



Inclusive Cities for Europe *NEWS*

A quarterly newsletter produced by EURO CITIES: Issue 8, December 2009

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EURO CITIES Research Paper on Social Exclusion and Inequality in European Cities

EURO CITIES, in cooperation with social policy experts from around thirty cities, has prepared a research paper on social exclusion and inequalities in European cities. The paper investigates the interlinked and mutually reinforcing dimensions of poverty and social exclusion and concludes that better coordinated and integrated policy responses are necessary to address these issues.

Cities are centres for economic development but they are also centres of poverty and social exclusion. The research focused on a number of key issues for tackling social exclusion such as employment, child poverty, health, housing, ICT, culture, mobility and deprived areas at both individual and community levels.

Cities have limited control over welfare policies, which are set at the national level. However, the research paper suggests that cities can play an important role in alleviating, tackling and preventing poverty and social exclusion. For these reasons, after having outlined the issue, real-life examples are given to illustrate how cities have responded to the challenges posed by poverty and social exclusion, for example:

- Unemployment: cities have actively improved enterprise development, helping local businesses to flourish and create new jobs. They also act as 'brokers' between jobseekers and businesses;
- Child poverty: cities have promoted learning opportunities for children and have improved coordination between the public and private services for children and families;
- Health: cities have taken health services closer to communities and have launched campaigns encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles;
- ICT: cities have improved access to ICT, especially in deprived areas, and have assisted people to develop their ICT skills by providing training;
- Culture: cities have used culture to promote social inclusion, for example, making it easier for certain disadvantaged groups to take part in cultural activities;
- Mobility: cities have prepared comprehensive mobility plans and have improved the affordability, quality and safety of public transport;
- Housing: cities have revised both the quality of and access to affordable housing;
- Deprived neighbourhoods: cities have implemented area-based programmes to tackle the effects of a concentration of social exclusion in specific zones.

This research paper forms the background for our activities for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and is the basis for the year-round debates amongst local, national and European level stakeholders. Because of this, a number of key issues are presented under each policy area for further discussion. It will be available on the inclusive cities website soon.

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



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Dear Reader,

The past few months have seen some significant developments in the EU institutions and a lot of activity in the Inclusive Cities team.

On 1 December, the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, after years of negotiations. It provides the EU with new institutional settings, including the creation of the post of a permanent president. It also sets out new rules to streamline decision-making and increase democracy and transparency. The European Parliaments policy-making powers have been extended to several other policy areas, such as legal migration. The Treaty further recognises the importance of consultation and dialogue with associations and civil society stakeholders, and reaffirms the core values of the EU: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. On social affairs, the Lisbon Treaty makes the promotion of social justice and the fight against social exclusion and discrimination clear objectives of the EU.

The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty coincides with the announcement of the new European Commissioners and new areas of responsibility. Mr László Andor (HU) has been proposed as the new Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Although it is still too early to judge the impact of these changes, it is a positive sign that inclusion is being taken more seriously at the EU level. This move was certainly needed in a time when many people are still struggling with the consequences of the economic crisis.

Moving on to the activities of the Inclusive Cities team, many meetings took place throughout the year, making significant advances in our work. We will continue this work next year. We also produced several publications, including the "Toolkit for Mutual Learning" and "What's in it for local practitioners? a guide to the European open-method of coordination" (OMC). We will soon present our background paper for our activities as part of the 2010 European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion, the Research Paper on Social Exclusion and Inequalities in Cities. The Inclusive Cities website has also been launched, presenting a number of good practices for social inclusion. These new publications and tools will guide and strengthen our activities during next year.

Finally, EUROCITIES and the Inclusive Cities team has welcomed Senior Policy Officer Silvia Ganzerla. There is more about her in the "EUROCITIES Developments" section below.

The coming year will be an exciting one and essential to our work of increasing the European focus on social inclusion and cohesion.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year to you and yours,

Your Inclusive Cities team

EU Developments

EU Education Council calls on Member States to adapt education systems to increase diversity

The Council for Education, Youth and Culture called on Member States to close the achievement gap that exists in many EU education systems between children with a migrant background and their peers. Proposals outlined in the Council conclusions from the meeting held on the 26-27 November included measures for:

- more accessible education systems;
- better support for schools facing particular challenges;
- measures for supporting underperforming schools;
- closer cooperation with migrants communities and parents with a migrant background;
- better access to early childhood education; and
- greater efforts to strengthen teachers' intercultural and linguistic skills.

The conclusions are the result of a European Commission consultation around the green paper on migration, mobility

and education to which the EUROCITIES Working Group on education contributed. Many of the points contained in the EUROCITIES position were included in the Councils conclusions.

Council conclusions:

www.register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st14/st14353.en09.pdf

Eurobarometer study on poverty

A survey undertaken by the Public Opinion Analysis sector of the European Commission, Eurobarometer, shows that nearly 80 million citizens, or 16% of the European population, live below the poverty line. Many face serious obstacles in accessing employment, education, housing, social and financial services.

The survey was conducted in September 2009 and sheds some light on the many facets of poverty and social exclusion in the EU.

EU citizens are very aware of poverty and social exclusion, with 73% feeling that poverty is widespread in their coun-

try. High unemployment, insufficient wages and salaries are the most widely perceived 'societal' explanations for poverty, together with insufficient social benefits and pensions.

Over half of Europeans (56%) believe that the unemployed are most at risk of poverty, while 41% believe that the elderly are most vulnerable. Those with a low level of education were also perceived as being at risk.

Close to nine out of ten Europeans believe that poverty hampers people's chances of gaining access to decent housing, eight out of ten feel that being poor limits access to higher education or adult learning, and 74% believe that it damages their chances of finding a job. Across Europe, 53% feel that their national governments are primarily responsible for combating poverty. Even if Europeans do not regard the European Union (EU) as primarily responsible for combating poverty, its role is nonetheless seen as important by many.

Survey:

www.ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm

Perceptions of poverty conference

Bringing together EU decision makers, NGOs, interest groups and journalists from all across Europe, this conference focused on the potential communications challenges of different perceptions of poverty. The conference began with an overview of Europeans perception of poverty and exclusion. This was based on the findings of the study undertaken by Eurobarometer in September (see above).

The role of the media, including social media such as Twitter and Facebook was compared to concrete action and how media such as these can have a significant multiplier effect. Fintan Farrell of EAPN, the European anti-poverty network, stressed the importance of clarity of the message communicated, as this could stimulate action on top of raising awareness. Elise Williame from the Federal Public Service (SPF) for Social Security policy in Belgium highlighted the value of personal stories and local actions in communicating positive images that do not make people feel guilty for being poor. Finally, journalists discussed stereotypes in the media and proposed asking people about their experiences and the need to de-mask the inherent structural failures that need to be addressed.

Overall, it was felt that combating poverty is not simply a leadership challenge but also a communications challenge as poverty and the people it affects must be displayed in a positive way in the media. The coming year offers cities the chance to inform people about the real situation in Europe.

Roma and Travellers continue to be disadvantaged in housing

Roma and Travellers continue to be strongly disadvantaged in public and private housing in the EU. A report published by the Fundamental Rights Agency in October found that segregation, discrimination and lack of awareness on avail-

able legal protection were the most serious problems facing the Roma and Traveller communities across the EU.

Roma and Travellers suffer from insecure housing tenure, increased risk of mass evictions, segregation and discrimination on the part of local authorities and communities. Despite EU-level anti-discrimination legislation, the number of complaints to equality bodies or ombudsmen continues to be very low. This suggests that Roma and Travellers are unaware of the legal protection against discrimination. Moreover, according to the EU-MIDIS survey, which gathers information on immigrants' and ethnic minority groups' experiences of discrimination, many Roma and Travellers have little confidence in the justice system (see article on EU-MIDIS in this edition).

Although the vast majority of EU Member States have adopted specific policy frameworks to address Roma exclusion, they have, according to the FRA report, so far failed to improve the situation. One cause behind this is the lack of reliable and ethnically disaggregated data.

The report concludes that the current housing situation of Roma and Travellers requires a coordinated response from all levels of government, including the EU level. Policies should focus on increasing access, affordability and quality to housing for Roma and Travellers. There is also a need to further raise awareness of available legal protection available to victims of discrimination.

The survey can be found at:

www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/eu-midis/index_en.htm

and the full version of the report is available at:

www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/ROMA-Housing-Comparative-Report_en.pdf.

European Council adopts new framework for Justice and Home Affairs - Stockholm Programme

The Stockholm Programme on Justice and Home affairs was adopted by the European Council in Brussels on December 11. The text outlines the European framework for the next five years in the area of justice and home affairs, which includes migration, integration and asylum.

The difficulties that the southern member states' are experiencing in coping with the inflows of migrants and asylum seekers are clearly evident in the text. Aside from this, the Stockholm Programme is vague and does not present new ideas on how to strengthen solidarity within the EU.

Concerning integration, the text reflects the growing competences of the EU with the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, speaking of a more vigorous policy that should include comparable rights and obligations for third country citizens - the aim of the Tampere programme - by 2014. To achieve this, a review of existing legislation on legal migration, stronger European cooperation and better coordination of integration policies with employment and other relevant fields are announced.

Concerning irregular migration, initial proposals by the Commission, such as common standards for irregular migrants who cannot be deported, have been dropped. Instead, the Stockholm Programme advocates return, includ-

ing the widely debated joint return flights, and the political enforcement of readmission of undocumented migrants in those countries that do not cooperate with the EU on this policy.

Regarding asylum, the European Council felt less pressed to move forward with a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) than the Commission in its communication last summer. While the Commission's plan for a common asylum procedure and status by 2012 is confirmed by the Council, the mutual recognition and transferability of decisions between member states by 2014 does not appear in the final document. The Stockholm Programme invites the Commission instead to consider creating a framework for the transfer of statuses after full implementation of the second phase of the CEAS.

In the new year, the Spanish Presidency will move forward with the planning of and concrete policies for implementing the framework set out in the Stockholm Programme.

Council outcomes:

www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.26419!menu/standard/file/Klar_Stockholmsprogram.pdf

Commission announces actions to tackle health inequalities

The European Commission has announced a series of actions aimed at helping Member States tackle health inequalities. In its Communication, published in October, the Commission identified three areas of action: exchanging experience and knowledge; evaluating the effectiveness of health policies; and helping Member States access EU funding. Although the Communication refers to local governments only briefly, cities can have a considerable input in these actions through providing evidence on the effectiveness of local policies to tackle health inequalities.

Health inequalities, defined as differences in health according to socio-economic status, are still persistent in Europe. Despite overall improvements in wealth and access to healthcare, differences in life expectancy at birth between Member States can be up to eight years for women and 14 years for men.

The Commission aims to support Member States in their actions to reduce health inequalities through existing EU level policy instruments. In particular, it will support the exchange of knowledge and experiences between Member States and evaluation of the impact of health policies in Member States.

The Commission wants to make more use of the Social OMC, especially peer reviews, to improve the exchange of experiences between Member States. It plans to provide funding under PROGRESS in 2010 for these. It also plans to carry out activities in the framework of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Commission encourages Member States to use the EU Cohesion policy and structural funds and options under the Common Agricultural Policy to tackle health inequalities.

Commission communication:

www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/cons_inequalities_en.htm

FRA_Survey EU-MIDIS reveals the face of discrimination in Europe and its cities

The European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has published the findings of the EU-MIDIS survey on the discrimination of ethnic minorities and immigrants within the EU in a comprehensive report.

According to the survey, 47% of Roma, 41% of people of Sub-Saharan origin and 36% of interviewees of North African origin witnessed at least one case of discrimination within the last 12 months.

The survey shows that the employment sector and private services such as cafés and restaurants have the highest incidences of discrimination. While the overall numbers are lower, public services, health services and the education system are nevertheless areas in which a lot of surveyed persons experienced significant discrimination.

The fact that 40% of all interviewed people believe that there is no legislation to protect them against discrimination, and that consequently, 82% did not report incidences of discrimination, means that a large majority of discriminatory acts in the EU remain unreported today. This insight should provide food for thought for European, national and local authorities on how to make anti-discrimination legislation more effective on the ground and how to raise awareness among minorities and society as a whole about what discrimination is and that it is not acceptable.

With over 23,000 individuals from ethnic minority and immigrant groups interviewed, the EU-MIDIS survey offers the most precise picture of discrimination experienced by minorities and immigrants in Europe that is available today. The FRA plans to make the survey data accessible to the public by summer 2010.

EU-Midis report:

www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/eumidis_mainreport_conference-edition_en.pdf

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Inclusive Cities latest publication is a toolkit on mutual learning. It is designed for those among us who regularly organise meetings that includes participants from a wide spectrum of countries. It proposes alternatives to physical meetings (online tools) and suggests methods to generate new ideas and thinking during meetings.

This is available for downloading from our website - www.inclusivecities.eu and we will be distributing it at our events.

EUROCITIES Developments

Launch of the new Inclusive Cities website - www.inclusivecities.eu!

Inclusive Cities has just launched its own website, dedicated to social affairs news and information of interest to you. In addition, you can also find out more information about the European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion, as well as what we at EUROCITIES and Inclusive cities will be doing to highlight these issues. We also have our publications there for you to download and links to useful on-line resources. The website includes a calendar of relevant events.

The main feature of the website is a collection of real-life examples of social affairs practices and strategies used by cities to alleviate and counteract social problems. The information is categorised by city and by policy area (education, health, housing, etc). We hope that these examples will inspire you in your work to alleviate poverty and social exclusion in your city.

The website is part of Inclusive Cities for Europe, the partnership between the European Commission and EUROCITIES and is funded by PROGRESS, the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity.

Caroline Greene, Communications Officer - Inclusive cities; caroline.greene@eurocities.eu

New face at Inclusive Cities for Europe

The Inclusive Cities team has recently welcomed Silvia Ganzerla as the new Senior Policy Officer. Silvia used to work as a Senior Consultant, undertaking several research and evaluation assignments for the European Commission on a variety of public policies such as social inclusion, local development, employment, life-long learning and the integration of immigrants. She has extensive experience in the analysis and assessment of good practices, peer-reviews and European Open Method of coordination.

Prior to this, Silvia was the Social Policy Officer at the British Embassy in Rome, where she was responsible for several policy areas such as employment, social inclusion, small and medium enterprises, immigration and asylum seekers.

She has also worked as a Junior Research Assistant in the Department for Social Policies at Pavia University, focusing on welfare state restructuring in Europe, ERDF and ESF programmes, active labour policies and youth culture.

Silvia has a degree in Political Sciences, from Pavia University in Italy and holds two Masters degrees: an MA in

European Social Policy Evaluation and an MSc in Urban regeneration. During her studies, she has focused on different bottom-up strategies to promote urban development, the European Urban Programme and the role of culture for the integration of ethnic minorities.

Silvia Ganzerla, Senior Policy Officer;
silvia.ganzerla@eurocities.eu

Innovation, efficiency and effectiveness

On 3 November, EUROCITIES held a seminar exploring the potential for the EU to support integrated local development in the next funding period after 2013.

Over 60 representatives from European cities, the European Commission and the European Parliament as well as external experts shared their views. Integrated Local development (ILD) involves strategies and measures that tackle physical and social, economic and environmental issues together and many of the speakers saw it as the most effective way of addressing strategic EU wide challenges. Contributions from cities demonstrated the real-world application of ILD with examples. Malmo, Lille and Budapest discussed various elements of cooperation.

EUROCITIES Secretary General, Paul Bevan stressed that "given the shared nature of the challenges, and the potential for territories to address them in a coordinated yet distinctive way, EUROCITIES believes that an approach supporting integrated local development covering the whole EU will be essential".

Discussions and debate during the seminar centered on the place of ILD the future EU budget and its implications for Cohesion Policy in particular. Participants raised concerns over possible changes that would limit financial support to the poorest regions. It was agreed that all levels of governance benefit from an integrated approach.

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Cities act to tackle poverty and exclusion

EUROCITIES/Inclusive Cities campaign for the European Year 2010 to combat poverty and exclusion was launched during the Mayors Debate at EUROCITIES 2009 in Stockholm, which took place at the end of November.

The mayors discussed the vital role that cities play in tackling different dimensions of poverty and exclusion, due to their impact on many areas of life, such as housing, environment, health, culture, mobility or local economic development. Comprehensive urban planning, co-



ordinating local partnerships and community engagement are key to addressing problems faced by cities and people in living in poverty, according to the conclusions of the debate.

The mayors represented six thematic Forums, each debating how best to fight poverty and exclusion in each policy area. They agreed that due to the multidimensional nature of poverty and exclusion, well-coordinated and comprehensive responses from city administrations are required.

In their debates, the mayors stressed in particular:

- promoting entrepreneurship and local employment development, especially through investing in training, creating incentives to work and through outreach activities to engage with hard-to-reach groups;
- stimulating intercultural dialogue, by bringing culture to schools and by developing diverse cultural offer, especially as many cities have become multicultural;
- enabling migrants to contribute to the social and economic life of cities through education and training;
- using new technologies to promote social inclusion and adapting service delivery to users' needs;
- the importance of a more integrated approach to urban planning, especially when designing transport networks and energy efficient social housing;
- promoting healthy and more environmentally-friendly lifestyles across cities.

Mayors also stressed the need to engage in partnerships at the local level to ensure the best use of resources, especially the EU Structural Funds.

The conclusions from the Mayors' Debate will help guide our activities for the coming year, particularly the debates that will take place during the eight EUROCIITIES' thematic events on poverty and exclusion as part of the European Year activities.

Anna Drozd, Programme Officer for Social Inclusion: anna.drozd@eurocities.eu.

Towards a shared vision for migrant integration in European cities

The INTEGRATING CITIES process continues in 2010



with the fourth conference in the series taking place in London's City Hall on 22 February.

The conference will explore the shared vision that leaders of Europe's big cities have on immigrant integration. Political highlights will include a 'Mayors Debate' and the launch of the EUROCIITIES 'Integrating Cities Charter',

which will underline the commitment and leadership of Europe's cities in addressing migrant integration through their roles as policymakers, service providers, buyers of good and services and employers.

The event will also feature a workshop discussion on findings from the EUROCIITIES Diversity and Equality in European Cities (DIVE) project, as well as other discussions on current issues related to challenges of integrating migrants in the context of the economic downturn.

Co-hosted by the Mayor of London, EUROCIITIES and the European Commission, the conference will gather European mayors, representatives of the Commission, EUROCIITIES members, service providers, academics, refugee and migrant communities and private sector organisations from across Europe to debate the integration of migrants in urban areas.

The INTEGRATING CITIES conference series is based on a partnership between EUROCIITIES and the European Commission's Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security on promoting the local implementation of the Common Basic Principles on Integration.

Programme and registration: www.integratingcities.eu;

Theresa Moloney, EUROCIITIES Project Officer Migration and Integration: theresa.moloney@eurocities.eu.

Seventh forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty



The Rotterdam authorities, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are organising a major conference in Rotterdam, to be held from 24-26 February 2010. This Forum is the seventh gathering of UNDP WACAP (World Alliance

of Cities Against Poverty) and unites the mayors of all 192 UN countries. The forum offers a non-political venue for discussion, the exchange of thoughts and for practices concerning poverty reduction with the aim to realise the 8 millennium objectives.

The European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion is a good moment in which to hold this conference and a good reason for Rotterdam to involve EUROCIITIES and other urban alliances in the conference.

The City of Rotterdam has many aims for the conference:

- to renew attention on poverty at the global, European, national and local levels;

- to prepare for the discussions on a new social agenda in Europe;
- to discuss the UN wishes for a new approach in which regional and local governments work together to reduce poverty;
- to share responsibility for reducing poverty between local, regional, national and European governments and global organisations, including non-governmental organisations and industry.

The plenary sessions will focus on themes such as climate change and poverty, basic provisions such as water and food and the special position of women and children. Under the guidance of former Dutch Prime-Ministers Wim Kok and Ruud Lubbers, a special panel will be devoted to corporate responsibility in the private business sector. This panel will conclude with resolutions developed in conjunction with PricewaterhouseCoopers, which can serve as a charter for the business sector.

Speakers will include Johan Mackenbach of the Erasmus University Rotterdam and Michael Braungart (Cradle to Cradle).

www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl

Cities evaluate their active inclusion policies: findings of the CONNECTIONS project published

How can social services reach users and what makes a partnership work? These are just two of the questions the CONNECTIONS project addressed through peer reviews carried out in Budapest, Leeds, Malmo, Munich, Newcastle, Oslo, Rotterdam and Vienna in 2008-09. The [final report](#) presents the findings of the peer reviews, draws conclusions and provides criteria on how cities can design successful policies on active inclusion. CONNECTIONS was coordinated by the city of Rotterdam and co-financed by the European Commission's PROGRESS fund.

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News from Cities

Old building: new outlook

Residents of a housing estate in east London have a novel approach to dealing with a building destined for demolition. The project was begun in April 2007, when the council boarded up the windows of vacated flats, underlining the dilapidation of the estate. Lasse Johansson who lives in the area, together with his colleague Andrea Luka Zimmerman and another friend Tristan Fennell, embarked on a photographic project entitled "I Am Here" featuring their former neighbours.

The project is quite simple: portraits of the former residents have been placed over the boarded-up windows of the flats where families had moved from. Currently, 67 huge portraits have been hung.

Project founder Andrea Luka Zimmerman said that "the community element of this piece of public art has been essential." It has led to pride in the community, evidenced in the appearance of window boxes. It has invigorated the estate in other ways and now communal allotments and blank canvas walls for each resident to decorate are planned.

Zimmerman learned a lot about perceptions through the project: "I remember stopping people and asking who they thought lived here... Almost all said 'social cases'. That's the stereotype of places like this." This jars with the reality - the former residents of the buildings include students and professionals. The project has helped "humanise" the building a lot of people had made negative assumptions about.

Something brewing in Copenhagen

An innovative approach to helping teenagers in Denmark has been in place for the past number of years. Known as Night Ravens, this group of adult volunteers patrol the streets at night and help teenagers who encounter difficulties. They are sponsored by Carlsberg and many other leading corporations, including McDonald's. The programme involves hundreds of adult volunteers patrolling the streets at night in distinctive yellow jackets and offering advice and support to teenagers in need.

They offer taxis home, point out the dangers of excess drinking and help intervene if teenagers are in danger. In 2006, more than 50,000 volunteers gave their time to the programme in Denmark. The Night Ravens founder Eric Thorsted adds that "as well as the night-time work we also work primarily in disadvantaged areas with families, where we help with parenting skills."

The Night Ravens are, if nothing else, a novel way of patrolling the problem, although finding adults with time to volunteer is their biggest challenge.

Calls for Proposals and Funding

Public Consultation on the Citizens initiative

The European Commission is launching a wide public consultation to help to define the practical details of the Citizens' Initiative foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty. The Citizens' Initiative will enable one million citizens to request the Commission to bring forward a particular policy proposal.

The deadline for reply is the end of January 2010.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/citizens_initiative/index_en.htm

EUROCITIES Events

As part of our activities for the European Year to combat poverty and social exclusion, we will be holding four in depth review seminars on different dimensions of poverty and exclusion and four supporting dedicated workshops. For more information, see below.

EUROCITIES Working Group on Health and Well-being	27-28 January 2010	Rotterdam, the Netherlands
For more information, see our website. www.eurocities.eu		
Be smart, be sustainable - Restructuring the city of tomorrow	10-12 February 2010	Madrid, Spain
Jointly organised by EUROCITIES' Forums on Economic Development and Environment. www.eurocities.eu		
INTEGRATING CITIES IV Conference	22 February 2010	London, UK
Towards a shared vision for migrant integration in European cities. www.integratingcities.eu		
EUROCITIES Working Group on Migration and Integration (tbc)	23 February 2010	London, UK
For more information, see our website. www.eurocities.eu		
Social Affairs Forum meeting	11-12 March 2010	Murcia, Spain
The Social Affairs Forum meeting will focus on how social services can reach the hard-to-reach groups. The meeting will also launch the Inclusive Cities for Europe campaign in the framework of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. www.eurocities.eu or www.inclusivecities.eu .		
EUROCITIES Working Groups on Housing and Homelessness	15-17 March 2010	Munich, Germany
For more information, see our website. www.eurocities.eu		
EUROCITIES Working Group on Social Inclusion	25-26 March 2010	Grenoble, France
For more information, see our website. www.eurocities.eu		
EUROCITIES European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion: In-depth review seminar - Health inequalities	21-22 April 2010	Ghent, Belgium
Equity in health and in health care has been a policy priority for Ghent over the past 10 years. The city actively contributed to the development of innovative policy actions by implementing new policy approaches (e.g. promoting universal, population-wide approaches to tackle inequity in health) and developing innovative pilot projects that were later implemented in the whole of Flanders. The city of Ghent has worked closely with the Health Inequity Research Group of the Department of General Practice and		

<p>Primary Health Care of Ghent University. More details will follow.</p> <p>http://www.eurocities.eu/minisites/progress/inclusivecities/index.php?view=details&id=32%3Ain-depth-review-seminar-health-inequalities&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=5</p>		
<p>EUROCITIES European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion: In-depth review seminar - Unemployment</p>	<p>10-11 May</p>	<p>Katowice, Poland</p>
<p>The seminar will look at how cities can tackle long-term unemployment and how they can work with clients facing multiple problems. In addition, the seminar will also focus on how cities can activate their local communities, especially those that suffer from multiple problems, such as long-term unemployment. More details will follow.</p> <p>http://www.eurocities.eu/minisites/progress/inclusivecities/index.php?view=details&id=33%3Ain-depth-review-seminar-unemployment&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=5</p>		
<p>EUROCITIES European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion: In-depth review seminar - Area-based approaches to social inclusion</p>	<p>14-15 June</p>	<p>Budapest, Hungary</p>
<p>The two-day event in Budapest aims to acknowledge the problems of urban slums and the role of cities in tackling them. Solutions to these problems will be shared. With an eye on the other in-depth seminars taking place as part of the European Year 2010, this event will assess the area-based attributes of the other thematic areas. Recommendations will be proposed for national and international policy makers, to be contributed to the EUROCIETIES key messages paper to be submitted to the EU institutions in Autumn 2010. More details will follow.</p> <p>http://www.eurocities.eu/minisites/progress/inclusivecities/index.php?view=details&id=34%3Ain-depth-review-seminar-area-based-approaches-to-social-in-clusion&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=5</p>		
<p>EUROCITIES European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion: In-depth review seminar - Child poverty</p>	<p>September/October (tbc)</p>	<p>Newcastle, UK</p>
<p>This two day international conference will bring together practitioners, academics, experts, and key stakeholders to improve knowledge, skills and insights into the problems and solutions of child poverty. The particular themes will be the contribution of cities, the roles of local partners and the role of national and international leadership legislation and resources in tackling the child poverty challenge. The conference will approach child poverty as a local, national and international issue and will included themed sessions which explore causes and solutions to address the problems. More details will follow.</p> <p>http://www.eurocities.eu/minisites/progress/inclusivecities/index.php?view=details&id=35%3Ain-depth-review-seminar-child-poverty&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=5</p>		

Events and Conferences

For the European Year 2010 to combat poverty and social exclusion, all countries participating in the European Year to combat poverty and social exclusion will be hosting meetings and events to raise awareness of the year's issues. To find out more, click [here](#) to get the national programmes.

The following is a selection of events taking place around Europe. If you would like to have your event included in the next edition of the newsletter, contact Caroline Greene, Communications Officer at caroline.greene@eurocities.eu.

<p>Grundtvig, a decade of European innovation in adult learning</p>	<p>26-28 January 2010</p>	<p>Brussels, Belgium</p>
<p>The Adult education unit of the European Commission (DG Education and Culture) is pleased to mark the start of the European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and the launch of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Grundtvig programme by inviting you to its dissemination conference.</p> <p>The conference will bring together experts in the field of adult learning, European, national, regional and local policy-makers, representatives of successful Grundtvig projects as well as any individual or organisation interested in the field. It will offer thematic key speeches, project cases, and reflections about the future of adult learning in Europe.</p> <p>www.ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc1974_en.htm</p>		
<p>7th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP)</p>	<p>24-26 February 2010</p>	<p>Rotterdam, The Netherlands</p>
<p>Under the title "Confronting the Crisis Collectively: Working Together to end Poverty" the UN Cities Against Poverty Forum will discuss the contribution of cities in reaching the millennium goal of eradicating poverty in the current climate. Representatives from all continents coming from cities, regions and their associations, from national governments, European and UN institutions,</p>		

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<p>non-governmental organisations and private partners are invited to participate in this Forum. www.wacap2010-rotterdam.nl</p>		
Intermodes 2010	3-4 February 2010	Brussels, Belgium
<p>The first international convention devoted to intermodality in passenger transport www.intermodes.com</p>		
Future Cities 2010	18-19 February 2010	St Julians Bay, Malta
<p>The conference will look at how ICT can help cities address current challenges such as poverty, congestion and climate change. www.futurecities.eu</p>		
Quality out of the blue? International Quality Congress for Local Authorities	23-24 February 2010	Ghent, Belgium
<p>The congress will look at quality management in public services, especially at local level. The event is co-organised with the Universities of Leuven and Ghent and the Association of Flemish Cities. www.ghentqualitycongress.be</p>		
Invisible wounds: migrants' integration through welcome, solidarity and participation	24-26 February	Athens, Greece
<p>The seminar will examine the complex problems faced by migrants, in particular mental health. www.smes-europa.org/INVISIBLE_WOUNDS_Athenseminar_2010.htm</p>		
Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning	4-5 March 2010	Glasgow, UK
<p>The conference program consists of country reports and case studies from all over Europe to highlight the effects of poverty and social exclusion on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education - and vice versa. Workshops and site visits introduce the conference participants to local and European best practices. www.dare-network.blogspot.com/search/label/DARE_Conference_Glasgow</p>		
Global City 2010	11-13 April 2010	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
<p>The next year's Global City Forum will focus on city identity and values as drivers of sustainability. www.globalcityforum.com</p>		
The Sustainable City 2010	14-16 April 2010	La Coruña, Spain
<p>Sixth International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability www.wessex.ac.uk/10-conferences/the-sustainable-city-2010.html</p>		

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