

New horizons



It was always our priority to achieve a stronger urban focus in Europe's regional policy, and therefore greater EU investment for city infrastructure and

regeneration.

But it is not only regional policy that is relevant for cities. As the thematic breadth of our forums shows, we are actively promoting dialogue between our members on many policy areas, from environment to mobility, social inclusion to culture.

And on all these we are striving for, and winning, recognition of the urban dimension, and of the role of cities in delivering strategic European objectives on the ground.

Two vital, related, agendas where our cities play an important, yet often unsung part, are entrepreneurship and innovation. These are critical to realising the Europe 2020 vision of 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'. And new programmes such as COSME and Horizon 2020 offer cities the chance to draw on EU funds for local initiatives.

I'm delighted that our executive committee is meeting on 15 June 2012 with the commissioner for research, innovation and science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. This is another opportunity for direct dialogue on how cities are supporting entrepreneurship and innovation by:

- providing advice, training, incentives and seed money for small business
- developing innovation centres, incubators and 'next step' premises
- fostering networks between businesses, supply chains and service providers
- promoting cluster synergies among local companies, universities and investors

From Liverpool to Barcelona, from Tampere to Sofia, I have myself seen great examples of city leadership on these themes. Our date with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn is a chance to reinforce the role of city governments in sustaining a supportive 'ecosystem' for European entrepreneurship and innovation.



Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

EUROCITIES awards 2012: your chance to win!

Applications for the EUROCITIES awards 2012 are now open. The awards recognise outstanding achievements by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens.



The awards are judged in the context of the annual conference theme, this year 'a new city politics'. An independent jury made up of representatives of the media, academia, host city, third sector and EU institutions selects a winner in each of three categories: innovation, participation and cooperation.

Applying for a EUROCITIES award is an ideal way to showcase your city and gain recognition for your achievements.

All full and associate members are invited to apply. The winners will be announced at a ceremony during EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes on 7-10 November 2012.

You can find more information on the awards and the criteria at the conference website, below.

The deadline for applications is 29 June 2012.

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: www.eurocities2012.eu
Nicola Vatthauer, communications director: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes website goes live

You can find all the latest news about our annual conference, EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes, taking place on 7-10 November 2012, on the brand new website, below.

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: www.eurocities2012.eu
Sinead Mullins, senior communications coordinator: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

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EUROCITIES publishes position on public procurement

We recently published our position on the Commission's legislative proposals for the modernisation of public procurement. The proposed draft procurement directives, published in December 2011, aim to simplify tender procedures; facilitate access for SMEs to public procurement; promote green, social and innovative procurement; and achieve better governance in public procurement.

A summary of the main points covered by our position:

- cities should have the necessary discretion in the choice and shape of the procurement procedures they use
- cities should have flexibility to introduce 'public good' objectives within their procurement procedures under an enabling approach
- higher thresholds should be applied to reduce the administrative and financial burden on contracting authorities and make cross border competition viable for both the supplier and the contracting authority

- a wider definition of public-public cooperation/shared services exemption should be introduced to enable public bodies to use both their in-house services and create new shared services that have mutual benefits and economic impacts
- the current distinction between A/B services should be maintained as it is essential that cities retain the option to choose appropriate procedures for B services
- the review of the directive should involve local authorities to avoid discrepancies between procurement rules and their use on the ground

The Parliament is expected to vote on the legislative proposals in December 2012. The proposals will also need to be adopted by the Council ■

EUROCITIES position on public procurement: bit.ly/JtmxsY
Itxaso Gomez, interim policy advisor: itxaso.gomez@eurocities.eu

Staff news

Sandra Ramos

- Function: project coordinator
- Working languages: EN, ES, FR, PT

Sandra replaces Dion Wierts to work on the Covenant of Mayors, focusing on event organisation and media activities. Sandra previously worked at the European Commission's DG research and innovation, first as a project officer managing FP7 environmental communication projects, and then as a communications officer for the European Research Area policy directorate.

Sandra Ramos, project coordinator: sandra.ramos@eurocities.eu



Fanny Klein

- Function: administrative assistant - communications and projects
- Working languages: EN, FR

Fanny joins us until mid-September. She supports our projects team, with a special focus on the SMARTiP project, as well as our communications team, assisting with event organisation. Fanny studied political science and European studies, has completed a work experience placement in our mobility forum, and worked for Belgian MEP Isabelle Durant.

Fanny Klein, administrative assistant: fanny.klein@eurocities.eu



Tara Schneider Appriou

- Function: executive assistant
- Working languages: EN, FR, HR

Tara joins us as executive assistant, replacing Jean-Pierre Ernotte. She supports Paul Bevan and is in charge of membership relations and liaison with the executive committee. Previously, Tara worked for the European Network for Cultural Administration Training Centres (ENCATC), On-the-Move, and also as a public servant in the Croatian ministry for foreign affairs and European integration.

Tara Schneider Appriou, executive assistant: tara.schneiderappriou@eurocities.eu



Cities press urban dimension of structural funds at MEP lunch



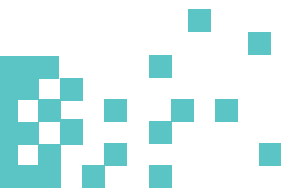
A lunch event we organised with the European Parliament's urban intergroup on 8 May 2012 saw city representatives and MEPs engage in dialogue on the urban dimension of the draft regulations.

As MEPs' opinions on the draft regulations are taking shape, the discussions focused on securing cities' direct involvement in the partnership agreements that will determine investment priorities; meeting cities' needs with the proposed new instruments; the role of cities in the European Social Fund; and supporting the development of functional urban areas.

The event was hosted by MEP Jan Olbrycht, president of the urban intergroup. MEPs Peter Simon, Joachim Zeller, Constanze Krehl, Oldřich Vlasák, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Elisabeth Scroedter and Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines also participated in the discussions with some 20 politicians and technical experts from European cities.

EUROCITIES comments on the draft regulations:

bit.ly/JvrSIC
Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor:
dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu



Linköping and Venice become latest GDC signatories

Two more EUROCITIES members, Linköping and Venice, have committed to the Green Digital Charter, making 28 signatories.

Christian Gustavsson, Linköping city commissioner, signed the Charter during the 'Smart Energy & Sustainable ICT' conference on 4 May 2012, in front of European Commission representatives, other European cities and stakeholders.

Gustavsson said: "We are happy to join forces with others for a better, sustainable future. Signing the Green Digital Charter is an important statement and central to our zero footprint strategy."

Venice signed up the following day during Notte Verde Venezia (Venice Green Night), an event focusing on sustainability and involving cities and boroughs in northeast Italy. Venice was represented by Gianfranco Bettin, councillor for environment and digital citizenship ■



Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: giulia.campodonico@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

Successful cooperation in Gijon

Our cooperation platform took place on 9-10 May 2012 in Gijon and was a great success, with much positive feedback received and around 70 participants from 43 different cities. The highlights of the event included the discussion on the involvement of politicians in the network and the updates on funding programmes and policy activities. More information will be available online in our members' area shortly.

Sinead Mullins, senior communications coordinator: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES statement: concessions directive is unnecessary

We have published our position on the Commission's draft directive on concessions. We believe that there is no need for a specific directive on concessions. It would increase complexity for public authorities as well as private entities. The application of the basic principles of the EU treaty (non-discrimination, proportionality and transparency) provides enough legal certainty and flexibility for local authorities when granting concessions.

A summary of the main points covered in our position:

- we argue for a light regime on concessions with the sole obligation to publish notices (articles 26 to 30), which could easily be included in the directives on public procurement
- local authorities should still be able to choose the form of service provision based on an objective and transparent evaluation of citizens' needs

- one threshold would be sufficient, but it should be higher than €5,000,000
- the provisions on technical specifications and means of proof, choice of participants and award of concessions (articles 32 to 43), should be set as EU guidelines rather than legislative provisions, and should be simplified
- 'services to the person' should be completely excluded from the scope of the directive, as should water, waste water and waste disposal services
- a broader definition of 'in-house' is essential

The Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal in December 2012. It will also need to be adopted by the Council.

EUROCITIES statement on concessions: bit.ly/L3VLgU
Marie Ranty, policy advisor: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Structural funds must support cities delivering Europe 2020

Representing EUROCITIES on 8 May 2012 at the European Parliament's regional development committee hearing on the next round of EU structural funds, Paul Tilsley, deputy leader of Birmingham, UK, confirmed the need to invest in cities in order to realise the Europe 2020 goals.

Paul Tilsley pressed for a stronger urban dimension in the draft regulations.



He called for cities to be directly involved in the partnerships that decide EU investment programmes; a strong urban priority throughout the regulations; a requirement for member states to delegate funding to cities and metropolitan areas; and the cities selected for delegation of funds to be made transparent.

The hearing will input into the committee's reports on the draft regulations. We spoke alongside three other major network organisations of local and regional authorities.

EUROCITIES press release: bit.ly/IMnOjy
EUROCITIES comments on the draft regulations: bit.ly/JvrSIC
Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu



Youth inclusion in southeast Europe

With 40% of the Turkish population aged under 24, young people are both a great asset and a big challenge for local governments in Turkey and many other countries. The latest EUROCIITIES in the Cities event in Beyoglu, a district of Istanbul, on 16-17 April 2012, examined the social inclusion of young people in southeast Europe.

Reaching out to the cities of Turkey and the wider southeast European region, EUROCIITIES in the Cities advised participants on how to make the most of our network. The mayor of Beyoglu, Ahmet Demircan, opened the first day, which included presentations of our work, our new website and opportunities to participate in our projects.

The second day had a more thematic focus. Representatives from the city of Sofia and from the Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency (SERDA) shared their experiences of promoting the social inclusion of young people.

One of our nine Cities for Active Inclusion, Sofia also presented their achievements as part of this work. Following the debates, participants visited some of Beyoglu municipality's most successful initiatives, namely the city's District Mansions, the social market and the Turlibaba library.

For more information on these initiatives, please visit the Beyoglu municipality website, below ■



Beyoglu municipality: en.beyoglu.bel.tr
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu
Ebru Sen, chief of foreign affairs, Beyoglu: foreignrelations@beyoglu.bel.tr

Get your voice heard through the CoR platform survey

In the presence of local leaders at a recent CoR plenary session, Council president Herman van Rompuy quoted last year's survey on 'Europe 2020: what's happening on the ground?'. When it comes to providing evidence of the territorial impact of EU policies, senior EU representatives often turn to Committee of the Regions platforms.

The CoR platforms are both networks of local and regional authorities and electronic platforms. Their aim is to assess European strategies or principles from the point of view of EU regions and cities. We participate in both the subsidiarity platform and the Europe 2020 platform.

Debates like the one that took place at the CoR plenary are shaping tomorrow's European policies, so it is important that they are based on strong and solid facts.

In order to accurately represent the situation on the ground, it is essential for local authorities to respond to the latest edition of the survey launched by the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform. The outcome will feed into a report contributing to the European Commission's 2012 annual growth survey, and will in turn be used in political debates developing our future policies.

The process may seem time-consuming, but responding to surveys like this is a crucial way of getting your voice heard.

The 2012 survey and details of previous editions can be found at the link below.

The deadline to take part in this year's edition is 13 June.

2012 survey: bit.ly/Jbm16d
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

Cypriot EU presidency: raising awareness of the urban agenda

Cyprus takes over the EU presidency from Denmark on 1 July 2012. In preparation, Paul Bevan, EUROCIITIES secretary general, held meetings with the Cypriot ministries for transport, cohesion policy, and asylum and immigration issues in Nicosia on 4 April 2012.



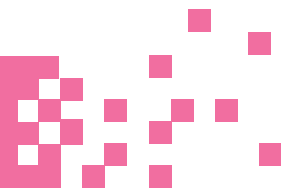
Photo credit: Cigdem Özbilenler

These meetings help ensure that the incoming presidency is fully informed of our positions on some of the major EU dossiers on which they will work, including the Trans-European Networks, the Connecting Europe Facility, cohesion policy and the multiannual financial framework.

Opportunities for cooperation around presidency conferences were also identified, including a joint ministerial meeting on telecoms and transport in July 2012 and a conference on migrant integration in November 2012.

We have also been invited to organise a workshop on the Green Digital Charter as part of a major 'East meets West on Innovation and Entrepreneurship' congress and exhibition on 1-4 September 2012 in Nicosia. The event is organised by the Cyprus EU office as part of the presidency.

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



MEPs and experts focus on Creative Europe

On 26 April 2012, the European Parliament's culture committee held the first public hearing on Creative Europe, the Commission's proposed 2014-2020 funding programme for the cultural and creative sectors. Creative Europe will replace the current culture, media and Media Mundus programmes, providing a new legislative framework to promote Europe's competitiveness in culture and film, whilst safeguarding its cultural and linguistic diversity.

A panel of experts on the MEDIA and CULTURE programmes, and Danish presidency representatives, were invited to join the discussions along with Vladimir Sucha, director of culture and media at the Commission's DG education and culture.

MEPs and experts welcomed the inclusion of creative and cultural industries in the programme, as well as the proposed budget increase.

However, Silvia Costa, the CULT committee's rapporteur on the programme, complained of the lack of territorial dimension and little attention given to the relationship between culture and local development. Both MEPs and experts found the programme too

market-oriented and asked the Commission to provide:

- stronger support for non-profit organisations and SMEs
- better recognition of the intrinsic value of culture
- further details on the cross-sectoral strand, especially on application procedures, beneficiaries and selection criteria
- closer analysis of the pros and cons of merging the EU cultural contact points (CCPs) and the MEDIA desks
- a more detailed budget

The Danish presidency will await clarifications on the above issues from the Commission before issuing a full opinion.

The culture committee will also present its opinion shortly ■



EUROCITIES statement on Creative Europe: bit.ly/HGqjXi
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Members consider 'connectivity' in Utrecht



Photo credit: Jan Lankveld

The latest meeting of our culture forum took place in Utrecht on 18-21 April 2012. The theme was 'connectivity', in line with Utrecht's cultural policy 2012 – 2020, 'Open Space'.

Participants considered their cities from three different perspectives: the city as a stage, a creative space and a learning environment. Utrecht, Leipzig, and Brighton & Hove presented projects demonstrating how cultural initiatives can be carried out with other city departments and external stakeholders.

Among them, the Muziekpaleis, Utrecht's new music centre that will be completed by 2014, is an example of the connection between new building projects and the city, as well as between new cultural projects and existing institutions.

Working documents and presentations are available on our website.

The next culture forum meeting will be in Munich on 24-27 October 2012 on the relationship between cities and history.

Julie Hervé, policy advisor: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Culture forum: working group activities

All culture forum working groups met in Utrecht. Below is an overview of latest activities.

Creative industries

Members discussed the 'creative city 3.0', a concept by Professor Hans Mommaas underlining the need for a deeper understanding of creativity evolution models. Utrecht presented local initiatives designed to foster the creative industries. These include Dutch Game Garden, a hub for new and established Dutch game companies, supported by the city of Utrecht. The next meeting is in Leipzig in November, linking to the 'Creative Cities' Intereg project's final conference.

Cultural access and entitlement

Participants discussed the meaning of the word 'connectivity'. The Cultuurhuis Stefanus cultural centre, the Vrede van Utrecht project, and the Community Art Lab presented their activities, which focus on fostering access to culture in their communities and improving the use of empty spaces in Utrecht. Members proposed compiling a collection of best practice examples on access to culture, possibly in collaboration with the social affairs forum.

Young people and culture

DOX, a multidisciplinary theatre company which works with young people from culturally diverse

backgrounds, presented its talent development strategy. To follow up on the '10 Steps for European Culture', a collection of statements made by young people at the Forum for Young Citizens in 2003, the working group proposed developing a new set of questions. Results will be presented at the Munich forum in November, along with city presentations on 'young people and cultural heritage'.

Mobility of artists

The Huis ann de Werf and Impakt projects showcased new models designed to promote artists' mobility by way of festivals and residency programmes in Utrecht. The On-the-Move network presented a draft charter for responsible and sustainable cultural mobility, calling for collaboration with the working group on the charter's development, the terms of which will be announced shortly.

Resources for culture

The group's focus has shifted from purely financial resources for culture to a variety of resources, including human and infrastructure. The meeting focused on art in public space. In Utrecht 1.5% of the total costs of public buildings is dedicated to art installations. Several examples were showcased.

Julie Hervé, policy advisor:
julie.herve@eurocities.eu



Triple helix cooperation in Amsterdam



Economic development forum | Amsterdam | 11-13 June 2012

Local governments are faced with realising ambitious economic agendas using fewer resources. Promoting entrepreneurship and improving the conditions within which entrepreneurs work remain central to creating jobs and stimulating growth.

The city of Amsterdam considers maintaining an attractive and competitive business climate a priority. It allows local and international companies, new and established businesses, and innovative start-ups to perform to their full potential. Amsterdam involves all stakeholders in order to develop policies that address the right issues. Stakeholders include local and regional governments, the business sector, employer organisations, and education and research institutes.

Meeting in Amsterdam on 11-13 June 2012, our economic development forum will discuss 'triple helix cooperation: a solution for strengthening the business climate in metropolitan areas?'. With a keynote speaker invited from the OECD, participants will debate on the contributions of three important groups of local actors.

Our working groups on cohesion policy, metropolitan areas, innovation, entrepreneurship and SMEs, and integrated urban development will also meet alongside the forum. An example of Amsterdam's activities will be presented in each working group. These include the Amsterdam Economic Board's (triple helix) 'road-map to excellence' for seven knowledge and innovation clusters in the metropolitan region. This agenda comprises major innovation strategies for the next five to ten years to achieve a global competitive advantage.

Registrations for the forum are open until 25 May 2012 at the link below ■

Registration: bit.ly/K1lvY8
Marie Ranty, policy advisor: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

COSME should reach cities and have a strong territorial dimension

In November 2011, the Commission unveiled its proposal for a new Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) programme for the 2014-2020 period.

COSME aims to improve the business environment and the competitiveness of European enterprises through four objectives: improving the framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of European enterprises; promoting entrepreneurship; improving access to finance for SMEs; and improving access to markets inside the EU and globally.

We recently published our position on COSME. The main points are:

- COSME should reach cities and have a strong territorial dimension

- the proposal should clarify what actions will be implemented to facilitate SME access to markets outside the EU and international industrial cooperation
- the Enterprise Europe Network should be strengthened
- financial instruments should be easily accessible for SMEs
- there needs to be wide dissemination of information about COSME, especially to local and regional authorities

Discussions on the proposal will begin shortly in Parliament and Council.

EUROCITIES statement on COSME:
bit.ly/LlhBUZ
Julie Hervé, policy advisor:
julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Save the date! European SME week 2012

Europe-wide | 15-21 October 2012

European SME week 2012 will take place on 15-21 October 2012 throughout Europe. Coordinated by DG enterprise and industry, it aims to:

- inform on what the EU and national, regional and local authorities are offering as support to small businesses
- promote entrepreneurship
- give recognition to entrepreneurs

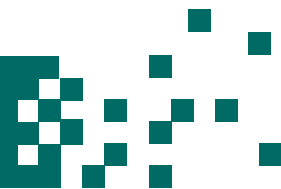


Cities can register events taking place from April to November 2012 on the dedicated website, below.

The European SME Week 2012 Summit will take place in Brussels on 17 October 2012 and will focus on 'Women's Entrepreneurship'.

European SME week: bit.ly/JLRNcA





Ministers discuss energy efficiency and 7th EAP

European energy and environment ministers discussed the proposed Energy Efficiency Directive and the development of a 7th Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) at an informal meeting on 18-19 April 2012.

The proposed Energy Efficiency Directive remains controversial. Member states have discussed compromises, such as only obliging central government authorities to commit to renovating 3% of their public buildings per year. Local authorities would therefore be exempt from the obligation. The energy savings obligations for energy suppliers would also be less stringent. In a non-paper submitted to the Council, the Commission estimates that the changes to its proposal, as discussed in Council, would only deliver 38% of the energy savings that would have

been achieved with the original Commission proposal.

The 7th EAP raised fewer issues at the Council meeting, with environment ministers agreeing that the new EAP is needed.

The Council discussed a strategy for the urban environment as part of the 7th EAP, which would include how cities can contribute to a green economy and to biodiversity.

Furthermore, ministers would like to see the EAP identify priorities, objectives, credible targets, indicators and actions for 2020, with a view to achieving more ambitious goals in 2050.

We are working on a statement in response to the Commission consultation on a 7th EAP. The Commission is expected to propose the new EAP towards the end of the year ■

Non-paper on the Energy Efficiency Directive: bit.ly/IZ1jae
 Presidency conclusions on the Council meeting: bit.ly/KixdyM
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

New Commission guidelines on soil sealing

The Commission has published examples of policies, legislation, funding schemes, local planning tools and other best practices in its new guidelines on limiting, mitigating and compensating soil sealing.



Europe is the world's most urbanised continent, and is rapidly covering the landscape with impermeable materials. The Commission estimates that 257 hectares each day are sealed, resulting in around 1000 km² of soil lost every year. If this trend continues at the same rate, within 100 years Europe will have sealed an area comparable to the territory of France and Spain combined.

The goal of the guidelines on soil sealing is to limit urban sprawl, promote the use of permeable materials instead of asphalt, and enhance the collection of rainwater. The covering of the ground by impermeable materials in particular is one of the main causes of soil degradation in the EU.

When soil sealing is not managed sustainably it poses a danger to biodiversity, increases the risk of flooding and water scarcity, and can even contribute to global warming.

Guidelines on soil sealing: bit.ly/KJvr1K
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

CASCADE looks at district heating in Amsterdam

In April 2012, Amsterdam hosted the fourth peer learning visit under the CASCADE project. The visit focused on the city's district heating network and its energy transition towards more sustainable sources.



A team of experts from Edinburgh, Gateshead, Genoa, Gijon and Venice spent three days in Amsterdam and interviewed a wide range of stakeholders, including politicians, officers from the relevant city departments, the director of the waste to energy company and the managers from the main social housing companies.

The district heating network in Amsterdam uses the surplus heat generated by a gas-burning power plant and a waste incineration plant to generate energy and provide heating for large parts of the city. Currently, the city has 50,000 households already connected to district heating and aims to reach 200,000 by 2040. To achieve this goal, the city is implementing an ambitious policy to expand the network in partnership with the energy company Nuon.

The CASCADE team recognised the complexities for expanding such large-scale infrastructure. The city already has a robust cooperation with Nuon and the developers of new urban areas. The challenge lies in keeping to the planned level of investments in times of economic crisis.

The visit to Amsterdam followed the peer learning methodology which involves examining how cities are implementing local energy policies based on common principles (benchmarks). Remaining CASCADE visits will take place in Sunderland and Tampere.

CASCADE: www.cascadecities.eu
 Jorgina Cuixart, project coordinator: jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu

Infrastructure and cyber security in city transformation

Knowledge society forum | Belfast | 20-21 June 2012

Belfast will host the next meeting of our knowledge society forum on 20-21 June 2012.

A hundred years ago, Belfast was at the forefront of technology in fields such as engineering and construction. The decline of that industry and challenges of civil unrest are now making way for a renaissance of Belfast's technological heritage. Recent regeneration projects in the city have transformed it once again into a leader in technology – this time in the digital world.

This makes Belfast an ideal host for our next forum meeting. Participants will examine how cities can be transformed with the support of central and local government in partnership with the private sector.

Representatives from local and central government and from the private sector will explain how these projects have enabled transformation and growth. Site visits will also take place,

demonstrating Belfast's technological excellence and focusing on cyber-security, which has a significant role to play in enabling citizens to communicate, collaborate and trade easily, safely and securely in the digital world.



You can register using the link below. For more information, please contact Deirdre Ferguson in Belfast or George Niland at our Brussels office (from 21 May 2012) ■

Registration: www.eventbrite.com/event/3296972333
Deirdre Ferguson, Belfast: fergusond@belfastcity.gov.uk
George Niland, policy advisor: george.niland@eurocities.eu

NiCE project to host training on 'measuring green IT'

Belfast | 19 June 2012

Ahead of the June forum meeting in Belfast, city officers are invited to attend a Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency (NiCE) project technical training session on 'measuring green IT', being held in Belfast on 19 June 2012.

The interactive session aims to support cities in implementing the Green Digital Charter (GDC) commitments.

Participation is free of charge and is open to all cities and Green Digital Charter signatories. Travel and accommodation costs will only be reimbursed for GDC signatories.



More details, including the agenda, registration and cost reimbursement procedures, will be available shortly.

Registration: nicetraining_measuringgreenit.eventbrite.com
Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu

Call for Green Digital Charter roadshows

So far, 28 European cities have committed, through our Green Digital Charter (GDC), to use ICT as an enabler and main driver for energy efficiency.

The Networking intelligent Cities for Energy Efficiency (NiCE) project is now looking for proposals for three Green Digital Charter roadshows to promote the actions carried out by signatories.

The events would serve as an inspiration to other cities, focusing on profiling the partnerships between charter signatories and external stakeholders and encouraging cities to progress on their charter commitments. Sessions would showcase different aspects of the Green Digital Charter:

- roadshow 1: Green Digital Charter and EU policies/funding
- roadshow 2: public-private cooperation on Green Digital Charter commitments
- roadshow 3: energy and technology

The call for applications, open to charter signatories only, provides more detailed information, including requirements, selection criteria and application procedures.

If you are interested in hosting one of the roadshows, please fill in the questionnaire, which can be found with the call for applications, below, and return it to John Keys by 17:00 (GMT) on 15 June 2012.

Call for applications: bit.ly/KdXdYC
John Keys, Manchester Digital Development Agency: j.keys@manchesterddda.com

Masterclass in developing intelligent communities

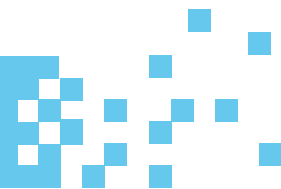
New York City | 6-8 June 2012

The Intelligent Community Forum hosts its annual summit on 6-8 June 2012 in New York City. This is an opportunity for community leaders and their business and institutional partners from around the world to network and find out more about using ICT to drive economic growth and react to the social challenges of the 21st century.

The summit will begin with an 'intelligent communities master class', providing participants with essential training on creating the intelligent community.

Attendance at the summit is limited and principally by invitation, but a number of paid registrations are available. You can find out more using the links below.

Register: www.icfsummit.com
More information: www.intelligentcommunity.org



Transport ministers debate TEN-T

On 22 March 2012, transport ministers from the 27 member states backed the Commission's proposals for an EU core transport network within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

The scheme will connect ports with rail and road links, and airports with rail connections into major cities by 2030.

Following this first exchange of views, we welcome the ministers' general consensus for the proposed dual-layer approach, with a core network and a comprehensive network. We also endorse the identification of the ten main corridors that will link the major urban nodes and metropolitan areas of Europe.

However, we do not agree with the ministers' suggested modifications, which would abandon the concept of 'corridor platforms' and weaken the role of 'corridor coordinators'. We believe corridor platforms would help improve the coordination and development of TEN-T projects. They could also be useful structures for promoting economic cooperation between cities and regions along corridors, as well as for reaching consensus on the development plans essential for effective functioning of corridors.

We will continue to work with the Council and Parliament to ensure city interests are taken on board.

The agreement reached by the transport ministers is a first step in the legislative process. The proposed regulation will still need to be approved by MEPs at first reading. The Parliament is expected to vote on the issue in early 2013. The text could be adopted by both the Parliament and the Council in the first half of 2013 ■



More information: bit.ly/II5p9E
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Public hearing on the CEF

On 24 April 2012, a public hearing on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was held during a joint meeting of the transport and tourism (TRAN) and industry, research and energy (ITRE) Parliamentary committees. The CEF is the proposed funding instrument for the EU's digital, transport and energy infrastructure, and would fund the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

Speakers highlighted the importance of innovative financial instruments such as project bonds, and also the role of institutional investors and public-private partnerships.

Discussions also emphasised the difference between partnership agreements and concession contracts in terms of risk and financing of infrastructure. All experts agreed on the importance of selecting projects with a European added value.

In challenging economic times, it is increasingly difficult to invest in large scale infrastructure projects in the fields of transport, energy and ICT. The CEF should help provide financial support and funding solutions.

More information: bit.ly/IFxgWM
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor:
vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

CIVITAS Forum 2012: call for proposals

Vitoria-Gasteiz | 24-26 September 2012

Members are invited to submit proposals for either technical or pecha kucha sessions during this year's CIVITAS Forum. There are eight slots available across five technical sessions and ten slots across two pecha kucha sessions. These openings are exclusively for CIVITAS external speakers and CIVITAS I and II cities.

The conference takes place in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, from 24-26 September 2012. Under the title 'Managing Mobility: Planning for Sustainable Cities', it will explore successful aspects of sustainable urban mobility and public space planning.

Upon acceptance of your proposal for a technical session, you will be asked to prepare a 10-15 minute

presentation. For the pecha kucha sessions, you will need to compile a presentation consisting of 20 images that will run for 20 seconds each. We look forward to receiving your contribution!

The deadline for submissions is Friday 25 May 2012.



More information, draft agenda and proposal forms: bit.ly/lpIRVv
Send your proposal to: forum.contributions@civitas.eu
Yannick Bousse, project support officer – mobility: yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu

New projects on urban transport innovation

From September 2012, we will support the communication and dissemination of TIDE and 3iBS, two FP7 projects funded by DG research promoting the uptake of innovative urban transport solutions.

TIDE (Transport Innovation Deployment for Europe) will study and promote innovative approaches in financing models and pricing measures, non-motorised transport, travel information, electric vehicles and public transport organisation. The consortium includes EUROCITIES members Rotterdam, Budapest, Donostia-San Sebastian and Milan. TIDE will also select fifteen additional cities via a call for proposals and assist them

with the development of implementation scenarios.

3iBS (Intelligent, Innovative, Integrated Bus Systems) is a continuation of European Bus Systems of the Future (EBSF), an ambitious project led by UITP which studied, developed and tested different aspects of high quality bus services, including vehicles, infrastructure and IT standards. The aim of 3iBS is to disseminate the outcomes of EBSF to a wider international audience in order to increase the performance and efficiency of bus systems as well as make them more attractive for customers.

Peter Staelens, project coordinator: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu



Youth in times of crisis

European governments should support growth and education and give more importance to the role of education in employment, says the Danish employment ministry. This was the message behind a Danish presidency event on 'youth: employment and inclusion in times of crisis' held in Horsens, Denmark on 26-27 April 2012.

In a video message, European commissioner for employment and social inclusion, László Andor, underlined the Commission's commitment to alleviating youth unemployment. He spoke of the Commission's 'youth guarantee' proposal which would give every young person in the EU the right to a job, an apprenticeship, further training or a job combined with training, if they have been out of work for four months.

Strong focus was on how governments can make it more attractive for employers to hire young people.

France was cited as an example, where employers hiring young people benefit from lower taxes. Youth organisations raised the issue of recognising skills and informal learning, with positive reactions from participants.

Three workshops presented good practice examples from all over Europe, including Rotterdam, showcasing their 'youth counter' as an integrated approach to dealing with issues around young people. Youth counter supports young people (aged 16-27 years) without skills or qualifications, who are in serious need of assistance due to serious personal problems.



The Danish minister for employment, Mette Frederiksen closed the conference by confirming the EU's commitment to resolving youth unemployment, saying that investing in the future means investing in youth ■

Ali Khan, social policy researcher:
ali.khan@eurocities.eu

New tools for cities on migrant integration

We recently published our Integrating Cities toolkits, which guide and offer inspiration to city administrators in achieving European city standards in migrant integration.

Developed under the Making Integration Work in Europe's Cities (MIXITIES) project, the toolkits cover the following areas:

- introductory and language courses
- anti-discrimination policies
- promoting cultural diversity.

The toolkits guide cities in implementing our Integrating Cities Charter. This charter sets out the responsibilities of European cities to embrace the diversity of their population and to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.

MIXITIES promotes mutual learning between cities in the field of integration. It is co-financed by the European Commission's DG home affairs, through the European Integration Fund, EUROCITIES and the project partners.

The project produced other tools, including a video on migrant youth views on integration, showing young people's attitudes to diversity and integration in their cities. The young people are from project partners Barcelona, Ghent and Stockholm. There is also a video demonstrating the peer review process behind the MIXITIES project.

Toolkits and videos: www.integratingcities.eu
Ana Feder, project coordinator: ana.feder@eurocities.eu

Report on Berlin's Roma contact point

Our new report looks at Berlin's contact point for EU migrant workers and Roma people, from the perspective of its organisers, NGOs Amaro Drom and Südost Europa Kultur. The service aims to build bridges between the 20,000-strong migrant community and social and private services in the city, through advice, translation and awareness raising. You can find the full report at the link below.

Report: bit.ly/ITmxmU
Dirk Gebhardt, policy advisor: dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES and the European platform against poverty

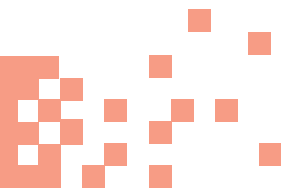
We joined the fourth stakeholder meeting on the European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion in Brussels on 3 May 2012. The European Platform is one of the seven flagship initiatives under the Europe 2020 strategy. It highlights the need to enhance cooperation, improve dialogue and widen partnerships. The meeting brings together the main associations and organisations tackling social exclusion.



The meeting focused on the challenges currently faced by social services: homelessness, child poverty, national Roma integration strategies and active inclusion. The European Commission's white paper on adequate, safe and sustainable pensions was also discussed.

The feedback received from this meeting will be used in the reports and recommendations due to be published later this year. It will also be taken into account for the platform's annual convention, to be held in Brussels on 5-6 December 2012.

Susana Forjan, Project coordinator:
susana.forjan@eurocities.eu



TODOS – caminhada de culturas

TODOS - caminhada de culturas (Everybody – a walk of cultures) is an annual festival in Lisbon which promotes social cohesion and build bridges with the immigrant community. It centres on a particular neighbourhood, Mouraria-Martim Moniz, which is home to immigrants from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India and Pakistan, and has a reputation for crime, prostitution and drugs.

The TODOS festival invites residents from the immigrant neighbourhood to organise and participate in a series of activities, from theatrical performances to musical recitals and shop tours, or demonstrations such as 'how to tie an Indian sari'. The idea is to attract citizens from across the Portuguese and immigrant communities to learn more about the different cultures that make up Mouraria-Martim Moniz.

The first TODOS festival took place in 2009, with some 12,500 participants. In 2010, there were 20,000 participants, and there are plans for TODOS to be staged until 2013. The success of the festival depends on the cooperation and participation of citizens from the immigrant and Portuguese communities, and has had concrete impacts on the city. Notable changes range from a reduced crime rate to the creation of a multicultural orchestra and a new international market. Even the mayor's office has been moved into the neighbourhood, which offers a real indication of the change in citizens' attitudes.



Moin Uddin Ahamed, originally from Bangladesh, said:

"TODOS is an outstanding festival where we work together, regardless of language, culture, society or mentality!"

You can find the full case study in the good practices section of our website ■

Rose Montgomery, communications assistant: rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu

Bristol, Copenhagen and Frankfurt shortlisted for European Green Capital 2014

Bristol, Copenhagen and Frankfurt are the finalists for the European Green Capital 2014. The three EUROCITIES members were selected out of 18 cities who applied for the 2014 title, which is currently held by Vitoria-Gasteiz in Spain and by Nantes in 2013.



Four cities have been awarded the title since its inception in 2010, including EUROCITIES members Stockholm and Hamburg. The award is presented to cities that promote environmentally friendly living. The finalists were selected by an independent jury who judged them according to 12 criteria.

The winner will be announced on 8 June 2012 at a ceremony in Vitoria-Gasteiz. You can find out more about the award below.

European Green Capital: www.europeangreencapital.eu

Milan opens up municipal data

The city of Milan is planning to make its information on public transport, commercial opening hours, green areas, air quality, activities of municipal commissions, health and education available to the public. Information will be published on the city's website in a re-useable format for commercial and non-commercial purposes.

The initiative, called 'project open data', is part of the city's broader digital agenda, including actions addressing the digital divide (both between city neighbourhoods and age groups), free WiFi (1,500 hotspots planned by December 2012), and offering easier to use online services.

For more information on the initiative, visit the link below or contact Maura Gambarana in Milan.

More information: bit.ly/lhCVn8
Maura Gambarana, city of Milan: maura.gambarana@comune.milano.it

If you have some news about your city you'd like to share, contact Rose Montgomery (rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu)

MIXITIES videos available online

Click here to see young people from Barcelona, Ghent and Stockholm reflect on cultural diversity in their cities

Click here for a video introduction to the EUROCITIES peer review process



www.integratingcities.eu

EuroHealthNet Second Equity Week Integrating coherent policy, practice and action	Brussels, Belgium	29-31 May 2012 bit.ly/KfKXH9
2nd European Academy on State Aid Three day course on state aid	Berlin, Germany	11-13 June 2012 bit.ly/luglCc
ECOMM 2012 European conference on mobility management	Frankfurt, Germany	12-15 June 2012 bit.ly/GHIQRo
IQPC Urban Rail Infrastructure Latest developments in urban rail	Vienna, Austria	19-21 June 2012 bit.ly/JegQ23
20th European Social Services Conference Shaping the future for sustainable social services	Copenhagen, Denmark	25-27 June 2012 bit.ly/JLlpwC

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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Please send any contributions and comments to: newsletters@eurocities.eu

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Paul Bevan, Secretary General

Editor
Rose Montgomery

Layout
Rob Harris Productions

EUROCITIES
1 Square de Meeùs
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 552 0888
Fax: +32 2 552 0889
e-mail: info@eurocities.eu
www.eurocities.eu