

EDITORIAL

Smarter Cities



EUROCITIES has been at the forefront of the campaign to tackle climate change through technological investment in Europe's urban fabric. As much

as 80% of final energy demand, and therefore carbon footprint, is estimated to relate to Europe's cities – our buildings, industries and transport systems. Improving the energy efficiency of the built environment is imperative if Europe is to meet both short and longer term climate change targets.

Although a €500m allocation for energy projects in cities was dropped from the European Recovery Plan earlier this year, EUROCITIES has continued to press this agenda. Now it seems likely that the European Commission's proposals for implementing the Strategic Energy Technology Plan, due to be unveiled in November, will launch a 'Smart Cities' initiative including a series of 30 demonstration cities to pioneer systematic approaches to energy efficiency and innovation.

Inevitably 'big picture' policy making at the EU level focuses on large-scale investments in industrial technologies that will maintain Europe's energy security and global competitiveness. But as we have said time and again, the solutions are also local. They are as much about how we as individuals, families, businesses and communities use resources like energy and water.

Our Green Shift Europe initiative aims to show how new digital and mobile technologies can reduce carbon footprints through changed behaviour, for example by providing citizens and firms with better information about their energy use and transport choices. Retrofitting existing building stock with insulation, double-glazing and smart meters would also stimulate local economic recovery.

Working at this level with cities and their industry partners is a necessary counterpart to the 'grands projets' of nuclear fusion and carbon capture and may well deliver better value for money.

Paul Bevan
Secretary General, EUROCITIES

HIGHLIGHTS

A big move forward on urban mobility



EUROCITIES views the publication of the European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility as a big move forward in addressing Europe's 'big three' economic, environmental and social challenges. EUROCITIES believes that the success of the European Commission Action Plan on Urban Mobility rests on the continued involvement of cities in developing the measures proposed.

[see p. 2 & 8](#)

Cities shape future strategy on Information Society



EUROCITIES has responded to a public consultation on the future EU strategy for the Information Society. EUROCITIES has advocated that cities have more involvement in the areas such as ICT related to sustainable development; research and innovation; Next generation infrastructure; multi-level governance and resulting policymaking; and inclusion.

[see p. 7](#)

Preparing for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion



After an intensive year of preparations, EUROCITIES strategy for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has now been finalised. The campaign will kick off at EUROCITIES' annual conference on 24-25 November in Stockholm at which attending Mayors will look at how EUROCITIES Forums can combat poverty and social exclusion.

[see p. 9](#)

THEMATIC SECTIONS

- Culture p. 4
- Economic Development p. 5
- Environment p. 6
- Knowledge Society p. 7
- Mobility p. 8
- Social Affairs p. 9
- Participation & Cooperation p. 10

OTHER SECTIONS

- Key Developments p. 2
- Projects p. 11
- Events p. 12

Key developments



A big move forward on urban mobility

EUROCITIES views the publication of the European Commission's Action Plan on Urban Mobility as a big move forward in addressing Europe's 'big three' economic, environmental and social challenges.

In our press release on the development, EUROCITIES' Secretary General Paul Bevan commented:

"Firstly, cities will only realise their economic potential if we ensure people and goods can more easily move to, from and within them. Second, since urban transport currently accounts for 40% of emissions we need urgently to change transport systems and behaviour for the sake of the climate. And third, better

access to jobs and services is a key step towards social inclusion."

EUROCITIES has pressed hard for such a framework over a period of nearly three years. In early 2008, the network contributed to the Commission's Green Paper on Urban Mobility. As recently as March 2009, EUROCITIES worked with MEPs to speed up the publication of the Action Plan.

The Mayor of Budapest, Gabor Demszky, was present at the European Commission press conference held 30 September on the initiative. Budapest is active in the EUROCITIES' Mobility Forum and won the Mobility Week Award 2008. Mayor Demszky commented:

"Future actions stemming from this Action Plan must take into account the diversity of Europe's cities. Cities need scope to choose mobility measures that meet their circumstances. The framework must enable, not dictate, solutions. Nor must it conflict with successful schemes that are already running."



Now that the Action Plan has finally been published mobility experts from EUROCITIES' member cities will analyse the proposals presented in the document. EUROCITIES believes that the success of the European Commission Action Plan on Urban Mobility rests on the continued involvement of cities in developing the measures proposed ■

Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Leipzig on Euronews!

Leipzig in eastern Germany is the latest member of EUROCITIES to have taken part in 'Euronews Metropolitans', the television and web series which offers the spotlight to Europe's big cities and highlights how local governments are responding to today's major challenges.

This latest edition looked at the significance of the 1989 peaceful revolution for Leipzig. It is one of several commemorative activities and events that the city has organised to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and European Unity.

Similar to past editions, Leipzig's programme which was broadcast from 23 September until 7 October, was around 8 minutes in duration and was shown at least 12 times on euronews TV with commentary in 7 languages. The programme is still being shown on the Euronews website.

The Euronews Metropolitan series is a joint media partnership between EUROCITIES and Euronews. All EUROCITIES members and partner cities are eligible to take part in the series.



Leipzig on Euronews: www.euronews.net/europa/metropolitans Nicola Vathauer, EUROCITIES' Communications Director: nicola.vathauer@eurocities.eu

A practitioner's guide to the Open Method of Coordination



Inclusive Cities' latest publication which explains the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) or 'Social OMC', is now available.

The goal of the Social OMC is to make social cohesion visible in Europe. If this is to become a reality, the support and engagement of informed local practitioners, is essential.

This publication explains in simple terms what OMC entails for those whose job it is to put policy into practice, as opposed to writing it.

A user-friendly guide for local practitioners of the Social OMC, the publication describes the basic elements of the process and

identifies opportunities for practitioners to get involved through EUROCITIES at European level or at national level. It includes a presentation not only of the process, but also an analysis of the local dimension and relevance of all 27 National Action Plans on social inclusion.

We hope that this report will remove some of the grey areas on the process that underpins the Social OMC and will make it even more relevant to practitioners' everyday work. Beyond that, our ambition is to have members and other social practitioners participate in exchanging knowledge and experiences: the more involved, the better the policies. Get in touch!

Inclusive Cities' OMC publication is available in print and online at our website: www.eurocities.eu
Caroline Greene, EUROCITIES Communications Officer – Inclusive Cities: caroline.greene@eurocities.eu

Key developments



Europe's economy needs creative cities

Stronger leadership, better targeted EU support, and cross-sectoral partnership are among some of the key recommendations EUROCIITIES has submitted for consideration in the prospective European Commission Green Paper on Cultural and Creative industries.

The recommendations are based on a recent survey undertaken by EUROCIITIES, which shows that cities see a thriving cultural and creative sector as essential for driving forward local economies, particularly within the present-day economic climate.

For cities, the issues at the heart of the current EU discussion on cultural and creative industries are:

1. **Strengthening leadership and advocacy** at all government levels for the role of the creative economy in responding to the new economic challenges.
2. **Promoting European values** through cultural and creative industries, which can contribute significantly to social integration and community cohesion as well as European values of tolerance, democracy and solidarity.
3. **Emphasising creativity in EU innovation policy** so that innovation in European policies and co-funding programmes doesn't exclusively focus on science and technology and recognises that creative industries can bring new

elements and know-how into traditional industries.

4. **Integrating creativity into relevant EU programmes** so that entrepreneurial talent is fostered in all fields, thereby enhancing business sustainability as well as long-term growth and employment.

Cities also point out the need for additional support to build their networking capacity, for a new innovative support instrument and ask the European Commission to promote the European creative sector more vigorously ■

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

New series of good practice case studies

To permanently capture the range of knowledge and good work shared among our members during meetings, EUROCIITIES has started a new publication series which aims to showcase the innovative and results-focused work carried out by cities across the range of policy areas addressed by the network.

Produced on a monthly basis, these good practice case studies have a permanent online place on the 'good practice' page of EUROCIITIES' public website. They're also distributed at relevant meetings and to members of the press.

So far this year, we've published case studies featuring Rotterdam's Climate Campus; Madrid's Clean Fleet; Manchester's ICT-focused 'EastServe' project; Espoo's Cultural Chain; Newcastle's 'Udecide' participatory budgeting initiative; Dublin's Bike Start; and Belfast's plans to introduce a city carbon card.

Our good practice knowledge base needs your experience! You surely have learning points to share with the entire EUROCIITIES network. Get in touch!

Roisin Hughes, EUROCIITIES Information Officer: roisin.hughes@eurocities.eu

Sign up to EUROCIITIES Climate Change Declaration at Stockholm conference

Calling all cities who want to sign the EUROCIITIES Climate Change Declaration! At this year's annual conference, cities who have had the Climate Change Declaration approved by their city council will have another opportunity to sign it on Friday 27 November. This will be organised during the morning coffee break and a photographer will be present to record the moment. There will also be an unofficial opportunity to sign the Declaration on Thursday 26 November.

Soraya Zanardo, Assistant to EUROCIITIES' Policy Director: soraya.zanardo@eurocities.eu

Shortlisted entries of EUROCIITIES Awards 2009 announced

A record of 32 entries were submitted by 25 cities for this year's edition of EUROCIITIES Awards, the network's annual competition which recognises outstanding achievements by members in delivering local activities which improve the quality of life for citizens.

For entries this year, the judges were particularly interested in projects that showed a strengthening of local communities, by governing in new ways, creating a new role for local authorities, or implementing new ways of cooperation with key partners in the district. Within

the three permanent award categories, the judges have shortlisted the following cities:

- Innovation in the planning and implementation of activities or practices by a local authority: Utrecht, Malaga and Reykjavik
- Cooperation undertaken by a local authority with partner organisations or cities: Rotterdam, Dortmund and Birmingham

- Participation of citizens in activities organised by local authority: Birmingham, Lisbon and Dublin

The nominated cities will host a table during the speednetworking sessions and their project films will be shown during the EUROCIITIES annual conference in Stockholm. This year's three winners will be awarded at the prize ceremony to be held on the 26 November during the event.

2009 EUROCIITIES Awards and entries: www.eurocities2009.eu/pages.aspx?page=88



Riga named European Capital of Culture for 2014!

EUROCITIES member, Riga, together with the Northern Swedish town of Umea, has been announced as European Capital of Culture for 2014. Latvia's capital city Riga beat Cesis and Liepaja for the 2014 European title. Umea was selected on the basis of its cultural importance in Sweden

Riga has chosen 'Force majeure' as its theme for 2014. The term is commonly used in law and signifies an overwhelming force, both unexpected and foreseeable, accumulated through global and individual obstructions and problems. Linking this to the city's 2014 ambitions, Riga hopes to open new ways of using culture as a tool for changing city life and its people, and show how culture can be the driving force for positive change.

Riga's 2014 programme should involve an expansion of cultural activities in the city's suburbs, introducing parts of Riga that have so

far remained undiscovered, and encouraging inhabitants to develop their immediate surroundings.

EU education and culture commissioner Jan Figel said:

"Riga has great potential for being the European Capital of Culture...Bearing this title for one year will certainly place the city in the spotlight and create enormous potential for it to develop locally and raise its profile across Europe...to benefit fully, Riga will have to develop its programme for 2014 and be given all the political and economic support needed."

The formal nomination of Riga and Umea by the European Council of Ministers is expected in May 2010.

Next year, the European Capital of Culture initiative will celebrate its 25th anniversary ■



Riga's Cultural website: www.kultrix.lv - European Capital of Culture: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc413_en.htm
Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Over 1,000 participants at European Culture Forum

The second European Cultural Forum organised by the European Commission took place in Brussels on 29-30 September and gathered about 1,000 culture sector experts and policy makers from across Europe and worldwide. Yannick Guin, Vice-President of Nantes Metropole, spoke on behalf of EUROCITIES in a panel dedicated to culture and regional development.

The Forum took stock of progress towards the goals of the European Agenda for Culture, which was launched in May 2007. These goals included cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; culture as a catalyst for creativity; and culture as a key component in international relations.

The European Commission showed willingness to work transversally with other Commission Directorate-Generals by involving representatives of different DGs in selected panel discussions.

Regrettably the forum fell short on time allowed for debates and opportunities for stakeholders to present their positions. The event also lacked enough political involvement. On the upside, it did prove an excellent platform for networking.



European Culture Forum: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news1904_en.htm
Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Culture: julie.herve@eurocities.eu

Register now for EUROCITIES' Culture Forum meeting!

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 (ECF) meeting in Zaragoza on 4-7 November, then get in touch as soon as possible!

The meeting will open 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 ECF Working Groups meetings: Access to culture; Young people and culture; Resources for culture; and a meeting of the Education and culture group
- A tailor-made programme for politicians
- An informal meeting on European Capitals of Culture

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

Economic Development



Cities contribute to shaping European Innovation Policy

In the framework of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, the 1st European Innovation Summit (EIS) was held on 13-14 October in Brussels. Knowledge4Innovation, which is a not-for-profit and independent platform that works through the Lisbon Forum, organised the event in partnership with the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the EU.

The Summit provided a platform for exchange on how to contribute to position Europe as a global innovation leader. It took place at a time of institutional change and set the scene for future European innovation policy.

The EIS aimed to raise awareness and outline the issues relevant to the development of Europe's knowledge and innovation economy and society; establish a dialogue and work towards a mutual understanding of goals and needs between innovation practitioners and policy makers; demonstrate to European policy makers the determination of stakeholders for Europe to become the global leader of the knowledge economy.

Keynote speeches at the session 'Innovation Policies and Practices across Europe' were provided by Paul Bevan, EUROCITIES

Secretary General and José Mariano Gago, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, of Portugal. The session was chaired by MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij.

Mr Bevan remarked that 'a chief concern of city governments is to encourage and sustain economic prosperity by ensuring an environment suited to creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship'. He further explained the role of cities in supporting the creation and development of local clusters. He insisted on the fact that much innovation is local, small-scale and developed by SMEs. Despite cities' current policies to foster and nurture start-ups, and support SMEs, further efforts are needed to simplify business support, streamline access to advice, expertise and funding. He concluded saying that 'implementing innovation policy and managing innovation support at the local level cannot be subsumed in a top down approach'. All levels of governments should take complementary steps to create the best environment possible for innovation to happen ■

European Innovation Summit: www.knowledge4innovation.eu
Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Economic Development: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

Cities supporting innovation towards economic recovery

At its last meeting in Tallinn on 8-9 October, the EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum (EDF) discussed the role of cities in supporting the development of innovative SMEs, jobs, products and services, in order to move towards economic recovery and sustainable development.

Cities have set up different tools and programmes to support innovation. Local authorities can provide training and coaching programmes for entrepreneurs and SMEs. They can also promote innovation by supporting the creation and development of clusters. Rotterdam

has founded three cluster programmes to strengthen its knowledge and innovation base, targeted on healthcare, harbour industry and creative industries. All three cluster programmes provide support for spatial development, funding start-ups, networks and cooperational structures, and promoting stronger links among educational institutions.

Cities can provide premises for innovative companies such as the Cabaleero Fabriek in The Hague, an old cigarette factory which is now being used as office space. Some cities have also developed sectoral programmes,

such as the Belfast Programme for creative industries, focusing on wealth creation, product development, internationalisation and investment. Cities can also help to bring together relevant actors, including the end-user to test the products, for example the 'Living Car' experiment in Gijon or 'Living Labs' in Helsinki.

These and other ideas will feed into EUROCITIES' policy work on the future European Innovation Plan and the successor to the Lisbon Strategy.

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

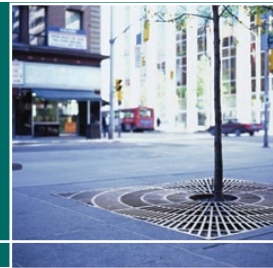
Clustering Clusters!

The 3rd meeting of the INTERREG IVC funded CLUSNET project was held between 30 September and 2 October in Lyon. This project analyses clustering policy and practice in major European cities in a bid to improve their effectiveness. As we move to a period of economic recovery and restructuring, such activity is becoming increasingly important for all cities, due to the potential impacts on innovation, productivity and business creation.

The Lyon seminar focused on 'Clean Tech' strategy and the establishment of a new green technology cluster, named EcoTech. The project is linked to a call for proposals launched by the French national government for setting up clusters within the field of the Clean Tech industry.

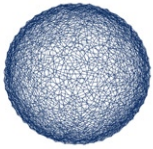
In developing the EcoTech cluster initiative and submitting it under the new national call, Grand Lyon and its partners began to challenge traditional concepts of a cluster. Due to the cross cutting nature of many thematic activities around clean tech and efficiency, the new initiative can at times act as a 'cluster of clusters', bringing together the activities and stakeholders of thematic clusters such as those dealing with transport or sustainable chemistry. Participants in the seminar were able to identify a number of challenges and opportunities for the new cluster initiative, such as ensuring clear governance structures given the existence of already strong clusters, and the clear importance of involving SMEs in the initiative.

John Dodd, EUROCITIES Secondment - Economic Development Officer: john.dodd@eurocities.eu



Submit your Sustainable Energy Action Plan to the Covenant of Mayors now! www.eumayors.eu

Stepping up the pace before COP 15



COP15
COPENHAGEN
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

In advance of the Copenhagen COP 15 summit on 7-18 December, negotiators have stepped up the pace of negotiations on climate change.

World leaders and experts have met on several occasions throughout the past few weeks, in New York on 22 September and in Bangkok on 29 September – 9 October.

At the New York gathering, negotiators expressed determination to seal a comprehensive, fair and effective deal. They defined five key elements around which future negotiations are to be centered:

- assisting the most vulnerable and poorest countries;

- setting ambitious targets for industrialised countries;
- defining appropriate mitigation actions for developing countries;
- employing the latter with financial and technical support; and
- establishing governance structures to manage that support.

These promises were however not matched by concrete actions.

In Bangkok, Yvo De Boer, Executive Officer of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, urged COP 15 negotiators to translate their promises into a practical agreement. Despite encouraging statements about adaptation to climate change and a range of technical issues, the talks did not prompt much progress on key political

issues such as emission targets and financing tools for developing countries.

A final opportunity for the negotiators to create a more concrete framework for the Copenhagen talks will take place in Barcelona on 2-6 November.

Under the Local Government Climate Roadmap initiative, EUROCIITIES and other European city networks will continue to press for recognition of the role of local government in fighting climate change. Our advocacy work has proved successful in some provisional international negotiation texts but efforts need to continue as the EU's position is still not finalised.

The matter will be discussed at the next EUROCIITIES Executive Committee Climate Change and Energy Working Group meeting in Brussels on 21 October ■

Local Government Climate Roadmap: www.iclei.org - Nantes Metropole's climate website: www.itsnow.eu
Eva Baños de Guisasola, Policy Officer – Environment: eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Outcomes of EUROCIITIES' Environment Forum last meeting

The latest EUROCIITIES Environment Forum (EEF) meeting in Rotterdam on 4-6 September looked at transition management and public private partnerships (PPPs).

Participants took part in a series of workshops, presentations, visits, and political discussions on the principles of transition management and PPPs. Members also developed a political statement: declaring their engagement to guarantee a sustainable quality of life for their citizens, and called upon European and national governments to design proper policies, legislation and financial instruments.

Members re-elected Vienna and Malmo as chair

and vice-chair of the Forum. The Forum and EEF Working Group representatives present reported on their main activities and projects as well as their programme for 2010. Regarding the URBAN MATRIX project, participants provided input on the project's recommendations to the Commission on future EU funding for practice and research on Sustainable Urban Development.

Three EEF Working Groups, Water; Clean cities; and Greening the local economy, also met during the meeting. The next EEF will be jointly organised with the Economic Development Forum in Madrid on 11-12 February 2010 to look at 'green jobs'.

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

Transatlantic cities on climate change



At the OPEN DAYS 2009 Elizabeth Kautz, Vice-President of the US Conference of Mayors, discussed cooperation possibilities of her organisation with the Covenant of Mayors. Although the US national government has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, almost 1,000 mayors of the US Conference of Mayors signed the 'US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement' pledging to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets.

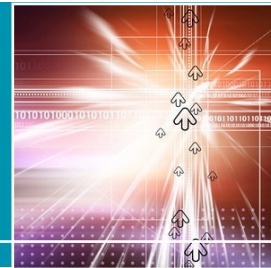
In addition, EUROCIITIES was recently invited to Washington to moderate a

conference session on 'Living Green: Shaping sustainable urban futures'. The conference was organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation to conclude the 'Transatlantic Climate Policy Group' two-year project on a low carbon economy.

Participants noted the climate change work in which EUROCIITIES is involved, in particular its Declaration on Climate Change, the Covenant of Mayors, and more globally, initiatives carried out with through the Local Government Climate Roadmap and the Stockholm Appeal. This last will be launched at EUROCIITIES annual conference in November.

Transatlantic Solutions for a Low Carbon Economy: www.boell.de
Eva Baños de Guisasola, Policy Officer – Environment:
eva.banos@eurocities.eu

Knowledge Society



Cities shape future strategy on Information Society

EUROCITIES has responded to a public consultation on the future EU strategy for the Information Society, or the post-i2010 strategy as its better known. As well as providing input on several current and future strategic challenges, EUROCITIES also advocated that cities have more involvement in the following areas in particular:

- **ICT & sustainable development-** Cities provide the critical mass of users, infrastructure and policy support for piloting services and enabling new types of partnerships. They lead by example in adapting new solutions and changing behavioural patterns. A future strategy should support their role in this field by mainstreaming support to city-level pilot projects and public-private-voluntary sector partnerships.

- **Research & Innovation** - Concepts of user-driven innovation can serve to enhance stakeholder coordination. Also, economic clustering seems to be key in raising European research and innovation efforts. A new strategy should support networks of 'Living Labs' and their links to public authorities as well as fostering the exchange of experiences between local clusters across Europe.

- **Next generation infrastructure** - The Commission should make it a priority to discuss the role of municipalities in the roll-out of next generation infrastructure. This should in particular acknowledge new investment paradigms for next generation infrastructure, which might result in poor coverage of urban areas

- **Governments and policy working together** - Further vertical and horizontal

collaboration is essential to improve the overall quality and accessibility of public services. Further support to measure and integrate local initiatives should focus on quality services that are citizen-driven.

- **Inclusion** - Cities have considerable potential to function as local innovation platforms for digital inclusion and literacy. At the same time, they also suffer most from digital exclusion. Post-i2010 should give stronger support to structured learning, evidence-gathering and benchmarking between local stakeholders.

EUROCITIES' Knowledge Society Forum will continue to follow the design of the new strategy. A meeting set for January 2010 is to bring together key officers from the European institutions and EUROCITIES members ■

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

Register now! EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum

Lille | 28-30 October 2009

Register now for the next meeting of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum. The meeting is taking place at Euratechnologies, a business park, which is sponsored by Lille Metropole. Here's an overview of what to expect from the programme line-up:

- A review of approaches and models used by cities to support the creation of sustainable and competitive Small and Medium Businesses, in particular within the ICT sector.

- Identifying and exchanging best practice on the design and implementation of local policies in the field.

- A review of different cooperation models between city governments, research and private sector that are being put in place.

- An open discussion on the creation of a local ecosystem aimed at supporting SMEs in the various phases of their creation.

- A presentation of city case studies that demonstrate successful economic transition from traditional industries to new, knowledge-based economies with extensive ICT use.

- Ideas, exchange and input into the economic recovery work that EUROCITIES' Economic Development Forum is developing.

Interested in presenting one of your city's projects on any of these topics? Please contact Jan!



Event and registration information: www.euratechnologies.com/eurocities
Jan Franke, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Knowledge Society:
jan.franke@eurocities.eu

Ministerial conference on eGovernment

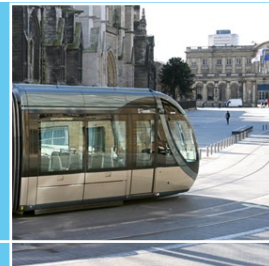
Malmö | 18-20 November 2009

The Swedish EU Presidency is organising the 5th Ministerial eGovernment conference, which will feature a Ministerial Meeting of ministers responsible for eGovernment, a Ministerial eGovernment Conference, and an exhibition of more than 50 finalists of eGovernment Awards.

Speakers include Swedish Ministers Mats Odell and Göran Hägglund, Commissioners Viviane Reding and Siim Kallas, OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría, some 15 ministers and state secretaries responsible for eGovernment in the EU, and representatives from the US administration, the United Nations and the World Bank.

EUROCITIES members Stockholm, Barcelona and Venice will take part in various sessions to be held during the event in order to provide input and perspectives from local governments in Europe.

Event and registration information:
www.egov2009.se



Success of EU Urban Mobility Action Plan will depend on continuous talks with cities

On 30 September 2009, the European Commission adopted the long-awaited Action Plan on Urban Mobility. The plan proposes a set of 20 short, medium and long-term actions which will be launched from now until 2012. The actions aim to support local, regional and national authorities in achieving their goals for sustainable urban mobility.

Over the last two years, EUROCITIES has followed developments on this front. In 2008, we contributed via a detailed response to the Commission's consultation on the Green Paper on Urban Mobility that was adopted in 2007. The consultation concluded that action at EU level in the area of urban mobility can add value, while at the same time respecting national, regional and local competences. After delays of the plan's publication earlier this year, we held a public debate with former MEP Gilles Savary and the European Parliament's Intergroup on Urban Housing in March 2009 in a bid to speed up the process.

The Action Plan is structured around six themes, which reach from improving travel information, to accelerating the take-up of sustainable urban mobility plans in cities, supporting research and demonstration projects, and discussing with Member States how energy-efficient driving could be included in private drivers' driving tests.

It also advises that the EU look into ways of improving the availability of data and facilitate information exchange on urban pricing. Another priority is streamlining existing EU funding sources and looking at future funding needs. The Commission will also prepare several guidelines, some which will cover sustainable urban mobility and cohesion policy, plus a study on the effectiveness and efficiency of different urban transport pricing solutions.

Mobility experts from EUROCITIES' member cities will now analyse the proposals presented in the document. In this area, EUROCITIES believes the EU can help cities through guidance and financing and that the principle of subsidiarity should remain respected. In addition, we believe that the success of the plan will rest on the continued involvement of cities in further developing further the measures proposed ■

Action Plan on Urban Mobility: <http://tinyurl.com/yhbutlr> - Vanessa Holve, EUROCITIES Policy Officer - Mobility: vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu

Max: a toolbox for mobility management

A new set of tools for mobility managers is now available! These have been identified through research carried out on the needs of practitioners in the field as part of the 'Max-project'.

The Max-project, which ran from 2006 to 2009, focused on quality management, campaigns, evaluation, modelling and land use planning. Max tools not only reflect the interconnections of these themes but also provide measures and guidelines to improve mobility management with:

- **MaxExplorer** - a guide to choose appropriate mobility management measures for a local project

- **MaxSumo** - which standardises evaluation at European level and helps in planning, monitoring and evaluating mobility management projects

- **MaxEva** - an online database for evaluation data
- **Max Travel Awareness Campaign Guide** - which defines the factors of a successful mobility campaign

Quality management and integration with land use planning are not forgotten since two tools aim at helping cities to monitor their Mobility Management projects.

Max contributes to standardise Mobility Management over Europe by providing a common definition of MM available in 15 languages.

EPOMM: www.epomm.org - Melanie Leroy, EUROCITIES Project Officer - Mobility Management: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

Participative democracy and mobility: Giving citizens a voice

Toulouse | 16-18 November 2009

The next meeting of the EUROCITIES Mobility Forum will look at the theme of participative democracy and mobility.

The host city, Toulouse, will use the occasion to present the results of work it has carried out on involving citizens in shaping their city's public transport policy. An exchange of experience and ideas with other cities on this specific topic, among other presentations on mobility in general, will feature on the agenda.

On 18 November, a political roundtable debate will look at scenarios and mechanisms to finance urban mobility in

the future. This session will also include a political debate on the CIVITAS initiative, with a focus on funding opportunities. Politicians are especially welcome to attend this session.

Interesting technical visits featuring Toulouse's Traffic Campus and a city walking tour of Toulouse's city centre are also scheduled, as well as a special visit of the Airbus site.

Simultaneous translation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

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Social Affairs



Preparing for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

After an intensive year of preparations, EUROCIITIES strategy for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion has now been finalised.

The campaign has two goals: raising awareness on the urban dimension of poverty and exclusion; and promoting solutions to tackle poverty and exclusion in cities. The research we have carried out into these problems will be used as a basis for our activities and messages to national and EU policymakers.

The campaign will kick off at EUROCIITIES' annual conference on 24-25 November in Stockholm at which attending Mayors will look at how EUROCIITIES Forums can contribute to making our cities more inclusive and sustainable.

Through a series of events in 2010, we will share solutions to tackle poverty and exclusion. The following four thematic

seminars are scheduled to take place at a city near you; exact dates will be confirmed later:

- **Child poverty – Newcastle**
- **Health inequalities – Ghent**
- **Unemployment – Katowice**
- **Area-based approaches to social exclusion – Budapest**

In addition to these events, EUROCIITIES Forums will hold workshops dedicated to social inclusion specific to their respective policy area. The conclusions of the events will feed into a message to the EU Employment, Social Protection, Health and Consumer Affairs Council. This message will stress the key issues EUROCIITIES wants to see addressed in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion 2011-2013 ■

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Cities' strategies for social service provision

At its meeting in Warsaw on 8-9 October, EUROCIITIES' Social Affairs Forum (SAF) focused on cost effectiveness and quality in the provision of social and health services – a difficult balance to strike, in particular against growing budget constraints.

A range of examples from the host city and some 20 other cities demonstrated what cities are doing to provide affordable quality services. Discussions showed that despite different national social models, cities across Europe share similar principles regarding service provision but offer different responses that are tailored to their specific circumstances.

Cities value NGOs as partners in delivering services, be it for their greater proximity to the end customer or the fact that they allow for greater democratic participation. On the other hand, challenges concerning transparency of the commissioning process and coordination between different service providers are shared by many cities. Presentations from Birmingham, Vienna, and Stockholm pointed to the definition of a common vision on the goals of services; pooling services efficiently; and measuring service outcomes, as some ways of overcoming these problems.

The Warsaw meeting highlighted that issues around service delivery need

to remain a focus of the SAF in the coming years particularly given that imminent economic and demographic developments will press cities to continue improving their services. While there is no European champion in social service provision, cities have developed strong competencies in different fields that will provide valuable orientation for those who want to learn from others.

Ulf Kristersson, Vice-Mayor of Stockholm and Chair of the SAF underlined that the current European legislation on procurement, which is vague and open to different interpretations, will only add to this challenge.

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Towards an EU programme for people and place

EUROCIITIES seminar | Brussels | 3 November 2009

The European Union faces a set of strategic challenges that are as broad as they are deep: climate change, demographic change, economic recession and globalisation. Such interrelated issues demand an integrated response.

Integrated Local Development (ILD) is based on two fundamental principles: addressing physical development and social issues together and ensuring that interventions are part of a clear plan or strategy that coordinates long term needs and actions for a given area. The need to link up people-based and place-based policies and interventions is acknowledged

by policy-makers at all levels. In practice however, it is hampered by various obstacles including funding programmes themselves.

EUROCIITIES' upcoming seminar will investigate preconditions, tools and funding frameworks for ILD, with the aim of developing recommendations for an EU funding instrument post-2013.



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Participation & Cooperation



EU and neighbouring cities share best practice on funding international projects



Cities from EUROCITIES' Working Group on European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Enlargement met in Kharkov, Ukraine, to exchange practice in international project funding.

Meeting in the city of Kharkov, which is one of EUROCITIES' newest members, the group's members looked at examples of pulling resources back into their international cooperation activities. There were contrasting approaches between

cities that depend on EU funding for the bulk of their activities and richer cities that instead rely on their own resources, often coupled with endorsements from corporate funders and foundations. Cities struggling with scarce and difficult to access EU funding, were introduced to ways of diversifying their funding sources.

This exchange is a basis for future joint projects in the areas of youth and

employment, which will the WG will work on at its Spring meeting in Vienna.

Kharkov's Mayor Mykhailo Dobkin and José Manuel Pinto Teixeira, the European Commission's Ambassador to Ukraine, addressed participants in the opening session and underlined the importance of these regular exchanges among the region's cities ■

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URBAN MATRIX final event looks at the future 'sustainable city' 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'. Gathering the opinions of European, National and local stakeholders, the meeting will be the perfect occasion to prime debate for EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm event which will look at the theme of 'Urban Challenges – Sustainable Solutions'.

This last URBAN MATRIX Workshop on 'Defining priorities for the sustainable city of the future' will take place in Stockholm, on the afternoon of 25 November. The programme will include:

- A presentation of the URBAN MATRIX Recommendations to the European Commission on future EU urban practice and research (EUROCITIES, European Commission Directorate-General (DG) RESEARCH);

- Examples of research and practice cooperation on Sustainable Urban Development (Cities of Helsinki and San Sebastian, and the University of the West of England);
- A discussion on the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities and Urban Audit (DG REGIO and the Swedish Ministry of Environment).

At the same time, URBAN MATRIX will participate in the EUROCITIES conference to co-organise the Deep Dive session on 'The Hammarby Model - Integrated waste, water and energy'.

URBAN MATRIX is a four-year European Commission research project aimed at promoting and facilitating knowledge transfer on Sustainable Urban Development between city practitioners and researchers.

Don't miss this last ever URBAN MATRIX workshop!

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

Projects



Mobility Management: a growing network

At the MAX Final Conference on 15-16 September in Krakow, 'allinx' a new community site was launched. Allinx is a brand new and unique site especially made for professionals working in the field of mobility management. Allinx is the European community for mobility management where mobility management professionals can get connected, share and collaborate useful files and resources and create and join groups.

EPOMM is the co-founder of allinx. EPOMM has recently adopted the OPTIMUM² network and from 2010 will co-organise the European Mobility Management Network meetings, EMMNET, through the EPOMM-PLUS project. With this combination of digital and physical meetings, this will make the network really work! ■



Allinx: www.allinx.eu - Melanie Leroy, EUROCIITIES Project Officer - Mobility Management: melanie.leroy@eurocities.eu

DIVE peer review No.3 in Amsterdam

On 14-17 September, Amsterdam hosted the third in the DIVE series of peer reviews. The host was joined by representatives from Berlin, Rome, Helsinki, Tampere, EUROCIITIES, the Migration Policy Group (MPG) and Ethics etc.

This time it was Amsterdam's turn to carry out a self-assessment of its progress against the DIVE benchmark on the promotion of diversity and equality management. With a population that is made up of 50% of citizens with migrant background, Amsterdam is one of the most diverse cities in the DIVE project. The city provided an initial report of their findings and will next month receive a

final report from the DIVE peer review team highlighting good practices and recommendations.

This peer review stage of the DIVE project is almost coming to an end. At this latest meeting, it was noted once again how engaging the process is as staff members from the city's administration actively participate in the team's initial feedback session. This provided plenty of food for thought as did the interviews and workshops where peers met relevant politicians and officers with responsibility for Amsterdam's integration policy.



DIVE project is co-financed by the Commission through the European Integration Fund.

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European Mobility Week 2009 award up for grabs!

The European Mobility Week (EMW) Award rewards local authorities' activities in the framework of the EMW 2009. It takes account of the quality and effectiveness of EMW programmes and permanent transport measures launched during the Week. The winner of the EMW Award 2009 will be decided by an independent jury in late 2009 and will be announced at a ceremony in Brussels in February 2010. Deadline for award applications: **1 November 2009**.

Despite the financial crisis and the budget cutbacks that many European cities are currently facing, this year's EMW campaign saw a record 2,175 local authorities from Europe and beyond taking part, including 81 EUROCIITIES members from 27 countries and 66 members of the EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum.

Under the theme, 'Improving City Climates' to highlight the key role that local authorities can play in tackling climate change at local level, activities and events ranged from three Car Free Days in downtown Budapest and transforming its iconic Andrassy Avenue into a 'Living Street' festival; canoe trips, guided walks and a roller-blade race in Murcia highlighting the benefits of active travel; and a 'commuter challenge' in Gothenburg involving hundreds of city employers which extensively promoted sustainable travel to their employees during the Week.

The EMW initiative, supported by EUROCIITIES, also received coverage in the New York Times: <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/21/car-free-days-in-europe-mostly>

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EMW 2009: www.mobilityweek.eu

Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
26-27 October 2009 Solna, Sweden	European Urban Safety Conference Themes are city development and safety; and large sports events and prevention	http://eventus.trippus.se/eusc2009
29 October 2009 Bern, Switzerland	Rail Network Solutions Challenge or opportunity on the way towards sustainability?	www.europeanrailwayevents.com
31 October – 3 November 2009 Lyon, France	The Empowerment of Civil Society in Urban Policies Organised by the UNESCO Chair on Urban Politics and Citizenship	http://conferences.univ-lyon2.fr/index.php/urban/urban
5-8 November 2009 Weimar, Germany	Future City – Future Bauhaus International symposium on contemporary architecture and city planning	www.future-bauhaus.de
10-11 November 2009 Gothenburg, Sweden	Local and regional implementation of the strategy for growth and jobs after 2010 Growing together for a sustainable Europe	www.se2009.eu
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

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