

'A new city politics'



The theme for the EUROCITIES annual conference this November in Nantes could not be more topical, or more urgent.

This economic crisis has generated political turbulence at all levels, not just European. Dissatisfaction, even anger, has moved electorates across Europe to sweep out national and local governments. Our cities have seen mass protests and occupations. Extreme, xenophobic parties are on the rise. The solidarity at the foundation of the European project feels in jeopardy.

City mayors are at the frontline of this disaffection. They see at close hand the resentment of citizens under pressure from recession and austerity. They face a growing distrust of politics and of politicians.

Disengagement from political processes not only harms the legitimacy of democratic governance but also civic life itself. No city can be socially cohesive and economically successful if the mayor and administration aren't connected to and respected by the people.

That is why so many EUROCITIES mayors have been finding new ways to reach and engage their citizens. And this year's conference in Nantes, subtitled 'innovation, inspiration, involvement', provides a perfect opportunity to exchange on these challenges, to share what works well and even not so well.

Keynotes will present the latest research and insights, and workshop sessions throughout Nantes will explore in practical detail the ways city administrations can connect better to their citizens on issues such as transport, environment, education, and planning. Politicians will also be invited to discuss in private session whether and how as local leaders they can help to take forward the wider European agenda.

These are critical challenges for cities at a critical time for Europe. I hope you will join us in Nantes, from 7 to 10 November.



Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

Talking innovation

Members of our executive committee met Marion Dewar from the cabinet of Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European commissioner for research, innovation and science to discuss the role of cities in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are two vital related agendas where our cities play an important part.

Cities are critical to realising the Europe 2020 vision of 'smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'. This meeting was another opportunity for direct dialogue with the Commission on how cities are supporting entrepreneurship and innovation by:

- providing advice, training and seed money for small businesses
- 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

The new funding programmes for 2014-2020 supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, Horizon 2020 and COSME, should offer cities the chance to draw on EU funds for local initiatives. Politicians exchanged views with Marion Dewar on how the role of cities can be closely embedded in EU strategies and how we can ensure that funding programmes support cities in responding to the needs on the ground.



Vanda Knowles, policy director: vanda.knowles@eurocities.eu

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Focus on: EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes

Our annual conference, EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes, takes place in Nantes on 7-10 November 2012. The theme of this year's conference is 'a new city politics', looking at how cities are turning to innovative ways of engaging citizens in local politics. Join us for a programme of panel debates, workshops and networking opportunities.

Programme highlights

- **Keynote speakers:** Joan Font Fabregas and Cécile Van de Velde, two high-level academic researchers will open the debates. Joan, an expert on local participation, political abstention and the mechanisms of citizen participation, will focus on local democracy and citizen involvement. Cécile, who is regarded as an expert on public youth policies, will highlight the changes relating to the participation of young people.
- **Mayors' debate:** over a 90 minute session, four to five mayors will take the stage to share their experiences of political renewal in their own cities. Speakers will be confirmed shortly, and the session will include interventions from the audience and the keynote speakers.
- **Workshops:** a series of workshops will take place, allowing participants to explore and discuss concrete examples of good practice in Nantes.
- **Speednetworking:** the popular speednetworking sessions have become a regular fixture on our conference programme. Around 20 sessions will each be run by a city delegate presenting a project. Sessions will run twice and take around 30 minutes. You can apply to host a session until 15 September 2012. Visit the conference website for more information and the application form.
- **Private political session:** a private discussion for EUROCITIES politicians, the PPS is closed to officials and the media, allowing for a frank exchange of views. Discussions this year will focus on how to engage citizens better within Europe and improving their understanding of the benefits of belonging to the EU.



- **Networking:** the conference provides plenty of opportunities to network. This year, we're expecting 400-500 participants. There will also be plenty of time for informal chats with colleagues from across Europe.

Log on to the conference website, below, for more details of the event ■

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: www.eurocities2012.eu
Sinead Mullins, senior communications coordinator:
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Energy efficiency directive: only central governments obliged to renovate

On 14 June 2012, the European Parliament and European environment ministers reached an agreement on the energy efficiency directive.

Cities are mostly excluded from the renovation obligations. It is national governments that will have to ensure that as of 1 January 2014, 3% of the total floor area of their public buildings will be renovated each year. Member states also have to establish a long term strategy for renovating the national stock of residential and commercial buildings. They must also set up an energy efficiency obligation scheme for energy distributors, to secure a 1.5% annual end use energy savings target by 2020.

The compromise text differs from the original Commission proposal in that it includes a bundle of flexibility measures as well as alternative measures for member states to reach their targets. Overall, the Council estimates that the directive can nevertheless lead to 17% more energy efficiency in the EU by 2020.

Parliament now needs to confirm the agreement through votes in the energy committee (ITRE) on 12 July 2012 and in plenary in September 2012 before member states can sign it officially in the months to come.



Council conclusions on the energy efficiency directive: bit.ly/NBRVvR
Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Mobility management achievements under EPOMM-PLUS

The EPOMM-PLUS project has come to a close. The project took place over 2009-2012 and was supported by Intelligent Energy Europe in the framework of their STEER programme, which focuses on sustainable transport. Its aim was to strengthen EPOMM (European Platform on Mobility Management) and with it the potential of mobility management as a tool to save energy in traffic and transport.

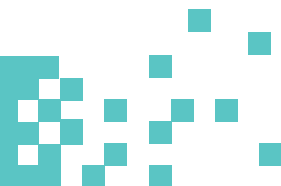
Under the project, we established a standardised policy and best practice transfer process. The process brings together representatives from cities, countries, projects and organisations to exchange on successful actions. We initiated 14 transfers, exchanging between 16 different countries.

Other achievements of EPOMM-PLUS include:

- EPOMM-PLUS established national platforms and networks on mobility management in almost all countries in which it had partners.
- In many countries, EPOMM-PLUS put mobility management on the national agenda and in some cases, even a part of national policy.
- EPOMM-PLUS also helped to introduce European platforms for benchmarking and evaluating mobility projects and city mobility policies.

Most developments carried out under EPOMM-PLUS will continue within EPOMM.

EPOMM: www.epomm.eu
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Focus on: smart cities and communities

The European Commission published its communication on smart cities and communities on 10 July 2012. The communication sets out a reinforced EU policy framework across the energy, transport and ICT sectors in support of sustainable urban development.

The Commission also organised a smart cities and communities conference in Brussels on 10 July 2012 to coincide with the communication. The conference included, amongst other things, speeches from Siim Kallas, commissioner for transport, Günther Oettinger, commissioner for energy and Neelie Kroes, commissioner for the digital agenda, as well as a discussion on the

convergence and integration of the energy, transport and ICT sectors for urban systems.

We took part in the morning roundtable discussion on smart cities and the European Innovation Partnership and in the afternoon panel on EU technology programmes. EUROCIITIES was represented by Michal Olszewski, deputy mayor of Warsaw, who spoke at both sessions.

To coincide with the communication and the corresponding FP7 funding calls, we are hosting a brokerage event on 11 July 2012 for EUROCIITIES members to develop partnerships and project ideas ahead of the smart cities call for proposals deadline.

The brokerage event allows cities to:

- learn more about the call from a Commission representative
- meet other European cities interested in the call
- network with project partners from all over Europe in view of developing joint projects
- meet experts from the EUROCIITIES office to fine-tune project ideas ■

Smart cities conference: bit.ly/MpA4Ji
George Niland, policy advisor:
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Commission consultation on Intelligent Energy Europe 2014-2020

The European Commission is consulting on the development of 'Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) III'. Intelligent Energy Europe supports the use and dissemination of clean and sustainable solutions, providing funding for projects which support this goal. The new IEE will be part of the Horizon 2020 funding programme. We will work on a response to the consultation with relevant working groups and forums.

More information on the consultation: bit.ly/MTkwfz
Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Open doors, Open Days



We will be hosting another open doors afternoon during the 2012 Open Days, from 14:00 – 17:00 on Tuesday, 9 October 2012. If you're in Brussels for the Open Days, feel free to drop into our office for a chat with the staff over a cup of coffee.

Nicola Vatthauer, communications director:
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Become European Green Capital 2015

The Commission has launched the competition for the European Green Capital Award 2015. The title is currently held by Vitoria-Gasteiz in Spain and Nantes will take over next year. EUROCIITIES member Copenhagen was announced as the 2014 holder at a ceremony on Friday 29 June 2012. Your city could be in with a chance for 2015!

Deadline for applications: 15 October 2012.

More information: bit.ly/MSPCAa

Copenhagen, European Green Capital 2014

EUROCIITIES president city Copenhagen will hold the title of European Green Capital in 2014, it was revealed during a ceremony in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the current title-holder, on Friday 29 June 2012. As Denmark's most populous city, Copenhagen has made impressive efforts towards a greener future.

The city places public-private partnerships at the core of its approach to eco-innovation and sustainable employment, working with universities, businesses and organisations to help implement green growth.

It has also made significant progress on the transport front, with 35% of its population having cycled to their workplace or school in 2010. Now, the city is aiming to increase this figure to 50% by 2015, and become the world's premier cycling city. This will go some way towards the ambitious goal of becoming a carbon neutral city by 2025.

Read more about Copenhagen's green credentials using the link below.

European Green Capital 2014: bit.ly/P1CIWD

EUROCITIES on European Territorial Cooperation

Following their February 2012 meeting, WG governance members formed a core group to comment on the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) regulation.

This work will complement that of our WG cohesion policy and that being carried out by our ESF taskforce on other elements of the cohesion policy package.

The changes proposed by the Commission to the next cohesion policy will give more weight to European Territorial Cooperation. A specific regulation proposed for ETC indicates increasing recognition of its importance while its proposed budget has been increased by 30%. Nevertheless, while the increase in budget may be significant, it remains relatively small: its €11.7 million is the smallest share of the total €336 million proposed for cohesion policy.

Our statement outlines the following points.

- We support the increase of the budget allocated to European Territorial Cooperation, which is a fundamental dimension of EU policies.
- Programming strategies in the field of ETC should fully take into account the role of cities, whose experience in the field of cross-border cooperation is substantial and too often overlooked.
- Transnational programmes do not involve local actors often enough. ETC programmes should be required to include a strong territorial dimension in projects – if possible supported by pilot actions – involving local stakeholders and promoting a sustainable and integrated approach (e.g. building urban-rural linkages).
- We believe that the ETC should not be limited to internal borders of the EU. Funds such as the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the



Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance should be combined with the ERDF regulation to foster genuine cooperation projects with neighbouring non-EU member states under the ETC goal ■

EUROCITIES statement: bit.ly/LwXQ2k
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant:
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Urban-rural partnerships in Europe

Organised by the German federal ministry of transport, building and urban development, 'Urban. Rural. Europe. Strengthening Partnerships' brought urban and rural stakeholders together with representatives from the European institutions in Berlin on 19 June 2012. With Europe 2020 and the next round of structural funds in mind, participants discussed how to strengthen urban-rural partnerships to help the EU meet global challenges such as economic and demographic structural change.

Hamburg, Lille Metropole and Enschede presented practical examples of urban-rural cooperation, with an emphasis on the concrete benefits of increased cooperation, in terms of adapting policy solutions beyond the administrative boundaries of cities or country districts. Hannu Penttilä, president of METREX, concluded that while the reasons for urban-rural cooperation are the same across the EU, practical responses vary according to national context.

The OECD presented its study on urban-rural agglomerations, involving Prague, Rennes and Brabant, stressing the need to better understand how urban-rural linkages stimulate growth so as not to miss opportunities.

Jan Olbrycht, MEP, spoke of the challenges of an integrated approach. The next programming period for the structural funds attempts to stimulate integration, but whether this will trickle down to the level of implementation is uncertain.

Our report on 'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries – evidence through experience in European cities' was referred to throughout the conference.

More information: bit.ly/NGPA2M
EUROCITIES report: bit.ly/wol6IO
Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu

Cypriot EU presidency: 'towards a better Europe'



CYPRUS PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Cyprus took over the EU presidency from Denmark on 1 July 2012, and is looking to promote a 'better Europe' and the principle of solidarity. The focus is on a better quality of life for citizens and more employment opportunities, especially for young people.

To achieve this, Cyprus has established four cross-cutting priorities:

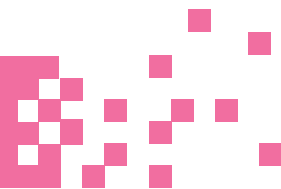
1. Europe, more efficient and sustainable
2. Europe, with a better performing and growth-based economy
3. Europe, more relevant to its citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion
4. Europe in the world, closer to its neighbours

The first and most important task will be reaching political agreement on the next European budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, building on the outcomes of the negotiations during the previous Polish and Danish presidencies.

Another leftover from the previous presidency is coordination of the EU strategy to get out of the crisis and boost the Single Market. Cyprus will continue work on a better economic governance to face up to the crisis and restore the confidence of the markets.

Due to its specific geography, Cyprus is also looking to relaunch the Integrated Maritime Policy and move forward in discussions on a Common European Asylum System.

More information: bit.ly/MWk8Jb
Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor: dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu



Danish EU presidency: culture is not a luxury

Earlier this year, the Danish culture ministry founded 'Team Culture 2012', a group of 12 European cultural personalities to act as a European task force on culture and arts. Its goal is to explore Europe to find examples of arts and cultural projects that are impacting society at large.

The main findings were presented in Brussels on 6 June 2012. Decision makers, MEPs and European culture ministers were invited to discuss the role and the future of culture in times of crisis in the context of the 12 case studies presented by the team.

The team presented their manifesto, 'Turn to Culture', which sets out the role of culture in Europe. They argue that "we should turn to culture to examine and reflect on the crisis, and to ponder that most important question: what now?" This proposed a more collective

perspective on Europe with more openness to the world and society.

Doris Pack, chair of the Parliament's culture committee, and Herman Van Rompuy, president of the Council, underlined the need for stronger political engagement to promote culture in European policies.

Participants hailed cities for their status as the most creative and vibrant places, and local authorities were recognised for their importance in actively engaging citizens ■



Team Culture: bit.ly/M2zQSo
Brussels meeting with videos: bit.ly/LVZ5tO
Team Culture manifesto: bit.ly/LD5xVR

Culture forum meets in Munich in October

Our next forum meeting takes place in Munich on 24-27 October 2012 on the theme of 'city history, cultural memory and identity'.

Munich is inviting members to help develop the programme. In particular, they are looking for ideas, experiences and contributions in the following areas:

- contemporary art initiatives in the field of cultural memory
- intangible heritage, tradition and innovation
- neighbourhood culture, cultural policies and identity (i.e. history projects in local neighbourhoods)

Contributions should be sent by mid-July to Martin Rohmer, details below.

An official invitation, draft agenda and practical information will be circulated during the summer.

We look forward to receiving your contributions!



More information (after login to EUROCITIES website): bit.ly/MpGpO0
Martin Rohmer, Munich: martin.rohmer@muenchen.de
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Culture forum: designing future priorities

Announced at the last culture forum in Utrecht on 18-21 April 2012, we have launched a survey for forum members to identify your current priorities and ensure that our upcoming forum meetings meet your expectations. Please take a couple of minutes to help us improve our activities!

The survey is open until mid July 2012. The results will be presented over the summer.

Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EUROCITIESCultureForumSurvey2012>

Cypriot EU presidency: culture for sustainable development

The Team Culture conference on 6 June 2012 in Brussels was closed by Eleni Mavrou, Cypriot minister of interior affairs and deputy minister for culture.

Representing the new Cypriot EU presidency, which began on 1 July 2012, she highlighted the importance of culture in times of crisis, not only for economic recovery but also to support European society as a whole.

Cyprus aims to find a more effective way of promoting and strengthening the role of arts and culture in Europe, creating new synergies between the private and public sectors.

Eleni Mavrou stated that culture should be included in every development strategy since it both directly and indirectly contributes to economic and social development at all levels of government.

EUROCITIES on procurement and concessions

The European Parliament's internal market and consumer protection (IMCO) committee recently published a draft report on the proposal for a directive on public procurement. Based on this and the Commission's legislative proposal, our main positions are as follows.

Procurement

- in the award criteria of the most economically advantageous tender, contracting authorities should be allowed to include other social and quality work criteria such as support for local training, local supply chain and social cohesion
- judicial services, transactions by the contracting authorities to raise money or capital, secondment of temporary personnel, and housekeeping and cleaning services for elderly and disabled citizens should be excluded from the scope of the directive
- the current distinction between A-B services should be maintained, and services such as overland transport and cleaning services should be considered for reclassification as B-services
- article 11 on relations between public authorities should be further simplified in order to enable public bodies to both use their in-house services and to create new shared services that have mutual benefits
- a greater scope for negotiation should be granted to the competitive procedure, and its applicability should be generalised

Concessions

Our position is that there is no need for a specific directive on concessions, as this would increase the complexity for local authorities and the application of basic principles of the EU treaty (non-discrimination, proportionality and transparency) provides enough

legal certainty and flexibility for local authorities when granting concessions.

However, the Parliament rapporteur is largely backing the Commission proposal, so our position on the directive would be as follows:

- the freedom of local authorities to choose the form of service provision needs to be mentioned in the directive
- we argue for a light regime on concessions with the sole obligation to publish notices
- the provisions on technical specifications and means of proof, choice of participants and award of concessions, should be set as EU guidelines rather than legislative provisions, and should be simplified
- 'services to the person' should be completely exempted from the scope of the directive. Water, waste water and waste disposal services should also be excluded from the scope of the directive
- a broader definition of 'in-house' is essential

The IMCO committee will consider tabled amendments on procurement in September and on concessions in October. Parliament is expected to vote in plenary in December 2012 ■



Marie Ranty, policy advisor: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Consultation on entrepreneurship 2020 action plan

On 9 June 2012 the European Commission launched a consultation to prepare a European entrepreneurship action plan. Such an action plan is needed to unleash the entrepreneurial potential of Europeans. Clearly there is much potential: currently only 10% of Europeans are self-employed, while 45% would like to become their own boss given the opportunity.



The consultation seeks reactions to various proposed measures that the Commission could bring together under a future action plan. It includes questions on framework conditions, transfers of businesses, bankruptcy procedures, supporting new entrepreneurs, improving access to finance, entrepreneurial education and women and senior entrepreneurship.

Contributions from public authorities are most welcome. Cities should answer the online questionnaire before 1 October 2012.

More information: bit.ly/N9HHTm
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

EDF Amsterdam: triple helix cooperation

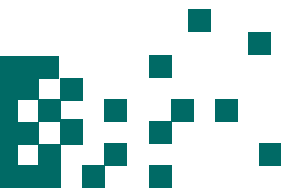
Members discussed 'triple helix cooperation: a solution for strengthening the business climate in metropolitan areas' at the latest economic development forum on 11-13 June 2012 in Amsterdam. Harry van Dorenmalen, chairman of IBM Europe, delivered a keynote speech, followed by a presentation by the Amsterdam Economic Board. A triple helix panel discussion took place featuring representatives from Shell Technology Centre, Brainport Development Eindhoven, Amsterdam Centre for Entrepreneurship and Amsterdam's economic development department. A project market was also organised for members to learn about concrete projects in Amsterdam.

Our working groups on cohesion policy, metropolitan areas (jointly with METREX), innovation, entrepreneurship & SMEs, and integrated urban development met alongside the forum.

Presentations are available in the members area of our website.

The next meeting takes place in Riga on 3-5 October 2012 on entrepreneurship and city planning, and we are planning to host a seminar on women and entrepreneurship.

Marie Ranty, policy advisor: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu



EUROCITIES argues for improved noise regulation

Members of the European Parliament's environment committee are still divided on whether to strengthen or weaken the noise limit values for road vehicles proposed by the Commission. On 20 June 2012, the committee decided to postpone its vote on this dossier.

Since publishing our statement on the vehicle noise regulation in May 2012, we have been following the issue closely in Parliament. Our WG noise chair, Henk Wolfert from Rotterdam, also spoke at a motor vehicle noise event in Parliament, pointing out that cities have already implemented many noise reduction measures, such as better road surfaces or improved traffic management. However, without effective policies for noise sources, binding noise limit values for member states would neither be cost-efficient nor lead to the desired results.

In our recent response to the Commission's report on the Environmental Noise Directive (END), we again underline the need for consistent source policies.

While we welcome many of the conclusions and proposals in the Commission report, we also make suggestions for improvements. In addition to better source policies, we would like to see fewer delays in implementing the END, in particular when it comes to drawing up noise maps and noise action plans. We would also like to see a more

precise definition of 'quiet areas' which we believe should feature more prominently in the END. Our statement concludes that cities are working hard to reduce noise levels, and that they should be closely involved in defining measures to be taken at EU level ■



EUROCITIES statement on the vehicle noise regulation: bit.ly/KXmrME
EUROCITIES statement on the Environmental Noise Directive: bit.ly/MSPxMH
Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Tampere showcases energy efficient neighbourhood

In June 2012, Tampere hosted the latest CASCADE peer learning visit assessing the housing stock energy efficiency policies.

A team of experts from Birmingham, Eindhoven, Malmo, Mannheim, Milan and Warsaw conducted interviews with local stakeholders to evaluate and propose solutions on improving energy efficiency in buildings. The team visited Vuores, a new neighbourhood being constructed to meet high energy standards. They also discussed efficiency with experts involved in building passive houses and managing the underground waste collection system.

The challenges facing Tampere are widespread among European cities: rapid population growth and increasing energy costs. To tackle these, the city is cooperating with local actors such as builders, architects, utilities companies and residents to formulate plans for new developments.

If your city would like to participate in similar exchanges with cities across Europe, apply for the CASCADE call which aims to involve 20 additional cities in dialogues on local energy leadership. For further details, please visit the CASCADE website.



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

Covenant of Mayors praised at EUSEW

As a partner of the Covenant of Mayors Office, EUROCEITIES played an active role in the organisation of two EUSEW events and coordinated the participation of two of its signatories, Helsinki and Sunderland.

The Covenant of Mayors was singled out as the reference framework of action for local sustainable energy policies during a ManagEnergy conference on 20 June 2012. Marie Donnelly, director at DG Energy, congratulated signatory cities on what she called a "hugely successful initiative that is constantly growing".

On 22 June 2012, at an event hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee, representatives from Sunderland, Helsinki and the province of Barcelona met private sector associated partners of the Covenant of Mayors to demonstrate how successful public-private partnerships can be developed and enhanced. Paul Voss, head of European affairs at DANFOSS, explained that "mayors need solutions from private companies to improve the energy performance of their cities".

Helsinki presented the recently launched Climate Partners Network bringing together 20 large companies committed to mitigating climate change in Finland. Paul Watson, leader of Sunderland city council, highlighted his city's Economic Masterplan which brings together businesses, universities and the public sector working towards a low-carbon economy.

Covenant of Mayors: www.eumayors.eu
Sandra Ramos, project coordinator: sandra.ramos@eurocities.eu

Cities and cyber security in Belfast

Around 100 members and partners met on 20-21 June 2012 in Belfast to discuss the role of infrastructure and cyber security in city transformation at the latest knowledge society forum meeting.

Debates focused on infrastructure and the importance of high speed network availability, delivering cyber security technology through open innovation and enhancing confidence through the creation of secure digital communities.

Participants took part in site visits to the Northern Ireland Science Park, Eircom NI, BT NI, CITI and the University of Ulster computer animation lab.

Keynote speakers included: Gavin Robinson, lord mayor of Belfast; Norma Apsley, chief executive of NI Science Park; Peter McNaney, chief executive of Belfast City Council; Arlene Foster, minister for enterprise, trade and investment; Sinclair Stockman, executive director of Digital NI 2020; John McCanny, director of ECIT; and

Jim Gamble, chief executive of Ineqe.

The conference finished in the newly built Titanic Centre in Belfast, with a structured debrief. Participants highlighted the progress in Northern Ireland in terms of infrastructure, and how to transfer this into the development of local business, attracting investment and promoting Northern Ireland as a leader in digital technologies and the digital economy ■



George Niland, policy advisor: george.niland@eurocities.eu

First NiCE training on measuring green IT

Reducing cities' ICT footprints by 30% is one of the Green Digital Charter commitments, and the NiCE (Networking Intelligent Cities for Energy efficiency) project dedicated its first of five training sessions to this topic.

The training on 'measuring green IT' took place on 19 June 2012 in Belfast and was designed to help cities measure their ICT footprint and highlight means of reaching this commitment.

Mike Berners Lee, a leading expert in carbon footprinting and director at Small World Consulting gave signatory cities

and potential signatories an introduction to carbon footprinting. Jean Manuel Canet, representing the ITU (International Telecommunication Union), also shared the latest developments in international standards for measuring ICT footprints.

Vin Sumner, a partner of NiCE, introduced the project and its ICT reporting tool, which offers cities a flexible technique for measurement, comparison and reporting on ICT's direct carbon footprint at a city level. Giovanni Farneti presented Bologna's experiences in greening the city's ICT.

A focus group saw participants discuss examples of and barriers to green ICT actions in cities, in particular looking at infrastructure, procurement and regulation.

Visit the link below for more information and presentations.



More information: bit.ly/Mp3h7c

European and Chinese cities leading by example

Nicosia | 1-4 September 2012

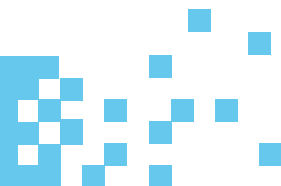
From 1-4 September 2012 the Cyprus EU office hosts the East-Meets-West congress and exhibition on innovation and entrepreneurship, aiming to improve links between the scientific and business communities and promote private sector investment in science, innovation and enterprise development.

The NiCE project will organise a session on 4 September 2012 on 'Green Digital Agenda in Smart Cities – European and Chinese cities leading by example'. The session will run from 10.00–12.30 and include an introduction to the NiCE project, presentations of the EU-China partnership, and examples from European and Chinese smart cities.

The purpose of the session is to share visions of green digital development in cities, discuss best practice and exchange ideas for achieving substantial, sustainable results on a global scale. It will also help to strengthen the EU-China cooperation initiated under the NiCE project.



More information and registration: eastmeetwest.eu.com
Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu



Smart cities transport working group

On 5 June 2012, the first meeting of the working groups set up by the Smart Cities and Communities Stakeholder Platform took place in Brussels. This stakeholder platform involves cities, industry and research to structure technology roadmapping, facilitate knowledge sharing between cities and their partners, and plan future activities of the Smart Cities and Communities initiative.

The stakeholder platform is running four thematic working groups, including one on transport. The Smart cities transport working group concentrates on two main topics: urban mobility concepts, such as combining public transport in urban areas with other modes of motorised and non-motorised transport, or constructing a seamless route from origin to destination; and technologies for urban transport management, with particular attention paid to the role of smart technology in reducing costs.

Rudolf Schicker of Vienna is representing EUROCITIES on the transport working group. At the meeting, we insisted on the importance of focusing not just on technology (e.g. clean vehicles) but also on promoting a vision (e.g. a shift towards more environmentally friendly modes of transport), as well as avoiding duplication of solutions. The working group will set out its priorities shortly.

The platform is also running a Smart Cities Roadmap Group which will develop a ten year rolling vision of the smart city technologies. This roadmap group will deliver the outcomes and recommendations of the platform to the Commission in June 2013. We hope to place one of our experts on the roadmap group ■



More information: eu-smartcities.eu
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Danish presidency transport debrief

Henrik Dam Kristensen, Danish minister for transport, set out his presidency's achievements at a meeting of the Parliament's transport committee on 19 June 2012.



Concerning the TEN-T guidelines, the minister confirmed that an agreement on the new maps indicating the comprehensive and core networks was reached in March 2012 at the transport, telecommunications and energy Council. Henrik Dam Kristensen also referred to the decision reached at the Council meeting on 7 June 2012 on a draft regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). He stated that the TEN-T and the CEF will be fundamental for the development of cross-border projects and improvement of European transport networks.

Cyprus took over the EU presidency on 1 July 2012 and intends to continue working on the priorities identified by Denmark, such as the draft regulations on TEN-T and CEF. We will continue to work closely with the presidency to ensure the city voice is heard.

Danish presidency debrief: bit.ly/LOaMAa
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Connecting Europe Facility: financing the Trans-European Networks

A compromise on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was reached at the latest meeting of the transport, telecommunications and energy Council held on 7-8 June 2012.

The outstanding issue was whether the CEF should provide more opportunities for funding road development projects.

In principle, road projects cannot be financed by CEF grants since it focuses on the financing of railways, waterways and less carbon-intensive forms of transport.

However, ministers agreed that grants could be allocated for financing road projects in member states with an isolated railway network without long-distance rail freight transport.

Ministers also increased the co-financing rate for motorways of the seas and made some changes to the list of core network corridors.

We contacted member states to provide the city perspective ahead of the meeting.

We have disseminated our statements on CEF and TEN-T to MEPs, and the Parliament votes on the CEF draft regulation in late 2012 or early 2013. We will continue to follow the issue closely in the European Parliament.

More information: bit.ly/OuQy40
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Working group housing: the Vienna model

On 14-15 June 2012, our working group housing met in Vienna to discuss, amongst other things, the Vienna model of social housing.

Traditionally, Vienna has pursued a very active social housing policy with the municipality taking responsibility for ensuring residents have access to affordable, quality and sustainable housing.

Due to positive migration, Vienna has seen its population grow and it expects a significant demand for social housing in the coming years. It is estimated that between 2012 and 2020, between 6,700 and 8,300 apartment units will be built each year.

Despite the economic crisis, Vienna is continuing to invest in social housing. The municipality is also trying to establish a new financing instrument - the housing fund - to support the development of social housing in the city. Housing policy in Vienna aims to build mixed neighbourhoods, social cohesion and high quality housing. This is achieved by dividing the development area into small plots, with each housing block not exceeding 300 flats, and by awarding contracts to developers through a public competition system. This system consists of a jury composed of independent experts and city representatives who assess the developers' projects against four criteria: planning, costs, environmental sustainability and social cohesion.

Vienna is also leading on social innovation in housing by promoting themed housing such as bike cities, car-free living, intergenerational living and shared apartments for the over-55s.

The presentation of the Vienna model was followed by a discussion and site visits to urban development areas, including social mix

accommodation which provides housing for people with dementia, special flats guiding formerly homeless people in living independently and flats for families. Participants also visited an innovative housing project, where people over 55 have their own flats but share a common living room with kitchen and terrace.



The discussion also addressed the issues of public procurement, state aid and the role of social housing for ensuring social cohesion.

The next working group housing meeting takes place with working group energy efficiency to focus on 'energy efficiency in housing'. It will be held in Munich in November 2012 (date to be confirmed) ■

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Social affairs forum meets in Stockholm

Stockholm | 15-16 October 2012

The next social affairs forum meeting takes place on 15-16 October 2012 in



Stockholm. The meeting will focus on policies and projects for tackling youth unemployment and preventing early school leaving.

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New SAF chair

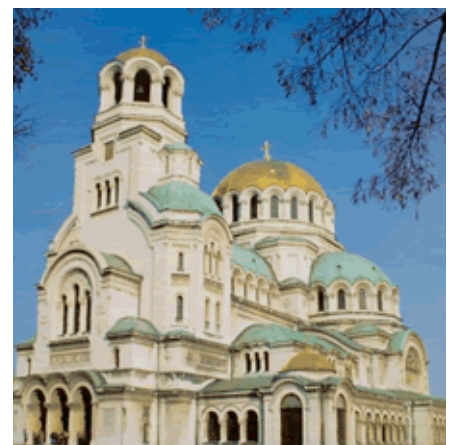
Following recent local elections in the UK, the social affairs forum has a new political representative, Councillor John Cotton, cabinet member for social cohesion and equalities in Birmingham. He replaces Councillor Paul Tilsley until the next forum chair elections in Stockholm.

Sofia hosts Cities for Active Inclusion national event

Sofia, as one of our nine Cities for Active Inclusion, hosted a national workshop on 21-22 June 2012. Bulgarian local authorities debated how the EU active inclusion strategy complements national and local policies and practices.

A representative from the Bulgarian ministry of labour and social policies presented the country's new strategy for demographic development which will focus on stabilising demographic change and improving education and training.

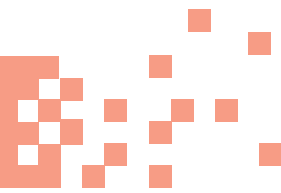
Sofia and Krakow presented their findings from the latest Cities for Active Inclusion research. Sofia reported an increase in the number of single mothers in the city, and has put in place community support centres to assist them. Meanwhile Krakow is looking towards developing the skills of its senior citizens by encouraging them to take up IT courses and new hobbies.



We presented the initial findings from the nine city reports, which show how cities are preventing social exclusion through, for example, area based approaches, the active inclusion of older people or family support centres.

The overview report of the research carried out by our nine Cities for Active Inclusion and a collection of best practices in dealing with demographic change will be available in September 2012.

Cities for Active Inclusion: www.eurocities-nalo.eu
Susana Forjan, project coordinator: susana.forjan@eurocities.eu



Beyoglu district mansions

Twelve 'district mansions' in Beyoglu, a district of Istanbul in Turkey, provide vital services for local residents, especially women, children and those without proper access to healthcare and education provision. Citizens can access basic health services, such as screening, vaccination and blood pressure monitoring, as well as educational tuition, creative workshops, internet, libraries, cinemas and social spaces.

One of the main aims of the mansions is to reach out to housewives who, lacking a proper education or professional skills, feel disconnected from society. The mansions offer nursery school and crèche facilities so women can leave their children in safe hands while they take advantage of the professional training services on offer.



The mansions are also geared towards the needs of the poorest members of the community, providing hot meals, showers, laundry services and a 'social market'. The social market is a supermarket supplied by a food bank, set up in association with two NGOs and stocked up with donations from local citizens and businesses. Families are graded according to their financial status and are given a 'credit card' topped up on a monthly basis.

The services provided by the mansions are carefully adapted to the needs of the neighbourhood, with the mayor hosting weekly meetings in different district mansions to gauge their needs. For example, if a

neighbourhood is missing a post office, the municipality would look into making this service available in the local district mansion.

As well as providing vital services to the community, the mansions are a space for socialising and making new friends. They offer a lifeline to residents who feel isolated from the local community and help integrate citizens into mainstream employment and education.



One regular visitor comments:

"I was bored at home doing the same thing all the time. Consequently, I suffered from depression. Here I had the chance to broaden my friendship circle and build relationships."

Visit the good practices section of our website for the full case study and for many more examples of 'cities in action' ■

More information: bit.ly/KHhMhb
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Seven EUROCITIES mayors are World Mayor finalists

The 25 finalists in the World Mayor 2012 awards were announced on 18 June 2012. European mayors are currently dominating the polls. Of the 25 mayors shortlisted, seven are from Europe, five from north America, four from Latin America, two from Australasia and two from Africa.

The shortlist includes mayors from seven EUROCITIES member cities: Bilbao, Brussels, Florence, Krakow, Ljubljana, Oslo and Rotterdam. The nominated mayors are, respectively: Iñaki Azkuna, Freddy Thielemans, Matteo Renzi, Jacek Majchrowski, Zoran Jankovic, Fabian Stang and Ahmed Aboutaleb.

Voting is now underway for the winning mayor and two runners up. Voting will run until mid-October and the final decision will take into account supporting comments as well as the number of votes counted. You can vote now for your chosen mayor by clicking on the link below.

The winner and runners up will be announced in December 2012.



Vote for World Mayor 2012: bit.ly/NaXQU2

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

Meeting in Brussels?

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Cities in action

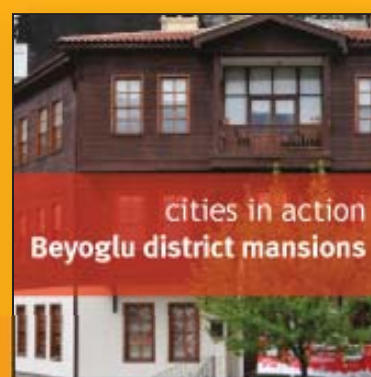
Inspirational and innovative projects
happening in Europe's cities



Lisbon (May)



Antwerp (June)



Beyoglu (July)

World Urban Forum The urban future	Naples, Italy	1-7 September 2012 bit.ly/Kwz9Vl
CIVITAS Forum 2012 Sustainable mobility and public space planning	Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain	24-26 September 2012 bit.ly/M7CgWf
3rd annual smart grids, smart cities Smarten up your city!	Nice, France	26-28 September 2012 bit.ly/Lic4E1
UrbanTec Smart technologies for better cities	Cologne, Germany	24-26 October 2012 bit.ly/MZaKZd
European Employment Forum 2012 Social and economic issues around employment	Brussels, Belgium	27-28 November 2012 bit.ly/Lvwmbv

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Flash is published
by EUROCITIES Brussels office.

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Layout
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