

EDITORIAL

Global Problem, Local Solutions



EUROCITIES 2009, our annual conference, will be hosted this month by the City of Stockholm. It is entirely fitting both that we meet there during

the Swedish Presidency of the EU and that for the conference theme we are bringing together our policy priorities into an inspiring focus on 'green recovery'.

The climate challenge is global but many of the solutions are local: we need to change how we use energy and natural resources in our cities, and how we live, work and travel. The 'deep dive' visits to city projects that our hosts have arranged for conference delegates promise real insights into the practical solutions that have already earned Stockholm the accolade of Europe's first Green Capital.

Ahead of the COP15 climate summit in Copenhagen, EUROCITIES 2009 gives us a superb opportunity to debate, to learn, to influence and to begin to achieve the changes we need. Following long and intensive lobbying with fellow local government associations, this month we won formal recognition from the EU Council of the key role of local authorities in climate mitigation and adaptation.

With the global climate summit facing major negotiating obstacles, we cannot be confident that we will succeed in achieving the same acknowledgement in the Copenhagen agreement. But this new EU position gives cities a strong case for the powers and resources to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint. We need for example comprehensively to improve the energy efficiency of the built environment and cut greenhouse gas emissions from urban transport.

It is only by making our cities, in Europe and across the world, genuinely sustainable that we will save this increasingly fragile planet.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Integrated Local Development: key to tackling EU-wide challenges



On 3 November, EUROCITIES held a seminar exploring the potential for the EU to support 'Integrated Local Development' (ILD) in the next funding period after 2013. Over 60 representatives from European cities, from the European Commission and the European Parliament and external experts shared their views.

[see p. 2](#)

EUROCITIES launches 'Green Digital Charter'



EUROCITIES' new 'Green Digital Charter' will be launched on 27 November during the network's annual conference in Stockholm. The Charter commits signatory cities to work towards maximising the potential of ICT in reducing emissions.

[see p. 7](#)

Be the next European Green Capital!



The European Commission has launched a call for applications for both the 2012 and the 2013 European Green Capital Award. The award aims to recognise the local environmental efforts of cities with 200,000 or more inhabitants and which are located in any of the EU Member States, candidate countries and European Economic Areas.

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Key developments



Cities' role in climate challenge gets EU Council recognition

EU Heads of State and Government have officially recognised "the role which local authorities will play in implementing mitigation and adaptation actions and call for recognition of that role in the Copenhagen agreement". The European Council offered the endorsement at its meeting of 29-30 October on the Environment Council's conclusions of 21 October.

This means the EU's political mandate for COP15 will now include a reference to local authorities' role in the climate challenge. Co-chairs of EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Climate Change and Energy, Ronan Dantec, Vice-President of Nantes Metropole, and Klaus Bondam, Mayor for Environment in Copenhagen, will together advocate for the interests of local

authorities during the official COP15 negotiations. They spoke positively of the Council's results:

"Until now, local authorities were not officially seen as a strong partner in the fight against climate change. We are satisfied that Members States have reached a political agreement which recognises that cities can make a difference. Global challenges require local actions; we are ready to show how." ■



Eva Baños de Guisasola, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer – Environment: eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Integrated Local Development: key to tackling EU-wide challenges

On 3 November, EUROCIITIES held a seminar exploring the potential for the EU to support 'Integrated Local Development' (ILD) in the next funding period after 2013. Over 60 representatives from European cities, from the European Commission and the European Parliament and external experts shared their views.

Integrated local development involves strategies and measures that tackle physical and social, economic and environmental issues together. Speakers including Dirk Ahner, Commission Director General for Regional Development, Thomas Bender, Commission Director for the European Social Fund (ESF) and MEP Jan Olbrycht saw it as the most effective

way of addressing strategic EU-wide challenges.

Other contributors demonstrated the real-world application of ILD with city examples. Malmo highlighted the way in which different EU funds (ESF and the European Regional Development Fund-ERDF) can be integrated at the local level to improve results. Lille Metropole discussed the opportunities and challenges of inter-local authority cooperation, whilst Budapest explained the Hungarian requirement for integrated city plans as a prerequisite for EU support.

In a discussion on the place of integrated local development in the future EU budget, attention focused on

the recently leaked draft Commission Communication on the future of the EU Budget and its implications for Cohesion Policy in particular. Participants raised concerns over changes that would limit financial support to the poorest regions.

"Given the shared nature of the challenges, and the potential for territories to address them in a coordinated yet distinctive way, EUROCIITIES believes that an approach supporting integrated local development covering the whole EU is essential," stressed EUROCIITIES Secretary General, Paul Bevan.

Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer – Economic Development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Speakers confirmed for final URBAN MATRIX event

Stockholm | 25 November 2009



Taking into account the latest developments of the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities and Urban Audit, URBAN MATRIX will use this as the focus for its final event on future priorities of 'sustainable cities'.

Speakers that have confirmed their attendance at the event, to date, include:

- Eduardo Carqueijeiro, European Commission DG Research on future funding opportunities for cities in

the field of research and practice on sustainable urban development

- Corinne Hermant European Commission DG Regio presenting the Commission's work on indicators on quality of life and sustainability in European cities
- Ola Göranson, Swedish Ministry of Environment and Olov Schultz, the Swedish National Board of Housing Building and Planning, who will manage a discussion on the latest developments of

the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities.

This event will gather URBAN MATRIX partners, EUROCIITIES members and other European and national stakeholders to discuss the future of urban sustainability. It will also be the opportunity to present the URBAN MATRIX Recommendations to the European Commission 'Shaping future EU research funding for Sustainable Urban Development', showcased by various examples from URBAN MATRIX cities and academic partners. Don't miss this last ever URBAN MATRIX workshop!

Programme and registration: www.urban-matrix.net
Jorgina Cuixart, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Environment: jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu

Key developments



Local and regional associations join forces against 'renationalisation' of cohesion

In a joint letter addressing all Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), EUROCITIES and six other networks representing Europe's local and regional authorities, have stated their concerns about the draft Communication, 'Reforming the budget, changing Europe', prepared recently by the European Commission.

The draft communication, say the local and regional associations, sets out a series of proposals which, if implemented, would challenge sustainable recovery and development in Europe. Those proposals do not seem to reflect the goal of territorial cohesion, as introduced in the Lisbon Treaty.

The seven associations support the priority areas identified for the future European budget: sustainable growth and jobs, energy and climate, and the EU as a global player. The networks believe however that the draft document doesn't sufficiently address the objectives of social inclusion and social cohesion in its proposals.

The proposals for implementing these priorities within EU policies raise further concerns. The draft implies a reorganisation of EU regional policy, focusing more on the poorest Member States, and suggests a trend towards renationalisation and sectoral reorganisation of EU policies. According to the associations, 'this would disregard the principle of territorial cohesion and ignore the demonstrable potential of integrated approaches at the territorial level.'

The letter proposes questions to all relevant Commissioners for the next debates regarding their vision and actions for implementing the principles of territorial cohesion and sub-national subsidiarity introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. Answering these questions, the future Commissioners will demonstrate whether they wish to bring the European project closer to citizens through reinforced cooperation with regional and local authorities and with the European Parliament ■

Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Economic Development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Senator John Kerry responds to Stockholm Appeal



Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, sponsor of the Senate bill to reduce CO2

emissions by 80% by 2050 and leader of a delegation to the COP15 talks, will respond to the Stockholm Appeal during the EUROCITIES 2009 conference.

Mr Kerry's response to its political impact will be shown

on screen during the Friday morning plenary of 27 November. Robert Silverman, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US embassy in Stockholm will join Stockholm's Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Energy and Enterprise, Maud Olofsson, in the discussions.

The appeal is a joint initiative of the city of Stockholm, EUROCITIES and the US Conference of Mayors. It states the mayors' desire for an international climate change deal to be reached at the United Nations COP15 in December 2009.

EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm: www.eurocities2009.eu

New Senior Policy Officer at EUROCITIES



Starting 16 November, Silvia Ganzerla (ITA) will replace Simon Guentner as EUROCITIES' Senior Policy Officer for Social Affairs.

Before joining EUROCITIES, Silvia worked as a consultant on a range of areas related to social and employment policies. Previously, she worked for five years as a Social Policy Officer at the UK Embassy in Rome. Silvia's academic background is in urban development and social policy analysis. She speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish. We are delighted to have Silvia on board and wish Simon well in his new pursuits.

Olivier Baeselen, EUROCITIES Finance, HR and Office Manager: olivier.baeselen@eurocities.eu

Strong support from Spanish EU Presidency



The Spanish EU Presidency has expressed its commitment to actively support urban issues during its term in office in the first half of 2010.

Meeting with EUROCITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan (pictured middle) on 16 October, the Spanish Secretary of State for EU affairs, Diego López Garrido (left), expressed an interest for the Presidency

to be represented at the following EUROCITIES' events:

- The joint meeting of EUROCITIES' Economic Development and Environment Forum on "Green economy, green jobs", taking place in Madrid on 10-12 February 2010
- EUROCITIES' Social Affairs Forum meeting on 'Access to social services within the context of social inclusion and the economic crisis', taking place in Murcia in March (date to be confirmed)

As well as supporting EUROCITIES' work on the recession and recovery, Mr

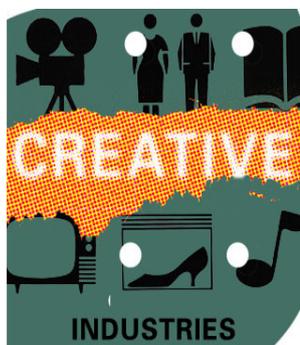
López Garrido also shared his vision for a 'decentralised Europe', where cities would have a more strategic role.

The meeting was also attended by Manuel Perez i Diaz (right), Vice Mayor for Economic Development of Terrassa Metropolitan, which has played an instrumental role in fostering relations between EUROCITIES and the incoming Spanish EU Presidency. As part of these efforts, Terrassa will host a one-day meeting focusing local government in Europe, during a summit in Barcelona on 21-24 February.

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Creative industries in city districts



The latest meeting of the EUROCITIES Creative Industries Working Group held in Warsaw on 22-23 October, focused on the social and economic impacts of creative city districts, using the

Warsaw example as a starting point for discussion.

According to research by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) for local government, the creative and cultural industries are increasingly recognised as not only a defining feature of national identity and a vital component of our quality of life, but also important for the development of local and national economies. The IDeA further identifies creative industries as early adopters of innovation which has potential to 'spill over' to other industries. They are also regarded as having strong 'multiplier' effects, which is suggestive that they contribute positively to local and regional regeneration beyond their direct economic impact.

Also during the meeting, members discussed follow-up to EUROCITIES' recommendations 'Towards a green paper on cultural and creative industries' that were sent to the European Commission at the end of September. It was agreed that the group would organise a political discussion with representatives of the European Commission and European Parliament in Brussels next Spring 2010. The objective of such a meeting would be to raise awareness among the EU institutions' of the needs of cities to develop the best environment possible for small cultural and creative businesses to flourish ■

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

EU opens historical archives to public

A recently launched online 'EU Bookshop' now offers the public a single access point to publications from the European Union institutions, agencies and other bodies.

The new library contains 12 million scanned pages from over 110,000 historical publications, which have been published by the European Publications Office since 1952. A further 2 million pages from more recent ones are also included. Visitors to the website can download publications free of charge or order a single copy of any free-of-charge publication.

The EU's Publications Office aims to make the bookshop the common entry point for EU publications. The European

Commission has described the bookshop as 'one of the most ambitious projects of its type in the world', and expressed hope that it will become 'a valuable information source for citizens, journalists, education professionals, students, librarians, publishers and anybody interested in Europe'.

The website is currently available in 22 languages and its content will also be made available on Europeana, the European digital library launched in November 2008.



Visit the EU Bookshop: <http://bookshop.europa.eu/>

Celebrating 25 years of the European Capitals of Culture!

The European Commission is getting ready to mark the 25th anniversary of the European Capital of Culture initiative.

On 23-24 March in Brussels, a ceremony will be held to celebrate the programme, which to date, has successfully showed off Europe's cultural richness and diversity.

Athens was the first European capital of culture, in 1985. Since then, the event has been such a success each year that the title is now highly prized.

The two-day event in March will be an opportunity to reflect on the initiative. It will also allow for an exchange of good practice between capitals as well as technical discussions on certain aspects of the initiative.

A draft agenda of the event will be available from the European Commission's website by the end of 2009.

European Commission – ECOC: <http://ec.europa.eu/culture>
Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Economic Development



Recession and recovery in the cities

Over the past four months, EUROCIITIES' member-led Task Force on Recession and Recovery has overseen work aimed at better understanding the impact of the recession in cities in order to help inform recovery actions. Central to this has been research on cities and the recession, bringing together examples of city responses to the recession, and creating a guide to city-relevant funding streams.

At its final meeting in Brussels on 4 November, the group agreed on the final version of an introduction to city funding for economic recovery that is now available from the EUROCIITIES Brussels Office. The group also discussed the initial findings of our in-depth survey on the recession and recovery. This survey built on research carried out by EUROCIITIES in March this year, and a total of 29 cities from 14 countries responded. Key findings include:

- Prior to the recession, the main industries within many cities were retail, tourism and hospitality, the public sector and traditional manufacturing.
- Unemployment has increased across the majority of cities surveyed since early 2008. All UK cities reported increases in unemployment between January 2008 and June 2009. German

and Polish cities came out better, with all reporting either unemployment decreases or no change in the same period. Highest increases were seen in Spanish cities.

- Half of those providing data forecasted a decrease in overall budget for 2010, leading to questions over which specific policy and service areas may be affected.
- Many reported increases in the amount of citizens and businesses accessing services such as debt and business advice, unemployment benefits, and housing benefits.
- Cities have been highly proactive in responding to the crisis, with around half realigning strategic priorities in light of new challenges, and a similar proportion reallocating funding to priority areas of action.
- Developing new partnerships has been important for cities, including with other local authorities, as well as with the private and voluntary sectors.

EUROCIITIES will carry out a more detailed analysis of this latest research to develop a 'snapshot' of the situations cities face. We'll also build up a compendium of examples of city responses to the recession which our members will be able to tap into ■

For a copy of the EUROCIITIES introduction to city funding for economic recovery, or more information on the network's recession and recovery activities please contact: John Dodd, EUROCIITIES Economic Development Officer (Secondment): john.dodd@eurocities.eu

Evaluation findings: EU cohesion policy 2000-2006

Based on results of the ex post evaluation of cohesion policy management and implementation systems for the period 2000-2006, the European Commission has recognised:

- **A need to promote better governance**, investing in institutional capacity, embedding a 'learning reflex' within administrations and strengthening leadership in the policy field.

- **Cohesion policy suffers from a lack of effective 'policy management'**.

There is a need to better redress the balance between compliance and performance with a stronger focus on delivering the strategic objectives.

- **The quality of the broader public administration** at the national and regional level, play a determining role for any potential improvement.

These findings will inform EUROCIITIES' future position on the place of cities in EU cohesion policy post-2013. Our position will relate to our work on future EU financial perspectives post-2013, on 'Integrated Local Development' (see pg.3), and on the successor to the Lisbon Strategy.

Cohesion policy 2000-06 evaluation: <http://tinyurl.com/CP0006evaluation>
Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

A renewed focus on spatial planning

EUROCIITIES' Working Group (WG), 'City of the Future – Spatial Planning' has agreed that European cities need a renewed focus on spatial planning as a means to supporting longer term viability.

At its meeting on 9 October in Tallinn under the WG's new chairs, Lille Metropole and Oslo, participants agreed to organise future meetings in conjunction with EUROCIITIES' Economic Development Forum. The group also agreed to use structured exchanges of experience and discussions with

external experts to highlight ways of managing conflicts of interest in spatial planning. As shown by Oslo's experience, environmentally-defined goals for densification are often challenged by builders and households who concede to market dynamics for cheaper family housing.

The WG will also look at how new political agendas may change views of polycentricity and densification as universal goals for urban development. Cities' capacity in terms of decision-

making, financing and formal frameworks, vary enormously. Many compromises have to be made in practice; the group will look for new ways to move forward on this front.

The group intends to produce a compendium of experiences and a joint evaluation to contribute to the broader political processes for urban development, both nationally and at EU level. Its next meeting will take place in Madrid on 10 February 2010.

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Thierry Baert: tbaert@lille-metropole-2015.org



Paving the way for smarter cities



The European Commission has once again shown its commitment to increasing energy efficiency within the European

Union by introducing a new Strategic Energy Technology Plan.

Unveiled on 7 October by EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and EU Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik, the so-called 'SET-Plan' offers cities

considerable attention. The Commission has planned to launch a 'Smart Cities' initiative aimed at increasing energy efficiency in 25 to 30 European cities. Essentially, these would be highly insulated cities that glean energy from their waste, the sun and wind, and channel it down to the electric cars, trams and buses.

Over the next 10 years, around €50 billion is expected to be invested in the plan. Other than the Smart Cities project, money will also be invested in a number of industrial initiatives, for example

in wind, solar and bio-energy, carbon capture and storage etc.

With its plan, the Commission aims to increase the development of technologies to help the EU build a low-carbon society. It is expecting additional efforts from Member States and the private sector to succeed in achieving its goals.

EUROCITIES will continue to monitor developments related to the Smart Cities project ■

SET-Plan: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/set_plan/set_plan_en.htm

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Call for applications: European Green Capital 2012 & 2013

The European Commission has launched a call for applications for both the 2012 and the 2013 European Green Capital Award.

The award aims to recognise the local environmental efforts of cities with 200,000 or more inhabitants and which are located in any of the EU Member States, candidate countries and European Economic Areas.

Entries are assessed on 11 environmental criteria: local contribution to curbing climate change; local transport; green urban areas; sustainable land use; nature and biodiversity; quality of local ambient air; noise pollution; waste management; water consumption; waste water treatment; and environmental management.

Around 35 applied for the 2010 and 2011 editions. According to the Commission, Stockholm won the 2010 edition because its public transportation runs on renewable fuels and because the amount of greenhouse gases released by the city's inhabitants is 50% lower than the national average. Hamburg won the 2011 award.

The winning cities for 2012 and 2013 will be announced in early 2010 by a jury composed of representatives of the European Commission and the European Environment Agency together with representatives from key European and international organisations working on environmental issues.

Deadline for applications: 1 February 2010
European Green Capital Award:
www.europeangreencapital.eu

Take part in the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2010!

Europe-wide | 22-26 March 2010

The 4th edition of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW 2010) will take place on 22-26 March 2010 in Brussels and in other major cities across Europe. The Week is set to focus on Europe's cities and their efforts in the fight against climate change.

Under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign (SEEC), an initiative of the European Commission managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation, the

EUSEW is Europe's lead event on energy issues.

Traditionally, there are many events held during or around this week, which have the aim of promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Why not organise an energy event in your city? There are plenty of options for your city to get a spotlight in the Week's agenda by organising conferences, exhibitions, media campaigns, guided tours and so on. Get in touch!

Dion Wierts, EUROCITIES Communications Officer – Climate and Energy: dion.wierts@eurocities.eu

Climate Change - Air Quality - Energy Efficiency Working Group meeting

Frankfurt | 18-19 November 2009

This Working Group's next meeting will focus mainly on aspects of climate change, in particular on the future EU climate change adaptation strategy and related financing mechanisms.

On issues of air quality, the group will hold discussions on the Emissions Ceiling Directive. On energy issues, the future review of the Energy Action Plan will be discussed.

The WG will adopt its work plan for 2010.

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Knowledge Society



Digital technologies are engines of economic growth



Digital industries such as gaming, mobile services, social computing and online media that use digital technologies are central to local economic growth. And, if supported adequately, start-up businesses can benefit greatly from these sectors.

These were some of the key conclusions of the latest EUROCIITIES Knowledge Society Forum meeting on 28-30 October. Held in Lille's prestigious business incubation centre, Euratechnologies, the event brought together participants from about 50 cities and businesses.

A presentation by Barcelona Activa kicked off discussions. This was followed by a practical example from a start-up business supported by Lille Metropole and reflections by Steve Palladino, an expert on 'whiteboard innovation' (e.g. freestyling on a business idea without complicated processes) who joined the meeting via videoconferencing.

Participants discussed local support to businesses and the 'digital industry' with a panel including the city of The Hague, Euratechnologies and Barcelona Activa. Also speaking, Bertrand Wert from the European Commission's Directorate General Enterprise & Industry, outlined the main ideas behind the EU's plan on innovation.

EUROCIITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan offered closing reflections on the potential of ICT in cities:

- City services can be more inclusive and accessible through ICT
- Business development can be facilitated using ICT
- Digital technologies can amplify and support broader social and technological innovation
- ICT supports marketing, eCommerce, being one such example
- Overall the ICT sector itself is perceived as a strong driver to help cities out of the recession. This holds true only for certain parts of the sector however.

All presentations from the event will be made available on the members area of EUROCIITIES' website ■

Jan Franke, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Launching the EUROCIITIES Green Digital Charter

Stockholm | 27 November 2009 at 11.30-12.00

EUROCIITIES is set to launch its Green Digital Charter during the annual conference in Stockholm, taking place on 25-28 November 2009.

Over the last couple of weeks, EUROCIITIES' Working Group ICT & Energy Efficiency, led by Manchester, has been working on the final stages of the document.

The Charter will commit those cities that sign up to it to work towards three main objectives:

- Creating a partnership of cities on ICT & energy efficiency to work together until the end of 2011;
- Deploying five large-scale pilots per city addressing areas where ICT can have the strongest impact on energy efficiency gains, before 2015; and
- Decreasing ICT's direct carbon footprint per city by 30% by 2020.

Following the launch of the Charter, its signatories will develop a detailed work plan for 2010. Next year's actions will

focus on sharing and disseminating best practice examples from cities, identifying funding opportunities, working on synergies between the Charter and the Covenant of Mayors and substantiating data collection and comparison of the carbon footprint of ICT in participating cities.

Interested cities are invited to contact Jan and complete the online questionnaire on ICT & Energy Efficiency, using the password 'ICT4EE'.

Complete the questionnaire: <http://tinyurl.com/greendigitalcharter>
Jan Franke, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: jan.franke@eurocities.eu



Transport policy during the Swedish presidency of the EU

In the field of transport, the main focus for the EU Swedish Presidency has been and continues to be the promotion of sustainable and eco-efficient transport systems in Europe. In this regard, Sweden has prioritised three key areas:

1. The EU Transport Policy after 2010
2. Efficient freight transport logistics
3. New technologies/Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

Work on the EU Transport Policy after 2010 relates mainly to the new White Paper on the European transport policy, which the European Commission is currently preparing. In June 2009, the Commission presented its Communication on the future of European transport policy, which laid out the main challenges for its new ten-year vision for transport policy. Sweden has made clear its intent to push forward work on this dossier during its presidency.

Regarding freight transport and ITS technologies, the Swedish Presidency's approach promotes greater coherence and efficiency in European transport systems. Logistics and new technologies/ITS can provide solutions which lower the burden on the

environment and at the same time contribute to reduced costs for industry and society. The Swedish Presidency also points out the need to speed up the introduction of existing technical solutions. In this context, Sweden's capital, Stockholm, hosted the 16th ITS World Congress on 21 September 2009.

Making road transport safer and more environmentally-friendly by increasing the use of both new and established technologies is also part of the Swedish presidency's strategy to achieve the above-mentioned goals. Among other ways, this can be achieved through better coordination between government agencies, the business sector and research institutions. The recent high-level meeting held under the Swedish Presidency in Gothenburg on 26-27 October was a step in this direction. On the theme, 'Future road transport: safe and clean' the meeting was attended by decision-makers from the European Parliament, the European Commission, EU Member States, industry and relevant stakeholders, including EUROCITIES ■



Swedish EU Presidency - Transport: www.se2009.eu
Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Making Europe's roads safer

Toulouse | 16-18 November 2009

Through its Working Group on Road Safety, EUROCITIES' Mobility Forum has provided input into the Commission's consultation on the 4th European Road Safety Action Programme for the period 2011-2020.

The Commission launched the consultation to engage European citizens and government stakeholders at all levels, as well as the business and professional sectors, in identifying key road safety problems to be addressed by. The consultation is also looking at priority actions which could be taken to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries across the EU.

Road accidents are the leading cause of death and hospital admissions of EU citizens aged 45 or under. With 39,000 road traffic deaths in 2008 and related costs of around 2% of GDP (€180 billion), road safety continues to be a priority area for action in the EU. The aim of this consultation is therefore to get stakeholder views from on how to best tackle the key road safety problems.

EUROCITIES member cities can also respond individually to the European Commission by submitting their recommendations to: TREN-ROAD-SAFETY-ACTION-PROGRAMME@ec.europa.eu

Deadline for contributions: 20 November 2009

European Commission - Transport: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/index_en.htm
Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Social Affairs



Draft Stockholm Programme underlines benefits of well-managed migration

A first draft of the Stockholm Programme for Justice and Home Affairs is now available from the Swedish EU Presidency's official website.

The programme sets out the framework for migration, integration and asylum policy in the EU and makes a strong case for the need for well-managed migration among the EU Member States. According to Tobias Billström, Sweden's Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy, their ambition is to stress that "well-managed migration can be positive for all actors, the Member States and the EU as a whole, as well as for the country of origin and the individual migrant".

In the field of asylum, the draft Stockholm Programme mirrors the Commission proposals to establish a single European asylum

procedure with a uniform refugee and subsidiary status by 2012. More ambitious Commission proposals such as stronger cross-Member State exchanges on refugee integration, the recognition of asylum decisions between Member States and the resettlement of refugees within the EU, were dropped. The Commission's idea to define common standards in Member States for irregular migrants has also not made it through negotiations with Member States.

The Stockholm Programme is currently being debated in the European Parliament and if approved by the Parliament and the Council, will be adopted by the European Council on 10/11 December. The Spanish Presidency will take over in 2010 and define steps for its implementation ■

Draft Stockholm Programme (pdf): <http://tinyurl.com/stockholmdraft>

Commission proposal for eligibility of housing interventions in new Member States under ERDF

Under the revised European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), those entities which invest in housing for marginalised communities in the new EU Member States, may be eligible for financial support in the future. The Commission's proposal makes specific reference to Roma people, which is the largest marginalised group in the EU. A large proportion of the Roma population live in inadequate housing, including shanty towns and temporary camps.

The European Commission has proposed these changes to the Structural Funds rules as a part of the European Recovery Plan. Under current legislation, interventions are limited to the renovation of existing housing in urban areas. The revised rules would apply to both urban and rural areas. They would also

allow public authorities to not only invest in renovating housing, but also to replace inadequate housing with better quality constructions.

New Member States would be allowed to spend up to 3% of their ERDF allocation on housing projects within a dedicated operational programme. Alternatively, they can spend up to 2% of their entire ERDF allocation. The guidelines dictate that interventions have to be embedded within an integrated approach aimed at tackling social exclusion.

The European Parliament will vote on this proposal in its plenary session scheduled for 14 December.

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CONNECTIONS Final Event: 'Social Inclusion at the City level'

Stockholm | 25 November 2009

Connections is a mutual learning project which looks at how the integrated response to tackling multiple deprivation is organised in European cities. Participants of EUROCIITIES' annual conference in Stockholm are invited to attend an event on 25 November from 13.30 – 18.00 at the Clarion Sign Hotel during which the results of the Connection project's recent 18-month study will be presented.

The project reviewed good practice in tackling multiple deprivation in

eight cities: Leeds, Malmo, Rotterdam, Newcastle, Oslo, Vienna, Munich and Budapest. Through local peer reviews, the study focused on issues such as financial inclusion, democratic participation, homelessness and housing exclusion, worklessness, youth unemployment, neighbourhood deprivation and gender equality.

Connections was coordinated by the city of Rotterdam and co-financed by the European Commission's PROGRESS fund.

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World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

Under the title 'Confronting the Crisis Collectively – Working together to end poverty', the 7th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) will take place on 24-26 February 2010 in Rotterdam.

Over 1,500 participants are expected to attend the forum to discuss how the challenges posed by energy, climate change, food and water can be met by cities worldwide.

WACAP 2010:
www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl

Participation & Cooperation



'Sustainable city' criteria takes shape

The future European reference framework for sustainable cities, which EUROCITIES is helping develop, is steadily taking shape.

EUROCITIES and others involved in the work - the European Commission, EU Member States and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, - have most recently agreed on a structure for the framework and will now focus on making it operational by mid-2010.

This new framework intends to set a common practical vision of what a sustainable city should be and how cities can get there. An 'operational toolbox' which translates the goals of the Leipzig Charter for Sustainable Cities into concrete and achievable objectives, will also be integrated into the framework. Other core elements will include:

- **An assessment tool** for cities to quickly assess their sustainability status;
- **Targets and indicators** allowing cities to monitor their own developments according to their specific conditions, characteristics and ambitions; and
- **A knowledge bank** that cities can tap into to find good practice examples, research and reference materials.

Another core aim of the tool is to offer EU cities a reference point and a common language to help them discuss effective ways of achieving sustainability at environmental, social and economic levels. The framework will offer enough flexibility for cities to adapt it to their own specific needs.

An interesting development stemming from this work is that some EU Member

States have created National Support Groups (NSGs) to discuss the process with local authorities at national level. Many Member States already indicated that NSGs will be institutionalised for regular discussions with local authorities and other actors on general issues linked to integrated solutions for urban sustainability.

On next steps, the project will be discussed in the URBACT annual conference and the URBAN MATRIX final conference, both taking place in Stockholm on 25 November.

EU Ministers responsible for urban development are expected to adopt the pilot reference framework in June 2010. It will then be tested by an URBACT working group and other cities that volunteer to test it ■

Reference framework for sustainable cities: www.rfsustainablecities.eu

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Engaging Eastern cities in EUROCITIES

Stockholm | 27 November 2010

As part of our annual conference in Stockholm, EUROCITIES' Executive Committee member Budapest, is organising a meeting to look specifically at the challenges and solutions for increased participation among our member cities that are less represented in EUROCITIES activities.

The bulk of these cities are located in newer EU Member States as well as in the European Neighbourhood Policy region, which includes Ukraine and Georgia.

Feedback from members shows that the economic downturn has had varying degrees

of impact at city level, and that eastern regions have been particularly affected. This has made it more difficult for concerned cities to actively participate in the network's meetings. And, since this type of participation helps cities find solutions for the challenges they are facing, we don't want members to miss out on these opportunities.

The meeting in Stockholm will look at ways of tackling this dilemma and show the need for member cities to actively engage with the network.

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Integrated Urban Regeneration among Spanish EU Presidency's top priorities

Spain will hold the rotating EU Presidency for the first half of next year, beginning January 2010. And, according to the Spanish government, Integrated Urban Regeneration (IUR), will be among its top priorities.



The Spanish EU Presidency will consider IUR in three dimensions:

- **Environmental:** IUR's role in the fight against climate change, looking at energy efficiency issues in the built environment and transport, as well as its role in preventing urban sprawl.
- **Economical:** IUR as a source of green jobs; directly investing in deprived urban areas.
- **Social:** by connecting physical urban regeneration with comprehensive social programmes.

There will be a strong emphasis on the way these dimensions overlap and the need for integrated solutions, considering citizens' participation in the process.

A high-level conference on IUR is already scheduled for 26-27 April 2010 in Madrid.

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Projects



EUROCITIES-NLAO shares mid-term results with Commission and stakeholders

'Social services as a tool for active inclusion – informing EU policy development from a local perspective' was the theme of the mid-term workshop held by the EUROCITIES-Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) in Stockholm on 14 October.

Funded by the European Commission, the EUROCITIES-NLAO project feeds experiences in social service provision on-the-ground into the development of the EU's Active Inclusion Strategy, which in turn aims to help people return to the labour market and participate in society.

During the event, the initial outputs of the EUROCITIES-NLAO project were presented and discussed among representatives of several European umbrella organisations of social service providers and users as well as representatives from the Commission.

Officials from the five LAOs established in Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Stockholm presented their analyses of social and supported housing policies carried out on their respective cities, followed by a presentation of first results of the comparative analysis. Politicians from

Stockholm and Bologna highlighted recent developments and challenges for social service provision in their respective cities and gave an account of what implementing the principles of active inclusion means in reality at the local level.

EUROCITIES' dialogue with stakeholders concerned with the project will continue over the coming months to look at further research on housing policies and employment and training services. The project's first public reports will be available by the end of 2009 ■

EUROCITIES-NLAO: www.eurocities-nlao.eu | Daniela Amadio, EUROCITIES Project Administrator – Social Inclusion daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu

Apply now for workplace travel award!



The Pan-European Workplace Travel Award (PEWTA) recognises efforts aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions in urban areas through the implementation of workplace mobility plans. More specifically, it offers applicants a chance to be rewarded for their efforts in achieving a shift away from single occupancy car use and to be recognised across Europe.

The PEWTA is awarded in three categories: public authorities; employers; and networks.

The prize includes an expenses paid trip to a city of choice to learn from a pioneer public authority, organisation or network in workplace mobility plans, plus a cash prize of €1000 to further develop mobility plan measures. The official award ceremony will be organised alongside the European Conference on Mobility Management, ECOMM, which will take place in Graz on 5-7 May in 2010.

Deadline for applications: 25 January 2010

PEWTA: www.epomm.org/index.phtml?id=1593
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CIVITAS Forum 2009 generates discussion on the future of urban mobility

The CIVITAS Forum conference was judged a huge success by the 400-plus participants, which included 34 local politicians, who gathered in Krakow for the three-day event in October.

An initiative of the European Commission, CIVITAS aims to promote more sustainable and cleaner urban transport. This year's event gathered city representatives from across Europe to explore the future of urban mobility and the way forward for CIVITAS. As a key point, speakers and participants agreed that there is one-size-fits-all or top-down solutions that can resolve the diverse

mobility problems experienced in every city.

In line with the European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility, the conference also highlighted the benefits of an integrated approach to urban mobility which should focus on a package of measures rather than individual interventions. The conference provided ample opportunity for participants to learn about and discuss this topic as well as related issues such as impact evaluation, sustainable urban mobility plans and behavioural change.

This prize ceremony for the 2009 CIVITAS Awards was also held during the conference. The awards recognise cities that have implemented outstanding policies or activities to promote clean urban transport. This year's winners included two EUROCITIES members, Ghent and Nantes Metropole, and the London Borough of Sutton.

Finally, the new Chair of the CIVITAS Political Advisory Committee, Roman Jakic (City Councillor of Ljubljana) announced that the city of Malmo is to host the 2010 CIVITAS Forum Conference.

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Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
19-20 November 2009 London, UK	International Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal conference Conference promoting good practice in neighbourhood renewal	www.creatingexcellence.org.uk
25-28 November 2009 Stockholm, Sweden	EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm Urban challenges, sustainable solutions	www.eurocities2009.eu
26-27 November 2009 Paris, France	Road Map Towards a Flood Resilient Urban Environment International Conference on Urban Flood Management, organised by COST C22 and UNESCO-IHP	www.urbanflood.org
26-28 November 2009 Amsterdam, The Netherlands	The New Urban Question Urbanism beyond Neo-liberalism	http://newurbanquestion.ifou.org
3-4 December 2009 Rotterdam, The Netherlands	Rotterdam Global Urban Summit 2009 Conference on high-quality urban area development and sustainability	www.urbansummit.rotterdam.nl
7-18 December 2009 Copenhagen, Denmark	Conference of the Parties – COP15 United Nations Climate Change conference	http://en.cop15.dk
10-11 December 2009 Kiruna, Sweden	Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development How to make use of territorial potential	www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news
10 December 2009 London, UK	Shared Spaces Conference: new directions in street design Organised by Local Transport Today and Resource for Urban Design Information	www.transportxtra.com/events_and_services
13-15 December 2009 Istanbul, Turkey	Ecocity World Summit 2009 Theme is Global Environmental Balances	www.ecocity2009.com
14 December 2009 Malmo, Sweden	EUKN 2009 Conference Young, Urban, Migrant – From Challenge to Chance	www.eukn.org

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