

Connecting through the Covenant



The Covenant of Mayors has been a stunning success. Launched by the European Commission in 2008, the Covenant has

engaged local leaders in the delivery of Europe-wide climate targets. So far, over 3,000 mayors have signed commitments to reduce CO2 emissions in their territories by at least 20% by 2020.

And this is not 'gesture politics': each municipality has to prepare a sustainable energy action plan for evaluation and monitoring. Through the ELENA facility, the European Investment Bank is providing €30m in support, so far leveraging some €1.6 billion of investment for energy efficiency.

The Covenant has captured the imagination of municipalities of all sizes, from the smallest communes to the likes of London, Paris and Madrid. These are among 104 EUROCITIES signatories, 75 of whom have already submitted action plans. Our Brussels office forms part of the secretariat for the Covenant. Besides liaising with our own members, we have a key role in delivering Covenant communications.

Connecting local and European levels of government more directly is of course a constant theme of EUROCITIES' work across the EU policy agenda. Too often the mediation of national governments and regions creates a confusing distance between citizens and Europe. It's no wonder that, in spite of the EU's strategic significance and the impact of EU legislation, many people don't regard Europe as relevant to their everyday lives.

The Covenant of Mayors offers a powerful model for making that connection. It is not the only way of course. It suits the climate agenda where we are all striving to meet measurable goals, but the challenges of economic recovery or social cohesion are less readily defined. Nevertheless, the Covenant proves to European institutions that proactively engaging with the local level pays dividends.

Paul Bevan

Secretary general, EUROCITIES

EUROCITIES winners!

EUROCITIES members Bydgoszcz, Rotterdam and Zaragoza were honoured during our annual conference, EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, for their pioneering urban regeneration projects. The awards recognise outstanding achievements by city administrations in carrying out local actions which improve the quality of life for citizens.

More than 50 entries were submitted in three categories: cooperation, innovation and participation, and judged by an independent jury in the context of the conference theme, 'planning for people'.

A shortlist of nine cities was drawn up in August, and the following winners were announced at a ceremony at the Acquario di Genova on 2 November 2011:

- Cooperation: 'The Mill Island', Bydgoszcz
- Innovation: 'Do-it-yourself houses', Rotterdam
- Participation: 'Este no es un solar – this is not a plot', Zaragoza

Presenting the awards, Paolo Pissarello, Vice-Mayor of Genoa and chair of the jury, remarked:

"This year's winners demonstrate the capacity of local authorities to design and implement urban regeneration initiatives responding directly to the needs of citizens. By planning for people we are creating more liveable cities."

See page two for summaries of the winning projects. For more information on the awards, please visit our conference website.



EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: www.eurocities2011.eu

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EUROCITIES winners: projects

Cooperation 'The Mill Island: revitalisation with cooperation of various stakeholders', Bydgoszcz: a regeneration project focused on a run-down industrial area, which has been transformed into a centre of culture, leisure, entrepreneurship and tourism. The project was carried out with support from EU funding and in close cooperation with partners, including a museum and industrial cluster.

Halina Piechocka-Lipka: wk@um.bydgoszcz.pl

Innovation 'Do-it-yourself houses', Rotterdam: over a seven year period the city bought houses in run-down areas off landlords who were not maintaining them. Realising that it is difficult to sell renovated houses in disadvantaged areas, the city sold them off at bargain prices to people who would refurbish them in their own style. Mechanisms are in place to ensure houses are developed to a high standard and the city has partnered with two banks willing to provide mortgages.

An Huitzing, ami.huitzing@rotterdam.nl

Participation 'Esto no es un solar – this is not a plot', Zaragoza: originally launched as an employment plan, recruiting long-term unemployed citizens to clean up derelict land, the plots have now been given new urban uses. The city soon realised that by working with local organisations, such as schools and cultural centres, residents could help shape the planning process. Three years on, the city is home to 29 new dynamic spaces and the project has transformed 42,000m2 of land.

Patrizia Di Monte, pdimonte@zaragozavivienda.es



EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: www.eurocities2011.eu
Nicola Vatthauer, communications director: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES business

The German city of Karlsruhe becomes the latest member to join EUROCITIES, after being formally approved during the network's annual conference in Genoa. The city, which has a population of nearly 300,000, will be represented by Heinz Fenrich, Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe.

Birmingham, represented in Genoa by Paul Tilsley, Deputy Leader of the Council, was confirmed as the latest member of the ExCom, replacing Lyon. Incumbent members Copenhagen, Budapest and The Hague were also confirmed for another term. All EUROCITIES forum chairs were also re-confirmed.

25 years of EUROCITIES

We were delighted by the positive reception of our photo and history books, launched at the recent annual conference in Genoa. 'My city – my view' features more than 70 photos taken by young photographers from across the network, offering a unique perspective on how young people view their cities. A history book chronicles 25 years of EUROCITIES, from its inception in 1986, a group of six founding members, and its evolution to present day, a thriving network of more than 140 large European cities.



Each city and each young photographer will receive a copy of the books. Further copies are available at a cost of €25 for the set, including shipping. A selection of photos featured in the book were exhibited at the conference in Genoa. If you would be interested in more copies of the books or in hosting the exhibition in your city, contact Nicola Vatthauer at the EUROCITIES Brussels office. We hope you enjoy the photos and stories as much as we have!

Commissioner Hahn handed EUROCITIES reports

European regional policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn (pictured centre) received two EUROCITIES studies at a Polish presidency conference on 'effective instruments for territorial development', in Warsaw on 24 October 2011.

Tomasz Kayser (left), Deputy Mayor of Poznan, presented 'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries' and Henk Kool (right), Deputy Mayor of The Hague, presented 'A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration'. Both studies give weight to EUROCITIES' claim that cities play a central role in economic recovery.

'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries: evidence through experience in European cities', drafted by the EUROCITIES working group on metropolitan areas, offers practical examples of the increasing prominence of Europe's metropolitan areas. 'A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration: issues, approaches and experiences in European cities', produced by the EUROCITIES working group on urban regeneration and published by the Nicis Institute in The Hague, offers recommendations to local government



and the EU on how best to regenerate deprived areas.

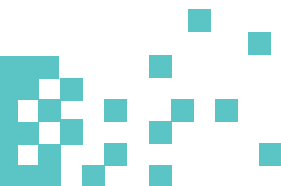
Secretary general, Paul Bevan, said:

"These reports bring together the knowledge and experience of European cities on how best to fulfil their potential."

You can view the reports using the links below, or, to order a paper copy of 'A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration', send your name and address by email to the EMI network, details below.

Developing Europe's Urban Model:
tinyurl.com/7qfgm55
My city - my view:
tinyurl.com/6vt7ogf

Dorthe Nielsen, policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu
Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries: tinyurl.com/3ntpmre
A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration: tinyurl.com/6j3jh4r
EMI network (to order a paper copy): info@emi-network.eu



EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa

EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, our annual conference, took place on 2-5 November 2011 in Genoa, Italy. The theme of this year's conference was 'planning for people' and renowned Genoese architect-planner, Renzo Piano, gave a keynote speech drawing on his own experiences of regenerating the city. Piano established 'Urban Lab' in 2007, which has become instrumental in the regeneration of this port city.

The mayors of Antwerp, Barcelona, Genoa, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Warsaw contributed to a lively panel debate, giving examples of how they are implementing the 'planning for people' concept in their cities and challenges they have faced along the way. Examples included the regeneration of a derelict train station in Antwerp and a project ensuring closer cooperation between the police and residents in neighbourhoods of Rotterdam.



Mimmo Giordano

The debate was followed by an awards ceremony for the winners of our young photographers' competition. Awards were presented by Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam, to Jelena Bajić and Jelena Pažin from Banja Luka, Antigoni Metaxaki from Heraklion and Srdjan Srdjanov from Novi Sad. This was followed by a photo exhibition, which will also be shown in Florence and Copenhagen.

As well as speednetworking sessions, the EUROCITIES awards ceremony and a gala dinner, participants took part in a series of workshops around the 'planning for people' theme.

Workshops included a tour of the Maddalena district, once home to bustling port activities and now one of the city's most run-down neighbourhoods. Genoa introduced a 'pact for Maddalena', based on cooperation with stakeholders including the city administration, an anti-mafia organisation, the police and local residents, who work together towards the physical, economic and social revitalisation of the area.



Other participants took part in pesto-making demonstrations, or toured a state of the art research centre for robotics, smart materials and nano-technologies. As a port city, much of the focus in Genoa was on reviving abandoned industrial premises. A workshop looked at the Cornigliano area in the west of the city, previously a heavily industrial area, now transformed into a creative hub home to graphic and film studios. Initially, the local residents found it difficult to connect with the area, but a sense of community is now being created within the neighbourhood.

Some 350 participants, including 100 mayors and senior politicians, met in Genoa for this successful conference, and many more were able to follow via a live webstream and Twitter updates ■

EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: www.eurocities2011.eu

Nicola Vatthauer, communications director: nicola.vatthauer@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

EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa: mayors' debate

Politicians met for a private mayors' debate on the Friday morning, where they discussed the challenges of managing migration flows in cities. This theme is particularly appropriate for Genoa, which sits on the frontline of southern Mediterranean migration, but is a problem faced by all European cities to varying extents. Mayors were joined by Khaled Ali Bel Haj, Mayor of Sousse, Tunisia, and drew three main conclusions:

- European cities are the birthplace of democracy. Cities have a responsibility to ensure the integration of migrants into the democratic process.
- Cities should explore further how to assist developing democracies in building stable political environments.
- Challenges vary from place to place, and from year to year, so it is impossible to generalise. Nevertheless, robust local frameworks should be developed that can adapt to tackle changing issues.

Ghent and Gijon to host upcoming EUROCITIES events!

During the conference in Genoa, it was confirmed that the cities of Ghent and Gijon will host two of our networking events in 2012 and 2013. Daniël Termont, Mayor of Ghent, will welcome delegates to his city for the 2013 EUROCITIES annual conference. Carmen Moriyón Entrialgo, Mayor of Gijon, will welcome participants at next year's cooperation platform. This is an informal event providing networking opportunities primarily aimed at new contact officers.

Hosting annual EUROCITIES events allows members to showcase their cities and local projects to the rest of the network.

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



Cities of tomorrow - challenges, visions, ways forward

A new report published by the European Commission explores the future of European cities.

The report argues that cities are central to the sustainable development of the EU and play a crucial role as engines of economic recovery, as places of connectivity, creativity and innovation, and as centres of services for their surrounding areas.

However, the European model of sustainable urban development is under threat due to demographic change, growing income disparities, social polarisation, spatial segregation and urban sprawl. Those challenges can be turned into opportunities to create a resilient and inclusive economy, maximising the potential of socio-economic, cultural, generational and ethnic diversity and promoting a holistic approach to environment and energy.

The report concludes that new forms of governance are essential to respond to the future urban challenges. Governance systems need to be adapted to evolving



circumstances, be cross-cutting, be based on the participation of relevant stakeholders.

The report, together with five more in-depth thematic studies and ten case studies of 'good policies and practices of cities tackling challenges', is available at the link below ■



Cities of tomorrow: tinyurl.com/7dksjva
Dorthe Nielsen, policy advisor:
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Building a database of best practices in architectural and urban planning

EFAP, the European Forum for Architectural Policies, is in the process of building a web observatory for sharing innovative architectural and urban practices throughout Europe.

The aim of the project is to develop a database that everyone will be able to access and learn from.



Objectives behind the platform include:

- reflecting on the changes in urban design and on living and working conditions;
- providing a meeting place for people committed to improving urban landscape; and
- disseminating information and experiences related to architectural and urban practices.

The website is still in the development phase and the EFAP is looking for contributions to its database. If you think you have a suitable project, visit the website below.

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

Let your city shine!

The European Commission's annual 'RegioStars' awards recognise good practices in regional development and highlight innovative projects which serve as an example to other regions.

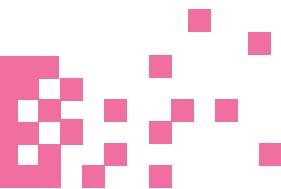


The 2013 awards will feature a new category, 'CityStar', focusing on integrated approaches to sustainable development in cities. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase a development project in your city. Cities are encouraged to submit proposals which demonstrate the merits of an integrated approach.

Successful cities will be asked to present their projects to an independent jury during the 2012 Open Days, and an awards ceremony will take place in February 2013. The deadline for 2013 entries is 20 April 2012, and details of the criteria can be found at the link below.

EUROCITIES member Amsterdam was honoured at this year's ceremony for its 'Smart City' project; don't miss the chance for your city to shine!

RegioStars: tinyurl.com/3nt4ws8



Highlights from the latest culture forum

The latest culture forum meeting in Antwerp on 26 – 29 October focused on 'heritage, urban culture and democracy in Europe'. Discussions revolved around issues such as how cities deal with their cultural heritage and urban culture as a form of cultural identity. Cities shared experiences on how local heritage and urban cultural policies can contribute further to local democracy. A special focus was put on young people and urban culture.

Conclusions from the discussions will be used to prepare recommendations to cities and to the European institutions.

Claire Lyse Chambron, of the European Commission's DG education and culture, presented the wide range of European funding programmes available to preserve and strengthen urban heritage.

Two side events also took place alongside the forum:

- The first event focused on education and culture. A strategic paper 'start them young!', was presented and well-received by members. Prepared by the education and culture group, the paper focuses on both education in the arts and education



through the arts for children and young and will be available on our website shortly.

- The second event was a politicians' discussion on relations between cities and museums. A Europe-wide study on the topic was presented by the head of research and studies of the Louvre museum in Paris. A discussion followed on the relationship between MAS (Museum aan de Stroom, the new Antwerp city museum) and the city of Antwerp ■



Neutelings Riedijk architecten

Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture:
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What's on the culture forum agenda for 2012?

In 2012, the culture forum activities will focus around three key topics:

- Access to culture
- Creative partnerships
- European funding programmes for the post-2014 period. These encompass the future Creative Europe programme as well as the future cohesion policy regulations.

Below is a summary of working group activities in 2012:

- WG young people and culture will continue to work on education and culture and, as a follow-up of the Antwerp forum, also intends to focus on young people and heritage as an instrument for democracy, identity and mutual understanding.
- WG access to culture will carry on exchanging practical policies and initiatives being implemented in cities to encourage access to culture for all demographics. The WG will also link up

to the European Year 2012 of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

- WG mobility of artists and culture professionals will focus on responsible and sustainable cultural and artistic mobility, contribute to existing European information systems on mobility and strengthen cooperation with professional networks of artists.
- WG resources for culture will closely follow the preparation of the future European funding programmes affecting culture. It will also broaden the concept of resources for culture and look at non-financial resources; i.e. human resources and new skills needed.
- WG creative industries will also closely monitor new developments in European policies and programmes supporting the creative industries. The work plan of the WG will be discussed at the end of November in Rotterdam.

The culture forum will meet twice in 2012: in Utrecht on 18-21 April and in Munich at the end of October (exact dates to be announced soon).

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

Reminder: Creative Industries WG meeting in Rotterdam

Rotterdam | 24-25 November

Coming up soon, the creative industries working group will focus on cross-sectoral innovation led by creative industries. Rotterdam-based companies will present their own experiences and stakeholders from Rotterdam, including knowledge institutes and creative companies, will attend.

The meeting will take place at the Creative Factory, a former silo stretching along one of the city's canals, which was turned into a hub for creative businesses in 2008.

An agenda and practical information will be available shortly in the EUROCITIES members' area.



Investment in metropolitan Europe will drive recovery

Speaking on our behalf at a Polish presidency conference on 'effective instruments supporting territorial development', in Warsaw on 24 October 2011, Tomasz Kayser, Deputy Mayor of Poznan welcomed the Commission draft regulations on future cohesion policy.

Mr Kayser called the regulations a "strong starting point" towards achieving the ambitious urban agenda, promised by Commissioner Hahn, and said: "there are clearly many innovations with the potential to strengthen the role of cities delivering integrated development on the ground. Investment in metropolitan Europe will drive smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the benefit of all – not only for those living in cities."

He also highlighted "how EU funds directly benefits the quality of life of Poznan's citizens": in Poznan, the cohesion fund

supports investment in transport and waste management, for instance.

Commenting on the partnership contracts and operational programmes, Tomasz Kayser stressed that elected governments, and in particular the leaders of major cities, must be around the table. The direct involvement of local government is necessary to achieve coherent strategies, efficient spending and better value for money. We are also interested in the expanded EU dialogue promised by the Commission's proposal for an 'urban platform'.

On the minimum of 5% allocation for integrated urban development, Mr Kayser added: "if we agree that the integrated approach is the most effective, then we should be committed to resourcing it ambitiously. Nevertheless, the direct delegation of these funds to cities is a good start".

We welcome the recognition that a focus on functional areas will assist territorial cohesion,



and recently published two reports linked to this variable geography (see page four) ■

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

A leap forward for cities in efficient cluster support

Participants from all over Europe met for the CLUSNET project's final conference on 13-14 October 2011 in Lyon, to discuss the results of the three-year cooperation on city based cluster support policies.



Chaired by renowned urbanist Greg Clark, the event proved an excellent opportunity for cities to share views and experiences. Örjan Sölvell and Göran Lindquist, professors from the Stockholm School of Economics, presented the project's final report, 'Organising clusters for innovation: lessons from city regions in Europe'. The study highlights innovation gaps, the main challenges for cluster management, and recommendations for overcoming these. Their research identified the two main ways of organising and managing clusters, and other aspects related to clusters and innovation.

Nikos Pantalos, on behalf of the European Commission, gave a summary of EU initiatives on cluster support. He also shared his views on smart specialisation and the potential benefits of the internationalisation of clusters, for example through the European Enterprise Network. CLUSNET cities also presented their own experiences and lessons learnt from the project.

The evening reception, held in Lyon's city hall, was hosted by Jean-Michel Daclin, Vice President of Greater Lyon.

On the second day, participants took a tour of the Rhone-Alpes cinema studios, an important part of the Lyon media cluster, where they learnt about 'imaginove', one of the most important local clusters on media.

Financed by INTERREG IVC, the project brings together the cities of Lyon, Barcelona, Budapest, Dortmund, Eindhoven, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Leipzig, Manchester and Munich with EUROcities and the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE). The objective was to improve the effectiveness of cluster support policies in larger European city-regions, exchanging best practices between the participants and further developing international cooperation between clusters, cluster managers and cities.

Susana Forjan, project officer: susana.forjan@eurocities.eu
CLUSNET website: www.clusnet.eu

Parliament and EUROcities aligned on public procurement

On 25 October 2011, the European Parliament voted in favour of MEP Heide Ruhle's report on the Commission green paper on the modernisation of public procurement in the EU, published on 27 January 2011.

The Parliament's position matches ours on several points, for instance calling for clearer, simpler but also more flexible rules and ensuring a better involvement of SMEs.

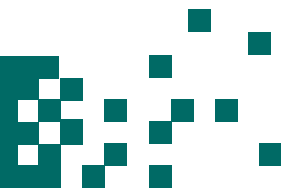
The report aims to replace the current evaluation criteria, based solely on price, with the concept of "most advantageous offer". This takes into account the entire lifecycle costs of a good or service and its sustainability. This is in line with our position of taking environmental, social and fairtrade criteria into account.

The report also voices the need for more negotiated procedures, to provide cities with much-needed flexibility in concluding an agreement.

The Parliament also aims to better involve SMEs in public procurement with simplified rules including only requesting original documents from shortlisted companies and the proposal of an 'electronic procurement passport'.

The Commission's new proposals for directives on public procurement are expected in December.

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



Connecting Europe: better access to renewable energy?

On 19 October 2011, the European Commission adopted a plan for a €50 billion investment facility to support Europe's transport, energy and digital networks. The Connecting Europe Facility is to be a part of the EU's 2014 – 2020 multiannual financial framework.

Out of the €50 billion, the Commission would like to see €9.1 billion invested in connecting energy grids. This should help link more EU countries and make it easier to transfer energy over longer distances. An example would be transporting wind energy from offshore wind parks to large inland cities. The Commission also expects the new energy networks to make energy supply more secure and energy prices more reasonable.

To be eligible for funding, new energy transmission projects would need to prove that they would not be commercially viable without EU funding. Other criteria state that new connections must facilitate transmission of renewable energy, or that they support competition between energy suppliers. ■

Connecting Europe Facility: tinyurl.com/67m7f8e
Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment:
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Energy efficiency directive: final negotiations in Parliament

The European Parliament's energy committee (ITRE) continues its discussions on the Commission proposal for an energy efficiency directive. Green MEP Claude Turmes is calling for an overall more ambitious proposal in his draft report, and we are maintaining contact with MEPs to influence the Parliament negotiations. We continue to argue that the proposed target of renovating 3% of public buildings every year should be designed to be both effective and flexible. It should also be underpinned by sufficient funding.

Parliamentarians have until 7 November 2011 to table amendments in the energy committee. The Environment Council is expected to discuss the directive on 24 November 2011.

Energy efficiency directive: tinyurl.com/5stm6gn
EUROCITIES statement: tinyurl.com/6amhtnc
Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Covenant of Mayors: Club Germany

On 25 October 2011, German signatories of the Covenant of Mayors gathered in Heidelberg to inaugurate a national club. Of the 50 local authorities at the event, several were EUROCITIES members, including Munich, Mannheim, Nuremberg and Frankfurt.

By signing the Covenant, cities commit to reducing their CO2 emissions by at least 20%, through energy efficiency programmes. Platforms such as Club Germany are intended to help cities achieve the target by discussing common issues and strengthening networking opportunities at national level. It is also an opportunity to build awareness of the Covenant amongst citizens.

The German signatories plan to meet twice a year and will exchange views in the meantime via an online discussion forum. It follows the lead of similar clubs already in place in France and Croatia, and will eventually be replicated by nine other countries.

As an official supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors, and one of the five organisations managing the Covenant of Mayors Office, EUROCITIES was present at the launch of the German club.

Reminder! Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony to be held on 29 November at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Covenant of Mayors: www.eumayors.eu
Dion Wierst, project officer – climate & energy: dion.wierst@eurocities.eu

CASCADE peer training on local energy leadership

Brussels | 14–15 November 2011

The CASCADE project (Cities exchanging on local energy leadership), launched in June 2011, is getting ready for the first series of networking and mutual learning activities.



CASCADE partners will meet in Brussels on 14–15 November 2011 for a training session on peer learning methodologies, organised by EUROCITIES. The training will equip city experts with the skills and tools to carry out in-depth assessments of sustainable energy projects in a transnational context. Local stakeholders who collaborate with the cities in the implementation of local energy policies will also participate.

CASCADE partners will then arrange learning visits for the first half of 2012, including:

- Birmingham and Tampere, on energy efficient buildings and districts;
- Nantes and Sunderland, on energy in urban transport; and
- Genoa and Amsterdam, on renewable energy sources and distributed energy generation.

CASCADE partners include EUROCITIES as coordinator, expert partners Wuppertal Institute and Koucky & Partners, and the following cities: Amaroussion, Amsterdam, Birmingham, Burgas, Edinburgh, Eindhoven, Gateshead, Genoa, Gijon, Malmo, Mannheim, Milan, Nantes, Stockholm, Sunderland, Tampere, Terrassa, Venice and Warsaw.

The project is co-financed by the European Commission's Intelligent Energy Europe programme.

Jorgina Cuixart, project officer – environment:
jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu

Cities have key role to play in innovation and research

Around 100 EUROCITIES members and partners met on 20 - 21 October 2011 in Eindhoven to discuss the role of cities in open innovation systems and the new European framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020.

Participants took part in 'open innovation cruises', showcasing creative startups and research facilities in the Eindhoven region.

Professor Sjoerd Romme of the Eindhoven University of Technology gave a detailed overview of Eindhoven's open innovation ecosystem, led by Brainport Eindhoven. Key features which have ensured Brainport Eindhoven's success include:

- a cooperative venture of industry, education/research institutes and local government, allowing partners to pool resources and develop shared projects through a bottom-up approach;
- the creation of, and proximity to, several campuses providing access to technical facilities and services, and creating a vibrant research community; and
- the development of the advanced practice of precompetitive R&D collaboration, facilitated by the Brainport foundation.

Pia Laurila, from the European Commission's DG research and innovation, gave an outlook on the upcoming Horizon 2020 framework programme. The scheme will integrate the current framework programme for research (FP7), the competitiveness and innovation programme (CIP), and funding for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and will start with the new multiannual financial framework in 2014, until 2020.



More information is available in the knowledge society section of the EUROCITIES members' area ■

Sjoerd Romme's presentation: tinyurl.com/63hc4f6

Horizon2020: tinyurl.com/6kky79x

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

Green Digital Charter portal launched!

On 31 October 2011, the NiCE project launched the Green Digital Charter web portal, an online information and resource exchange.

The website, run by the NiCE consortium, features information on the Green Digital Charter (GDC) and the NiCE project, including details on how to get involved in the project activities or become a GDC signatory.

The website will demonstrate how cities are building upon their commitment to use ICT as the main driver to improve energy efficiency.

A set of reporting and action tools developed under the project to assess cities' statuses and compare their GDC achievements will be available on the website. In addition, the GDC web portal will include an online library of policy developments and funding opportunities for ICT and energy efficiency, at both EU and national level.

Green Digital Charter portal: www.greendigitalcharter.eu
Giulia Campodonico, project officer – knowledge society:
giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu

NiCE working lunch

Brussels | 29 November 2011

Green Digital Charter signatories will showcase their commitments to reducing CO2 emissions through ICT during the Covenant of Mayors ceremony on 29 November 2011. The Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency (NiCE) project is organising a working lunch in the European Parliament from 11.30 to 13.45.



This event will profile the NiCE project, which supports the implementation of the Green Digital Charter, to mayors, city officers, experts and representatives of the EU institutions. Bristol and Murcia will present their experiences so far, and three more cities will sign the Green Digital Charter.

Registration: nice-lunch.eventbrite.com
Giulia Campodonico, project officer – knowledge society:
giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu

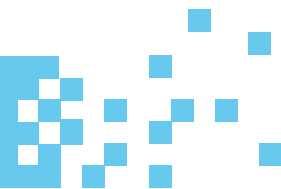
Open data guidebook

Our open data working group is launching a guidebook for cities in summer 2012. It will include:

- open data in the context of open government initiatives
- how to work with local communities and citizens
- how to deal with cultural, financial, organisational and legal challenges
- technical guidance

If you are interested in contributing, please contact working group chair, Wolfgang Both, or Jan Franke in the EUROCITIES Brussels office.

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Towards a new transport infrastructure

On 19 October 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for the revision of the TEN-T guidelines and another for a new fund, the Connecting Europe Facility.

The objective of the TEN-T guidelines is to build a fully integrated trans-European transport network, concentrating on cross-border sections. The result will be a 'dual-layer' network, proposed by the Commission: a core network that addresses key bottlenecks and multimodal nodes (urban areas), to be completed by 2030; and a comprehensive network at regional and national levels that feeds into the core network.

The Connecting Europe Facility will be the main financial tool supporting TEN-T under the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework. Under the plan, which still needs approval from EU member states and the European Parliament, €31.7 billion would be invested in upgrading Europe's transport infrastructure, including €10 billion from the cohesion fund for transport projects. By focusing on environmentally-friendly transport solutions, the facility would lead to a more sustainable future for European transport. It would also give consumers more choice about how to travel.

At a recent press conference, Siim Kallas, European Commissioner for Transport, highlighted that the focus of the proposals is on "real European added value". He further stated: "what we are doing is upgrading existing transport infrastructure to build missing connections, reduce congestion, and improve journey times. In short, we are filling in the gaps and joining up the dots."

The President of the Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, explained that from 2014, a 'project bond' initiative would be incorporated into Connecting Europe project under the new financial framework. This initiative has the double objective of reviving project bond markets and helping the promoters of individual infrastructure projects to attract long-term private sector debt financing. The Commission proposes launching a pilot phase (with a budget of €230 million) focusing on five to ten projects in the period 2012-2013, still within the current multiannual financial framework.

It is now the Council and Parliament's turn to look at the proposals. The revision of the TEN-T guidelines will be discussed at the transport Council meeting on 12 December 2011 in Brussels. The Connecting



Europe Facility proposal will probably also be addressed within the General Affairs Council, in December.

EUROCITIES has been working closely with the Commission and has responded to all consultations on the TEN-T policy review, highlighting the importance of the urban dimension in these policies. We will continue to closely monitor the next steps in the European institutions to ensure that cities' interests are represented ■

Commission revision of TEN-T guidelines: tinyurl.com/3jd6hod
 Commission proposal on the Connecting Europe Facility: tinyurl.com/3js8urc
 Vanessa Holve, policy officer - mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Utrecht and Ghent win CIVITAS awards

The city of Utrecht, chair of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum, was honoured for its commitment to clean urban transport solutions at the CIVITAS forum conference 2011 in Funchal (Madeira), on 17 - 19 October 2011.

Utrecht was named CIVITAS 'city of the year', thanks to its efforts 'stretching from targeting behavioural change to investment in public transport.' The active involvement of Utrecht's citizens in the city's public transport projects was another factor singled out by the jury.

The second successful bid for Utrecht was in the 'technical innovation' category, recognising the city's sustainable freight transport solution. Frits Lintmeijer, Deputy Mayor of Utrecht, considered "the award not only as recognition for the efforts of the municipality, but also for all parties in the

logistical chain who actively commit to CO2-reduction."

Ghent, another member of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum, was rewarded in the public participation category. The Belgian city was recognised for the "sheer breadth of its actions to engage stakeholders on sustainable urban transport policy."

Since 2002, the CIVITAS (City-Vitality-Sustainability) EU initiative has actively facilitated the sharing of best practice among more than 200 European cities to support cleaner and better public transport.



More information: tinyurl.com/5wr774d
 Awards press release: tinyurl.com/69quxtr
 Utrecht wins 'lean and green award': tinyurl.com/6xty3h7
 Peter Staelens, project officer - mobility: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu

Innovative employment policies in Rotterdam

Discussions at the social affairs forum in Rotterdam on 6-7 October 2011 revealed that personalising services, balancing rights and responsibilities and equipping people with the right skills are issues high on city agendas. Around 70 participants from 20 cities gathered to highlight cities' different approaches to promoting local employment.

Devolved responsibilities for labour market policies in the Netherlands mean that the city of Rotterdam has become a 'test bed' for employment policies, operating a 'work first' approach.

Marco Florijn, Deputy Mayor of Rotterdam for social affairs, explained the city's initiatives to get people into employment. These include the 'full engagement' programme, through

which unemployed people must engage in an approved activity for at least 20 hours a week, as well as match-and-work meetings, bringing unemployed people together with potential employers.

Paul Tilsley, chair of the social affairs forum, and Korrie Louwes, Deputy Mayor of Rotterdam for employment, stressed that the success of the Europe 2020 strategy depends on such local initiatives taking place in cities. Koos Richelle, Director General of the European Commission's DG for employment, social affairs and inclusion, underlined the importance of Europe 2020 and the benchmarks it sets for all EU policies, including funding priorities.

Feedback from workshops confirmed that policies on employment (such as Stockholm's local labour market policies) and education

(such as Rotterdam's youth counter for socially excluded young people), will best succeed if services are personalised and integrated. However, to bring people into employment, setting ambitious benchmarks is not enough. Cities also need resources allowing them to innovate, whether in the framework of European funds or national programmes ■



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Integrating Cities conference, Amsterdam, 8-9 March 2012



The next Integrating Cities Conference, co-organised by the city of Amsterdam and EUROCITIES, will be held on 8-9 of March 2012.

This latest conference, held under the MIXITIES project - funded by the European Integration Fund - is the fifth in a series. The conference, 'Making integration work in Europe's cities', aims to intensify the policy dialogue between EU institutions and local level actors on migrant integration in Europe and help develop an evidence-based EU policy on integration.

For more details about the conference, please visit the link below.

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Roma inclusion: peer review on mediators in Berlin

On 24 - 26 October 2011, the city of Berlin hosted a peer review for members of the EUROCITIES task force on Roma inclusion. Colleagues from 14 EUROCITIES members, the Belgian national government and a number of European foundations exchanged views on mediator schemes in the educational sector.

Having experienced waves of Roma migrants arriving from former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, and more recently from Bulgaria and Romania, Berlin is currently moving from single measures to a more coordinated policy for this vulnerable population group. With support from EU, federal and local funding, an NGO, RAA, has been running training and employment schemes for mediators working at schools with large numbers of Roma pupils for nearly ten years. Mediators concentrate on Roma pupils and their parents without excluding other pupils. Often, support extends further and mediators may also provide help for parents in dealing with institutions.

Impressed with Berlin's engagement, peers recommended: developing mainstream policy mechanisms to manage further population change in Berlin; setting up a dedicated communications strategy; and strengthening the evaluation of the mentors' work.

The Berlin meeting was a step forward for using peer reviews as a mainstream tool for mutual learning in our working groups. As proven by several projects, peer reviews conducted according to a benchmark of jointly defined success factors can support mutual learning and policy evaluation. The Berlin peer review received organisational support from the European Foundation Centre's forum on Roma inclusion and co-funding from the Freudenberg Foundation.

A report on the outcomes of the peer review and a workshop held during the Berlin meeting, on city contact points for mobile EU workers and Roma, will be available shortly on our website.

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City for Children awards: apply now!

Cities are invited to apply for the 4th European 'City for Children' awards by 15 December 2011.

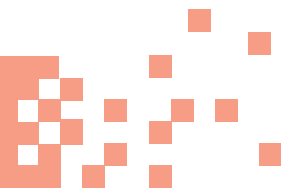
The awards are an initiative of the European network, Cities for Children, and celebrate projects carried out in cities that demonstrate child-friendly neighbourhood planning. This can include projects carried out in cooperation

with non-governmental organisations and institutions, and any city with more than 100,000 inhabitants can apply.

Entries will be judged by an international jury and the winners will be honoured at an awards ceremony at the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart on 14 May 2012.

EUROCITIES members Malmö, Zurich, Gothenburg, Liverpool, Munich, Antwerp and Birmingham have picked up the award in the past. To enter your city, please visit the link below.

Cities for Children: tinyurl.com/4x5kp9x



Housing exchange scheme in Krakow

Our latest good practice case study looks at Krakow's housing exchange programme, which facilitates the transition of residents into appropriate housing. Many factors can impact of the housing needs of families, such as disability, retirement and job loss. So, while some residents look for larger, more expensive accommodation, others are on the search for smaller, cheaper houses.

The housing exchange scheme provides a series of tools which allow citizens to easily meet their changing housing needs. Interested parties



can share information and submit proposals to a 'bank of exchanges', while a 'programme of exchanges' offers tenants of public housing to upgrade their accommodation providing they can prove they have the financial means to maintain it. Residents may also exchange houses in return for the payment of household debt, and 'voluntary exchanges' allow an exchange between two parties that have the legal right to

give up their accommodation. In these cases, the municipality only becomes involved if the deal involves public housing stock.

As one of the biggest expenditures for city residents, it is essential that the cost and quality of accommodation matches personal and financial circumstances. It acts as a 'safety mechanism' for public housing stock, and helps to prevent eviction, social exclusion and mounting household debt.

One Krakow resident who benefited from the scheme remarked:

"Participating in the dwelling exchange programme in return for payment of debts allowed me to avoid eviction and protect my family from bailiff proceedings. I was able to start all over again."

The scheme was widely publicised throughout the city, and has so far allowed 122 families to find accommodation of a higher standard. Meanwhile, 42 families have avoided eviction and the debt repayment scheme has collected nearly €300,000.

The programme, whose total cost was nearly €4 million, has proven so successful that the city plans to continue it indefinitely.

The full case study is available on the EUROCITIES website ■

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Malaga, smart city

EUROCITIES member Malaga has been ranked at the top of a smart cities index produced by research firm IDC. The research looked at 44 Spanish cities with over 150,000 inhabitants and found that Malaga's eco-efficient city project demonstrated the most advanced level of technological implementation.

The project, which integrates renewable energy sources into the grid, has already achieved a 20% energy saving in its target area.

Malaga was joined in the top five by EUROCITIES members Barcelona, Madrid and San Sebastian as well as Santander. Malaga won the EUROCITIES 'Innovation' award in 2009 for its pioneering 'interactive atlas of solar irradiation' project. The research demonstrates the progress being made in Spanish cities towards achieving sustainable and intelligent urban areas.



More information: tinyurl.com/6etmwyw
 Smart City Malaga: www.smartcitymalaga.es



Covenant of Mayors annual ceremony

1200 PARTICIPANTS
100 JOURNALISTS
40 COUNTRIES
29 November 2011
Hemicycle, European Parliament, Brussels

www.eumayors.eu
ceremony@eumayors.eu



Covenant of Mayors
Committed to urban sustainable energy

Cities for Active Inclusion annual conference	Brussels	29 November 2011
Research findings from Cities for Active Inclusion		www.eurocities-nlao.eu
Future Cities 2011		15-16 December 2011
Sustainable development in cities		www.rantrad.co.uk/rantrad-future-cities
Smart Cities in 2011	Amsterdam	29-30 November 2011
Intelligent infrastructures for the information age		www.smartcitiesglobal.com
Forum on EU research and innovation	Brussels	13 December 2011
What role for regions and cities after 2013?		tinyurl.com/6cextgz
Forum on European Year of Volunteering	Brussels	26 January 2011
Regional and local authorities in action		tinyurl.com/3qgyefk

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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