



PRESS RELEASE - 27 OCTOBER 2011 - BRUSSELS

## Evidence from Europe's cities

European regional policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn (pictured centre) received two EUROCITIES studies at a Polish presidency conference in Warsaw\*. Tomasz Kayser, Deputy Mayor of Poznan (left), presented 'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries' and Henk Kool, Deputy Mayor of The Hague (right), presented 'A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration'. Both studies give weight to EUROCITIES' claim that cities play a central role in economic recovery.



- **Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries: evidence through experience in European cities**, gives practical examples of the increasing prominence of metropolitan areas across the EU. Findings show that the role of metropolitan areas is best shaped through bottom-up partnership, and that metropolitan area governance will best succeed when adapted to work alongside existing political and administrative structures. Drafted by the EUROCITIES working group on metropolitan areas, the report stresses that functional partnerships should be promoted and supported at national and EU level.
- **A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration: issues, approaches and experiences in European cities** offers recommendations to local governments and the EU on regenerating deprived neighbourhoods. The final report, published by the Nicis Institute in The Hague, is the result of research and exchange visits by practitioners from The Hague, Oslo, Berlin, Porto, Dresden and Preston. Prepared by the EUROCITIES working group on urban regeneration, the report recognises the importance of EU structural funds and suggests making it easier to combine funding from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund to ensure an integrated approach to regeneration. Local governments are advised to involve residents in the planning process and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

EUROCITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan, said:

"We know that it is metropolitan Europe that will lead sustained economic recovery. So it is essential that European programmes and policies support urban development, and that local administrations are ready to take action efficiently and effectively. These reports bring together the knowledge and experience of European cities on how best to fulfil their potential."

Both reports are available on the EUROCITIES website.

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### Note to editors

- EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities, [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- European Metropolitan network Institute, [www.emi-network.eu](http://www.emi-network.eu)
- 'Cities cooperating beyond their boundaries: evidence through experience in European cities', <http://tinyurl.com/3ntpmre>
- 'A practitioner's view on neighbourhood regeneration: issues, approaches and experiences in European cities', <http://tinyurl.com/6j3jh4r>
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\* Effective instruments for territorial development, 24 - 25 October 2011, Warsaw