



Inclusive Cities for Europe_NEWS

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

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EUROCITIES Network of Local Authorities' Observatories on Active Inclusion

EUROCITIES has been selected to coordinate the European Network of Local Authorities' Observatories on Active Inclusion. This new instrument of the EU Social Inclusion process will give a significant boost to the position of cities in the Open Method of Coordination and increase their visibility and their concerns vis à vis Member States and the European Institutions.

Observatories will be installed in five cities to monitor the implementation of local social policies and identify good practice. The participating cities are representative of different welfare regimes across Europe: Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Turku. From March onwards, studies will be carried out in these cities looking at governance arrangements, commissioning and procurement practice and provisions for quality management in a range of social service areas, with particular emphasis on training, employment and supported and social housing. These focus areas have been chosen because of their central role in integrated strategies for the social inclusion of people excluded from the labour market. In the studies, each observatory will engage with NGOs, research community and public bodies at national level. EUROCITIES will facilitate the European coordination and produce comparative reports. We will regularly inform you about relevant findings, events and possibilities to contribute.

The discussions and results of the observatories will be used in the monitoring of the implementation of common principles on "Active Inclusion of people excluded from the labour market" which Member States have recently agreed upon. These principles include guidelines and recommendations for minimum income schemes, inclusive labour markets and quality social services, which are seen as the three main pillars to support workless and excluded people. Consequently, political attention to the observatories is high, as is their potential to feed findings and recommendations directly to the relevant actors. In particular with regard to EU procurement rules, but also concerning funding and, not least, coordination of policies across these sectors, EUROCITIES has repeatedly asked for improvements in favour of cities, and it sees this new project as a prime opportunity to provide evidence for the key role of cities and the importance of their voice in EU social policy.

The EUROCITIES Network of Local Authorities' Observatories on Active Inclusion will run as a pilot initiative until mid 2010, a main goal is to establish a structure for effective monitoring and policy analysis. Potentials for a roll-out in a wider range of cities after 2010 will be explored.

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2008 - a year of progress

2008 was the first year of the Inclusive Cities for Europe programme, and we can look back at a rich and successful time full of activities. In a nutshell: Two new Working Groups on housing and on social inclusion were established in the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum, three position papers were produced (on active inclusion, local public services and on the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion 2008-2010), three national seminars (in Poland, UK and the Netherlands) and a high-level event in Brussels on the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion were held, an event at the European Parliament on local public services, two Social Affairs Forum meetings and numerous Working Group meetings, a policy dialogue with the European Commission on migration and integration issues was launched, four thematic studies on demographic change were commissioned and are currently being finalised, a brochure on city strategies against homelessness was produced and is now published in ten languages, a comprehensive report on cities and economic migration, two successful project applications, and many presentations to promote the voice of cities at political events across Europe. This all is thanks to the contribution of the active and motivated city representatives in the various EUROCITIES Working Groups and in the Social Affairs Forum, i.e. YOU! We can certainly conclude that the visibility of cities in our main areas of activity has significantly improved, and also internally a huge bulk of case studies, knowledge and arguments has been assembled. Some impressions from the many events you will find as illustrations in this newsletter.

It is, however, still fair to say that the role of cities in EU social policy is only marginal, and that an understanding of the importance of the local level for the wellbeing of our society is still not mainstream in European Institutions. So, a lot is left to do and the agenda for 2009 is already very full: We will begin preparations for the European Year on Combating Poverty and Exclusion 2010 at the next Forum meeting on 2nd and 3rd March in Rotterdam, and we'll continue to deepen our work on migration and integration with the Integrating Cities III conference on 2nd April in Berlin. We hope to meet you at these and other occasions, and will do our best to give you support in all your activities, so that next year can be equally or even more successful than this,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Your Inclusive Cities team

Recent EU Developments

European Commission asks to amend asylum laws to end detention and improve conditions

The European Commission has published a new Communication that suggests a revision of the EU's asylum rules to improve living conditions for asylum seekers and ensure they are treated equally in all EU countries. In the first half of this year, the EU received over 100,000 asylum applications, most coming from Iraq. Under international law they have a right to protection, even if they enter the EU illegally. In 2003, the EU adopted minimum standards for the treatment of asylum seekers, but the law allows member countries considerable latitude. The result is that asylum seekers are still treated very differently from country to country. The European Commission is now proposing that those standards are revised to improve living conditions for asylum seekers and ensure they are treated the same in all EU countries. Asylum seekers could only then be detained in exceptional cir-

cumstances, such as when they pose a threat to law and order. Unaccompanied children could not be detained, and accompanied children could be detained only if it is in their best interest. Governments would also have to do a better job of providing decent housing, food and clothing for asylum seekers, and access to healthcare and jobs.

Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/news/justice/archives_en.htm?Page=1

New EU Framework on combating racism and xenophobia

Seven years after it had first been presented by the European Commission, the Council of the European Union has now adopted a Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia. The purpose of this framework decision is to ensure that in the European Union, racism and xenophobia are punishable by effective, proportion-

ate and dissuasive criminal penalties which can give rise to extradition or surrender and to improve and encourage judicial cooperation.

Further information:

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/acueil/PFUE-11_2008/PFUE-27.11.2008/resultats_JAI

New initiative by EU and UN on migration and development

The European Commission and the United Nations have teamed up in a Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) to strengthen links between migration and development policies. The overall objective of the Joint Initiative is to support civil society organizations and local authorities by setting up and reinforcing networks of actors working on migration and development. The aim is to identify good practice in this field and share information on what actually works at the local and international level.

A call for proposals provides approximately 10 million Euro in funding to support concrete interventions. Project grants can range from 50.000 to 200.000 €.

The projects will be implemented by consortia of non-state actors linking migrant host, transit and sending countries. Eligible projects must be based on a consortium consisting of at least two partners, with at least one being from EU27 and one from the group of 16 target countries (Georgia, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, Cape Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Jamaica, Ecuador). The call for proposals is open until 13 March 2009.

Further information: www.migration4development.org

Towards more pragmatism? EU Ministers for Integration stress the importance of support for newcomers and migrant participation

In November, EU Ministers for Integration met in Vichy to continue their debate on fostering convergence of integration policies in Europe. In the conclusions of their meeting, the Ministers stress the importance of a host society that is welcoming to newcomers and the need for individually tailored support for employment and access to rights and public services. They declared the will to

consolidate efforts on promoting intercultural dialogue, e.g. through regular meetings of the National Contact Points on Integration on this topic. The ministers also committed themselves to promoting a stronger role for civil society in integration, in particular of migrant associations, to fighting discrimination and to supporting measures for an increased diversity at the workplace.

The conclusions are very explicit about the need to coordinate integration policy with the local level because of the important role cities play for migrants in creating social ties and offering opportunities for participation. The need to monitor the achievements and failures of integration policies through indicators is another focus.

Finally, the joint ministerial declaration mentions the coming European Website on Integration as an important new pillar of European Integration policy. EURO CITIES is part of the consortium that designed and manages the website, including a huge database of good practice in a range of policy areas.

Full declaration of the ministerial conference on Integration: www.ue2008.fr/



EU Housing Ministers announce deeper cooperation

At an informal meeting in November in Marseille, EU Ministers responsible for Housing discussed strategies to improve the access to affordable housing. On this occasion, they agreed on the need for improved exchange of information and good practice and announced the setting up of working groups on issues such as energy efficiency and

access to housing. They also underlined the importance of paying attention to homelessness and housing exclusion in the debates about the future of the EU Social protection and Social Inclusion process.

For the conclusions of the Ministers' meeting go to: http://www.eu2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1124_reunion_min_logement_resultats/1124_reunion_logement_Communique_final_EN.pdf

EU Ministers for Urban Affairs propose reference framework for sustainable cities

In late November, the EU Ministers in charge of urban development held an informal meeting on the sustain-

ability and cohesion of Europe's cities. They agreed on further steps to develop and implement an integrated approach to urban development, as had been laid out in the "Leipzig Charter". To this end, they will develop a reference framework in the form of a questioning and analytical tool that could serve as a medium for debate, including good practices and indicators. Two working groups will be set up to prepare this framework: a high-level group, including representatives of Ministries, EU Institutions and European stakeholder networks, and a Cities group which will be funded through the URBACT programme.

The conclusions of the meeting can be found here: www.eu2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1125_resutats_inf_dev_urbain/1125_%20Final_statement_EN.pdf

The proposal for the reference framework can be found here: www.eu2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1125_restats_inf_dev_urbain/1125_%20Final_statement_Leipzig_Appendix_EN.pdf

European Parliament backs Commission proposals on economic migration

On 20 November, the European Parliament agreed to the European Commission's plans on a directive for a single European application procedure for residence and work permits for third country nationals. It also confirmed, though with some modifications, the "blue card" scheme for highly skilled migrants from non-EU countries. According to the current state of affairs, the blue card will give permission to stay for three years and for another two years on renewal. The EP tightened the criteria to receive a blue card by demanding from applicants five years of job experience and an income which is 1.7 times the average of the national income. Both EU directives are expected to be finalised early in 2009.

President of European Commission promises better support for cities and regions in promoting migrant integration

In a plenary session at the Committee of the Regions on 27 November, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, promised to better involve local authorities in integration policy. He announced improvements concerning the access for local and regional authorities to the European Integration Fund. The fund was set up in 2007 and will run until 2013. The bulk of its 825 Mio budget is distributed via Member States in national envelopes, only 7% of the volume of the integration fund is allocated for transnational activities. EUROCITIES members have reported recently that they face problems in accessing the funds managed at national level.

European Commission draws positive balance of post-enlargement migration

In a new report on the free movement of workers after EU enlargement, the European Commission draws a positive balance on the economic effects this movement had for EU Member States. It questions earlier anxiety about migration after EU-enlargement in terms of volume and effects on labour markets.

The report estimates that in EU15 countries there has been a net-increase of roughly 1 million people from the ten Member States that joined in 2004 and roughly the same number from Romania and Bulgaria since these countries joined in 2007. One of the most important features of post-enlargement mobility is its temporary nature. At the level of Member States, with the exception of Ireland and Luxembourg, post-enlargement flows from the new to the old Member States have been significantly outnumbered by immigration of non-EU nationals. The Commission report reveals that transitional arrangements that restricted labour markets for new EU citizens in some countries only had a limited impact: Spain, for instance, received the largest inflow of citizens from Bulgaria and Romania despite the restrictions it had imposed. While the report provides a good overview on the latest developments, the issue of discrimination and exploitative working conditions of workers from new member states would have merited greater attention.

The Commission report can be downloaded from: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=508&langId=en>



New ENAR shadow report: Racism is on the rise in Europe

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) published a new shadow report, highlighting that racism and xenophobia, intolerance towards ethnic minorities and mistreatment of ethnic and religious minorities have increased dramatically in the EU in recent years. Increasingly, the report says, racism and xenophobia also appears in the context of the intra-EU migration, more specifically towards the EU-12 citizens, especially from Bul-

garia and Romania. Racism manifests itself in a broad range of areas, including employment, housing, education, health, policing, access to goods and services, and the media. The report says that in the field of employment, discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities continues to prevail despite the existence of anti-discrimination legislation in most EU member states. Concerning the field of housing, ENAR raises concerns in relation to the fact that ethnic and religious minorities are more likely to be homeless and to live in poor quality housing, in particular for Roma and asylum seekers. Furthermore, and probably most alarming, the report points to increasing evidence of public acceptance of racist crime and mistreatment of ethnic and religious minorities, including within the police and other relevant authorities. At the same time, the report shows some areas of improvement, notably with regard to the educational attainment of ethnic minorities and the positive impact of the "Race Directive" in EU member states in terms of ensuring that discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity is outlawed across the EU. Nevertheless, the unsettling findings of persistent racism and xenophobia make it clear that continuous and reinforced efforts to raise public awareness for these problems are needed.

For more information: www.enar.eu.org

RECENT CALLS FOR PROPOSALS - Social Affairs

News: In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the programme CIUDAD (Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue) has recently published a new call for proposals to promote the cooperation between local actors in the Partner Countries and the EU, aiming at the improvement of local and regional government capacities in 'Sustainable economic development and reduction of social disparities'. Among the eligible actions you find projects taking place in ENPI countries, related to employment, integration of minorities, immigrants, refugees, disadvantages groups through cultural or education activities. The deadline for submitting applications is 25 May 2009.

For further information: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1229088453947&do=publi_det_PUB&Pgm=7573838&debpub=13%2F10%2F2008&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=25&aoref=127778

Forecast: The EC is currently preparing the launch of 5 calls for proposals aiming at supporting **Non state Actors and Local Authorities in Development**. The publication of the call for proposals is foreseen for the end of December 2008. Local Authorities are eligible for both the actions "Public awareness and development education" and "Coordination, cooperation and networking activities". The programme supports small-scale actions aiming at raising public awareness of development issues and promoting education for development, with a particular focus on areas such as migration, fair trade, security, human rights, social dimension of globalisation and decent work (see Objective 2).

For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/civil-society/documents/nsa-la_awp_central_cfp_2008_en.pdf

Reminder: the deadline for submitting proposals in the framework of FP7-SSH-2009-B is 13 January 2009. Under this call, that includes the topic "Cities and sustainable development" (SSH-2009-2.1.2), collaborative projects, i.e. small or medium-scale focused research projects, for specific cooperation actions dedicated to international cooperation will be funded.

For further information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

EU Funding Briefs and Partner Searches are available on the EUROCI-TIES Members Area: www.eurocities.eu/membersarea

EUROCITIES Developments

EUROCITIES evaluates National Action Plans on Social Inclusion 2008-2010

In November 2008, EUROCI-TIES published its evaluation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) on Social Inclusion 2008-2010. These plans are prepared by each Member State every three years and submitted to the European Commission for evaluation. The plans outline the main challenges, priorities and governance solutions for social inclusion policies in the Member States.

The EUROCI-TIES analysis is based on the views of city practitioners who responded to a survey carried out by EUROCI-TIES at the beginning of October. The initial findings were then discussed and revised at a seminar at the end of October in Brussels, which gathered over 70 participants from 20 countries.

A key finding is that, overall, the involvement of cities in the preparation of the NAPs was good. Cities were consulted via national associations or were invited to specific

consultation events. Various Member States have mechanisms in place for coordination of policies and consultation of stakeholders. Integrated programmes for social inclusion are, however, still very rare. Whilst most plans acknowledge the role of local authorities in the implementation of social inclusion policies, nevertheless the presentation of the social situation in these documents remains at the level of broad descriptions and agglomerated data and often it does not sufficiently reflect specific urban problems and local disparities.

Various case studies presented at the EUROCI-TIES Review Seminar highlighted the fact that early involvement of cities in preparing the plans does not only improve the NAPs' analysis of the social situation but also leads to better implementation arrangements and efficiency of policy delivery.

In its conclusions, the EUROCI-TIES analysis report proposes concrete measures to improve the position of cities in the EU Social Inclusion process, such as via peer reviews and

permanent structures for dialogue between the local and national levels. EUROCIITIES also asks for voluntary guidelines on consultation with the local level in the next round of National Action Plans (2011) and offers its support to the EU Social Protection Committee and the Commission to develop these.

Further information: Anna Drozd, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer Social Inclusion, anna.drozd@eurocities.eu

Joint Forum meeting on Economic Migration: What cities do, what could be improved and what might happen with economic downturn

At their joint meeting in early November in Berlin, over one hundred members of the EUROCIITIES Economic Development and Social Affairs Forums discussed what cities can do to improve their efforts in accommodating migrants in times of economic migration.

Over the last years, migrants both from EU 12 Member states and countries outside the EU have arrived in European cities. While in some cities, the migrant inflow and community building in itself was unprecedented, others are becoming more and more diverse. These developments are shaped by national and European policies, but nevertheless they happen and take effect in cities. City governments and administrations, together with partners from civil society, facilitate the reception and integration of the newcomers.

The discussions at the Berlin conference were based on the draft of a EUROCIITIES study on the role of cities in times of economic migration. Based on the joint efforts of some 20 EUROCIITIES member cities and two working groups, the study describes the situation in cities and the solutions cities have found to make economic migration work better.

The idea that migration is a contested issue that needs campaigning from the side of the city was clearly one of the central points of the debate that took place in workshops, plenary sessions and a project fair. Cities need to make a clear statement towards the host society on their engagement for migration and formulate a message for migrants about the city's commitment to equal rights and responsibilities and diversity.

While economic migration is still high on the local and European agendas, against the backdrop of the current economic downturn, the question was raised whether it is here to stay. According to the city experts, the effects of economic downturn on migration vary a lot from one city to another. They expect, however, that losses of population will be a long-term phenomenon everywhere in Europe. Nevertheless, the need for additional labour force and population to counter demographic change will in the long run prevail over the effects of current economic developments.

The experience of cities shows that European and national

funding schemes still present barriers for migrants, which need to be removed, for instance concerning access to language training. The transferability of pension rights and of diplomas is another issue that can only be tackled with a coordinated European approach. Cities also recommend taking a closer look at recruitment agencies, e.g. by developing a certificate for those agencies that respect labour rights and comply with minimum wages.

The EUROCIITIES study on cities and economic migration that includes analyses of local effects of economic migration, a toolkit for cities and recommendations to national and European policy makers will be available in February.

Further information: Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer Migration & Integration, dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

From INTI-Cities to DIVE

A joint EUROCIITIES-bid with five members Amsterdam, Berlin, Leeds, London and Rome for the European Integration Fund on "Diversity and equality in European Cities" has been successful. From January on, city experts on integration will evaluate local strategies to promote diversity and equality in four areas: policies on education and training, public procurement, service provision and personnel policy. The project will continue EUROCIITIES' work on improving local integration governance through benchmarks and peer-reviews and will lead to a EUROCIITIES Charter on diversity and equality in 2010. A two-day event on January 26-27 in Brussels consisting of a meeting of the Working Group Migration and Integration, an expert workshop on Benchmarking Integration Governance and the presentation of the results of INTI-cities will mark the hand-over of the baton between INTI-cities and DIVE.

Further information: Dirk Gebhardt, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer Migration & Integration, dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu

EUROCIITIES kicks off preparation for 2010 European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

2010 will be the European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Its main aim is to raise awareness of poverty and social exclusion across the EU. The Year will offer a unique opportunity for cities to put poverty back onto the political agenda, as well as to exchange experience on successful anti-poverty strategies in cities.

The EUROCIITIES Social Affairs Forum will get involved in the activities envisaged under the 2010 European Year. The first discussions on possible activities took place during the WG Social Inclusion meeting in Tallinn, as well as during the SAF meeting in Berlin. As a next step, a core group of cities will be established to develop further ideas and coordinate the preparations. A first meeting of this group will be held on 2-3 February in Birmingham, and all

EUROCITIES Members are invited to join. If you are interested, please contact Anna Drozd, EUROCITIES Programme Officer Social Inclusion, who will support the preparation process. A second step will be the next meeting of the Social Affairs Forum, which will take place on 2-3 March in Rotterdam, where the proposals of the group will be presented and the strategy for 2010 be further developed. Through the Inclusive Cities for Europe programme, EUROCITIES has some financial resources to produce information material and support events in the context of the 2010 Year.

Further information: Anna Drozd, EUROCITIES Programme Officer Social Inclusion, anna.drozd@eurocities.eu

EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum meeting in Rotterdam

The next meeting of the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum will take place in Rotterdam on 2-3 March 2009 with a focus on local anti-poverty strategies (including planning for EUROCITIES activities in the EU 2010 Year on Combating

Poverty and Exclusion). The agenda is currently being developed, and expressions of interest for presentations are still welcome.

Further information: Simon Guentner, EUROCITIES Senior Policy Officer Social Affairs, simon.guentner@eurocities.eu

Integrated Chain Approach to tackling homelessness

The EUROCITIES Working Group on Homelessness has produced a brochure on the "Integrated Chain Approach" to tackling homelessness. The approach aims at preventing homelessness by offering a range of coordinated services to meet the diverse needs of people at risk of losing their home and to help homeless people back into appropriate housing. The brochure which includes numerous case studies will be translated into 10 languages and can be obtained through the EUROCITIES office.

Further information: Gerhard Eitel, Chair of EUROCITIES Working Group on Homelessness, gerhard.eitel@fsw.at

News from cities

An intersectoral approach for accessible social services - Local Social policy in the city of Ghent, Belgium

The right to a decent life is guaranteed to all citizens by the Belgian Constitution. However, many people still find it difficult to access support, information or adequate service. Therefore, the city of Ghent, together with the Public Social Welfare Centre (OCMW) and other local actors decided to strengthen their cooperation to improve information and access to local services. 12 thematic forums were set up, which gather some 450 local actors of the health and welfare sector and cover all key areas of service provision. The thematic forums are supported by a steering committee which coordinates and provides links between themes and reports directly to the city council. The role of the local authority is to facilitate and support the collaboration of the various organisations and sectors, for example through data collection and monitoring, information and communication, access to services, and outreach activities. In its role as a network manager and coordinator, the city collects and disseminates information on social problems and proposals to address them.

Further information: Willem Gobeyn, Co-ordinator Local Social Policy Ghent, willem.gobeyn@gent.be

Madrid becomes the world's solidarity magic capital

The Paseo de Coches in downtown Madrid's El Retiro Park was the venue for the inaugural edition of the Solidarity Magic Week, which ran from 30 October to 2 November. Organised by the Town Council of Madrid, the aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of helping one another and to promote the spirit of volunteer work and, through magic and illusion, transmit the values of philanthropy.

Madrid is the world's first city to hold a Solidarity Magic Week to bring the world of illusion to children who are ill, disabled people, elderly and children at risk of social exclusion. Almost a hundred highly motivated volunteers participated in the first edition of the event, dedicating themselves to making it a genuine success.

The event was so successful that the tent in which the magic shows took place turned out to be way too small and many magicians volunteered to perform their tricks open air to entertain the curious crowds.

A total of 35 Spanish designers joined in the Solidarity Magic Week, designing the magic objects and garments used by the volunteer magicians in their hospital and health care centres shows. A museum tent showcased these objects, alongside a photographic exhibition.

For more information: Maria Conception Serrano Suarez, serranosmc@munimadrid.es

Events/conferences

European Urban Day	6-7 February, 2009	Prague & Kladno, CZ
The stakeholders will discuss mainstreaming within the structural and cohesion policy for the period 2007-2013. The Czech Presidency will present its point of view on the urban dimension of EU policies. The event is organised by the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic together with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).		
Eradicating child poverty - the role of the EU	12 February, 2009	Brussels, BE
Eurochild is organising a round table debate that will bring together stakeholders from different levels of government - local and national, as well as EU officials and NGOs to look at how Member States are addressing child poverty and what role the EU can play to ensure progress.		
Regions for Economic Change	16-17 February 2008	Brussels, BE
Annual conference held by the European Commission (DG Regio) in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/networking/home_en.cfm		
European Summit of Regions and Cities	5-6 March, 2009	Prague, CZ
The Committee of the Regions is organising a European Summit of Regions and Cities in Prague on 5 and 6 March 2009, in partnership with the City of Prague, and with the support of the Czech Presidency of the European Union bringing together representatives for regional and local authorities and the European institutions. The summit's aim is to discuss and exchange experiences on Lisbon goals, future of the cohesion policy and its implementation.		
Parallel patterns of urban growth and decline – Sustainability issues and challenges for spatial planning in 21st century cities and regions	23-26 March, 2009	Kaiserslautern, DE
A symposium organized by the International Urban Planning and Environment Association, dedicated to the growth and decline of urban areas and surrounding regions. For more information: http://www.upe8.uni-kl.de/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23&Itemid=80		
Future of the Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cohesion	26-27 March, 2009	Prague, CZ
The event will serve as a platform for expert debate on various aspects of the cohesion policy, territorial cohesion, and urban – rural relations.		
Social Norms Forum	31 March, 2009	Brussels, BE
Inspired by the EU Alcohol and Health Forum, brewing company Anheuser-Busch organises an event in Brussels to discuss the concept of social norms and how it can be applied to the prevention of abusive behaviour and to promote responsible drinking among populations at risk. City representatives are invited to discuss these matters with experts from business and research. For more information: http://www.socialnormsforum.eu/		
Quality and performance in Social Services in Europe	22-23 April, 2009	Prague, CZ
The European Social Service Conference, organised by the Czech Presidency of the EU and the European Social Network (ESN) is dedicated to the issue of quality in social service provision. The conference will pose a number of key questions including: what systems of quality exist today in different parts of Europe and how can we evaluate their outcomes? In an increasingly mobile Europe, should we move towards common standards or principles? How can those who use social services be involved in monitoring their quality? What should be the balance between cost, performance and quality and how can contracting or 'commissioning' act as a lever to raise standards and deliver better services for people? Further information: http://www.esn.eu.org		
Empty Country and Lively Cities? Spatial Differentiation in the Face of Demographic Change	7-8 May, 2009	Berlin, DE
The aim of the conference is to bring together current research on differentiation in urban and regional development and the resulting political requirements in the context of demographic change in Germany and Europe. For more information: http://www.eukn.org/eukn/meetings/2009/05/Lively-Cities_1001.html		



EUROCITIES events

WG Migration and Integration	26 January, 2009	Brussels, BE
The January meeting of the WG is devoted to bringing together the city experts who were involved in the INTI-Cities project and the WG in order to discuss the project's findings, the methodology and the implications for the coming project Diversity and Equality in European Cities.		
INTI-Cities Conference	26-27 January, 2009	Brussels, BE
In this final conference, the project partners will present the main findings of INTI-Cities to the public on the 27th. An expert workshop on 26th will be devoted to discussing the benchmarks and the peer-review methodology in particular.		
WG Social Inclusion	3-4 February, 2009	Birmingham, UK
This meeting of the WG Social Inclusion will focus on the use of the ESF in cities for their social inclusion policies.		
Meeting of the core group of cities for the 2010 activities	2-3 February, 2009	Birmingham, UK
The meeting will be dedicated to preparing a first draft proposal for the EUROCITIES activities in the framework of the 2010 European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.		
Social Affairs Forum meeting	2-3 March, 2009	Rotterdam, NL
This SAF meeting will be dedicated to dimensions of poverty and social exclusion in cities and to discussing the EUROCITIES activities for 2010 (European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion).		
Integrating Cities III Conference	2 April, 2009	Berlin, DE
The Integrating Cities III Conference will take place in Berlin and discuss the role of cities in European policies for the integration of migrants. Particular focus will be put on diversity management and promotion of equal opportunities. The Conference will be opened by Klaus Wowereit, Mayor of Berlin, and Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission.		

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