

Economic Development Forum

17-19 June 2013 | Tampere (Finland)

BUSINESS MEETING - MINUTES

Tuesday 18 June 2013 - 14.15-15.45

Venue: City of Tampere Central Office Building (5th floor)

1) Opening

Welcome by Councillor Nick Small, Liverpool, Chair of EDF.

- approval of the draft agenda (WD 01): the draft agenda was approved.
- approval of minutes of EDF Business meeting in Turin April 2013 (WD 02): the minutes were approved.

2) Report by EDF WGs

WG Integrated Urban Development (Sylvia Pintarits, Munich):

The main item of the meeting was a peer-exchange on the city centre development of the cities of Lodz and Tampere. There was a discussion on different aspects of city development in both cities:

- Bicycle infrastructure
- participation of citizens
- Revitalisation of buildings and giving them new functions
- Connectivity to suburbs is crucial for city development

A Comparison document was handed out - see also ppt-presentation in the EUROCITIES members area.

The meeting ended with a visit of the Tampere 5 Star City Centre project and exhibition.

The next meeting will be in Glasgow at the EDF meeting.

Berlin proposed a special meeting to visit Berlin/Tempelhofer Freiheit in May 2014 (website: www.tempelhoferfreiheit.de). The focus of the renovation of this area is on participation and a new kind of urban living in the city.

WG Cohesion Policy (Heidi Hesske, Leipzig):

WG members heard a presentation on structural funds in The Tampere region.

WG members were informed of the outcomes so far in the negotiation on the structural funds regulations, comparing with our position on the funds - which led to a discussion on possible elements of a EUROCITIES reaction to the final regulations. Members' stressed to need to continue to be critical about lack of involvement of cities in the partnership agreements, despite the provision in the general regulation and the code of conduct on partnership. Even in member states where involvement via consultations around the



partnership agreements had improved, the actual impact of cities was still unclear. Members also stressed the lack of delegation of funds directly to cities, following the deletion of these provisions from the ERDF regulation.

As the main positive aspects of the new regulations, members highlighted the ring fencing of min 5% of ERDF for sustainable urban development for the first time, as well as the innovative actions programme.

The next meeting will be held alongside EDF in Glasgow on 23 October. Before that, we will finalise our document on innovative actions as a first input into the thinking of DG REGIO on the further development of the programme.

WG International Economic Relations (Dérirée Van de Ven, Utrecht) :

There was a presentation on Tampere's international economic relations with a focus on China and then a general discussion on experiences on doing business with China. Key conclusions were:

- Local government involvement in doing business with China is important. Because Chinese society is hierarchy based.

- Municipalities should stimulate economic exchange and invite sme and create a local platform. Sme are not able to do it themselves.

- There is a lack of coordination on activities with china in our countries so you should create some exchange of plans and knowledge or join as cities national trade missions and incoming visits.

- You must find reliable matchmakers to organize trade missions. Look for official Chinese matchmakers or experienced bureau's in your own country.

- You must make combinations with culture and business or sports and business etc.

- We have different approaches varying from sister city relations to a thematic exchange.

- Are we (WG members) going to do some action together and choose some international fairs or events in which we can promote our economies?

WG Innovation (Alison Gordon, Manchester):

Jeroen Ven Oort, Netwerkstad Twente, was appointed Co-Chair of the WG.

Bas Beekman, City of Amsterdam, presented on 'New forms of manufacturing: The rising 'Makermovement'. Members were also informed about Tampere Innovation System, with a presentation by Tuija Mannila, from Tampere Mayor's Office.

Then, WG members discussed in smaller groups on the key levers of innovation, using a note prepared in advance of the meeting. Our initial thoughts on the key levers or conditions for innovation to thrive are broken down into two areas - firstly the policy levers: Skills; Attracting and retaining talent; Partnership and collaboration; and Smart Specialisation. Secondly, the "tools" or "instruments" to enable successful innovation: Innovative Business Models (including open innovation); Innovation Platforms;

Procurement; Access to finance; Living Laboratories; and Physical development. Other areas considered were regulation and standards (although that may be picked up in Innovation Platforms).

Members agreed to focus at the next meeting in Glasgow on open data, skills and financing innovation.

WG Metropolitan areas (Peter Austin, Oslo):

A short report was given from the seminar in Helsinki, which took place the day before. In Finland, the government is reconsidering the number of municipalities, including possible mergers. The government has at the same time made written agreements with the four largest cities concerning prioritized policy areas and their regional governance relations. A final decision is expected during summer 2013. Seen from the core city of Helsinki, the issues facing the region could be far better dealt with by merging the capital with 3-4 of the closest neighbouring municipalities.

Kimmo Kurunmäki, from the City of Tampere, gave a presentation of the regional cooperation in the Tampere City Region. A letter of intent has recently been signed between the central government and the city of Tampere. This has stimulated commitment in Tampere and the 3 other Finnish cities to develop and implement a Strategic Plan in cooperation with neighbouring municipalities, to include land use, housing and traffic planning.

WG members were also informed about latest developments at EU level including the RURBAN Conference in Warsaw on 24-25 April. There was an update on the study 'Metropolitan Areas in Action' MAIA, which should be ready in the autumn. The next WG meeting will be in September in Brussels and there will be joint seminar on metropolitan governance with the EP Urban Intergroup in November in Strasbourg.

WG Entrepreneurship and SMEs (Tony O'Neill, Liverpool - Michael McNally, Glasgow):

WG members connected their discussion to the next day's conference on innovation platforms contributing to Growth and Jobs in Cities. Discussions focused on how city administrations: support companies to be innovative; and foster new ways of thinking in local SMEs.

Tampere Region Economic Development Agency www.tredea.fi/front-page/
Päivi Myllykangas, Managing Director, presented the Tampere entrepreneurial flow model consisting of 5 major phases: 1. Empowering entrepreneurs; 2. Nurturing ideas and concepts; 3. Company setup and development; 4. Growth funding and coaching; 5. Growth and internationalization

Supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in Brussels
Tania Van Loon, from the Brussels Enterprise Agency focused on how the various agencies that used to work in parallel to support small businesses are now interconnected and benefit from cross fertilizing. For more info www.abo-bao.be/

UBICA'T, an open data platform that supports entrepreneurs in Barcelona
Ariana Fernandez, from Barcelona Activa, presented Ubicat, the first georeferencing service with databases containing information of interest to entrepreneurs in the city of Barcelona. It is a telematic system that lets you analyse the market, economic activities and demographics. <http://w141.bcn.cat/ubicat/index.php>



Some of the key conclusions were: simplify the business support landscape (for instance a single point of contact for businesses); connect with businesses, listen to local needs and, if necessary, review the services that are provided; communicate about the support services you provide, with both with businesses and citizens; Identify bottlenecks that your city hits when attempting to support businesses; and consider using European programmes such as COSME or Horizon 2020 to co-fund cooperation programmes with other cities (i.e. on assessing cities' business support schemes and developing new ones adapted to changing needs).

Next meeting will be on 22 October 2013: seminar on youth entrepreneurship in Glasgow.

WG City branding and attractiveness:

The WG focuses on how city identity, branding and marketing can reinforce strategic plans for growth and prosperity by attracting investment, business, people and tourists. The last meeting included a joint meeting with CityLogo project's members (funded by URBACT II programme) and took place in Oslo on 17-19 April 2013. The title of our meeting was 'Integrated city brand management: rethinking organisational models'. Members discussed integrated city branding; local partnerships and stakeholder involvement in city branding; reviewing city branding in a reduced public funding context; and multilevel governance in city branding. They also found out what's happening around Oslo during a city tour and peer review session.

3) EURO CITIES update

(WD 03 Summer 2013 network update)

Marie Ranty (EURO CITIES policy advisor) reported on the meetings that Paul Bevan and Vanda Knowles had in Vilnius in April with various Lithuanian ministries in view of their future EU Presidency. Priorities for the ministry of social security and employment will include the preparations of Council Conclusions on the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. EURO CITIES is collecting some city examples on apprenticeship schemes to send them.

Marie Ranty updated members on EURO CITIES involvement in projects. She mentioned in particular ENIGMA, an FP7 proposal on pre-commercial procurement (PCP) in the field of lighting, led by Eindhoven. This proposal offers to launch a transnational joint PCP in the five city partners (Eindhoven, Stavanger, Malmo, Hamburg and Bassano del Grappa), and implement five pilot projects in the field of lighting. EURO CITIES will lead on the dissemination and mutual learning work package. This proposal was approved in April by DG CONNECT and will enter the negotiation phase in May 2013.

4) Contribution to EURO CITIES annual meeting 2013 in Ghent (WD 04)

Nicola Vathauer (EURO CITIES communications director) gave an update on EURO CITIES 2013 annual conference on 'smart citizens' taking place on 27-29 November 2013 in Ghent. The conference will explore how innovation and technology can be used to empower citizens and build more inclusive, sustainable societies. Johannes Hahn, European

commissioner for regional policy, will participate in the private political session, a closed meeting for discussion between EUROCITIES politicians in the morning of 29 November. The workshops of the conference will be linked to EUROCITIES Forum: EDF members are invited to contribute to a workshop on a local currency that Ghent developed in a specific district.

5) EU Update (see powerpoint uploaded on EUROCITIES web site)

Dorthe Nielsen (EUROCITIES senior policy advisor) gave an update on the negotiations concerning the EU budget 2014-2020. Member states and the European Parliament are negotiating the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) and an agreement is expected at the European summit on 27 - 28 June. Negotiations are based on the Council agreement from February for a maximum budget ceiling of €960 bn and the Parliament's resolution from March insisting on negotiating elements of the MFF, including the flexibility between budget headings and a revision of the MFF in 2016.

She also reported on cohesion policy. Member states and the European Parliament reached agreement on the urban dimension of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) regulation in April, including:

- A minimum of 5% of ERDF funding should be allocated to integrated sustainable urban development to be implemented through integrated territorial investments, urban priority -axes or urban operational programmes.

When implementing, urban authorities, including cities, must be in charge of at least the selection of operations (projects). Full delegation of management of funding to cities is also possible but not mandatory.

- The European Commission will run a programme for innovative actions for sustainable urban development with a budget of €330 million for 2014-2020.

- An Urban Development Network will facilitate exchange of experience between urban authorities implementing the new instruments in the next funding period, including integrated territorial investments and innovative actions.

Next steps include working with the European Commission to develop the thinking around innovative actions and financial engineering instruments to ensure the instruments suit the needs of cities.

Marie Ranty (EUROCITIES policy advisor) gave an update on Horizon2020. The proposed Budget is now 70 billion euros. Smart Cities funding will come under Horizon 2020. The final negotiations in triologue are taking place now. EUROCITIES will meet the Commission for information on content of calls for 2014 throughout summer and autumn. She also mentioned the new Youth Employment initiative. This new funding will be for NUTS2 regions with a youth unemployment rate over 25% on the basis of 2012 data. €3bn will come from European Social Fund and €3bn from a dedicated budget line. It would be delivered via ESF programming. The Issues for cities are the problem with eligibility (not NUTS2 regions), and the fact that some very deprived areas within cities have overall less than 25% of unemployment. EUROCITIES is liaising with the EP to introduce amendments (20% rather than 25%) and taking part in the Lithuanian Presidency conference on ESF and youth employment.

Julie Hervé (EUROCITIES policy advisor) gave an update on entrepreneurship and SMEs related issues. She presented EUROCITIES future publication on 'Cities supporting inclusive entrepreneurship' which was about to be published. She also briefed members on the state of play concerning the European Entrepreneurship 2020 action plan and the progress in negotiations concerning the future COSME programme.

6) EDF Political event October 2013 in Brussels (WD 05 Draft agenda)

Nick Small (Chair of EDF) and Caroline Gehrels (vice-Chair of EDF) proposed this event to try to increase senior (vice mayor) political engagement from EDF member cities, thus increasing the visibility of EURO CITIES at the political level in EDF member cities and securing political input / endorsement to the development of EDF work programme for the next 2 to 3 years. The event is being held at the start of "Open Days" week in order to benefit from the fact that many politicians already plan to travel to Brussels for Open days and may thus be persuaded to arrive early for the EDF politicians event. We have invited Commissioner Tajani in charge of industry and enterprise to discuss with EDF politicians at this event.

7) Next EDF meeting: 21-23 October 2013 in Glasgow (WD 06)

- presentation by Glasgow

Michael McNally introduced the theme and the draft programme for the Glasgow EDF in October. The thematic conference will focus on youth employment and there will also be a specific seminar on youth entrepreneurship. EDF members are invited to contribute with presentation of best practices during both sessions. As the conference is supported by the PROGRESS programme, EURO CITIES has a small budget to cover the travel and accommodation expenses of city speakers.

- information on internal businesses: election of EDF Chair and vice-Chair for 2014 and decision on EDF priorities for 2014 at EDF in Glasgow

As with every year, the positions of forum chair and vice-chair will be open for election/re-election for next year. All of the current chairs and vice-chairs are serving their first term and can decide to stand for a second year. Over the summer, forums will receive emails clarifying whether the incumbents intend to apply for a second year, and providing deadlines for any other cities wishing to apply. Deadlines for applications are 2 weeks before the autumn forums.

Concerning the EDF priorities 2014, the Forum needs to adopt 3 main priorities at the Glasgow Forum. Marie Ranty will do a survey during the summer to gather members views on these priorities.

All WGs will also have to start to think of their work programme for 2014 and discuss this during their meeting at the Glasgow EDF.

8) Number and format of EDF meetings in 2014 (WD 07)

This issue was raised at the Turin meeting.

EDF members raised two concerns that needed to be reconciled:

- Many EDF members find it very difficult to justify attending 3 meetings per year. It is increasingly difficult to justify foreign travel as cities are all facing austerity measures. Some EURO CITIES Forums (the Mobility Forum and the Culture Forum for instance) meet only twice a year. Should EDF meet only twice a year?



- In the most recent meetings, EDF had 6 working groups meeting alongside the Forum. It meant that they could only have meetings of 2 or 3 hours maximum. There have been requests to have longer WG meetings. EUROCITIES Brussels Office prepared a note on the different options to cope with these issues (WD 07).

EDF steering committee recommended option1b: having only 2 Full Forum meetings (Spring and Autumn) and a 3rd one with only working group meetings (in June): we can call this a WG Forum. This WG Forum would take place in Brussels. EDF members agreed to test this in 2014.

9) Call for host cities for EDF meetings in 2014

The city of **Utrecht** (the Netherlands) proposed to host the Spring 2014 Forum and the city of **Brno** (Czech Republic) offered to host the Autumn 2014 Forum. As not all EDF members are present at the meeting, an e-mail will be sent to ask if any other cities would like to host a Forum. If not, Utrecht and Brno will be confirmed as the hosts of the 2014 Forums at the EDF meeting in Glasgow.

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All working documents can be found on EUROCITIES web site (you need to login):

www.eurocities.eu

If you do not have yet a login and password, please contact: members@eurocities.eu