

## EDITORIAL

### The long haul pays off



European transport policy has been pre-occupied with obviously strategic issues such as international networks and standards. But EUROCITIES has been

working hard to demonstrate the relevance of urban transport systems to the European agenda.

Europe's strategic challenges – recovery, climate, energy and inclusion – will be won or lost in cities, and how we move around in, to and from cities is a key factor. Cities will only lead Europe out of recession if our transport systems are efficient at moving people and goods. Europe will only meet carbon targets with greener transport systems. Mobility is also vital to social and economic inclusion.

Furthermore no amount of investment in trans-European networks will reap the return it deserves unless those strategic connections link smoothly and effectively to the ultimate origin and destination for the majority of people and products: namely, cities.

Getting this far has been a long term effort. In January 2007 we provided input to the Commission's thinking ahead of its green paper on urban mobility. We consulted our members, held technical events and brought mayors face to face with the then Transport Commissioner, Jacques Barrot. Throughout 2008 we worked with the Parliament, Commission officials, national governments and stakeholders to build an alliance in support of an urban dimension for EU transport policy. The Commission undertook to publish an Action Plan, which we expect finally to emerge in late September.

This Action Plan on Urban Mobility will be a significant step forward, providing the basis for a greater emphasis in EU policies and funding programmes on supporting investment and innovation in cities' transport systems. The push is by no means over, but thanks to nearly three years of work, serious tangible benefits are within reach.

Paul Bevan  
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Integrated Local Development for people and place



In light of the ongoing debate on the future of the EU Budget, and within that the future of the Structural Funds, EUROCITIES is developing recommendations for an EU instrument on integrated local development. As part of this work, we're inviting our members to join us for a seminar at EUROCITIES' Brussels office on 3 November.

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### European Mobility Week 2009 kicks off!



Hundreds of cities across Europe are this week organising a series of events aimed at encouraging people to rethink their choice of transport. The activities form part of the eighth edition of the European Mobility Week, a Europe-wide campaign held on 16-22 September each year to promote long-term sustainable urban mobility and enhance the health and quality of life of European citizens.

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### Mobility in cities is a key challenge for Europe



Improving mobility within, to and from our cities is of major importance both for Europe's competitiveness and for Europeans' quality of life. This point was central to the comments made by EUROCITIES' keynote speakers at the Green Streets conference held at the Committee of Regions in Brussels on 7-8 September.

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# Key developments



## Reaching out to new MEPs

The European Parliament resumed its work as of the beginning of September. EUROCITIES has already approached most Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with an invitation for closer cooperation with European major cities during the Parliament's coming five-year term.

Following the June EP elections, only around half the previous MEPs returned to Brussels. EUROCITIES decided to launch a manifesto (shown here) to introduce itself to new MEPs, as well as reconnect with the returning ones. This is also an opportunity to spell out EUROCITIES' priorities for the coming years and invite MEPs to work on those issues alongside European cities.

Among these key issues are:

- the future EU budget;
- cohesion policy;

as well as the delivery on the EU's main strategies including:

- economic recovery;
- high-quality public services; and
- climate change.

Now that the European Parliament is in full swing, EUROCITIES will be following all relevant committees, and in particular the EP Committee for Regional Development, which is now chaired by Danuta Hübner, until recently the European Commissioner for Regional Development.

EUROCITIES would welcome the re-establishment of an Intergroup on urban issues, an initiative currently being driven by MEP Jan Olbrycht and which counts on the support of several MEPs, including Ms Hübner ■



Bernardo Rodrigues, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

## Deadlines and attendance for EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm



Plans for the EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm conference on 25-28 November are taking shape. Here are a few reminders of upcoming deadlines to take note of:

- **1 October:** make sure your speednetworking entries have been submitted by this date. The event's speedworking session will provide you the ideal opportunity to share and showcase your city's projects with your peers.
- **1 October:** benefit from the special hotel prices still available by booking your accommodation with the conference organisers by this date.
- **Mayors attending:** The number of Mayors who have confirmed their attendance has more than tripled since June.

Zozias van Aartsen from The Hague, President of EUROCITIES, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz from Warsaw, Burkhard Jung from Leipzig, Antonio Costa from Lisbon, Ahmed Aboutaleb from Rotterdam, Erling Lae from Oslo, Jussi Pajunen from Helsinki, Hanna Birna Kristjansdottir from Reykjavik, Nils Usakovs from Riga, Pere Navarro Morera from Terrassa, Aira Marketta Kokkonen from Espoo, Timo Nieminen from Tampere, Mykhailo Dobkin from Kharkiv, Juan Alberto Belloch from Zaragoza, and Roman Onderka from Brno have now confirmed. London, Berlin, Vienna, Sarajevo, Murcia, Liverpool, Bergen, Gothenburg, Utrecht, Copenhagen, Milan and Nottingham will send a Deputy Mayor.

EUROCITIES' sister organisation in the US, The United States Conference of Mayors, will be represented by its Vice President, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz from Burnsville, Minnesota.

EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm: [www.eurocities2009.eu](http://www.eurocities2009.eu)

## European Mobility Week 2009 kicks off!



This week, the 8th edition of the European Mobility Week (EMW) kicks off in hundreds of towns and cities across Europe.

Taking place every year on 16-22 September, the EMW aims to promote long-term sustainable urban mobility and enhance the health and quality of life of European citizens. The 2009 theme, 'Improving City Climates', highlights the key role that local authorities can play in tackling climate change at local level, particularly

by fostering a radical behavioural change among citizens by encouraging a move from unsustainable private car use towards more sustainable transport modes such as cycling and walking.

Around 1,500 local authorities participated in the campaign this year by offering their citizens a variety of innovative activities and launching permanent transport measures aimed at promoting sustainable urban transport. EMW 2009 promises to contribute significantly towards making sustainable mobility a reality in European cities.

EMW 2009: [www.mobilityweek.eu](http://www.mobilityweek.eu)

Peter Staelens, EUROCITIES Project Officer - Mobility: [peter.staelens@eurocities.eu](mailto:peter.staelens@eurocities.eu)

# Key developments



## Strengthening EUROCIITIES' role in the European Platform on Mobility Management

As part of EPOMM-PLUS - a new project on mobility management, EUROCIITIES will act as the lead partner providing input and expertise on relevant EU policy and legislation and coordinating a comparative analysis of mobility management policies across the 27 EU Member States.

EPOMM-PLUS is closely linked to the European Platform on Mobility Management (EPOMM), the international partnership which promotes and supports information exchanges on mobility management across Europe. EPOMM-PLUS specifically seeks to support the development of mobility management in European countries, to exchange and transfer good practices and to integrate

mobility management into wider policies and initiatives.

EUROCIITIES' main tasks in EPOMM-PLUS will be to:

- provide the project partners with an overview of mobility management in each of the EU 27 countries;
- propose 'Transfer Roadmaps' for a better and efficient one-to-one exchange between partner countries; and
- organise advocacy work aimed at promoting mobility management towards the European institutions.

EPOMM-PLUS involves in total 22 partners from 20 countries. The current EPOMM members Austria, France, the Land of Hessen/Germany, the Netherlands,

Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK hope to expand membership to new countries by establishing EPOMM has the authority and primary mobility management networking instrument in Europe.

Over the next three years the partners will meet regularly to exchange and network at regular events organised such as the EMMNET meeting, the first of which took place in Krakow, Poland, on 15-16 September 2009; many of these events will also be open to interested EUROCIITIES members who will have the opportunity to join various training and exchange events in their own countries ■

EPOMM: [www.epomm.org](http://www.epomm.org)

Melanie Leroy, EUROCIITIES Project Officer - Mobility Management: [melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu](mailto:melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu)

## EUROCIITIES welcomes new staff

**Daniela Galante (ITA)**

Function: Programme Officer - Finance & Administration

Working languages: IT, EN, DE

Before joining EUROCIITIES, Daniela worked with the Italian Infrastructure Ministry. Daniela has a masters degree in international marketing and foreign trade and replaces Corinna Valente.



**Caroline Greene (IRL)**

Function: Communications Officer - Inclusive Cities

Working languages: EN, FR, IT

Caroline will be responsible for the communications activities carried out under our Inclusive Cities programme. Caroline previously worked as a consultant for the European Parliament.



**Soraya Zanardo (FRA)**

Function: Assistant to the Policy Director

Working languages: EN, FR, DE, ES

Soraya's experience to date has focused on the political representation of local administrations at EU level. Soraya replaces Melanie Leroy, who is now our Project Officer for Mobility Management.



Olivier Baeselen, EUROCIITIES Finance, HR and Office Manager: [olivier.baeselen@eurocities.eu](mailto:olivier.baeselen@eurocities.eu)

## Integrated Local Development: towards an EU programme for people and place

In light of the ongoing debate on the future of the EU Budget, and within that the future of the Structural Funds, EUROCIITIES is developing recommendations for an EU instrument on integrated local development. As part of this work, we're inviting our members to join us for a seminar at EUROCIITIES' Brussels office on 3 November.

Our guiding principle is 'a policy for people and place': integrated local development, which we believe, is the most effective and efficient way to address Europe's strategic challenges, such

as climate change, demographic change and the economic downturn.

With your input, this seminar will look at possible preconditions, tools and funding frameworks that would support such a process. Invited speakers will present arrangements and programmes that promote physical and environmental improvement as well as coordinated social and economic development.

The seminar is another step in a comprehensive consultation process which we've carried out to develop various

options with a view to establishing what an appropriate instrument to support integrated local development could look like. At the seminar these ideas will be presented and discussed with key players in the current debate so that we can further refine our position and feed into upcoming policy development processes.

The event is financially supported by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for a limited number of participants.

Simon Guentner, EUROCIITIES Senior Policy Officer - Social Affairs: [simon.guentner@eurocities.eu](mailto:simon.guentner@eurocities.eu),  
Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

# Culture



## Culture as a catalyst for economic and social innovation for cities

A large-scale study carried out for the European Commission on 'The impacts of culture on creativity' reveals the contribution of creativity that stems from art and cultural production activities (collectively referred to as 'culture-based creativity') to innovation.

Using concrete examples from different sectors and parts of Europe, the study illustrates synergies and positive spill-over effects produced by culture through the creativity it generates in a range of areas

including in the modernisation of public services and city branding.

The study calls for a European creativity policy that would, among others things, encourage imagination and talents at schools, in life, in firms and institutions, support the development of a creative economy, promote social innovation through culture and brand Europe as the place to create in the world. It also proposes to establish a 'creativity index' that would assess the creative environment in the EU and therefore

enable the development of a creative ecology through art and culture.

The study suggests that European programmes and funds should increase support to creative entrepreneurs, enterprises and research centres, territories using culture as a tool for development, social innovation through culture and cultural cooperation across territories. ■

The impacts of culture on creativity: <http://tinyurl.com/qepjtu>

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## Culture in local and regional development: evidence from European Structural Funds

The European Commission has launched a study on the contribution of culture to local and regional development as part of European cohesion policy. The importance of the study lies in its potential to impact the next programming period for the Structural Funds.

If your city is or has been involved in cultural projects supported by the European Structural Funds you can participate in the study by:

- Taking part in a seminar in Brussels this coming November which is being held to examine evidence from projects funded during the years 2000-06 and in the current programming period. The seminar will analyse the nature and extent of impacts, identify trends and highlight good practice and innovative approaches.
- Provide information on projects you think should be highlighted, either because of their success, their innovative approach or their application to particular circumstances.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## See you there!

EUROCITIES Culture Forum | Zaragoza | 4-7 November 2009



If you are interested in actively taking part in one or both of the two main sessions at the next EUROCITIES Culture Forum meeting in Zaragoza on 4-7 November, then get in touch as soon as possible. The sessions will engage participants in discussion on the following topics:

- the mobility of artists, cultural projects and culture professionals; and
- street art and architecture: how culture redesigns the city.

The Zaragoza event will also feature:

- Three EUROCITIES Culture Forum Working Groups meetings: Access to culture; Young people and culture; and Resources for culture.

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture: [julie.herve@eurocities.eu](mailto:julie.herve@eurocities.eu)

## Share your feedback on impact of EUROCITIES' Culture Forum

We'd like to hear your views and expectations on the priorities and working operations of EUROCITIES' Culture Forum.

Please take 10 minutes to fill in our short online survey. Your feedback will help us to shape an even more interactive and dynamic forum

Deadline for your input: **30 September 2009**



Survey: <http://tinyurl.com/pgmlk7>

# Economic Development



## Swedish EU Presidency: addressing employment in a difficult climate

According to Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, the EU needs to pursue an ambitious policy to address climate change. These views were shared with political leaders, business and trade union representatives attending the conference on climate and jobs held by the Swedish Presidency of the EU on 9 September in Brussels.

Opening the event, Mr Reinfeldt highlighted the difficult context in which the current EU Presidency of the EU has to act - taking into account the worst financial and economic crisis we've faced since the 1930s which has turned into an employment crisis, plus new reports about climate change.

The Swedish Presidency has prioritised the need to respond to the economic and employment crisis, and to have a new international climate agreement in place in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Mr Reinfeldt also pointed to opportunities the crisis presents for businesses which can benefit from moving towards a more

energy-efficient and low-carbon economy. Addressing the economic downturn and climate change can lead to sustainable development, Mr Reinfeldt noted.

He further explained that 'green jobs' require more financial support in the short-term through investments in innovative technologies, for example offshore wind, solar thermal electricity and second-generation biofuels. However, these new jobs will help maintain the EU's current competitive position in the global market and increase employment and GDP in the mid-term.

Together with EUROCIITIES' Environment Forum, the Economic Development Forum is keen to review the potential of green jobs and how cities can support the development of these jobs in 2010 ■

Swedish EU Presidency: [www.se2009.eu](http://www.se2009.eu) ;  
Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development:  
[marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

## Cities at OPEN DAYS 2009

Brussels | 5-8 October 2009

The seventh Open Days of Cities and Regions will take place on 5-8 October 2009 in Brussels. As always, this week is set to facilitate exchange, debate and networking among EU decision-makers in regional and local development from the public, private and financial sector.

The following sessions target the specific interests of cities:

- Multi-level governance in the EU: New prospects for a EU with its regions and cities
- Local development benefits for cities from staging global events
- The cultural, social and educational impacts of 'European Capital of Culture' project
- Unite and innovate! European clusters for recovery
- Innovation and the urban challenges of today
- Secondary cities and economic growth
- Covenant of Mayors – How do cities prepare their 'Sustainable Energy Action Plan' and 'Inventory of Emissions'?
- Financing energy efficiency amidst a global financial crisis: Can cities do it?



- Smart Cities: Integrated ICT solutions for the low carbon city of the future
- Urban-EU partnership: How to create sustainable cities
- City Diplomacy: A tool for building measures of confidence
- Empowering cities: Local responsibilities in Cohesion Policy programmes?
- Ex-post evaluation 2000-06: How can URBAN make a difference?

At the Commission's invitation, EUROCIITIES will speak at the workshop on 'Empowering cities: Local responsibilities in Cohesion Policy programmes?'. This workshop will look at the specific role of cities and local authorities in Cohesion Policy programmes such as urban regional co-operation, sub-delegation of responsibilities, and other innovative ways of making the best use of cities' potential and capacities.

OPEN DAYS 2009: [www.opendays.europa.eu](http://www.opendays.europa.eu)  
Marie Ranty, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: [marie.ranty@eurocities.eu](mailto:marie.ranty@eurocities.eu)

## Beyond GDP to measure development

The European Commission is exploring ways to focus more on the quality rather than quantity of economic growth so as to more effectively measure economic disparities and give more weight to the social and environmental aspects of wellbeing.

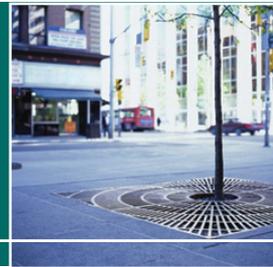
On 20 August 2009, the Commission published a communication, 'GDP and beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world', which outlines an EU roadmap with the following five key actions to be undertaken now and in the mid-term:

- Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators
- Near real-time information for decision-making
- More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities
- Developing a European Sustainable Development Scoreboard
  - Extending National Accounts to environmental and social issues

This Communication was presented and discussed with key stakeholders at a lunch event on 8 September in Brussels.

Beyond GDP: [www.beyond-gdp.eu](http://www.beyond-gdp.eu)

# Environment



## EUROCITIES' contribution to the revision of the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency

**E**UROCITIES has welcomed the recent consultation on the evaluation and revision on the 2006 Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (APEE), which is due out at the end of 2009.

With the imminent revisions of both the Sustainable Development Strategy and the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy, this consultation comes at a time where much may be achieved on matters of

the environment and the economy. It is also timely taking into account the effects of the financial crisis and economic restructuring which have hit cities hard, as well as the EU's 20-20-20 targets and the Climate Roadmap at the end of 2009.

The plan comprises six priority areas: energy performance; energy transformation; transport; financing and pricing; energy behaviour; and

international partnerships. Responding to the consultation, EUROCITIES highlighted areas where more should be done to help cities address these issues. In addition, we noted also the limited recognition given to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and businesses as well as Information and Communication Technology which are areas that have a big impact on energy efficiency at city level ■

## Sustainable Energy Action Plan template now available



The European Commission Joint Research Centre together with the Covenant of Mayors Office have jointly developed a template to help cities develop and implement their Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). In particular, the template helps to structure cities' actions and measures, and to follow up on implementation plans.

The template is available online with accompanying instructions on how to complete the form. From September onwards the template will work as an internet based tool, and

cities can fill in the template directly online.

The template is a valuable tool for also collecting key information from Action Plans that can be used to promote exchange of experience. The highlights of these Actions Plans will be published on the Covenant of Mayors website.

SEAP Template: <http://tiny.cc/1f2U3>  
Covenant of Mayors: [www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)  
Dion Wierds, Communications Officer - Climate Change & Energy: [dion.wierds@eurocities.eu](mailto:dion.wierds@eurocities.eu)

## The Waste Exchange

An innovative collaboration between EUROCITIES' Working Group (WG) on Clean Cities and our Working Group on Waste has resulted in comprehensive piece of research into waste collection operations throughout Europe.

The groups examined together a range of waste issues, including bin types, collection methods and communications strategies. Over 40 cities from 17 European countries took part in the research.

Results of the groups' work have been published with several illustrative case studies.

The initiative was undertaken with the aim of promoting a good quality of life for people living in cities,



by sharing knowledge and developing expertise within the EUROCITIES network.

Waste exchange study: <http://tinyurl.com/o6yq3j>  
Pentti Rantala, Chair of WG Waste, City of Tampere: [pentti.rantala@pirkanmaan-jatehuolto.fi](mailto:pentti.rantala@pirkanmaan-jatehuolto.fi)  
Jennifer Stephens, Chair of WG Clean Cities, Belfast City Council: [StephensJ@BelfastCity.gov.uk](mailto:StephensJ@BelfastCity.gov.uk)

## Transition management for sustainable urban development

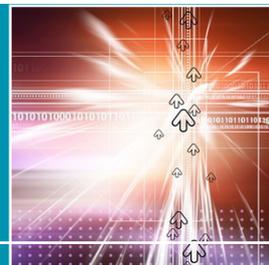
Rotterdam | 4-6 October 2009

The next EUROCITIES Environment Forum in Rotterdam on 4-6 October 2009 will look at 'Cities' transformation and transition management for a more sustainable urban development'. In parallel, politicians are invited to gather in Rotterdam to debate on the current and future challenges that cities are facing with the private sector, such as how to involve it in sustainable

urban development in a permanent and more effective way. development of performance indicators for urban green areas. Members also participated in several site visits to see how Sheffield City Council manages its urban green areas and parks.

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Environment, [eva.banos@eurocities.eu](mailto:eva.banos@eurocities.eu)

# Knowledge Society



## City support for knowledge intensive SMEs

Despite Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) being perceived as a crisis-proof growth area, general outlooks for the sector have weakened across the European economy. At the same time, many cities have put in place specific support structures for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). Such structures often look into very high-impact themes within the ICT domain such as new Internet and communication services, software development and creative industries.

The next EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum taking place in Lille, France,

on 28-30 October 2009 will look into different ways and models of how cities support the creation of sustainable and competitive SMEs in their municipality, in particular within the ICT sector.

The event will identify best practice in the design and implementation of local policies as well as offer a platform for exchanging experience. Participants will review the different models of cooperation employed by city governments, research and private sector as well as examples of successful economic transition from traditional industries to new, knowledge-based economies. A discussion on the creation of a local



ecosystem that supports SMEs throughout different phases of their creation will also be held.

Outcomes of the meeting discussion will also feed into work on the economic recovery that EUROCITIES' Economic Development Forum is developing. ■

Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

Event and registration information [www.euratechnologies.com/eurocities](http://www.euratechnologies.com/eurocities)

## European Commission consults on future Information Society strategy

The Commission has launched a public consultation on a future Information Society strategy to further the success of the i2010 strategy which will come to a close next year. Members of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum have created an informal lead group that will draft a position paper to respond to the most pressing issues for cities in this regard.

The consultation asks for input on eight areas:

- ICT for growth and jobs
- ICT for sustainable development
- ICT research and innovation
- Creating a 100% connected society and economy
- Consolidating the online single market
- Promoting access to creativity at all levels

- Strengthening EU's role in international ICT governance
- Making modern and efficient public services available and accessible to all

The consultation will be a major opportunity to provide input to a framework that will, for the next five years, form the basic reference for all initiatives and funding schemes within the areas above.

If you are interested in contributing to EUROCITIES response, please contact Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society: [jan.franke@eurocities.eu](mailto:jan.franke@eurocities.eu)

To submit individual replies to the online questionnaire, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/mohxh7>

The consultation will be open until 9 October 2009.

## Europe's digital competitiveness at stake

Almost half of all Europeans use the internet every day but one third - mainly the elderly and unemployed - have never used the web. This is according to a new European Commission report on Europe's Digital Competitiveness.

The study shows that new technologies are spreading fast across the older EU Member States but deep divisions remain. From 2005 to present day, the biggest increases in regular internet use have been seen in Ireland, the Czech Republic and France while countries like Lithuania and Italy are lagging behind. With 114 million subscribers, the EU is the largest world market for fixed broadband access. Half of European households and more than 80% of European businesses have a fixed broadband connection.

But while broadband is technically available to 90% of EU households only 50% use it in practice, with mainly low-income

families opting out. Low usage rates are also seen among the 65 to 74 age group, economically inactive people and people with low levels of education.

Such social disparities are strongly present in Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Lithuania, Slovenia and Italy. The greatest digital equality is seen in Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg.

The report also puts the progress of the EU ICT strategy i2010 over the last four years in a global perspective. It is becoming apparent that, even in areas where it has global leadership, Europe is at risk of losing its competitive edge when it comes to new, innovative developments. The report calls for a new digital agenda to meet emerging challenges.

Commission report on Digital Competitiveness: <http://tinyurl.com/lyvbz>



## Mobility in cities is a key challenge for Europe

Improving mobility within, to and from our cities is of major importance both for Europe's competitiveness and for Europeans' quality of life. This point was central to the comments made by EUROCIITIES' keynote speakers at the Green Streets conference held at the Committee of Regions in Brussels on 7-8 September.

Addressing around 200 participants at the launch of the event supported by EUROCIITIES, Rudolf Schicker, Executive City Councillor for Urban Development, Traffic, and Transport at the City of Vienna commented:

"While the EU should provide cities with guidance and financial support, local administrations are best placed to implement European Commission policy measures which promote green transport. City governments should be recognised for their capacity to manage key components of the strategic transport system as well as to catalyse EU-wide sustainable mobility and growth".

Three quarters of Europe's population is urban and according to the Commission, that figure will have risen to 84% by 2050. Cities are therefore at the centre of the climate change challenge. According to EUROCIITIES' Secretary General Paul Bevan, also speaking at the event:

"City governments have to strive hard to reach that greener goal, and using energy more efficiently in how we live, work and travel in cities is the key to reducing our carbon footprint".

Gilles Vesco, Vice-president of Grand Lyon - also a EUROCIITIES member - chaired one of the event's sessions dealing with non-motorised transport in the modern city. Mr Vesco, who is responsible for urban mobility and use of public spaces in Lyon, has promoted the 'Velo V' project which organises a service for free bicycle use in Lyon and in other cities across the EU.



In March 2009, EUROCIITIES presented the Commission with its response to the consultation on the Future of Transport and highlighted the need for a stronger urban dimension in the EU transport strategy. In the communication, the Commission has identified urbanisation as one of six issues including ageing, migration and internal mobility, environment, energy and globalisation.

Urbanisation is a defining feature of today's society and therefore requires that mobility within cities be addressed as a strategic policy issue at EU level. EUROCIITIES is hopeful the expected European Commission action plan will provide for this ■

Vanessa Holve, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: [vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu](mailto:vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu)

## Register now for the CIVITAS Forum conference

Krakow | 19-21 October 2009

CIVITAS, the European Commission initiative aimed at promoting cleaner and better transport in cities, is getting ready for its annual event, this year taking place in Krakow on 19-21 October. EUROCIITIES collaborates with the CIVITAS Initiative and the organisation of the Forum 2009 in Krakow through the support action CIVITAS VANGUARD.

The upcoming three-day conference offers an exceptional programme, ensuring plenty of opportunities for direct contact and exchange among participants.

Anne Houtman, Director for Internal Market and Sustainability at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, and Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow, will open the Forum. The plenary session will be followed by a series of technical sessions and roundtables. Technical sessions will showcase the latest experiences of European cities on topics such as clean vehicles, safety and security or school travel plans. The roundtable discussions will explore and develop ideas important to the future evolution of European urban transport and of the CIVITAS Initiative.



Preliminary conference programme and registration details available at: [www.civitas.eu/forum\\_conference\\_2009](http://www.civitas.eu/forum_conference_2009)



## Another milestone reached: EU Social Protection Committee listens to EUROCIITIES.

Chair of EUROCIITIES' Social Affairs Forum and Vice-mayor of Stockholm Ulf Kristersson, together with EUROCIITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan, was invited to address the EU Social Protection Committee (SPC) on 14 September.

Since its establishment in 2000, the SPC has served as a vehicle for cooperative exchange between the European Commission and Member States on modernising and improving social protection systems.

The meeting marked a milestone for EUROCIITIES in that it was the first time that this group of government officials engaged directly in dialogue with concerned stakeholders. The SPC was

specifically interested in EUROCIITIES' expectations for the EU Lisbon Strategy post-2010 as well as our views on how social policy is being coordinated across the EU.

Mr Kristersson and Mr Bevan pressed for clear and measurable indicators for social inclusion, and a more systematic role for cities in the preparation and follow-up of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion developed by each Member State. They also proposed a closer link with the EU Structural Funds to support innovative pilots for social inclusion. By linking up to the SPC's priority themes, such as housing and migrant integration, this would enhance the visibility of the EU's social dimension ■

Simon Guentner, EUROCIITIES Senior Policy Officer - Social Affairs: [simon.guentner@eurocities.eu](mailto:simon.guentner@eurocities.eu)

### How sound are cities' social and health services?

Warsaw | 8-9 October 2009

At its upcoming Autumn meeting in Warsaw, EUROCIITIES' Social Affairs Forum will review the relations between public administrations and their social and health service providers.

Workshops will centre around the commission of services, quality control and management of partnerships and relations in the social and health service field. This meeting comes at a time when many cities are confronted with the need to deliver high quality services with shrinking budgets.

Professor Daniel Hiebert of Malmo University, Sweden, will give the keynote speech and will present the role of civil society organisations in delivering services in British Columbia, Canada. Other key issues to be addressed include healthcare and tackling health inequalities.

Milosz Gos, City of Warsaw: [mgos@um.warszawa.pl](mailto:mgos@um.warszawa.pl)

### EUROCIITIES Working Group meetings coming up!

Employment | Edinburgh | 1-2 October 2009

EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Employment will meet with representatives of Edinburgh City Council and other stakeholders to discover more about the city's approach towards promoting employment and its Economic Resilience Action Plan. There will also be contributions from other cities and a discussion about the WG's 2010 work programme.

Brian Martin, Edinburgh City Council: [brian.martin@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:brian.martin@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Social Inclusion | Ghent | 4 November 2009

EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Social Inclusion will meet to discuss the City of Ghent's local social policy. The meeting is organised as a mini peer review during which city representatives will focus on specific issues such as the coordination of services and cooperation with other stakeholders in delivering public services.

Anna Drozd, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer - Social Inclusion: [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu); Els De Vos, City of Ghent: [els.devos@gent.be](mailto:els.devos@gent.be)

## Cities in need of migration: EUROCIITIES' input to the Stockholm Programme

In its analysis of the European framework on immigration, asylum and integration, EUROCIITIES has highlighted prevailing obstacles which are preventing cities from realising their full potential in promoting integration and making migration work well.

Reacting to the 'Stockholm Programme', the framework being developed, our report illustrates current practices and provides recommendations on how to bolster the crucial role of local authorities in migration and integration. Before it's adopted at the end of this year, EUROCIITIES recommends that the Stockholm Programme should:

- Recognise the central role of local authorities, together with a partnership that corresponds to this role;

- Reduce the implementation gap between European policy making and local implementation;
- Move the governance of migrant integration in Europe beyond current institutional divides;
- Reach out beyond the group of third country nationals;
- Ensure the European political debate recognises the benefits of migration; and
- Encourage EU Member States to strengthen the rights of third country nationals.

From The Hague to Stockholm: EUROCIITIES Analysis: <http://tinyurl.com/nzcv3g>

# Participation & Cooperation



## Commission takes stock of progress on sustainable development

**D**ue to its impact at national, regional and local level, EUROCIITIES is following the European Commission's progress and reporting of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS).

Adopted by the European Council in 2006, the renewed EU SDS is an overarching strategy for all EU policies which sets out how we can meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The SDS deals in an integrated way with economic, environmental and social issues and addresses seven key challenges including:

- Climate change and clean energy
- Sustainable transport

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Conservation and management of natural resources
- Public health
- migration
- Global poverty

At the request of the European Council, the Commission undertook a recent review of progress achieved so far in these seven priority areas; the mainstreaming of policies in other cross-cutting EU strategies; the EU's shift towards a green growth; and other steps taken via the Lisbon Strategy.

The report shows that there is still room for improvement and supports the continuation of the strategy's long-term focus. Recommendations made include a shift to a low carbon economy; an intensification of environmental efforts; and a stronger international dimension in social inclusion.

At the end of this year, the European Council is expected to present guidelines and principles to shape such review which is due out in 2011; EUROCIITIES will assess the potential means of getting involved in this review ■

SDS mid-term review: [http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/welcome/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/welcome/index_en.htm)

## Debating multilevel governance in Europe

With the objective of sharing its recommendations on the White Paper on Multilevel Governance among a wider audience, the Committee of Regions (CoR) is holding a debate on the topic on 22 September 2009 in Brussels.

The event will gather members of CoR and other representatives of local and regional authorities, as well as high level political and institutional representatives including Felipe González, academics and students.

The conference will open with a political discussion on multilevel governance with contributions from the Swedish EU Presidency, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Wise Men (a group of government officials who, during the Truman administration,

crafted institutions and initiatives such as NATO, the World Bank, and the Marshall Plan) on the future of Europe. This will be followed by a roundtable on Europe's political direction in light of the new mandates for both the European Parliament and European Commission. The event will close with a thematic workshop on the challenges of multilevel governance in the EU.

Complementing the CoR's general consultation on the White Paper launched in June 2009, this event will give local and regional authorities, associations and other stakeholders a chance to share their views on the issue of multilevel governance within the EU.



Contact: [governance@cor.europa.eu](mailto:governance@cor.europa.eu) Deadline for input to the consultation: 30 November 2009

## New member 'Kharkov' to host next EUROCIITIES ENP Working Group

Kharkov | 8 October 2009

The next meeting of EUROCIITIES' Working Group on European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Enlargement will take place Kharkov, Ukraine, one of EUROCIITIES' newest members.

The WG meeting will focus on accessing EU funding and participants will in particular be looking at what constitutes a good project proposal as well as on enriching their project development skills to improve their chances for future funding requests.

In addition to the meeting, a technical exchange will be held for all cities who wish to send their experts in local emergency medical care and on post-birth mother-child care.

Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

## EUROCIITIES prepares for Spanish EU Presidency

Jozias van Aarsten, President of EUROCIITIES and Mayor of The Hague, together with Pere Navarro Morera, Mayor of Terrassa, will meet the Spanish Secretary of State for EU Affairs in October to discuss potential cooperation during the Spanish EU Presidency, which will take office on 1 January 2010.

The next Presidency will be held during a particularly busy period, when some important decisions at EU level are expected.

Key dossiers will include a decision on the future of Lisbon Strategy and key discussions on the future of cohesion policy and next EU budget.

European cities' views on these matters will be discussed with the Spanish authorities during the meeting.

Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: [bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu](mailto:bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu)

# Projects



## A Europe-wide review of social housing services at the local level

Various locations in Europe | September/October 2009

After a successful launch at European and national level, the EUROCIITIES-Network of Local Authorities Observatories (EUROCIITIES-NLAO) on Active Inclusion is now working on delivering an in-depth analysis on the implementation of active inclusion policies (particularly in social services) at the local level.

As part of this work, the project's Local Authority Observatories - Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Stockholm - are researching social and supported housing for people furthest away from the labour market.

Each city will hold a 'National Review Seminar on Housing' this September. These events will bring together a wide variety of stakeholders involved in housing policy and practice to review the LAO's research findings and discuss resulting policy recommendations. Local authorities, national ministries, regional

government, European stakeholders and service providers, will be among those attending.

All EUROCIITIES members are welcome to participate in these events:

- Rotterdam: 15 September 2009
- Prague: 22 September 2009
- Stockholm: 28 September 2009
- Southampton: 29 September 2009
- Bologna: 1 October 2009

**Interested? Contact Daniela Amadio, EUROCIITIES Project Administrator - Social Inclusion: [daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu](mailto:daniela.amadio@eurocities.eu)**

## DIVE update: second peer review and new website launched



The City of Berlin on 13-16 July hosted the second in the series of the DIVE peer reviews. As coordinator of the DIVE project, EUROCIITIES joined for the occasion together with representatives from Leeds, Rome, Barcelona and Tampere, Ethics etc. consultancy; and the Migration Policy Group.

The Berlin visit included a series of structured interviews with staff of Berlin city's administration and political leaders. Workshops were also held with external stakeholders to showcase Berlin's

policy and practice aimed at promoting diversity and equality issues in the field of integration.

As is required in the peer review process, the City of Berlin carried out a self-assessment of its own progress against the DIVE benchmark on the promotion of diversity and equality management, providing peers with an initial report based on this. Berlin will receive a final feedback report from the DIVE peer review team in the coming weeks offering a more detailed breakdown of findings.

The two of the DIVE project's four city visits which have been held to date have already demonstrated the benefits of the project's peer review methodology.

Both peers and cities under review have commended the project as an effective facility for sharing knowledge on integration strategies.

A new website has now been launched to keep you up-to-date on the progress of the DIVE project and other issues on migration and integration that EUROCIITIES is addressing. The website also features information about EUROCIITIES' Working Group on Migration and Integration, the Integrating Cities conference series and projects in the field.

web: [www.integratingcities.eu](http://www.integratingcities.eu);  
Theresa Moloney, EUROCIITIES Project Officer - Migration and Integration  
[theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu](mailto:theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu)

## Celebrating the culmination of URBAN MATRIX!

Stockholm | 25 November 2009

A workshop to mark the successes of URBAN MATRIX will be held in Stockholm on 25 November in the afternoon.

The workshop's timing has been scheduled to accommodate those of you who will be in Stockholm for EUROCIITIES' annual conference. We therefore hope to rely on a healthy turnout of EUROCIITIES members at this last ever URBAN MATRIX workshop.

The one-day workshop will feature expert presentations and case studies visioning the future of sustainable cities as well as a presentation of the URBAN MATRIX recommendations on

future EU Urban Practice & Research. The workshop should provide the perfect occasion to kick-start the conference's debate on urban sustainability.

URBAN MATRIX also invites you to attend its Deep Dive session, 'The Hammarby Model - Integrated waste, water and energy', which will be held during the annual conference.



URBAN MATRIX website: [www.urban-matrix.net](http://www.urban-matrix.net)

Jorgina Cuixart, EUROCIITIES Project Officer - Environment & Energy: [jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu](mailto:jorgina.cuixart@eurocities.eu)

# Events



| Date / Place  | Name of Event  | More information   |
|---|--|--|
| 24-27 September 2009<br>Bologna, Italy                              | <b>Towards new ecocompact cities</b><br>Organised by a Vision of Europe  | <a href="http://www.avoe.org/triennaleV.html">www.avoe.org/triennaleV.html</a>         |
| 24-26 September 2009<br>Lidköping and Gothenburg, Sweden            | <b>Urban Policies and Social Capital</b><br>Aims to increase knowledge on importance of social capital for development and growth                        | <a href="http://www.dynamicgrowthcapital.com">www.dynamicgrowthcapital.com</a>         |
| 1 October 2009<br>Brussels, Belgium                                 | <b>The carbon footprint of European cities</b><br>Challenge or opportunity on the way towards sustainability?  | <a href="http://www.euractiv.com">www.euractiv.com</a>                                 |
| 2 October 2009<br>London, United Kingdom                            | <b>Beacon International Masterclass</b><br>Aims to highlight local government best practice achievements in an international context                     | <a href="mailto:jennifer.watson@lga.gov.uk">jennifer.watson@lga.gov.uk</a>             |
| 2-6 October 2009<br>Valladolid, Spain                               | <b>First EuroIndia City Summit</b><br>Focusing on Leveraging urban legacy for sustainable City development   | <a href="http://www.the-euroindia-centre.org">www.the-euroindia-centre.org</a>         |
| 5-7 October 2009<br>Leeuwenhorst Conference Centre, The Netherlands | <b>European Transport Conference 2009</b><br>Focus on transport, climate change and sustainability   | <a href="http://www.aetransport.org">www.aetransport.org</a>                           |
| 5-8 October 2009<br>Brussels, Belgium                               | <b>OPEN DAYS 2009</b><br>The European week of Regions and Cities   | <a href="http://www.opendays.europa.eu">www.opendays.europa.eu</a>                     |
| 15-16 October 2009<br>Warsaw, Poland                                | <b>UN-HABITAT Regional Conference</b><br>Financing affordable housing and infrastructure in cities: towards innovative land and property taxation system | <a href="http://www.gltm.net/en/warsaw-2009.html">www.gltm.net/en/warsaw-2009.html</a> |
| 18-22 October 2009<br>Porto, Portugal                               | <b>Low Carbon Cities</b><br>45th ISOCARP International Congress  | <a href="http://www.spidh.org">www.spidh.org</a>                                       |

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