



## EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum

### RESOURCING THE LOCAL GREEN ECONOMY

26 - 28 February 2014, Utrecht, The Netherlands

**Draft Programme** (as of 24-02-2014)

**Start: 14.00 on 26 February - End: 12.45 on 28 February**

#### **Focus:**

Cities are in the front line of the Europe2020 strategy. The horizontal integration between economic, social and environmental policies is key in our cities. In general on an international scale negotiations for greening the economy are slow, but on a local level politicians are leading the developments. Cities are buzzing with initiatives greening their local economy. Since the publication of the Europe2020 strategy, cities have been involved in many initiatives with a view to achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. With the mid-term review of the Europe2020 strategy next year, it is time to take a look at our actions and discuss the challenges we have met in these years and the new challenges we are facing now.

The OECD (2013) defines urban green growth as 'fostering economic growth and development through urban activities that reduce negative environmental externalities and the impact on natural resources and environmental sources'. Policy priorities are defined by the OECD in job creation, attractiveness, green production (including R&D) and value increase. Examples might include R&D and investments in low carbon economy and resource efficiency, investments in public transport, public spaces & public buildings and infill redevelopment and eco-districts in the city.

It is key to get the incentives right for these policy priorities. Smart financing is essential, because of lack of financial resources and a need to reduce subsidies. Public procurement is a strong driver in greening the local economy. It might also require development of a new role for cities within our partnerships with knowledge institutions, SME's, social institutions and citizens.

Utrecht is looking forward to exchanging experiences with you.

The following EDF working groups (WG) will meet on 26, 27 and 28 February:

- i. - International economic relations (IER)
- ii. - Innovation
- iii. - Integrated urban development (IUD)
- iv. - Metropolitan areas
- v. - Entrepreneurship and SMEs (ENT)
- vi. - WG Greening the local economy (from our Environment Forum)

Please note that WG Innovation will have both a visit and a meeting on the theme of open data on Thursday 27 February afternoon.

## Programme

### Wednesday 26 February:

Location: Centraal Museum [www.centraalmuseum.nl](http://www.centraalmuseum.nl)

09.00 Coffee (for people registered to seminar on metropolitan areas)

**09.30-12.30 Seminar on metropolitan areas in the Netherlands**

12.30-14.00 Welcome lunch and registration

**14.00-14.30 EDF Welcome session (Mirjam de Rijk & Nick Small)**

**14.30-17.30 2 WG in parallel:**

- 1) WG Metropolitan areas
- 2) WG International Economic Relations

**18.00-19.00 EDF steering committee meeting (in Utrecht City Hall)**

20.00-22.30 Informal dinner (at delegates' own expense): restaurant Winkel van Sinkel  
<http://www.dewinkelvansinkel.nl/contact/>

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### Thursday 27 February:

Main location: Centraal Museum [www.centraalmuseum.nl](http://www.centraalmuseum.nl)

8.30-9.00 Registration

**9.00-12.50 Thematic conference 'Resourcing the local green economy'**

Moderator: Elisabeth van den Hoogen

9.00-9.15 Welcome words (Nick Small & Mirjam de Rijk)

9.15 - 9.45 Keynote speaker: Matthijs Bierman, Triodos Bank

**9.45-11.15 Alternative financing**

Cities are experimenting with local grants to support green investments in their region and cities. What are the considerations to start a local grant? Why do cities feel the need

to initialise the local funds? Why should cities take up banking activities? What kind of legal and financial considerations should we take into account? Do these funds support new business or freelancers or only support existing traditional business? How can we support small local economy with these funds? What are the effects of these support funds regarding creating local green jobs, knowledge transfer and low carbon economy?

At the EDF meeting, Utrecht would like to discuss the sense and nonsense of (local) support funds.

9.45 - 10.45 3 group-discussion (in 3 breakout rooms)

In each group, one presentation and then discussion:

- 1) London, the London Green Fund
- 2) Rockstart, incubator from Amsterdam
- 3) Douw&Koren, crowd-funding consultant from Rotterdam

10.45 - 11.15 Back to the plenary room

- conclusions from the workshops are given by the "rapporteur" from each group
- discussion and conclusion of the session on alternative financing

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

### 11.30-12.50 The power of procurement

Public procurement can be a strong driver in greening the local economy. Dutch local authorities are buying for an amount of 57 billion euros which is a reasonable amount to give power to green procurement. However over 70% of the time is spend on legal issues and only 10% of the time is directed toward the economic effects. How is this in other European cities and how could we change these percentages? How do we support local SMEs to participate in the bidding phase without denying the European regulation? What kind of alliances with which partners should we form? What are the barriers and how can we tackle them?

11.30 - 12.40 Panel & plenary discussion

Presentations:

- Utrecht: challenges involved in innovative procurement
- Birmingham: Climate KIC network of cities on public procurement of low carbon innovation
- Preston: local procurement based on the Evergreen model

Discussion

12.40 - 12.45 Conclusions of the session on the power of procurement (Mirjam de Rijk/Elisabeth van den Hoogen)

12.45-12.50 Conclusions of the Conference (Caroline Gehrels, EDF Deputy-Chair)

Closing Comments (Elisabeth van den Hoogen/Mirjam de Rijk)

12.50-13.30 Lunch

**13.30-14.45 EDF business meeting**  
(including reporting from WG City branding and attractiveness)

**14.45-17.45 Technical visits linked to the theme of the Forum (3 visits in parallel):**

**-a visit linked to urban planning/integrated urban development:**

14.45-17.45 Walk to and visit of Utrecht Station Redevelopment (POS): [www.cu2030.nl](http://www.cu2030.nl)

Meeting point: in front of the Centraal Museum

**-a specific visit for WG ENT and WG Greening the local economy:**

14.45-15.15 Coffee at Centraal Museum: introduction of joint meeting of the 2 WGs

15.15-18.00 (latest) site visits to Lombboxnet:

[http://www.parkhuislombok.nl/Site/het\\_Parkhuis.html](http://www.parkhuislombok.nl/Site/het_Parkhuis.html)

and Metaal Kathedraal: <http://metaalkathedraal.wordpress.com/>

Busses will take delegates from Centraal Museum to the site visit and back.

**-a specific visit and meeting for WG Innovation on open data:**

14.45-16.45 Walk to the Dutch Game Garden for site visit: [www.dutchgamegarden.nl](http://www.dutchgamegarden.nl)

16.45-17.45 Walk to and WG meeting at Vinkenburgstraat 26.

**19.45-22.30 Official Dinner at TivoliVredenburg**

Entrance is at "Vlaamse Toren" (a new street that is not yet on maps!)

The building itself is opposite Vredenburg 40.

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**Friday 28th February:**

Location: Centraal Museum [www.centraalmuseum.nl](http://www.centraalmuseum.nl)

08.45 Coffee

**9.00-12.30 2 WG in parallel:**

1) WG Entrepreneurship and SME's, together with WG Greening the local economy (from the Environment Forum)

2) WG Integrated Urban Development (start time tbc)

**12.30-12.45 Closing comments (in the lunch room)**

12.30-13.30 lunch (+ EDF steering committee meeting)

13.30-15.45 Optional city experience Utrecht: surprise!

*EDF members are requested to bring their own copies of working documents. You can find them on EUROCITIES web site members part (you need a login and password): [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)*

**For any questions on the Forum, please contact:**

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