



## EDITORIAL

During the 11<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities, as usually, best practices figured predominantly – especially the so-called “100 EU Urban Solutions” – around different exhibition locations, either in the Committee of the Regions building or even in the places and even the roads of Brussels. However, what worries the editor-in-chief of this Bulletin, who took part in various workshops during the OPEN DAYS for the first time, is what is most important and valuable: the projects themselves or the networks of local and regional authorities that guarantee their sustainability (a requirement for all the major projects for the forthcoming programming period according to EU officials)? The answer could not be easily found even at the URBACT workshop, which examined projects of various city networks. “What counts is the best practices exchange between cities”, “there is no easy answer to this question” were some of the responses that the editor-in-chief received by the panel speakers. It is highly likely that the European Programmes are judged less by the duration and sustainability of the structures that ensure the implementation and viability of the projects and more by the innovative elements of these projects. Or may be not? Potentially, the experience of the 38 European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation, highlighted by the newly launched column of our Bulletin, will contribute to the aforementioned dilemma.

## European Funding Programmes

### Call for Proposals–Deadlines

#### 1. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) Award

The European Commission's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) Award was launched in 2012, and will be presented the 2nd and 3rd time in 2013 and 2014. The aim of the award scheme is to encourage the adoption of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs) by local authorities across Europe and to reward outstanding achievements in each year's SUMP thematic priority area. Cities are not required to have completed the entire process of developing and implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in order to be eligible for the award.



**DO THE RIGHT MIX**

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The award concept is in line with the Eltis SUMP guidelines which define a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan as a 'strategic plan designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in cities and their surroundings for a better quality of life. It builds on existing planning practices and takes due consideration of integration, participation, and evaluation principles'. The guidelines provide information on the necessary actions to be undertaken for different aspects and at different stages of the plan, and also define activities beyond these essential requirements. This will allow the jury to identify outstanding approaches in sustainable urban mobility planning for the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan Award.

The 2012 award focused on stakeholder and citizen participation in the SUMP, while this year's edition will look at the integration of economic, social, and environmental policy criteria in SUMPs. The 2014 award will look at monitoring the implementation to improve the SUMP.

In 2013, activities regarding the 'integration of economic, social, and environmental policy criteria' are the focus of the award. A major achievement of SUMPs in comparison with traditional urban transport planning, is the coordination between different policies and organisations, beyond an integration of transport modes, e.g. the coordination with land-use planning, environmental protection, social inclusion, gender equity, economic development, safety, health, education, information technologies, etc.

An integrated approach implies a pragmatic cooperation with relevant stakeholders and the take-up of ideas, principles and policies that help to deliver an SUMP which receives support, and is efficient and effective in practical as well as financial terms. This, represents a major challenge for sustainable urban mobility planning, but is also a major source for innovation and improvement.

The competition is open to cities from the European Union and the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), that have initiated or completed the development of a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.

'Cities' include local and regional public authorities that have legal competence in developing and implementing sustainable urban mobility plans on their territory.

The contact person for each application must be a representative from a public authority. Consultancies and transport operators are not eligible. In case of doubt, applicants will be contacted to provide proof of their legal status as a local or regional public authority.

In 2013, activities regarding the 'integration of economic, social, and environmental policy criteria' are the focus of the evaluation.

In particular, the jury will consider three sub-categories:

- Commitment to overall sustainable mobility principles
- Territorial integration
- Sectoral integration

Each of the five categories is broken down into several criteria, which assess and identify (1) to what extent the essential requirements are met, and (2) activities that go beyond the essentials and demonstrate excellence.

**Deadline: 1 November 2013**

**Additional Information:**

Sustainable Urban Mobility

E-mail: [contact@dotherightmix.eu](mailto:contact@dotherightmix.eu)

Website: <http://dotherightmix.eu/>



## 2. URBACT Call for Proposals for the Creation of Pilot Networks

Following the decision of the URBACT II Monitoring Committee on 4 September 2013, an URBACT Call for proposals is now open for the creation of up to 4 Pilot Networks for the transfer of good practice in the field of integrated and sustainable urban development. In URBACT II, the focus of exchange networks has been on fostering integrated and participative approaches to urban policies through sharing experience and practices, and improving local policies (production of Local Action Plans). The full chain of identification, transfer and validation of "good practices" in the field of urban policies has barely been explored. It is proposed to experiment this "capitalisation of good practices" process with small scale pilot projects under the current programme so as to explore tools and processes to be embedded in URBACT III.

The pilot Transfer Networks shall aim to:

1. Support the validation of good practices through the transfer (re-use) by cities in the framework of a transnational exchange and learning project.
2. Identify key elements of success for the transfer of the selected practices
3. Explore how transnational cooperation can support the identification, validation, dissemination and active in-take of good practices in the field of integrated sustainable urban development (in the perspective of the URBACT III programme, with a focus on the EU2020 objectives).



More generally, these pilot Transfer networks shall allow the programme to explore how URBACT III could, building on transnational cooperation, foster and support the mapping, re-use and validation of good practices. In this perspective, a dedicated support and monitoring framework will be set up at programme level:

- each pilot Transfer Network will be accompanied by a dedicated Thematic Pole Manager (focus on content, methods for exchange and learning, and delivery of outputs);
- the pilot Transfer Networks will be launched simultaneously in a kick-off seminar that will take place in Paris on 29-30-31 January 2014. This kick-off seminar will be designed to share objectives, expected results, work plans and methods;
- an ongoing evaluation will be launched simultaneously to the selection of the pilot Transfer Networks to assess how these projects are being implemented and how to possibly embed the lessons learnt in framing the tools for the next programme.

Target beneficiaries of this call for proposals are European cities, municipalities, inframunicipal bodies (e.g. city districts, arrondissements, etc.) and organized agglomerations of the Member and Partner States. Partners shall be from minimum 3 different Member/ Partner States. The budget of the Pilot Transfer Networks will range from 250.000 to 400.000 EUR depending on the number of partners involved.

**Deadline: 4 November 2013**

**Additional Information:**

E-mail: [m.houk@urbact.eu](mailto:m.houk@urbact.eu)

Website: <http://urbact.eu/en/news-and-events/view-one/news/?entryId=5295>



### 3. Mayors Challenge

The 2013–2014 Mayors Challenge is an ideas competition for European cities—a chance to win funding for a bold new solution to a major urban challenge. It exists to bring powerful new ideas to life—not only to help a particular creative city, but to encourage others to adopt creative approaches as well. Winning the prize will require an ambitious vision and bold experimentation.

The candidate city must have at least 100,000 residents within the administrative division of the city and must be located in one of the European Union Member States or any of the nations in Europe that are Associated Countries of the FP7.

Applications must be submitted by city hall (OR the city's central administrative body) under the direction of an authorized executive or body (e.g., mayor, deputy mayor, chief executive, city manager, leader, or the equivalent).

Four sections of the selection criteria have been outlined, as well as the kinds of questions the selection committee will consider as they read each answer. This process is an exercise in defining a clear problem, and then answering it with a solution that is as concrete as it is compelling.

#### ➤ Vision

The idea should be bold and creative, and should include a fresh new approach to solving a problem in a city.

#### ➤ Implementation

While they know a candidate city might not be able to anticipate all of the planning just yet, it should still be able to demonstrate its ability to implement the idea.



#### ➤ Impact

In order for an idea to have meaningful impact, it should address a serious problem, improve customer service for residents, create significant government efficiencies, and/or increase public engagement. It's okay if an idea doesn't hit on each one, but it should do at least one very successfully.

#### ➤ Transferability

The idea should be beneficial not just for one's own city. They are looking for ideas that are transferable—ones that cities can import and customize to benefit their own citizens.

An idea that has already launched and is being implemented would not qualify. However, a very nascent idea that hasn't yet launched is eligible. Note that in the 2012–2013 Mayors Challenge, those cities that used the competition as a chance to generate a brand new idea generally fared better.

All cities must apply online. The online application allows you to submit only ONE additional attachment—which can include text, diagrams, and/or images (e.g., press release, news article, implementation chart)—but shouldn't exceed two A4 pages.

**Deadline: 11 November 2013**

**Additional Information:**

Bloomberg Philanthropies:

Website: <http://mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org/>



#### 4. Intelligent Energy – Europe II Programme (“IEE II”) – (Build Up Skills)

The objective of the Intelligent Energy – Europe II Programme (“IEE II”) is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing for action1:

- to foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources;
- to promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification;
- to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

The Programme in particular contributes to the EU Energy 2020 Strategy and facilitates the implementation of the Directive on energy efficiency and of the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

With BUILD UP Skills, IEE aims to unite forces to increase the number of qualified workers in the building workforce in Europe. BUILD UP Skills will contribute to the objectives of the two flagship initiatives of the Commission’s ‘Europe 2020’ strategy — ‘Resource-efficient Europe’ and ‘An Agenda for new skills and jobs’ as well as the Energy Efficiency Plan. It will also enhance interactions with the existing structures and funding instruments like the Lifelong Learning Programme and the European Social Fund, the latter in particular for the support of concrete qualification and training schemes.



The Initiative has two main pillars:

- National qualification platforms and roadmaps to 2020: The first pillar — ‘National qualification platforms and roadmaps to 2020’ — aims to trigger processes to gather all relevant stakeholders in a country and should result in a strategy and roadmap, e.g. on quantified needs, measures, priorities, accreditation, etc. A maximum of one action per country has been funded, lasting for a maximum duration of 18 months.
- Qualification and training schemes: The second pillar — ‘Qualification schemes’ — invites proposals for introducing new or upgrading existing qualification schemes. These should be based on an established roadmap to 2020.

Support will be given to actions that include development of materials, training of the trainers, coordination activities for the set-up/upgrading and operation of large-scale training schemes (including establishing voluntary agreements, accreditation and certification mechanisms, financing arrangements using ESF funding) as well as promotional/communication activities.

Η μέγιστη διάρκεια των προτεινόμενων έργων δεν θα πρέπει να ξεπερνά τους 36 μήνες και η κοινοτική συνεισφορά το 75% των συνολικών επιλέξιμων δαπανών του έργου. Το επίπεδο της τελικής χρηματοδότησης εξαρτάται από τον αριθμό και το μέγεθος των εμπλεκόμενων χωρών, καθώς και την πολυπλοκότητα και πολυμορφία των δράσεων.

**Deadline: 28 November 2013**

**Additional Information:**

Website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/files/call\\_for\\_proposals/call\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/files/call_for_proposals/call_2013_en.pdf)

## 5. Information measures relating to the common agricultural policy

The European Commission co-finances information measures relating to the common agricultural policy that aim, in particular, at:

- explaining, contributing to, implementing and developing the policy,
- promoting the European model of agriculture and helping people understand it,
- informing farmers and other parties active in rural areas,
- raising public awareness of the issues and objectives of that policy.

A call for proposals is published once a year (before 31 October). The Commission accepts applications only from legal entities that have been established for at least two years in an EU member country.

The actions should include several of the communication activities or tools listed below (the list is not exhaustive):

- production and distribution of multimedia or audiovisual material,
- production and distribution of printed material (publications, posters, etc.),
- setting up Internet and social network tools,
- media events,
- conferences, seminars or workshops,
- events type 'city farm' which help to explain the importance of agriculture to the urban population,



- events type 'open doors' aiming at showing to the citizens the role of agriculture,
- static or mobile exhibitions or information points.

The following actions are not eligible:

- measures required by law,
- measures receiving EU financing under another budget line,
- profit-making measures,
- general or statutory meetings

An information measure will be recognised as being of exceptional interest as referred to in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2208/2002 if all the following conditions are met:

- the action is really implemented in at least three Member States of the EU;
- the information action is proposed by an established network at European level or it has as objective setting up and/or developing such European network;
- the action includes a dissemination plan capable of reaching a minimum of 5 % of the target public of the action (general public and/or rural actors) in each Member State, including direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The minimum and maximum amount requested (including the flat-rate for indirect costs) will be EUR 100 000 and EUR 500 000 respectively. The maximum co-funding rate will be 50 % of direct eligible costs.

**Deadline: 30 Νοεμβρίου 2013**

**Additional Information:**

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/grants-for-information-measures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/grants-for-information-measures/index_en.htm)

E-mail: [agri-applications@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agri-applications@ec.europa.eu)

## Business & Development Planning



### Project Management and Cohesion Policy

According to the head of the unit at the competence centre for smart and sustainable growth within the European commission's DG Regio, Mr. Mikel Landabaso (*Regional Review, Issue 28*), projects are "ambassadors" of operational programmes, as they arrive at the European commission for approval and are carefully verified from all possible angles; whether they respond to the ambitions set out jointly by the commission and the member states in the programmes and whether they comply with European law and policies. In the current programming period 2007–2013 the commission received 750 major projects with a total cost of €64bn. The process of preparation, appraisal and implementation of these major projects is an extremely challenging task for public authorities. For that purpose, the legislative proposals for the next cohesion policy 2014–2020 foresee a number of improvements.

First there is the compulsory list of major projects in the operational programmes. In order to better frame major projects into the strengthened cornerstones of the new cohesion policy (result orientation, integrated programming, thematic concentration, ex ante conditionalities), major projects will be verified before their inclusion in the operational programmes to test if they constitute the best response to the identified needs of the given territory or sector. The list of major projects will be compulsory, and a major project needs to be included in the operational programmes in order to be financed.

To date, the list was rather indicative and not discussed in detail during the programmes' approval. In that sense, in the future the commission will strengthen the strategic control over the proposed major projects.

Second, a stronger role for independent experts. The commission may endorse independent experts to decide on its behalf about the quality of any project.

The third improvement foreseen is that of fewer major projects. The thresholds for considering major projects has been changed to total eligible costs compared to total costs.

Fourth, there is a stronger focus on the realisation of major projects. The commission's approval of major projects will be conditional on the start of works within three years from the commission's approval. This will limit the problem of "ghost projects" that have great difficulties getting off the ground and can bring positive benefits to society.

Finally, simplified rules for financial and economic analyses are vital. In order to reduce the administrative burden for public authorities, the legislative proposals introduced so called "flat rates" for major projects in specific sectors, as an alternative method for calculating the funding gap. In addition, the commission will update the cost benefit analysis guide to make it more operational and simplified for project promoters.

High quality public investment is one of three conditions aimed at restoring the European economy – next to healthy public finances, and structural reforms. For that purpose, the commission will continue its efforts in ensuring that the EU's cohesion policy responds to the demands of European taxpayers for more effective and efficient spending.



## The Voice of E.G.T.C.s



### 1. The E.G.T.C. Award

During the 11<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities, the Committee of the Regions launched a European award named 'EGTC award' to recognise and give visibility to the best practice of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) related to the creation of growth and jobs in Europe (Europe 2020 Strategy).

In line with the CoR strategy of support to the EGTCs, the objective of the award is to underscore the role of these groupings as a lever for economic growth in the territories concerned, and especially for implementing the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The award intends to recognize concrete achievements of the existing EGTCs, showing the added value of this instrument and making them serve as example for other groupings of similar structures.

The expected impact of the award is to endorse and to stimulate the 'bottom-up' efforts made by the local and regional authorities to create growth and jobs via result-oriented EGTCs. In addition, territorial cooperation should be more perceived as a means to improve territorial cohesion, implementing Europe 2020 Strategy while enhancing multi-level governance.

The award also intends to contribute to the better knowledge of the EGTC by the national, regional and local authorities of the EU, by the EU institutions and by the public.

Every second year between October and December, the Committee will publish the call for the biannual

EGTC award to recognize actions and projects effectively implemented by a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation during that period.

Only EGTCs established at the latest the year before the call and whose establishment has been notified to the Committee of the Regions according to Art. 5 of the Regulation 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council are eligible to participate.

The award will recognize concrete actions and projects implemented by EGTCs in their territory. The candidate EGTC shall submit a detailed memory of its action or project, which will be examined by the jury.

The jury will examine the applications and will exclude those that do not fulfil the criteria of eligibility, those that are not properly documented and those that are manifestly not related to the scope of action of the award. The jury will be entitled to require additional information and verification if needed. This information will be provided as soon as possible.

The jury will assess the applications according to the criteria of the call and to the general criteria of the award, and will decide about the winner. The jury will have the right to decide about additional honour mentions.

The EGTC award will be announced and delivered during the corresponding annual meeting of the EGTC Platform during the first quarter of the year following to the call.

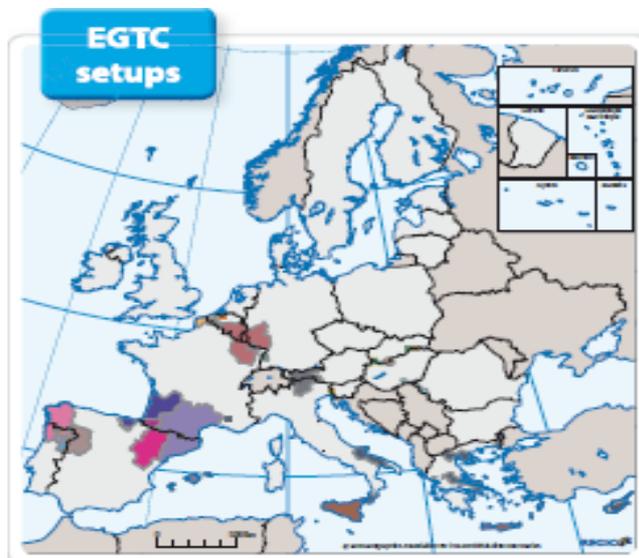
Not awarded projects or actions can be submitted to further calls only if those projects or actions continue to be implemented and continue to produce new impacts during the following years.



The documents related to the award are to be drafted in English, in order to facilitate the work of the jury and the widest publicity and dissemination of the actions. The candidates will provide the English translation of the documents existing in other languages (endorsement letters, external assessments, publications related to the action or project and others), or a summary of their content in English.

The jury will take into account the added value of the EGTC in implementing the action, its impact on the territory and its value as best practice, using the following criteria:

- Impact and outcome of the action, based on measurable indicators, that will be assessed in proportion to the size of the EGTC and the actual needs of the territory;
- Innovative approach, transnational dimension and European added value due to the fact that the action is conceived and carried out by an EGTC;
- Implementation of the principle of multi-level governance and bottom-up approach;
- Effective contribution to the implementation of the Strategy Europe 2020 in the fields related to generation of growth and jobs;
- Sustainability and permanence of the action, integration of the measures in a wider strategy for the territory;



- Visibility among the public and the media of the territory;
- Potential of transferability and replication as best practice.

This list is an open list. The Committee will add specific criteria in each call if deemed necessary, in particular if the call focuses on concrete flagship initiatives of the Strategy Europe 2020.

The first edition of the award will be launched in 2013 and awarded during the annual meeting of the EGTC Platform in the beginning of 2014. First two editions will focus on the measures implemented by the EGTCs to generate growth and jobs, in line with the Strategy Europe 2020.

It should be noted that 38 EGTCs have been created since the entry into force of the Regulation (EC) 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council, according to the Register of the CoR, and there are more groupings in the pipeline. The existing EGTCs involve more than 650 local and regional authorities in 19 Member States. The monitoring report published every year by the CoR has revealed that most of the EGTCs implement strategic actions of economic development directly linked to the generation of growth and jobs. The employment and entrepreneurship are at the forefront of these actions, and the groupings are also operational in many other spheres like innovation, vocational training, education, transport, tourism, environment, health, or culture, most of them with direct tangible effect on the economy of the territories involved. In addition to this, the revision of the EGTC Regulation will open new perspectives and fields of the action for the EGTCs

## 2. EGTC EFXINI POLI: Promoting ZEROWASTE

The project “Promoting ZEROWASTE” bearing the acronym “ZEROWASTE PRO” was officially launched in July 2013 aiming to capitalize on methods and tools that have been produced under other co-financed projects for zero waste management schemes at the municipal and regional level. The project will run until December 2014 and is funded by ERDF through the European Territorial Cooperation Programme MED 2007–2013 and National Resources. Lead partner is the EGTC EFXINI POLI – Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development. The 11 European organizations involved in the project will focus on the three main pillars of zerowaste philosophy, namely Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, promoting best practices and tools in the Municipalities and Regions whose ultimate goal should be the waste management with minimal financial and environmental cost.

Project activities:

- Guide on green waste management solutions.
- Training guides and seminar on green waste management solutions. The aim is to train officers of Local Government on alternative waste management practices in order ensure that this knowledge produced will “remain” in municipalities also after the end of the project.
- Educational Tool on Recycling, addressed to teachers.
- On-line Networking Platform which will be a virtual meeting point of operators and scientists specialized in waste management.
- Info-days, Workshops and Interregional Conferences in partner countries.
- Newsletters.



- CO2 Calculator handbook: Instructions for using the CO2 online tool which helps measure the CO2 footprint of the Municipalities and Regions.
- White Paper on SMEs and Industrial Area in relation to the production and management of waste.

The partnership of the project consists of 11 partners – EGTC Efxini Poli, Local Authorities' Network for Social, Cultural, Tourist, Environmental and Agricultural Development (Lead partner) GREECE, Ecological Recycling Society GREECE, Research Centre Bistra Ptuj SLOVENIA, Municipality of Ragusa, Svi Med, Mediterranean Center for Sustainable Development (Ragusa), Ambiente Italia srl, & Marche Region– Spatial and Environmental Services, Remediation Waste Recycling, ITALY, Federation of Regions, Municipalities and Provinces of Aragon, SPAIN, City of Bedekovčina, CROATIA, SERDA, Sarajevo Economic Regional Development Agency, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, Chamber of Commerce of Marseille, FRANCE & WasteServ, MALTA. The partners have a significant experience in waste management and gathering their know-how on a common ground is of a great benefit for the common goal as a transferable model will be built adaptable to regions in a different state of economic development. The transnational value of the project and specifically the capitalization of best practices will help Municipalities include and apply the tangible waste management tools produced by the partners in their local policies.

### Additional Information:

EGTC Efxini Poli

Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development

Email: [epolis@efxini.gr](mailto:epolis@efxini.gr), Website: [www.efxini.gr](http://www.efxini.gr)

# ZeroWaste

## EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

### 1. Municipality of Piraeus: REPUBLIC-MED

The REPUBLIC-MED project focuses on the development and experimentation of a new methodology for conducting complete techno-economical studies towards the refurbishment of public buildings and open spaces (public spaces). The project acknowledges the EU Commission's recent regulatory framework concerning the renovation of public buildings, i.e. the new directive 2012/27/EU, according to which Member States shall renovate each year 3% of the total floor area owned and occupied by administrative departments at a level below central government. The renovation should focus on the achievement of minimum energy performance requirements set in article 4 of the latest Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) 2010/31/EU, i.e. minimum energy performance requirements set in each Member State.

The project started in April 2013 and will last till June 2015. Its total budget is EUR 1.906.262,26, and the Municipality of Piraeus will get EUR 148.112,00. Based on the directives above, it becomes obvious that EU Commission recognize the exemplary role of the public sector towards the development of future sustainable smart cities. In the context of transforming the public sector, public-buildings renovation plays an important role for the following reasons:

- Most public buildings are old, therefore they are not harmonized with recent directives.
- They possess a high energy-saving potential which can be achieved through the implementation of technical solutions.



### RETrofitting PUBLIC spaces in Intelligent MEDiterranean Cities

- The efficiency of public services depends on workers' productivity which is directly affected by indoor comfort and air quality conditions. Measures to ensure the latter elevate productivity and improve services, within the context of a functional Smart City.
- They represent reference components in establishing sustainable bridges to future Smart Cities.

The renovation of public open spaces is also a significant factor for achieving sustainability in City environments, as long as it targets on the mitigation of the so-called Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. Apart from creating a healthy and comfortable environment for pedestrians, another benefit of UHI-mitigation renovation projects is the reduction of energy demand for cooling purposes of buildings existing in the urban fabric, especially in Mediterranean Cities during the summer period. Although it is widely accepted that such renovation works are equally important to building renovations in terms of sustainable development of Mediterranean cities, the EU policy framework still remains weak concerning both the calculation of UHI indicators and technical requirements in comparison to building renovation ones. As a result, in most cases, empirical approaches and weak assumptions are adopted in the techno-economical study stage in order to design and plan open-spaces renovation projects, meaning that microclimate, environmental and comfort indicators' predictions are often disregarded.

#### Additional Information:

Municipality of Piraeus

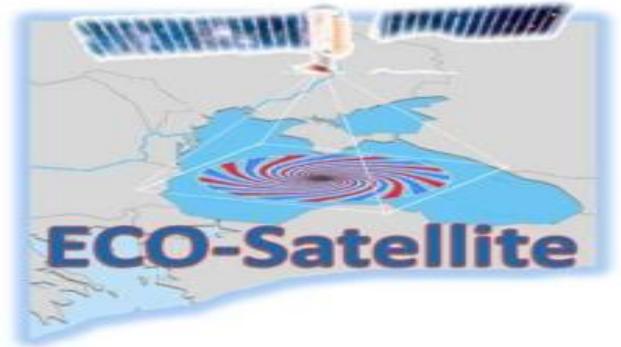
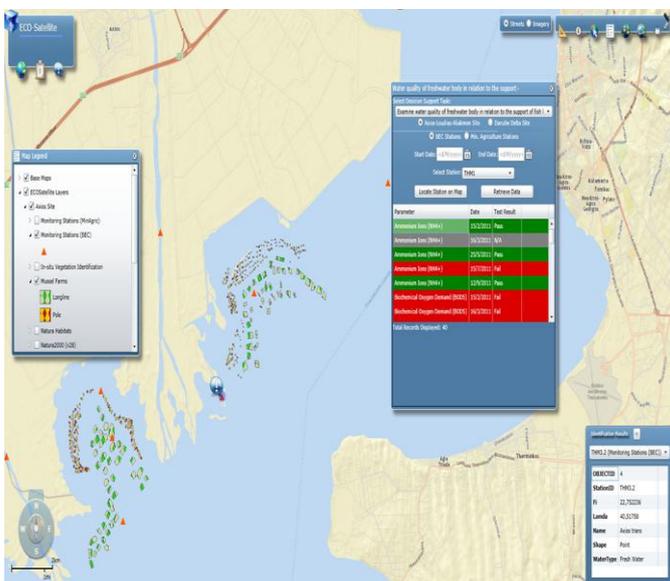
Directorate of Programming and Development

E-mail: [programan@pireasnet.gr](mailto:programan@pireasnet.gr)

Website: <http://republic-med.eu>

## 2. Region of Central Macedonia Regional Development Fund: ECO-SATELITE

It is widely recognized that the Black Sea faces serious environmental problems. Some of the major European rivers e.g. Danube, Dinper, Dnester, Bug discharge into the Black Sea carrying significant pollution loads. About one third of the land area of continental Europe drains into this semi-enclosed sea, which is connected to the Mediterranean through the narrow Bosphorous Channel. The increased pollution load that enters the Black Sea has led to a significant deterioration of the marine ecosystem and to a sharp decline of fisheries resources. Pollutants, including agrochemicals, toxic metals and radionuclides, made their way into the sea either through the atmosphere or river discharges. Increased "nutrients" caused an overproduction of phytoplankton, which block the light to reach the sea grasses and algae. Industrial activity, mining, shipping, and offshore oil and gas exploration further contributed to the sea's destruction. Tanker accidents and operational discharges caused oil pollution, and coastal industries discharged wastes directly, with little or no treatment. Some countries dumped solid waste into the sea or onto wetlands. Urban areas flushed untreated sewage; and poor planning destroyed much of the aesthetics of the coastlines.



The main goal of the project is the creation of a common intraregional monitor system having almost near real time capabilities. The system will make use of the technologically assets provided by the satellite data and by geomatics facilities. The project will contribute to the efforts of strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed for the environmental protection and preservation of the Black Sea ecosystem, through the promotion of stronger integration and development of research between the involved partners and by exchanging scientific data and know-how in the fields of monitoring and protection of marine, coastal and wetland systems in the Black Sea Basin.

Apart from the Region of Central Macedonia, the project consortium is consisted of the Decentralized administration of Macedonia and Thrace, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Balkan Environment Center (Greece), Danube Delta National Institute for Research & Development (Romania), Odessa Branch Institute of Biology of Southern Seas, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine), and District Administration Varna (Bulgaria).

The ECO-Satellite system contains multiple layers of information related to the environment for the two test areas of the ECO-Satellite project, i.e., the Danube Delta (Romania and Ukraine) and the Axios-Loudias-Aliakmon Delta (Greece).

### Additional Information:

Region of Central Macedonia  
Regional Development Fund

Tel: 0030 2310 403004

Fax: 0030 2310 403079

Website: [www.eco-satellite.eu](http://www.eco-satellite.eu)

## International and European Conferences

### Looking Forward: The Future of Regional Studies (Manchester, 1 November)

In recent times regional and local development has been affected by a changing political and economic environment that has thrown into question many of the strategies pursued in recent years. Despite the challenges, the current context provides also an opportunity to revise theoretical and policy frameworks, and to continue working to improve them.



The objective of this conference is to bring together a group of early career researchers, and give them a chance to identify and discuss the future lines of research and action for regional studies on Innovation and Knowledge, Financialisation and Regional Development, • New Challenges In Urban Planning, Global Production Networks, Evolutionary Economic Geography, Foreign Direct Investment and Regional Development, Climate Change and Sustainability, Urban And Regional Governance, Politics and Territory.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/the-regional-studies-association-early-career-conference-2013>

### Integrated Water Solutions for a Green Economy (Amsterdam, 4–8 November)

Is there a generation gap in the water sector and is ageing (becoming) a real problem? Is the water sector attractive enough for young water



professionals to absorb the present knowledge, skills and experiences from the senior professionals? What can be done to overcome a possible generation gap? In the conference 'bridging the generation gap' these questions will be discussed and debated.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.internationalwaterweek.com/>

### International Greening Education Event (Karlsruhe, 6–8 November)

The International Greening Education Event (IGEE) is a premier global annual event that brings together stakeholders from around the world in Karlsruhe,



6th - 8th of November

Germany to discuss the challenging issue of integrating sustainability across all academic disciplines. changing society as well as of our future generations.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.eosd.org/en/igee.html>

## The New Cohesion Policy 2014+ (Brussels, 7 – 8 November)

With the proposed Regulations for the upcoming programming period 2014–20, the European Commission aims to introduce a number of changes and new instruments to achieve greater simplification and efficiency for the management and control of EU funds.



Notably, the regulation lays down common rules on eligibility and durability for all five funds – covering the rules for cohesion policy, rural development policy and maritime and fisheries policy. Furthermore, a wider scope for instruments such as integrated territorial cooperation, financial instruments and simplified cost options are foreseen. Thus, Member States need to get familiar with new rules for a proper implementation in their Operational Programmes.

The conference provides a perfect opportunity to receive first-hand information from high-level experts from EU institutions, Member States' authorities and academia. During the two days, the main changes proposed by the European Commission will be discussed focusing on issues relevant for *Programming & Management* as well as for *Financial Management & Control*, which will be held in parallel sessions on the first day.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.lexxion.de/verlagsprogramm-konferenzen/eu-funds/european-conference-implementing-cohesion-policy-2014.html>

## Think European – act local: the role of federal states and regions in the EU youth strategy (Brussels, 12 November)

The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss the EU youth strategy and its contribution



to Europe's broader growth strategy Europe 2020. The aim is to increase awareness of the role and political mandate of the regions with regards to European youth strategies.

### Additional Information:

[www.cor.europa.eu/youthstrategy](http://www.cor.europa.eu/youthstrategy)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual EcoDistricts Summit (Boston, 12–14 November)

Each year the EcoDistricts Summit convenes leading municipal policymakers, developers, business leaders, planners, and community leaders – people with decision-making power – to share best practices and shape the growing EcoDistricts marketplace.

EcoDistricts (formerly Portland Sustainability Institute), sums up the vision for creating sustainable cities from the neighborhood up.



Its larger scope is designed to better serve the growing number of innovative practitioners and policymakers who are making a demonstrable impact in local communities and helping to grow the global green neighborhood movement. Urban development leaders of all stripes, from mayors to universities to affordable housing providers, see EcoDistricts as the powerful way to address many of their pressing challenges, from climate change to neighborhood degradation.

**Additional Information:**

<http://ecodistricts.org/summit/>

### Creating Healthy, Liveable Cities (Beijing, 17–20 November)

Following the success of the Urban Environmental Pollution 2012 (UEP2012) conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the organisers are pleased to announce an



Urban Environmental Pollution 2013 (UEP2013) to be held in Beijing, China in November 2013. The conference aims to provide an international forum to explore the urban environment and how we can begin to create a healthy and liveable environment in cities.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.uepconference.com>

### Seminars on EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR) (Brussels, 14 November & Corfu, 18–19 November)

These stakeholder seminars are organised by the European Commission in cooperation with CPMR and the Governments of the 8 Adriatic and Ionian countries in the framework of the consultations and



supporting activities for the drafting of an Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). They aim to bring together maritime and marine Adriatic and Ionian actors from public authorities, businesses, research bodies and civil society to debate on concrete actions to be pursued in the area of the blue economy.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.amiando.com/EUSAIR-BlueGrowth.html>

<http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=6,1,2,374>

### Smart Cities: Change the World Expo (Barcelona, 19–21 November)

The trend of urbanization will create more and more mega cities. By 2050 it is predicted that 64.1% and 85.9% of the developing and developed world respectively will be urbanized (Wikipedia). This creates a huge urgency for smarter cities to accommodate all the people and install the necessary infrastructure to meet the needs of this



growth. In order to bring the bright minds of 72 cities together, the Barcelona Fira organizes for the third edition of Smart Cities: Change the World expo. The Expo will focus on the main urban challenges, present available solutions and explore opportunities in our new globalized city-led world.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.barcinno.com/take-chance-contribute-smart-city/>

## Sustainable Development: Conceptual Progress and Practical Challenges (Semarang – Indonesia, 20–21 November)

The Department of Regional and Urban Planning of Diponegoro University organizes the Second International Conference on Regional Development, "Sustainable Development: Conceptual Progress and Practical Challenges.



Every stakeholder (including students, researchers from many disciplines, policy analysts, public and private-sector decision makers, and development practitioners) is expected to understand the importance and urgency of sustainable development, whether conceptually or in practical way. As real-world experience has shown, that achieving agreement on sustainability values, goals, and actions is often difficult because different stakeholder values are compared and contrasted, criticized and debated. Thus, a conference about the theme that has been explained above is one of ideal ways to achieve new synthesis and subsequent coordination.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.indo-incoddev.com>

## Cities Fit For Children 2013 (Surrey, 21–22 November)

Cities Fit for Children 2013 will provide participants with practical tools, successful examples, research, and perspectives from children and youth. The conference is a provincial summit. It brings together local, regional and provincial leaders involved in policy decisions, to design and build healthy and safe communities for children, youth and families.



Participants include municipal staff, provincial leaders, non-profits and service agencies, recreation professionals, social and community planners, and ECE practitioners and youth workers.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/13085.aspx>

## EUROCITIES 2013: 'Smart Citizens' (Ghent, 27–30 November)

A smart city is where innovation and technology help to empower the people who live in it, work in it and visit it. Our cities are pools of creativity and innovation that city leaders draw upon to build successful and sustainable cities that can lead the way out of recession. In the European Year of



Citizens, EUROCITIES 2013 'smart citizens' annual conference builds on the themes of the last three annual conferences: Zaragoza's 'successful cities vision and identity', 'planning for people' in Genoa, and 'a new city politics' in Nantes.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/news/EUROCITIES-2013-Ghent-smart-citizens-WSPO-95LP5G>

## Europe 2020 Conference: Innovation Union (Brussels, 27 November)

Based on a broad concept of innovation and over 30 activities, the Innovation Union flagship initiative commits the EU to increase investment in research to 3% of GDP by 2020. Studies indicate that such investment could create 3.7 million jobs by 2025.



Between 2007 and 2011, public and private spending increased from 1.85% to 2.03% of GDP but it appears that disparities between regions are growing after years of convergence. Today, only one in ten regions in the EU spends more than 3% of their GDP on research and these 27 regions together amount already for over 40% of the total investment in innovation. Most of these leading regions have important competences, capacities and budgets and follow a 'smart specialisation' approach to integrated regional development and the management of economic change and recovery. Moreover, between 2014 and 2020 'smart specialisation strategies', will be a priority for all regions under the European Structural and Investment Funds accompanied by the new "Horizon 2020" programme and other initiatives. This conference brings together key representatives of EU institutions, Member States and regions to take stock of the implementation of the flagship initiative at regional level. Accompanied by an exhibition of good practice from Europe's regions and cities, the event will focus on four aspects:

- Smart specialisation strategies;
- Innovation, enterprises and jobs;
- Networking across borders;
- Open Innovation 2.0.

### Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/eu2020-innovation-union.aspx>

## Europe's leading Renewable Energy Policy Conference (Brussels, 28 November)

The biennial policy conference, organised by EREC (European Renewable Energy Council), has grown



ever since its first edition in 2004 and has become Europe's major occasion for exchange and interaction between industry, research and policy.

### Additional Information:

[http://www.erec2013.org/en/home\\_95.aspx](http://www.erec2013.org/en/home_95.aspx)

## LivCom Awards

(Xiamen, 28 November–2 December)

The LivCom Awards were launched in 1997 and is the World's only Awards Competition focusing on International Best Practice regarding the management of the local environment.



The objective of LivCom is to develop and share International Best Practice, with the further objective of improving the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of 'liveable communities'. The LivCom Awards are the only forum in which International Best Practice may be observed and developed, and participation in the Awards is an investment in the future of a community.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.livcomawards.com/2013-awards/bursary-award.htm>

## European Affairs

### Macroregional Strategies: A Priority in the 2014–2020 European Programming Period

At its recent plenary session, held on 16 and 17 October 2013 (meeting of 16 October), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted an opinion unanimously over the added value of macro-regional strategies (following European Commission's decision to consult EESC on the relevant Commission's report), pointing out that macro-regional strategy has to be a priority in the 2014–2020 European programming period, integrating the "new" model of territorial cooperation within the partnership agreement and operational programmes (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF) with a specific focus on the concept of "Community Led Macro-regional Development". On its own initiative the EESC may consider to draw up a comprehensive analysis of the importance of macro-regional strategies in the future for Europe, and it will present a proposal on how to adjust such strategies to achieve uniform European development practice.

More specifically, for the EESC, the "three no's" no longer apply: there is funding from the 2014–2020 medium-term financial framework, an administrative institutional system is being developed to assist with implementation, and the necessary rules are set out in the common strategic framework. In order to promote innovation, SMEs, networking and employment, there should be more understanding of the change to the "three yes's" when evaluating macro-regional strategies from the perspective of support policy.



According to the EESC, added value in the case of macro-regional strategies can only refer to value which either cannot be provided by independent action at the level of individual regions/Member States, or can only be achieved at the cost of higher investments or lower efficiency.

However, the EESC cannot agree with the comment made in the Commission's report that further developments and intensified action are possible "without involvement of the Commission, or based more exclusively on a transnational programme". This is the only point in the evaluation which explicitly states that the European Commission does not want to get involved or play a role in developing and implementing macro-regional strategies. Thus, the EESC is calling on the Commission to continue to take a central role in the development and implementation of macro-regional strategies. The EESC is also calling on the Council to give the Commission the necessary tools and resources to be able to carry out this role in a proper fashion.

Likewise, the recent General Affairs Council (22 October) invited the Commission to continue playing a leading role in strategic coordination of key delivery stages of the macro-regional strategies, in partnership with the Member States and in accordance with the subsidiarity principle.

The Council also recommended when considering creating new macro-regions in agreed geographical areas to ensure that a) there are particular needs of strategic importance for the macroregions for improved high level cooperation in solving common challenges as well as using opportunities, b) involvement of the EU is appropriate and existing EU horizontal policies would be reinforced, c) the



appraisal of the added value at EU and macro-regional level is evidence-based, d) there is clearly expressed political will from both the Member States concerned and their involved regions for such an approach.

Lastly, the Council also encouraged both the Member States and other relevant authorities concerned to embed these objectives into the programming documents of the new 2014–2020 programming period in a coordinated way taking into account possibilities foreseen in the Common Strategic Framework for 2014–2020 inter alia by cooperative governance arrangements and specific mechanisms like giving priority in the selection process to the operations deriving from these strategies or by organising specific calls for them. In addition, it called the Member States concerned to use the possibilities of new and existing programmes and European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) where relevant to provide development and implementation support and to develop key inspirational pilot projects as well as communicate the benefits to the public, and ensure sharing of good practice, making use, among others, of the support of the EUwide INTERACT programme.

#### Additional Information:

(a) [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/139110.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/139110.pdf)

(b) <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.eco-opinions.28466>

## The Winners of the “Europe in My Region” Photo Competition

The European Commission organised for second consecutive year a pan European photo competition with the aim of promoting projects co-financed by the European Union. Four winners were selected, one by popular vote and three by an independent jury composed of photographers and communications specialists.

The winners, Ourania Tora (Greece), Joseph Galea (Malta), Petrók György and Tünde Halasi (Hungary) came to Brussels on 9 October to collect their prizes from Commissioner Johannes Hahn and to share the stories behind their winning photos.

The EU finances literally millions of projects across Europe. Most of these projects have all the ingredients to make a great story – interesting chara-



acters, an authentic local context and even a bit of drama! And yet many people are completely unaware that the EU is investing in the area they live, or places they visit when they travel around Europe. In the Commission’s DG for Regional and Urban Policy, a lot of the communication efforts are geared towards collecting and spreading project examples. But the most powerful way of raising the visibility of projects, as well as engaging people in a debate about EU funding, is to let people tell their own stories. And that was what happened this year.

#### Additional Information:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.582481055132712.1073741836.107898832590939&type=1>

## Blue Growth: Enhancing sustainable growth in the EU's marine, maritime transport and tourism sectors

In a recent report adopted by its plenary session, European Parliament welcomes the Commission's communication on Blue Growth, which forms the maritime dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy and gives a clear indication of the potential of the maritime economy to create smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and generate employment opportunities.



The EP notes the conditions of economic crisis and the social problems that are affecting many areas, particularly islands, above all in the Mediterranean and especially those which are very distant from the mainland and underscores that the remoteness of the islands in relation to the single market exposes them to industrial and economic stagnation and depopulation, which must be the target of specific measures on the part of the EU institutions. In this sense, the EP urges the Commission to consider establishing free zones as a tool which, by reducing the tax burden and attracting foreign direct investment, could halt the downward spiral that is affecting island areas by driving growth and development.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2013-0209+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EL>

## Paris Leads With Innovation in the Streets

In a 180-degree change from previous decades, during which public space was thought of mainly in terms of facilitating automobile circulation, the City of Paris has been implementing an ambitious strategy to rethink the role of the car in the city. The new approach, which puts the quality of the urban experience at the heart of urban policy, has led to a complete redefinition of Paris's urban spaces. The story began in 2001, when the Delanoë city administration has opened bicycle lanes, launched a bicycle sharing scheme, built a major new tramway line, changed parking policy to encourage people to leave their cars in their home neighborhoods, opened several new parks, and even re-purposed a former highway as a public promenade along the Seine.

The first results of this orientation are now coming to fruition, and have fundamentally changed Parisians' experience of their city. Automobile traffic has dropped 25% since 2002 and the level of car ownership among Parisian households has decreased to only 37%. With a conscious, large-scale shift underway in how public space is shared between cars, bicycles and pedestrians, Paris is emerging as a leader among forward-thinking cities.

Despite the tremendous changes, the City does not at all consider the program complete. It is now working on a new set of initiatives to make Paris still more friendly as a city for people.

The City administration feels that Paris's current default speed limit of 50 kilometers per hour (31 mph) is simply not compatible with shared use of public spaces.





So, it has set its sights on a major milestone: the implementation of a 20 kilometer per hour (12 mph) speed limit within the entire city limits, except for a small number of designated major arteries. Already it has started an aggressive expansion of the existing 20 kilometer per hour zones. The City has started implementing a new “shared space” concept. Several streets have been given this new status, in which vehicle traffic does not have the right of way and all users are expected to share the space equally. In 2012, the Department of Roads and Mobility began implementing an initiative named ‘Paris Piéton’ — i.e., ‘Pedestrian Paris’. The aim of the program is to consider the pedestrian not just as someone who is moving from one point to another, but as a person who is experiencing the city. The hope of those responsible for the implementation of Paris Piéton is that people will begin to appreciate the many alternative uses that can be found for the public spaces that are currently given over solely to vehicle transportation. France has relatively little experience with privately-owned and especially privately-maintained public spaces. Strict rules on the private use of public space and a tendency to rely on the government have had the effect of stifling individual initiative. The City of Paris would like to see that change and is seeking to encourage American-style community projects.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.pps.org/blog/taking-the-next-step-paris-leads-with-innovation-in-the-streets/>

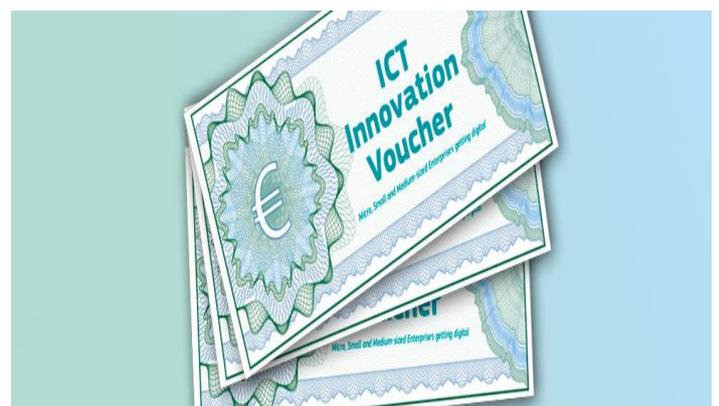
## European Regions encouraged to offer SMEs vouchers of up to €10,000 to go digital

The European Commission is publishing a blueprint to help micro-enterprises and small businesses in Europe’s regions grow by using digital technologies. To ensure funding allocated to SMEs to enhance their e-commerce and ICT capacities is spent quickly and in full, innovation vouchers worth up to €10,000 will be made available for purchasing and learning to make use of digital (ICT) services. Such ICT innovation voucher schemes are being piloted in the Spanish Regions of Murcia and Extremadura.

Going online and using other digital technologies increases competitiveness, exports, and domestic market opportunities. Web-connected small businesses across G-20 countries have 22% higher revenue growth than those with low or no web-use. In Germany, 93% of small and medium-sized businesses with an active web presence increased employment over three years, compared with only 50% of those not online.

The regional voucher schemes would allow small businesses to exchange their vouchers for specialist ICT services such as website development, learning how to sell through eCommerce, or adopting more sophisticated ICT tools for business processes, such as supply chain management and customer relations management.

The blueprint will help authorities identify the needs of SMEs to go digital and to assess whether vouchers are fit to address this. The guide outlines how to set up a tailor-made voucher scheme for their region or to expand existing schemes by an ICT window.

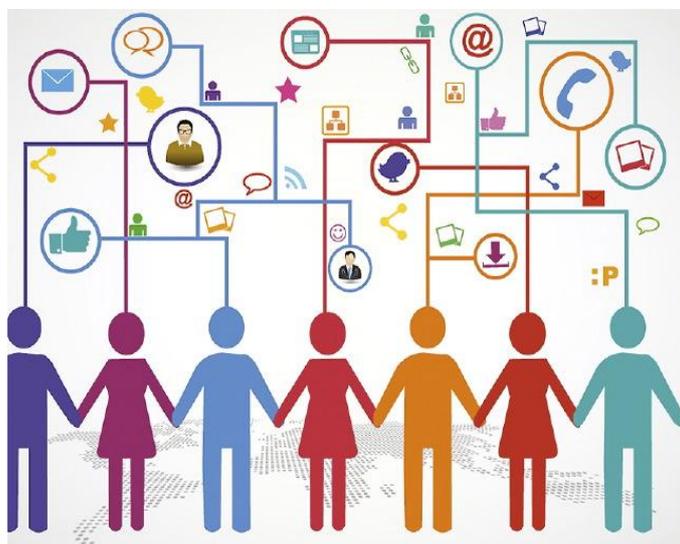


The value of the voucher may vary according to the needs of the SME and the regional priorities, and the schemes should be made easy for SMEs and providers, supported by light administrative procedures. The vouchers should allow ICT services to be purchased from a range of providers including private companies, universities and research centres.

On average, European companies are only slowly adopting ICT for their business (from 2010 to 2012, there was just a 6% increase in European businesses with a website, another 6% in sharing information electronically within businesses, a 4% increase in the use of Enterprise Resource Planning).

The pilots in Murcia and Extremadura target SMEs willing to invest in e-commerce, more streamlined management processes or enhanced customer services. They were announced on 2 July at the "Digital Agenda: what role for regions and cities" conference. ICT innovation vouchers will cover a majority of the euros invested by SMEs in the project. The associated funding allocated by the regions for the pilots schemes is provided through the European Regional Development Fund.

In addition to facilitating SMEs' access to know-how and technology, the vouchers can stimulate demand for a large range of innovative ICT-related services in all sectors of the economy and cross-border online sales. Such schemes help unfold the potential of the digital single market and thereby contribute to the Digital Agenda for Europe.



In the period 2007–2013 some EUR 14.2 billion Structural Fund investments are earmarked for ICT-related investments, including over EUR 3 billion that should go directly to SMEs to enhance their e-commerce and ICT capacities. In total over 20,000 ICT projects were so far supported thanks to this, with Spain, Hungary and Portugal being in the lead.

#### Additional Information:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-916\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-916_en.htm)

### Heraklion among the Smart21 Communities

For third consecutive year, the capital of the island of Crete, Heraklion is included in the 2013 list of the Smart21 Communities. Heraklion has only recently emerged from Greece's turbulent past to become a player in the global economy. With an economy heavily dependent on tourism and agriculture, it lagged behind Europe in technology, digital literacy and broadband penetration. But Heraklion has charted a different course for its future. Today, it is home to the Science and Technology Park of Crete and one of Europe's top research centers, the Foundation for Research and Technology. Four telecom providers and a free wireless overlay network have made broadband available to nearly 100% of the population and residential penetration has surpassed 50%.

The municipality has also built a fiber network to connect hundreds of government locations, while the University of Crete has connected the island's schools. The city has also made substantial investments in e-government services and established digital skills training centers. To promote innovation, the University of Crete works with the Chamber of Commerce and government to



identify training needs, connect graduates to job opportunities, and provide consultation for both young entrepreneurs and job seekers. The University Students Entrepreneurship Program focuses on educating students in business startup and providing a lab environment for the prototyping and testing of new products and services. Innovations like these are setting a new standard for Greece and moving Heraklion into the broadband economy.

#### Additional Information:

[https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Smart21\\_2013&link=Smart21\\_2013#Heraklion](https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Smart21_2013&link=Smart21_2013#Heraklion)

### New Interactive Platform of the Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions has expanded its communication efforts thanks to a new interactive platform voicing the news and activities from Europe's regions and cities. The launch of the new platform, *Europe in my Region*, is designed to share regional and local news on EU affairs, offering a space to keep readers up to speed with



what is going on in Brussels and across Europe, while increasing the visibility of the 353 CoR members' activities. Readers can browse the interactive map of Europe and read news, events, interviews and new initiatives taking place in their country and region.

Available in all EU languages, the platform offers a breadth of information including:

- Latest news on local authorities and events
- Interviews with members and politicians
- The latest press releases and other articles
- Photos and videos (downloadable for free)

#### Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/regions/pages/europe-in-my-region.aspx>

### 15th Conference of the Union of Central and Southeastern European Capitals

The role of civil society and the added value of the civic networking with municipal services at times of crisis for the modern megacities were the main themes examined during the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Union of Central and Southeastern European Capitals, held in Athens (October 17-19).



The representatives of the cities also underlined the need to strengthen the tourist sector which would benefit their residents and the municipal finance.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.cityofathens.gr/node/22796>

## International Affairs

### Arab Cities towards Smart Development

Attracting in the region of 500 registered delegates from over 20 countries, government dignitaries, urban development experts and the world's leading smart city technology firms to showcase their solutions, the Arab Future Cities Summit, held recently in Qatar, has secured its place as the leading smart cities event in the region.



The Future Cities Lounge showcased cutting-edge city technology from leading urban technology companies including IBM, Philips, Thales, Schneider Electric, Microsoft, SAP and Blackberry, all eager to get involved in the mega projects planned for the region.

As a matter of fact, Qatar's Ministry for Municipality and Urban Planning has earmarked more than US\$140 billion for mega projects across the energy, transport, education, health and tourism sectors, much of which is expected to be completed in time for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Qatar's future development is dependent on its effective embrace of sustainable technology driven development strategies.

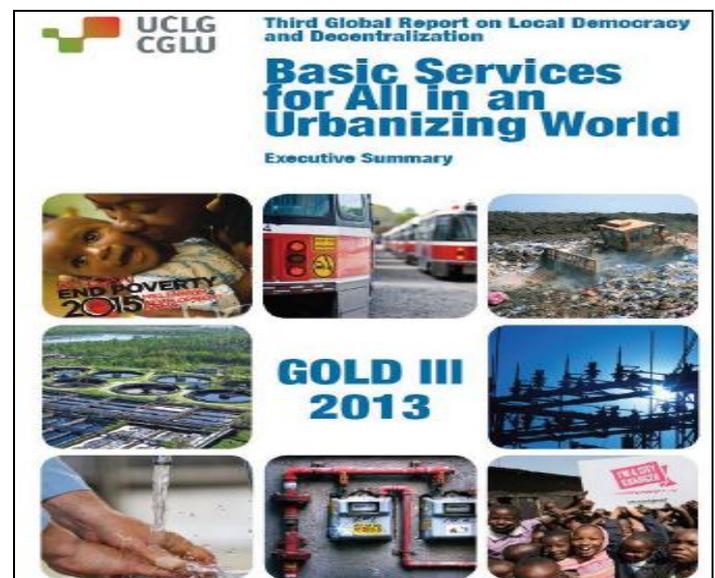
The Qatar National Master plan outlines spatial development plan for the cities, town centres and urban settlements. Its planning policies enable sustainable planning decisions and development applications.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.arabfuturecities.com/>

### Third Global Report on Basic Services in an Urbanizing World

The third report of the Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD III) was warmly received by participants on the occasion of its launch at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Rabat (October, 3). This report details the provision of



public local services and is in-line with the UCLG objective to present every three years a report on the state of local and regional democracy and of decentralisation throughout the world. The GOLD initiative is central to the achievement of one of the main strategic objectives of UCLG: to be a reference for information and knowledge on the situation of local and regional governments, local democracy, and decentralization across the world.

The report examines the basic services that are essential to quality of life and human dignity and highlights a worrying deterioration in access to basic services in cities in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.rabat2013.uclg.org/tags/gold-iii-report>

## Consultations



### Guidelines on Recommended Standard Licences, Datasets and Charging for the Re-use of Public Sector Information

The revision of the PSI Directive is one of the key actions of the Digital Agenda for Europe. Governments can stimulate content markets by making public sector information available on transparent, effective and non-discriminatory terms. As demonstrated by a number of studies analysing the sector (e.g. the 2008 Cambridge Study or the 2011 review by G. Vickery), public data is an important source of growth of innovative online services.

The reuse of public information resources has been partly harmonised by the PSI Directive adopted in 2003 which has recently been revised in order to address the remaining barriers to reuse. Indeed, difficulties and uncertainties surrounding compliance with the licensing and charging provisions were identified as one of the main obstacles to PSI reuse as they curb both the release of data by public bodies and the actual reuse.

The revised Directive calls on the European Commission to assist the Member States in implementing the Directive in a consistent way by

issuing guidelines on

- recommended standard licenses,
- datasets to be released/improved as a matter of priority and
- charging for the reuse of documents.

The objective of the consultation is therefore to seek the views of stakeholders on specific issues to be addressed in the 3 sets of guidelines.

**Submission deadline: 22 November**

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/consultation-guidelines-recommended-standard-licences-datasets-and-charging-re-use-public>

### Evaluation of the Energy Labelling Directive and certain aspects of the Ecodesign Directive

This consultation is part of the review of the Energy Labelling Directive (2010/30/EU Art.14) required by the Directive by 31 December 2014. It also contributes additional information to the required review of the Ecodesign Directive (2009/125/EC Art. 21). This public consultation, by enabling stakeholders to express their opinions on the various aspects of the Directives, aims to draw upon a wide variety of experience, opinion and ideas. The results will be used to contribute to a comprehensive and complete analysis of the performance of the Directives to date and how they can be improved in future.

The Commission is required to review the effectiveness of the application of the Directives and their implementing measures. The review will also consider the efficiency, relevance, coherence, EU added value and distributional effects of the Directives. The analysis associated with the review will examine the strengths and weaknesses of current implementation and will investigate options for change and their acceptability.

**Submission deadline: 30 November**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/201310\\_evaluation\\_of\\_energy\\_labelling\\_directive\\_\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/201310_evaluation_of_energy_labelling_directive__en.htm)

## The Seminars of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)



### The European Union Funding Opportunities in the Field of Health – European Policies, Programme, Strategy and Technical Tools to Present Proposals and Manage Projects

Date: 4–5 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

[http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order\\_activity/one/&tid=5250](http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5250)

### How to Select and Develop a Convincing Project Strategy for EU 2020 Funding: Dos and Dents for Local and Regional Actors

Date: 4–6 November 2013

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

[http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order\\_activity/one/&tid=5323](http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5323)

### Public Sector Budget Review and Service Reform in a Challenging Economic Climate

Date: 5–6 November 2013

Location: Dublin

Additional Information:

[http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order\\_activity/one/&tid=5211](http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5211)

### Using EU Structural and Cohesion Funds Effectively in Public–Private Partnerships (PPP): Challenges and Opportunities

Date: 12–13 November 2013

Location: Brussels

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5297>

### Delivering Better Results and Making Greater Use of Simplification in Structural Funds

Date: 14–15 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5249>

### Managing Change in Public Administration

Date: 18–19 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5334>

### Tutorial: Project Cycle Management: A Technical Guide

Date: 20–22 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5190>

### European Public Procurement Reform: The New Directives

Date: 21–22 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5335>

### Successful Preparation and Implementation of Twinning Projects

Date: 21–22 November 2013

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5387>

### EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION: How to Build a Successful European Partnership for Better Use of EU Funds? Closure of programmes and preparation for the next programming period 2014–2020

Date: 27–29 November 2013

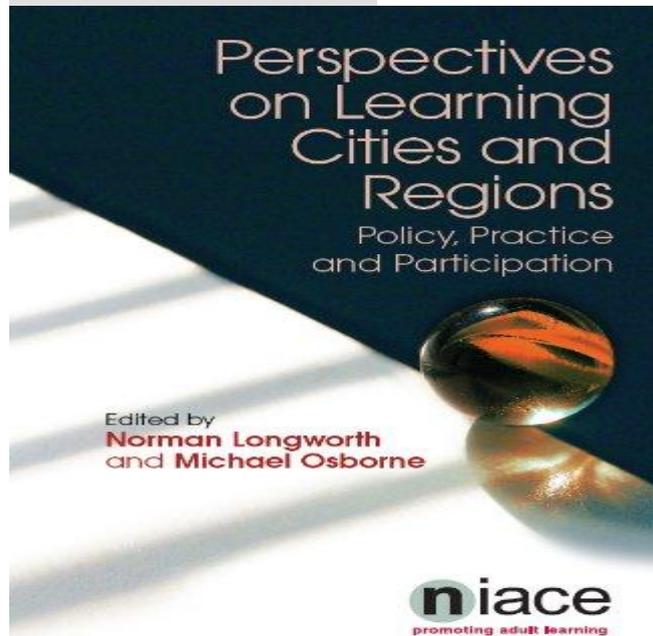
Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5202>

## The Library of Local Government

Perspectives on Learning Cities and Regions.  
Policy, Practice and Participation



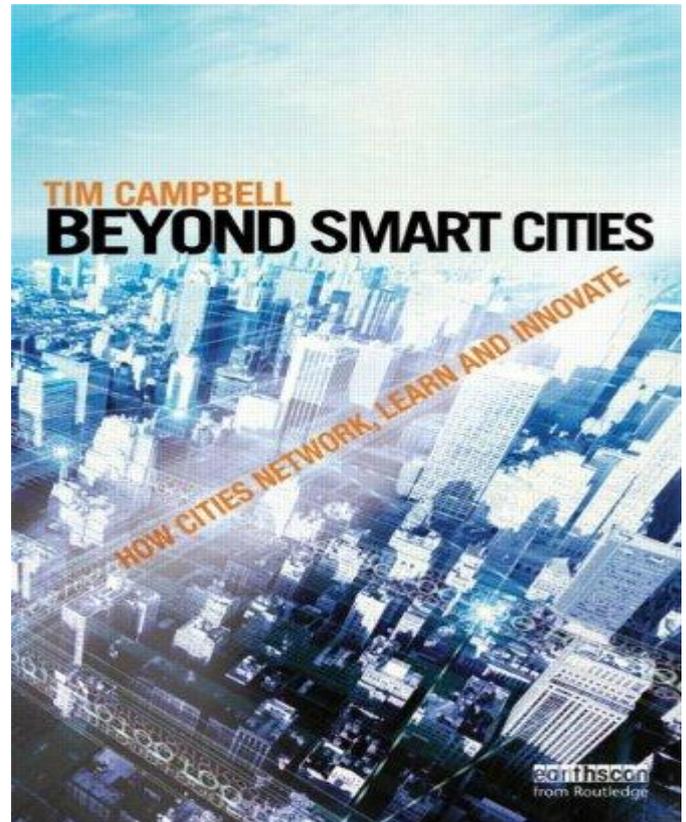
Pages: 256

Authors: N. Longworth & M. Osborne (edit.)

Publisher: National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, 2010

In this publication, policy-makers, practitioners, and researchers come together to demonstrate, in a wide variety of settings, how new initiatives to create learning cities and regions can improve dialogue between the practice and research communities. In demonstrating the productive outcomes of knowledge transfer, the book should serve to encourage those in government and in practice-leading roles to develop further the arrangements to facilitate the productive sharing and application of knowledge drawn from reflections on experience and from research. The book is a great starting point for opening up debate around the theme of learning cities and regions, and it includes case studies from around the world.

Beyond Smart Cities: How Cities Network,  
Learn and Innovate



Pages: 256

Author: Tim Campbell

Publisher: Routledge, 2012

This book draws on quantitative and qualitative data with concrete case studies to show how networks already operating in cities are used to foster and strengthen connections in order to achieve breakthroughs in learning and innovation. Going beyond smart cities means understanding how cities construct, convert and manipulate relationships that grow in urban environments. Cities discussed in this book – Amman, Barcelona, Bilbao, Charlotte, Curitiba, Juarez, Portland, Seattle and Turin – illuminate a blind spot in the literature. Each of these cities has achieved important transformations, and learning has played a key role, one that has been largely ignored in academic circles and practice concerning competitiveness and innovation.

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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC SERVICES  
DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
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