

Inspired in Nantes



Innovation, inspiration and involvement were the keywords of this year's EUROCITIES annual conference in Nantes, from 7 to 10

November. And our hosts ensured that those three themes played strongly through all aspects of the event.

There was innovation from the start, with delegates welcomed by the awesome mechanical elephant: 'les Machines' from Nantes have travelled the world showing how the engineering skills that once built ships can also drive renaissance through creative industries.

That innovation theme was carried through not only in the artistic elements of the conference, such as the extraordinary dance and light calligraphy, but in the content of the event. The keynotes, debates and workshops relayed the new ways of working that cities are adopting to connect more effectively to their citizens.

Nantes also inspired us beyond these showcased examples. The city itself is a fabulous case study of urban transformation. The quality of the public realm and the slick public transport were just the most visible of the profound changes – economic, social and physical – that the city has achieved over the last 20 years.

And involvement too was a central feature. We were focused of course on citizen engagement but delegates were also actively brought into proceedings at every opportunity, even by magic! The singing by Urban Voices also showed how culture engages communities and bridges divides.

In so many ways EUROCITIES 2012 confirmed how important these conferences are for our network: for contact and dialogue, for learning, for generating ideas, building relationships and developing practical collaboration. I'm sure I echo the sentiments of the whole membership in thanking our colleagues at Nantes Metropole for a fantastic event.



Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

EUROCITIES at informal council meeting on cohesion policy

At an informal Council meeting in Nicosia on 6 November 2012, Yiorkadjis Constantinos, mayor of Nicosia, represented EUROCITIES to ministers in charge of cohesion policy. He argued that cohesion policy would be more effective if it recognised cities' potential for driving economic recovery in Europe. He set out three key actions for this to happen:



- Europe's major cities must be directly involved in the partnership agreements that will set the framework for national investment priorities in the next round of funding.
- Funds should be allocated directly to cities to implement integrated territorial investments for sustainable urban development, so that cities can ensure funding meets with needs on the ground.
- Investment priorities should have a strong urban dimension and allow, for example, investments in urban mobility to promote the transition to a low carbon economy.

negotiations on the draft structural funds regulations between the European Council, Parliament and Commission are underway and expected to conclude in early 2013.

CEMR, AER, CPMR and EUROCITIES also issued a joint declaration at the meeting detailing concerns about the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the potential reduction of the cohesion policy allocation.

This was an effective platform to deliver our messages, in the presence of the European commissioner for regional policy, the chair of the European Parliament's regional development committee, and the president of the Committee of the Regions. The informal Council took place as formal

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

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Berlin, Ghent and Oulu win EUROCITIES awards

Berlin, Ghent and Oulu are the winners of this year's EUROCITIES awards for the following projects:

- Berlin (participation): youth election project U18
- Ghent (cooperation): Ghent Climate Alliance
- Oulu (innovation): eCopper

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

This year, the awards were focused around 'a new city politics', corresponding with the EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes theme. The three winners were selected out of a total of more than 40 entries and announced at a ceremony on 7 November 2012.

For more information on the awards shortlist and winners, please visit the link below ■



Award winners & jury (photo by Christiane Blanchard)

EUROCITIES awards: bit.ly/RrZzlr
Nicola Vatthauer, communications director: nicola.vatthauer@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: citizen participation needs to be encouraged

Real citizen participation at city level will help challenge the perception that democracy in Europe is currently in crisis. This was the resounding message coming out of EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes, 'a new city politics' on 7-10 November 2012, attended by over 250 local politicians, city representatives and stakeholders from across Europe.

Two academics in the field, Joan Font Fabregas and Cécile van de Velde, presented their research into citizen engagement and youth participation. Various social groups, particularly young people, have been calling for a greater participation of citizens in the political decisions taken by leaders. Participating in the mayors' debate, mayors Milan Ftáčnik of Bratislava and Ilmar Reepalu of Malmö, deputy mayors Angela Spizig of Cologne and Enzo Lavolta of Turin, and leader of Brighton & Hove council, Jason Kitcat, all agreed that citizen participation has already brought, and will continue to bring, useful benefits to their cities and will help restore faith in the democratic process.

The economic crisis in Europe has intensified a perceived democratic deficit for which politicians are blamed. But, given their proximity to local issues and their capacity to involve citizens in their decision making, politicians at the city level are best-placed to regain trust from citizens.

Through a series of workshops, delegates were able to see first hand examples of projects already being carried out in Nantes and other EUROCITIES members aimed at improved participation. These included creative regeneration of former industrial land, and talent incubators for young people's project ideas.

Photos of EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: bit.ly/RVrZOb
EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes: www.eurocities2012.eu
Sinead Mullins, senior communications coordinator: sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu

Staff news

New project coordinator - migration and integration

Name: Thomas Jézéquel



Function: project coordinator - migration and integration

Working languages :
FR, EN, NL, DE, TR, HU

Thomas takes on the role of project coordinator - migration and integration, and will focus mainly on ImpleMentoring, the follow-up project to MIXITIES, as well as the SHARE project on migrant resettlement.

Thomas studied political sciences and international affairs in France, and has previously worked for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors as EU policy affairs officer after spending five years working for migration and human rights NGOs in Belgium, Hungary and Turkey.

Thomas Jézéquel, project coordinator:
thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu

What is my role at EUROCITIES?

Name: Dorthe Nielsen

Function: senior policy advisor



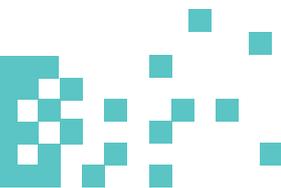
"I deal with our work that cuts across different policy areas. This includes the next EU multiannual financial framework that will determine Europe's investment priorities for the 2014 - 2020 funding period. I monitor the ongoing negotiations between member states and support our budget task force in making the case for a strong urban priority across the budget.

Closely linked to this is our work around the next round of structural funds. I am currently leading on this by providing support to our cohesion policy working group in cooperation with colleagues. We focus on influencing the draft legislation to ensure a good deal for cities and on creating a better understanding of the implications of the new regulations among members.

My role also concerns the rotating EU presidencies. This includes opening a dialogue with incoming presidencies around the urban priorities on key EU dossiers. It also means representing EUROCITIES at meetings of the Urban Development Group (UDG) and the National Contact Points for Territorial Cohesion (NTCCP). These meetings gather representatives from the relevant national ministries in all the member states and are chaired by the country holding the presidency.

Finally, I deputise for the policy director when she is not available."

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



ImpleMentoring: new project on integration of migrants

ImpleMentoring – city-to-city support for migrant integration was launched on 15 November 2012. The project, to run over the next 18 months, will engage 12 member cities, two NGOs and London-based community investment company, MigrationWork, in the implementation of the EUROCITIES Integrating Cities Charter.

ImpleMentoring will build on the work developed under the previous EUROCITIES projects on migrant integration to develop tailored mentoring schemes on four specific areas:

- enhancing public perception of migration and diversity
- reflecting and managing diversity in public administration and service provision
- activating and enhancing participation in diverse neighbourhoods
- promoting political participation of migrants through local consultative bodies

The project will also see the creation of the next set of Integrating Cities toolkits and offer cities training on mentoring and transferability.



Project findings will be presented at the sixth edition of the Integrating Cities conference which will take place in Tampere, Finland on 9-10 September 2013.

ImpleMentoring project partners include the cities of Aarhus, Athens, Copenhagen, Genoa, Ghent, Malmo, Manchester, Milan, Riga, Rotterdam, Tampere, Oslo as well as two NGOs: the New Communities Partnership (Dublin) and the Nowy Staw Foundation (Lublin).

The project is co-financed by the European Commission's DG home affairs through the European Integration Fund ■

More information: www.integratingcities.eu
Thomas Jézéquel, project coordinator: thomas.jezequel@eurocities.eu

New members confirmed at AGM

Several new members and partners were confirmed during our AGM at EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes on 9 November 2012. They are: Angers Loire Metropole (FR) as a full member; Konya (TR), Gazantiep (TR) and Tirana (AL) as associate members; Wolverhampton (UK), Pisa (IT), Nilufer (TR), and Serdivan (TR) as associated partners; and Veolia Environment (FR) as associated business partner.



Jorida Tabaku, deputy mayor of Tirana (photo by Christiane Blanchard)

Tara Schneider Appriou, executive assistant:
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SMARTSPACES: new energy saving project



SMARTSPACES aims to improve energy management in European public authorities and the buildings they occupy using ICT.

Europe's public buildings represent a considerable and largely untapped potential for energy saving. SMARTSPACES will address this by enabling public authorities in Europe to significantly improve energy management in the buildings they occupy.

The project will be implemented in 11 pilot sites with more than 550 buildings, including our members Birmingham, Bristol, Hagen, Istanbul, Milan and Murcia. These actions will affect almost 20,000 professionals and staff users and over six million visitors annually. SMARTSPACES will provide an energy optimisation service to exploit the potential of ICT, including smart metering, for significant energy saving in city administration buildings, offices, museums, universities, schools, nurseries and sports and event centres.

EUROCITIES is a subcontractor providing communication and dissemination for the project.

More information: www.smartspaces.eu
SMARTSPACES brochure: bit.ly/NSiMBq
First newsletter: bit.ly/MCAxat
Yannick Bousse, project support officer - mobility: yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu

New EUROCITIES statement on smart cities and communities



In October 2012, we published our statement responding to the European Commission communication on smart cities and communities. Addressing some of the main points outlined in the communication, we call for cities to be placed at the heart of future projects and consortia, for appropriate funding to be allocated to the initiative, and for guaranteed standardisation and interoperability; and we push for a citizen-centric, demand led approach.

EUROCITIES statement: bit.ly/TFteBR
George Niland, policy advisor: george.niland@eurocities.eu

Conferences on Europe 2020: local and regional

On 13 December 2012, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will host the first in a series of seven conferences devoted to each flagship of the Europe 2020 strategy. The conferences will show how the flagships are being implemented in our cities and regions.

'Youth on the move' is the first conference, focusing on youth unemployment. The second conference on 'An agenda for new skills and jobs' takes place in Dublin on 28 February 2013 under the Irish EU presidency. Five other conferences will follow throughout the year, culminating in the 2014 CoR summit, which will draw conclusions from the discussions

and best practices shared during this round of conferences.

We are continuing to promote our message that the EU will only achieve its Europe 2020 objectives with smart, sustainable and inclusive cities.

The timing has been arranged to coincide with the mid-term assessment of the Europe 2020 strategy, which hopes to boost growth and employment more effectively than its predecessor, the Lisbon strategy ■



More information: bit.ly/XJFgLC
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

Working group ENP meets with culture forum in Munich

Our working group on European Neighbourhood Policy met in Munich on 24 October 2012. The group focuses on promoting deeper relations with our non-EU neighbours, and developing and strengthening links with partner cities from Eastern neighbour countries, mainly in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

This time, the working group met alongside our culture forum since cooperation in the field of culture was high on the group's 2012 agenda. Participants received information on European funding programmes with a focus on culture, and Bialystok and Beyoglu-Istanbul gave presentations focusing on their cities' actions in this field.

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

European Commission publishes 2013 work programme

The European Commission has published its work programme for 2013. The document is primarily for internal use, allowing the Commission to plan and monitor its proposals on a yearly basis. Nevertheless, given the Commission's policy making role and its power of initiative, the work programme helps coordinate its work with the European Council and Parliament. The work programme is also a useful public communication tool vis-à-vis external stakeholders, providing transparency around forthcoming Commission initiatives.



The work programme reflects President Barroso's State of the Union address, delivered on 12 September 2012. The 'macro-ideas' outlined in his speech have been translated into legislative or non-legislative proposals in the work programme.

A series of 14 proposals are presented with the aim of boosting competitiveness, including a state aid modernisation regulation, an initiative on e-invoicing and a proposal for reinforced partnership in research and innovation under Horizon 2020.

This year's work programme details only those initiatives where action from the Commission is already confirmed, meaning that other proposals are likely to arise even if they are not yet included in the work programme. We will follow the monthly updates of the work programme and flag any aspects of potential interest to cities.

Work programme: bit.ly/S6WD47
State of the Union speech: bit.ly/P5FU5c
Soraya Zanardo, policy assistant – coordination & governance: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

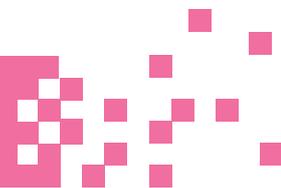
Cypriot presidency proposes to cut the MFF by €50bn

The Cypriot EU presidency issued a revised version of the so-called 'negotiating box' for the multiannual financial framework on 29 October 2012. The negotiating box is the presidency's tool to focus discussions and options for solutions on key elements of the MFF.

The presidency clearly states its intention to cut at least €50bn across all budget headings. The Connecting Europe Facility is reduced by some €13bn and the European Commission's proposal for an 'urban premium' intended to make cohesion policy more attractive for more developed regions and member states has been removed. With a few additional minor reductions in other areas, such as the budget heading for Global Europe, the negotiating box does not yet otherwise explicitly reduce the allocations for the major budget strands. The presidency proposal will be the basis for further discussions leading up to the MFF summit on 22–23 November 2012.

More information: bit.ly/SvuSn9
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New reports on structural funds for cultural projects

Structural funds are a valuable but underused resource for the cultural sector. The share of culture-based projects in the funding available under cohesion policy in the current programming period is estimated to be 1.7% (€6 billion) according to DG REGIO figures. This makes the structural funds the largest source of funding from the EU for the arts and culture.

New studies and reports highlight the potential of structural funds for supporting cultural projects:

- A study commissioned by the European Parliament's committee on culture and education was presented on 19 September 2012. It evaluates the extent to which structural funds were used for cultural projects in the period 2007-2013, and analyses the potential for access to the funds under the proposed cohesion policy for 2014-2020.
- At the request of the European Commission, the European Expert Network on Culture (EENC) has produced national reports analysing how certain member states can use the cultural and creative industries to foster economic development at local level.



At a time when negotiations on the next structural funds are taking place, it is hoped that these reports will map and raise awareness of the funding opportunities available under these programmes ■

European Parliament study: tinyurl.com/9mfj9kn
Reports on culture and structural funds in some member states: tinyurl.com/9ltzvz

City history, memory and identity at Munich culture forum

Representatives of 58 cities from 20 countries met in Munich on 24-27 October 2012 for the culture forum on 'city history, memory and identity'. Discussions and presentations focused on contemporary art initiatives in the field of cultural memory, neighborhood culture, cultural policies and identity. In 2013, the forum will meet in Florence in spring and Gdansk in the autumn.

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

Bologna takes over as culture forum chair

At the forum meeting in Munich on 26 October 2012, Bologna and Ghent were elected as the new chair and vice-chair of the culture forum for 2013 on, taking over from Eindhoven and Dortmund. Bologna and Ghent will work together under a common motto: 'Towards Europe 2020: for a smart, sustainable and inclusive culture in European cities'.



Matteo Lepore, deputy mayor of Bologna and chair of the culture forum

Matteo Lepore, deputy mayor of Bologna for international relations, city marketing, innovation, smart city and digital agenda, is the new forum chair. He has a strong academic background in international relations, city planning and economics, as well as a track record in project management in the field of associations and cultural enterprises.

His objectives for the culture forum in 2013 are: to raise awareness and get recognition of the importance of cities for

European culture; to make culture a central focus for local and European policies; and to find a balance between the traditional cultural field and innovation.

Daniël Termont, mayor of Ghent, takes on the role of vice-chair, and will support Bologna in delivering the objectives and activities of the culture forum.

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

Creative Europe 2014-2020: discussions in the European Parliament



Discussions on the European Commission's proposed Creative Europe programme for 2014-2020 are continuing in the European Parliament. On 8 October 2012, European Parliament rapporteur Silvia Costa (PSE – Italy) presented her draft report to the committee on culture and education.

The draft report reflects a number of the concerns we raised in our statement on the Creative Europe proposal, published in March 2012.

Points of convergence include the recognition of the role of culture in local economies and territorial cohesion; the need for clarity when defining beneficiaries; leaving the organisation of national contact points to member states; and the need for qualitative as well as quantitative evaluation indicators.

Amendments to Silvia Costa's report will be voted on in the culture and education committee in December 2012.

Draft report: tinyurl.com/9zdoeng
Julie Hervé, policy advisor: julie.herve@eurocities.eu



The case for urban-rural cooperation

EUROCITIES and METREX have joined forces to promote the case for urban-rural cooperation and metropolitan governance. In a statement published in September 2012, we argue for greater recognition of the potential of functional areas and urban-rural partnerships to support the delivery of Europe 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive development.

The statement is based on the experiences of both our networks and the growing evidence from European cities and regions. It outlines how urban-rural partnerships can, and do, work in practice and suggests ways to strengthen these partnerships with initiatives at both national and EU level.

We argue that the partnership contracts that will form part of the programming for the next round of structural funds could become

an effective tool to enable urban-rural cooperation. Cities and metropolitan areas must therefore be included in negotiations with national governments on the partnership contracts in order to build on the potential of functional areas ■



Joint statement: bit.ly/Te69BC

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

Working groups meet on public services and procurement

Our working groups on public services and public procurement met jointly on 25 October 2012 to debate the European Parliament's report on the draft directive on concessions and amendments proposed by MEPs. The vote will take place in December 2012 in the Parliament's internal market committee. Until then, our members will continue to exchange with the Parliament rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs who are currently discussing compromise amendments.



Participants also exchanged views on state aid legislation, in particular for social housing. The definition of social housing being used by the European Commission is so restrictive that state aid legislation does not currently favour social mix in housing or universal access to services.

Finally, members discussed the state of play of the draft directives on public procurement. The Parliament rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs are currently agreeing on compromise amendments. We are following several aspects, such as the definition of public-public cooperation, direct payment of subcontractors and modifications of contracts. The vote in the Parliament's internal market committee will take place on 28 November 2012.

The two groups use our Quickr web tool to exchange information and work jointly on advocacy papers in between meetings.

If you are interested in joining either group, please contact Marie Ranty at our secretariat.

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

Exchanging on metropolitan areas in Zurich

At the working group metropolitan areas study visit to Zurich on 26-28 September 2012, politicians and civil servants from across the EU discussed visions for their metropolitan areas, and ideas for further strengthening metropolitan governance. Participants also analysed the specific characteristics of cross-border metropolitan areas. The metropolitan areas of Basel and Zurich presented their experiences to members. The ensuing discussions provided input to the further development of the Zurich metropolitan area.

More information: www.stadt-zuerich.ch/eurocities

New working group on international economic relations?

Utrecht has proposed a new working group within our economic development forum (EDF) to look at cities' international economic relations outside the EU.

Utrecht would like to explore, with other cities, why cities have or should have international economic relations outside the EU: how can cities benefit from such relationships and what role should the city play in fostering these?

These relationships range from one-off business trips to long-running established city-to-city relations. They can take the form of foreign direct investments or investments in EU cities, from emerging economies, such as from BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China).

Utrecht has drafted a survey to gauge interest among other EDF members and results will be shared between survey participants. If your city would also like to participate, please contact Marie Ranty at our secretariat.

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

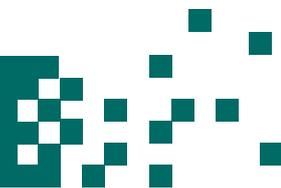
Joint cohesion policy working group and ESF taskforce meeting

Brussels | 26 November 2012

The meeting will take place following expected political agreement on the multiannual financial framework at the European summit on 22-23 November 2012. This will provide some clarity on the budget allocation for cohesion policy from 2014-2020.

On the agenda for the joint working group meeting is an update on progress of discussions between the European Parliament, Council and Commission on the general regulation; a discussion on integrated territorial investments with DG REGIO; and an overview of the state of play of the negotiations in the Council to be given by the Cypriot presidency.

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Cities call for local management of funds

Cities want greater room for manoeuvre in their energy management and more control over European funds for local energy projects. This was the message to the European institutions at an Open Days workshop on innovative financing schemes on 10 October 2012.

Our members Birmingham, Brussels Capital Region and Venice participated in the event, organised jointly by the Covenant of Mayors Office and the Committee of the Regions. Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, president of the Committee of the Regions, opened the session by pointing out that European policies and funding must support regions and cities, to ensure the success of the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

City leaders also called for increased autonomy in the management of European funds at local level. Sir Albert Bore, leader of Birmingham City Council, argued that the financial crisis and climate challenges are big incentives for strengthening cohesion policy in European cities, where 75% of the population lives. Evelyne Huytebroeck, Brussels Capital Region's environment minister, highlighted the importance of structural funds for the Brussels Capital

Region, explaining that the dynamics of using European instruments at regional level has had a positive impact on green projects in the city. Giorgio Orsoni, mayor of Venice, made clear that the management of European funding at local level has been more effective than the administration of regional funds, calling for increased delegation of funding to local authorities.

The next EU multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 is expected to provide more clarity for city leaders wishing to carry out energy efficiency actions in their territories.

The Commission has proposed that structural funds allocated to energy efficiency and renewable energy actions should increase substantially, and at least 5% of ERDF funding should be earmarked for integrated actions for sustainable urban development. And under Horizon 2020, the Commission proposes that €6.5 billion should be allocated to research and innovation for clean and efficient energy. Priority is to be given to



energy performance contracting schemes for building renovation, district heating and cooling, innovative renewable energy technologies and marine-based renewable energy.

Negotiations on the MFF are currently underway with member states, with an agreement expected at the end of 2012 ■

Sandra Ramos, project coordinator:
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Birmingham and Nice take over as forum chair and vice-chair

The environment forum meeting on 3-5 October 2012 in Nice addressed climate change mitigation and adaptation, and featured exchanges with Rosario Bento Pais, head of unit on climate adaptation at the European Commission.



Councillor James McKay from Birmingham, chair of environment forum

Birmingham and Nice were elected as chair and vice chair respectively on 5 October 2012. Councillor James McKay from Birmingham and Véronique Paquis, vice mayor of Nice, will be supported by Sandy Taylor and Yves Prufer as technical chair and vice chair. The election was formally confirmed at our annual general meeting during EUROCITIES 2012 Nantes on 9 November 2012.

Michael Klinkenberg, policy advisor: michael.klinkenberg@eurocities.eu

Contribute to ECOCITY 2013 in Nantes



As part of its activities as European Green Capital 2013, Nantes is preparing to host ECOCITY, the World Summit on Sustainable Cities, from 25-27 September 2013.

The event will bring together the driving forces working towards sustainable cities: elected officials, businesses, researchers, funders and NGOs. It is the tenth edition of the world conference series initiated by the ECOCITY Builders Foundation, and will be the first edition to be held in the EU. As such it will be an opportunity for dialogue between those working on a European urban development model and counterparts from other continents.

The ECOCITY 2013 programme is built around four priority challenges for the sustainable city: financing, governing, thinking and shaping. An international call for contributions has been launched with a deadline of 30 November 2012. Contributions can be in the shape of workshops, presentations in the auditorium, presentations of applied research, contribution as a thematic expert in the preparation of content or running a 'knowledge corner'. The call can be downloaded from the event website, below.

ECOCITY 2013: www.ecocity-2013.com/en
Vanda Knowles, policy director: vanda.knowles@eurocities.eu

Four new signatories: success at first GDC roadshow

The Italian cities of Bari, Naples and Padua and the British city of Milton Keynes became the latest signatories of the Green Digital Charter (GDC) at the first GDC roadshow on 31 October 2012 in Bologna. The four new signatories join 28 European cities committed to reducing their carbon footprint through ICT. The 32 signatories represent 18 million citizens across 14 European countries.

Antonio Cantatore from Bari expressed his city's desire to tap into the potential of ICT for energy efficiency and saving.

Councillor David Hopkins from Milton Keynes explained his city's motivation for signing the charter: "We are well on target but we need to cooperate with other cities in the fight against climate change".

Tommaso Sodano, vice-mayor of Naples, underlined the need for cooperation between all city actors: public administrations, enterprises and citizens.

Ivo Rossi, vice-mayor of Padua, declared that the charter will complement his city's actions within the Covenant of Mayors and the city plans to spread the message to neighbouring towns and cities.

Mercè Griera-I-Fisa, from the European Commission's DG CONNECT, praised the initiative and welcomed the four new signatories.

GDC roadshows are networking and visibility events. Bologna hosted the first roadshow on enabling technologies for energy efficiency, organised in conjunction with the Smart Cities Exhibition. It was a change to learn from the experiences of Bologna, which signed up to the GDC in February 2010.



A series of roadshows will continue to foster partnerships between signatory cities, European institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Next editions take place in Nuremberg in March 2013 in conjunction with a meeting of our knowledge society and environment forums.

Save the date!

- NiCE training on Green Digital Toolkit for cities, Brussels, January 2013
- Second NiCE GDC roadshow, Nuremberg, March 2013 ■

NiCE project: www.greendigitalcharter.eu

Giulia Campodonico, project coordinator: giulia.campodonico@eurocities.eu

Forum elections & autumn meeting in Vienna

Our knowledge society forum's autumn event took place in Vienna on 22-24 October 2012. Ghent was elected as the new forum chair and Manchester as vice chair. Both stressed their intention to cooperate with each other and the broader membership to further the work of the forum, especially in areas such as smart cities, e-inclusion, open data and cyber security.



Members voted in favour of creating a new working group on cyber security, to be chaired by Tallinn.

Our meeting coincided with the ITS World Congress 2012, and our main conference, 'connected cities – mobile citizens' on 23 October, looked at the power of ICT to transform mobility in cities and create inclusive societies and user-friendly mobility. European Commission speakers Colette Maloney (DG CONNECT) and Pawel

Stelmaszczyk (DG MOVE) provided the information society and mobility perspectives, while Gerald Mooney from IBM focused on the business perspective. Rudi Schicker, member of Vienna City Council and our mobility forum, spoke on the citizens' perspective.

George Niland, policy advisor:
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Respond to Commission consultation on telecoms markets

The European Commission has launched a public consultation with a view to updating the list of wholesale and retail telecoms markets subject to its Article 7 procedure under EU telecoms rules, including markets regulated at national level and trans-national markets. The Commission invites interested parties to respond by 8 January 2013. Based on the results, the Commission will revise the current recommendation on relevant markets, last updated in 2007.

More information: bit.ly/YddkPJ

Parliament maintains options for urban high-speed broadband funding

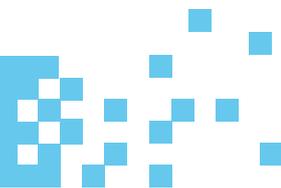
During its meeting on 5 November 2012, the European Parliament's industry, research and energy committee adopted the political mandate for the negotiation of a possible first reading agreement on a Trans-European telecommunications network. The adopted report maintains options for funding for very high-speed broadband in suburban and urban areas, including those areas where the incentive for private companies to invest does not currently exist (e.g. deprived urban areas). This follows on from our submitted amendments and work to ensure that funding options for urban areas were maintained in the Parliament's report.

Commission consultation on e-invoicing in public procurement

A new European Commission consultation aims to consider ways of overcoming barriers created by the lack of interoperability between national e-invoicing systems in public procurement, and to stimulate the uptake of e-invoicing in the EU. Given the decision taken by several member states to make e-invoicing mandatory for their public procurement, the extension of this requirement to all public procurement throughout the EU is one of the options being considered. The deadline to respond is 14 January 2013.

More information: bit.ly/YdefQb





ITS in the spotlight in Vienna

The 19th ITS World Congress took place in Vienna on 22-26 October 2012 on 'Smarter on the way'. The congress featured high-level speakers including European commissioner for transport, Siim Kallas.

In conjunction with the congress, the European Commission held its own ITS conference in Vienna on 22 October 2012. Transport commissioner Siim Kallas opened the conference by confirming his view that ITS is essential for more efficient, inclusive and sustainable mobility. Challenges such as climate change, accessibility and congestion could be tackled in a smarter way using intelligent transport systems to cope with unexpected traffic situations. The European multimodal journey planner initiative is a good example of a smart approach which covers all modes of transport, both for passengers and freight, and long-distance as well as urban journeys.

Commissioner Kallas stressed the important role that urban transport plays in delivering safe, clean and efficient solutions.

The final Urban ITS Guidelines were presented at the ITS World Congress, during a day focusing on urban mobility. The guidelines for the deployment of key ITS applications in urban areas, which were developed by the European Commission's expert group on Intelligent Transport Systems for urban areas, which includes three of our city experts: from Oslo, London and Vienna. In particular, the group has developed specific guidance on deploying ITS applications for the provision and organisation of traffic management and urban logistics; and of smart ticketing. The session was an opportunity



for the ITS industry and city representatives to discuss and offer feedback.

Our knowledge society forum hosted its autumn event in collaboration with our mobility forum in Vienna on 22-24 October 2012, coinciding with the ITS World Congress. The meeting highlighted the importance of technology in improving transport flows in cities, developing smart applications such as parking apps, and of opening up public data on transport. This will allow developers to create smart solutions and enable citizens to benefit from more efficient and sustainable transport systems in cities. See page 8 for more information on the forum ■

ITS World Congress 2012: 2012.itsworldcongress.com
 European Commission ITS conference: bit.ly/VD0Xt4
 Commissioner Kallas speech at Commission conference: bit.ly/T4R9bg
 Commissioner Kallas speech at ITS World Congress: bit.ly/RseKnO
 Vanessa Holve, policy advisor: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

TIDE project kicks off: urban transport innovation on its way!

The EU-funded TIDE project (Transport Innovation Deployment in Europe) kicked off in Brussels in October 2012. TIDE aims to enhance the transfer and uptake of 15 innovative urban transport and mobility measures throughout Europe and contribute to making them mainstream measures.

TIDE partners will develop solutions for addressing challenges in urban transport such as energy efficiency, decarbonisation, demographic change, safety, access for all and new economic and financial conditions. The innovative measures will align with five thematic clusters: (1) new pricing measures; (2) non-motorised transport; (3) network and traffic management to support traveller information; (4) electric vehicles; and (5) public transport organisation. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and financing models will be horizontal topics to be integrated into cluster activities. The TIDE consortium includes five partner cities, each dedicated to a thematic cluster, including our members Milan, Donostia San Sebastian and Rotterdam.

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



The project aims to include 50 cities in its activities, including ten Champion Cities, which between them will receive €200,000 for innovative measures. A survey to select the innovative transport measures will be developed and members will be invited to respond.

The project website will be online soon. In the meantime, please contact Yannick Bousse at our secretariat for more information.

CIVITAS sustainable freight and public transport study tours



Utrecht, chair of our mobility forum, welcomed 25 participants from Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the UK for the CIVITAS study tour on innovative sustainable urban freight in October. This one-day event was an opportunity to showcase urban mobility measures funded by CIVITAS MIMOSA.

Municipal employees showed the visitors how freight can be transported sustainably by water using Utrecht's Beer Boat; by freight bikes; and with electric solar powered trucks, such as the Cargohopper. Thanks to these innovative solutions, air pollution and traffic are decreasing in the historic city centre without compromising efficiency in delivering goods. In November, Coimbra also hosted a CIVITAS MODERN study tour on smart solutions for public transport operators.

More information: bitly.com/SmHyOu
 Yannick Bousse, project support officer: yannick.bousse@eurocities.eu



Early school leaving and youth unemployment in cities

Our social affairs forum met in Stockholm on 15-16 October 2012 to discuss early school leaving and youth unemployment in cities.

Ulla Hamilton, vice-mayor of Stockholm responsible for labour market policy, and Cllr John Cotton from Birmingham, (former) chair of our social affairs forum, opened the meeting. Ulla Hamilton explained the impact of youth unemployment and early school leaving in Stockholm and the city's efforts to tackle these problems.

John Cotton underlined the need to address youth unemployment and deep-seated inequalities in cities, which have long-term consequences for citizens' wellbeing and cities' development.

Margareta Cederberg, from the University of Malmo, gave an overview of research into the causes of early school leaving in Malmo. Leo Razzak, a former beneficiary of the Fryshuset youth project in Stockholm and now a young entrepreneur, delivered a lively talk on engaging with young people. He spoke of his experiences as a young dropout and the importance of having support and role models, understanding young people and their passions, and respecting their individual choices.

A panel debate was composed of Rene Clarijs, vice-president of the European Civil Society Platform for Lifelong Learning (EUCIS-LLL); Cllr John Cotton; Imse Nilsson of the European Youth Forum; and Charlotte Svensson from Stockholm's Labour Market Department. Panellists underlined the role of local authorities and cities in tackling youth unemployment, especially in making links between different sectors and partners and in providing pathways from school to work.

Participants then visited either Jobbtorg, a municipal job centre in Stockholm gathering all labour market services in one place and providing advice and guidance to young people; Fryshuset, a youth centre and meeting place for young people to develop their interests;



or Telefonplan, a regeneration project made up of a cultural enterprises incubator, art school, housing estate and schools.

Ten projects were presented in a speednetworking session. These ranged from support services for young people with complex problems, through to services for early school leavers, young homeless people and experiences from our working groups on education and employment.

Elections of the forum chair and vice chair also took place. Henk Kool, deputy mayor of The Hague, takes over from Birmingham as forum chair and Thomas Fabian, vice mayor of Leipzig, takes on The Hague's role as vice chair.

Over the next 12 months, the forum will focus on youth unemployment, tackling deep-seated poverty and worklessness and promoting social cohesion in an age of austerity ■

Anna Drozd, policy advisor: anna.drozd@eurocities.eu

Homelessness working group meets in Vienna

Preben Brant from the Danish project UDENFOR/Mental Health Europe was guest speaker at our working group homelessness meeting in Vienna on 10-12 October 2012. Preben Brant has carried out 30 years of extensive research on what kind of people become homeless. Many have a disadvantaged start in life, lack kinship and other support, or have faced active rejection and discrimination. Brant has witnessed a change in the profile of homeless people, with more young people, women and ethnic minorities and migrants becoming homeless. He predicts that poor migrants with mental health issues will make up the largest proportion of homeless people in Europe in the future.

As well as listening to Preben Brant's research, participants had the opportunity to visit either a day centre or supported accommodation in the city before attending an open meeting with other homelessness stakeholders. The overriding themes from this meeting were that it is important to coordinate, target and communicate information to people and interventions. Financial inclusion is also vital, so that people know where to go to when they are



in need, instead of turning to high interest money lenders. The importance of treating homeless people with dignity and respect was underlined, encouraging practitioners to give them the right to choose the type of support they need.

The stakeholder meeting also featured a panel debate with leading organisations from Vienna's homelessness agencies. They stressed the need to consult homeless people on the type of support they need and to deliver accordingly.

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CfAI annual event: demographic change in European cities

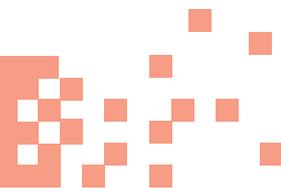
Brussels | 29 November 2012

The Cities for Active Inclusion (CfAI) annual conference will take place in Brussels on 29 November 2012 focusing on the findings from research on demographic change carried out earlier this year. The partners identified three demographic trends in their cities:

- ageing population
- increasing diversity
- rising youth populations

Our cities will present their good practices and discuss the current policy, the future developments at European level on active inclusion and the role of cities with European-level stakeholders.

Registration:
cfaidemographicchange.eventbrite.com
Cities for Active Inclusion:
www.eurocities-nlao.eu
Susana Forjan, project coordinator:
susana.forjan@eurocities.eu



Cities in action: one ticket, one tariff, one territory

With 46 urban and rural municipalities, providing convenient, cost-effective transport for all residents has been a complex operation for Nice Cote d'Azur (NCA). In an attempt to reduce the use of private cars and encourage more people to use the public transport system, NCA introduced a single €1 ticket in 2008 which could be used on all public transport vehicles in the network, regardless of the operating authority. This meant installing interoperable ticket systems on all vehicles – a total of 100 bus lines and a tramway. This measure was carried out with support from the European Regional Development Fund, which allocated €400,000 to the project.

This was just the first step towards an integrated transport network. By the end of 2009, the two main transport providers had merged to create a single public transport network serving the whole community, Lignes d'Azur. The vehicles were rebranded with a consistent identity and pricing structure, and the pooling of resources allowed the city to focus on improvements to the passenger experience and environmental impact of the network.

Since creating the new network, customer satisfaction has grown considerably from 70% to over 90%. Citizens have been involved in the initiative from the start, with the city carrying out a number of consultations, through opinion surveys and over social media, to gather citizens' views on the proposed merged network and single ticket.



As well as customer satisfaction, the scheme has led to a drop in the use of private cars. It has also gained national and European recognition: it won a national prize in 2009 and was shortlisted for a EUROCIITIES award in 2011.

You can read about the project in more detail in our latest 'cities in action' case study, which can be found in the good practices section of our website, below ■

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

Lisbon, a startup city

Startup Lisboa, Lisbon's small business incubator, was opened to entrepreneurs in February 2012 as part of a strategy for economic growth and innovation in Lisbon.

Incubators are an important tool for attracting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and ensuring their survival throughout their early days, particularly pertinent given the current economic situation. Incubators are useful for job creation, especially amongst young people, and for driving economic activity.

Startup Lisboa was borne out of the initiative of Lisbon's citizens, who voted for the project under its participatory budgeting scheme. Private partners played an important role in setting up the incubator, which is located in the historic centre and forms part of an urban regeneration initiative aimed at reusing old buildings. It makes up a network

of other incubators and acceleration spaces being developed in the city, both private and public initiatives. Startup Lisboa is also contributing to the city's cultural diversity, attracting entrepreneurs from many different countries.

Already, the city is noticing an impact. Some 300 entrepreneurs have so far applied for a place in the incubator, which is currently at capacity with 42 startups. It has also helped to create new jobs in the city, especially amongst young people, with 130 people already working in the building itself. The knock-on effect in the local area is starting to show, too, with an increasing level of economic activity taking place in the surroundings.

For more information on Startup Lisboa, visit the website.



Startup Lisboa: www.startuplisboa.com

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

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European Forum for Urban Security conference Security, democracy and cities	Paris, France	12-14 December 2012 bit.ly/Ri5pik
Urban futures conference Understanding, planning and creating cities of tomorrow	Paris, France	16-18 January 2013 bit.ly/RH9oTO
8th forum: World Alliance of Cities against Poverty Smart, safe and sustainable cities	Dublin, Ireland	20-21 February 2013 bit.ly/QHDA1n
Sustainable mobility on a tight budget Unlock growth opportunities for your city!	Nantes, France	10-12 March 2013 bit.ly/RIgi1x

More events at: www.eurocities.eu

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