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

All things must come to an end, and 2010 marks the end of the current Social OMC cycle and the final year of the Lisbon strategy, whose ambitious goals included turning Europe into the world's most competitive economy and making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty. It is just the right time to take stock of its achievements in the 2010 European Year on combating poverty and exclusion. At both EU and national levels, governments and civil society are getting ready for their campaigns which will not only showcase the challenges we still face in order to overcome inequalities, but also innovative and successful policies and practices.

At the EU level, there will be opening and closing events which will be held under the auspices of Spanish and Belgian Presidencies of the EU and two EU focus weeks organised around two permanent EU-level events - the European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty (May) and the Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion (October).

At the national level, each Member State has finalised its national programmes and most of them have launched calls for proposals for activities to be held during 2010. All approved programmes are available at: <http://2010againstpovetry.europa.eu> while the calls for proposals are published on the websites of the national ministries responsible for coordinating the 2010 activities. There will be 30 national focus weeks, during which Europe will highlight a particular country.

After a year of preparations, EUROCITIES has also finalised its strategy for the European Year 2010. The campaign will follow two goals: raising awareness on the urban dimension of poverty and exclusion; and promoting successful solutions to tackle poverty and exclusion in cities. To prepare our activities and to map these problems in cities, we undertook research whose findings will be used as a basis for preparing the thematic events in 2010 and formulating our messages to the policy makers. The campaign will be kicked off at the upcoming EUROCITIES annual event in Stockholm (24-25 November), where the Mayors' Debate will centre on the question of how the different thematic Forums in our network can contribute to making our cities more inclusive and sustainable.

Throughout 2010, we will show and share solutions to tackle poverty and exclusion at various events. A series of four thematic seminars will take place in Newcastle (child poverty), Ghent (health inequalities), Katowice (unemployment) and Budapest (area-based approaches to social exclusion). In addition to these seminars, various EUROCITIES Forums will hold workshops dedicated to social inclusion issues. Alongside all these events, the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum will develop a political message that will be submitted to the EU Employment, Social Protection, Health and Consumer Affairs Council next autumn. The message will stress the key issues EUROCITIES wants to see addressed in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion 2011-2013.

For more information contact Anna Drozd, Programme Officer for Social Inclusion: anna.drozd@eurocities.eu.



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Dear Reader,

These days, there is an air of expectancy around Brussels. Europe's policy makers find themselves at the beginning of a new term with some new and some familiar faces around. The newly elected European Parliament has already composed its committees and groups and its Members, both old and new have adjusted to dossiers. Returning European Commission President Jose Barroso is assembling his new team. The Council is readying itself for big discussions ahead, including the future of the Lisbon Strategy and the revision of the EU's budget. Not least, Member States, the Commission and civil society are finalising their campaigns for the European Year on Combating Poverty and Exclusion 2010.

The situation in our Brussels office is following a similar pattern of preparation. We made use of the summer period to prepare opinions on the matters that have been and will remain at the heart of our work: the integration of newcomers and people with a migrant background, and local strategies for social inclusion. Our position paper "From The Hague to Stockholm - EURO CITIES' analysis of the European Framework on Immigration, Asylum and Integration" underlines the salient argument that the institutional differentiation at EU level between third country nationals and EU citizens hampers comprehensive strategies at local level. The paper calls for better coordination between employment, social and integration policy and funding frameworks. In a similar vein, a brochure that we are currently finalising (as a background text to the Inclusive Cities 2010 campaign) points out the interfaces between the various dimensions of social exclusion - and hence the need to address them in a comprehensive ways.

All this ties in with work we have been undertaking on "Integrated Local Development - towards an EU programme for people and place post 2013". We recently produced an "options paper" in which different proposals on how the EU could support integrated local development in the future are presented. These proposals are based on many local cases and were compiled from contributions from cities all across Europe. A big "thank you" from us, to you, as your input is much appreciated! You will find out more about all this and more in the next pages, at the numerous events ahead of us and on our website. We hope you find it of use for your work, and we are always thankful for any feedback.

The images in this edition were all taken from various multicultural events taking place in Brussels over the summer months

Your Inclusive Cities team

Recent EU Developments

Commission proposal on joint European refugee resettlement scheme

On 2 September the European Commission proposed an EU programme for resettling refugees living in unsuitable situations outside the EU. The European Commission states that currently only 10 Member States have such resettlement schemes in place, which accounts for a total of 4,400 refugees, representing 7% of all internationally resettled refugees. According to the Commission's proposal, Member States will be able to choose whether they want to participate in the European scheme or not. Those Member States opting to participate will receive 4,000 Euros per refugee from the European Refugee Fund. The European resettlement scheme will be coordinated by the European Asylum Support Office.

Further info:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1267&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Stockholm Programme debated in the European Parliament

The discussion of the Stockholm Programme in the European Parliament commenced with an exchange of views between representatives of the Swedish EU Presidency and Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on 30 September. Minna Ljunggren, State Secretary to the Swedish Minister for Migration reminded the MEPs that as a five year framework for migration policy (among other topics), the Stockholm Programme should look beyond the current economic crisis. Ms Ljunggren stressed the need to open up new possibilities for economic migration and to find new instruments to attract skilled workers who are needed in the near future. The Parliament report on the Stockholm Programme is expected in late November, after which the European Council will decide on the final version of the plan.



EUROCITIES Developments

EUROCITIES addresses the EU Social Protection Committee on the future of EU social policy

The chair of the EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum and Vice-Mayor of Stockholm, Ulf Kristersson, together with EUROCITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan, was invited to address the EU Social Protection Committee (SPC) on 14 September in Stockholm. The SPC was specifically interested in EUROCITIES' expectations for the EU Lisbon Strategy post 2010, as well as our views on how social policy is being coordinated across the EU. Mr Kristersson and Mr Bevan used this occasion not only to introduce the network to the government officials, but also pressed for a more systematic role for cities in the preparation and follow-up of the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion. Taking a rather critical stance towards the current set-up of EU social policy, they proposed a closer link between the social OMC and the EU Structural Funds so as to support innovative pilot initiatives for social inclusion. By linking up to the SPC's priority themes, such as housing and migrant integration, this would enhance the visibility of the EU's social dimension.

For more information, contact Senior Policy Officer for Social Affairs, Simon Guentner at simon.guentner@eurocities.eu.

EUROCITIES exchanges views on EU social policy with the European Commission

On 23 September, EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum Chair and Vice-Mayor of Stockholm Ulf Kristersson, and EUROCITIES Secretary General Paul Bevan met with Robbert Verrue, Director General in the European Commission for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. In the meeting, issues such as the EU's economic recovery package, the use of Structural Funds for Integrated Local Development (ILD) and the role of cities in the EU Social Inclusion Process were discussed. Mr Verrue underlined he will be monitoring EUROCITIES' input into the debates about the new EU Strategy (post-Lisbon), in particular concerning the links between social and economic policies, and the links between policy coordination (social OMC) and priority setting for the Structural Funds post 2013.

For more information, contact Simon Guentner at simon.guentner@eurocities.eu.

Integrated Local Development: Towards an EU programme for people and place

In light of the ongoing debate surrounding the future of the EU budget, and within that, the future of Structural Funds, EUROCITIES is in the process of developing recommendations for an EU instrument on integrated local development. Following an intense consultation of experts and EUROCITIES members, an "Options Paper" has been drafted, outlining various routes the European Union could take to promote integrated local development in its future funding framework. The paper serves as a background to a EUROCITIES seminar to investigate preconditions, tools and funding frameworks to be held on 3 November in Brussels. The guiding philosophy is "a policy for people and place", and the various contributions will present arrangements and programs to promote physical and environmental improvement as well as social and economic development in a coordinated way.

For more information, please contact Simon Guentner at simon.guentner@eurocities.eu.

EUROCITIES-NLAO review seminars on housing

Since its launch in March, the EUROCITIES-Network of Local Authorities Observatories on Active Inclusion (NLAO) has carried out a series of studies on the role of social and supported housing in promoting the active social inclusion of people excluded from the labour market. To validate their initial findings, the observatories in Bologna, Prague, Rotterdam, Southampton and Stockholm are in the process of holding review seminars, due to conclude in October. At these events, a range of stakeholders involved in housing and social policy discuss questions on governance, procurement and quality management. The results of these seminars will feed into the final reports. At these events, we aim to stimulate discussion between local practitioners and government officials about the applicability of the European Common Principles on Active Inclusion which the European Council agreed upon in December 2008. These principles are, in most cases, not yet known outside of the European offices of the Ministries. Hence, as our initiative serves to communicate and interpret these principles, it is seen as a potentially important sphere of policy shaping and mutual learning. Following from the initial success, the European Commission has invited us to propose an extension of the network from 2010 onwards.



For more information, contact Anke Thiel, EUROCITIES Project Coordinator Social Inclusion at Anke.Thiel@eurocities.eu.

Working Group on Migration and Integration: report from 17-18 September meeting

The meeting focused on integration from both European and local aspects. Iwona Piorko from the European Commission's Directorate of Justice, Freedom and Security gave an overview of the latest EU policy developments on integration. The coming months will see a tendering procedure for modules on integration, an "immigration code" that groups existing European legislation and further developments on integration indicators.

In the course of the afternoon's site visits, the participants were provided with an insight into the complexities of integration governance in Brussels. They also learned about a youth project which mobilises young people politically by giving them the means to organise unusual debates and trips. The NGO *Foyer* gave an introduction to the orientation and integration programme SAMPA and demonstrated their approach to social work with Roma pupils and parents in collaboration with Roma mediators. Finally, the group learnt about the Brussels-Capital region's territorial pact on employment.

The next Working Group meeting in Malmo on 9-10 November will host a joint workshop together with the five cities participating in DIVE. This meeting will also provide an insight to Malmo's approach to integration and newcomer reception through site visits and discussions.

WG Social Inclusion meeting - Ghent, 4-5 November

The next meeting of the WG Social Inclusion will focus on working effectively with Roma. The meeting will give the participants an opportunity to explore this issue in their cities and to exchange experiences and ideas on possible solutions at local level. For more information contact Els De Vos in Ghent: els.devos@gent.be or Simon Underwood, Chair of WG Social Inclusion: simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk.

COMING SOON

Inclusive Cities latest publication explaining the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) and giving an overview of the National Action Plans for local practitioners will soon be available both on-line and in print. Translated from Euro-jargon to plain English by Inclusive Cities, this brochure explains the OMC clearly, making it easier to understand for those whose job it is to put policy into practice, not write it. If you would like to know more, please contact Caroline Greene at:

caroline.greene@eurocities.eu.

News from Cities

Loving Copenhagen

"VI KBH♥R♥" ("WE COPENHAGENERS) is a campaign that celebrates the diversity of Copenhagen.

The citizens of the City of Copenhagen are diverse; born in 162 different countries, they speak 91 different languages and believe in 23 different gods and goddesses. In addition, they have different habits and cultures. Despite this diversity, they share common traits such as seeking social relationships and communities, celebrating important events as well as living in the same city.

How does it work?

VI KBH♥R♥ works towards establishing more trust and a feeling of unity amongst Copenhageners. The programme recognises the cultural, religious and national diversity which exists in the city and shares this amongst citizens. The rationale behind the programme is that the more people learn about differences and similarities in those around them, the better they will be able to understand, respect and trust others and feel included in the community.

Who is involved?

The "VI KBH♥R♥" campaign was launched by The Employ-

ment and Integration Committee of Copenhagen Municipality and supports the municipality's vision of Copenhagen as a wholesome city where the citizens live safely together with a respect for diversity and common fundamental values such as freedom of expression, democracy and equality.

Read more about the campaign on www.oplevforskellighed.dk.

Local currency launched in Brixton, London

The Brixton pound is the latest local currency to be launched under the umbrella of the Transition Town Network, a rapidly growing global movement that urges local communities to respond to the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

The aim is to support local businesses and encourage trade and production. Preparations have been in place for the past year for the introduction of the new currency, which works alongside, not replaces, the pound sterling. It is for use by independent local shops and traders as well as the general public.

By nurturing this highly visible sense of localism and civic pride, the organisers hope to show that self-reliant communities can not only thrive, but be better prepared for

looming environmental threats and the resulting social stresses.

Tim Nichols, the Brixton pound project manager, has found it challenging approaching some of the local businesses to sell the idea of the Brixton pound. He said: "You have to establish trust with the community... it is crucial we engage all ethnicities and social classes".

The idea centres around localism - strengthening community bonds while boosting the local economy and spreading the message of environmentalism.

Convincing Brixton's community of shopkeepers and stall holders in the market (which lies at the heart of Brixton's identity) wasn't always easy. Getting influential shop owners on board was crucial.

How does it work?

The system is quite straightforward. Clients of participating businesses are given the option to receive their change in Brixton pounds. These may then be spent at any other participating business, either as an alternative to sterling or in combination with sterling. By "sticking" to Brixton, the notes will, in theory, help to boost local trade and reduce the reliance on "external" economies. Some participating businesses have also pledged to offer discounts to anyone paying with Brixton pounds.

Security, naturally, is a key issue and Transition Towns Brixton has spent £2,000 in designing and printing the bank notes, which will be available in denominations of £1, £5, £10 and £20. Much of this sum has been paid for by supporting businesses and organisations who will have their names printed on some of the notes. Standard bank note security features such as special paper, holograms and foil strips, provide additional security.

For more information: www.brixtonpound.org

Brno plans its social future

Earlier this summer the Czech city of Brno's assembly approved the Second Social Services Community Plan. This plan will cover the years 2010-2013. It is the second document developed through community planning with the participation of social services providers, their users, city representatives and other experts. The principle aim of the Community Plan is to support and develop the existing social services for individual target groups and to ensure their financing.

The purpose of community planning of social services is to focus on the real needs of people in coping with difficult life situations. This includes the elderly, families with children, people with various disabilities or those at risk of social exclusion. The result of including users in the planning is that the services are tailored to the requirements of the people using them, instead of perceived needs by planners. Services in Brno are accessible and of a high quality. Responsive to the needs of users, their purpose is clear and understandable. Inclusive planning such as this means that the city gets the best return on its investment possible.

One of the most important features of community planning such as this is the emphasis on dialogue and negotiation in order to reach consensus amongst the interested parties. In principle, it's a never-ending process in which hundreds of Brno representatives, users and providers are involved. Brno City Social Care Services outlined the procedure. First of all, the teams establish which social services are needed. These are then ranked in terms of priority. The financial resources and physical capacities of the city and providers are then assessed before the final Social Services Community Plan is defined.

For more information, check out www.kpss.brno.cz



EUROCITIES Economic Recession and Recovery work

Early in 2009 it was clear that the recession was having a significant impact on cities across the EU, but little was known about the breadth or depth of problems. In order to better understand the challenges facing members, EUROCITIES embarked upon a long term programme of research activities.

An initial survey was undertaken across the network, exploring the headline recession impacts in over 40 cities. It quickly became apparent that reductions in the amount of private finance available meant physical infrastructure projects were being stopped or delayed. Public-private partnerships that had driven local development in many cities were also becoming increasingly redundant, leading cities to explore new means of securing funds for projects at the local level.

This initial research simply confirmed and highlighted what were already headline issues however, and more investigation was clearly needed. All EUROCITIES Forums subsequently held discussions related to their particular thematic areas, with Social Affairs and Economic Development leading the way. As the discussions advanced, it began to become clear that the recession was changing, and whilst economic problems were better understood, societal issues were becoming more of a concern.

Cities were found to be developing a number of proactive responses aimed in particular at supporting local businesses and tackling unemployment. Initiatives to create temporary public sector jobs and increase guidance and training for workers and jobseekers were becoming as important as funding infrastructure projects, if not more so. Across the UK, many cities have developed economic resilience packages, for example in Gateshead and Edinburgh. The Spanish city of Murcia, is prioritising support of employment by giving people the chance to enhance their education and skills. In Belgium, Ghent, together with other partners has developed the "Action Plan Fast Forward" for which they have employed additional social workers to work with people who have recently become unemployed. The scheme aims to place these persons in new jobs as soon as possible.

The launch of a cross-sectoral Recession and Recovery Task Force brought together city representatives to not only share intelligence on key local and national issues, but also to plan further network activities. A second and more substantial piece of ongoing research aimed at exploring detailed recession impacts related to employment, migration and business survival, as well as city responses. This has produced a mixed picture so far. Whilst most cities have seen a rise in unemployment, for some the rise has been sharp and from a low starting point, whilst for others the increase has been less severe against a backdrop of already major challenges. From early 2008 to mid-2009 the average unemployment rate in the cities who participated in the survey rose from 6.2% to 8.4%. The number of cities within the survey with jobless rates above 10% increased in the same period from five to seven, with two more cities reporting unemployment figures of over 15%. Many cities expect that these percentages will rise, with Tallinn and Murcia set to hit the 20%-mark. Gateshead, where unemployment rose from under 3% to almost 6% between January 2008 and July 2009, is quite optimistic about their future regarding jobs. They reported that many people there have transferable skills which will help them return to work. Strategies are also being put in place to attract new businesses which will help to create employment.

Some cities report a rapid growth in the number of new businesses being established, amongst these are Tallinn, The Hague and Stockholm. Munich and Murcia have recorded a drop in the number of businesses. Munich reports however, an increase in the number of people seeking advice on start-up businesses. In Dublin, business people are turning in increasing numbers to enterprise boards in order to access finance as the traditional source of finance, banks, are reluctant to lend. Several cities report a rapid increase of benefit claimants for housing and debt advice services. In the future, most of the cities in the survey will have to face the challenge to maintain or improve the efficiency of social services with decreasing budgets.

As we now move to the next stage of our recession activities - drawing together examples of city initiatives in a comprehensive best practice guide - a new challenge appears to be facing many cities. Interventions are being planned and implemented against a backdrop of lowering city budgets. Whilst not the case for all cities, many will be forced to contend with lower incomes and a smaller pot of funds to finance valuable projects within their cities, as decreased national and local tax revenues take their toll. The challenge therefore appears to be one of balancing immediate financial concerns with the need to avoid longer term issues of unemployment and social exclusion.

For more information, please contact John Dodd, seconded expert on economics at john.dodd@eurocities.eu

Calls for Proposals and Funding

Thematic programme of cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum
Reference: EuropeAid/128764/C/ACT/Multi

National public bodies and agencies, regional or local public bodies and authorities and consortia thereof or associations representing them having a legal personality separate from the state or a ministry are invited to tender on cooperation with third countries. The objective is to help third countries better manage all aspects of migratory flows in all their dimensions. Possible actions include: protecting migrants' rights against xenophobia, exploitation and trafficking; promoting the positive effects of migration on development and contributing to the prevent or offset the negative ones and; support for national strategies targeting support and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

Deadline for applications is: 13 November 2009 (for submission of concept notes)

The aim of the funding is

<http://www.guiafc.com/documentos/2009-EuropeAid-128764.pdf>

FP7-SSH-2010-2

Collaborative projects (small or medium-scale focused research projects)

FP7 - COOPERATION: Socio-economic sciences & humanities

The Commission calls for international and inter-regional comparative research on different patterns of local welfare systems, considering their effects on social inequalities, and examining which are the most favourable to promoting social cohesion and sustainability, especially the role of different providers of welfare services (public providers, third sector, not for profit, and for profit sector) and their partnerships; the role of public policy; the governance of local welfare systems; the relationships between formal and informal initiatives and; inclusion and exclusion effects of local welfare systems (e.g. access to services, quality of services and conditions of labour in the services), taking into account the increasing differentiation of life-courses and needs of citizens.

The research should also formulate urban policy recommendations for local welfare system improvement.

Deadline for applications is: 2 February 2010 (may be extended by 2 months)

The call is structured into different activities, areas and topics. Please see below for topic of potential interest for cities:

- Activity 8.2 Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: paths towards sustainable development
 - Area 8.2.1 Socio-economic development trajectories
 - SSH.2010.2.1-2 Local welfare systems favouring social cohesion

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=253#infopack

Events and Conferences

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| 8th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion | 15-16 October 2009 | Stockholm, Sweden |
| <p>The European Commission and the Swedish Government will host the 8th EU Roundtable on Poverty and Exclusion. This event brings together representatives of all networks and associations in Europe that deal with social inclusion, as well as EU and national government officials. The meeting will focus on "New challenges for the active inclusion strategy".</p> <p>http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/10/15/8th_european_round_table_on_poverty_and_social_exclusion</p> | | |
| Migration and mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems | 20 October 2009 | Brussels, Belgium |
| <p>This conference is the immediate follow up of the public consultation carried out between July and December 2008 following the adoption of the Green Paper of the same name. More details can be found at:</p> <p>http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1352&forma</p> | | |
| Financial Inclusion Initiatives - Economic Impact on City Economies | 23 October 2009 | Leeds, England |
| <p>This conference will announce the results of a major research study undertaken by Salford University into the economic impact of financial inclusion initiatives. It aims to provide a detailed economic analysis of the impact of financial inclusion interventions; provide data and figures of city and regional economic impacts; illustrate how financial inclusion initiatives can help tackle recession-</p> | | |

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| <p>ary problems and; explode the myth that financial inclusion interventions impact only on social issues. www.leeds.gov.uk/fi</p> | | |
| <p>Stakeholder Event Transnational ESF Learning Network "Increasing the Participation of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Employment"</p> | <p>29 October 2009</p> | <p>Berlin, Germany</p> |
| <p>The ESF learning network IMPART brings together 11 partners from eight countries with two goals: to provide concrete input to the design of employment strategies for migrants and ethnic minorities and to develop recommendations for future ESF priorities. In 2010/11 the project will analyse the assessment and validation of skills, anti-discrimination skills and integrated territorial approaches through peer reviews. The purpose of this stakeholder event is to involve experts from outside the network for an exchange of knowledge and to increase the benefits of the project. Further info: cigdem.ipek@intmig.gberlin.de (Please note that the deadline for registrations was October 5th)</p> | | |
| <p>The jobs trade off: impacts of Global Europe on decent work conference</p> | <p>18-19 November 2009</p> | <p>Brussels, Belgium</p> |
| <p>Two weeks before world trade ministers meet at the WTO in Geneva, and in the wake of the global financial, food and energy crises, what is the impact of the EU's <i>Global Europe</i> trade policy on decent work and development? Come and hear from labour leaders and activists from around the world about the situation on the ground for workers. Debate with decision makers, MEPs, civil society and trade union representatives on how to put European trade policy to work for decent work and decent lives for all. www.solidar.org</p> | | |
| <p>Diversity Days</p> | <p>03 December 2009</p> | <p>Vienna, Austria</p> |
| <p>Celebrating diversity, promoting equality and fighting discrimination will be the main topics taking the stage at Vienna City Hall during Diversity Days. It is the third time that this successful event is organised by the EU Agency for fundamental rights in cooperation with the City of Vienna and the Viennese School Authority. http://www.diversityday.eu/en/wien.html</p> | | |
| <p>European Conference of the Networking European Citizenship Education (NECE): "The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion"</p> | <p>03-05 December 2009</p> | <p>Vilnius, Lithuania</p> |
| <p>The conference will examine the applicability of general and specific topics from the scope of cultural and citizenship education, contrasting them with best practices and success stories. The conference aims to provide a comprehensive examination of the comparability of national educational concepts at the European level and to deliver an in-depth description of the forms of access to the major target groups, both in schools and in extracurricular youth and adult education. Conference language is English without translation. To apply for the conference, complete the registration form at: www.lab-concepts.de/anmeldung/nece-vilnius/. If you have any questions, contact Petra Grüne (bpb); Tel.: +49 228 99 515 289; petra.gruene@bpb.de or click on www.nece.eu</p> | | |
| <p>Interacting in diversity for social cohesion</p> | <p>07-08 December 2009</p> | <p>Strasbourg, France</p> |
| <p>The Council of Europe, in partnership with the European Commission and the Government of Quebec, is organising this conference which will deal primarily with the advantages and limits of the concept of "reasonable accommodation" in relation to the European standards on non-discrimination. For more information, see: http://www.coe.int/socialcohesion/forum2004</p> | | |
| <p>Conference "Towards a Representative Bureaucracy? Multi-cultural Europe and Diversity in the Public Sector Workforce, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen"</p> | <p>10-12 December</p> | <p>Friedrichshafen, Germany</p> |
| <p>Drawing on examples from the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and the UK, the aim of this conference is to find out if and how the public sector and public services adapt to increasingly multi-cultural European societies. City practitioners (in particular from the case study countries) who can contribute with insights from their approaches to workforce diversity are welcome to contact patrick.vonmaravic@zeppelin-university.de</p> | | |

EUROCITIES Events

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| <p>EUROCITIES NLAO Midterm Review Workshop</p> | <p>12-13 October</p> | <p>Stockholm, Sweden</p> |
| <p>For information about the programme, contact Anke Thiel, Project Coordinator Social Inclusion - anke.thiel@eurocities.eu</p> | | |

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| European Stakeholder Workshop - Social Exclusion | 14 October 2009 | Stockholm, Sweden |
| <p>On the Wednesday before the 8th European Roundtable on Poverty and Social Exclusion, the EUROCIITIES Network of Local Authority Observatories on Active Inclusion (EUROCIITIES-NLAO) is holding a European stakeholder workshop where the initial results of their research will be discussed with external stakeholders. Please contact Anke Thiel, Project Coordinator Social Inclusion - anke.thiel@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| EUROCIITIES seminar "Towards an EU Policy for people and places" | 03 November | Brussels, Belgium |
| <p>This seminar is an important milestone in EUROCIITIES' work towards a proposal for an EU funding instrument to support local integrated development post 2013. Various options for such an instrument will be discussed with experts and practitioners. Further information: Daniela Galante, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer - Finance and Administration - daniela.galante@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| EUROCIITIES Working Group on Social Inclusion | 04 November | Ghent, Belgium |
| <p>This meeting will examine some social inclusion projects in Ghent. It will also continue its discussion on social inclusion strategies. For more information: Anna Drozd, EUROCIITIES Programme Officer Social Inclusion - anna.drozd@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| DIVE final workshop & Meeting WG Migration and Integration | 09-10 November | Malmö, Sweden |
| <p>This meeting will present the preliminary finding of the EUROCIITIES peer review project "Diversity and Equality in European Cities" to the Working Group, and discuss the Cities Charter which is one of the main outcomes of the project. In site visits Malmö will present elements of its integration policy, such as a reception centre for newcomers. Further information: dirk.gebhardt@eurocities.eu; theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| EUROCIITIES Culture Forum | 06-07 November | Zaragoza, Spain |
| <p>Convening between 70 - 80 city representatives, the focus of the event will be on mobility of artists, cultural projects and culture professionals as well as "Street art and architecture ...how culture redesigns the city". Further information: Julie Hervé, EUROCIITIES Policy Officer - julie.herve@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| EUROCIITIES Mobility Forum Meeting - Participative democracy and mobility: Giving citizens a voice | 16-18 November | Toulouse, France |
| <p>Further information: Vanessa Holve, EUROCIITIES Mobility - vanessa.holve@eurocities.eu</p> | | |
| EUROCIITIES 2009 Stockholm | 25-28 November | Stockholm, Sweden |
| <p>Further information: Sinead Mullins, EUROCIITIES Communications Officer - sinead.mullins@eurocities.eu or visit http://www.eurocities2009.eu/</p> | | |

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