



Inclusive Cities for Europe_NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY EUROCITIES UNDER THE 'INCLUSIVE CITIES FOR EUROPE PROGRAMME'

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New impetus for EU fight against social exclusion

Over the last weeks, various policy developments have brought new perspectives to the EU Social Inclusion process: The European Commission issued a Recommendation on Active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market, the European Council took final decisions on the EU 2010 Year to Combat Poverty and Exclusion, and the Member States submitted their National Strategy Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008 - 2010.

The Commission Recommendation on "Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market" is an important milestone in EU social policy as it marks the first legislative Act of the European Union in the field of social inclusion following Art. 137 (1) (h) of the Treaty. The concept sits on three pillars: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services. It says that "active inclusion policies should facilitate the integration into sustainable, quality employment of those who can work and provide resources which are sufficient to live in dignity, together with support for social participation, for those who cannot". The Recommendation proposes common principles for each of the pillars, encouraging national governments to define their policies on this basis.

Active Inclusion was also the main topic of the 7th European Roundtable on Poverty and Exclusion, which for the first time included an informal meeting of social affairs ministers. The ministers expressed their unanimous interest in the strategic approach of active inclusion and welcomed the Commission Recommendation. EUROCITIES is following all these developments closely, requesting that cities are included in the implementation and monitoring of the principles. With their responsibilities in delivering inclusion policies and providing services they are best place to provide evidence about what works and what doesn't.

Meanwhile, the EPSSCO Council of the EU (Ministers for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) formally adopted the decision to make 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Campaign will have a budget of 17 Million € of which 9 Million will be distributed through Member States and 8 Million are dedicated to transnational activities. Discussions about EUROCITIES contribution to the Campaign have started in the EUROCITIES Working Group Social Inclusion.

Finally, nearly all Member States have now submitted their National Strategy Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008 - 2010. The reports set out how Member States plan to meet the common European objectives and give an overview of the main provisions in place. EUROCITIES held a review seminar to evaluate these plans from a local perspective, to which cities from 20 Member States contributed. The draft evaluation report, which is currently being finalised, welcomes the governments' attempts to frame and address social inclusion and agrees with most of the priorities, but it is critical about too little involvement of cities in the process and a too broad analysis of social reality which does not necessarily include most pressing urban problems.

The European Social Protection and Social Inclusion process: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=437&langId=en>

The National Strategic Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/strategy_reports_en.htm

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Dear Reader,

In these days, the financial crisis is dominating the public debate and media features about the “revival of the state” follow headlines and figures about enormous amounts of public first aid packages for the troubled sectors. Whilst it demonstrates the ability of EU’s leaders to act responsible and quick, it raises questions and uncertainty amongst citizens about the impact on their own lives and a fear of potential cuts in public budgets - in times, when energy and fuel poverty is on the rise and a broad recession is ahead of us. It was therefore an important and positive signal that for the first time, European Ministers dedicated an informal meeting to the European fight against poverty and exclusion. The challenges ahead are clear, as illustrated by 78 Million European citizens living at risk of poverty and growing inequality gaps in our societies. With the designation of 2010 as European Year to combat poverty and exclusion, that year will be an important moment to assess the effects of anti-poverty policies. In our own planning of activities, preparations for a campaign, collecting local evidence and a demonstration of innovative practice is crucial, and a range of meetings over the next months will be used to further elaborate this. We would like to invite all interested cities to contribute, just get in touch with us.

Further issues you will find highlighted in this edition are various developments in the field of migration and integration, including the new “EU Immigration Pact”, and an article on demographic change and cities. A set of studies which EURO CITIES has commissioned and which are close to being published, highlight not only key trends but also a range of good practices in the field. In the feature article, you will get a first preview of what will be in these reports. Enjoy the read,

Your Inclusive Cities team

Recent EU Developments

Pact on Immigration and Asylum ratified by Council

European Heads of State and Government adopted the Pact on Immigration and Asylum at a Council meeting on 16 October in Brussels. The Pact sums up achievements made towards a common European policy in fields such as visa policy, border control, asylum policy, legal migration and solidarity between Member States.

In the fields of legal immigration, border control, asylum and development, the Pact defines some common guidelines towards the follow-up on the Hague-Programme, most of which are in line with recent Communications of the European Commission.

The document recognises the reality of international migration and proposes better managed legal migration in accordance with the economic needs of Member States, including measures supporting circular and temporary migration of professionals. At the same time, it proposes a further strengthening of instruments for border control and return policy of undocumented migrants.

In the field of asylum, the Pact proposes to take steps towards a Common European Asylum System and to offer better protection based on measures such as a single European asylum procedure and the establishment of a European support office for the exchange of information be-

tween member states in asylum matters.

Finally a proposal for stronger cooperation with countries of origin is proposed not only to steer better wanted and to prevent unwanted migration but also to tackle economic causes of migration through a better development policy.

As a summary of European principles in migration policy, the document has above all a symbolic value, defending a rather restrictive approach. It assumes that the current asylum system is fair and that there is a clear development perspective in countries of origin - a position which is openly challenged by various migrant and refugees associations.

With regard to irregular migration, the final wording of the Pact is that Member States agree “to use only case-by-case regularisations, rather than generalised regularisations for humanitarian or economic reasons.” Possibilities for regularisation have proved important for cities feeling the practical need to reduce the number of residents in destitution and support people who are prone to crime and exploitation due to an illegal status. This was demonstrated by Dutch cities, who in 2003 convinced the national governments to develop a regularisation programme for asylum seekers who had been brought into destitution by a change of the national legislation. To give another example, the city of Barcelona introduced regularisation proce-

dures that provide irregular migrants with a residence permit after a few years under certain conditions.

Further information: Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCITIES Programme Officer Migration and Integration, Dirk.Gebhardt@eurocities.eu

European Parliament Report on Social Inclusion

In early October, the European Parliament adopted a report on social inclusion in the EU. It calls for a holistic approach to be put in place to tackle poverty, including decent income, quality jobs and better access to social services and services of general interest. It asks Member States to provide guaranteed minimum income schemes for social inclusion. It also calls on the Council to agree an EU target for minimum income schemes and contributory replacement income schemes of at least 60% of national median equalised income, and, further, to agree a timetable for achieving this target in all Member States. In the report, MEPs also say that minimum income schemes should be complemented by measures to aid social inclusion in housing, education, training, life-long learning and through income support to cover individuals' and households' costs. One of the highlighted issues is child poverty, which MEPs want to reduce by 50% by 2012 and call on Member States to make sufficient resources available to be able to achieve this target. The report also looks into the issue of homelessness and calls on the European Council to reach an EU commitment to put an end to the problem of homelessness by 2015. Member States are called on to put in place integrated policies to guarantee decent housing for all and winter emergency plans.

The report can be found at the website of the rapporteur, MEP Gabi Zimmer (GUE/NGL): www.gabi-zimmer.de

New Commission report on family reunification

The European Commission published a new report which highlights the need for greater harmonisation of the rules regarding family reunification of third country nationals legally residing on the territory of EU Member States. The report takes stock of the implementation of EU Directive 2003/86/EC on family reunification. It finds the Directive has been transposed in a satisfactory manner in most Member States, but also says that its effect on the harmonisation of family reunification rules remains limited. In addition, the report makes strong reference to national policies restricting the right to family reunification to a degree that counters the Directive's intention. Problems include a practice of excessively rigid interpretation of a

number of optional provisions binding the right to family reunification to certain other conditions (e.g. financial, language). In other cases, the report finds that the directive has been applied incorrectly, e.g. for provisions relating to visa facilitation or regarding the interest of the child, which should be paramount.

The Commission will examine these cases and will ensure that provisions are correctly applied, in particular in line with fundamental rights such as respect of family life, the rights of the child, and the right to effective appeal. Over the past 20 years, family reunification has been one of the main motives for immigration to the EU. In many Member States today, it represents a large part of legal immigration. The Commission intends to launch soon a Green Paper on the future of the family reunification regime and, on that basis, will then propose appropriate amendments to the directive.

Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/intro/news_intro_en.htm



European Commission aims at reinforcing global approach to migration

The European Commission has published a new Communication in which it proposes further integration of migration into European foreign policy, in particular in the field of development. The proposal for actions in this field is based on three pillars: continuing targeted thematic actions (legal migration/mobility, illegal migration,

migration/development), the implementation of co-operation adapted to the various regions of the world, and the development of a coherent policy to improve the management of migratory flows. With regard to economic migration and mobility, the Communication proposes to intensify partnerships for mobility with countries of origin. It recommends that circular migration be encouraged with pilot schemes and by seeking instruments to promote workers' mobility such as "double positions" for healthcare professionals, teachers and researchers.

The Commission also proposes to develop geographically targeted cooperation for the management of migration with more or less every world region known for migration to Europe, and a mainstreaming of migration policy into policy fields such as environment, agriculture, education and social policy. The European Council of December 2008 will discuss these proposals and develop guidelines for their implementation.

Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/intro/news_intro_en.htm

New Commission proposals for better work-life balance

In early October, the European Commission presented a new package of measures to better reconcile work and private life, consisting of a policy document (Communication) explaining the background and context, two legislative proposals (to revise existing Directives) and a report on progress made by EU countries towards the so-called 'Barcelona targets' for childcare provision. The legislative proposals aim at strengthening women's legal entitlement to maternity leave and at ensuring equal treatment of the self-employed and their assisting spouses.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=402&furtherNews=yes>

Consultation on future of European Youth Policies

In late September, the European Commission launched an online public consultation on the future development of EU youth policies. The consultation is addressed both towards individuals and organisations who are interested in the future of young people in Europe. The questionnaire covers issues regarding education and informal learning, employment, discrimination, social integration and voluntary activities of young people. The European policymakers will take the results of the consultation on board when they prepare concrete measures to help young people integrate into society, find work, improve their general well-being and get involved in society as citizens. The consultation, which is published in 25 languages, is open until 25 November 2008.

Web-Address of the online consultation on youth policies: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc1220_en.htm

Commission launches debate on future of universal service

From 2003 to 2007, broadband use in the EU tripled to 36% of all households. Despite this, access for all Europeans to high-speed internet is not secured. On 25 September 2008, the European Commission published a report on the future of the Universal Service Directive (USD), which aims at ensuring functional access to electronic communication such as fixed telephone lines, internet and mobile communication for all European citizens. The report constitutes the second periodic review of the Directive, which came into force in 2002.

Given that broadband and mobile communication are becoming a prime objective of citizen welfare and digital inclusion, the report aims to encourage a public discussion on the possible role of a renewed understanding of universal service in this respect. The current Directive only provides for a single narrowband internet connection, which might not be sufficient anymore to access all services available via the internet and ensure equal opportunities. Second periodic review of the scope of Universal Service in

electronic communication: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomms/library/communications_reports/index_en.htm

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

Territorial Cohesion: Commission Green Paper and consultation

In early October, the European Commission published a Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and launched a consultation with regional and local authorities, associations, NGOs, civil society and other organisations, aimed at achieving a better and shared understanding of territorial cohesion and its implications for the future of the EU's regional policy. The Green Paper argues that the EU's territorial diversity is itself a unique asset for the EU's sustainable development and that it should be addressed through new themes and forms of cooperation. The Paper suggests three key issues for Europe's territorial future: 1) Better coordination to enable cities and their surrounding regions to complement their strengths and ensure that each territory can maximise its contribution to the prosperity of the Union as a whole. 2) Greater efforts aimed at closing the access gap to public services, transport, energy networks, and broadband Internet throughout the EU and between rural and urban areas. 3) Better coordination to deal with challenges related to environmental problems and commuting, which do not respect political borders. In the next weeks and months, EUROCITIES will contribute to various high-level events on Territorial Cohesion and the future of cohesion policy, and will submit a response to the consultation.

Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/terco/index_en.htm

Further information: Marie Ranty, EUROCITIES Policy Officer for Economic Development and Cohesion Policy: marie.ranty@eurocities.eu

RECENT CALLS FOR PROPOSALS - DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In the framework of *Youth in action programme*, the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency has published the call for proposals *Action 4.6 - Partnerships*. The aim of this call is to support partnerships contributing to *developing youth strategies and programmes of joint activities for young people at European level*. The programme of eligible activities - *youth exchanges, youth initiatives, and training activities* - may run for 2 years and must start between 1 April 2009 and 1 September 2009. The maximum grant allocated to each project may not exceed EUR 100 000. Deadline for application: 1 December 2008. For more information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2008action46/index_en.htm

Within FP7 a new call for proposals *FP7-SSH-2009-B* has been published which includes the topic "*Cities and sustainable development*" (*SSH-2009-2.1.2*). Under this call, collaborative projects, i.e. *small or medium-scale focused research projects, for specific cooperation actions dedicated to international cooperation* will be funded. The deadline for submitting proposals is 13 January 2009. For further information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

EUROCITIES Developments

EUROCITIES and European Commission launch Policy Dialogue on migration and integration

In September, EUROCITIES met with the European Commission Directorate-General Justice, Security and Freedom for the first in a proposed series of regular exchanges on immigration and integration.

The Director of the Directorate for Immigration, Asylum and Borders, Jean-Louis de Brouwer, kicked off the meeting. He was joined by EUROCITIES representatives John England and Annemarie Bodaar, from the cities of Leeds and The Hague respectively, in their capacities as Chair and Vice-chair of the EUROCITIES Working Group Migration and Integration

In advocating the city perspective, England and Bodaar emphasised the need for a systematic link to be made between migration and social inclusion policies and for orientation provisions to be made for newcomers on accessing social services.

Partnerships with countries, regions and cities of origin, were also cited as important instruments to improving migration flow management at city level and to avoid the exploitation and social exclusion of migrants. Referring to debates regarding UK Labour market demands, EUROCITIES pointed to the importance that migrants have for service provision and manufacturing industries.

Strategic integration governance and the difficulty in attaining reliable data on migration in cities were among some of the other issues addressed during the dialogue. De Brouwer and the acting Head of Unit for Immigration and Integration, Martin Schieffer, commented on issues impacting at European and national level, in particular the European Immigration Pact (EIP), which is scheduled for adoption at an informal Ministerial meeting in November.

What was clear from this first dialogue is that the concerns of both parties are shared, in particular regarding the current economic downturn and its impact on migration patterns. It was also evident that responsibilities at different government levels imply different perspectives. Participants agreed that this bilateral dialogue should continue and will lead to better understanding and policy-making.

The next meeting will be held

in early 2009. Cities' views on the EIP and experiences with the implementation of the European Integration Fund will be on the agenda.

Dirk Gebhardt, Programme Officer Migration and Integration, dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES WG Social Inclusion develops work plan for 2009

On 25-26 September, the WG Social Inclusion had its meeting in Tallinn. During the meeting, the representative of the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs presented the Estonian NAP for 2008-2010. The group discussed its future activities and agreed that one part of the group will explore how cities are making use of EU-funds (ESF/ERDF) for social inclusion, and another part of the group will continue to exchange on local inclusion strategies, identifying main building blocks for such plans. The group will also contribute to a EUROCITIES campaign for the European Year on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010. The presentations from the meeting have been uploaded to the Members' Area.

Further information: Simon Underwood, city of Newcastle, simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk

EUROCITIES WG Housing looks into strategies for affordable housing

At its meeting in Vienna, the EUROCITIES WG Housing discussed a draft position paper on cities' main concerns regarding housing. Various cities gave presentations on their current situation, and a debate was held about common challenges. As a result, the group decided to further investigate city strategies for affordable housing and compile a paper with good practice examples. The paper is expected to be finalised by May 2009.

Further information: Wolfgang Förster, city of Vienna, wolfgang.foerster@wien.gv.at

EUROCITIES WG Health and Wellbeing looks into "what works" in promoting wellbeing

The EUROCITIES WG Health and Wellbeing had a successful meeting in Bristol, where it explored practical ideas for putting the ideas of the "EUROCITIES Contribution on Good Governance Concerning Health and Wellbeing" into prac-



tice. Based on Bristol's experience, particular emphasis was put on promoting healthy lifestyles. The next meeting will take place in Rotterdam and look at how the formal health sector can be better involved in promoting wellbeing.

Further information: Chris Hawker, city of Southampton, Christopher.Hawker@southampton.gov.uk

EUROCITIES WG Homelessness

The WG Homelessness met in Utrecht to look at local projects to prevent homelessness and to provide social care for vulnerable groups. At the meeting, it discussed the next steps for the production of the overview report on cities strategies against homelessness, which is scheduled for March 2009. A brochure on the "integrated chain approach" has just been finalised and will now be translated into eight languages.

Further information: Gerhard Eitel, city of Vienna, gerhard.eitel@fsw.at

EUROCITIES develops response to EU Green Paper on Migration and Education

The EUROCITIES Working Group Education has kicked-off the development of a response to the Green Paper "[Migration and Mobility - challenges and opportunities for EU education systems](#)" which is looking for policy responses to the gaps between the educational achievements of children with a migrant background and their peers.

In the first draft, the WG raised points such as the necessity of a broader approach to the definition of educational achievements and competencies that also takes into account the integrative capacity of a school system. The draft response also looks at the potential of integrated policy instruments linking education with housing, health and employment policy.

Over the next weeks, the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum will further develop the draft, aiming to submit it in early December.

For further information please contact: Paul Hoop, city of Rotterdam, p.hoop@jos.rotterdam.nl



News from cities

Rotterdam: World Forum on Leadership for shared societies

On 12-14 November, the city of Rotterdam and the Club de Madrid (www.clubmadrid.org), an independent organization of 70 former Heads of State, will organise the "First World Forum on Leadership for Shared Societies: building a world made safe for difference". This conference will bring together the world's leaders to debate, discuss and identify policies and practices to reduce identity-based conflict and build shared futures within cities, communities and countries. The conference aims to encourage the debate around social cohesion, inclusion and diversity, and among the participants are (former) Heads of State, local leaders, experts, representatives of Rotterdam's cultural communities, European institutions and networks and youth representatives.

Contact: Murat Altunbas, city of Rotterdam, m.altunbas@bsd.rotterdam.nl. Further info: www.thesharesocietiesproject.clubmadrid.org.

Malmö: Promoting individual and family care through European project

Since 2006, the city of Malmö has been carrying out the project "Outlook Europe" in the city district of Södra Innerstaden. In a first stage, various social services employees visited seven different cities - Ljubljana, Berlin, Århus, Warsaw, Marseille, Glasgow and Genoa - to find out about social work in other countries. The focus of the visits and the project's ongoing international studies is to find out how social services work together with other social players, such as voluntary organisations, businesses and associations, and with the individual clients, in different countries. In 2007, following on from the international exchange, Södra Innerstaden's Individual and Family unit implemented a number of innovative solutions and approaches. Initiatives inspired by European models include "IT för hemlösa" ("IT for the homeless"), "Soctanter på nätet" ("Social workers online") and service apartments in Lönngården for alcoholics over the age of 50 who were either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In 2008,

the project took a closer look at issues such as corporate social responsibility, self-help groups, collaborative methods and voluntary work.

Contact: Frida Leander, city of Malmo, frida.leander@malmo.se

Helsinki: Improving social services through client-orientation

In February 2008, the Finnish Government approved a new programme to reduce long-term homelessness, focusing on the 10 biggest urban growth centres, where also most of the homeless are to be found. The main priority is given to Helsinki Metropolitan Area, and especially Helsinki itself, where long-term homelessness is concentrated. The programme is structured around the 'housing first' principle, arguing that solutions to social and health problems cannot be a condition for organising accommodation. On the contrary, accommodation is a requirement which also allows other problems of people who have been homeless to be solved. Having somewhere to live makes it possible to strengthen life management skills and is conducive to purposeful activity. The programme's objectives are to halve long-term homelessness by 2011 and to develop more effective measures to prevent homelessness. As a result of this programme, two projects are carried out by Helsinki social service department to improve the functioning of the current service system in a client-orientated way and to increase suitable housing solutions. Housing in shelters, originally considered a temporary solution, will be wound down gradually and in a systematic and controlled way so that substitutive housing solutions are found for each inhabitant of every shelter that is closed down. Contact: Niina Pajala, city of Helsinki, niina.pajala@hel.fi

From Helsinki to Genoa and back - first findings of INTI-Cities Peer Reviews delivered

In the framework of the INTI-Cities project, earlier this year representatives from 12 EUROCITIES member cities held six peer review meetings to their policies and practices in the field of migrant integration. The first findings have now been produced and presented back to the cities which had been reviewed.

In the course of the project, the peers spent four days in each host city interviewing politicians and officers working within the city administration, partner organisations and stakeholders. Their lively exchanges were framed by a benchmark of indicators prepared for the project.

After each of the visits, the peers worked together to prepare a city report, compiling their observations on the host city's strengths and weaknesses and setting out recommendations for improvements. Each team of peer reviewers appointed a leader to return to the host city and present their findings.

The presentation of the peers' findings kicked off in August when Fabio Cappello, a social worker and officer for the City Social Plan in Genoa, spoke to an audience of municipal staff, partners and journalists in Helsinki about his team's assessment of integration governance arrangements in their city. The presentation was timely: Helsinki is now finalising its new Policy Plan on migration and the integration of immigrants. Annika Forsander, the Head of Helsinki's Immigration Division responded to the presentation underlining some of the most significant feedback from the city's perspective. Among other things, she spoke of the importance of developing a common approach to integration work, strengthening partnerships and building more structure into relationships with migrant associations, businesses, other municipalities, and with the national government. And within the municipality itself, she observed the need for further cross-sectoral work in order to respond in a holistic way to the needs of migrants.

Ms Forsander explained that she recognised the importance of evaluation and monitoring as a means to understand how effective the city is in fulfilling its ambitions. A watchful eye should be kept on cost-effectiveness and the city may explore funding from a variety of sources. In addition, she was interested by the attention the project had brought to the role that public procurement policy can play in promoting diversity through the inclusion of social considerations in contracts awarded to bodies carrying out work for the municipality.

Further information: Zoe Catsaras, EUROCITIES Project Officer INTI-Cities: zoe.catsaras@eurocities.eu



Demographic change and the city

The EU27 population is projected to become older with the median age projected to rise from 40.4 years in 2008 to 47.9 years in 2060. The share of people aged 65 years or over in the total population is projected to increase from 17.1% to 30.0% and the number is projected to rise from 84.6 million in 2008 to 151.5 million in 2060. Similarly, the number of people aged 80 years or over is projected to almost triple from 21.8 million in 2008 to 61.4 million in 2060.¹

A quick glance at European demographic statistics and one will be confronted with a scenario of an ageing population. However, one wonders if this is a consistent trend throughout Europe? In a time of unparalleled mobility and immigration, what impact do these factors have? And as we look at a fast-changing society in more detail, what new trends can we identify and how do they affect our cities?

When EUROCITIES looked into these questions last year, it found only little specific and detailed data on the impact that demographic changes have on cities. So, it took the initiative of starting research to fill this gap. Earlier this year, the network began working with researchers to develop studies on the impact of demographic change on key areas of urban management: provision of social and health services, housing, labour markets and mobility and public spaces.

As the reports near completion, and conclusions are already emerging, the most obvious one is that the impact of demographic change is as complex as it is diverse: different cities face different, and often opposite, demographic trends, with changes in their population and their societal structures.

One of the few common trends in demographic change across cities is the shrinkage of the households. This has several consequences on the demand for housing as well as for housing-related services. Also, mobility patterns change as smaller households means increasing number of trips (e.g. more individual shopping).

Ageing, as mentioned above, is certainly another trend which will require that cities have to adapt part of their housing stock to specific needs, especially as people tend to delay as much as possible having to move out of their homes to care facilities. Also, public transport must be adapted and made more physically accessible and not only cater to peak hour traffic but throughout the whole day.

Another factor of demographic and social change is migration. Most cities in EU 15 are experiencing increasing

immigration, with many of them hosting over 150 nationalities. Social and technical infrastructure, housing and labour markets as well as education systems need to be adapted to accommodate different cultures and demands. A particularly complex area is the provision of health services, where cities are having to ensure access to, and developing the intercultural competences of their care delivery services. But migrants are above all perceived as an opportunity for cities and contribute to productivity and innovation. They are particularly needed in times of falling birth rates and labour shortages.

On the other hand, many cities in the Eastern part of the European Union are facing outmigration and are shrinking in size. The cities are often left with redundant public infrastructure, including housing stock, and need to adapt to fewer users and inhabitants, at times including costly demolitions. Outmigration often goes along with brain drain, producing gaps in important economic sectors, and there are various projects and campaigns underway.

The different demography-related trends pose significant challenges to urban management. Proper data is needed to prepare effective policies, but often detailed and comparable data is still lacking in most areas, in particular on issues like migration and labour markets.

Several cities are already adopting comprehensive policies to address demographic change. For example, the city of Stockholm created a post of Vice-Mayor for elderly issues, and Vienna is developing comprehensive and integrated city plans looking at all aspects of demographic change. Cities have also developed specific responses to specific challenges, such as Barcelona's Hospital del Mar which trains its staff on intercultural mediation, Leipzig's programme to provide inexpensive residential property in the city centre to young families and the elderly, or London's "Dial-a-Ride" service which provides a door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled who can no longer use the common public transports.

EUROCITIES' members are aware of both the complexity of the situation as well as the richness of solutions already being implemented by cities. The studies being published later this year will certainly illustrate both. The first studies will be made available at the EUROCITIES Annual General Meeting The Hague on 26-29 November.

Further Info: Bernardo Rodrigues, EUROCITIES Policy Officer for Governance & International Cooperation, Bernardo.Rodrigues@eurocities.eu

¹ Ageing characterises the demographic perspectives of the European societies, EUROSTAT report 72/2008, August 2008.

Events/conferences

First World Forum on Leadership for Shared Societies: building a world made safe for difference	12 -14 November 2008	Rotterdam, NL
This conference will bring together the world's leaders to debate, discuss and identify policies and practices to reduce identity-based conflict and build shared futures within cities, communities and countries. Further info: www.thesharedsocietiesproject.clubmadrid.org		
European Seminar: Services of General Interest (SGI) - Challenges of the European elections of June 2009	13 November	Brussels, Belgium
The European Liaison Committee on Services of General Interest organises a seminar to identify issues and arguments concerning services of general interest which should be looked at by the European Parliament in the future. For more information: http://www.celsig.org/actualite/prog_sem_CELSIG_2008_version_2oct08_EN_FR.pdf		
FEANTSA European Conference "People who are Homeless can be Housed"	13-14 November 2008	Cardiff, UK
Bringing together homeless organisations, policy makers, housing associations and researchers, this conference will explore successful housing solutions for people who are homeless from across Europe. Key issues to be discussed are the role of social housing and the private rental market, the right to housing, prevention of homelessness through housing measures and homeownership for homeless people. More information: www.feantsa.org		
New Perspectives for Intercultural Dialogue in Europe - Closing conference of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008	17 - 19 November 2008	Paris, France
The closing conference of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 will be organised by the French Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission. It will take place in Centre Pompidou in Paris on 17-19 November 2008. The conference will not only take stock of achievements in the past months, but will also look ahead to new perspectives for intercultural dialogue in Europe. Discussions will range across themes including intercultural education, the role and responsibilities of the media in intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and integration, Europe in the wider world, and intercultural dialogue in the arts. Keynote speakers will include Ján Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Christine Albanel, French Minister of Culture and Communication, and Members of the European Parliament. EUROCITIES will be represented by its president, the city of Lyon. The conference programme and on-line registration are available on the site of the French Presidency of the EU: http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/activites		
European Forum on Social Experimentation	21-22 November 2008	Grenoble, France
"Experimentation Sociale" is an instrument which is used in France to test new approaches to social policy through local pilot projects. The aim of the European Forum is to sound out possibilities to promote this approach at European level. By bringing together political leaders, experts and representatives of civil society, those responsible for promoting experimental projects and evaluation teams drawn from all the Member-States, the Forum on Social Experimentation in Europe will contribute to a better identification of the factors governing success, the possibilities of work in common and the networking necessary for the efficient development of experimentations. Further information: http://www.eu2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-11_2008/PFUE-21.11.2008/les_rencontres_de_l_experimentation_sociale_en_europe		
Second European Forum on Demography	24-25 November 2008	Brussels, Belgium
The Forum gives policy makers and stakeholders the opportunity to discuss recent developments and good practices in the fields of active ageing and family policies within the European Union. During the two days, six workshops will be organised around these themes. Furthermore, the Forum will be an opportunity to review where Member States stand in responding to the challenges of demographic change. The event will be attended by Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Social Protection Committee and the Experts' Group on Demographic Issues, representatives of NGOs, social partners and other stakeholder organisations as well as independent experts. The Second European Forum on Demography will focus on family policies and active ageing. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=121		
Employment in Europe 2008 Conference	25 November 2008	Brussels, Belgium
The aim of the conference is to present and discuss the key findings of the Employment in Europe 2008 Report, which will be released in November. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=100&furtherEvents=yes		
European Day of People with Disabilities Conference	1-2 December 2008	Brussels, Belgium
To mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, the European Commission organises a policy conference in the first week of December each year, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF). This year's Conference will take place in Brussels on 1 and 2 December. The title of the conference will be "Acting locally for a society for all". The Conference will focus on how EU action/legislation reaches the local level and will provide examples of disability mainstreaming. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventsId=104		
Forum des Villes/Cities Forum	2-3 December 2008	Montpellier, France
The Forum will focus on such questions as sustainable cities, climate change and development of tools to implement the Leipzig Charter. Several hundred European players in urban policy will come together, exchange and discuss on means to foster sustainability and solidarity in our cities, and tools, methods and indicators building process to implement this politics and measure their progress. Further information: http://www.ptolemee.com/ue2008/en/		
EU Open Health Forum 2008: Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union	10-11 December 2008	Brussels, Belgium
This conference aims to contribute and increase the profile of health in the EU policies through discussion between EU policy makers and stakeholders on pressing public health issues and their impacts on the Community. The EU Open Health Forum is a mechanism for the European Commission to get feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Health Policy and to identify the need for new policy initiatives at EU level. It also facilitates networking and exchange of best practice in the implementation of public health policies at EU, national, regional and local level. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/open_2008/index_en.htm		

EUROCITIES events

Sport and Diversity	<i>20 November</i>	<i>Strasbourg, France</i>
The event is organised by the French Education through Sports Agency, Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the Sports Sciences Research Team of the Marc Bloch University of Strasbourg . It is supported by various organisations including EUROCITIES. In the context of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the event focuses on sport as a way to address discrimination and social exclusion. Further information: http://www.apels.org/index.php?pere=360&fils=361		
EUROCITIES Annual general Meeting: Building Active Cities	<i>26-29 November</i>	<i>The Hague, NL</i>
The theme of the conference and AGM is "Building Active Cities - modern citizenship and integrated governance". The conference will further explore the "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities", adopted in May 2007 by the European ministers responsible for urban policy and territorial cohesion. Workshops will be held covering the themes Living, Well-Being and Work, each will include a walking tour to show particular neighbourhood-specific projects. Further information: www.eurocities2008.eu		

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