

More impact, more urban



The European Commission has issued its proposals for the regulations governing the EU structural funds from 2014. These

support regeneration, infrastructure and economic development throughout the EU via 'operational programmes' in each region.

EUROCITIES has been working tirelessly to ensure that cities get a better share of these funds. European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, declared the need for 'an ambitious urban agenda'. And member states too, through the Spanish and Belgian presidencies last year, and the Hungarian and Polish presidencies in 2011, have supported this priority.

So the detail in the draft regulations was eagerly awaited, and we have not been disappointed. The Commission proposes, for example, the involvement of cities in 'partnership contracts', and suggests that EU funds should be delegated to cities to support integrated, 'place-based' approaches to urban development. Also planned is budget earmarking to support innovative urban actions. And some 300 cities are to be involved in a direct discourse with the Commission through an 'urban development platform' that will help cities deliver the goals of Europe 2020 on the ground.

We are learning more detail about the intentions behind these proposed regulations through continuing dialogue with the Commission. I'm sure there will be aspects that we want to see changed or strengthened. As both the European Parliament and member states will shape the final regulations, cities need to ensure that their own parliamentarians and governments are supportive.

The Commission clearly recognises that Europe has no hope of securing economic recovery without dynamic and globally competitive cities. Only investment in metropolitan Europe can lead us back into growth. Our focus now must also be to ensure these urban priorities make the final cut.

Paul Bevan
Secretary general, EUROCITIES

City entrepreneurs drive economic recovery

Helping cities create a good climate for entrepreneurs will help drive economic recovery. This was our key message at the European SME week summit that took place at the European Parliament on 7 October 2011.



Cities develop policies and programmes tailored to the specific needs of local entrepreneurs and small businesses. Yet local authorities still face barriers in realising the economic potential of entrepreneurship and small businesses.

In a series of recommendations to the European Commission on how to improve European support to entrepreneurship in cities, we have identified a number of ways in which European policies and programmes could further support us in our role.

These include:

- improving coordination between European funds to help support entrepreneurship as part of local integrated development;
- making public procurement rules more SME friendly; and
- supporting cluster development and SME internationalisation.

Speaking at a workshop on local and regional support for entrepreneurship and SMEs co-organised by EUROCITIES, Tomasz Kayser, Vice-Mayor of Poznan, said:

"Cities need European support to drive economic recovery. They have a wealth of expertise to share and future European funding programmes should also actively support the exchange and implementation of innovative practices supporting entrepreneurship between cities."

EUROCITIES recommendations: tinyurl.com/4x34fl8
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

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Follow us on Twitter!

We recently launched our Twitter account, **EUROCITIESweet**. We will be tweeting regularly, using individual hashtags, for example #PBCities for secretary general, Paul Bevan.

As well as tweeting on policy developments, city news and job vacancies, we plan to tweet from our upcoming conference, EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa on 2 – 5 November, using the hashtag #EUROCITIES2011.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your views on this year's conference!

Meanwhile, keep up to date with the latest EUROCITIES developments by clicking on the link below to follow EUROCITIESweet! ■



EUROCITIESweet: www.twitter.com/eurocitiesweet

Parliament and Council discuss energy efficiency directive

The Commission proposal for an energy efficiency directive is currently being discussed in the European Parliament and Council. The proposal contains a number of measures for improving energy efficiency in buildings, more efficient energy production and reducing consumption. Notably, the Commission suggests an annual 3% renovation target for public buildings.

In our statement on the Commission's text, we confirm cities' continued efforts towards achieving the EU goal of raising energy efficiency by 20% by 2020. However, we also ask for a number of improvements that will enable local authorities to implement the legislation without additional administrative and financial burden.

Our statement requests that the public building renovation target of 3% be made flexible both in terms of the kind of buildings to be renovated and the timing for completing renovations. We also underline that such targets only make sense if the necessary funding is available from both the public and private sector. Existing energy efficiency strategies should also be accepted, and we suggest that historic buildings and neighbourhoods be exempt from the legislation if necessary.

At a first hearing at the European Parliament's energy committee on 8 September 2011, MEPs' opinions were mixed. Some asked for the Commission proposal to be more ambitious, while others pointed out that the proposed directive would prove too costly for local authorities and for private companies.

EUROCITIES will contact the EU institutions in the coming months to make sure cities' views are heard. The Parliament is expected to vote on the energy efficiency directive on 17 April 2012.



European Commission proposal: tinyurl.com/5stmg6n

EUROCITIES statement: tinyurl.com/655v7af

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

Staff news



Christophe Jost, who completed a work experience placement in the environment forum from March to August 2011, has rejoined EUROCITIES until 16 December 2011 to work on the Covenant of Mayors initiative. Amongst other responsibilities, Christophe will help to coordinate the upcoming Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony, being held at the European Parliament on 29 November 2011. For more information on the ceremony, please turn to the environment section.

Christophe Jost, project assistant – Covenant of Mayors:
christophe.jost@eurocities.eu

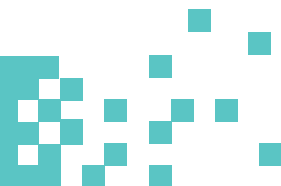


Denisa Naidin, currently programme administrative assistant, will take on a new role at EUROCITIES. From January 2012, Denisa will replace Susana Forjan as project assistant. As reported last month's Flash, Susana replaced Michele Corbetta as project officer – social affairs at the beginning of October 2011. Until January 2012, the position of projects assistant will be covered by **Silvia Cazzetta**, formerly the culture forum work placement.

Denisa Naidin, programme administrative assistant (until January 2012): denisa.naidin@eurocities.eu

Silvia Cazzetta, projects assistant (until January 2012):
silvia.cazzetta@eurocities.eu





EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, live on the web!

This year's annual conference, EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, 'planning for people', takes place in Genoa, Italy, on 2-5 November 2011, and will feature a series of lively debates, interactive workshops, speednetworking sessions and a gala dinner.

Even if you are unable to join us in Genoa this year, you can still follow the conference online, via webstream.



We will be broadcasting the Thursday morning session live, from 9:00 – 13:00 CET. See below a summary of the session highlights, and for the full programme, please visit the conference website. To follow the webstream, just click on the link below when you wish to watch the session! ■

Webstream: www.liveeurocities2011.eu

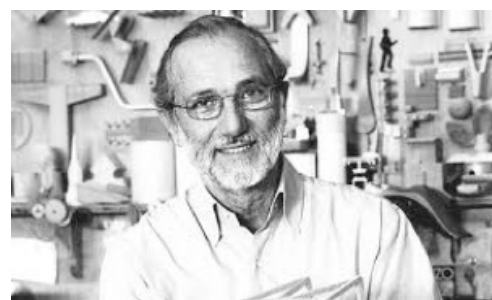
EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa – latest news

Live webstream

- Welcome speeches from the Mayor of Genoa, Marta Vincenzi and EUROCITIES president, Frank Jensen.
- Keynote address, 'planning for people', by renowned Genoese architect-planner, Renzo Piano (pictured).
- Panel debate featuring city mayors and experts.

Politicians from the following cities have registered for the conference:

Antwerp, Banja Luka, Barcelona, Beyoglu, Bialystok, Birmingham, Bratislava, Brighton, Budapest, Chemnitz, Cologne, Copenhagen, Derry, Dortmund, Edinburgh, Frankfurt Am Main, Genoa, Ghent, Gothenburg, Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Leipzig, Lille, Liverpool, Lodz, Lyon, Malmo, Mannheim, Munich, Nantes Metropole, Oslo, Poznan, Rennes Metropole, Riga, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Sunderland, Tallinn, Tbilisi, The Hague, Vienna, Warsaw, Yalova



EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: www.eurocities2011.eu
Sinead Mullins, communications executive: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

Meeting in Brussels?

EUROCITIES offers meeting rooms in an ideal location, a stone's throw from the European institutions, with special prices for EUROCITIES members.

- capacity up to 75 people
- catering services
- interpretation booths
- projection facilities
- complimentary WiFi
- special conditions on request
- half day rentals accepted



Contact and reservation - Olivier Baeselen, finance,
HR and office manager: +32 (0) 2 552 08 82 /
meetingrooms@eurocities.eu

Belfast signs Integrating Cities Charter

The city of Belfast becomes the latest signatory to the EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter after the mayor, Councillor Niall Ó Donnghaile (pictured), signed the charter on 22 September 2011.

The charter underlines cities' commitment and leadership in addressing migrant integration. By signing the charter, cities commit to strengthening their efforts in ensuring non-discrimination and equal opportunities for migrants.

On signing the charter, Councillor Ó Donnghaile said:

"I am honoured to sign the EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter which recognises and values the contributions of migrant populations to Belfast, embraces diversity and provides an equal opportunity to all residents."

For more information on the charter, please follow the link below.



Integrating Cities Charter: tinyurl.com/3u8d75l
Ana Feder, project officer – migration & integration: ana.feder@eurocities.eu

Towards an Erasmus for local politicians?

An Erasmus scheme for local politicians is a step closer. The European Commission recently asked URBACT to support a pilot exchange scheme for local politicians, and a final decision is expected in November 2011. The proposal will be dealt with by the URBACT monitoring committee, and the project would most probably start in autumn 2012.

Former MEP Jean-Marie Beaupuy first suggested the scheme in a 2008 report on an integrated approach to regional policy governance. However, no concrete action followed the feasibility study. Now, the European Commission, with strong support from the MEPs of the urban intergroup, is prepared to undertake a pilot project.

The Commission's proposal does not completely match the initial ambition of a proper exchange with study visits between

peers. It is likely that the pilot project will only allow for one or two local politicians from each member state to take part. It would include training sessions in Brussels and deal with themes such as sustainable urban development, transport, or territorial cooperation.

It should also help initiate a more ambitious set of projects to facilitate exchanges between local politicians and demonstrate that the European integration process starts locally. After being delayed for quite some time, we hope that the pilot project will be successful ■



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

Attracting talent to Europe's cities

Attracting talent is essential for cities. The results of a European survey measuring cities' attractiveness for talent were presented during the meeting of the EUROCITIES working group on city attractiveness and branding management in Lyon on 22-23 September 2011.

The attractiveness of 32 European cities was evaluated through a sample group of 2000 professionals ('talents') from all sectors, including entrepreneurs and top executives, liberal professions, public and private managers, scientists and engineers.

Findings included:

- mobility of talent is mainly motivated by work and family: only 22% of those questioned cited city attractiveness as a reason for moving;
- 20% are willing to move in the short term, whereas 50% would like to remain in the same city for all of their professional life;



- when asked to name the three aspects that are most important when choosing a city to live in, cost of living, climate and geographical location, and sense of security came in the top three.

Cities are welcome to participate in this ongoing survey by contacting Pierre-Yves Nury at CMN partners, details below.

Pierre-Yves Nury, CMN Partners: py.nuri@cmn-partners.com

Handbook for multilevel urban governance in Europe

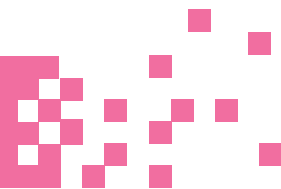
Following a conference on multilevel urban development in Liège on 1-2 December 2010, the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) has produced a handbook on multilevel urban governance in cooperation with the Belgian EU presidency.

The handbook aims to provide a useful tool to guide stakeholders through the sometimes confusing concepts of multilevel governance and integrated urban development.

The publication of the handbook also underlines the need to clarify these important concepts to a wider audience. This is why the first, and rather conceptual, chapter of the handbook is illustrated by a variety of concrete examples.

The handbook also features a list of collaboration instruments to help put into practice multilevel governance and the integrated approach: the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC - see Flash 109, September 2011), territorial pacts, multiparty contracts, local strategic partnerships and policy platforms are a few examples.

More information: www.eukn.org/Dossiers/MLG
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu



Don't miss the next culture forum!

Antwerp | 26–29 October 2011

The upcoming culture forum meeting in Antwerp will focus on heritage, urban culture and democracy in Europe. As well as plenary sessions and working group meetings, two special events will take place:

Debating education and culture

The EUROCIITIES working groups on education and culture (culture forum) and education and inclusion (social affairs forum) will meet jointly on 26 October 2011.

The session will take place at Studio Villanella, a cultural centre for young people. Participants will discuss city initiatives promoting education and culture. Examples from Antwerp and other cities will be presented, focusing both on establishing educational resources in museums and on developing cultural awareness in schools.

A EUROCIITIES strategic paper, 'start them young!', prepared by the education and culture group, will be discussed. The paper looks at promoting education in the arts and through the arts for children and young people.



Neutelings Riedijk architecten

Politicians to discuss cities and museums

A special meeting for politicians will be hosted by Antwerp's vice-mayors in charge of culture and of youth. The meeting will take

place at Antwerp City Hall on 27 October 2011.

Politicians will discuss:

- museums and municipalities in Europe: a Europe-wide study on this theme will be presented by the head of research and studies at the Louvre museum in Paris. The study examines the ways in which museums' missions are perceived, and seeks to shed light on how partnerships between museums and municipalities can be enhanced. One example is Antwerp's new city museum, Museum aan de Stroom (MAS – see photo), and its relationship with the city will be presented.
- The European Youth Capital scheme: Antwerp will showcase cultural projects developed as part of the programme and will present the main conclusions ■

Registration: cultureforumantwerp.eventbrite.com
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture:
julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Cultural heritage key for Europe's tourism industry

Cultural heritage is one of the biggest draws for tourists travelling around Europe, especially to cities. 300 of the 800 UNESCO World Heritage sites are located within the EU.

The fourth edition of the European Tourism Day took place in Brussels on 27 September 2011, focusing on 'industrial heritage: differentiating the European tourism offer'. The same day, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on 'Europe, the world's no.1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe', based on the European Commission's June 2010 communication.

Welcoming 40% of the world's tourists, the European Union remains the world's number one tourist destination. Tourism accounts for 10% of European GDP and 12% of total employment in the EU.

Rapporteur Carlos Fidanza said at a press conference on 27 September 2011:

"we have good tourist numbers despite the difficult economic situation...tourism is doing better than other sectors [because] this wealth can't be shifted to other parts of the world. Actions need to be undertaken for this position to be maintained."

Although the EU itself has no dedicated tourism competence, it complements member states' actions. The Commission's communication highlights the need to ensure better promotion and a higher profile for tourism in Europe, including the creation of a 'Europe brand'. Strongly recommended is the development of a European heritage label (which has since been introduced), alongside initiatives such as European Heritage Days or the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage.



The resolution calls for a 'Quality Tourism' label and recognition of the increasing trend for specialised tourism, from heritage tourism to emerging niches such as industrial tourism. The European Parliament calls on the Commission to submit an integrated tourism strategy by the end of 2012.

More information: ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/index_en.htm
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

New SGEI rules need further tweaking

The European Commission published its draft package amending rules on state aid for Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) in mid-September.

While it includes a number of vital improvements, EUROCITIES believes there is still room for further adjustment.

The proposed package includes a decision on exemption from notification obligation, a framework on public service compensation, and a regulation on 'de minimis' ceiling.

We welcome the exemption on notification obligation for many social SGEIs. This would make it possible for public authorities to give compensation without notifying the Commission. In our July 2011 statement, we requested that all social services be exempt from notification. The draft decision also includes details of European Court of Justice

rulings made in the absence of clear and detailed legislation, namely on the application of the Altmark criteria, which defines when the Commission needs to be notified of compensation.

The 'de minimis' rules for the provision of SGEIs apply to payments of up to €150,000 a year made by local authorities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, to providers with a turnover of less than €5 million. We reject the introduction of a population size threshold, particularly one so low.

EUROCITIES met with MEP Peter Simon, rapporteur for the European Parliament on this package, on 21 September 2011, to share our concerns.

The final package on state aid will be published by the end of November or early December. As the European Parliament only has the right to give an opinion on the package, we do not expect to see many changes to this draft. We are now focusing on the draft EU directive on service concessions, expected in November 2012 ■

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

Cities cooperating beyond boundaries

The EUROCITIES metropolitan areas working group met in Brussels on 22 September 2011 to finalise a report on metropolitan area cooperation within the EU.



'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries' was drafted jointly by Lille Metropole and Oslo with contributions from around 40 cities that have participated in the working group over the past year.

The report states that the role of functional urban areas is increasingly important across EU member states.

Public administrations are adapting to new policy challenges while seeking to find more effective solutions. High-performing functional urban areas are crucial for driving economic development.

The report presents practical examples from across the EU demonstrating the increased prominence of metropolitan areas. The examples suggest that the role of metropolitan areas is generally best shaped through bottom-up processes in local partnerships.

The report explains that metropolitan area governance will best succeed when adapted to work alongside existing political and administrative structures. Finally, the report argues that functional partnerships should be promoted and facilitated with support at national and EU level.

The paper will be launched at the Polish presidency conference in Warsaw on 24 – 25 October 2011 on effective instruments to support territorial development.

Dorthe Nielsen, policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

Better services for deprived neighbourhoods

The French secretariat general of the interministerial committee on urban affairs held its annual meeting on 29 September 2011. Participants examined the successes and challenges of city policy in 200 deprived areas of France by fostering a debate will all stakeholders and sectors concerned.



H. Henninger

Accessibility of services is closely linked to urban regeneration. Bordeaux Metropole and Grand Lyon Metropole presented examples of their work in achieving adequate service provision in deprived areas. Dr Sergio Porta, professor of urban design at the department of architecture, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, contributed his theory on centrality and the best locations for services.

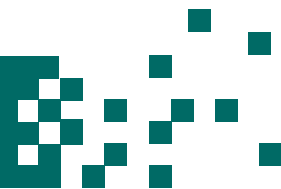
One roundtable discussed adapting services to users' needs and the uptake of mediation services. Examples included police services providing psychological aid and mediation in case of conflicts and organisations helping people in debt.

The conference featured a video (available at the link below) of Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES policy officer - economic development, discussing the impact of EU legislation on cities' provision of public services together with Pierre Bauby, professor at the University of Paris VIII and specialist in EU legislation on services.

The need to improve training for public service providers to cope with the needs of inhabitants of deprived neighbourhoods was also addressed. Participants recognised the importance of learning on the ground and from peers.

More information: www.rencontres-ville.fr/index.html

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



Roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe

On 20 September 2011, the European Commission adopted a 'roadmap for a resource-efficient Europe'. The roadmap outlines actions the Commission considers necessary in the medium and long term to manage resources more efficiently within the EU. This should help to preserve resources and minimise the impact of resource use on the environment.

According to the Commission, sectors such as buildings and mobility will have to make the biggest changes. While they play an important role in urban life, they also use the most resources: food, buildings and mobility together account for 70-80% of all environmental impact.

Stricter EU rules on green public procurement will be proposed by the Commission next year, as well as clearer information on the environmental impact of a product's lifecycle, which should help promote a shift towards consumption of more efficient goods.

Land use and sealing of surfaces will also be tackled, with new guidelines on surface sealing expected next year. Actions such as skills development in the construction sector, awareness-raising and incentives should see 2% of all buildings in the EU, both public and private, renovated annually from 2020 onwards.

The Commission recommends that EU research funding under the next multiannual financial framework be focused on innovations for resource efficiency in areas such as sustainable energy, transport and construction. A review of existing EU targets on waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery and landfill diversion will contribute to using the majority of waste as a resource. Waste prevention may benefit from new minimum recycled material rates, durability and

reusability criteria. Biodiversity protection is likely to be mainstreamed in many EU policies as well.

The EU has limited powers over taxation, and can only ask member states to improve taxation systems, shifting the focus towards the environment and removing subsidies that are harmful to the environment, such as for polluting energy sources or for unsustainable transport.



The Commission will work on further proposals, including concrete legislation, based on the roadmap over the coming years ■

More information: tinyurl.com/3d6kb33
Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment:
michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Improving air quality in cities

Antwerp | 30 November – 2 December 2011



On 30 November to 2 December 2011, the next EUROCITIES Environment Forum will focus on air quality. Cities will showcase projects and exchange best practices on their efforts to improve air quality for citizens.

City environment experts will also take a closer look at the EU air quality policy review that began this summer. In addition, the forum will address ICT and energy efficiency and participants will receive an update on EU funding opportunities.

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

Covenant of Mayors ceremony coming up soon!

Brussels | 29 November 2011

On 29 November 2011, the European Parliament will once again host the annual Covenant of Mayors ceremony. For the third consecutive year, all eyes are on Europe's cities and their efforts in carrying out sustainable energy actions. And what better location for this prestigious event to take place than in the European Parliament's hemicycle in Brussels!



At present, 101 EUROCITIES members are active in the Covenant of Mayors. Just as in previous editions, the mayors of our member cities play an important role in this high-level ceremony. City mayors will showcase their ongoing work in the area of sustainable energy and serve as an inspiration to colleagues.

Last year's event gathered 1200 participants, including more than 600 mayors and around 100 journalists.

The ceremony has had a huge media impact around the world, and European Commission President Barroso has already confirmed his attendance at this year's ceremony.

More information: www.eumayors.eu/agenda_en.html?id_event=260
Dion Wierts, project officer – climate & energy: dion.wierts@eurocities.eu

Efficient partnerships for effective research

The European Commission has issued a communication on 'partnering in research and innovation'.

The text, published on 21 September 2011, outlines steps towards simpler, more flexible, and more effective public-private and public-public partnerships, to be implemented over the coming years.

It also sets the scene for new partnering instruments under the future EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. Furthermore, the Commission has announced plans to develop benchmarks against which the efficiency and effectiveness of partnering initiatives can be assessed.

The Commission aims to drive forward the concept of European innovation partnerships and better structure a wide range of ongoing public-public or public-private partnerships, financed by European funds, coordinated at member state level or managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

The text suggests that in many cases, partnerships are the optimal solution to leverage the potential of research and innovation for tackling societal challenges, particularly given the current austerity in



public spending and the increasingly transnational character of these problems. It calls for bottlenecks and barriers to cross-border research to be removed and for long-term financial commitments to be undertaken by the project partners ■

European Commission communication: tinyurl.com/69o42vr
Jan Franke, policy officer – knowledge society:
jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Survey findings: how ICT impacts city governance

The results of the survey on 'exploring emerging ICT-enabled governance models in European cities', conducted with EUROCITIES members in 2010, has now been finalised and will be published in the coming weeks.

The report outlines the main findings on city governance areas most impacted by ICTs. More than 60 EUROCITIES members responded to the survey.

Based on the survey findings, the report attempts to identify the key enablers and the correlation between ICT-enabled applications and quality of public service delivery.

The survey was conducted as part of EXPGOV, a research project exploring the implications of changes resulting from emerging ICT-enabled city governance models. EXPGOV is managed by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), in collaboration with EUROCITIES.

More information: www.eurocities.eu (knowledge society - projects)
JRC IPTS: is.jrc.es/pages/EAP/EXPGOV.html

Share your ICT for energy efficiency initiatives on the new ICT4EE wiki!



ICT4EE Wiki
ICT for Energy Efficiency
Local and Regional Initiatives

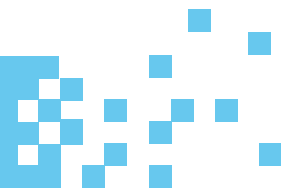
The European Commission's DG Information Society and Media has launched ICT4EE, wiki-site allowing stakeholders to share information about local and regional ICT initiatives for improving energy efficiency.

This resource, intended for local, regional and national authorities throughout Europe, will result in an extensive network of practical advice and good practice examples for the planning and implementation of energy efficiency initiatives involving ICT.

Cities are encouraged to join the community to find out what has already been done in other cities, regions and countries and to share their own experiences.

More information, available in 22 languages, on how the wiki works and how to access it can be found using the link below.

ICT4EE wiki: ict4eewiki.eu
Giulia Campodonico, project officer – knowledge society:
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MEPs shape transport white paper

The European Parliament committee on transport and tourism is currently discussing the white paper on the future of transport. An own initiative draft report, was published by committee member, Mathieu Grosch, on 8 September 2011.

Overall, Grosch supports the Commission's proposal. However, he believes that intermediate objectives, to be reached by 2020/2030, are needed in addition to the proposed 2050 targets.

Grosch proposes that support for projects carried out in urban areas be made conditional upon the submission of urban mobility plans. The report calls for co-modality to become the principal behind future transport policy, and requests that the Commission issue proposals by 2013 for the development of infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists in towns as well as incentives to double the number of passengers on public transport.

Some of the proposed amendments call for a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport in urban areas, support the establishment of integrated fare management systems and ensure

cities' flexibility in designing and implementing access restriction zones. All amendments are available on the Parliament website.

Timetable for the Parliament draft report adoption:

- Consideration of amendments: 11 October 2011
- Vote in transport committee: 22 November 2011
- Final vote in plenary: second week of December 2011 ■

More information: tinyurl.com/6l94w3s

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

Call for papers – European Conference on Mobility Management



The call for papers for the European Conference on Mobility Management 2012 (ECOMM) is now open! The 16th edition of the ECOMM will take place in Frankfurt, Germany on 12-15 June 2012. Take this opportunity to contribute by suggesting new ideas and concepts around the conference theme of electric mobility.

Full details are available on the conference website, and the deadline for submission is 30 October 2011.

More information: www.ecomm2012.eu/call_for_papers.html
Alessandra Fiorenza, project officer - mobility management:
alessandra.fiorenza@eurocities.eu

103 measures to halve road accident deaths by 2020

On 27 September 2011, the European Parliament adopted the 4th Road Safety Action Programme, backing the European Commission's goal of halving the number of road deaths by 2020. EUROCITIES contributed to the development of this programme through a 2009 position paper.



European road safety policies for 2020 will provide a framework to shape national and local strategies. In line with the principle of subsidiarity, actions taken should be implemented at the most appropriate level and through the most appropriate means.

The Parliament recommends using 'alcolocks' on commercial goods and passenger vehicles and implementing an EU-wide 30 km/h speed limit in residential areas. It also recommends harmonising road traffic rules, road signs and blood alcohol limits. MEPs call on the European Commission to appoint a EU road safety coordinator to help member states put the action programme into practice.

In another step towards improved road safety, a Commission recommendation to make road accident reporting devices mandatory was welcomed by the Parliament's transport committee on 8 September 2011. The 'eCall' devices will be installed on all new cars and light vehicles sold within the EU from 2015.

Members of the transport committee asked the Commission to organise an effective eCall information campaign for EU citizens, and recommended that eCall technology also be introduced on heavy vehicles, such as trucks and buses.

The adoption of this recommendation is the first step of a tripartite legislative process. Legislative initiatives on the eCall device and on the technical specifications of emergency call centres will follow.

European Parliament proposed measures: tinyurl.com/452t8ym
European Commission recommendation: tinyurl.com/3m4bl64
Vanessa Holve, policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Cities and the National Reform Programmes

Brussels | 29 November 2011

National Reform Programmes cover economic, environmental and social policies and outline how EU member states intend to meet the targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

EUROCITIES is organising a seminar in Brussels on 29 November 2011 to examine the extent to which cities were involved in preparing the social dimension of these reports. The results of a review held earlier this year, which examined cities' involvement

in the preparation of 14 NRPs, will be presented, as well as the conclusions of workshops dedicated to French and Italian NRPs. Participants will exchange views with representatives from the European Commission and the European Anti-Poverty Network.

A lack of involvement from local authorities in the preparation of NRPs is an issue of concern. The questions to be discussed during the EUROCITIES seminar will address how to

improve the involvement and participation of cities in the preparation and implementation of NRPs ■

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Report on the active inclusion of young people in cities

Youth unemployment is a challenge for many cities across Europe. Often the rate of youth unemployment is twice the overall unemployment rate.

The latest report by our Cities for Active Inclusion shows that cities can play an important role in promoting youth employment and the social inclusion of young people.

Based on studies undertaken by our nine Cities for Active Inclusion members, the report sets out the trends and challenges experienced by European cities on the inclusion of young people. Each city also contributes its own good practices for stimulating youth employment at local level.

Cities reported that they are finding it increasingly challenging to actively support the inclusion of young people.

Budgets for social and employment policies are being cut, while the number of unemployed young people remains high as a result of the economic crisis.

Nevertheless, cities are working on many promising projects and policies targeting young people. They focus on preventing early school leaving, facilitating the transition from school to work, better matching education with labour market demands, empowering young people and stimulating entrepreneurship. In many of these activities, cities try to coordinate and create synergies with other stakeholders, such as NGOs, education providers and businesses.

These findings were discussed with national and EU stakeholders and other cities in national workshops between September and October 2011.

More information: www.eurocities-nlao.eu
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Coaching for better school attendance



On 29 September 2011, members of the EUROCITIES working group education met in Antwerp to discuss the city's project on youth coaching.

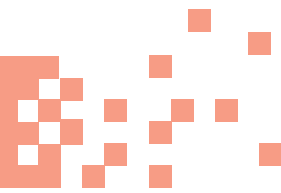
Youth coaching is used with young people at risk of dropping out of school. Support ranges from help with studying, guidance on career or education options or liaising with other services, for example social services. Coaches work with a network of partners, including employment and social welfare departments, schools and youth workers or community organisations.

Antwerp has three types of youth coaches. Territorial youth coaches are coordinators who work in specific geographical areas and with the coaches in schools. Trained school coaches identify and support pupils at risk of dropping out while helping prevent problems that may be caused by students. Finally, students can become coaches to their schoolmates, supporting them and liaising with coach coordinators to signal emerging problems.

The peer review consisted of interviews with territorial coaches, the project coordinator and youth coaches. It focused on three aspects of the project: working within the network of partners; the educational aspects of coaching; and the methodology of working with young people through coaching.

Invited experts underlined the importance of establishing a broad network and involving different stakeholders. Working with youth coaches helps create bridges between the school and the outside world, especially local communities. Many youth coaches come from migrant backgrounds and represent an important link between schools and local communities. The greatest challenge is maintaining a working relationship with all partners in the network.

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Bus stop to anti-social behaviour

EUROCITIES' latest good practice case study looks at how Ghent has curbed anti-social behaviour, including vandalism, affecting the city's public transport system and passengers.

Research carried out in Ghent showed that scolding would have fallen on deaf ears, so the council avoided taking severe and stiffer measures to address the issue. Instead, they found that the best way to tackle the problem was to get on a level playing field with the students.



Through the new 'Trammelant' programme introduced in cooperation with the local public transport company De Lijn, the city organised a series of constructive dialogues with students at local schools where they could talk openly and show them the consequences of their actions. The meetings involve 'role reversals', which require students to act as De Lijn employees and vice-versa.

The activity of systematically imagining and talking about what it might be like to be in the other person's situation allows different

opinions to emerge. Instead of each group simply restating their own or attacking the other's position, they're better able to see the other point of view and eventually find some common ground.

Role reversal teaches students how to treat bus drivers with courtesy and brings about more mutual respect. Both parties are better able to see their behaviour from another angle.

The Trammelant programme, which is funded in part by the EU's CIVITAS initiative, has delivered tangible results for the city of Ghent. The number of complaints about minors in the neighbourhoods surrounding the schools participating in the scheme has gone down considerably. And De Lijn has also noticed a positive change in the pattern of disturbances since the uptake of the programme.



More broadly, another nod to the scheme's success is that it has been subsequently copied by other Belgian cities. Today, there are now four other branded Trammelant buses in operation, visiting schools in Limburg, Brabant and West Flanders. Now in its fourth year, it is estimated that the programme reaches around 2,000 school children in Ghent and other areas ■

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Coming soon! Electric car-sharing in Paris

Travelling around Paris has just become easier and more environmentally-friendly. The city launched a two-month test phase on 2 October 2011 for Autolib', its new electric car-sharing scheme. The system would follow on from Vélib', the city's extremely successful bicycle-share programme, and will allow users to pick up the small electric vehicles from stations around the city, for a small fee.

While car-sharing schemes already exist in many cities, the system in Paris would become the world's largest electric car-sharing programme.

The scheme is currently being tested by 100 users, and if successful it should be launched to the public by December this year. The cars are entirely electric, with a top speed of 130km/h and a maximum journey distance of 250km on a single charge. Annual subscriptions will cost €144, and daily and weekly subscriptions will be available for €10 and €15 respectively, ideal for casual users and tourists. Similar to the bike-share scheme, an additional fee, expected to be around €5, will be charged for every half-hour of driving.

The €235 million project was the initiative of the Mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, and the company behind Autolib' hopes to have 3,000 cars on the city's roads by summer 2012. The city of Paris has contributed €35 million to the scheme by building rental stations,



and suburban local authorities have also put forward €50,000 for each station.

If successful, the project should help to promote a movement towards more sustainable city travel, and also persuade citizens to shift from the concept of owning a car towards that of borrowing a car.

More information: www.autolib-paris.fr



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Tackling social exclusion conference	Southampton	16 – 17 November 2011
Findings of a joint Ghent, Rotterdam and Southampton project		Jud.pearson@southampton.gov.uk
Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony	Brussels	29 November 2011
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Sustainable development of cities and urban areas		www.rantrad.co.uk/rantrad-future-cities

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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