

Europe's cities deliver Europe's goals



In 1998 the then European Commissioner for regional policy, Monika Wulf-Mathies, convened a conference of city leaders in Vienna. This

'urban forum' proved to be a milestone on the way to establishing an urban policy at the European level. The event provided a high profile platform for cities and helped to broaden political support for a stronger urban dimension to European regional policy.

It is probably no coincidence that such a forum is being repeated on 16 February 2012, in Brussels. Although we have come a long way since 1998, the idea of a coherent EU urban policy remains controversial. It is Europe's cities that will deliver Europe's goals. Yet we still face an uphill struggle to focus strategic attention and resources on the places where 75% of the population lives and 85% of GDP is produced.

Resistance is emerging most clearly in reaction to the present Commissioner Johannes Hahn's proposals for the future structural funds. Which is why, I imagine, he feels it timely to bring Europe's city leaders together once more.

It is not as if the Commission's proposals are especially radical. The new ways of working should strengthen the role of cities, and of course we welcome the 5% minimum earmarking for integrated urban development. But such gestures run the risk that they become not additional measures for cities but the only measures for cities.

If we are to build liveable and competitive 'cities of tomorrow' we must invest ambitiously. Not just in regional development, but also in innovation and entrepreneurship, mobility and digital, energy and environment, culture and inclusion. With the right support metropolitan Europe will drive smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that benefits everyone, not just city-dwellers.



Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

Social innovation for active inclusion

Given the current economic crisis and reduced public finances, social innovation is more important than ever. Social services are coming under increased budgetary pressure and the number of vulnerable people is on the increase, so developing innovative social policies at city level plays an important role in the active inclusion of the people furthest away from the labour market.



In the latest publication by our nine Cities for Active Inclusion, we bring together a collection of good practices from Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm looking at active inclusion practices at local level.

The practices show how new social trends and challenges constantly prompt local governments to adapt and develop new ways to implement active inclusion policies. They reflect on examples of innovative partnerships, integrated approaches, dealing with complex situations and groups in society, and bottom-up approaches.

Collection of innovative city practices: bit.ly/AtQaIW

Also in this issue

- EU funding made easy 3
- Views from the new Danish ministry for cities 4
- Connect with the culture forum in Utrecht 5
- Focus on: public procurement 6
- Making LIFE simpler 7
- Promoting ICTs for economic growth 8
- €200 million to co-finance TEN-T projects 9
- Ageing well in European cities 10
- New house? Do-it-yourself in Rotterdam 11
- 20 years of EUROCITIES Brussels office 12

EUROCITIES website - new and improved!

EUROCITIES begins 2012 with a new look website, launched on Monday, 23 January. The new website provides a more user-friendly interface and tailored information.

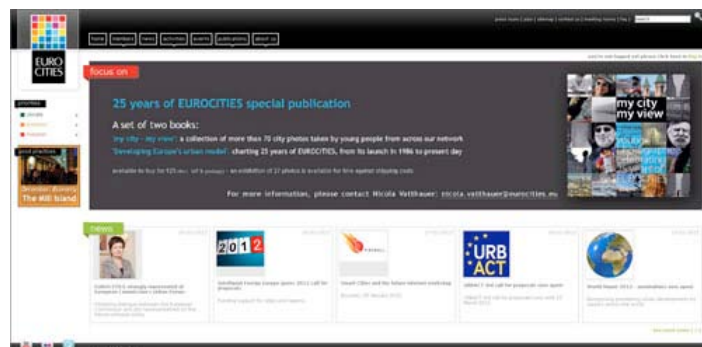
You should have received an email from us outlining the new features and providing your personalised log in details. The new members' area highlights the forums and working groups in which you are most active, giving you direct access to the information that's relevant to your needs and interests in 'my groups'.

A new team collaboration tool for working groups and other groups of members will allow you to work together on shared documents in 'my team space'.

And by signing up to our various policy sector newsletters or subscribing to RSS feeds, you can stay up to date with all the latest EUROCIITIES developments.

Be sure to activate your members' area account before 16 February to avoid losing access to the website. Once you're logged in, you'll be able to check and edit your personal details to ensure that our contact information is as accurate as possible.

As well as a fresh new look, the new website is designed to help you, our members, to keep in touch more easily with the network and with each other. The new website is still a work in progress, and there



are improvements to be made. We welcome your feedback, so please send any comments or suggestions to the feedback address below.

If you would be interested in booking a presentation of the new website at your forum, project or working group meeting, please contact the relevant project or policy officer ■

EUROCITIES website: www.eurocities.eu

Feedback to: members@eurocities.eu

Nicola Vathhauer, communications director: nicola.vathhauer@eurocities.eu

Staff news

Itxaso Gomez

- Function: interim policy officer - procurement
- Working languages: ES, EN, FR



Itxaso joined us on 17 January for a period of four months. Itxaso is an economist with particular experience in sustainable public procurement and fair trade, and will be leading our work on the Commission's proposals for new procurement directives, published in December 2011.

Itxaso is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Itxaso Gomez, interim policy officer – procurement:
itxaso.gomez@eurocities.eu

Yannick Bousse

- Function: project support officer- mobility
- Working languages: NL, EN



Yannick joined us on 1 February 2012 as project support officer – mobility. He replaces Alessandra Fiorenza and will support our work on mobility projects, especially EPOMM PLUS and VANGUARD until the end of August 2012. Yannick has previously completed a work experience placement with our environment forum and prior to joining EUROCIITIES he worked on the analysis of the UK's High Speed 2 (HS2) rail consultation.

Yannick Bousse, project support officer – mobility:
yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu

Sophia Voigtlaender

- Function: programme officer – finance & admin
- Working languages: DE, EN



Sophia joined us in December 2011 as programme officer – finance & admin. Prior to working at EUROCIITIES, Sophia worked for a projects agency in Leipzig, mainly working on INTERREG projects.

Sophia Voigtlaender, programme officer – finance & admin:
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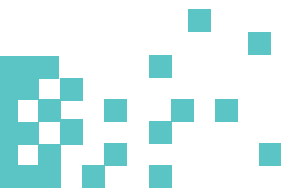
Hajar El Rhouati

- Function: programme assistant – finance
- Working languages: FR, EN



Hajar joined us as junior accountant in August 2011, covering for Wendy Vermeiren's maternity leave. Wendy has now returned and from January 2012, Hajar replaced Denisa Naidin as programme assistant – finance & admin. She will assist Sophia in her role as programme officer – finance & admin and also provide support to project officers on finance and administrative tasks.

Hajar El Rhouati, programme assistant – finance & admin:
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EU funding made easy

The European Commission's revised and updated 'Practical guide to EU funding opportunities for research and innovation' promises to simplify the various EU funding opportunities available for research and innovation. One of the Commission's most frequently downloaded documents since its creation in 2008, it has been refreshed and adapted to accommodate the changes in EU policy. The new guide is more comprehensive and user-friendly, with practical information on combining the different funding sources useful to those interested in funding for research and innovation.

Cities are among the possible beneficiaries of EU's research funds and programmes.

For each instrument, the guide includes a description, advice for policy makers and a new checklist and scorecard, giving a quick way to identify exactly how to access European funding ■



Practical guide to EU funding opportunities for research and innovation: bit.ly/wgeTeA
Jan Franke, policy officer – knowledge society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Cooperation platform 2012

Gijon | 10-11 May 2012

Our cooperation platform will take place in Gijon on 10-11 May 2012. This annual networking meeting convenes the main EUROCITIES contact officers from across our network and provides an opportunity for them to meet, exchange, discuss and learn from one another.

This year's edition will provide you with updates on our forums and projects, a demo of our new website, and a presentation on our work around the future EU budget and funding programmes. The

plenary discussion will focus on the issue of politicians' involvement in our work.

The programme and practical information will be sent out in the second half of February.



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

Copycat_city: innovative ideas from cities across the world

Copycat_city is a new blog gathering innovative and inspirational ideas from cities across the world. Recent posts include a rooftop vegetable garden being installed in Vancouver, designed to grow vegetables using a fraction of the land, energy and water traditionally required. Another, in Paris, sees unwanted Christmas trees being dropped off and recycled for use by gardeners in the city's parks. And for those wishing to burn off the post-holiday calories in Copenhagen's parks, an ingenious set of lights guide runners, allowing them to set an individual pace for their workout.

For more projects from innovative cities around the globe, visit [copycat_city](http://copycat_city.com).

Copycat_city: www.copycatcity.com
Copycat_city on Twitter: www.twitter.com/copycat_city

Update from the Executive Committee

Our first joint Executive Committee and forum chairs meeting of the year took place in Brussels on 27 January 2012.

Participants were updated on the network's policy, finance, communications and projects developments, as well as the latest news concerning the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Cooperation Platform in Gijon (10-11 May 2012) and EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes (7-10 November 2012). Members discussed the organisation of the CoR Copenhagen summit on 22-23 March 2012, where Executive Committee and forum chair politicians will have the opportunity to meet with President Barroso. Participants also reviewed the forum strategies for 2012 and previewed our work on the EU budget and cohesion policy.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at politicians' level jointly with forum chairs during the Copenhagen summit on 22 March 2012.

Jean-Pierre Ernotte, PA to secretary general & member relations: jean-pierre.ernotte@eurocities.eu



Views from the new Danish ministry for cities

EUROCITIES members met Jeppe Fisker Joergensen from the Danish ministry for housing, urban and rural affairs on 19 January 2012 to exchange views on the presidency's upcoming priorities for urban issues. The new ministry, established following a change of government in Denmark last autumn, is still finding its feet. Joergensen explained that it will be a challenge to fill the shoes of the preceding Polish EU presidency, which had a very ambitious agenda for territorial cohesion and urban matters.

Joergensen outlined the three main priorities on the Danish presidency's urban agenda:

- improving coordination between existing EU instruments and working groups relating to urban development. This would include URBACT, EUKN, ESPON and the Urban Development group. To rationalise the use of resources, the

Danish presidency would like to improve synergies between these initiatives. This work will form the basis for the discussion on establishing the urban development platform proposed in the draft ERDF regulation. If such a platform is established, the presidency wants to ensure that it adds value to structures already in place

- the 5% earmarking of funds dedicated to sustainable urban development as proposed in the draft ERDF regulation. The presidency will work for a solution that ensures that EU-funded projects in urban areas add value to national spending and are in line with overall strategies for urban development
- the launch of the reference framework for sustainable cities, which will take place in Aalborg, Denmark, on 21 - 22 May 2012



DANISH PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION 2012

For more information on the Danish presidency and its policy priorities, visit the presidency website, below ■

Danish EU presidency website: eu2012.dk/en
Dorthe Nielsen, policy advisor:
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The European urban fabric of the 21st century

Copenhagen | 22-23 March 2012

The Committee of the Regions hosts its 5th summit of regions and cities in Copenhagen on 22-23 March 2012. Over two half-day sessions, debates will take place between city mayors, architects, academics and other stakeholders. The issue of urban sustainability in the 21st century will be in the spotlight and a declaration will be issued to promote sustainability as a crucial dimension in future of European policies. High-level speakers will include Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Martin Schulz, newly appointed President of the European Parliament, and Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Danish Prime Minister. The meeting also represents a key event on the Danish EU presidency agenda.

The meeting will be hosted by our president, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen. He has invited members of our Executive Committee to meet in Copenhagen, some of whom are also expected to speak at the conference. Participants will have the opportunity to view our 25 years photography exhibition, 'my city - my view', and an informal event will take place to gather elected representatives who are members of both EUROCITIES and of the Committee of the Regions.

Attendance at the summit is on invitation only, with priority given to members of the Committee of the Regions. For more information on the event, please visit the CoR website, below.

More information: bit.ly/AEdKUG
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant - coordination & governance,
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Submit your URBACT proposal now

The third and final URBACT call for the current financial period is open until 15 March 2012. URBACT is currently one of the three European programmes put in place to implement the EU's territorial cooperation objective, alongside Interact and ESPON. It promotes integrated and sustainable urban development in Europe through the exchange of knowledge, and allows cities to propose thematic networks - the name given to the specific projects deriving from the URBACT programme.



At the URBACT info day in Brussels on 18 January 2012, the URBACT secretariat presented the main features of their latest call.

Aiming to create up to 19 new thematic networks, the call will run until 15 March 2012, although it is strongly advised that interested cities submit their applications ahead of the deadline.

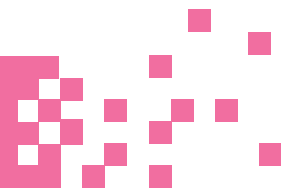
The call covers eight topics organised around the pillars of the Europe 2020 strategy, and projects are to run for 33 months with an allocated budget of €800,000.

The European Commission, which was also represented at the info day, confirmed that URBACT should continue to operate in its current state for the next programming period.

For more information about the call, or to submit a project, visit the URBACT website, below.

URBACT call for proposals: bit.ly/xCGWpk
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant - coordination & governance,
soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu





Connect with the culture forum in Utrecht

culture forum | Utrecht | 18-21 April 2012

In line with the city's vision for culture policy for 2012-2022 ('open space'), Utrecht has chosen 'connections' as a theme for the next culture forum meeting.

The forum will explore the importance of partnerships and cities' ability to connect culture with other areas of city development, putting culture at the heart of integrated urban development.

All culture forum working groups will meet alongside the Utrecht forum. Invitations and draft agendas will be circulated shortly ■

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



photo credit: Jan Lankveld

Creative Europe - investing in the cultural and creative sector

On 30 January 2012 the European Commission hosted an information session on the Creative Europe programme, which will replace the current culture programme from 2014. Creative Europe was presented as a corporate vision for the cultural and creative sector, which forms an important and viable part of the European society and economy.

The Commission reiterated the value of culture itself but also explained that Creative Europe has to fit into the Europe 2020 strategy and deliver measureable impacts.

One of the many points discussed was the wording used in the proposal, which for some networks is too market oriented.

Although co-funding rates for supported projects have not yet been discussed, it is likely that they will remain at the level of 50%.

DG Education and Culture encouraged European cultural networks to make the case for Creative Europe and to provide feedback on the practical implementation of the future programme. We will contribute with a statement on Creative Europe.

Negotiations with the member states, and the European Parliament will last until the end of 2012, while the first programme guide is expected in early 2013.

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

EU Danish Presidency on culture

The Danish Presidency will concentrate on the negotiations of the Commission's proposal for a Creative Europe programme. A partial agreement on the proposal (on the content but not yet on the budget) should be reached by the Council in May.

The presidency will also have a specific focus on implementing the Council work plan for culture 2011-2014 and, in particular, its priority action on the promotion of culture in the EU's external relations, particularly with China as 2012 is EU-China Year of Intercultural Dialogue. This year will see a large number of projects and activities being hosted by EU Member States and the People's Republic of China, with the aim of enhancing cultural relations and cooperation.

In addition, the Danes will focus on the digitisation of cultural content.

Danish Presidency of the EU: eu2012.dk/en
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture:
julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Commission wants to facilitate the return of cultural goods

The illicit trafficking of cultural property is a rising concern in Europe and affects valuable cultural artefacts such as paintings, sculptures, religious property and archaeological pieces.

Europe's cultural heritage is protected by national and European laws, such as a directive from 1993 enabling member countries to reclaim cultural goods considered to be 'national treasures' that have been unlawfully removed. The current system is not wholly effective, so the Commission is consulting on the most efficient way of ensuring the return of such goods illegally removed from an EU member country and moved to another EU country.

Contributions from museums, libraries, archives and other interested parties are welcome and can be submitted via an online questionnaire before 5 March 2012.

After the consultation, the Commission will present the various options for EU action and, if appropriate, will put forward a proposal to revise the current directive.

Online questionnaire: bit.ly/zoq5LO
Julie Hervé, policy officer – culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu



Focus on: public procurement

Summary of Commission proposals

On 20 December 2011, the Commission proposed revising its directives on procurement in the water, energy, transport and postal service sectors and on public works, supply and service contracts.

It suggests four main changes:

- simplifying and increasing flexibility, enabling authorities to purchase the goods and services best tailored to their needs, removing administrative burden and normalising electronic communication
- facilitating access of SMEs to tenders, for example by dividing large contracts into smaller lots and reducing financial capacity requirements
- ensuring greater consideration of social and environmental concerns, such as through the use of life-cycle costs
- improving existing guarantees aimed at resolving conflicts of interest, favouritism and corruption. Member states are invited to appoint a single national authority responsible for monitoring public contracts

We are currently developing a position on the proposals with a group of procurement experts from member cities ■

New legislation on service concessions

A Commission proposal for a new directive on concessions aims to complete the current EU legislative framework by introducing rules on service concessions.



It proposes a clear framework with the aim of ensuring legal certainty for public authorities and their partner organisations and allowing easier access to the concessions market for all European businesses, including SMEs. The Commission calls for concessions to be published in the EU Official Journal. It also plans to introduce basic principles and guarantees for the selection process. The Commission believes that the proposed provisions will not create an excessive administrative burden, as they will apply only to concessions above the threshold of €5,000,000 and with a clear cross-border interest.

The working group on public services (formerly working group on services of general interest) will draft a position on this proposal shortly in close cooperation with the expert group on public procurement.

Itxaso Gomez, interim policy officer – public procurement:
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Marie Ranty, policy officer – economic development:
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New state aid for services package

The Commission's latest proposal aims to clarify issues related to services of general economic interest (SGEIs) and amend the Monti-Kroes package.

The new package is made up of:

- a decision on exemption from notification
- a regulation on de minimis thresholds
- a revised framework for compensation on commercial SGEIs
- a general communication clarifying concepts and explaining the package

Irrespective of the amount of compensation, undertakings meeting "social needs as regards health and long-term care, child care, access to and reintegration in the labour market, social housing and the care and social inclusion of vulnerable groups" are exempted from notification obligation, as are companies receiving less than €15 million (half the current limit of €30 million) to avoid hindering intra-EU trade. Airports and companies providing air and maritime transport can also be exempted if they meet certain criteria. A ceiling of €500,000 over three years applies to companies not fitting into the aforementioned criteria.

The regulation on de minimis thresholds is expected to be adopted in April 2012. Public services that do not pose a threat to competition will also be exempted from notification, providing compensation does not exceed a certain level.

We issued a position on this in 2011 and continue to follow the issue closely.

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

€2.5 billion to boost business competitiveness

Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME) is the Commission's proposal presented in late November, with a suggested budget of €2.5 billion. COSME is a funding instrument mainly intended to take over from the current Competitiveness and Innovation programme.

The programme should benefit:

- national, regional and local authorities, supporting their efforts to develop and implement effective policy reforms
- entrepreneurs, especially SMEs, who will benefit from easier access to funding
- citizens seeking to become self-employed

The programme aims to:

- facilitate access to financing for SMEs
- create an environment favourable to business creation and growth
- encourage an entrepreneurial culture in Europe

- increase the sustainable competitiveness of EU companies
- help small businesses operate outside their home countries and improve their access to markets

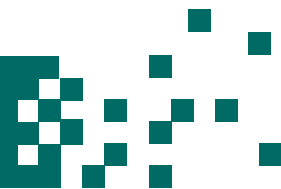
Of the proposed budget, €1.4 billion would be allocated to financial instruments, while the remainder would go to financing the Enterprise Europe Network, international industry cooperation and entrepreneurship education.

It is expected that the new instrument will help 39,000 firms each year, creating around 30,000 jobs and launching some 900 new products or services.

Administrative simplification is also a part of the programme, to make life easier for entrepreneurs.

Discussions on the COSME proposal will start at the European Parliament and Council in the coming weeks. We are currently developing a position on the proposal.

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



Making LIFE simpler

On 12 December 2011, the Commission proposed to allocate €3.2 billion over 2014-2020 to the next LIFE programme for environment and climate action. LIFE is the only EU funding programme dedicated exclusively to the environment.

Cities have been using it extensively in the current funding period, and it should continue to provide important opportunities for future local environment projects.

The Commission's proposal intends to create a simpler and more flexible version of the existing LIFE+ programme with more funding for climate measures. It would be composed of two sub-programmes, one on environment and one on climate action, and would support

new 'integrated projects' aimed at improving the implementation of environment and climate policy on a larger territorial scale. The Commission has also suggested that funding for the new LIFE be combined with other EU, national and private funds for environment or climate objectives.

The European Parliament and Council are currently considering the proposals. Meanwhile, we are working on a reaction and will continue to liaise with the institutions to ensure that cities are taken into account ■

LIFE proposal: bit.ly/xli60A
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment:
michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Danish presidency prioritises energy efficiency

On 19 December 2011, the Danish ministers of environment and energy declared that sustainability and resource efficiency would be placed at the forefront of their EU presidency priorities, despite significant pressures to concentrate on resolving the financial crisis. The Danes consider resource efficiency to be a driver of business and productivity.

The presidency will also focus on the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. This includes an agreement on the energy efficiency directive, which aims to support a 20% increase in energy efficiency by 2020. They will also provide input to the development of a 7th Environment Action Programme. We are following these dossiers and providing input to the EU institutions to ensure that city needs are considered.

Priorities of the presidency also include the revision of the Common Agricultural Policy and the REACH regulation on chemicals.

The official presidency programme was released on 6 January 2012; for more information, visit the link below. The Parliament's energy committee is expected to vote on the energy efficiency directive on 28 February 2012.



Danish presidency website: eu2012.dk/en
 Programme of the Danish presidency: tinyurl.com/6v9kq5n
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy officer – environment: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Funding for cities and regions: Intelligent Energy Europe 2012

The Intelligent Energy Europe 2012 call for proposals is now open. Cities, regions, and other stakeholders are invited to submit ideas for projects promoting energy efficiency or renewable energy before 8 May 2012.



Documents outlining the detailed information of the call are available now at the links below. Priority areas include the mobilisation of local energy investments, local energy leadership and energy efficient public spending initiatives.

More information: bit.ly/uNd4vC
 Dion Wierts, project officer - climate & energy: dion.wierts@eurocities.eu

Cascade: online now!

Find out more about the mutual learning and networking activities organised by our CASCADE project by visiting its new website, below.



Members can draw inspiration from the 19 city profiles which describe how CASCADE cities are delivering their local energy policies.

CASCADE website: www.cascadecities.eu
 Jorgina Cuixart, project officer – environment:
jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu



Promoting ICTs for economic growth

Modern ICTs are an important factor for economic growth, and investment in ICTs is key to driving innovation in companies, enhancing productivity and competitiveness, cutting red tape and creating jobs. Regional, national and European governments all have a part to play in removing these obstacles.

The Commission's €728 million ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) is designed to increase the uptake of innovative ICTs by European companies of all sizes.

The draft ICT PSP work programme 2012 has now been approved, and a sixth call for proposals runs until 15 May 2012.

A number of events are planned around the call for proposals:

- an information day on theme 3: ICT for health, ageing well and inclusion, 17 February 2012

- an information day on theme 2: digital content open data and creativity, 29 February 2012

For more information on the ICT PSP work programme 2012 or on the information days mentioned, please visit the links below ■



ICT PSP work programme: bit.ly/uS1G2C

Information days: bit.ly/dO9JDA

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

Digital Agenda: progress so far

The EU's Digital Agenda aims to deliver sustainable economic and social benefits from a digital single market based on fast and ultra fast internet and interoperable applications, providing growth and jobs in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

The 2011 annual report on the Digital Agenda provides an overview of progress so far on actions outlined in the agenda, updates on achievements since the Digital Agenda scoreboard in May 2011, and outlines the work ahead. The report is part of the Commission's efforts to implement the Digital Agenda, following on from other activities in 2011, such as the 'Digital Agenda Going Local'.

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

Guide to broadband investment

Using EU regional funds to promote the roll-out of broadband has become a hot topic, as the Digital Agenda aims to ensure that by 2020 all Europeans have access to the Internet at speeds above 30Mbit/s and at least 50% of households should have connections faster than 100Mbit/s. In response to this issue, the Commission has published a guide for public authorities looking at the strengths and weaknesses of different models of investment in high speed internet infrastructures.

This guide gives advice to managing authorities and project promoters on what should be considered when planning a public sector investment in broadband infrastructure. It is based on detailed reviews of several broadband investment projects (mostly co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund), success factors, and lessons learnt. The guide complements other activities set up by the Commission, such as the European broadband portal and the bottom-up broadband initiative.

EU guide on broadband investment models: bit.ly/u6aO21

Knowledge society forum identifies funding opportunities for cities

The knowledge society forum met on 26 January 2012 to plan activities for the coming year and to inform members of funding options under the ICT Policy Support Programme. All approved working group plans and the forum strategy for 2012 can now be found in the members' area of our website.

Two specific themes of the ICT PSP work programme 2012 were also presented, which offer funding opportunities for cities:

- Theme 1: ICT for smart cities
- Theme 3: ICT for health, ageing well and inclusion

Funding briefs around the ICT PSP work programme 2012 can now be found in the members' area of our website.

Knowledge society forum: bit.ly/zd5YDW

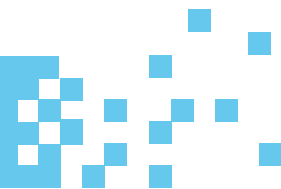
Join the knowledge society forum in Berlin

knowledge society forum | Berlin | 20-21 March 2012

Berlin will host the next knowledge society forum meeting from 20-21 March 2012. The forum's various working groups will convene during the meeting and a detailed programme will be made available shortly on our website.

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





€200 million to co-finance TEN-T projects

The Commission launched a call for proposals for the co-financing of projects under the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) on 10 January 2012, with a proposed budget of €200 million for project grants. While the call refers to the 2011 budget, this will actually be used for 2012 co-financing. The deadline is 13 April 2012 and selected TEN-T projects will be announced in September 2012.

The call aims to promote the development of an integrated and multi-modal transport system, support the financing of infrastructure development contributing to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and reduce the impact of transport on the environment. It is also intended to accelerate the implementation of TEN-T projects, and support Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and innovative financial instruments. It will lead to the creation of transport corridors which allow for a coordinated implementation of the TEN-T network.

Meanwhile, the Commission's ongoing TEN-T strategy revision includes a proposal on revised TEN-T guidelines and a regulation on a Connecting Europe facility, an integrated programme to finance the TEN-Ts. We have been contributing to the TEN-T policy review since 2008 and are currently putting together statements on the revised TEN-T guidelines and the Connecting Europe facility ■



Call for proposals: bit.ly/wggGuQ
Vanessa Holve, policy officer- mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Danish EU presidency: transport priorities

The Danish presidency presented its plans for the transport sector over the next six months during the meeting of the European Parliament's transport committee on 24 January 2012. The emphasis is on green growth, and there will be four priority transport dossiers:

- The recast of the railway package
- The revision of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T)
- The airport package
- Galileo

Denmark considers TEN-T to be an important tool for reinforcing the single market. MEPs underlined the importance of investment in transport for addressing the economic crisis. Henrik Dam Kristensen, Danish minister for transport, stressed that the presidency will focus on 'added

European value' and cross-border infrastructure projects in negotiations on TEN-T guidelines and the Connecting Europe facility proposals.

The role of regulators in the recast of the rail package and the environmental impact of larger heavy goods vehicles ('gigaliners') were also addressed. Denmark believes that larger heavy goods vehicles could have a positive environmental impact, a view criticised by some MEPs.

Kristensen announced two conferences being held under the presidency, on financing large infrastructure projects (24-25 May 2012) and a high-level group on road safety (26-27 June 2012).

Danish EU presidency priorities: bit.ly/zpFBOZ
News item on 24 January meeting: bit.ly/w3ZLnv
Vanessa Holve, policy officer- mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES wins two urban mobility campaigns

Awareness-raising campaigns are an essential part of sustainable urban mobility policies. The action plan on urban mobility underlined the importance of the European Mobility Week (EMW) initiative, and presented a new, complementary campaign promoting sustainable urban mobility.

The Commission's DG MOVE selected a partnership of EUROCITIES, MOSTRA, a Brussels-based media company, and Polis, a transport innovation network, to implement the campaign, running from January 2012 until January 2015. Apart from organising a pan-European media campaign to promote multimodal travel behaviour, the partnership will set up coordination structures in six target countries and launch annual calls for proposals to co-finance campaigning activities at the national and local level.

Cities will be invited to apply for an annual award on sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMP), with a prize of €10,000. We are mainly responsible for optimising synergies with European Mobility Week, setting up additional support structures and managing the co-funding scheme in close cooperation with MOSTRA, Polis and the Commission.

We've also successfully reapplied for the coordination of European Mobility Week, this time with support from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and REC, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe. Apart from the EU level coordination, we are responsible for managing the info point and award scheme, and for organising interactive workshops for national and local campaigners, to be held in Brussels on 5 and 6 March 2012 alongside the EMW award ceremony.

This year's edition, which takes place from 16 to 22 September 2012, will focus on sustainable urban transport planning.

Member cities are again encouraged to participate in the campaign and to register their campaign programme on the mobility week website, below.

Transfer roadmaps: a tool for exchanging best practices

In the framework of EPOMM-PLUS project, the 'transfer roadmap' has been developed as a tool to bring people together to share good practices.

Members are invited to express their interest in becoming partners of a transfer: as an exporter or importer working on the transfer of best practice in the field of mobility (open to members of the mobility and environment forums).

If interested, please contact Mélanie Leroy.

Mélanie Leroy, project officer – mobility: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

European Mobility Week: www.mobilityweek.eu
Peter Staelens, project officer – mobility: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu



EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum in 2012

Social inclusion remains one of our three thematic priorities this year, in line with the Europe 2020 goals, and the coming year promises to be a busy one for our social affairs forum.

We've secured funding from the Commission's PROGRESS programme to continue our work on social inclusion. We therefore have an ambitious work programme for 2012.

Our priorities for this year are employment, active inclusion and demographic change, as agreed at our SAF meeting in October 2011. We will build on last year's work on social innovation at local level and continue our advocacy work to influence the regulation for ESF post-2013.

Our work this year ties in with the European year for active ageing and solidarity between generations. Our members have extensive knowledge in this area and we will use this to showcase cities' experience and to promote mutual learning. At our March SAF meeting, we will focus on ageing well in European cities (see below).

Our nine Cities for Active Inclusion will publish research on demographic change and active inclusion strategies at city level. The nine cities will also organise mutual learning visits.

The fifth Integrating Cities conference takes place on 8-9 March 2012 in Amsterdam, on 'making integration work in Europe's cities'. It will include workshops, a high-level panel dialogue and a signature ceremony for the

latest signatories of the Integrating Cities Charter on migrant integration.

We will also organise several peer reviews on topics such as the integration of Roma in the labour market, the impact of socio-demographic change on social housing, tackling early school leaving and promoting healthy ageing ■

Caroline Greene, communications officer - social affairs: caroline.greene@eurocities.eu

Youth employment receives special attention at EU summit

Amidst all the talk of a fiscal treaty, EU leaders stated their intent on three separate issues at the EU Council summit in Brussels on 30 January 2012: creating jobs for young people; completing the single market; and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Council statement urges member states to promote work experience for young people, improve early participation in the labour market through apprenticeships and traineeships, and make greater efforts to get those who leave school early into training.

It declares that the EU will:

- work with those member states that have the worst levels of youth unemployment to "redirect available EU funds towards support for young people to get into work or training"
- increase the number of placements in businesses under the Commission's Leonardo de Vinci programme
- use the European Social Fund to set up apprenticeship schemes
- promote cross-border labour mobility

Over 5.5 million young people in the EU are unemployed – about 22.3% of the entire youth workforce, according to the latest statistics published in January 2012. Spain is the hardest hit, with youth unemployment there edging close to 50%. Youth unemployment stands at 30% in Ireland and 43% in Greece.

Commission President Barroso said he was especially concerned by the youth unemployment situation in the EU, saying it was "reaching crisis point".

Our Cities for Active Inclusion published a report on what cities are doing to promote youth employment, available at the link below.



Ageing well in European cities

social affairs forum | Brussels | 27-28 March 2012

With this year being the European year of active ageing and solidarity between generations, the first meeting of our social affairs forum in 2012 will focus on how cities can adapt their services and infrastructure to deal with an ageing population.



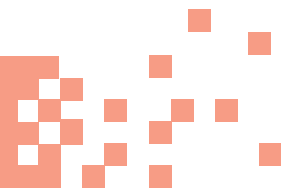
Europe's population is getting older as fertility rates drop, mortality rates rise and life expectancies increase. The European Statistics office (Eurostat) estimates that the share of the population aged 65 and over will increase from 17.4% in 2010 to 30% in 2060. Population ageing is undoubtedly going to be a key demographic challenge in many European countries over the next 50 years. Its implications for socio-economic systems, such as public pensions and health care, will be considerable. Because of this, it is vital that cities start planning now how they are going to manage in the future.

The meeting is co-organised with the Brussels Capital Region. The first day will be divided into three parts: the opening session, speednetworking session and the panel debate on benchmarking age friendliness in cities. During the second day, we will hold our business meeting and go on study visits in Brussels.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Anna Drozd.

Anna Drozd, programme officer social inclusion – PROGRESS: anna.drozd@eurocities.eu

Cities for Active Inclusion report: www.eurocities-nlao.eu
Caroline Greene, communications officer - social affairs: caroline.greene@eurocities.eu



New house? Do-it-yourself in Rotterdam

Rotterdam's 'do-it-yourself houses' ('klushuizen') project was awarded the EUROCITIES 2011 award for innovation at our annual conference last November in Genoa. Launched in 2004, the scheme allows Rotterdam's residents to buy properties in some of the city's less desirable neighbourhoods at rock-bottom prices. Many of the houses were taken on by the city from landlords who were not maintaining them to appropriate standards. Initially, the plan was for the city to renovate the properties and sell them on, but it soon became clear that selling newly-renovated houses in run-down areas was going to be a challenge.



The dilapidated houses were therefore sold to residents who could demonstrate that they had the financial means to renovate. The project relied on the support of a number of partners, including two banks willing to provide loans. Architects help buyers to secure permits

and draw up plans, which must be presented to the city before the keys are handed over. These safeguards exist to ensure that the core goal of the project is achieved; ensuring a gradual improvement of some of Rotterdam's more disadvantaged neighbourhoods. As such, homeowners are required to live in the property for at least the first three years, with no letting or selling permitted. An inspection a year after purchase ensures that the houses are being renovated, and

maintained, to high standards. Huge fines are applicable if buyers fail to reach these targets. In many cases, old apartments have been joined to make larger family homes at costs which may have been prohibitive under other circumstances.

The houses have proved to be enormously popular, even attracting buyers from outside Rotterdam. Buyers eager to snap up a house have to be quick: the properties are offered about once a year by flyer and on a website. In 2011, 230 new houses had been created from the run-down properties, and while the knock-on effect on the local area is gradual, the city hopes that the scheme will continue to change the city's disadvantaged neighbourhoods for the better.



Read more about the project in our latest case study, available at the link below ■

Do-it-yourself houses in Rotterdam: bit.ly/AxwU8C
 New York Times article on a DIY house: bit.ly/xWifTZ
 Rose Montgomery, communications assistant:
rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu

City cycling successes

Life on two wheels – Lviv, Ukraine

Lviv in Ukraine is taking a systematic approach towards improving the uptake of cycling in the city. Today, the cycling figures stand at around 2% but they are soon set to soar as the city implements a comprehensive strategy to encourage citizens to switch to two wheels.

Measures introduced by the city include establishing a working group made up of city representatives, planners, designers, NGOs and other stakeholders to initiate projects and monitor progress and the development of a nine-year cycling implementation plan, which sets forth plans to build 270km of cycling infrastructure by 2019.

Lviv is one of the host cities of the UEFA EURO 2012 football championships and the city has pledged that all refurbished road infrastructure will be complemented by the construction of cycle paths. In 2011, the city also used European Mobility Week as a means to promote cycling, with numerous activities and competitions organised. By September 2011, 8km of new cycling infrastructure had been built, with around 50km in total planned in the short-term, but the city recognises that outdated planning practices need to be addressed through training and revised legislation. Meanwhile, a lively community of cycling activists, citizens and sportsmen is looking forward to a more sustainable future for Lviv.

ELTIS case study on cycling in Lviv: bit.ly/y13a15

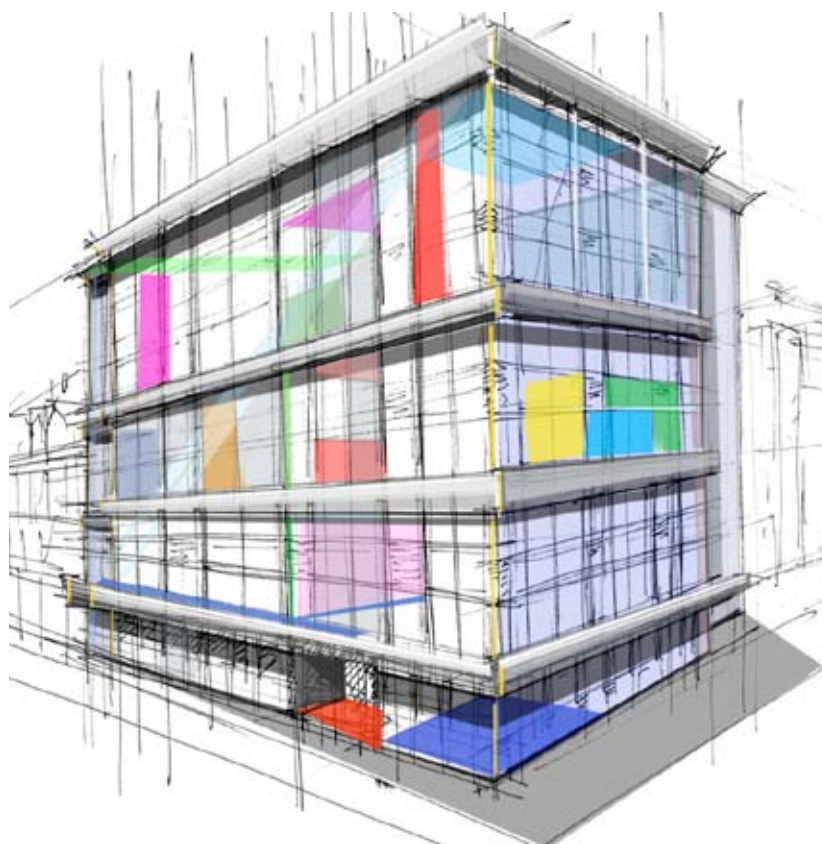
Swedish cycling super highway – Malmö, Sweden

Malmö is one of Sweden's biggest cycling cities and its latest venture is sure to cement its cycling prowess. Having noted a 30% increase in the uptake of cycling in the city each year for the past four years, Malmö is upping the stakes by investing €3.4 million (30 million Swedish kronor) in a four lane cycling super highway.



The new route will connect Malmö with its equally bike-friendly neighbour, Lund. The plans have already been approved by the Swedish traffic authority and now the city is waiting for Lund and neighbouring towns to commit their investment to the project. To minimise costs and administrative burden, the route has been planned alongside existing railway tracks. It will offer cyclists two lanes in each direction, bushes and solid fencing as wind protection and provide periodic bicycle service stations. The total cost of the project is expected to reach €5.6m and will take eight years to complete.

Find out more on the Treehugger blog: bit.ly/yxGupM



EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities, invites you to celebrate 20 years of our Brussels office

When? Tuesday 6 March, 18:00 - 20:00

Where? House of Cities, Municipalities & Regions Square de Meeûs 1, 1000 Brussels

Please register by **28 February** on eurocitiescocktail6march.eventbrite.com

Urban Forum Exchanging on cohesion policy	Brussels, Belgium	16 February 2012 bit.ly/wSxDaH
EUROCITIES 5th Integrating Cities conference Migrant integration in Europe's cities	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	8 – 9 March 2012 bit.ly/wSxDaH
5th summit of Europe's Regions and Citizens The European urban fabric in the 21st century	Copenhagen, Denmark	22 – 23 March 2012 bit.ly/AEdKUG
Sustainable City 2012 Solutions to urban environmental challenges	Ancona, Italy	7 – 9 May 2012 bit.ly/wJbtjy
Resilient Cities 2012 Cities and adaptation to climate change	Bonn, Germany	12 – 15 May 2012 bit.ly/xoNq9j

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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