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Social Affairs Forum, Brussels  
28 March 2012

Policy update

Social affairs team  
EUROCITIES



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## European Social Fund (ESF)

### EUROCITIES actions to date

- Policy Statement & Policy Paper
- Speaking points in reaction to EC proposal - with WG Cohesion
- Amendments for EP: we want the role of cities being recognised in ESF
- Lobbying key MEPs in EMPL COMM plus others such as REGIO COMM & URBAN Intergroup

### The next months:

- Keep lobbying the relevant MEPs
- 8 May working lunch in the EP on Cohesion Policy- a table on ESF



### EP TIMETABLE:

- 16 May: deadline for tabling amendments
- 20 June: EMPL COMM draft proposal
- 11 July voting in EMPL COMM
- Plenary voting: September



- EURO CITIES' actions to date:
  - statement on the programme:
    - strengthen urban and local dimension, promote integrated approaches, support innovative approaches to dealing with poverty and exclusion, take qualitative and quantitative data into account when evaluating social policies
  - liaising with the EU institutions involved in the legislative process
  - dissemination to
- stage in the legislative procedure:
  - draft opinion of the European Parliament published on 6 March
- next steps:
  - formulating amendments and submitting them to the selected MEPs (deadline: 17 April)

- EURO CITIES' actions to date:
  - draft statement on the programme:
    - strengthen urban/local and social dimensions of the programme
  - liaising with the EU institutions involved in the legislative process
- stage in the legislative procedure:
  - draft opinion of the European Parliament planned published for end of April/beginning of March
- next steps:
  - finalising the statement (expected in mid-April)
  - formulating amendments and submitting them to the selected MEPs (deadline in June)



- EC proposal meets many of our wishes...
  - merging three funds (asylum, integration, return)
  - partnership principle („MS shall involve local authorities...“)
  - simplified management
  - supporting local integration policies (in integratin strand)
- ...and still have some shortcomings, e.g.
  - Will cities benefit of „incentive“ budget for resettlement and emergency measures?
  - Will member states be able to spend most money on return?
- Current focus of work is European Parliament
  - EP opinion (May) and amendments (July)
  - through selected members of WG Migration & Integration leading to
  - draft policy paper with main points and principles (now) and
  - concrete proposals for amendments (by late April)
- A full briefing note is available on [eurocities.eu](http://eurocities.eu) (login)



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## National frameworks for Roma inclusion

- Roma Platform in Brussels on 22 March evaluated national strategies on Roma inclusion
- Strong criticism of national strategies („copy&paste of existing strategies“, no objectives, no targets, no funding attached, no stakeholder involvement)
- Simon Underwood (Newcastle) presented at the Platform evidence on no/low consultation of cities based on input from EURO CITIES Roma task force
- EURO CITIES now recognised as main local government interlocutor on Roma inclusion





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## EUROCITIES in the European Housing Forum (EHF)

### EHF key facts

- 12 members: EU organisations representing housing consumers, providers and housing professionals and researchers
- EURO CITIES is an active member
- Following EU developments related to housing
- Promoting housing in EU policy agenda



### Activities for 2012: 4 lectures in Brussels on Housing & Active Ageing

- Independent living: Housing for the Elderly - 24 April
- Demographic Change and Housing Wealth - 22 May
- Active ageing: Collaborative Ways of Living - 5 June
- A New Financing Model for Affordable Housing: the Austrian way 26 June



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## Cities for Active Inclusion activities in 2012

- **Research topic:**
  - demographic change (territorial dimension/migration/family policy/active ageing)
- **Study visit:**
  - social economy (Bologna, 14-16 May)
  - territorial dimension of Active Inclusion (Rotterdam, 18-19 September)
- **National workshops:**
  - to take place between June and October 2012



**Cities for Active Inclusion**



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Thank you for your attention

Anna Drozd  
Policy officer social inclusion,  
coordinator of the Social Affairs Forum  
E [anna.drozd@eurocities.eu](mailto:anna.drozd@eurocities.eu)  
T +32 2 552 08 75