

EDITORIAL

Time to empower local leadership



A dominant theme of this year's Global City Forum in Abu Dhabi was that the world's future in the face of the current economic

crisis depends even more upon the performance of our great cities. Economic recovery will depend in particular upon the capacity of city governments across the globe to rise to the challenges of creative, sustainable economic development, climate change and social integration.

But if cities are to meet these expectations the balance of power between national governments and local authorities must be redressed. With 80% of Europe's and 50% of the world's population now urban, these challenges will be won or lost in cities. Yet the capacity of city mayors to lead on these fronts is nearly everywhere unduly constrained by their nation states.

In most European countries city authorities receive the larger part of their resources from their central government. Even where cities are able to raise substantial income locally their governments often narrowly circumscribe their powers.

It is time to negotiate a new settlement between Europe's tiers of government. Research shows that the local authorities are the level of government most trusted by citizens, yet it seems mayors are not trusted by national ministers. This clash of mandates is holding us back from an effective response to the major challenges we face today.

City governments everywhere are at the forefront of the effort to rebuild successful local economies, to use natural resources more efficiently, to reduce waste and environmental damage and to sustain cohesive communities. Europe's success in the face of today's critical challenges depends on cities' capacity to lead and deliver; Europe's national governments need to let them do the job.

Paul Bevan
EUROCITIES Secretary General

HIGHLIGHTS

Telecoms Package close to adoption



The European Parliament's imminent adoption of the EU Telecoms Package in early May will likely include provisions seen to impact cities. If adopted, the package will undoubtedly redraw the legislative framework for the design, deployment and delivery of telecommunications networks and services in Europe. EUROCITIES wants to ensure that this instrument will not lead to a 'poor mans broadband' provision in less economically attractive urban areas.

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Cities and SMEs – lessons learned for effective business support



As part of the upcoming European SME Week EUROCITIES is organising a seminar in Brussels on 8 May to gather the practical experience of SMEs and entrepreneurship support at city level. The seminar will explore the experiences of businesses, cities, and decision makers with the aim of identifying best practice as well as future challenges and opportunities.

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Gear up for EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm!



The dates of 25-28 November are now confirmed for EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm, the 23rd edition of EUROCITIES' annual conference. This year's theme, 'Urban Challenges - Sustainable Solutions' will guide participants in discussion on climate change and economic growth – issues which are to be the focus of the EU Swedish Presidency's term beginning 1 July.

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Key developments



Local governments unite against climate change

Copenhagen | 2-4 June 2009

With only six months left before the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 kicks off, the pressure is on for local governments to make a positive impact on plans written out in the post Kyoto 2010 agreement on climate change action.

In a bid to create a united front, the Local Government Denmark is gathering representatives of local governments worldwide for the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit on 2-4 June in Copenhagen. Attending officials will reinforce their commitments towards

fighting climate change. Around 1,500 local politicians, senior local government officials and representatives from national governments are expected to attend.

The Summit marks a milestone in the 'Local Government Climate Change Roadmap', which has been developed by United Cities and Local Governments, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, C40-cities, Metropolis, and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change in cooperation with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Environment

Programme. European associations and networks of local and regional authorities including EUROCITIES, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Climate Alliance and Energie Cités are also fully involved in the Road Map process.

Sign up for the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit! ■

Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit: www.kl.dk/localclimatesummit

Call for applications: Climate Star 2009

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 edition of Climate Star, the European award which recognises outstanding local climate protection activities.

This year's theme 'Short Track to Climate Protection' relates primarily to energy saving and the efficient use of locally-available energy sources. Insulation, electricity from renewable sources and the local use of heat produced in the process, while not protecting the climate per se, do create jobs and keep money for energy costs within a municipality or region.

The theme takes into account good urban planning e.g. that which ensures a good combination of living, working, shopping and leisure activities. Intelligent and sustainable urban planning leads to cycling, walking and the use of public transport as the predestined means of transport.

The theme also refers to the production and consumption of goods



within the same region, as well as to short distances between a municipality and its citizens when they develop and implement sustainable solutions together.

Applicants must be Europe-based local authorities, cities, municipalities, districts, boroughs with between 10,000 and 100,000 plus inhabitants, or associations of these defined zones that can clearly showcase local climate protection activities.

Climate Alliance invites all European cities and municipalities to present their climate protection activities and apply for a prestigious Climate Star.

Deadline for applications: **15 June 2009**

Consultation of cities and regions to boost Europe's potential – deadline extended

All local and regional authorities are invited to take part in the Committee of the Regions' consultation on the Lisbon Strategy after 2010.

The Committee of the Regions considers the actions taken by cities against climate change which are underlined in their commitments to the Covenant of Mayors, as key to the new European Strategy on Growth and Jobs after 2010.

The outcome of this consultation will be presented and discussed in Brussels during the Open Days week of 5-8 October 2009. The outcomes will also feed into the CoR's political message to the 2010 Spring European Council at which the final decisions on the future of the Lisbon Strategy will be made.

Don't miss your chance to shape this message. Submit your response by **15 May 2009**

CoR: www.cor.europa.eu



Gear up for EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm!

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As in past years, delegates can look forward to the EUROCITIES Awards ceremony, speednetworking sessions, Mayors Debate as well as side events and social activities. The conference workshops, this year renamed 'Deep Dives' to reflect the in-depth learning and exchange opportunities they offer, will look at the full gamut of policy areas covered by EUROCITIES' core activities.

'Meet a colleague', a new feature of this year's programme will give delegates more deliberate time to meet with key staff from Stockholm City Council.

For the latest information on the event, to submit entries for the EUROCITIES Awards, Deep Dives or speednetworking sessions, and to register, go to www.eurocities2009.eu

Climate Alliance: <http://klimabuendnis.org/207.html?L=0>

Key developments



Telecoms Package close to adoption

In late 2007, the European Commission proposed a broad review of the telecoms and Internet sector regulation in an attempt to adapt EU legislation to the latest technological developments and create a unified European telecommunication market. As no agreement was reached between the Council, the European Commission and European Parliament in 2008, the proposal has since gone through a second reading earlier this year and will likely be adopted by the Parliament in May.

If adopted, the package will undoubtedly lead to a redraft of the legislative framework for the design, deployment and delivery of telecommunications networks and services in Europe.

The final text will most likely include certain provisions that will have a

considerable impact on cities. In light of this, EUROCIITIES' Working Group Broadband is working to ensure that this instrument will not lead to a 'poor mans broadband' provision in urban areas that are less economically attractive.

In particular, the text would ask national regulators to work in coordination with local authorities, when decisions are taken on sharing of facilities like ducts and distribution cabinets. Civil engineering is estimated to account for 80% of overall roll-out costs of new networks like fibre. As such, smart urban planning and the involvement of local authorities in both the mapping of existing infrastructure, and access provisions to public ducts, can both substantially reduce costs and ease the use of high-speed Internet by all.

The proposed legislation would also allow national regulators to define different regulation for different regions within a country. This means that a separation between rural and urban areas will be made possible. There is a risk though that specific situations of market failure within cities and densely populated areas are disregarded. This is the case for urban neighbourhoods facing enormous social and economic deprivation, where the take-up of services is not ensured and as a consequence influences hesitations by telecom operators to invest in new networks ■



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

New faces at EUROCIITIES



Rory Moody
Function: Communications Officer – Inclusive Cities
Nationality: UK

Working Languages: EN, FR

Rory Moody joins EUROCIITIES' communications team to support and implement the organisation's visibility activities in the area of social affairs, most specifically in its Inclusive Cities programme.

Rory has a degree in Political and Economic Geography from the University of Edinburgh and is familiar with the field having worked as a Junior Communication Officer at INTERREG.

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



Dion Wierds
Function: Communications Officer – Climate & Energy
Nationality: NL

Working Languages: EN, FR, NL, ES, DE

Dion Wierds will be responsible EUROCIITIES' visibility work on energy and climate change activities, in particular that related to the Covenant of Mayors. Dion has a degree in Contemporary European Studies and a postgraduate degree in Foreign Relations. He has undertaken traineeships at the Assembly of European Regions and the European Commission. Most recently he worked within the communications unit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



Jonathan Laroy
Function: Meeting Rooms Representative
Nationality: BE

Working Languages: EN, FR, NL

As EUROCIITIES' new meeting room representative, Jonathan Laroy, will take care of handling all matters related to securing and maintaining rental contracts for EUROCIITIES' meeting space at the Brussels Office. Jonathan is already familiar with EUROCIITIES having previously worked within the organisation's Human Resources and Finance department. Jonathan has a Master's degree in philosophy and has several years of volunteer experience.

Business meetings @ EUROCIITIES

1. Joint meeting: EUROCIITIES Executive Committee Officers and Forum Chairs
Oslo | 14 May 2009 at EUROCIITIES' Cooperation Platform
2. EUROCIITIES Executive Committee Politicians
The Hague | 19 June 2009
3. Joint meeting: EUROCIITIES Executive Committee Officers and Forum Chairs
Brussels | 18 September 2009

Jean-Pierre Ernotte, Personal Assistant to EUROCIITIES' Secretary General: jean-pierre.ernotte@eurocities.eu



European Commission launches consultation on future European Heritage Label

EUROCITIES is preparing a response to the European Commission's public consultation on plans to make the European Heritage Label more effective by transforming it into an official EU initiative.

The European Heritage Label was launched as an intergovernmental initiative by several European states in 2007. Its aims are to strengthen the support of European citizens for a shared European identity and to foster a sense of belonging to a common cultural space. To date, 60 sites in 18 European states have obtained the European Heritage Label.

In November 2008, the European Council of Ministers asked the European Commission to submit a proposal to transform the current intergovernmental European Heritage Label into a formal EU initiative. The understanding is that by "europeanising" the label, both its operational efficiency and impact would be improved thus giving it a new dimension. In line with procedures, the Commission launched an impact assessment, which includes the aforementioned consultation.

A public meeting with organisations from the cultural heritage field will

be held in Brussels on 10 June 2009. By autumn 2009, the results of the various consultations will be incorporated into an impact assessment report and, if appropriate, will serve as a basis for the Commission's proposal on the European Heritage Label ■

Consultation on European Heritage Label:
http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc1983_en.htm

Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES Policy Officer – Culture:
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It's all about EVE: education and culture projects now online

A new tool introduced by the European Commission offers a feast of information on projects which have been financed through Commission managed programmes in the fields of education, training, culture, youth and citizenship.

Launched in March, the new electronic platform - EVE (Espace virtuel d'échange) - already contains hundreds of project results and more are set to be uploaded in the coming months.

The website is available in English, French and German.



EVE: www.ec.europa.eu/eve

Mark your calendar! Culture Infodays 2009

The European Commission Directorate-General Education and Culture and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, which manages most strands of the Culture Programme, are together organising three Infodays sessions this spring.

What are European funding possibilities in the field of culture for the coming years? What is the latest news with regards to the EU Culture Programme? How can you increase the chances of having your project selected? How can you find European partners? For answers to these questions, go to:

- Barcelona - 15 May
- Vilnius - 29 May
- Brussels - 11 June

Infodays aim to inform people about the programme's priorities and what's new in 2009. This year's Infodays will feature updates and experiences of ongoing projects; a helpdesk for newcomers; more question and answer time than that allocated in previous years; and a partner search service.

Infodays 2009: <http://ec.europa.eu/culture>

What's on the agenda for the EUROCITIES' Culture Forum next meeting

Dortmund | 11-13 June 2009

The EUROCITIES Culture Forum's next meeting will focus on cultural policies, creativity and innovation, with the meeting's plenary sessions honing in further on these plus the European Capital of Culture Ruhr 2010, with which Dortmund is associated.

Ruhr.2010 will be the first European Capital of Culture to integrate the creative economy into its overall concept; permanently strengthen the region's creative and economic powers; highlight the activities of the 20,000 companies which are nationally and internationally active in the cultural sector;

create synergies between their interests; and create a network of local authority structures.

Three of the Forum's Working Groups - Resources for culture; Young people and culture; and Access to culture - will also meet in Dortmund and a special meeting for politicians will be held to focus on innovative ways to finance culture in cities. Complementary technical visits are also scheduled.



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

Economic Development



Helsinki hailed as Europe's number one city for entrepreneurs



EUROCITIES member Helsinki has come top of the poll in a survey to find the European city that entrepreneurs like best. Other members of the network, Stockholm, Munich and Malmo rounded out in the top five. British cities rated poorly due to the impact of the economic recession in the UK.

Nearly 2,400 small-business leaders in 37 cities across 19 countries took part in the 'European Cities Entrepreneurship Rating (ECER)-Banque Populaire' survey which checked levels of satisfaction regarding public support for various stages of setting up a company, promotion of entrepreneurship, availability of funding and overall business environment.

Overall, the results show that European entrepreneurs are increasingly satisfied

with the environment and level of support for their endeavours in Europe's cities. According to the survey's authors, this rise in satisfaction signals that Europe is making progress towards a more entrepreneurial society.

The study reaffirms the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation for economic competitiveness, pointing out that cities and metropolitan areas are best suited to address the challenges of entrepreneurs. The study further reveals that national public policies have a clear influence as well as the existence of full service policies, tackling all themes.

According to the report there are several reasons for Helsinki taking the top spot. Helsinki has successfully leveraged a pro-entrepreneurship climate by creating

several institutions dedicated to small business such as the EnterpriseHelsinki office with 15 senior advisors giving advice and guidance free of charge to enterprises planning to start a business or to expand existing business operations in Helsinki.

The Helsinki School of Creative Entrepreneurship also plays a pivotal role in entrepreneurship promotion and training in the Helsinki area. It is meshed in multiple economic and social networks locally, and in the past few years has built many partnerships with local development agencies in the area ■

ECER- Banque Populaire ranking: www.ecer.fr

Cities and SMEs – lessons learned for effective business support

Brussels | 8 May 2009

As part of the first European SME Week taking place on 6-14 May 2009, EUROCIITIES is organising a seminar on the practical experience of SME support at the city level. The event is coordinated by EUROCIITIES with support from the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME), BarcelonaActiva and the City of The Hague.

The seminar will be held on 8 May 2009 at 14.00 - 17.00 at the EUROCIITIES office, The House of Cities, Regions and Municipalities in Brussels.

Maive Rute, EU Commission Director for SME's Competitiveness will join an expert panel including representatives of both cities and SMEs to explore the experiences of businesses, cities, and decision makers. The objective is to both identify best practice in SME support as well as future challenges, opportunities and tools required to successfully address them.

Deadline for registrations: **4 May 2009**

Marianne Junghans, EUROCIITIES trainee – Economic Development:
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European SME Week:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week>



Economic Development Forum update

Gathering around 70 city representatives, the last EUROCIITIES Economic Development Forum (EDF) hosted by the City of Gijon looked at innovative ways to finance city projects in a time of crisis.

Presentations on city responses to the crisis and public private partnerships were held during the event. The projects fair held offered participants an opportunity to present and discuss project ideas with interested cities and prospective partners.

EDF Working Groups on Entrepreneurship;

John Dodd, EUROCIITIES Secondment - Economic Development:
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Spatial Planning and the City of the Future; Cohesion Policy; Economic Migration; Clusters; and Urban Regeneration met to determine activities for this year.

The next Economic Development Forum will be held in Nuremberg, Germany, on 24-26 June to look at the issue of today's aging society and economic development; the impact of demographic change on the economic development of European cities; and the resulting challenges faced by cities.

JESSICA for Cities - J4C

Luxembourg | 14-15 May 2009

The European Investment Bank (EIB) will host a meeting of the URBACT II Jessica for Cities ("J4C") Working Group in Luxembourg. J4C Partners have been working to determine how European cities can draw the maximum benefit from JESSICA, and conversely how JESSICA could be structured, having regard to

existing Structural Fund Regulations, to best accommodate the needs of cities.

Consultants and other parties who have already or are completing JESSICA Evaluation Studies on behalf of the Managing Authorities under the European Commission and of the EIB JESSICA Task Force are welcome to attend.

The workshop will look at the progress in JESSICA and the J4C Working Group, emphasising the central role of cities for successfully implementing financial engineering instruments for sustainable urban development in the 2007-2013 programming cycle.

EIB: www.eib.org



Commission sets out climate change adaption strategy

On 1 April the European Commission published a White Paper outlining actions needed to strengthen the EU's resilience in coping with a changing climate; EUROCIITIES is currently assessing the approach needed to react to this document.

The paper entitled 'Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action' presents a framework within which the EU, Member States and regions can prepare for the impacts of climate change.

A first phase of the strategy will run until 2012 and will lay the groundwork for preparing a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy from 2013 and beyond. It will focus on increasing our understanding of climate change and possible adaptation measures and how adaptation can be embedded in key EU policies. The paper outlines the need for a Clearing House Mechanism to exchange information on climate change risks, impacts and best practices.

Phase II commencing in 2013 will involve the implementation of the EU adaptation strategy with the objective of mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation policies embedding them in key EU policies affecting most sectors and Member States.

On 1 September, the Commission will set up an Impact and Adaptation Steering Group with representatives from EU Member States involved in the drawing up of national and regional adaptation programmes and will consult with representatives from civil society and the scientific community ■

White Paper:
www.ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

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

Local Environmental Quality Survey of England heads to Europe

The Local Environmental Quality Survey of England assesses those aspects of the local environment that members of the public normally take into account when forming an impression of the overall 'quality' of an area.

Its success across cities in the UK encouraged Leeds City Council to assess the survey's application to cities in the rest of Europe. Five out of ten EUROCIITIES member cities - Leeds, Oslo, Madrid, Rotterdam and Sofia - took part in an assessment, the results of which were presented by Leeds City Council at the latest EUROCIITIES Environmental Forum meeting.

These reports and benchmarking data constitute excellent management tools in deploying resources where they are most needed, as well as clearly depicting results, comparisons and improvements over time.

Leeds City Council is currently looking for five European cities to participate in the pilot phase of the cleanliness measure.

Interested in taking part? Contact Phillip Turpin, Leeds City Council:
phillip.turpin@leeds.gov.uk

New publication: greening major sporting events

EUROCIITIES' Clean Cities Working Group has recently published a booklet which presents the results of a pilot project undertaken to assess the impact of major outdoors sporting events in European cities and provides 'green' guidelines for such activities.



The project involved meetings with representatives of EUROCIITIES members Barcelona, Belfast, Helsinki, Gothenburg and Madrid, who each exchanged experiences and best practice cases on their respective cities in the area.

The brochure is a useful tool for any city organising major sporting events, in particular marathons, footraces and other street sporting events.

Greening Major Events: marathons, footraces and other sporting events: www.eurocities.eu

Crisis, what crisis?

The first meeting of the EUROCIITIES Environmental Forum (EEF) under Vienna and Malmo as the new Chair and Vice Chair respectively, took place in Vienna on 16-17 March.

On the theme of 'Crisis, what crisis?' the Forum agreed on a political statement which reiterates the active position of cities on climate change and the financial crisis.

The EEF sees the reinforcement of investment in public goods and services and the promotion of green technologies as a positive trigger for employment and the environment. The Forum also discussed cities' approach to climate change from the

perspective of EUROCIITIES, the EU, and the United Nations.

Vienna had the opportunity to present its 'Eco Business' plan and had taken the initiative to evaluate how much CO2 was consumed (35Tons) by meeting participants. Through the city's green projects, Vienna will compensate that consumed.

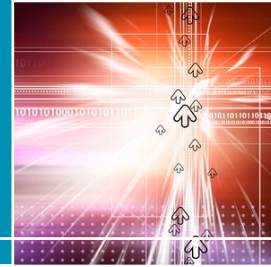
Malmo will host the next Forum meeting on 24-25 June with energy and sustainability as key discussion topics.

EUROCIITIES Working Group on Air Quality/Climate Change/Energy Efficiency will meet in Malaga on 11-12 June 2009.

Eva Baños de Guisasaola, Policy Officer – Environment:
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EEF statement: www.eurocities.eu

Knowledge Society



Digital innovation for greener cities

The EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum conference held in Manchester on 25-27 March 2009 benefited from a wide range of constructive debates sparked by the interjections of speakers and participants from about 40 cities on how technological, and specifically digital innovation, can support the 'greening' of cities.

Keynote speaker Linda Mauperon, a member of European Commissioner Viviane Reding's cabinet, outlined the Commission's policy on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Energy Efficiency. Ms Mauperon underlined that the potential for ICT to drive behavioural changes and lifestyle changes in all areas is far more powerful than decreasing the ICT sector's own carbon footprint, which constitutes 2% of overall carbon emissions. One example of how ICT can trigger change is smart metering and measuring, which delivers live information on energy use to the customer and the utility provider. This

enabling capacity of ICT can only be used to its fullest when all stakeholders are engaged, including cities, she said.

The consensus is that cities should lead by example in this field. City leadership can be demonstrated by creating a new focus to promote the use of digital technologies to support intelligent cities i.e. cities which demonstrate ICT use to achieve new and innovative ways of increasing energy efficiency.

This is the idea behind the proposal for a 'Green Digital Charter' as part of EUROCITIES' new 'Green Shift Europe' initiative, which was presented at the conference. Green Shift Europe aims to add value to work on climate change by creating a new framework to support cities in using ICT to facilitate emissions reductions ■



Watch the keynote speech by Linda Mauperon: www.manchesterdda.com/2009/03/27/a-green-and-digital-future-eurocities-in-manchester/

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Task Force mGovernment launched!

Led by the city of Barcelona, a new task force on Mobile Government (mGovernment) development in European cities, was officially endorsed at the latest EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum meeting.

Offering public services via mobile devices is an inevitable direction in the evolution of electronic Government (eGovernment). Contrary to eGovernment, mGovernment uses a channel that has been naturally adopted with a penetration higher than 90%. It includes population groups such as immigrants and the elderly which have little or no access to new technologies. mGovernment constitutes a new work scenario in which citizen-municipality partnerships may develop thus overcoming the digital divide and ensuring a greater overall take-up of electronic public services.

Still an unfamiliar concept in most municipalities, local European governments will need to work together to gather and share knowledge on the concept to ensure the full benefits of this high-impact communication channel.

At the proposal of Barcelona, the task force will discuss best practice approaches and common issues in mGovernment implementation, eventually developing a paper summarising the main issues at stake. This exercise will culminate in the mLife event in Barcelona on 2-4 September 2009.

The task force will also organise itself by means of an online team room for virtual discussions on the subject. Two workshops in Reykjavik and Barcelona at the summer Knowledge Society Forum and the mLife conference will also be held.

Interested in participating? Contact Joan Batlle; jbattle@bcn.cat; tel. +34 93 291 82 30

Commission outlines cities' role in using ICT for energy efficiency

The second Communication on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Energy Efficiency published 12 March 2009 is the Commission's latest push to elevate the role of ICT in supporting EU ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020.

While believing the ICT industry should 'lead by example' in the drive towards CO2 reductions, the Commission in its Communication also addresses the potential

input of regional and local authorities.

Regional and local authorities can take the lead in driving demand for innovative ICT-based solutions through procurement, innovation programmes, pilot projects and exchange of best practices. In this regard, the Committee of the Regions is developing a guide for regional and local authorities on improving energy performance through innovative use of ICT. A call for tender will be launched in coming weeks for contributions to this.

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



EU reconsiders transport policy

Climate change, high oil prices and congestion are but a few of the new aspects which form part of the debate over Europe's future transport policy. The current financial crisis will also feature high in the review of the 2001 White Paper on transport which has just started via a European consultation to which EUROCIITIES contributed at the end of March.

The EUROCIITIES Statement, 'The Urban Dimension of the EU Transport Strategy' highlights the importance of good transport links for the competitiveness of cities and regions, national economies and the EU as a whole.

For European cities, the vision for the future of transport should acknowledge the crucial component that urban transport represents for the transport chain, and help identify tools that will enable cities to remove bottlenecks and allow transport flows to run smoothly. EU funding and innovative financing solutions should help all levels respond to current challenges. A shift towards more sustainable modes of transport must also be central to any future transport planning.

On 9-10 March, the European Commission held a conference in Brussels to discuss scenarios for the next 40 years. Policymakers, top managers of the most important transport operators and EU stakeholders, among them EUROCIITIES represented by the Mayor of Budapest, Gabor Demszky, met with EU Transport Commissioner Tajani to discuss the future challenges for the transport.

The conference as well as the written consultation aim to help the European Commission to draft a Communication on the Future on Transport, to be adopted in June 2009, preparing the ground for the 2010 White Paper, which will include a set of ambitious policy measures to tackle the long-term challenges of transport policy ■

Link: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/strategies/2009_future_of_transport_en.htm

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European Conference on Mobility Management

San Sebastian | 12-15 May 2009



As a member of the EPOMM (European Platform for Mobility Management) Consortium, EUROCIITIES will be represented at the European Conference on Mobility Management (ECOMM) taking place on 12-15 May in San Sebastian, Spain.

The purpose of ECOMM is to develop, promote, and increase knowledge of mobility management. A plenary session on the Action Plan on Urban Mobility will take place on 14 May which will benefit from the participation of Members of the European Parliament who are at the forefront of action on this. Moderating the session, Gilles Savary, as the Parliament Rapporteur on the same dossier and Moderator will be among those present. Local politicians from Spain, Slovenia, Austria and others countries who are actively engaged in EUROCIITIES' mobility action will also attend.

ECOMM 2009: www.ecomm2009.eu

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

The future of Trans-European Transport Networks

The European Commission has recently adopted a Green Paper, 'Towards a better integrated trans-European transport network at the service of the common transport policy', which sets out the future challenges of its policy for a future trans-European transport network (TEN-T). This initiative contributes to supporting Europe's international role through better infrastructure connections with its neighbours and the wider world.

An improved integrated TEN-T is crucial for efficient, safe, secure and high quality freight and passenger transport. Combining all transport modes, making the best possible use of fully interoperable intelligent transport systems and assimilating new transport and energy technologies are central to discussions on future-oriented network integration.

On the basis of the Green Paper and past experiences on TEN-T, members of the EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum responded to the consultation, underlining that cities are widely considered as crucial poles of economic activity and are the first and final link in the chain for passengers and freight. For this reason, urban transport arrangements must become an integral dimension of TEN-T planning in the future. In the context of the current economic crisis, EUROCIITIES believes that it is even more crucial that the TEN-T fully realises its full potential.

With the Green Paper and the consultation of all transport stakeholders, the European Commission foresees, as a major legislative proposal to follow from the Green Paper process, a revision of the TEN-T Guidelines.

The European Parliament has also drafted its own report on the future of the TEN-T which is foreseen to be adopted by the plenary at the end of April 2009.

Link: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations>

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Europe's cities at the forefront of local integration policy



Harnessing the opportunities of diversity in Europe's cities and creating equal opportunities were the main topics discussed at the INTEGRATING CITIES III Conference in Berlin on April 2. The event was hosted by the Senate of Berlin in cooperation with EUROCIITIES and the European Commission Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security.

Leading policymakers, experts and practitioners explored options on how cities and their administrations can contribute to promoting a welcoming and productive culture and society. The conference also saw the official launch of EUROCIITIES' new project, 'Diversity and Equality in European Cities' (DIVE). A City

Charter on Diversity and Equality to be published in 2010 was also announced.

The conference closing was marked with a handover of an Integrating Cities 'baton' from Berlin Commissioner for Integration, Günter Piening, to Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor of London, the city which will host INTEGRATING CITIES IV Conference in spring 2010 ■

INTI-Cities: www.inticities.eu/en/news

Combating health inequalities, improving wellbeing – EUROCIITIES' response to EU Consultation on health policies

Health inequalities both within and between EU Member States are on the rise. Local governments have a key role to play in reversing this development, not least because of their importance in both improving wellbeing and delivering services to improve the health of their citizens.

Given that the root causes of health inequalities range from socio-economic factors to environmental conditions, the line between cause and effect is often difficult, if not impossible, to determine. This problem is particularly acute for

cities as these factors tend to accumulate in urban areas, thus creating pockets of health deprivation.

EUROCIITIES' response to the European Commission's consultation on EU action to reduce health inequalities, stresses the need to combat these disparities in a targeted manner and outlines the scope for coordinated action at EU level.

Drawing on a comprehensive understanding of how these issues affect our members, EUROCIITIES believes that exchange programmes which involve

practitioners and service users at local level are paramount. They can and should play a key role in informing policy development and their implementation is essential in the fight against health inequality.

European Commission on Public Health: http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

EUROCIITIES response to EU Consultation on health policies: www.eurocities.eu

Social Affairs Forum's work boosted in field of employment policy

Genoa | 4-5 June 2009

Mark your calendar for the upcoming meeting of the EUROCIITIES Social Affairs Forum's Working Group (WG) Employment which will take place in Genoa on 4-5 June 2009.

All members of the EUROCIITIES Social Affairs Forum and Economic Development Forum are invited to attend to provide input on discussions on the WG's future priorities, activities and mandate.

Simon Guentner, EUROCIITIES Senior Policy Officer - Social Affairs:
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URBACT: Cities ahead, cities in charge!

Over the last two years, URBACT has been working on two pilot networks to look at the implications of the economic crisis and recovery for migrants and populations in deprived neighbourhoods in cities. The results of both will be presented at the following conferences:

- Disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the crisis: how can they contribute to the recovery? Lyon | 15 May 2009, Lyon

- Migrants: promoting inclusion during the downturn?

Brussels | 26 May 2009

URBACT: www.urbact.eu

New EUROCIITIES toolkit on cities and economic migration

Reacting to the growing importance of economic migration for cities over the last years, EUROCIITIES launched a study to delve deeper into the type of local level responses to this trend.

The report, 'Cities and economic migration – challenges and local policy responses':

- reconstructs the political and legal framework for economic migration;
- analyses migration trends in European cities;
- identifies the main challenges cities face; and
- presents a good practice toolkit for the management of economic migration in cities.

Recommendations to national and European policymakers sum up the political support that cities need from national governments and European Institutions to foster social inclusion of migrants and to better manage economic migration at the local level.

The study was produced by the EUROCIITIES Brussels Office, 19 EUROCIITIES members, and the network's Working Groups Migration & Integration and Economic Migration.

Participation & Cooperation



Intergroup on Urban-Housing must continue

EUROCITIES has sent message of support to the European Parliament Intergroup on Urban-Housing (IUL) backing its reinstatement in the incoming European Parliament. The IUL was created in early 2005 at the initiative of two Members of the European Parliament, Jean-Marie Beaupuy and Alain Hutchinson, who expressed concerns on urban and housing issues respectively. Together they established the IUL with sponsorship of political groups ALDE, PSE and EPP.

EUROCITIES' close cooperation with the IUL over the past five years has helped considerably to bring the European Parliament's agenda closer to the everyday concerns of cities' governments and inhabitants.

The incoming Parliament will be faced with the difficult task of dealing with challenges arising from the current economic crisis. The latest Eurobarometer

survey shows that local authorities are the level of government trusted most by Europe's citizens. Taking this into account, any actions planned at EU level must have a strong territorial dimension with cities at the core.

EUROCITIES in its message has suggested that the Intergroup considers the following for the coming legislature:

- Ensuring recognition of the urban dimension in the work of the European Parliament on issues such as transport, migration and integration, and maintaining pressure for adequate consultation and partnership with cities on these issues;
- Underlining the role of cities in developing strategic frameworks and instruments that are largely dependant on cities for their implementation, e.g. cohesion policy, the Lisbon Strategy, climate change, and the EU Budget; and



- Increasing pressure on the European Commission to give the 'Commission InterService Group' (created partly due to the Intergroup's pressure for an integrated approach within the Commission) a more important role in implementing an integrated approach in key dossiers (other than serving merely as a platform information exchange).

EUROCITIES will be actively contacting new MEPs from June onwards to stress the importance of re-instating the IUL ■

Intergroup on Urban-Housing:
www.urban-logement.eu

Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation:
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Investing in Global Cities: Opportunities in Adversity

La Baule | 3-5 June 2009

EUROCITIES members can register for a reduced fee of €598 for the 7th World Investment Conference (WIC) taking place in La Baule, France on 3-5 June 2009. The focus of this year's edition will be growth opportunities of cities and metropolitan areas. EUROCIETIES' Secretary General Paul Bevan has accepted an invitation to speak at the event.

Organised by Europe+ Foundation, the WIC each year gathers around 1,000 top policy makers and corporate leaders to make Europe more attractive for investment, innovation and talents.

In the context of the current economic crisis, CEO's and public actors will work on solutions to best react to this crisis, new paths for growth and ideas for Europe's attractiveness and



competitiveness at this coming 7th WIC on 'Investing in Global Cities – Opportunities on Adversity'. Co-founders of Europe+ Foundation, Ernst & Young will present the European Attractiveness Survey 2009 and several mayors from major cities such as Lyon, Milan, Prague and Warsaw, will share their experiences.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet with global investors interested in Europe's cities and regions as well as with town planners, architects and innovators acting for the city of the future. Three interactive thematic events will also be held: The Transatlantic Green Platform; The Global Technology Showcase; and The Brainpower Forum.

La Baule WIC 2009: www.labaulewic.org

Nicola Vathauer, EUROCIETIES Communications Director:
nicola.vathauer@eurocities.eu

Register now for EUROCIETIES' Cooperation Platform!

EUROCITIES encourages all member cities' contact offers to come along to this year's annual Cooperation Platform taking place in Oslo on 14-15 May 2009.

If you're interested in running one of the speednetworking sessions - a new feature of this year's programme - please ensure your proposal addresses one of the following themes:

- **My experience using EUROCIETIES in my city**

Present examples of how you/your city are using EUROCIETIES in its capacity as a knowledge and information provider. Brainstorm with colleagues on how to get more benefits from the network.

- **Maintaining EUROCIETIES' activities with fewer resources: how we did it**

If your city has or is facing difficulties due to the economic downturn while still maintaining its commitment to European activities, this session will allow you to discuss and seek advice from colleagues on these issues.

- **Finding partners for EU projects**

If you're preparing a response to a call for EU funding and looking for cities to join, use this opportunity to present your ideas, find partners and make a successful start to your project!

Interested in running a session? Contact Rachel Barnett, EUROCIETIES Project Assistant: rachel.barnett@eurocities.eu

Register by 24 April at www.eventbrite.com/event/288169924

Bernardo Rodrigues, Policy Officer - Governance and International Cooperation: bernardo.rodrigues@eurocities.eu

Projects



Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion launched!

On 23-24 March 2009 in Brussels, EUROCIITIES together with the cities of Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Stockholm, officially launched the EUROCIITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCIITIES-NLAO).

The meeting marked the start of the project network which throughout the next 18 months, will monitor the implementation of local social policies and identify related good practice.

City partners involved will carry out an in-depth analysis on the role of social services within the Active Inclusion strategy, the European Commission and Member States' strategy to integrate unemployed and socially excluded people. Based on input from cities and comparative research at the EU-level, the EUROCIITIES-NLAO will provide evidence for further EU policy development.

During the workshop, the partner cities each presented a general overview on social service provision in their respective countries. An initial cross-country comparison shows that the provision of social services is embedded in national governance structures which determine the freedom that cities have to implement integration strategies. How this impacts the commissioning and quality management of social service provision are questions that project partners will investigate further in the areas of social and supported housing and community development, as well as employment and training services.

To enhance the quality of the project, representatives of the partner cities aim to involve other key actors of active inclusion in the research by means of advisory networks. Specifically, they will engage with other EUROCIITIES member cities as well as government representatives,



Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion

service providers, users and the research community to gather input and discuss their findings.

Following the launch event, the EUROCIITIES-NLAO partners also met with representatives from both the European Commission Directorate-General (DG) for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and DG for Regional Policy. A successful exchange of ideas and recommendations managed to strengthen mutual interests of cities' engagement in the integration of excluded people and the European Commission's Active Inclusion approach ■

Anke Thiel, EUROCIITIES Project Coordinator – NLAO: anke.thiel@eurocities.eu

Call for proposals: Intelligent Energy - Europe

The European Commission's Directorate-General of Energy and Transport has published a call for proposals in the field of energy under the 'Intelligent Energy - Europe' Programme.

Intelligent Energy – Europe builds on the experience of the first Intelligent Energy - Europe (2003-2006) Programme and has become the main Community instrument to tackle non-technological barriers to the spread of efficient use of energy and greater use of new and renewable energy sources. The programme aims to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing for initiatives to:

- Foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources;
- Promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification; and
- Promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

In particular it contributes to the Energy Policy for Europe, including the EU action plan for energy-efficiency and the directive on promoting the use of energy from renewables.

Eligible activities under this call include:

- Strategic studies for legislation on and promotion of sustainable energy development, voluntary commitments, development of standards/certificates, creation, enlargement, reorganisation of structures and instruments for sustainable energy development and development of financial products and market instruments;
- Promotion of sustainable energy systems, stimulation of investment, awareness campaigns, institutional capacity-building;
- Information, education, training structures and dissemination of best practice; and
- Monitoring of implementation and impact of Community measures

The indicative total amount available for this call is around €65 million, with an average contribution per project of €1 million. The Commission plans to grant funds which are complementary to contributions made by the beneficiary, the national, regional or local authorities and/or other bodies. The amount granted will finance up to 75% of the total eligible costs for projects, the maximum duration of a project is 3 years.

Deadline for applications: 25 June 2009

Call for proposals: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent>

Peter Staelens, EUROCIITIES Project Officer – Mobility: peter.staelens@eurocities.eu

Events



Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
7-8 May 2009 Berlin, Germany	International Conference 2009: Empty Country and Lively Cities? Spatial Differentiation in the Face of Demographic Change	www.leeresland-buntestadt.de/index_en.html
12-15 May 2009 Brussels, Belgium	Velo-city 2009 Focusing on Recycling cities	www.velo-city2009.com/homepage-en.html
13-15 May 2009 Saint Etienne, France	Urban land management in times of crisis Third Cabernet International Conference	www.cabernet2009.com
14-15 May 2009 Oslo, Norway	EUROCITIES Cooperation Platform Making the most of the EUROCITIES network	www.eurocities.eu
24-27 May 2009 Mikulov, Czech Republic	Tourism – current and future challenges for urban development IFHP International Conference	www.ifhp2009.cz
26 May 2009 Europe-wide	European Neighbours Day Organised by the European Federation of Local Solidarity	www.european-neighbours-day.com
3-5 June 2009 La Baule, France	Investing in Global Cities: Opportunities in Adversity 7th La Baule World Investment Conference	www.labaulewic.org
4-5 June 2009 Almere, The Netherlands	New towns for the 21st century: the Planned vs. the Unplanned City Organised by the International New Town Institute	www.newtowninstitute.org
4-6 June 2009 Madrid, Spain	City futures in a globalising world International conference on globalism and urban change	www.cityfutures2009.com
14-16 June 2009 Stuttgart, Germany	Cities for Mobility World Congress 2009 Focusing on Socially inclusive mobility – Access for all	www.cities-for-mobility.org
18-19 June 2009 Budapest, Hungary	4th International Innovation Society 2009 Conference To register, contact Orsolya Tóth at orsolya.toth@nkth.gov.hu	www.innovationsociety.eu

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