agenda, to network and to learn from each other.

I hope to see you there!

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

An opportunity for cultural and creative industries in cities



EUROCITIES will take part in a EU stakeholder consultation launched on the recently adopted Green Paper, 'Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries'. One section of the paper deals with local and regional development as a launchpad for global success. Our response will be discussed at the EUROCITIES Creative Industries Working Group meeting in June.

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Save the date! EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza



Mark your calendar for EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza – this year's conference and Annual General Meeting. Hosted by the city of Zaragoza on 3-5 November, this event entitled, 'Successful Cities – Vision and Identity' will look at how cities use city branding and marketing to promote themselves both nationally and internationally.

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Innovative city strategies to support entrepreneurs



Building on innovation as a priority of the EU Spanish Presidency, the city of Barcelona and EUROCITIES will organise a seminar on cities' strategies to support entrepreneurs and SMEs on 17 June in Barcelona. The meeting will discuss different approaches to entrepreneurship support services, their cost effectiveness and the tools used to measure the impact on local economic activity.

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Key developments



Ministers refer to local expertise on migrant integration

European ministers responsible for migrant integration have stressed the crucial role of cities in promoting the social inclusion of migrants. The announcement came at a ministerial meeting in Zaragoza on 16-17 April, the fourth in a series held to set directions for a shared approach to migrant integration in Europe.

In addition to this endorsement, the European Commission during the meeting presented a report in which two EUROCITIES projects - INTI-Cities and DIVE – have been commended as actions that successfully support local actors in integration.

Leading the network's first ever input into this ministerial meeting series, Daniel de Torres, Barcelona's Commissioner for Immigration and

Intercultural. Barcelona, and chair of EUROCITIES Working Group Migration & Integration, hopes that our involvement becomes more entrenched at this level. Given that the Zaragoza agenda featured, among other things, social cohesion in diverse urban neighbourhoods and cooperation with civil society organisations, there is a clear case.

EUROCITIES will continue to drive forward this agenda. The secretariat is currently arranging a meeting with the new EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmstrom. Ms Malmstrom has stressed the value of migration in light of Europe's ageing population and has called for greater political efforts aimed at developing cohesive and economically prosperous European societies ■

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

Press interview: Europe's cities as 'innovation hubs'

In an interview with EurActiv, EUROCITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan, elaborated on what Europe's cities are up to in the areas of social, organisational and market-driven innovation:

"European innovation policy does not always have to be done through grand projects. It's also about innovation incubators and developing entrepreneurs – something cities and universities are working on together."

EurActiv is the independent media portal fully dedicated to EU affairs. Its coverage of EU affairs concentrates on policy positions by EU Actors trying to influence policies already in the pre-legislative phase, before a Commission proposal.

Read the full interview:

tinyurl.com/2f6pxqm

Roisin Hughes, EUROCITIES public relations officer: roisin.hughes@eurocities.eu

Time to set national targets for Europe's future

Cities should now engage with their national governments to influence national targets that are being developed for the delivery of 'Europe 2020'. This is the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that will set the EU's strategic objectives and shape the budget, impacting on local government across a range of policy areas, including education, employment, and social inclusion.

Discussions have already started between the European Commission and EU member states to determine which national targets should be set. There is a risk that targets will not reflect the real challenges or opportunities at the local level if cities are not involved in the process, or that national strategies to achieve targets will truly reflect the role of cities.

The Spring European Council meeting saw heads of state agree on the main aspects of the strategy and the focus is now on developing a governance and implementation structure. Council conclusions did call for the involvement of sub-national government in target setting, but this will vary from country to country.

The Commission will outline the outcomes of the target setting process ahead of the June European Council, where the final national targets are to be validated.

Europe 2020: ec.europa.eu/archives/growthandjobs_2009

John Dodd, EUROCITIES economic development officer: john.dodd@eurocities.eu

Urban Atlas: mapping Europe's cities

Urban Atlas, a digital satellite based mapping tool hosted by the European Environment Agency, offers comparable urban planning information delivered through the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security's (GMES) Land services.

The system enables urban planners and authorities to better assess the risks and opportunities in their urban areas as they unfold, ranging from the threat of flooding and the impact of climate change, to identifying new infrastructure and public transport needs.

Currently, the digital atlas includes urban areas from 125 cities, including the 27 EU member state capitals. More than 300 major cities in the EU will be covered by early 2011.

Urban Atlas:

www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/urban-atlas

Key developments



Save the date! EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza

Over 400 participants including mayors, senior politicians, and staff from Europe's most important cities as well as EU and Spanish state representatives are expected to gather for the EUROCITIES 2010 conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Hosted by the city of Zaragoza on 3-5 November, this year's conference theme 'Successful Cities – Vision and Identity' will focus on how cities use city branding and marketing to promote themselves both nationally and internationally.

Internationally recognised for hosting EXPO 2008, Zaragoza will share its experience to show the importance for cities to use these tools to attract business, investment, culture, people

and tourism, for greater growth and prosperity. Other cities will of course be invited to contribute their experiences and there will be plenty of opportunities for all delegates to participate in the debates.

The conference will open on 3 November with a welcome reception and the EUROCITIES awards ceremony. The following days will feature a variety of activities such as panel debates, keynote speeches, the Mayors' Debate, practical workshops, the Gala Dinner as well as field visits. The conference will end with the EUROCITIES 2010 AGM on 5 November. Participants are invited to stay until the following day to enjoy the guided tours organised by Zaragoza to the city's principal tourist sites and attractions ■

SUCCESSFUL CITIES VISION AND IDENTITY



EUROCITIES 2010

 zaragoza 3-6 November

The official EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza website will be launched on 15 May: www.eurocities2010.eu
Nicola Vatthauer, EUROCITIES communications director: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu



Call for applications: EUROCITIES Awards 2010

The annual EUROCITIES Awards recognise outstanding achievements by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens. Projects submitted by applicant cities are judged in the context of the theme of the EUROCITIES annual conference; this year's edition taking place on 3-5 November in Zaragoza will focus on the theme of 'Successful Cities – Vision and Identity'.

The three categories for entries are:

- **Innovation:** in the planning and implementation of activities or practices by a local authority. The EUROCITIES Award for Innovation 2010 will recognise innovative approaches of a city that uses branding and marketing to raise awareness, boost attractiveness, growth and prosperity.
- **Cooperation:** cooperation undertaken by a local authority

with partner organisations or cities. In 2010, this award will recognise partnerships which have helped to build a city identity that led to obvious improvements. This category will reward in particular initiatives that contributed to the city's/cities' regeneration and economic growth.

- **Participation:** activities or practices of a local authority that are successful in actively promoting citizen participation. This year, this category will highlight cities that have given special importance to their citizens as part of their identity.

Shortlisted entrants will be asked to produce a short film to be shown during the EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza awards ceremony. Last year's winners – Malaga, Dortmund and Birmingham – are pictured (top-bottom) here.

Deadline for applications: **18 June 2010**

Contact: awards2010@zaragozaglobal.es



An opportunity for cultural and creative industries in cities

EUROCITIES will take part in a stakeholder consultation launched on the Green Paper, 'Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries', which was adopted by the European Commission on 27 April.

The cultural and creative sector includes performing arts, visual arts, cultural heritage, film, television and radio, music, publishing, video games, new media, architecture, design, fashion design and advertising. A fast growing sector, it provides jobs for 5 million people in the EU and contributes 2.6% of Europe's GDP.

One of the questions raised in the paper relates to strengthening the integration of creative and cultural industries into strategic regional/local development as well as which tools and partnerships are needed for an integrated approach.

In particular, one of the paper's chapters deals with 'local and regional development as a launchpad for global success'. It recognises that 'cultural and creative industries often contribute to boosting local economies in decline, contributing to the emergence of new economic activities, creating new and sustainable jobs and enhancing the attractiveness of European regions and cities'. It also recognises that

local and regional development strategies have successfully integrated cultural and creative industries and states that 'the distinctive role which cultural and creative industries can play in local and regional development should be duly taken into account when designing policies and support instruments at all levels'.



As reported in the Green Paper, "there is a lot of untapped potential in the cultural and creative industries to create growth and jobs". The consultation will encourage stakeholders to identify obstacles to growth and to look at issues such as access to funding for small and micro companies whose only asset is creativity; how the EU can help ensure a well-adjusted combination of creative

competences and managerial competences in the sector; and how Information and Communication Technologies can encourage more innovation.

The public consultation runs until the end of July. EUROCITIES' response will be discussed during the meeting of the EUROCITIES Creative Industries Working Group in Brussels on 1-2 June ■

Register for the next EUROCITIES Culture Forum meeting

Vilnius | 16-19 June 2010



The next meeting of the EUROCITIES Culture Forum will be hosted by the city of Vilnius on 16-19 June. Plenary sessions will take place in two of the city's new cultural venues, the Arts Printing House and the National Art Gallery. Discussions will focus on two main themes:

- The role of culture in promoting social inclusion: within the framework of the 2010 European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, how culture can be used to encourage social cohesion and inclusion. Workshops will look at how education can foster greater access to culture and the role played by local cultural institutions in fighting social exclusion.

- New creative spaces - instruments for city development: how cities can use creative spaces and cultural infrastructures to capitalise on people's creative energy for the development of the city.

The agenda will also feature:

- EUROCITIES Culture Forum Working Group meetings and technical visits
- A meeting of the informal group on Education and Culture
- An 'open space' session for informal meetings, partner searches and presentations on specific themes
- Various social events and cultural visits

A short online survey has been developed to gather your input to finalise the agenda. Please take 5 minutes to complete it:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/cultureforumvilnius

Deadline for meeting registration and survey input: 28 May 2010

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Green Paper: ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/doc2577_en.htm
 Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Economic Development



Innovative city strategies to support entrepreneurs

Barcelona | 16-17 June 2010

Building on innovation as a priority of the EU Spanish Presidency, the city of Barcelona has used the opportunity to host several events on cities, entrepreneurship and innovation. Specifically, they are using a public private platform called 'BIZ Barcelona' (Barcelona Innovation Zone) that will feature Barcelona's Day of the Entrepreneur, the 4th Symposium on urban clusters and 'HiT Innovation Summit', a global event that integrates spaces dedicated to knowledge, revolutionary ideas and business opportunities.

As part of this drive, the local development agency, Barcelona Activa together with EUROCITIES will organise a seminar on cities' strategies to support entrepreneurs and SMEs under the heading 'the embeddedness of entrepreneurship in European cities'.

Taking place on 17 June in Barcelona, the seminar will discuss different strategies and approaches to entrepreneurship support services, their cost effectiveness and the indicators or tools used to measure their impact on local employment and economic activity. Discussions on the support that cities can receive from the European Commission and how it could be improved to better meet cities' needs, will also feature.

The meeting is open to all local, regional government representatives, local development agencies, managers of municipal entrepreneurship and business support programmes as well as representatives of public and private institutions that are providing entrepreneurship support. The seminar will include a study visit to Barcelona Activa's Entrepreneurship Centre

& Business Incubator and the career centre, Porta 22 - Space of New Occupations.

On 16 June, EUROCITIES working groups on entrepreneurship and employment will meet to discuss inclusive entrepreneurship policies. Members will present concrete cases and discuss SMEs as a tool to fight long-term unemployment and social entrepreneurship. Additionally, they will debate how cities develop their inclusive entrepreneurship strategies: do they use a neighbourhood based approach, a target group based approach or a crosscutting approach? How do they measure the impact of their policies? Do they involve their target group in the evaluation of their services? This meeting is open to EUROCITIES members only ■

For information and registration, please contact: marc.sans@barcelonactiva.cat

The benefits of cohesion policy

The European Commission has presented a first assessment of the current cohesion policy programmes (2007-2013). Based on national reports from the 27 EU member states, the assessment shows that €93 billion – that's 27% of EU funding - has been allocated to projects in the areas of R&D, innovation, life-long learning and active labour market policies, and others aimed at promoting growth and job creation.

The report shows the need to make improvements in the rail sector and in the fields of energy, environment and social inclusion. This report will help to identify areas where investments and action should be directed during the rest of the current programme.

Another evaluation of the 2000-2006 programmes that have been financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Policy was presented on 19 April. Figures show that just under 1.5 million jobs opened up thanks to the fund. SMEs received a great part of funding, around €22.9 billion, creating 13,000 research jobs thus boosting research and development. The ERDF has also helped lagging regions to comply with EU environmental legislation, funding water and waste projects and improving transport links.

The conclusions of both reports will serve to improve the current implementation of regional policy and will feed into the debate on the future policy after 2013.

EU cohesion policy strategic report 2010: <http://tinyurl.com/2ag68mw>

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

Take part in the European SME week!

25 May - 1 June 2010

Following on from last year's success of the first ever European SME week, where more than 1,200 national, regional and local events were held across Europe, this year's edition offers city governments an opportunity to showcase local support available to businesses, and provide inspiration as well as practical help for existing and future generations of entrepreneurs.

The European SME Week is coordinated by the European Commission with a great deal of help 'on the ground' coming from business organisations, as well as national,

regional and local authorities.

All 27 EU Member States are taking part in 2010, along with Albania, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey.

The 2010 edition will focus specifically on efficient management of innovation, educational competition in entrepreneurship and female involvement in the management of SMEs.

Get involved!



European SME Week 2010: tinyurl.com/2g2xjdc



What role for local authorities in the EU Environmental Action Programme ?

The city of Amsterdam represented EUROCITIES at a review of the EU's 6th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP) hosted by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on 16 April.

The review featured discussions on how to improve the role of the CoR in EU developing environmental policy and how to increase the role of Local and Regional authorities (LRAs) in implementing it.

There was a unanimous agreement that LRAs as the level of government closest to citizens, are essential for the implementation of EU policies on the ground. LRAs should be more involved in the policy process from preparation to evaluation. The EU needs to find an appropriate platform for dialogue with cities

and regions and needs to improve its evaluation mechanisms.

Against this backdrop, 6EAP review CoR rapporteur, Paula Baker, posed specific questions to LRAs as regards the better integration of environmental legislation and policies in both planning and governance as well as the link between different environmental policies and the role that the CoR could have.

Discussions will continue at an event on 20 May to be hosted by the EU Spanish Presidency at which EUROCITIES will be represented by the city of Madrid. The final conference on this review will be held on 25-26 November and will feed in to the EU Council summit in December 2010 ■

Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES policy officer – environment:
eva.banos@eurocities.eu

New report on renewable energy

Europe could switch to low carbon sources of electricity, with up to 80% coming from renewables by 2050, without risking energy reliability or pushing up energy bills. This is according to a new study, 'Roadmap 2050: a practical guide to a prosperous, low-carbon Europe', developed by the European Climate Foundation.

The study assess different scenarios where 40%, 60%, 80% or 100% of Europe's energy comes from renewable sources complemented with nuclear and conventional power plants equipped with carbon capture and storage facilities. It notes however that a successful transition to zero carbon power will depend on EU member states prioritising energy efficiency measures and supporting the rapid development of a European electricity 'supergrid' to help distribute and balance the green energy and manage demand.

The Roadmap 2050 recommendations will feed into the European Commission's June consultation on the Energy Action Plan. In November, the Commission is expected to present a comprehensive energy infrastructure package including energy efficiency and renewables energies. In 2011, the Commission will present its 2050 roadmap.

Roadmap 2050: www.europeanclimatefoundation.org

EUROCITIES members in the running for European Green Capital title

Five EUROCITIES members - Barcelona, Malmö, Nantes, Nuremberg and Reykjavík - together with Vitoria-Gasteiz, have been shortlisted for the title of Green Capital of Europe for 2012 and 2013.

The competition for the 2012 and 2013 European Green Capital Awards has entered its final stages, with the 17 candidate cities now whittled down to a shortlist of six.

Cities have provided information on a variety of indicator areas which includes action taken to improve the quality of urban living, initiatives planned for the future and plans for disseminating action.

Building on its experience, the city of Stockholm, which is the first and current holder of the European Green Capital title, is organising activities in a bid to share good examples on sustainable urban development. A workshop entitled 'Stockholm, European Green Capital 2010: Role model for Europe' was held on 4 May at which the city's representatives presented case studies on environmental target setting in district planning, energy efficiency in buildings and urban planning.

Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCITIES policy officer – environment: eva.banos@eurocities.eu
European Green Capital: tinyurl.com/23o5hb2

€35 million available for eco-innovation business projects

The European Commission has launched a €35 million call for eco-innovation projects to be funded under its 'Competitiveness and Innovation Programme'.

Funds are available for new projects in the area of materials recycling, sustainable building products, the food and drink sector and green business practices. Applications are particularly welcome from small businesses with green products or services that need backing to break into markets. Some 50 projects could be chosen for funding.

Eco-innovation projects: tinyurl.com/2bqw9f

Knowledge Society



How new technologies can help create more attractive cities

Linköping | 11 June 2010

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) solutions and collaboration models can help cities and regions become more attractive to live and work in. This will be main theme of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum's next meeting in Linköping, Sweden on 9-11 June.

The conference will highlight key factors for success and concrete examples where ICT has been used in city planning and development. In particular, it will look at how smart ICT solutions can be used to make cities more attractive and how they

can stimulate more sustainable ways of travelling and communicating.

The meeting will begin on 9 June with a joint session between the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum and the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum in order to raise awareness on the urban dimensions of poverty and digital exclusion. The session is organised as part of the EUROCITIES Inclusive Cities campaign for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The following day's plenary sessions will feature a presentation of the

latest research and trends as well as upcoming city activities. We will discuss attitudes and working methods in sustainable urban planning. Some cities will present their visions and strategies which have been adapted to create the 'inclusive, sustainable and desirable city'. There will also be an opportunity for speednetworking and an exchange of experiences on applications and the use of successful ICT-tools.

To encourage a wider and more active participation, the conference plenary sessions will be webstreamed ■

Programme, logistical details and registration: <http://eventus.trippus.se/Eurocities2010>

Ministers outline future EU information society policy

During an informal teleconferencing meeting of the EU Telecoms & Information Society on 19 April, ministers approved a guiding document for the upcoming EU Digital Agenda, which will define the path for the next five years on digital policies.

Better known as the 'Granada Strategy', the document is based on eight central themes:

- Infrastructures and ubiquitous coverage with high-speed broadband
- Advanced use of the internet, security and trust
 - User rights
 - Digital single market
 - Digital public services
- Strengthening the competitiveness of Europe's ICT sector
 - International dimension of the digital agenda
 - Benchmarking information society in Europe



Ministers consider that measures should be taken to meet the 100% target of basic broadband coverage for all citizens by 2013 and should promote the wide take-up of high speed broadband by 2020. They also found a need for digital public services to promote the reuse of public sector information, increase government efficiency and reduce administrative burdens on citizens and businesses. The declaration which has the backing of the European Commission, will form the basis for a formal Telecoms Council to be held in Brussels on 31 May 2010.

Ministerial declaration (pdf): <http://tinyurl.com/2bxxpvr>

Digital exclusion & poverty

Linköping | 9 June 2010

The upcoming EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum meeting will feature a session on increasing social inclusion through Information and Communications Technologies. The session will take place on 9 June at 12.00 – 17.00 in Linköping, Sweden.

Organised as part of the EUROCITIES Inclusive Cities campaign for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, this session will discuss digital inclusion at the local level. Local authorities are the level of government closest to the people and they also deliver the bulk of Europe's public services. The event will attempt to identify groups at risk in cities and present new findings and advice on how cities can address groups at risk of digital exclusion. It will also aim at matching recent academic findings with municipal initiatives, by presenting concrete cases and research results.

Speakers will include practitioners and experts from cities and their partners, research organisations and the European institutions.

Programme, logistical details and registration: <http://eventus.trippus.se/Eurocities2010>



Find out about transport financing and partnerships at TEN-T info day

Cities can find out how to access European transport funding at an information day that the European Commission is holding on 31 May – 1 June in Brussels.

Cities are key stakeholders of the Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) and should look into what funding opportunities are available, for instance for inter-urban connections. The info day will provide every type of information needed for accessing funding through

the European Commission's annual and multi-annual calls in this area. In particular, the info day's workshops will focus on public-private partnerships, eco-friendly transport systems and facilitating the implementation of TEN-T projects.

Applicants must register via the TEN-TEA website by 21 May. If you can't make it to Brussels, you can watch the event live on the European Commission website ■

EUSEW urban mobility conference: bit.ly/9j2ZPr
Vanessa Holve, EUROCIITIES policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Track changes?



The ash cloud that shut European airspace for several days has prompted the European Parliament to call for a faster and better EU rail network and for EU member states to open up their domestic railways to competition.

The natural disaster caused by an Icelandic volcano eruption has made national governments realise what improvements still need to be made in terms of information provisions, access to infrastructure and price setting.

Since 2001, the EU institutions have been working on opening up national rail networks to competition and as from this year, they have set clear targets to implement the legislation. However, some member states, because of the economic recession, have adopted protectionist positions. Hopefully, the aviation crisis that Europe experienced will encourage countries to continue investing in international high-speed rail infrastructure.

EU rail transport:
ec.europa.eu/transport/rail/index_en.htm

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

Survey shows city mobility depends on good local public transport



According to a recent European survey of local public transport systems, cities generally have acceptable networks, but could introduce some improvements, especially on providing clear, visible and understandable information to users.

Carried out by EuroTest in 2009, the survey which looked at 23 major cities' public transport systems, took into account a range of criteria including travel time, accessibility and speed of transfers, information, price tickets and fares. The evaluation showed that a good transport network with many interconnections and intermodal options may persuade people to give up travelling by car.

EuroTest: www.eurotestmobility.com
Vanessa Holve, EUROCIITIES policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Mid-term review: the EU Spanish Presidency on transport

The EU Spanish Presidency's priorities on transport, which includes the development of sustainable transport and the revision of the TEN-T guidelines, were highlighted at a meeting held on 23 April between the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism and José Blanco Lopez, the Spanish Minister for Transport.

Concerning European legislation still being negotiated, Mr Lopez noted that the Council reached a common position on the rights of ship, bus and coach passengers. The Council has also called for implemented acts on the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Agreement as well as the setting up of a methodology and criteria for future TEN-T planning and implementation.

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

Social Affairs



EU summit: improving the social situation of Roma

EUROCITIES staff and a representative of the city of Ghent attended the second European Summit on Roma inclusion, which took place in Cordoba on 8-9 April.

Gathering some 400 representatives of the EU institutions, national ministries, Roma organisations and other civil society organisations, the summit was held to discuss the social inclusion of Roma in the EU.

The main outcome of the summit hosted by the Spanish presidency of the EU, was a declaration calling for the

European Parliament to the European Commission. The parliament also issued a resolution for the summit reiterating their 2008 request.

According to Rom MEP Livia Jaroka, one third of European Roma are poor. She has said publicly that the most vulnerable members of the Roma population should be targeted and has criticised the inability of current EU funding to deal with the micro-level concentration of social exclusion in both urban and rural areas. Ms Jaroka has also stressed the need for a cross-sectoral,



existing policy and funding instruments, such as the structural funds, to be better used to improve the social situation of Roma, especially at the local level. The Commission published a communication and called for Roma to be included in the Europe 2020 strategy.

On the other hand, civil society organisations argued that an explicit, legally binding and enforceable European strategy is needed. This view is backed by a 2008 request from the

area-based approach to tackling poverty.

Responding to a proposal made by members, EURO CITIES Working Group Social Inclusion is considering extending their activities to deal also with Roma inclusion. The Roma population in the EU is around 10 million, making them the biggest minority in Europe. A large proportion of these face discrimination, low levels of education and a low socio-economic status ■

Second Roma Summit: tinyurl.com/25gcygcg

New date and updates! Cities against poverty and exclusion

New date and updates! Cities against poverty and exclusion



Due to air traffic disruptions caused by the Icelandic volcanic eruption, our 'health inequalities' seminar organised as part of the 2010 campaign has been rescheduled. Please update your calendars and take note of the programmes below.

- **Tackling long-term unemployment: Katowice | 10-11 May**

This seminar is dedicated to the problem of long-term unemployment in cities and its concentration in certain neighbourhoods. During the workshops, city representatives will have an opportunity to learn about the experience of their peers in engaging with the long-term unemployed, neighbourhood initiatives to tackle unemployment as well as community building activities. Participants will also visit several neighbourhood activation projects around the city.

- **Health inequalities: Ghent | 7-8 June**

Previously organised for 21-22 April, this seminar will now take place at the later date of 7-8 June. Practitioners from four cities - Genoa, Leeds, Nottingham and Tallinn - will compare their approaches to tackling health inequalities, with a 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, can contribute to improving healthcare services.

Programmes and registration forms:
www.inclusivcities.eu

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Participation & Cooperation



Call for applications: RegioStars 2011 Awards

The European Commission's annual awards for territorial excellence, 'RegioStars' will again this year include a category exclusive to cities.

RegioStars Awards identify good practices in regional development and highlight original and innovative projects which could be attractive and inspiring to other regions. The categories for 2011 are as follows:

- Economic competitiveness

1) Networking and cluster initiatives supporting regional growth and SMEs access to global markets

- 2) Anticipating economic change

- Low carbon economy

3) Promoting sustainable energy in cities ('CityStar' category)

4) Integrated, clean urban transport projects ('CityStar' category)

- Information and communication



5) Promotional photo of a co-funded project

In addition to the jury's award under category five, the Commission will organise an online public vote on the shortlisted promotional photos, thereby allowing two awards under this category.

Deadline for applications: 16 July 2010 ■

Draft report: tinyurl.com/yd6fo7p

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EUROCITIES discusses financing for local climate action

Brussels | 11 May 2010

The EUROCITIES Executive Committee Working Group on Climate Change and Energy will meet on 11 May in Brussels to discuss:

- A financing framework for cities on climate change;
- actions ahead of COP16;
- follow-up of the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change; and
- project ideas on energy.

The group will be informed of the outcomes of our latest meetings with EU institutions and will begin to prepare proposals for the 18 June EUROCITIES Executive Committee meeting

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCITIES policy officer - environment: eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Last chance to register for the EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform!

Newcastle-Gateshead | 20-21 May 2010

We'd like to encourage the contact officers from all EUROCITIES member cities to come along to this year's annual Cooperation Platform taking place in Newcastle-Gateshead on 20-21 May 2010.

In addition to the plenary session focusing on city rankings and their impact on city policies, the event will also feature a series of 'table conversations' for contact officers to discuss the following:

- EUROCITIES' fundamentals
- The evolving role of international relations
- Getting the most out of EUROCITIES

- Local governance
- Coping with the recession
- EUROCITIES' campaigns
- EUROCITIES' political charters
- The new call for NLAO – Network Local Authorities' Observatories on Active Inclusion
- EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza - Successful Cities: Vision and Identity
- A briefing on the main EU policy developments
- 1986-2011: Help us celebrate 25 years of EUROCITIES

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

Update: EUROCITIES Working Group Brand Management and City Attractiveness

Due to flight cancellations caused by the Icelandic volcanic eruption, the April meeting of the EUROCITIES Working Group Brand Management and City Attractiveness, was cancelled.

The June meeting taking place in Tampere will be extended in order to incorporate sessions that should have taken place in Glasgow. The main topic for the Tampere meeting will be media, promotion, targets and tools.

The final meeting of this Working Group will take place in Valencia in September 2010 to focus on evaluating and measuring attractiveness.

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

Projects



CIVITAS FORUM – call for speaker contributions now open!

The CIVITAS Forum Secretariat has launched a call for speaker contributions to the eight technical sessions of the CIVITAS Forum Conference taking place in Malmo on 27-29 September 2010. EUROCIITIES members interested in submitting one or more proposals, are encouraged to apply.

The CIVITAS Forum Conference is one of the main European events focusing on urban mobility. It offers a platform for politicians and practitioners to discuss the latest developments on integrated sustainable urban transport

strategies. The 2010 event will feature some of Malmo's projects including the redevelopment of its Western Harbour, the city's biogas facilities and its future Citytunnel.

EUROCIITIES collaborates with the CIVITAS Initiative and the organisation of the Forum 2010 in Malmo through the support action CIVITAS VANGUARD.

Deadline for applications: **26 May 2010** ■

CIVITAS: bit.ly/cvUfi9

National reports on cities' role in employment and training services

EUROCIITIES-NLAO conference
Brussels | 8 July 2010



The EUROCIITIES-NLAO has begun to analyse the role of cities in delivering employment and training services for particularly vulnerable people. The five Local Authority Observatories (LAO) - Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton, Stockholm - have each produced National Reports on the role of employment and training services for the active inclusion of people furthest away from the labour market.

The reports provide an in-depth analysis on how policies and services for employment and training are delivered at the local level in the LAO countries. The reports highlight challenges that local authorities face with regard to the active inclusion of vulnerable people through these services. They also identify good practice as well as gaps in policy implementation and set out recommendations on how to address these gaps at local, national and European level.

Both the national reports and the European comparative analysis on cities' role in active inclusion will be presented and discussed at a conference on 8 July 2010 in Brussels. Further details will be communicated shortly to EUROCIITIES members, who are encouraged to attend.

EUROCIITIES-NLAO: www.eurocities-nlae.eu
Daniela Amadio, EUROCIITIES project administrator - social inclusion: daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu

And the winners are...

For their efforts in reducing CO₂ emissions in urban areas through successful workplace mobility plans, Tiseo, British Sky Broadcasting and Heathrow Airport have been awarded the 2010 Pan European Workplace Mobility Plan Awards.

Among the nine short-listed candidates, Belgium, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom had very high results.

Within the three award categories, the winners were selected on the following basis:

- **Public authorities:** Tiseo, the public transport authority in Toulouse for a five step strategy as well as the use of innovative and modern tools, and for achieving strong political support
- **Employers:** British Sky Broadcasting for broad and effective measures involving cooperation with local and regional governments and the definition of clear objectives. The company also introduced a successful evaluation and monitoring system to measure modal shift.



- **Network:** Heathrow Airport impressed with its strong level of commitment, well-built measures, communication tools and strategy.

As well as these three main categories, a special jury prize was awarded to Rakoczi Avenue, Budapest for its innovative support for travel planning measures and its pioneering approach towards workplace travel planning. The jury believes this special award can convince local politicians of the importance of workplace travel plans. Further, it shows the success of COMMERCE project which focuses on transferring travel planning measures and standards across Europe and into the New Member States.

The award prize includes an expenses paid trip to a city of choice to learn from a pioneer public authority, organisation or network in workplace mobility plans, plus a cash prize of €1000 to further develop mobility plan measures.

Melanie Leroy, EUROCIITIES project officer – mobility management: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

Events



| Date / Place | Name of Event | More information |
|--|--|--|
| 18-20 May 2010 Vienna, Austria | 15th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development and Information Society Organised by the Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning | www.corp.at |
| 19-21 May 2010 Dunkerque, France | 6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference How can local sustainability respond to current economic, social and climate challenges? | www.dunkerque2010.org |
| 20-21 May 2010 Newcastle-Gateshead, UK | EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform Making the most of the EUROCITIES network | www.NewcastleGateshead.com/EUROCITIES2010 |
| 20-21 May 2010 Bergen, Norway | Worldwide Government Solutions Forum Delivering sustainable citizen services in the new economy | www.governmentsolutionsforum.com |
| 24-26 May 2010 Pecs, Hungary | Regional Responses to Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations Future regional development against today's global economy | www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk |
| 28 June – 1 July 2010 Singapore | World Cities Summit 2010 Liveable and sustainable cities for the future | www.worldcities.com.sg |
| 14-15 June 2010 Budapest, Hungary | EUROCITIES in-depth review seminar – Area-based approaches to social inclusion Organised as part of the 2010 campaign for combating poverty and social exclusion | www.inclusivecities.eu |
| 4-7 July 2010 Istanbul, Turkey | Urban Dynamics and Housing Change Theme: Crossing into the second decade of the third millennium | www.enhr2010.com |
| 7 July 2010 Brussels, Belgium | Innovation and cities Organised by the EU Belgian Presidency and EUROCITIES | bernardo.rodriques@eurocities.eu |
| 8 July 2010 Brussels, Belgium | EUROCITIES-NLAO conference Presentation and discussion of cities' role in active inclusion | www.eurocities-nlae.eu |
| 22-25 July 2010 Florence, Italy | Everyday life in the segmented city Organised by Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation | www.fondazione-delbianco.org |

EUROCITIES Flash is published by EUROCITIES Brussels Office.

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