

## Growing younger, growing older



Of the many challenges that city mayors face, demographic change is at the same time one of the most profound

and intractable. Profound, because the population structure of a city makes a huge difference both to the call on public services and to the resources available to provide them. And intractable, because influencing demographic makeup, for example by stemming emigration or attracting new people, is a strategic and long-term task.

Demography is also rather opaque. We can 'see' economic performance in the form of jobs and physical investment, and we can judge a city's liveability by the quality of its environment. But the overall composition of a city's population is by no means evident just from the people we see in the city centre or on the streets of individual neighbourhoods.

So the work on demographic change that nine EUROCITIES members have been doing together is important and interesting. These 'Cities for Active Inclusion' – Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Krakow, Lille Metropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm – have been supported through EUROCITIES under the European Commission's PROGRESS fund. We have just published their latest report.

One of its most striking aspects is the finding that while Europe's population as a whole is forecast to shrink dramatically from 2025, six of our nine 'observatory' cities are growing and expect to continue to do so. Within this overall picture, the proportion of young and of older people, and the ethnic diversity of city populations, varies greatly, as do the initiatives charted in the case studies from each city.

This report shows how important it is to respond locally and specifically to European and national trends. There is real diversity on the ground. Cities are responding with imagination to these challenges.



Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## Better cooperation between EU and Chinese mayors

EUROCITIES members Dublin, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Nicosia, Rennes and The Hague and representatives from Chinese cities gathered for the first EU-China Mayors Forum on 20 September 2012 in Brussels. Co-organised by the Covenant of Mayors Office and the Chinese Association of Mayors, the forum brought together some 300 stakeholders.

*European mayors recognised the productive relationships they maintain with China and committed to pursuing existing partnerships through the Covenant of Mayors.*

European commissioner for development, Andris Piebalgs, launched a new call for tender (EC-LINK) to assist Chinese cities in adopting energy and resource-efficient ecological solutions by sharing experiences on sustainable urbanisation. Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, president of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), announced that the CoR is ready to support the Covenant of Mayors initiative and participate in the exchange of good practices with the Chinese Association of Mayors.



We also helped organise a seminar on governing sustainable urban development, where members Birmingham, Espoo and Hamburg presented good practice examples together with their Chinese counterparts.

European and Chinese Mayors signed the EU-China Mayors Charter committing them to share experience and knowledge on sustainable urbanisation issues.

China Daily article on the forum: [bit.ly/QF6Qo6](http://bit.ly/QF6Qo6)  
More information: [www.euchinamayorsforum.eu](http://www.euchinamayorsforum.eu)  
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## UN-HABITAT's World Urban Forum comes to Europe

The sixth UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum (WUF) took place from 1-6 September 2012 in Naples. Held every two years, this European meeting follows WUF 4 in Nanjing, China in 2008 and WUF 5 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2010.

Several thousand delegates participated in the wide range of dialogue meetings, round tables, training sessions and workshops that formed part of the extremely diverse programme. Each session focused on one of the main themes guiding UN-HABITAT's work: urban legislation; land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; and urban research. Four additional special dialogue themes were prepared in advance: urban

planning, institutions and regulations; equity and prosperity; productive cities – urban job creation; and urban mobility, energy and environment.

The strong message coming out of the opening session in particular was of urbanisation as a source of development, not just a result of it, with better managed urbanisation obviously leading to better development.

*Proactive policies in support of cities were called for.*

Another recurring message was that, in view of the scale and pace of urbanisation, a new institutional architecture is needed at global level to give cities a much clearer,

direct voice. Similarly, international financing mechanisms should be designed for cities, not only nations.

Another World Urban Forum is scheduled for 2014 in Medellin, Columbia, followed by the third 20-year HABITAT III in 2016. HABITAT III should launch a new vision for the city of the 21st century. The process of developing that vision started with the discussions in Naples ■



World Urban Forum: [bit.ly/Kwz9VI](http://bit.ly/Kwz9VI)

## Solution proposals for smart cities working groups

The Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform working groups will meet in the upcoming weeks and months. In advance of the meetings, the platform is inviting members of each working group to submit 'solution proposals'.

These solution proposals can be ideas, pilot projects or best practice examples that deal with technology innovations for the smart cities initiative.

The solution proposals should be submitted directly through the platform's website, below. The European Commission will collect the solution proposals, review them and compile a selection to form a set of key innovations.

Solution proposals should be submitted in advance of the next working group meetings:

- energy efficiency and buildings: 6 November 2012
- energy supply and networks: 22 October 2012
- finance group: 14 December 2012

The mobility and transport working group met on 9 October 2012.

More information: [eu-smartcities.eu](http://eu-smartcities.eu)  
George Niland, policy advisor: [george.niland@eurocities.eu](mailto:george.niland@eurocities.eu)

## Staff news

### What is my role at EUROCITIES?

Tara Schneider Appriou, executive assistant: I assist the secretary general with organisational tasks. I am also secretary to the executive committee. My role includes membership liaison: building contacts with both existing and potential members; and helping our cities to become more active in the network. If members or potential members are interested in finding out more about EUROCITIES, I am happy to offer more details on our structure and activities, or I can facilitate contact with the relevant colleague on a specific topic.



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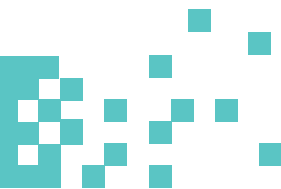
### Changes in the social affairs team

Dirk Gebhardt left EUROCITIES at the end of September 2012. Ana Feder (pictured), previously project coordinator – migration & integration, will take on the role of policy advisor working on demographic change, migration and integration, Roma inclusion and the asylum and migration fund. We are currently recruiting for Ana's position, which will involve the coordination of the new IMPLEMENTORING project on migrant integration.



Ana Feder, policy advisor: [ana.feder@eurocities.eu](mailto:ana.feder@eurocities.eu)





## EUROCITIES at European Mobility Week

Urban mobility was in the spotlight at the European Mobility Week (EMW) in Brussels on 16-22 September 2012. We were actively involved in many of the events.

We were represented at a conference on 'towards competitive and resource efficient urban mobility', on 17 September 2012 at the Committee of the Regions. Participants included 200 institutional stakeholders, including local authorities, meeting to discuss Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, urban road user charging and urban logistics. Siim Kallas, European commissioner for transport, launched a consultation on the future of urban transport policy (for more information see mobility, page 9). The conference also marked ten years of CIVITAS and looked back on the accomplishments of the initiative.

The Sustainable2Wheels event took place the following day, during which we hosted a stand in front of the European Parliament. Janez Potočnik, European commissioner for environment, held a press conference together with several MEPs to mark the official launch of EMW 2012. We are coordinating the campaign on behalf of the Commission and helped to organise the launch.

That afternoon, our members Bologna, Ghent and Vilnius participated in a hearing on sustainable urban transport with members of the European Parliament's transport and tourism committee. It was a chance for our members to present their local experiences to MEPs and discuss how the EU can help cities to tackle urban mobility problems.

After the hearing, the transport and tourism committee and the industry, research and energy committee presented the Parliament draft report on the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the future



Pierre Vansvenant, head of Ghent Mobility Company, speaks at the hearing

funding instrument for the development of the Trans-European Networks. The draft report is expected to be adopted by the end of this year or beginning of next year.

Finally, on 19 September 2012, in parallel with the EU-China Mayors Forum, CIVITAS organised an event to showcase best practices from its city partners and provide inspirational examples for Chinese cities ■

Article on transport hearing: [bit.ly/V5VJKr](http://bit.ly/V5VJKr)  
 European Mobility Week: [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu)  
 Peter Staelens, project coordinator: [peter.staelens@eurocities.eu](mailto:peter.staelens@eurocities.eu)  
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 Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### Paul Bevan talks sustainable urban mobility with Commissioner Potočnik



Secretary general Paul Bevan accompanied environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik at the launch in Brussels of this year's European Mobility Week (EMW) on 18 September 2012. We lead the consortium running EMW for the Commission, reflecting the strong commitment from our member cities to sustainable urban mobility.

In his conversation with the commissioner, Paul highlighted the efforts cities are making to meet tough air quality standards through ambitious mobility and zoning policies. However, he stressed how critical it is that pressure is maintained to reduce vehicle emissions, with realistic test procedures and effective emission standards. The commissioner responded that air quality will be his key priority for 2013.

### EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes – latest news

Register now and join us for a programme of panel debates, workshops and networking opportunities. Some highlights:

- Welcome speeches from the mayor of Nantes, Patrick Rimbart and EUROCITIES president, Frank Jensen.
- Keynote speakers, Joan Font Fabregas and Cécile Van de Velde, two high-level academic researchers, will open the debates on 'a new city politics: innovation, inspiration, involvement'.
- Mayors debate featuring the mayors of Birmingham, Bratislava, Lodz and Turin.



Politicians from the following cities have registered for the conference:

Bergen, Berlin, Birmingham, Cologne, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Ghent, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Karlsruhe, Leipzig, Mannheim, Munich, Oslo, Poznan, Stockholm, Vienna.

Visit the conference website, below, for full details and to register for the conference.

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: [www.eurocities2012.eu](http://www.eurocities2012.eu)

# EUROCITIES response to smart regulation consultation

The smart regulation communication in 2010 evolved from the European Commission's 2001 White Paper on Governance and its 2002 communication on better lawmaking. It aims to improve the whole policy circle of EU legislation: open consultations before drafting legislative proposals, simplify existing legislation and reduce administrative burdens, and conduct regular impact assessments.

In summer 2012, the Commission published a consultation to check the progress of the measures set up for more and better stakeholder involvement in the legislative process.

Our working group governance issued a response to the consultation on smart regulation in September 2012.

*We stress that many EU policies and much legislation impact on and are implemented by cities.*

We therefore believe that smart regulation should be about delivering effective results based on evidence of what works and what doesn't on the ground. We highlighted the importance of territorial impact assessments, which provide useful insight into the impact of EU legislation on the ground. We also provided best practice examples of effective policy making with cities ■



EUROCITIES statement: [bit.ly/vi3TOk](http://bit.ly/vi3TOk)  
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: [soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu](mailto:soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu)

## Agreement on the next long term EU budget getting closer

A revised version of the so-called 'negotiating box' for the multiannual financial framework (MFF) was discussed at the general affairs Council in Brussels on 24 September 2012. The negotiating box is the Cypriot presidency's tool to focus negotiations on key issues and propose potential outcomes.

Figures for the different budget headings are still to be included but the Cypriot presidency has expressed its intentions to reduce the overall budget ceiling proposed by the Commission. This has been welcomed by member states in favour of 'better spending' which, within the Council, is a synonym for a smaller EU budget. Other member states are defending the Commission's proposal, arguing that the MFF is the major investment tool for promoting growth and creating jobs.

The debate on the revenue side of the budget continues to focus on the Commission's proposal for a financial transaction tax as a new resource, as well as the potential revision of the correction mechanisms which currently give some member states a refund on their budget contributions.

The general affairs Council will discuss the long term budget again on 16 October 2012 and budget figures will be thrown into the debate following the European Council on 18–19 October 2012 when the presidency intends to issue a newly-revised negotiating box. The Cypriot presidency is aiming to reach political agreement on the MFF package at a special European Council on 22–23 November 2012 in Brussels, which in turn would facilitate agreement on the sector programmes, including Horizon 2020 and structural funds, in early 2013.

In the meantime, negotiations continue under the assumption that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor: [dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu](mailto:dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu)

## President Barroso's 2012 State of the Union address

In his annual State of the Union address to the European Parliament on 12 September 2012, José Manuel Barroso, European Commission president, emphasised the need for a new direction and a new thinking on Europe.



Barroso suggested a 'decisive deal for Europe', requiring the completion of a genuine economic union, based on a political union. The Commission's proposal for a European budget 2014 – 2020 would help stimulate and promote sustainable economic growth in the EU, by boosting the member states' economies, regions, researchers, students, young jobseekers and SMEs.

The social emergency seen in some member states due to the rising poverty and massive levels of unemployment was highlighted together with the need to strengthen social cohesion.

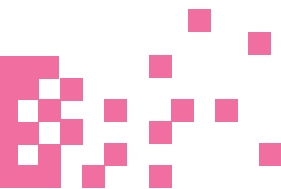
In order to overcome the crisis of confidence in the EU and to maintain sovereignty in a globalised world, Barroso argued in favour of the EU moving towards a federation of nation states. For this a treaty change would be necessary. While deeper integration would be indispensable for the Euro area members, the project should remain open to all EU member states to take part. And subsidiarity should continue to be an essential democratic concept and should be practised.

Barroso also called for 'a serious discussion between citizens of Europe about the way forward' and to make the most of the elections to the European Parliament in 2014 to this end. He argued for the development of a European public space, where European issues are discussed and debated from a European standpoint, saying: 'this debate has to take place in our societies and among our citizens'.

Referring to the Commission's proposal for a better statute for European political parties, he proposed that the main parties present their own candidates for the post of the next Commission president.

Barroso reminded MEPs that the EU was built to guarantee peace, which today would mean making the Union fit to meet the challenges of globalisation.

Full speech: [bit.ly/P5FU5c](http://bit.ly/P5FU5c)



## New EU strategy to boost cultural and creative sector

The European Commission launched a new strategy on 26 September 2012 to boost jobs and growth in the EU through the promotion of the cultural and creative sector.

This new strategy maps a range of opportunities for the sector to improve its competitiveness and export potential, while recognising and maximising the effects it has on other fields such as innovation and technology.

The strategy also details specific long and short term initiatives to ensure that the sector can maximise its contribution to growth and job creation.

*It maps the different financial support available to the cultural and creative sector, including within the structural funds and the forthcoming Creative Europe programme.*

The cultural and creative sector already accounts for between 3.3% and 4.5% of EU GDP, but still faces significant barriers to further growth, including difficulties in accessing finance, coping with the digital shift and achieving widespread dissemination in a highly fragmented sector.

Proposed actions focus on the following areas:

- improving access to finance – developing awareness among financial institutions of the specific requirements of businesses in the cultural and creative sector, while also helping entrepreneurs to better address their own needs through improved business planning

- addressing changing skills needs – creating partnerships between the cultural and creative sector and education and training providers
- enlarging the marketplace and expanding international reach – exploiting the dissemination possibilities offered by digital technologies and facilitating access to foreign markets
- reinforcing cross-sectoral fertilisation – fostering communication and cooperation between different policy areas



In its communication, the Commission states its intention to support peer learning between city administrations, giving local policy makers the chance to share and compare experiences on the impact of culture and creativity in the social and economic revitalisation of cities. This has been one of our long-term requests ■

More information: [bit.ly/SuqW3T](http://bit.ly/SuqW3T)  
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

### Cultural mobility survey: call for responses

Our working group on artists' mobility is collaborating with the cultural mobility information network On the Move (OTM) to map city support for the mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

They have developed a questionnaire to collect information from our members on topics such as motivation, funding, communication and evaluation of mobility projects. OTM will also analyse the flow and geographical scope of mobility. The research will result in a clearer picture of current actions as well as case studies from cities.

The deadline for responses is 30 October 2012 and we would be grateful if you would take the time to contribute. If you would like to participate and have not received the survey, please contact Julie Hervé at the EUROCITIES secretariat.

Julie Hervé, policy advisor: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

### Munich hosts next culture forum

*Munich | 24–27 October 2012*

The next meeting of our culture forum will take place in Munich on 24–27 October 2012 and will focus on the theme of 'city history, cultural memory and identity'. Events and discussions will cover topics such as the passing on of city history as a cultural heritage to the next generation and the role of cultural identity in local neighbourhoods.



Julie Hervé, policy advisor: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

### Creative industries working group

*Munich | 28–30 November 2012*

Our creative industries working group will meet in Munich on 28–30 November 2012 alongside the final conference of the Interreg project Creative Cities, led by Leipzig. Members are invited to attend a conference on how open innovation is used in the creative industries. Cities willing to present experiences in the field should contact Julie Hervé at the EUROCITIES secretariat by 31 October 2012.

Creative Cities project: [www.creativecitiesproject.eu](http://www.creativecitiesproject.eu)  
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## Helping cities foster entrepreneurship

In our response to the European Commission's consultation on a future Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan we make the case for the action plan to have a strong territorial dimension.

The consultation seeks to identify measures which could contribute to the goals of a future European Entrepreneurship Action Plan. The consultation addresses areas where the entrepreneurial potential of citizens can be unleashed, bottlenecks overcome and obstacles to entrepreneurial activities removed. These areas include: supporting new entrepreneurs; improving access to finance; young people – the entrepreneurs of the future; and the untapped entrepreneurial potential of women.

In addition to supporting the Commission proposals, we make suggestions such as calling for the improved coordination between

European funds to help support entrepreneurship as part of local integrated development; supporting the internationalisation of new and small businesses; promoting research and development; and developing indicators and gathering evidence on entrepreneurship ■



Helping cities foster entrepreneurship: [bit.ly/UQDYKK](http://bit.ly/UQDYKK)  
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

### What next for cities in the structural funds negotiations?

Our working group on cohesion policy met in Brussels on 19 September 2012 to discuss the current situation and the next steps for the structural funds regulations. Speakers from the European Commission and Parliament provided different perspectives on the urban dimension of the regulations as well as the proposed European Code of Conduct on Partnerships.



Following the adoption of the negotiating mandates in the Parliament's regional development committee on 11 July 2012, discussions on the regulations between the Parliament, Council and the Commission began. These are likely to continue until early 2013, when an agreement of the overall multiannual financial framework 2014 – 2020 will pave the way for finalising the structural funds package.

The Commission's proposal to directly delegate funding to cities promises to be a difficult issue to find agreement on.

*Parliament has inserted a minimum requirement in the regulations for functional urban areas and calls for cities to at the least be able to select projects implemented in their area.*

But a core group of member states would prefer delegation of funding to cities to be entirely optional, also as regards project selection. On the issue of partnership agreements and the European Code of Conduct, the Commission relies on the Parliament for support for its proposals. The Council would like to see the European Code of Conduct removed from the regulations entirely.

Our working group on cohesion policy and our ESF task force will continue to follow developments on the negotiations between institutions closely and ensure that urban priorities continue to be considered. The general affairs Council will finalise the Council's discussions on the territorial – and urban – dimension of the regulations on 16 October 2012. The Cypriot presidency will host an informal Council meeting on cohesion policy on 6 November 2012.

The next meeting of the working group on cohesion policy will take place in the second half of November in Brussels, date to be confirmed.

Dorthe Nielsen, senior policy advisor: [dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu](mailto:dorthe.nielsen@eurocities.eu)

### New EDF chair and vice chair elected in Riga

Economic development forum elections for 2013 took place in Riga on 3-5 October 2012.

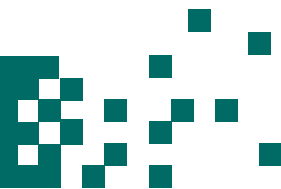
Nick Small, cabinet member for employment, enterprise and skills at Liverpool city council was elected as forum chair. He served as vice chair in 2011 and 2012. Having been a councillor since 2004, Nick Small works for the mayor of Liverpool on economic development, inward investment and business growth in the city. He is also the director of Liverpool Vision, the city's private sector-led economic development company.

His priorities for EDF in 2013 are: influencing the EU budget and cohesion policy, increasing entrepreneurship and self-employment; influencing the development of the COSME and Horizon2020 programmes; vocational and technical education provision responding to employer demand; and supporting EU businesses moving up the international value chain through trade with emerging economies, and in particular the BRIC countries.

Carolien Gehrels, deputy mayor of Amsterdam, was elected as vice chair. As deputy mayor she is responsible for economic affairs, art and culture, water management, monuments, local media and public companies. She has been deputy mayor since 2006 and has launched a scheme to attract big, international businesses to Amsterdam and improve the city's business and economic climate. Prior to working for the Amsterdam administration, as a consultant she developed the successful marketing strategy 'I Amsterdam', which is still being used to promote the city abroad.

Her priorities as vice chair of the EDF are: to promote the development of open and smart cities; to reinforce the creative industries in European Metropolitan Areas and support measures that enable cross innovation and creative spillovers between creative sectors and other industries; and to encourage excellent entrepreneurial education which could lead to a better entrepreneurial climate and more entrepreneurship.

Liverpool Vision: [www.liverpoolvision.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolvision.co.uk)  
I Amsterdam video: [bit.ly/U0pv41](http://bit.ly/U0pv41)  
Marie Ranty, policy advisor: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)



# EUROCITIES position on Intelligent Energy Europe III

**W**e have published our response to the European Commission consultation on Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) III, which would continue to address the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable mobility.

We support the proposal for IEE III as part of the Horizon 2020 funding programme for 2014-2020. The programme should continue to fund projects that address market barriers to innovation, as well as key energy challenges.

*We also underline the importance of a clear focus on local authorities and efficient funding instruments ■*



EUROCITIES position on Intelligent Energy Europe III: [bit.ly/RuqLst](http://bit.ly/RuqLst)  
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: [michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu](mailto:michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu)

## MEPs vote on LIFE but noise vote delayed

The European Parliament's environment committee voted on the LIFE programme regulation for 2014-2020 on 19 September 2012. MEPs agreed to support a 50% co-financing rate for most projects, similar to the current LIFE+ programme. In addition, project beneficiaries could receive 60% co-funding for integrated projects and 75% for nature and biodiversity projects and projects carried out in member states with temporary budgetary difficulties.

Key issues for cities also included the eligibility of VAT costs and permanent staff costs for LIFE funding. The committee supported the rapporteur's position that only NGOs but not public authorities could recover VAT costs. However, the committee opened up funding of permanent staff costs for national administrations.

This vote by the leading committee will be the basis for the Parliament's negotiations on the LIFE regulation with the Council over the coming months.

The environment committee again delayed its vote on the regulation regarding the sound level of motor vehicles, as negotiations between MEPs on the dossier have stalled. The vote may now take place on 6 November 2012.

EUROCITIES position on the LIFE regulation: [bit.ly/PG8GVl](http://bit.ly/PG8GVl)  
 EUROCITIES position on the vehicle noise regulation: [bit.ly/Qip4ga](http://bit.ly/Qip4ga)  
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: [michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu](mailto:michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu)

## EEA air quality report reveals continuing problems in cities

In its new air quality report, the European Environment Agency (EEA) points out the continued exposure of Europe's urban population to harmful air pollutants. According to the report findings, many parts of Europe and cities in particular have persistent problems with outdoor concentrations of particulate matter and ground level ozone.



The report is based on concentration measurements in ambient air and data on anthropogenic emissions and trends from 2001 to 2010.

EEA press release: [bit.ly/P63azX](http://bit.ly/P63azX)  
 Full EEA report: [bit.ly/O0h3hE](http://bit.ly/O0h3hE)  
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: [michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu](mailto:michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu)

## Parliament confirms new legislation to cut sulphur in shipping fuels

The European Parliament has voted in favour of stricter limits on the sulphur content of shipping fuels. Under the new rules, the general sulphur limit for fuels in European seas will fall from 3.5% to 0.5% by 2020. In Europe's sulphur emission control areas of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and the English Channel, the sulphur limit will need to fall from the current 1% to 0.1% by 2015.

deaths along European coastlines each year.

Pollution from ships can travel long distances, including to cities on the mainland. Port cities are particularly affected by air pollution from shipping.

The text will now go to the European Council for a final sign off.

According to the European Parliament, air pollution from ships is responsible for an estimated 50,000 premature

European Parliament press release: [bit.ly/ViRxpI](http://bit.ly/ViRxpI)  
 Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: [michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu](mailto:michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu)

## CASCADE: one year on

On 18-20 September 2012, the 22 CASCADE partners met in Malmo to take stock of the results achieved in the first year of the project and prepare the programme of networking and mutual learning activities for the remaining two years.

During the first year, CASCADE partners organised six intensive peer learning visits aimed at improving the delivery of energy policies in European cities. These visits followed the peer review methodology in which a group of experts from different cities review and validate local policies being implemented in a particular city, and give recommendations on possible areas of improvement.

In each visit, CASCADE experts examined different aspects of policy implementation such as partnership work, policy integration, leadership or financing linked to specific areas of work, as follows:

- energy efficiency refurbishment in Birmingham
- new eco-districts in Tampere
- the sustainable energy action plan in Genoa
- district heating in Amsterdam
- the sustainable urban mobility plan in Nantes
- the low carbon vehicles policy in Sunderland

During the second year, CASCADE will organise study tours, mentoring and work shadowing visits. Another 20 cities have been invited to participate in these exchanges.

CASCADE: [www.cascadecities.eu](http://www.cascadecities.eu)  
 Jorgina Cuixart, project coordinator: [jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu](mailto:jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu)

## NiCE project to support organisation of study tours

Cities will soon be able to organise study tours under the NiCE project. Study tours consist of a one to three day visit to a host city, during which visitors are shown green ICT measures that the host is undertaking to fulfill their commitments to the Green Digital Charter. They are knowledge transfer schemes that offer the opportunity for site visitors to interact with key local stakeholders and see how projects are implemented in reality.

During the study tour, visiting participants (officers and/or politicians) are able to learn from the host city by means of short presentations, site visits and peer-to-peer discussions.

The success of a study tour is measured by a meaningful exchange of best practices, and mutual learning: both the visiting and host cities

can be inspired by the other's experiences and expertise. The aim is that the visitor leaves with fresh ideas and renewed vigour to implement green digital projects in their own city.



Study tours fall under the second area of action of the NiCE project: exchange and learning activities. In line with this, NiCE has developed a study tour catalogue with information for hosts and visitors. In future, planned study tours will be advertised on the Green Digital Charter website ■

More information and for the study tour catalogue: [bit.ly/Pd4DyG](http://bit.ly/Pd4DyG)  
Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: [giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu](mailto:giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu)

### European Commission launches cloud computing strategy

The European Commission released its communication on 'Unleashing the potential of cloud computing in Europe' on 27 September 2012. This is its new strategy for promoting and spreading the use of cloud computing in Europe.



to harness the public sector's buying power (20% of all IT spending), shape the European cloud market, boost potential for European cloud providers to grow to a competitive scale, and deliver cheaper and better eGovernment

The release of the cloud strategy follows the FP7 funding call on 'High quality cloud computing environment for public sector needs, validated through a joint pre-commercial procurement (PCP)' which was launched in July 2012 and closes on 15 January 2013.

Actions in the strategy include:

- cutting through technical standards so cloud users get interoperability, data portability and reversibility
- support for EU-wide certification schemes for trustworthy cloud providers
- development of model 'safe and fair' contract terms for cloud computing contracts
- a European Cloud Partnership with member states and industry

European Commission communication: [bit.ly/OZH4z3](http://bit.ly/OZH4z3)  
FP7 Cloud Computing Funding call: [bit.ly/Pabe2D](http://bit.ly/Pabe2D)

### Connected cities – mobile citizens

*Knowledge society forum autumn event | Vienna | 22-24 October 2012*

Vienna will host the autumn KSF event in collaboration with our mobility forum, focusing on smart, open and inclusive mobility in cities.

The event coincides with the ITS World Congress 2012 also being held in Vienna. The main KSF conference on 23 October 2012 will look at the power of ICT to transform mobility in cities in order to create inclusive societies and user friendly mobility.

The KSF day includes working group meetings on smart cities, open data and eInclusion and a plenary session. Four keynote speakers will contribute to discussions: Colette Maloney, head of unit - smart cities and sustainability, DG CNECT, European Commission; Pawel Stelmazczyk, head of unit - intelligent transport systems, DG MOVE, European Commission; Gerard Mooney, IBM vice president, global smarter cities; Rudi Schicker, Vienna City Council, deputy chair of EURO CITIES Mobility Forum; Eugen Antalovsky, CEO europaforum wien (moderator).

KSF Conference website: [www.eurocities-vienna.at](http://www.eurocities-vienna.at)  
Registration: [bit.ly/UBRm5b](http://bit.ly/UBRm5b)  
Registration for the Commission day: [bit.ly/RD0hRL](http://bit.ly/RD0hRL)  
George Niland, policy advisor: [george.niland@eurocities.eu](mailto:george.niland@eurocities.eu)

## Bologna hosts first NiCE roadshow

*Bologna | 31 October 2012*

The first NiCE project roadshow takes place in Bologna on Wednesday 31 October 2012 within the framework of the Smart Cities Exhibition, information below. The theme of the roadshow is 'Green Digital Charter for smart cities: enabling technologies for energy efficiency'.

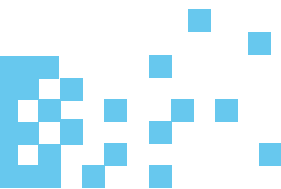
Roadshows are visibility and networking events organised under the NiCE project. Their aim is to increase the visibility of the Green Digital Charter and facilitate partnerships between signatory cities, European institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

They also provide an opportunity for cities to promote green ICT measures. Last but not least, the events are an opportunity for cities to demonstrate their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint using ICT by signing the Green Digital Charter.

The event will be divided into three sessions in the morning before moving on to the exhibition in the afternoon, including a keynote speech, a plenary session on Sustainable Energy Action Plans, and a session on the Green Digital Charter with speakers from local authorities as well as technical experts.

More information and registration: [bit.ly/NV494w](http://bit.ly/NV494w)  
Smart Cities Exhibition: [www.smartcityexhibition.it](http://www.smartcityexhibition.it)  
Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: [giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu](mailto:giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu)





## What do cities want for EU transport policy?

The European Commission is currently reviewing the Urban Mobility Action Plan (UMAP), which comes to an end in December 2012.

Following the first consultation phase based on a questionnaire linked to the 20 specific actions of the UMAP, the Commission launched a second consultation phase on 17 September 2012 to explore with cities and other stakeholders how best to target EU-level action to achieve high quality and sustainable urban transport and mobility for all users in the 27 member states.

*Through this questionnaire-based consultation, cities are invited to express their opinions on the challenges identified by the Commission's services.*

The main issues covered in this questionnaire are Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, access restriction schemes and urban freight logistics. Respondents are requested to describe the role they see for the EU in those areas. These are all areas for which the Commission is preparing to launch legislative proposals over the next two years. The question of EU financial support is also addressed.

We encourage cities to reply individually to this questionnaire, which is a unique opportunity to shape the way the EU will address urban mobility in its future transport strategy. The deadline is 17 December 2012.



Our mobility forum will also prepare a response to this second consultation phase over the coming weeks. Our close cooperation with the European Commission, responses to consultations, policy papers, and lobbying of EU institutions have helped ensure that European transport policy now recognises the role of European cities and the need to put urban mobility at the top of the EU transport agenda ■

Second consultation questionnaire: [bit.ly/UBKdSx](http://bit.ly/UBKdSx)  
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### Strategic framework for transport research, innovation and deployment

The European Commission launched a communication entitled 'Research and innovation for Europe's future mobility' on 18 September 2012. It is the first initiative within the Strategic Framework for Transport Research, Innovation and Deployment, which is part of the Strategic



Transport Technology Plan (STTP). The communication aims to boost the development of new transport solutions by coordinating and focusing European research and innovation to support the objectives identified in the revised White Paper on Transport.

Siim Kallas, European commissioner for transport, believes that the new initiative 'will help the transport system to develop into an even more efficient, sustainable and user-friendly system to reach our mobility goals'. The aim is also to keep European transport industry competitive and support growth and jobs.

The Commission has defined ten key objectives, and for each of them a roadmap will be developed. These objectives are a starting point and could be adjusted with stakeholders. The Connecting Europe Facility and Horizon 2020 will be the main tools to finance these objectives.

More information on the STTP: [bit.ly/VhVkdI](http://bit.ly/VhVkdI)  
Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

### EUROCITIES at the CIVITAS Forum 2012



The 2012 European Green Capital, Vitoria-Gasteiz, hosted this year's CIVITAS Forum conference on 24-26 September 2012. This three day event was the final CIVITAS Plus conference and aimed to highlight four years of European Commission support for cities to introduce ambitious transport measures and policies towards sustainable urban mobility in the current CIVITAS initiative.

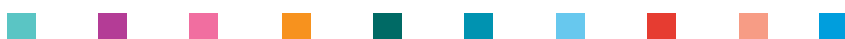
The conference served as an opportunity for each collaborative project to reflect on what the initiative has achieved with €80 million of investment. It also gave an insight into where the initiative is heading, with presentations from new CIVITAS Plus II projects. There were many opportunities

for discussion through 48 technical sessions and 24 pecha kucha presentations, featuring speakers from Australia and New York.

Our members Donostia-San Sebastian and Porto came out on top at the award ceremony, winning prizes for CIVITAS 'City of the Year' and 'Technical Innovation' respectively.

Vitoria-Gasteiz also used the occasion to showcase the measures that helped the city win the 2012 European Green Capital prize, including its innovative Superblocks concept (see link below). The 2013 CIVITAS Forum conference will be held in Brest and will be the first conference in the new initiative, CIVITAS PLUS II.

More information on the conference: [bit.ly/M7CgWf](http://bit.ly/M7CgWf)  
More information on Vitoria-Gasteiz Superblocks model: [bit.ly/TZtZYH](http://bit.ly/TZtZYH)  
Yannick Bousse, project support officer – mobility: [yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu](mailto:yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu)



## Annual convention to focus on SIP

We will participate in the annual convention of the European Platform against Poverty (EPAP) which takes place on 5-7 December 2012 in Brussels.

*Amongst other themes, it will focus on the proposed Social Investment Package (SIP) which is designed to 'safeguard, develop and adapt human capital under the constraints of limited public finances and increased economic dependencies'.*

The convention will be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input to further developing the package.

Participants will also contribute to four workshops: active inclusion; tackling health inequalities; integrating young people into the labour market through ICT; and the gender dimension of social interventions. Confirmed speakers include Professor Richard Wilkinson, who together

with Professor Kate Pickett, authored 'The Spirit Level', a book making the case to reduce social inequalities. Professor Wilkinson was a keynote speaker at the social affairs forum in Brussels in October 2010.



We are working closely with the Commission on the preparations, during which we have argued for more involvement of cities in the convention and for the proposed topics to include a territorial perspective ■

Anna Drozd, policy advisor: [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)

### Rotterdam hosts Cities for Active Inclusion study visit



Participants from our nine Cities for Active Inclusion partners visited Rotterdam on 18-19 September 2012 to look at place-based active inclusion initiatives for The Netherlands' most deprived urban area.

The study visit focused on the regeneration of the South Bank through the National Programme for Rotterdam South (NPRS). This area has traditionally had a high unemployment rate and low quality housing.

The programme centered around Rotterdam's integrated approach to getting those furthest from the labour market back into employment, through enabling talent, providing quality education, developing the local economy and through the regeneration of housing and physical infrastructure.

Site visits centred on these three elements, with participants learning about policies targeting children and young people, fostering entrepreneurship and how to bridge the gap between the jobs available and people's skills. Participants also visited the Neighbourhood Transformation Academy to see how the plans for the area's regeneration are shaped with input from local residents.

This was the second and final study visit held this year as part of the Cities for Active Inclusion mutual learning activities. A summary on the findings from the study visit will be available later this year.

More information: [www.eurocities-nlao.eu](http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu)  
Susana Forjan, project coordinator: [susana.forjan@eurocities.eu](mailto:susana.forjan@eurocities.eu)

### European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion

We participated in the consultation meeting with cities, regions and stakeholders of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion, in Strasbourg on 25 September 2012.



Photo by Metaxaki Antigoni

The meeting presented the objectives and working methods of this Council of Europe initiative, offering opportunities to discuss cooperation and synergies with existing initiatives in the field. The meeting convened cities, regions, networks of cities and regions as well as European institutions addressing Roma inclusion.

The alliance will focus on three pillars of Roma inclusion: education; employment; and housing. Potential activities include: providing support to existing initiatives; organising exchanges and study visits; and also helping to raise funding for Roma inclusion objectives and activities at the local level.

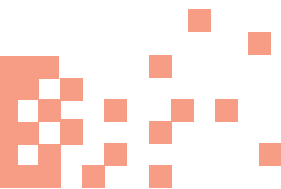
The alliance will collect the input received during the consultation meeting and develop its first activities in the coming months.

Ana Feder, policy advisor: [ana.feder@eurocities.eu](mailto:ana.feder@eurocities.eu)

### Date for your diary

Our working group education will meet in Amsterdam on 21-23 November 2012, focusing on early school leaving and city actions to prevent it. To participate, please contact Anna Drozd at the EUROCITIES secretariat.

Anna Drozd, policy advisor: [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)



# EUROCITIES award opens doors for Bydgoszcz

**B**ydgoszcz won the EUROCITIES cooperation award last year for its Mill Island project, an ambitious redevelopment programme on former industrial land which has been transformed into a centre of culture, leisure and entrepreneurship. The city worked with a variety of partners, including a museum and job centre, to create this dynamic district, now nicknamed 'the pearl of Bydgoszcz' by locals.

Since being awarded the prize, along with fellow EUROCITIES members Rotterdam, in the innovation category, and Zaragoza, in the participation category, Bydgoszcz has gone on to achieve recognition for the project in a number of other international and European competitions.

'Revitalisation of Mill Island' has been announced as a finalist for the 2013 CityStars award, part of the European Commission DG REGIO's annual RegioStar award. This category recognises integrated approaches to sustainable urban development and includes a full lineup of EUROCITIES finalists: Antwerp, Berlin, Bydgoszcz, Malmo and Vienna.

The Mill Island has also gained international recognition through winning the World Leisure International Innovative Prize, along with EUROCITIES member Edinburgh's 'Community Access Programme' and a project from Richmond in Canada. Bydgoszcz was selected for its 'innovative approach to create leisure opportunities through multi-



dimensional revitalisation with strong partnership and community involvement.'

The Bydgoszcz example proves that EUROCITIES awards are an excellent opportunity to showcase your city projects on a European and international scale.

The shortlist for our 2012 award was announced in August, and the winners will be revealed at a ceremony during EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes on 7 November 2012 ■

More information on RegioStars: [bit.ly/UsBC16](http://bit.ly/UsBC16)

More information on World Leisure International Innovative Prize: [bit.ly/S0H39m](http://bit.ly/S0H39m)

EUROCITIES case study, The Mill Island:

Rose Montgomery, communications assistant: [rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu](mailto:rose.montgomery@eurocities.eu)

## Urban planning for city leaders

UN-HABITAT teamed up with Siemens to host a conference in London on 20 September 2012. The event entitled 'Urban planning for city leaders' marked the launch of the new UN-HABITAT guide on spatial planning, finance and management. The event explored the role of spatial planning in creating well functioning and livable cities, listening and responding to citizens, understanding the value of public space and city mobility, and financial partnering to engineer better solutions. It also featured a high-level panel debate between Dr Joan

Clos, executive director of UN-HABITAT, Daniel Libeskind, architect, and Roland Busch, member of the managing board of Siemens AG, CEO infrastructure and cities sector. Breakout sessions included discussions of land value capture and compact city policies, during which the new OECD report on compact city policies was also presented.

The venue for the event was the new Siemens global urban sustainability centre. The Crystal, which was formally opened the evening before the conference, is located

in London's new Green Enterprise District in the London borough of Newham. It is intended as a global knowledge hub for thought leadership on urban sustainability and includes a 2000m<sup>2</sup> interactive exhibition on the future of cities as well as a conference facility. It opens to the public on 29 September 2012.

UN-Habitat publication: [bit.ly/OyM3qA](http://bit.ly/OyM3qA)

OECD report on compact cities: [bit.ly/P51kRh](http://bit.ly/P51kRh)

Siemens Crystal: [www.thecrystal.org](http://www.thecrystal.org)

## EUROCITIES members in Regional Review

The Open Days special edition of Regional Review features EUROCITIES and our members. On page 9, EUROCITIES president Frank Jensen writes about his city, Copenhagen, winning the European Green Capital title for 2014, while vice-president Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz covers smart cities on page 44. Secretary general Paul Bevan writes about the urban dimension of the structural funds regulations on page 86. Our members also feature in the cohesion in action section on pages 90-91.

Regional Review Open Days issue: [bit.ly/PeHkdq](http://bit.ly/PeHkdq)

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

## Meeting in Brussels?

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



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<b>Local Renewables Freiburg 2012</b> Exploring smart grids and smart solutions	<b>Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany</b>	<b>25-26 October 2012</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Sp6NSL">bit.ly/Sp6NSL</a>
<b>Pre-waste final conference</b> Improving waste prevention policies in EU territories	<b>Brussels, Belgium</b>	<b>7 November 2012</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/QqrJVg">bit.ly/QqrJVg</a>
<b>Sustainable Urban Rural Partnership</b> European conference 2012	<b>Metz, France</b>	<b>15-16 November 2012</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/Sxw2Ac">bit.ly/Sxw2Ac</a>
<b>ICUPRD 2012</b> Urban planning and regional development	<b>Vienna, Austria</b>	<b>14-16 November 2012</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/RbzJsz">bit.ly/RbzJsz</a>
<b>URBACT annual conference 2012</b> Cities of tomorrow, action today	<b>Copenhagen, Denmark</b>	<b>3-4 December 2012</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/OCEzTr">bit.ly/OCEzTr</a>

More events at: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

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