



**EDITORIAL**

The year 2015 has been designated as the European Year for Development under the motto “Our world, our dignity, our future”. Many campaigns and conferences will be organised to raise citizens’ awareness of this topic and national, regional and local authorities are invited to participate. This is the first time that a European Year focuses on global issues and that is a timely decision. Indeed, 2015 will be a year in transition. On one hand, next year we will be reaching the deadline to achieve the eight Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations – which includes access to water, eradication of poverty or reduction of child mortality, to name a few. On the other hand, 2015 will be the deadline to define a new set of objectives guiding the next sustainable development policies. With 70% of the world population living in urban areas by the middle of this century, it is vital that global local government is provided with all the resources and competences to satisfy its citizens' needs. This is why CEMR, alongside its world organisation, UCLG, and its partners of the Global Taskforce, campaigns for the inclusion of a specific goal dedicated to “sustainable urbanisation” as a pillar of the post-2015 agenda. This objective assumes that cities and territories are in vital need of economic growth, which has to contribute to social equity, quality of the environment and territorial cohesion.

**Europe for Citizens, 2014–2020**



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# European and International Funding Programmes

## Call for Proposals–Deadlines

### 1. Europe for Citizens, 2014–2020

The aim of this programme is

- To contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity
- To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.
- To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values.
- To encourage democratic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making–process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.

The Programme supports the following strands:

- *European remembrance– raising awareness of remembrance, common history, values and the aim of the EU*

This strand supports activities inviting reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values. It aims to finance projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (especially, but not exclusively, Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes) and to commemorate the victims of their crimes.



This strand also concerns other defining moments and reference points in recent European history. Preference will be given to projects encouraging tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation.

Projects under this strand should

- include different types of organisations (local authorities, NGOs, research institutes etc.)
- develop different types of activities (research, exhibitions, public debates, non–formal education etc.)
- involve citizens from different target groups
- be implemented on a transnational level, or with a clear European dimension
- *Democratic engagement and civic participation – encouraging democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level*

This strand supports

- Activities covering civic participation, focusing in particular on European Union policies.
- Initiatives developing opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural learning, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at EU level.

The strand includes three specific measures:

- ❖ Town twinning – supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns. By mobilising citizens at local and EU levels to debate on concrete issues from the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the EU policy making process and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level.



The maximum eligible grant for a project is 25.000 EUR. The maximum project duration is 21 days.

- ❖ Networks of towns – providing funding to municipalities and associations working together on a common theme in a long term perspective, and wishing to develop networks of towns to make their cooperation more sustainable. The maximum eligible grant for a project is 150.000 EUR. The maximum project duration is 24 months.

**Deadline: 4 June**

**Additional Information:**

Website: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en)

## 2. Erasmus+, 2014–2020

The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. The seven year programme will have a budget of €14.7 billion; a 40% increase compared to current spending levels, reflecting the EU's commitment to investing in these areas. Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe.

It will also support national efforts to modernise Education, Training, and Youth systems. In the field of Sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

The Erasmus+ Programme shall contribute to the achievement of:

- ❖ the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the headline education target;
- ❖ the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), including the corresponding benchmarks;
- ❖ the sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education;
- ❖ the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010–2018);
- ❖ the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU work plan for sport;
- ❖ the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

This call for proposals covers the following actions of the Erasmus+ programme of highly relevance and interest for local/regional authorities:

- ❖ Sport.
  - Collaborative partnerships in the sport field.
  - Not-for-profit European sport events.



In addition, Erasmus+ also supports Actions to strengthen the evidence base for policy making (studies, data gathering, surveys, etc.), to promote the dialogue with relevant European stakeholders (the EU Sport Forum, conferences, meetings, seminars, etc.) and policy dialogue among Member States (EU Presidency events). These Actions will be implemented by the European Commission either directly or through the Executive Agency. For more information, visit the websites of the Commission and of the Executive Agency. The specific objectives pursued by the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of sport are to:

- ❖ tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination;
- ❖ promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;
- ❖ promote voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity, through increased participation in, and equal access to sport for all.

The Actions in the field of sport are expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at European, national, but also at regional and local levels.

**Deadline: 26 June**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index\\_el.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_el.htm)



### 3. Catalytic Fund 2014

Cities Alliance has launched a call for proposals for the 2014 edition of Catalytic Fund (CATF), a Cities Alliance funding instrument which provides grant support for innovative projects that strengthen and promote the role of cities in poverty reduction and in sustainable urban development. This year's edition will be based around the theme: 'Know your city: Information for transformation'.

This topic is in-line with Cities Alliance's approach to promoting better knowledge about cities and to foster innovative and collaborative ways to generate information with view to bridging the engagement, information and accountability gaps between city governments and their citizens.



Projects should therefore cover one of the following key focus areas:

1. Know your city finances and assets
2. Know your citizens
3. Know ALL of your city and its constituencies
4. Know the future potential of your city
5. Know the emerging issues

Project proposals should be limited to US \$50,000 – US \$200,000 and must demonstrate activities that will maintain gender mainstreaming in-line with Cities Alliance's approach.

**Deadline: 30 June**

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/cities-alliance-call-proposals-new-catalytic-fund-2014>

## Business & Development Planning



### Regulations for EU Structural Funds and Project Management

The new Programming Period 2014–2020 holds lots of opportunities to fund innovative ideas and projects. The architecture of European Funds and direct grants continues to offer a wide range of funding opportunities in the member states. However, funding is often not used effectively or it may be denied due to poor planning. Although numerous programmes and initiatives have different features, the development and implementation of projects in practice follow common rules. For EU funded projects, the European Commission requires the use of project cycle management. As a matter of fact, the EU has approved the Regulations for EU Structural Funds and European Programmes that increase the importance of applied project management skills and methods as criteria for selecting beneficiaries. The Regulations see project, program and portfolio management skills as part of the solution to the challenge of authorities involved in the management of control of programs and beneficiaries lacking the proper skills to get projects completed successfully.



In particular, under the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013, and in the framework of the Community-led Development, it is provided that “the tasks of local action groups shall include...building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations including fostering their project management capabilities” (article 34 par.3).

Likewise, under the European Programme COSME, according to its Programme Guide, the Enterprise Europe Network is an important instrument of the European Commission to support the competitiveness and growth of small and medium sized enterprises. The Network staff includes staff members whose 80% of the working time is devoted to project management and coordination (p.14). In addition, the purposes of the monitoring and reporting activities are for project management and external communication (p.41). Finally, staff members acting as Key Account Managers are required, among else, to consult SMEs on change management and project management (p.76).

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



### European Territorial Cooperation Annual Meeting 2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting with the Managing Authorities of the European territorial cooperation programmes took place on 19 and 20 May in Brussels. The meeting highlighted the specific challenges and achievements of cross-border cooperation. The participants also reviewed the implementation of the current territorial cooperation programmes, and addressed the future programming process for 2014–2020.

On the first day, the discussion included main topics related to the 2007–2013 period, such as reporting, shortage of payment and closure. This was also the opportunity to present the new brand/logo developed for INTERREG/ETC to the ETC community.



The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the new period and how to prepare for the INTERREG V period, sharing programmes' experience and presenting the state of play of macro regional and sea basin strategies. The Commission also presented examples of Complementarity Investment for Growth & Jobs and ETC programmes.

#### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/etct2014/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/etct2014/index_en.cfm)

### Istria will be the first Croatian authority to become part of an EGTC

The EGTC Euregio Senza Confini – Ohne Grenzen celebrated on 9 May, Europe Day, an extraordinary Assembly that accepted Istria as new member of the grouping.



The Presidents of the Veneto Region, Luca Zaia, and of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Debora Serrachiani, together with the President of the Land of Carintia Peter Kaiser were hosted by the President of Istria, Valter Flego, in the city Poreč / Poranzo, in presence of the Croatian Minister of Tourism and of the Mayor of the city. Other 30 authorities and representatives of the civil society were present in the assembly. The CoR delivered a technical briefing related to the state of play of the EGTC.

#### Additional Information:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/news/Pages/Istria-will-be-the-first-Croatian-authority-to-become-part-of-an-EGTC.aspx>

## EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

### Municipality of Trikala: CityMobil2

#### (7th Framework Programme for research and technological development)

A meeting to explore the EU legal framework so as to certify automated road transport systems in urban areas, took place on Monday 5 May 2014 in Athens, Greece. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks of the Hellenic Republic, the Municipality of Trikala and the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems, under the auspices of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2014 and the CityMobil2 project.

The meeting was attended by 25 experts from 11 EU Ministries of Transport. The participant countries were Greece, France, Italy, Finland, Spain, Sweden, Germany, UK, Poland, Malta and Cyprus. All expressed their views on the current legal framework, which does not cover the mobility of automated driverless vehicles.



Practical issues, objections and improving proposals were noticed, since all identified that it is a novel procedure which will eventually need the active participation of all 28 EU member states. It was agreed that a consequent series of discussions shall follow, acknowledging that this meeting triggered the initiation of the new trend. On the meeting's closure, all representatives committed to keep trying to explore the legal framework, broadening the discussion to all EU member states.

CityMobil2 is setting up a pilot platform for automated road transport systems, which will be implemented in several urban environments across Europe. Automated transport systems are made up of vehicles operating without a driver in collective mode. They are deemed to play a useful role in the transport mix as they can supply a good transport service (individual or collective) in areas of low or dispersed demand complementing the main public transport network. A dozen local authorities or equivalent sites are in the bidding to be one of the five sites to host a 6-month demonstration. All recognise the potential of vehicle automation as part of their public transport network. Two sets of six vehicles each for the demonstrations will be supplied by two of the five manufacturers within the project. The project will procure the vehicles and make them available to the selected pilot sites for the duration of the demonstrations. CityMobil2 started in September 2012 and will run for 4 years and has 45 partners drawn from system suppliers, city authorities (and local partners), the research community and networking organisations.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.e-trikala.gr/en/node/74>

## International and European Conferences

### World Cities Summit Liveable & Sustainable cities (Singapore, 1–4 June)

The Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore organize a



summit for Liveable & Sustainable cities. The summit will focus on common challenges and cutting-edge solutions for cities.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.worldcitiessummit.com.sg/index1.php>

### Cities managing complexity in the digital world (Zurich, 2–4 June)

Never like nowadays cities have been engaged in such a challenge as managing the complexity of major transformations associated to their wider missions and the increased role of Information and Communication technologies. Citizens press to participate in key decisions that affect the quality of life and wealth. But the City Administration must also at the same time become lean and self sustainable.



The conference will open a discussion on what role politics should play, on how to engage Citizens and gain their trust.

#### Additional information:

<http://www.majorcities.org/conferences/2014-zurich>

### The 2014 Cities of Migration Conference (Berlin, 5–7 May)

Urbanization and migration have created a rich field for experimentation in cities around the world. Local communities are welcoming immigrants and creating the conditions they need to integrate, participate and succeed. Together they can



contribute to shared urban prosperity. Local government and community leaders, practitioners, experts, activists and policy-makers will participate in the 3-day event that explores the practical realities and opportunities created by today's hyper-diversity.

#### Additional Information:

<http://2014conference.citiesofmigration.ca>

### Smart City: the 8th INPUT Conference (Naples, 4–6 June)

The Congress Center of the University of Naples "Federico II" will host the 8th International Conference on Innovation in Urban and Regional Planning, titled Smart City: planning for energy, transportation and sustainability of the urban system, which is jointly organized by the Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering of the University of Naples "Federico II" and by the Department of Engineering of the University of Sannio.

## input 2014

The INPUT conference focuses on models, techniques, and tools used to support planning processes, paying special attention to case-studies and shedding light on issues related to democracy, efficiency, sustainability, and equity in planning.



### Additional information:

<http://www.input2014.it/>

## Digitalising Cities, Innovating Services, Enabling People (Vienna, 10–11 June)

Smarter Cities 2014 provides a unique and dynamic platform that breaks the mould of the standard conference. This event will deliver an Executive Discussion Format are based around informal discussion groups in which everybody participates,



providing a unique environment where ideas, insights and knowledge can be shared. Moreover, each discussion is led by a selection of expert co-chairs who participate no more and no less than anyone else in the room. Discussions **cover** key industry challenges and issues, and run simultaneously, with 3 separate rooms in discussion at any one point.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.smartercitiescon.com/#>

## Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (Athens, 12–13 June)

Since 2010, the Week of Innovative Regions in Europe (WIRE) Conference Series serves as a key instrument in setting the European Regional Agenda and provides the most significant forum for policy dialogue on Regional Strategies, Innovation and Growth. Today, the Conference Series has been established as a key actor in cultivating the debate leading to recommendations for optimal use of policies for regional development.



WIRE 2014 is hosted by the Greek EU Presidency and is being organized by the National Documentation Centre of Greece (EKT) and the European Commission, in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Research and Technology. The Conference is listed as one of the most significant events of the Greek EU Presidency and aims to build on the previous events adding knowledge, debate and expertise for supporting innovation and growth.

### Additional Information:

[www.wire2014.eu](http://www.wire2014.eu)

## Live in a living city (Paris, 23 June)

All over the world today, we are seeing successful initiatives on the theme of the Smart City. These reflect a momentum in the community working in this area and aim to broaden the scope of meetings to build new relationships, share experiences and enhance practices. We are keen to make our own contribution to this underlying trend by promoting



a vision of the “Smart City” of the future, a living and citizen-centric city that makes humans and life, through services and usage, the key focus for our challenges and concerns.

**Additional Information:**

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

### 3rd Global Tourism Cities Conference 2014 (Sabah–Malaysia, 24–25 June)

The 3rd Global Tourism Cities Conference, themed “Tourism City Profiling – A Key Driver for Sustainable Growth”, is one of the leading conferences for tourism industry focusing on tourism cities.



It is expected to bring together 500 odd experts and delegates including city planning and development experts, tourism and hospitality products and services providers, government leaders, policy makers and captains of industry from across the region.

**Additional Information:**

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

### EU economic governance and fiscal decentralisation (Brussels, 24 June)

Many EU Member States are gradually transferring their fiscal and budgetary responsibilities to their regions and cities, which are increasingly feeling the impact of deeper European economic and financial governance. Regional and local authorities are responsible for approximately one third of all public expenditure and two thirds of all public investment in the EU, with both of these figures increasing significantly over the past decade. Moreover, regions and cities play a leading role in terms of implementing and co-financing EU programmes, particularly the European Structural and Investment Funds.



Against this background, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will organise its second conference on the state of sub-national public finances.

The conference will discuss two key issues:

- EU economic governance, the Europe 2020 strategy and the impact on regional and local budgets;
- Trends in fiscal decentralisation and sub-national public finances and investment.

The event is open to national, regional and local members of government, high-level officials and representatives of the EU institutions, banks, financial institutions, international organisations, European associations, businesses and renowned academic experts.

**Additional Information:**

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/forums/Pages/subnational-finances-2014.aspx>

## European Affairs

### The Governance of the Macroregional Strategies

According to the recent report of the European Commission on the Governance of the Macroregional Strategies The Macro-Regional Strategies (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region) are bringing concrete results on the ground, but experience has also revealed obstacles to implementation and changes are needed to improve impact, results and the sustainability of existing and future strategies, in particularly:

- Stronger political leadership and decision making from countries and regions concerned: Ministers and national authorities coordinating the work need to take full ownership, and more clearly direct what is happening on the ground;
- Greater clarity in the organisation of work: For authorities working on day-to-day implementation, there is a need for explicit lines of responsibility, effective coordination and sufficient resources.

Each Macro-Region now has to decide how to respond to the report, which offers recommendations (applicable to all regions) and options that may or may not be relevant in each case. Tailor made solutions are needed for each macro-region, taking into account the regional specifics. Good use should be made of already existing regional organisations, complementing work already done in other formats. It is hoped the result will be better management of the strategies to deliver more results more efficiently.

This Report looks at the existing Strategies at the following levels:

- Political leadership and ownership: Who gives strategic direction? Who takes the major decisions? How to ensure identification with, and communication and accountability of the Strategies?



- Coordination: Who is responsible for overall administrative coordination at participating country (or region) level?
- Implementation: Who should lead day-to-day implementation, who needs to be associated and how should it be supported? How can full involvement of non-EU countries participating in the Strategies be ensured?

Among the proposals included in the report, the most important ones are as such:

- National Contact Points should have the lead in coordination and operational leadership.
- The relevant transnational cooperation programmes and INTERACT should provide targeted facilitation to this key coordination level. Tasks could include conceptual and further developmental work on projects (existing, on-going, planned, and proposed), funding sources, and targets. They should facilitate reporting and publicity.
- Thematic experts and Steering Groups should be the expert drivers of day-to-day implementation. Steering Groups, with members from all involved countries, should be established for all areas. Their role, capacities, resources and engagement is key to success.

#### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/macro\\_region\\_strategy/pdf/gov\\_macro\\_strat\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/macro_region_strategy/pdf/gov_macro_strat_en.pdf)

## The new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The Regulation (EU) no 508/2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund was recently adopted. EMFF is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014–2020. It is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds which complement each other and seek to prioritize a growth and job based recovery in Europe. The fund:

- helps fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing
- supports coastal communities in diversifying their economies
- finances projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts
- makes it easier to access financing.



The Fund is used to co-finance projects, along with national funding.

- Each country is allocated a share of the total Fund budget, based on the size of its fishing industry.
- Each country then draws up an operational programme, saying how it intends to spend the money.
- Once the Commission approves this programme, it is up to the national authorities to decide which projects will be funded.
- The national authorities and the Commission are jointly responsible for the implementation of the programme.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm)

## Cohesion Policy and Local Government

New research from CEMR shows great differences in central–local partnership working across Europe. The ground–breaking study notably found that only a few EU countries fully collaborated with municipalities and regions, when taking crucial decisions on how €352 billion of EU funds should be spent over the next 7 years.

Since January 2014, national governments are legally obliged to create a working partnership with local government when designing and delivering EU funds. The study found that Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and the Netherlands respect this rule to the greatest extent. Denmark is one of the European countries that perform best by signing annual agreements to work with local and regional authorities' representatives.

The study also found however that most of the countries surveyed do not fully respect the EU's rules on central–local partnership working. The CEMR report highlights several cases for example in which central governments do not respect the requirement to provide key documents to local authorities at least ten days ahead of meetings.



In particular, the evidence found shows the following results:

- 4 national governments had 'full partnership working' with local government: Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and the Netherlands (22% of countries surveyed);
- 10 national governments had 'partial partnership working' with local government: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Latvia, Romania, Sweden and United Kingdom (56% of countries surveyed);
- 4 national government had 'very limited 'partnership working' with local government: Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia and Slovenia (22% of countries surveyed).

**Additional Information:**

[http://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/file\\_name/CEMR\\_report\\_structural\\_funds\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/file_name/CEMR_report_structural_funds_EN.pdf)

### The Eighth Award of the European Prize for Urban Public Space

The results of the eighth award of the European Prize for Urban Public Space have been made public following the prize-giving ceremony on 25 April at the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona. The Prize's international jury, consisting of representatives from the six institutions that participate with the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB) in organising the Prize, has decided on 25 finalists, amongst which it has awarded two ex aequo prizes and four Special Mentions.



The Renovation of the old port of Marseille and the braided valley of Elche were the joint winners of the award. On the one hand, the renovation of the Vieux-Port of Marseille clears the docks of visual and architectural barriers, thus making the presence of leisure boats compatible with access and enjoyment of all citizens. On the other hand, a network of interlaced paths and footbridges in Elche has transformed the bed of the Vinalopó River into a linear park that stitches together the neighbourhoods through which it passes, connecting them with natural spaces to the north of the city.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.publicspace.org/en/post/results-of-the-eighth-award-of-the-european-prize-for-urban-public-space>

### Smart Cities and Communities: Invitation for Commitment

Cities are the major source of European economic activity and innovation. Every city is unique but also struggles with similar issues such as congestion, air pollution, raising energy costs etc. Smart urban technologies and services offer enormous prospects in this regard. However, greater concerted action between cities, industry, innovative SMEs, research organisations and civil society actors is needed to accelerate their roll-out. This is the core intention of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Smart Cities and Communities. This Invitation for Commitments (*deadline 15/06/2014*) invites all stakeholders, to step forward and support the objectives of the EIP by communicating and sharing their ideas and plans for actions at the interface of energy, transport and information and communication technologies. We welcome existing initiatives as well as ambitions for the future.



Bringing together innovative ideas and actions from across Europe this way will help develop a dynamic market place for innovation exchange and partnering to the benefit of cities, citizens and companies. The Invitation for Commitments is distinct and independent from Calls under Horizon 2020; it is not a funding instrument. Often, cities or companies have good ideas but struggle to find the right partners. This leads to delays and creates additional costs. Becoming part of the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities is all about finding the right partners, facilitating synergies between city authorities and companies together with other stakeholders so that also access to finance becomes facilitated. Submitting a commitment offers several opportunities for learning, partnering, efficiency gains and new creation of new business:

- promote your actions on a European scale
- engage with others to get new ideas and feedback on your actions
- learn from others and exchanges best practices
- partner with others to jointly achieve more and create cost savings or new business

Also, we encourage members of networks such as the Green Digital Charter, the Covenant of Mayors, the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform as well as CIVITAS to respond to this invitation.

#### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/about-partnership/how-do-i-get-involved/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/about-partnership/how-do-i-get-involved/index_en.htm)

## Capitalisation of the Interreg IVC Projects

Over the last seven years, the INTERREG IVC programme brought together over 2000 public institutions from all over Europe to 'learn through cooperation'. 204 different interregional projects helped them improve their regional policies. Hundreds of individual examples now exist of how a region or city has built on the experiences of their counterparts elsewhere to enhance their own policy and delivery strategies. In June 2012, the programme commissioned a team of thematic experts to analyse, benchmark, and capitalise on the wealth of knowledge generated by projects working on similar regional development issues.



Analyses and benchmarking of more than 100 INTERREG IVC projects are available in 12 reports on the capitalisation policy themes. They offer a detailed insight into the knowledge gathered by the projects as well as tailor-made recommendations for policymakers and practitioners at all levels – regional, national and European.

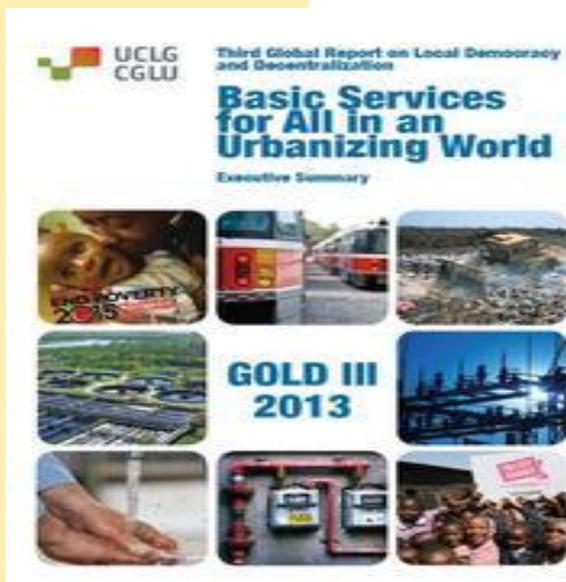
#### Additional Information:

<http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/publications/>

## International Affairs

### 3rd UCLG report on Local Democracy and Decentralization

Basic Services for All in an Urbanizing World is UCLG's third Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD III). GOLD III report highlights the urgent need to provide basic services the planet's cities, whose population is set to grow by one and a half billion people over the next 15 years. The full report will be published on June 17th 2014.



The report finds that the responsibility for the provision of basic services often falls to local and regional governments, and that "improvements to basic services are positively correlated with local government involvement in their provision." The report criticizes the Millennium Development Goal targets for assessing who has 'improved' water and sanitation by applying the same definitions to vastly different rural and urban contexts. It also points out that the monitoring of the MDGs at national level hides significant variation in their achievement within countries.

#### Additional Information:

[http://file://uclgfs01.uclg.int/Intranet/Document%20Library/Programmes/GOLD/GOLD%203/Marketing/issuu.com/uclgclgu/docs/re\\_gold\\_eng](http://file://uclgfs01.uclg.int/Intranet/Document%20Library/Programmes/GOLD/GOLD%203/Marketing/issuu.com/uclgclgu/docs/re_gold_eng)

### IBM Unleashes New Tools to Accelerate Data-Driven Cities

IBM announced that the cities of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Montpellier, France, are working with IBM to make data-driven decisions to rapidly transform the way they provide water, transportation and emergency management. These and other cities around the world are increasingly using data to make better decisions and allocate resources to sense and respond to challenges in city infrastructure. From improving traffic management, responding rapidly to incidents, using effective communication channels with citizens and ensuring sustainable natural resources, data and analytics are providing new insight t. As a result of helping create thousands of Smarter Cities, IBM has isolated the most pressing challenges and is bringing together a new way to help municipalities use Big Data and analytics via the cloud to improve economics and address the strategic issues that are critical to their future.



The availability of three new cloud-based Smarter Cities management centers for transportation, water and emergency management announced today serve as a springboard for development to allow cities to quickly begin to use their own data, as well as open data, to attain new insight into citizen services and improve decision making for city leaders. For citizens, this means improved access to city services, the ability to predict and respond to situations before they impact the daily lives of people, and enabling better feedback to empower citizens.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/44034.wss>

## Consultations



### First draft of the new Block Exemption Regulation applicable to the fishery and aquaculture sector

The purpose of the consultation is to collect the views of citizens and stakeholders on a first draft of the new Block Exemption Regulation applicable to the fishery and aquaculture sector (FIBER). Block exemption regulations aim to simplify aid granting procedures for Member States by authorising without prior notification a range of measures fulfilling horizontal common interest objectives.

The previous FIBER expired on 31 December 2013. The general philosophy of the new draft FIBER remains the same, which is to exempt from the notification requirement aid to SMEs for certain measures which would have met the conditions to be eligible under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The new FIBER will also apply to aid to make good the damage caused by national disasters independently of the size of the beneficiary.

The review has to be put in the context of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The State aid instruments specific to the fishery and aquaculture sector have to be reviewed to reflect the priorities and objectives of the CFP, including the contents of the EMFF.

The review is also part of the State aid Modernisation (SAM) initiative of the European Commission.

**Submission deadline: 4 June**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/block-exemption-regulation-1/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/block-exemption-regulation-1/index_en.htm)

### Seabed Mining

Today commercial scale seabed mining operations are limited to shallow water. Most of this concerns the extraction of aggregates – sand and gravel – for the construction industry and for nourishing beaches. Other material extracted from shallow water down to about 500 metres depth includes tin, phosphates, iron ore and diamonds. The technologies involved include dredging, vacuum pumps and Remotely Operated Vehicles. Deep seabed mining has been arousing interest since the 1960s but no commercial mining activity has yet begun. However, in the last decade interest has increased.

The regulations governing such activities depend on whether they take place inside or outside the jurisdictional waters of a sovereign state.

According to the UN Law of the Sea a country enjoys exclusive sovereign rights to explore its continental shelf and exploit the natural resources, including mineral resources from it. Mining activities in this area are subject to the country's internal legislation. For EU countries, this legislation may include obligations agreed at EU level, such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.

This consultation aims to gather opinions concerning these developments in order to help the EU develop its position.

**Submission deadline: 16 June**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/seabed-mining/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/seabed-mining/index_en.htm)

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



### Europe on the Internet – Finding your Way through the European Information Jungle

Date: 5–6 June

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5506>

### Understanding EU Decision-Making: Principles, Procedures, Practice

Date: 12–13 June

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5449>

### Summer School on Leadership and Governance in a Multilevel Europe: Empowering the Local Level

Date: 16–20 June

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5473>

### The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the Balanced Scorecard (BSC)

Date: 18–20 June

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5456>

### Recent Developments in European Public Procurement and Case Law

Date: 19–20 June

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5403>

### Delivering better SME and Enterprise Support through EU Programmes and Policies

Date: 26–27 June

Location: Brussels

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5518>

### The Public Service in Times of Crisis: What Skills and Competencies are Needed and How to Effectively Manage Them?

Date: 30 June–1 July

Location: Brussels

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5437>

### State Aid Seminar for Regional and Local Authorities

Date: 30 June–1 July

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5445>

### Summer School on EU Economic Integration and Local & Regional Development

Date: 30 June–1 July

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5487>

### Managing the EU Policy Cycle: A Comprehensive One-Week Course on EU Decision-Making in Practice

Date: 30 June–4 July

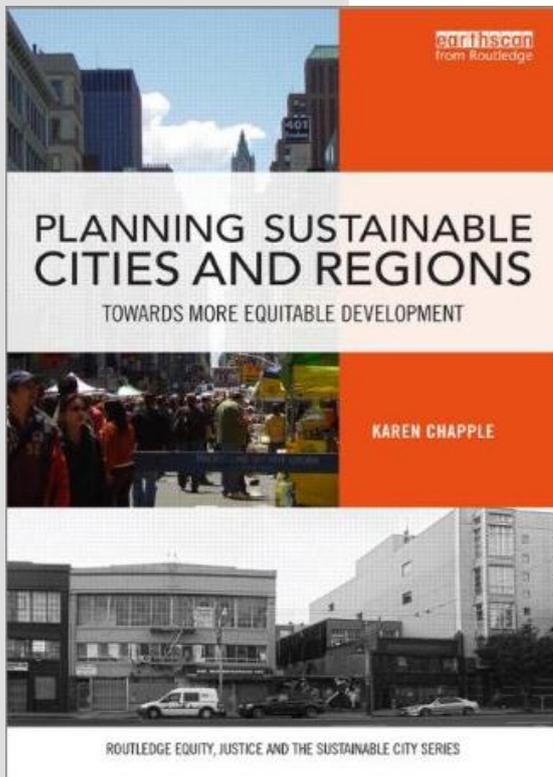
Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5520>

## The Library of Local Government

### Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions: Towards More Equitable Development



Pages: 304

K. Chapple

Publisher: Routledge, 2014 (forthcoming)

As global warming advances, regions around the world are engaging in revolutionary sustainability planning – but with social equity as an afterthought. California is at the cutting edge of this movement, not only because its regulations actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also because its pioneering environmental regulation, market innovation, and Left Coast politics show how to blend the "three Es" of sustainability--environment, economy, and equity. Planning Sustainable Cities and Regions is the first book to explain what this grand experiment tells us about the most just path moving forward for cities and regions across the globe.

## CREATIVE CITIES

### Innovation in Greek Local Government



Antonios Karvounis  
Dimitrios Tzanakis

### CREATIVE CITIES Innovation in Greek Local Government

LAP LAMBERT  
Academic Publishing

Pages: 180

A. Karvounis & D. Tzanakis

Publisher: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2012

The 'creative cities' paradigm sets out a place that is imaginative comprehensively. It has a creative bureaucracy, creative individuals, organizations, schools, universities and much more. The key to restoring long-term growth is our ability to innovate. By investing smart, local governments can buffer the downturn, accelerate recovery and lay the foundations for strong and sustainable growth. Innovation has never been more important for local authorities. In this context, while councils are grappling to cope with recession and the impact of financial crisis worldwide, this book, on the one hand, presents some of the most internationally well known creative city strategies that have obviously improved citizen's quality of life at local level and have enhanced local economy and development. On the other hand, this work places particular emphasis on the Greek experience of creative initiatives and innovations at the local level.

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