



Inclusive Cities for Europe_NEWS

A quarterly newsletter produced by EURO CITIES

Special edition - January 2010



2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion - the EURO CITIES agenda

Local governments use the European Year to raise awareness in cities

Welcome to this special edition of our newsletter, outlining the EURO CITIES Inclusive Cities campaign for the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

With 2010 designated as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, now is the time for cities to highlight the urban dimension of these problems and showcase the solutions they are developing to ensure that all citizens have access to good standards of living and play a full part in society.

The EURO CITIES' Inclusive Cities campaign was launched at our annual conference in Stockholm last November. Mayors from Europe's biggest cities discussed ways to work with governments, local communities and the private sector so as to build upon the successes of city authorities in this area.

We have just published a research paper focusing on poverty and exclusion, problems often deepest felt in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Based on the input from over 20 cities, the paper explores issues such as unemployment, child poverty and digital exclusion. It also outlines concrete steps that cities are taking to respond to these challenges. It will guide EURO CITIES' awareness-raising debates, activities and events in 2010.

Mark your calendar

The first of our activities for the European Year will take place at the EURO CITIES Social Affairs Forum meeting which will be held in cooperation with the Spanish Presidency of the EU. Taking place in Murcia on 10-11 March, the event will focus on how to better include harder-to-reach members of society in service provision.

At the heart of our activities for the European Year are four thematic seminars, each focusing on a different aspect of poverty and exclusion:

- Health inequalities - Ghent | 21-22 April
- Long term unemployment - Katowice | 10-11 May
- Area-based approaches to social exclusion - Budapest | 14-15 June
- Child poverty - Newcastle | 30 September - 1 October

In addition, four of EURO CITIES' Forums - Environment, Culture, Knowledge Society and Mobility - will hold meetings to look specifically at aspects of exclusion and poverty related to their field of work.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations stemming from discussions at all these events, we will submit a message to the Employment, Social Protection, Health and Consumer Affairs Council in Autumn, advocating the key issues that cities will want addressed in the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion 2011-2013.

We have also launched a new website - www.inclusivecities.eu. It contains news and information on our work, as well as a calendar of events. One of the highlights of the website is a database of tried-and-tested strategies successfully implemented by cities to combat poverty and social exclusion.

If you would like to know more, contact Caroline Greene, Communications Officer Inclusive Cities at caroline.greene@eurocities.eu.

For more information on the European Commission campaign, see: <http://www.2010againstopoverty.eu/>

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Please send any contributions or comments to:
caroline.greene@eurocities.eu

Editors
Silvia Ganzerla
Anna Drozd
Dirk Gebhardt
Caroline Greene

EURO CITIES
1 Square de Meeùs
B-1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 552 0888
Fax: +32 2 552 0889
e-mail: info@eurocities.eu
www.eurocities.eu

