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## Welcome back!

With the summer break over, we begin our activities for the end of 2010. The second phase of the Network of Local Authorities Observatory (NLAO) on Active Inclusion is now fully operational, with ten cities participating.

In the next months, one of the most important events is the SAF on 11-12 October when we will present the conclusions of our European Year 2010 campaign.

We will also follow and shape the debate on the new Platform against Poverty, to ensure that local governments are represented under this new initiative to promote social and territorial cohesion.

The SAF team

## EUROCITIES 2010 campaign to fight social exclusion

**P**overty and exclusion need to be addressed in an integrated way that connects social, economic and environmental actions and combines people- and place-based approaches. In implementing integrated approaches, cities need to coordinate their work across different departments and liaise with a wide range of actors.

These are the key conclusions from the events that were held across the entire EUROCITIES network as part of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. They were also an opportunity to exchange experiences, good practices and the challenges in tackling these problems.

City governments are already implementing programmes addressing a wide range of factors that cause poverty and exclusion. Urban regeneration programmes are the most comprehensive interventions since they combine policies aimed at people, such as employment, education and health, with place-based programmes, such as improving housing and investment in key infrastructure. Other policy areas, such as culture, environment, mobility and ICT also play a significant role in promoting social inclusion.

Participating city representatives stressed that working in broad partnerships is crucial in order to better coordinate the variety of initiatives to promote inclusion. They also highlighted the need for regular



dialogue with other government levels with whom most of competences in relevant policy areas are shared.

The conclusions from the campaign will serve as a basis for formulating recommendations to the EU institutions, national and local governments.

During the campaign, we produced a film to illustrate how cities can deal with the challenges of social exclusion. It was filmed in Katowice and Budapest and features interviews with our members from across Europe. It will be premiered during the SAF meeting on 12 October. It will then be available for our members to use, including putting it on city websites.

You can find out more about our activities this year by visiting our website: [www.inclusivocities.eu](http://www.inclusivocities.eu).

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## Getting things done on migrant integration in Europe

In late August, EUROCIITIES submitted its response to the European Commission consultation on the new agenda for migrant integration. This is due to be published in late 2010.

We call on the European Commission to develop a culture of consultation with local governments and civil society, drawing on our positive experiences of working in partnership with the European Commission DG Employment and Social Affairs.

In our view, the European Commission should assess how accessible the European Integration Fund is for local policy makers and remove procedural obstacles. We also proposed to gather evidence on the effectiveness of the national programmes for migrant integration.

In addition, we welcomed the new Europe 2020 strategy as a great

opportunity for better coordination between national policies and between policy areas relevant for integration. The Europe 2020 strategy mentions, for instance, that for increasing the European employment rate, special attention needs to be given to migration. It also relates the new European Platform on Poverty to migrant integration. These potential links are strengthened by the fact that the new integration indicators, presented at the ministerial meeting on integration this spring in Zaragoza, are also in line with the targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy.

EUROCIITIES presented itself as model for member states on how to cooperate, learn from each other, and identify the best ideas for improving integration policies in a transnational context.

The discussions between the local and European levels on integration

issues will continue on 12 October when politicians from the EUROCIITIES network will meet the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmstrom.



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## More Urban, More Impact: the future of cohesion policy

14 September | Brussels

EUROCIITIES, together with the Belgian Presidency of the EU, Brussels Capital Region and the European Parliament Urban Intergroup, will hold a high level conference on the urban dimension of cohesion policy.

As the debate develops about the future of EU cohesion policy, the conference will demonstrate the importance of the urban dimension and how integrated approaches adopted by cities bring added value to cohesion policy. Integrated local development combines social, economic and environmental measures, forging partnerships both horizontally (across different local stakeholders) and vertically (across different levels of government). The geographical scale of intervention can range from neighbourhoods to the city as a whole, depending on the issues at stake. This approach boosts policy and governance innovation at local level and leads to more positive and enduring impacts.

The focus of the conference lies in three areas: integrating people and place-based policies; working in partnership; and variable geography (different levels of intervention). The conference will also present examples of actions and projects supported by EU structural funds. Key players in cohesion policy will participate including Jan Olbrycht MEP, Chair of the European Parliament Urban Intergroup; and Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister for urban renewal in the Brussels Capital Region.

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This newsletter is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Solidarity (2007-2013). The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.



## EU coordination in social affairs: Europe 2020 strategy

14-15 September 2010 La Hulpe,

**A** high-level conference organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency on EU coordination in social affairs in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy will take place in La Hulpe, near Brussels.

The event will gather key actors and stakeholders, prominent scholars and experts with the aim of advancing the discussion on strong social protection and inclusion policies in support of the Europe 2020 inclusive growth objective. It will focus on ways to reinforce the governance system in social protection and social inclusion and discuss the shape and role of the new European Platform against Poverty.

EUROCITIES has been invited to provide conclusions and report on the interactive workshop on 'Better coordination between national, regional and local levels'. The outcomes of this workshop will feed into the discussion on improving the tools for social policy coordination and governance at EU level.

Click here for more information on the Europe 2020 strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

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## Open Days – European Week of Cities and Regions

4-7 October 2010 | Brussels

The Open Days – the European Week of Cities and Regions - gathers practitioners, policy makers and experts in regional and local policies in Brussels. This year, the focus will be on three themes: 'competitiveness, cooperation and cohesion'. These priorities represent key elements of the new Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and recognise the vital role of regions and cities.

The event is organised by the Committee of the Regions and DG Regional Policy of the European Commission in partnership with more than 274 regions and cities, companies and associations. Participants will, through seminars, workshops and debates, present their practices and approaches for creating growth and jobs, implementing EU cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local level for good European governance.

Members of the EUROCITIES Social Affairs team will contribute to the workshops on 'Territorial strategies towards social inclusion' and 'Social cohesion in a time of crisis'.

Access the Open Days website.

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## Wilton Park seminar on challenges for migration management

What is the future of migration and how can we better manage it? These were the questions posed by the UK-border agency to a range of migration experts and policy makers at the annual Wilton Park seminar on Managing Migration in London this summer.

Population growth is expected in African and some Asian countries. Many of these people are likely to migrate for economic and other reasons. In the EU, migration is predicted to increase. With populations declining in Europe, Europeans will also rely on migrants to fulfil labour and financial needs. These factors meant that discussions

at the seminar focused on the tools for more effective migration management and better integration in Europe.

Some European countries already have programmes in place to prepare migrants for integrating before they leave their country of origin. Such measures include better information for migrants, more proactive policies for skills recognition and cooperation with diaspora organisations.

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## Social Affairs Forum meeting

11-12 October 2010 | Brussels

The EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum meeting will be hosted over two days in Brussels. On the 11 October, elections for the new Chair of the SAF will take place.

On the 12, we will move to the Atelier des Tanneurs, a social enterprise building local business and creating jobs in the heart of Brussels. The keynote speaker is Professor Richard Wilkinson from Nottingham University, co-author of 'The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone'. This book evidences the correlation between income inequality and the prevalence of various social problems.

Participants will learn about innovative city examples of combating poverty and social exclusion from all six EUROCITIES Forums. These will include social

pricing schemes in Grenoble, cultural projects in neighbourhoods in Ghent and digital inclusion projects in Birmingham.

This meeting marks the end of our events for this European Year. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the conclusions and recommendations coming from the EUROCITIES activities as part of the European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion, with other city representatives, representatives of national governments, EU institutions, academics and NGOs.

Earlier this year, we produced a film that showcases cities' efforts in the field of tackling poverty and exclusion and the role of EUROCITIES in facilitating this work. This film will be premiered during the conference.

The Autumn Social Affairs Forum meeting is co-organised with the

Belgian Presidency of the European Council and Brussels-Capital Region. It is regarded by the European Commission as a key EU-level event of the European Year 2010. The meeting is supported through our Inclusive Cities partnership with the European Commission.

There will also be a poster exhibition, highlighting some of the good practices that we learned about during the year. If you would like to present a poster from your city, please get in touch with Soraya at [Soraya.Zanardo@eurocities.eu](mailto:Soraya.Zanardo@eurocities.eu).

**Registration** for the meeting is now open. To register, please click here before **27 September**.

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## Cities against poverty and social exclusion: child poverty

30 September – 1 October 2010 | Newcastle

EUROCITIES together with Newcastle and Gateshead City Councils will hold a seminar dedicated to child poverty in cities. It will be the final meeting in the EUROCITIES series of seminars held as part of our activities for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Child poverty has a clear urban dimension. In many cities, the levels of child poverty are higher than the respective national average. The aim of this seminar is to examine the problem from several perspectives (local, national, European, NGO, public institutions) and discuss possible solutions, as well as challenges ahead.

Specific issues to be examined include multi-agency approaches to tackling child poverty, the voice of the child, financial well-being of families and raising aspirations of children from poor families.

The EUROCITIES event will bring together representatives from cities, national governments, the European Commission, the academic community and key NGOs. Four cities (Leipzig, Newcastle, Stockholm and Gateshead) will compare their practices and share experiences.

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## EUROCITIES and the European Commission Forum “Building together a society for all”

19-20 October 2010 | Brussels

EUROCITIES will participate in the activities of the October Focus week on poverty and social exclusion. The European Commission is organising a participatory forum to highlight the diversity of actors and projects organised during the European Year, as well as other projects aimed at combating poverty and social exclusion.

The aim is to illustrate the 2010 European Year’s message of participation and shared responsibility by giving an active role to the various actors in debates, open spaces, workshops and stands. EUROCITIES will be present with an information stand.

The event will also feature a series of short circus acts and evening performances, based on educational programmes.

The event is open to the public and you are encouraged to register here. The Commission is also able to cover the travel and accommodation costs for one person from our network. If you are interested, contact Anna.

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## Peer review on Homelessness

20-21 September 2010 | Newcastle

**A**s part of the activities of EUROCITIES’ working group on Homelessness, the city of Newcastle is hosting a meeting to carry out a peer review on preventing and resolving homelessness.

The Newcastle Housing Services department will present the local approach to dealing with homelessness. Other European cities and NGO’s working on and with homeless people will comment, provide feedback and propose suggestions on Newcastle’ approaches. The aim is to encourage the exchange of experiences as well as develop mutual learning opportunities by identifying success factors and assessing their transferability to other cities.

Specific focus will be put on the best ways to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place, on programmes to end street sleeping, and on the new challenges posed by the economic recession and ways to address it.

Dr. Jamie Harding, from Northumbria University, will attend the peer-review as an thematic expert on homelessness. The outcomes of the peer review will be analysed and summarised in a paper that will be available on EUROCITIES website in early November.

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## Working Group Education

30 September - 1 October 2010 | Antwerp

Peer reviews in the city of Antwerp will take place on the 30 September. The Working Group will also discuss how to address the Europe 2020 strategy.

Representatives from the EACEA (Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the EU) have been invited to give a presentation which will be followed by a discussion about how cities can work together on a European level.

During the afternoon of the 1 October, the subgroups will discuss: preschool; prevention of early school leaving; and VET (Vocational Education and Training) and the Labour Market.

Please register by emailing Ulrika and Marleen Baillieul as soon as possible.

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## Second meeting EUROCITIES-NLAO II

8-9 September 2010 | Brussels

**E**UROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories (EUROCITIES-NLAO) on Active Inclusion met to discuss active inclusion at city level and define the details of the work plan for the second phase of the network.

The event was an opportunity for the ten LAO cities and EUROCITIES to explore the concept of active inclusion and reflect on the practical implementation of active inclusion strategies, analysing the priorities and challenges for municipalities.

The network will act as a reference point for raising awareness, promoting mutual learning and monitoring active inclusion policies at local and European levels. EUROCITIES-NLAO aims to inspire future active inclusion policy development at European level and outline how European policies can support cities in its delivery.

EUROCITIES-NLAO operated as a pilot project with five cities, co-funded by the European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. It has been enlarged to include ten cities, and is now integrated into Inclusive Cities for Europe, the PROGRESS-funded programme.

[www.eurocities-nlao.eu](http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu)

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## EUROCITIES-NLAO pilot project final event confirms cities' vital role in active inclusion

8 July 2010 | Brussels

The final event of the pilot phase of EUROCITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCITIES-NLAO) was an opportunity to present the research undertaken in the last year and half as well as to discuss cities' role in the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market. The event was attended by EU officials, national and regional government, as well as other European networks stakeholders.

The key conclusions of the day were:

- Cities have the final responsibility for delivering active inclusion measures on the ground;
- Local authorities have the best expertise and knowledge on local needs and potential;
- Cities are developing new practices to deal with the changing role in social service provision and better meet people's complex needs;
- Local authorities should pursue the direct involvement of people both in the design and implementation of their active inclusion strategies.

[www.eurocities-nlao.eu](http://www.eurocities-nlao.eu)

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### New NLAO, new faces

New people have joined EUROCITIES to work on the new and enlarged phase of EUROCITIES-NLAO.

Michele Corbetta is the network's coordinator. Previously Michele worked on social policy and projects for the Brussels Offices of the Southwest UK and Greater London Enterprise.

Mirte Kortbeek joined in August 2010 and will be the research officer for NLAO. She has a background in European Studies and was previously a project officer for the

Eindhoven Region Brussels Office.

Silvia Ganzerla, EUROCITIES senior policy officer for social affairs, is supervising the activities of the Observatory.

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## Showcasing cities good practices: Consulting with children

Stockholm, Sweden

EUROCITIES has collected information from cities on some of the strategies and projects in use to fight against poverty and exclusion. In a new section of the newsletter, we will highlight some of these. If you would like to find out more or if you would like to have your own city strategy included in our database, please email us at [info@inclusivecities.eu](mailto:info@inclusivecities.eu).

**R**inkeby-Kista is a neighbourhood in Stockholm with a young and migrant population. Educational levels of the inhabitants are comparatively low and many have difficulty finding a job. In April 2008, 3,890 persons in the neighbourhood depended on income support, representing 8.5% of the population. Of these, 1,735 were children.

The “Children’s perspective and financial assistance project” was

launched to take children’s views into account when allocating financial assistance to families. The overall objective was to examine if and how the child’s perception was taken into consideration by social services when making decisions about families. The aims were to identify if local authorities needed to change their working methods in order to better deal with children’s needs in families receiving long-term financial assistance. They also wanted to examine how families understood their child’s perception of their financial situation and how families experienced the effects of long-term benefits dependency on children.

Seven social workers interviewed families which had been on benefits for at least six months. The families all had children over 12 years of age. The interviews revealed that it was common for family members to protect each other. Children protected their parents

by not asking them for money and parents protected their children by prioritising the children’s needs. The interviews also showed the lack of choice in everyday life with regard to food and clothing, with the family’s choices’ being limited to what was on sale or special offer. The word ‘refrain’ was repeatedly mentioned by the families and appeared to be a key concept for the families.

The interviews were analysed and the findings used to create a handbook on how to maintain a children’s perspective when deciding family eligibility for financial assistance. It is intended to be a practical guide in the daily work of social workers.

The project team found it very useful to become better aware of families’ and children’s views.

For more see our database.



A view over the city of Stockholm



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## Information on some of the upcoming calls from the European Commission

Deadline	Description	Other information
30 September 2010	<p><b>Call for proposals for projects contributing to exchange of good practices (progress)</b></p> <p>The call will finance transnational projects exchanging best practices under improving the employment opportunities for young people and supporting good practices in providing training for new skills in green technologies.</p> <p>Local and regional authorities, NGOs, social partners and service providers are eligible to apply. Projects under this call must involve at least three organisations from three countries. Cities can participate as coordinators and partners.</p> <p>The European Commission is encouraging proposals that involve different levels of governance, and particularly projects involving the national, regional and local level.</p>	<a href="#">VP/2010/005</a>
	<p><b>Progress call on Social experimentation</b></p> <p>The municipality of Conegliano would be interested to organise an exchange on the subject of young people and immigration.</p> <p>Please contact Serena Cesca, Dario Roveda: informacitta@comune.conegliano.tv.it</p>	<a href="#">VP/2010/007</a>

## Events

### A rundown of some events happening around Europe in the coming months

Date / Place	Name of Event	More information
13-14 September 2010 Warsaw, Poland	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Housing</b> Reports from past meetings and discussions on future activities will be held.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>
21-22 September 2010 Newcastle, UK	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Homelessness</b> More information is available from here.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>
29 September 2010 Newcastle, UK	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Social Inclusion</b> The meeting will focus on the future and work programme of the group.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>



<b>30 September - 1 October 2010</b> Newcastle-Gateshead, UK	<b>Cities against Poverty and Social Exclusion - Child Poverty</b> Organised as part of the 2010 campaign for combating poverty and social exclusion.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>
<b>30 September - 1 October 2010</b> Antwerp, Belgium	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Education and Inclusion</b> The Group will hold a peer review and will examine the Europe 2020 strategy.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>
<b>October 2010 (exact dates tbc)</b> The Hague, The Netherlands	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Crime Prevention</b> Meeting to discuss latest developments and next steps.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>
<b>3 - 4 October 2010</b> The Hague, The Netherlands	<b>2010 Cities of Migration Conference, "Migration to Integration: An Opportunity Agenda for Cities"</b> This conference will bring together international city leaders, migration experts and local practitioners in a practical dialogue and exchange of ideas on this important agenda for the future of cities.	<a href="http://conference.citiesofmigration.ca/">http://conference.citiesofmigration.ca/</a>
<b>6 October 2010 18.00-20.30</b> Brussels, Belgium	<b>House of Cites network reception / EUROCITIES Open Day</b> After a day of Open Day's seminars, debates and workshops, come and meet people in an informal atmosphere at the offices of the CEMR, G-4 EU Office and EUROCITIES at Square de Meeus 1, first floor.	<a href="http://www.eurocities.eu">www.eurocities.eu</a>
<b>7 October 2010</b> Almelo, The Netherlands	<b>Expert Seminar on developing a local migration / integration strategy in Almelo and Muenster in the frame of an INTERREG IV A Project</b>	<a href="http://www.muenster.de/stadt/zuwanderung/">www.muenster.de/stadt/zuwanderung/</a>
<b>15 - 16 October 2010</b> Strasbourg, France	<b>International conference on the participation of foreigners in local life</b> This conference aims to bring together municipalities that have established foreign residents' councils, that are actively pursuing local integration and intercultural relations' policies, and that are willing to join these efforts. The conference will be a forum to discuss different forms of citizens' participation, compare the functioning of foreign residents' councils and identify common problems and solutions.	Dmitri Marchenkov; dmitri.marchenkov@coe.int
<b>17 - 18 Nov 2010</b> London, UK	<b>2nd Annual Conference and Awards of the Journal of Neighbourhood Renewal</b> A 2 day event for delegates to listen to a range of expert speakers and share experiences and views on Neighbourhood Renewal.	<a href="http://www.neighbourhoodjournal.com">www.neighbourhoodjournal.com</a>
<b>November (exact dates tbc), 2010</b> Liverpool, UK	<b>EUROCITIES Working Group Health and Well-Being meeting</b> Members will discuss the conclusions of the Ghent seminar on health inequalities and will look at the projects and programmes in Liverpool.	<a href="http://www.inclusivecities.eu">www.inclusivecities.eu</a>

Inclusive Cities for Europe  
is published by the EUROCITIES  
Brussels Office.

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