



EURO
CITIES

Social Affairs Forum, Brussels
Business meeting
28 March 2012

Working Group activities update



Chair: Lloyd Broad, Birmingham

- **The ESF Task Force objectives for 2012 are to:**
 - influence EU policy making on the future of ESF by lobbying the European Parliament, the CoR (Committee of the Region) and the Council; and
 - raise visibility/awareness with European institutions of the importance of European Funds, especially ESF, for cities to deliver EUROPE 2020 Strategy.
- **Taskforce outputs to date (2011/12):**
 - policy statement on the role of cities in ESF post-2013;
 - position paper on role of cities sent to European Commission and MEP's in Parliament;
 - paper with 'speaking points' in response to structural fund regulations developed jointly with Cohesion Policy Working Group; and
 - written amendments to the ESF regulation.
- **Next steps:**
 - continue to monitor discussions at EP Employment Committee and at Council;
 - continue to lobby MEP's regarding amendments to ESF regulation;
 - organise a meeting with ESF rapporteur in European Parliament;
 - continue to lobby member state ESF officials on role of cities and local authorities in ESF; and
 - input to discussions at EU and national levels on development of Partnership Contracts.



Chair: Marie-Christine Delaunay-Felix, Nantes

- Achievements:
 - three mini peer reviews in Munich (1-2 March 2012):
 - local dimension of educational disadvantage;
 - cooperation between schools and businesses to link the demand and supply of skills better; and
 - financing early childhood education and care.
 - continuing with collecting data on early school leaving in cities
- Next steps:
 - action research on approaches to early school leaving (looking at horizontal issues, such as local education management, networking, etc.)



Chair: Wolfgang Foerster, Vienna

2011

- focus on social mixing policies (e.g. background paper on social mixing policies in European cities)
- focus on housing for vulnerable people (peer review and peer review report assessing the policy of Oslo)

2012

- focus 1: EU competition rules and housing policies
 - background paper on the relationship between EU competition and social housing policies: will reflect recent discussion (e.g. Dutch case) and act as a tool to engage the WG in ongoing European discussions
- focus 2: demographic change and its effects on housing policies
 - topic for the WG meeting in June
 - to facilitate best practice exchange a questionnaire will be produced which will give every member city the possibility to highlight their respective approaches
- focus 3 (to be clarified): energy efficiency in housing
 - we are considering to organise a peer review in Munich



Chair: Nico Van De Vrie, Rotterdam

- Achievements:

- finalising and updating the report on the Jobcentre comparison (Jobcentre comparison will be distributed beginning 2012);
- preparing a joint application for the SSH 7 programme 2013 "Social innovation against inequalities" under the lead of Birmingham;
- finalising the 2011 action plan of WGE on Fit-4-Work (the programme for unemployed persons with mental health problems, developed by the four big Dutch cities, G-4);
- contributing to the Eurocities' ESF Task Force

- Next steps:

- an international meeting (think tank) will be organised in June 2012
- WG meetings in 2012:
 - May/June 2012: preparing a catalogue of good practices in combating youth unemployment: Rotterdam, Nantes and Malmo
 - autumn 2012: focus on how WGE can support EURO CITIES in influencing EU policy on active ageing



Chair: Kristel Danel, Ghent

- Achievements
 - October 2011: Peer review on school mediator schemes Berlin (25 participants, report forthcoming)
 - Report about Berlin contact point for mobile EU citizens and Roma
 - Gathering and presenting info on involvement of cities in national Roma integration strategies at the Roma Platform, Brussels, March 2012
- Next steps
 - Developing partnerships with organisations in regions of origin of Roma migrants (economic development, voluntary return, partnerships on education,...) June 2012
 - Peer review on labour market inclusion of Roma



Chair: Tom Van Benthem, Amsterdam

- Achievements:
 - taking part in the EY 2012 on active aging
 - February 2012: meeting of the expert strand on substance abuse prevention (ESSAP), chaired by Anders Eriksson from Stockholm. The meeting focused on European Drug Prevention Quality Standards with speaker from Liverpool university
- Next steps:
 - considering joint meeting with WG Employment on the EY2012
 - considering joint meetings with other SAF WGs
 - planning an event jointly with the AAL (Ambient Assisted Living) meeting in Eindhoven in September 2012
 - next WG meeting: 19 June, 11.00 - 15.00, Amsterdam



Chair: Ramon Sanahuja i Vélez, Barcelona

- Achievements to date:
 - successful Integrating Cities V (8-9 March 2012) in Amsterdam discussed multi-level coordination (250 participants)
 - dialogue with Commission Director General on integration
 - 28 cities signed Integrating Cities Charter (new signatories: Belfast, Dublin, Madrid, Riga)
 - MIXITIES project produced 3 toolkits + 2 videos
- Next steps:
 - ImpleMentoring bid pending approval EIF (April 2012)
 - Integrating Cities report early summer 2012