



EDITORIAL

In view of the adoption of the new regulations of the competitive European programmes 2014–2020 by the European Parliament, a recent report of the ESPON on European Territorial Cooperation highlights the unleashed potentials of local and regional authorities in this field: “By strategically considering comparative advantages, and by taking into account the global competition and connections of today, neighbouring regions and cities can gain from joining forces. In addition, actors involved in territorial cooperation should give priority to such strategic and place-based cooperation with the aim of exploring common strengths together and achieve an added value that cannot be achieved by the individual regions and cities in isolation”. Considering these findings, it’s a pity that *Regions of Knowledge*, of the Capacities programme of FP7, is not included in Commission’s proposals for Horizon 2020. Regions of Knowledge programme was specifically aimed at strengthening the research potential of European regions through bringing together universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities. After all, strengthening the capacity of regions to invest in research and innovation activities is vital if Europe is to succeed in its fight for growth and jobs. Stronger regional innovation capabilities are desperately needed to boost local employment by developing local business capability to expand into new markets.

European Funding Programmes

Call for Proposals-Deadlines

1. European Youth Foundation: Grants for International Youth Activities

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. It aims to encourage co-operation amongst young people in Europe by providing financial support to youth activities. It concerns activities, which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. The EYF provides financial support to the following types of activity undertaken by youth NGOs or networks, or by other NGOs involved in the areas of youth work relevant to the Council of Europe's youth policies and work:



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- educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character;
- activities aiming at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe;
- activities designed to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing the exchange of information;
- activities intended to stimulate mutual aid in Europe and in the developing countries for cultural, educational and social purposes;
- studies, research and documentation on youth matters.

Currently, the EYF supports the following operations:

(a) International activity – including meetings of young people or youth leaders in Europe in order to promote participation and intercultural learning. The EYF will cover up two-thirds of the total cost. Maximum grant: 20,000€.

(b) Annual work plan – including a series of activities for the following year(s), international activities, pilot activities and also publication (including web development). These activities would be part of and support your NGO's strategy or action plan for the coming years. Maximum grant: 50,000€.

(c) Structural grant – The European Youth Foundation, on an annual basis, grants international non-governmental youth organisations or networks a contribution to cover part of the general administrative costs involved in running their activities at European level. Maximum annual grant: 25,000€.

Applicants must represent either an international non-governmental youth organisation or network, a national or local non-governmental youth organisation or network, or non-governmental structures involved in youth work, from the Council of Europe member states.

Deadline: 1 October 2013

Additional Information:

EYF European Youth Foundation

Directorate of Youth and Sport

Council of Europe

30 rue Pierre de Coubertin

F-67000 Strasbourg

Tηλ: +33 3 88 41 20 19

Fax: +33 3 90 21 49 64

Email: eyf@coe.int

Web: <http://www.coe.int/web/european-youth-foundation/grants-available>

2. European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe

The European Youth Centres (EYCs) in Strasbourg and Budapest are permanent structures for the implementation of the Council of Europe's youth policy. They are international training and meeting centres with residential facilities, hosting most of the youth sector's activities. They provide a flexible and modern working environment for international activities, with meeting rooms equipped for simultaneous interpretation, information centres, audio-visual and computer facilities.



Eligible activities:

1. Study sessions

- address an issue of contemporary European societies from the point of view of young people, or matters affecting young people and their organisations;
- the theme of the study session is proposed and developed by the applying organisation and should contribute to development of the work priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector
- minimum duration of 4 working days and a maximum of 8 working days
- participants coming from one country must not exceed 20% of the total number of participants. Up to 15% of all participants may come from non-member countries
- study sessions may normally be held in two working languages with simultaneous interpretation
- majority of participants must be under 30 years of age

2. Symposia

Symposia are activities addressing themes and matters of common concern and interest for both the governmental and non-governmental partners of the Directorate of Youth and Sport. Symposia are aimed at knowledge production and contributing to the youth policy development of the Council of Europe.



3. Special projects are activities of an innovative character which fall outside the scope of the study sessions and symposia.

All activities should:

- show a commitment to a European society respectful of its citizens' rights and freedoms and tolerant of their diversity;
- aim to reach synergies (multiplying effect) on local, regional, national and/or European level;
- relate to youth problems and concerns;
- be an experience in participation and planned intercultural learning;
- be part of the overall strategy of the applicant organisation, and the results of the activity should be followed up in the organisation's long-term planning;

Eligible applicants:

- European/International non-governmental youth organisations with partners or branches in at least 8 European countries ;
- European formal or informal networks of youth organisations and other non-governmental youth structures bringing together partners from at least 8 European countries;
- Sub-regional networks of youth organisations and/or national youth councils and structures involved in youth work, bringing together at least 5 neighbouring countries

Deadline: 1 October 2013

Additional Information:

European Youth Centres

Council of Europe

30 rue Pierre de Coubertin, F – 67000 Strasbourg

Email: youth@coe.int

Webh:http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/European_Youth_Centres_en.asp

3. Life Long Learning, 2007–2013

The Programme for EU Action in the Field of Lifelong Learning (the Lifelong Learning Programme – LLP) aims to contribute through lifelong learning to the development of the EU as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. In particular, it aims to foster interchange, co-operation and mobility between education and training institutions and systems within the EU so that they may become a world quality reference. In this way, it addresses the modernisation and adaptation of education and training systems in the participating countries, particularly in the context of the goals set out in the EU 2020 Strategy, and brings European added value directly to individual citizens participating in its mobility and other co-operation actions. The LLP runs for seven years (2007–2013). The total budget for this period is EUR 6.970 million. Currently, eligible organisations can apply for the call Implementation of the European strategic objectives in education and training ('ET 2020') (stakeholder cooperation, experimentation and innovation).

The general objective of the current call for proposals within the transversal "Key Activity 1: Policy Co-operation and Innovation in Lifelong Learning (LL)" complements the sub-programmes of the Lifelong Learning programme (2007–2013) by supporting policy development and cooperation at EU level in LL, by ensuring an adequate supply of comparable data, statistics and analyses to underpin LL policy development, by monitoring progress towards objectives and targets in LL and by identifying areas for particular attention.



The transversal programme pursues activities that cut across two or more sub-programmes. Currently, it supports study visits for experts and officials designated by national, regional and local authorities, for directors of education and training establishments and guidance and experience in accreditation services, and for social partners. The aim of the study visits is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience between decision-makers and educational specialists in areas of common interest to participating countries, especially in the fields of pre-primary, primary or general, technical and vocational secondary education. A study visit is a short-term visit of three to five days for a small group (8–15 people) of specialists and decision makers representing various groups of education and vocational training stakeholders with the purpose of examining a particular aspect of lifelong learning in another participating country. The visits are organised locally or regionally under the coordination at the national level by the National agency and at the European level by Cedefop on behalf of the Commission. Study visits will examine the themes from:

- a general education perspective,
- a vocational education and training perspective,
- a comprehensive lifelong learning perspective.

Deadline: 15 October 2013

Additional Information:

The full text of the 'LLP General Call for proposals 2011–2013 — Strategic Priorities 2013', together with the 'LLP Programme Guide 2013' and the information on the availability of application forms can be found at the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/official-documents-on-the-llp_en.htm



4. European Green Capital 2016

Europe is an urban society, with many environmental challenges to face. The European Commission has long recognised the important role that local authorities play in improving the environment, and their high level of commitment to genuine progress. The European Green Capital Award has been conceived as an initiative to promote and reward these efforts.

The European Green Capital Award is the result of an initiative taken by 15 European cities (Tallinn, Helsinki, Riga, Vilnius, Berlin, Warsaw, Madrid, Ljubljana, Prague, Vienna, Kiel, Kotka, Dartford, Tartu & Glasgow) and the Association of Estonian cities on 15 May 2006 in Tallinn, Estonia. Their green vision was translated into a joint Memorandum of Understanding establishing an award to recognise cities that are leading the way with environmentally friendly urban living. To view the memorandum please click [here](#). The initiative was launched by the European Commission in 2008. It is important to reward cities which are making efforts to improve the urban environment and move towards healthier and sustainable living areas. Progress is its own reward, but the satisfaction involved in winning a prestigious European award spurs cities to invest in further efforts and boosts awareness within the city as well as in other cities.



The overarching message that the award scheme aims to communicate to the local level is that Europeans have a right to live in healthy urban areas. Cities should therefore strive to improve the quality of life of their citizens and reduce their impact on the global environment. This message is brought together in the Award's slogan "Green cities - fit for life".

The European Green Capital Award is open to EU Member States, Candidate Countries (Turkey, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia and Iceland) and European Economic Area countries (Norway and Liechtenstein). All cities from the countries listed above which have more than 100,000 inhabitants can apply for the award (in countries where there is no city with more than 100,000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply). In this context, a "city" is understood to be an urban area, excluding metropolitan areas, larger urban zones and conurbations, and is understood as an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body. Past winners may not apply for a period of ten years after they held the European Green Capital title.

All applications received are assessed by the Expert Panel. The panel's final report is submitted to the Jury who shortlist a number of cities. The shortlisted cities are invited to present their vision, action plan and communication strategy to the Jury. Following these presentations the Jury will deliberate and the European Green Capital 2016 will be announced at an award ceremony in June 2014.

Deadline: 31 October 2013

Additional Information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/applying-for-the-award/index.html>



An initiative of the
European Commission



Business & Development Planning



The Business Case for Strategic Planning in Municipal and Regional Governments

If only we had done this two years ago, we would have been working closer together as an organization.

This statement reflected the frustration that members of both the (elected) County Council and the (hired) County Staff and Managers were feeling at the end of a strategic planning workshop that we recently completed in Eastern Ontario.

This wasn't the first strategic planning process this County had been through, but the background issues were such that repeating the same process would not have worked for them. Leading the participants through a different approach proved to be exactly what was needed to break the logjam that was holding them back.

After running a number of these planning sessions with Municipal and Regional governments lately, and, through repetition, Allen Black (Delta Partners Management Consultants) finds that a number of valid outcomes emerge that should encourage leaders at this level to initiate a strategic planning process that results in a Five-Year Strategic Plan:

- Provides the corporation with better control over external forces.
- Serves as a decision making and resource allocation tool.
- Brings everyone in the corporation together so that they are on the same page, in turn

creating alignment between Council and Management.

- Raises Council's awareness of current issues and operations.
- Creates a document suitable for public relations.
- Increases morale within the corporation and develops a sense of trust and cohesion.
- Relates the corporation's capacity to community need.

Whatever the story, Council, Staff, and community stakeholders will need convincing of the benefits of a Strategic Plan before they will be convinced to take action.

Strategic planning is the process by which a municipality or region envisions its future and develops the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future. The problem is about finding ways to integrate the longer-term vision and plans with the shorter-term strategic action plans.

As any complex organization attempts to move forward, two competing agendas will emerge. We refer to one as the "Sustaining Agenda" and the other as the "Change Agenda".

The Sustaining Agenda is about continuing on with what has always been done. Certainly there is always room to create efficiency and streamline processes, but essentially it is about continuing the business of the corporation – what it does and how it does it. But please don't take this as a dismissive statement! In most cases the activities and processes that are in place are there because they are critical to the functioning of the community – think ambulances and snow plows. The Sustaining Agenda is driven by the Mission Statement, and answers the question, "Why are we here?"



In contrast, the Change Agenda addresses the question, "Where do we want to go?" The Vision Statement drives the effort to develop strategies that meet new and emerging issues of significance that impact heavily on the corporation's operations. Unfortunately, many stakeholders hold the view that these two are mutually exclusive. There are many reasons for this, but the most common is that limited financial and human resources – mixed with a heavy dose of risk aversion – require that a 'zero sum' approach to evaluating outcomes be invoked.

However, the reality of the situation is that one feeds into the other. As the processes and improvements of the Change Agenda become ingrained within the operations of the corporation, they eventually become part of the Sustaining Agenda. And, where continuous improvement is a priority, the new Sustaining Agenda will drive the Change Agenda forward. The focus should be on improving the performance of the region or municipality through an approach that makes clear who owns the Sustaining Agenda and who owns the Change Agenda, what resources will be available to each, and how the performance of each will be evaluated.



These issues are thorny and typically carry a lot of emotional baggage. This means that we must create an environment of trust and open communication to give them the space to deal frankly with the "Elephants in the Room". When done properly, the Strategic Plan bridges the two and brings focus to strategies and action plans. It clearly identifies obstacles and sets out what needs to be worked on in the next 3 – 5 years to realize the strategic vision. Performance Measurement provides the underlying support for tracking strategy, creating a reporting methodology, and provides a means of evaluating ongoing progress. The basic steps of the strategic planning process include information gathering through document review and consultations (stakeholder engagement), information analysis, identification of critical issues facing the organization, development of a strategic vision, mission review/revision, and development of strategic directions and strategies.

The Practical Vision – determining the practical picture of the corporation's desired future for the next three to five-year planning period.

- The Underlying Obstacles – uncovering the underlying obstacles that will prevent the realization of the strategic vision.
- The Strategic Directions – proposing strategies to deal with the underlying obstacles.
- The Action Plans – developing the substantial actions required to carry out the priority Strategic Directions.

EU funded actions of Greek Local Authorities

Municipality of Andros: Sustainable Energy Planning and Multilevel Governance – SMILEGOV (Intelligent Energy – Europe (IEE))

The project was built on the idea that cooperation between different levels of governance of islands (i.e. National, regional, local) can have a key role to play towards reaching the 20–20–20 EU goals in the area of energy and climate change. Municipality of Andros participates in the project as member of DAPHNI, the national coordinator of the SmileGov in Greece.

Capacity building in order to enable insular communities to develop Sustainable Energy Action Plans is also an important aspect of the project, as is the expansion and adoption of the Pact of Islands to smaller island communities.

Sustainable energy planning at local level is one of island activities that can greatly benefit from effective multilevel governance. Especially, when it comes to island communities this role proves to be crucial for the balanced development of the island, the resources management, the economic growth and the quality of life for the citizens and visitors.

SMILEGOV, based on success stories and close European cooperation will strengthen local capacity and work towards the improvement of multilevel cooperation in European islands aiming to facilitate the implementation of their Sustainable Energy Action Plans towards the EU 20–20–20 goals



The engaged islands will immensely benefit from the project as the latter will:

- Create clusters of islands working together to overcome multilevel governance barriers in sustainable energy planning and project implementation.
- Enhance effective co-operation between different levels of administration and decision making.
- Develop capacity within island authorities to develop and implement Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans (ISEAPs), and sustainable projects with the view to meet their CO₂ reduction targets.
- Expand the number of signatories to the Pact of Islands.

SMILEGOV aspires to examine the challenges and the barriers (institutional, legal and regulatory) of multilevel governance facing European island communities in their efforts to promote and implement sustainable energy actions and bankable projects. In particular, SMILEGOV aims at maturing 50 bankable sustainable projects in the island regions, by taking significant steps towards their implementation.

Additional Information:

Website: <http://www.sustainableislands.eu/>



International and European Conferences

4th Congress of Local and Regional Governments (Rabat, 1–4 October)

Due to the high tension of the current context, marked by the economic crisis and the reduced resources, local and regional authorities are pushed to imagine new ways of development for their territories with increased

RABAT
2013
1-4 OCTOBER

World Summit
of Local and Regional Leaders
4th UCLG Congress
**IMAGINE SOCIETY,
BUILD DEMOCRACY**

solidarity and sustainability. In view of this, topics such as improving the quality of life, managing diversity, solidarity between territories or generally mastering the urban future, will mark the debates and exchanges of this Congress.

Additional Information:

<http://www.rabat2013.uclg.org/>

Frontiers of Planning (Brisbane, 1–4 October)

Founded in 1965, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) has grown to become a



global network of city and regional planners, creating and sharing knowledge for better cities. ISOCARP's main event is the annual World Congress, which focuses on a planning theme of foremost international interest.

Additional Information:

<http://www.isocarp.org/index.php?id=1376>

Livable Cities 2013 (Penang, 2–5 October)

The objectives of this conference are to give an opportunity to academicians, researchers, urban planners, architects, engineers, sociologists, geographers, scientists, post-graduates, and those involved in housing, building and planning industries to discuss issues such as Smart and



Knowledge City, Vehicle-Free City Concept, Heritage Buildings, Energy Efficiency Issues etc.

Additional Information:

<http://iwlc2013.blogspot.co.nz/>

'Virtual City and Territory' (Rome, 2–4 October)

The sense of the place has changed. What are the "precautions" be taken in the different "landscapes" that make up our cities and territories in the era of globalization and virtualization of reality? About all this, the 9th Congress of Virtual City and Territory "City Memory People".



The 9th Congress "Virtual City and Territory. CITY PEOPLE MEMORY" is organized by the Faculty of Architecture of the Roma Tre University and will focus on sustainable mobility and infrastructure, energy and smart cities, urban regeneration, archaeology, conservation, culture and environment, climate, citizenship and participation, health, public safety and urban policies.

Additional Information:

<http://www.9cvtroma2013.com/en/index.html>

**World Congress of the International
Solid Waste Association
(Vienna, 7–11 October)**

The congress offers you the opportunity to attend scientific presentations, to visit the poster exhibition and company booths, and to take tours of modern



companies in order to update your knowledge on the latest trends and developments in waste management. This event provides you with the perfect setting for knowledge exchange, as well as maintaining contacts and establishing new ones.

Additional Information:

<http://www.iswa2013.org/EN/StartpageEN.aspx>

**11th European Week of Regions and Cities
(Brussels, 7–10 October)**

During 2014–2020, cohesion policy will have to tackle the challenges of the current economic situation and to meet the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy. It will have to capitalise on the strengths of the EU's regions and cities to a greater extent and target its investment to growth enhancing projects in a sustainable manner. In order to reflect the need for such a change and the momentum before the start of the new programming period, OPEN DAYS 2013 will be organised around the following three themes:

- Managing change 2014–2020;
- Synergies and cooperation;
- Challenges and solutions.



One hundred workshops/debates and two associated events will be organised in Brussels by the Commission, the Committee of the Regions, 200 regions regrouped in 25 regional partnerships and other partners. In addition, some 400 local events are expected to be launched between September and November all over Europe. Besides, an exhibition entitled '100 EUrban solutions' is being planned, which will comprise displays inside the Committee of the Regions and numerous regional partners' offices, as well as an outdoor section linking them, organised by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy.

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2013/index.cfm

Towards a European Model of a Sustainable City (Brussels, 9 October)

The conference will offer practical solutions for advancing integrated urban development at the local



level, as well as encourage an exchange of experience between European cities working with the RFSC toolkit.

Additional Information:

<http://www.rfsc-community.eu/events/rfsc-conference-2013/>

Immigration and Global City (Chicago, 10–12 October)

Cities have always been gateways to new dreams. For past and present global migrants, ethnic enclaves beckon with foods, houses of worship, and shops that provide the atmosphere of home, and buffer the transition to hybrid identity. But how does the im-



migration experience differ today from that of the past? How do economic, political and social issues impact the urban immigrant experience? The International Conference in Chicago will explore immigrant life in cities.

Additional Information:

<http://www.aglsp.org/archives/1207>

Urbanisation and Architecture (Düsseldorf, 10–12 October)

While postwar reconstruction has its share of merely functional, unimaginative, and dull architecture, political and economic events of the past twenty years have brought about a stunning transformation in Düsseldorf.



With a population of less than 600,000, Düsseldorf serves as a focus of the conference on urbanization and architecture.

Additional Information:

<http://aiaeurope.org/events/2013/Dusseldorf/#program>

European Local Democracy Week (14–20 October)

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has identified active citizenship as the main theme of the seventh edition of the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW). Partners are encouraged to promote awareness of the responsibilities that are incumbent on each individual in a democratic society, in particular within the local community, whether as an elected representative, local administrator, public servant or ordinary citizen.





More than 130 local and regional authorities and partner associations have registered for actively participating in European Local Democracy Week. Among them, 17 towns and cities chose to organise the Week as “12 Star City”. They are organising more than 150 activities with their citizens. “12 Star City” include this year: Metz and Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium), Chania and Festos (Greece) Reggio Calabria Province and Mola di Bari (Italy), Utrecht (Netherlands), Katowice (Poland), Amadora (Portugal), Candelaria and Malaga (Spain), Sundbyberg, Örebro and Huddinge (Sweden) and Büyükçekmece and Lüleburgaz (Turkey). The growing interest of associations in this initiative, especially youth councils, as well as the number of participants who are marking their first participation this year, confirms the vision for the promotion of ELDW back in 2007. It is a sustainable and concrete measure for local democracy and citizen participation.

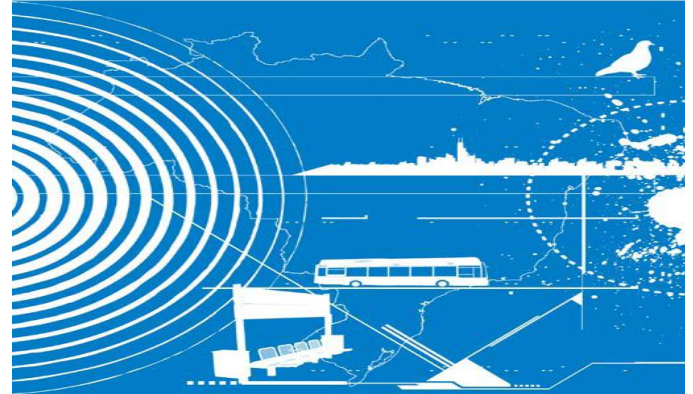
ELDW leads to a better involvement of citizens in public life and interaction with local authorities, testing citizens’ acquaintance with the participatory tools and their trust in local institutions, improving social cohesion and respect of the others in the community, taking part in a network of European municipalities and regions keen to improve local democracy in their place and across Europe.

Additional Information:

http://www.coe.int/t/congress/demoweb/default_en.asp

The Idea of Creative City (Cracow, 17–18 October)

The Department of European Studies at the Cracow University of Economics and the Jagiellonian Club are pleased to announce the international



conference on the Idea of Creative City in order to overview and assess the concept “creative cities” and its implementations through an exploration of particular cases from all over the world, which can highlight potentials and pitfalls of putting the theoretical idea into practice.

Additional Information:

<http://creativecommons.uek.krakow.pl/>

Cross Border and Regional Spatial Planning (Basel, 17–19 October)

Cross-border urban and regional planning is a typical European topic. Spatial developments in densely populated Europe do not stop at territorial limits of city regions. The International Building Exhibition IBA Basel seeks to realize best-practice solutions for such cooperation until 2020.



During this symposium solutions for cross-border planning based on case studies will be presented and discussed among experts.

Additional Information:

<http://www.iba-basel.net/fr/actualites/congrès-cross-border-planning.html>

The New Frontiers of Energy Efficiency (Paris, 17–18 October)

Greencity 2013 is a place for exchanging ideas and engaging in discussions dedicated to the sustainable city and its participants.



This year's version of this flagship Grand Paris event will highlight the international projects and partnerships that will make it possible to build the city of tomorrow.

Additional Information:

<http://www.greencity-event.com/>

**Greening Cities
(Hyderabad, 21–23 October)**

The 6th EuroIndia Summit on “Greening Cities” will focus on the following key themes such as smart &



Inclusive Cities, Waste Management, Sustainable Urban Mobility, Water Management, Energy Efficiency

& Security, Greening Cities in Heritage Context, Human Resources and Capacity Building.

Additional Information:

<http://www.the-euroindia-centre.org/content/6thEuroIndiaSummit.aspx>

**Thriving Neighbourhoods
(Melbourne, 28–30 October)**

Thriving neighbourhoods are not only sustainable and livable: they are vibrant places where communities are resilient, healthy and productive, and where the natural environment is flourishing.



TN 2013 will examine the strategies and tools that can create thriving neighbourhoods.

Additional Information:

<http://www.thrivingneighbourhoods.org/>

**New Instruments
of the new Cohesion Policy
(Munich, 28–30 October)**

The conference organized by the European Training Centre in Paris on the new instruments of the new



cohesion policy is addressed to all MA and national, EU Actors working on Cohesion Policy.

Additional Information:

<http://www.etcfr/en/new-instruments-conference-munich>

European Affairs

Financing Cross-border Digital Public Services

Europe faces numerous barriers in effective delivery of public services across borders. When it comes to electronic proceedings even more obstacles are present in relation to semantics, organization, technology and law. Without achieving interoperability among European public administrations delivering European public services to European citizens and businesses will be difficult, if not impossible. In order to tackle this problem, the Large Scale Pilots have been launched by the European Commission to develop basic solutions for several different domains such as e-Justice, Business Start-up, eHealth, eProcurement. The e-SENS ("Electronic Simple European Networked Services") project is a new Large Scale Pilot launched within the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP), under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). The aim of the project is to develop an infrastructure for interoperable public services in Europe. It will support the creation of a Digital Single Market by facilitating the delivery and usage of electronic public services.

Who will benefit?

- Member States will receive technical solutions to create interoperable, efficient, high quality public services,
- Industry will access open source solutions to be used in their own business services,



*moving
services
forward.eu*



- Citizens and entrepreneurs will reap the benefits from public services which will improve their freedom of moving, living and doing business within the EU.

E-SENS will continue to learn from the experiences of previous LSPs as well as Member States and associated countries to ensure the use of best practices and consideration of national requirements. e-SENS will consolidate, improve and extend the solutions developed in order to create general purpose components that can be extended to other domains. The consortium is composed of 22 beneficiaries representing 18 European countries, as well as Norway and Turkey. The total number of partners involved in the project is 100.

The essence of the e-SENS project is to consolidate and solidify the work done, to industrialise the solutions and to extend their potential to more domains. The focus will be put on core building blocks such as e-ID, e-Documents, e-Delivery, semantics and e-Signatures. The building blocks of the existing Large Scale Pilots will be consolidated, improved and their usage extended.

Furthermore, these building blocks aim to provide the foundation for a networked infrastructure for cross-border services in the EU – the platform of "core services" for the eGovernment cross-border digital infrastructure foreseen in the draft regulation for implementing the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

As a result, e-SENS will unlock the potential of public cross-border services and define the standards to enable it by:

- improving technical certainty, whether doing business nationally or across borders, and paving the way to overcome the legal barriers in Europe,



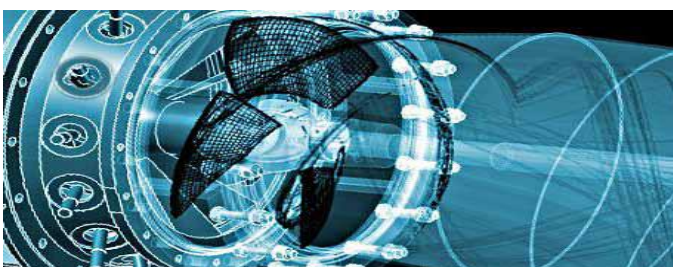
- improving overall efficiency and effectiveness, leading to more user self-service in a complex environment, which will result in a more efficient government that will save taxpayer's money,
- making it easier for national companies to do business abroad and making Member States more attractive places to settle and to do business in (be it in the form of start-up, fulfilling legal requirements, tendering to public authorities, etc.),
- helping citizens when they cross borders as well as helping foreign citizens that wish to visit a Member State, whether for tourism, pension or to work.

Additional Information:

<http://www.esens.eu/home.html>

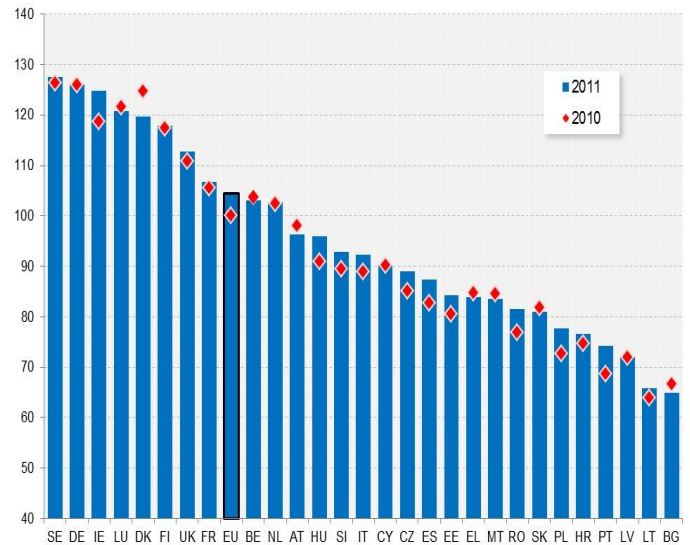
**Commission launches
New Innovation Indicator**

Sweden, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg are the EU Member States getting the most out of innovation, according to a new indicator proposed by the European Commission. The "Indicator of Innovation Output" measures the extent to which ideas from innovative sectors are able to reach the market, providing better jobs and making Europe more competitive.



The indicator was developed at the request of EU leaders to benchmark national innovation policies, and shows that significant differences remain between EU countries. The EU as a whole performs well in an international comparison, even though it remains behind some of the most innovative economies worldwide.

The proposed new indicator shows a wide range of innovation output across EU Member States (EU average set to 100 in 2010):



The top performers in the EU owe their ranking to doing well on several or all of the following factors: an economy with a high share of knowledge-intensive sectors, fast-growing innovative firms, high levels of patenting and competitive exports.

The novelty of the proposed indicator is that it focuses on innovation output. As such, it complements the Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard (IUS) and Summary Innovation Index (SII) (IP/13/270). These assess the innovation performance of Member States and the EU more widely, against a broad set of 24 innovation indicators including inputs, throughputs and outputs.

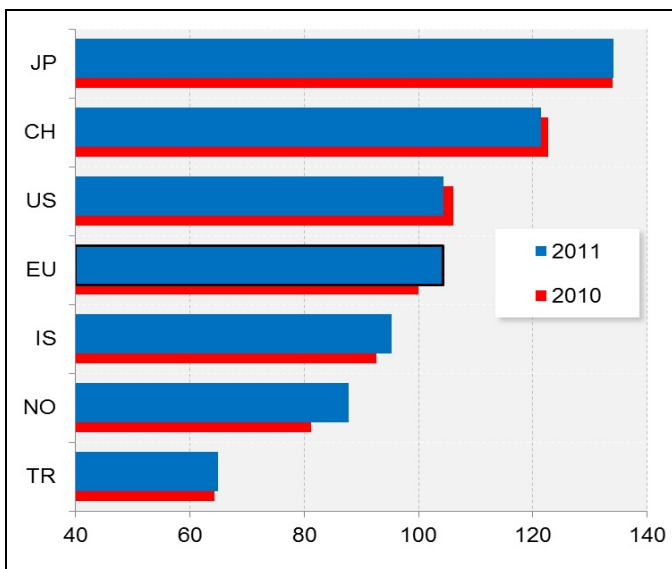
Innovation output is wide-ranging and differs from sector to sector. The proposed indicator is based on four components chosen for their policy relevance.

- Technological innovation as measured by patents.
- Employment in knowledge-intensive activities as a percentage of total employment.



the total trade balance, and knowledge-intensive services as a share of the total services exports.

- Competitiveness of knowledge-intensive goods and services. This is based on both the contribution of the trade balance of high-tech and medium-tech products to
- Employment in fast-growing firms of innovative sectors.



A comparison with some non-EU countries shows that the EU as a whole does well. Switzerland and Japan have a clear performance lead, but the EU is more or less even with the United States on innovation output.

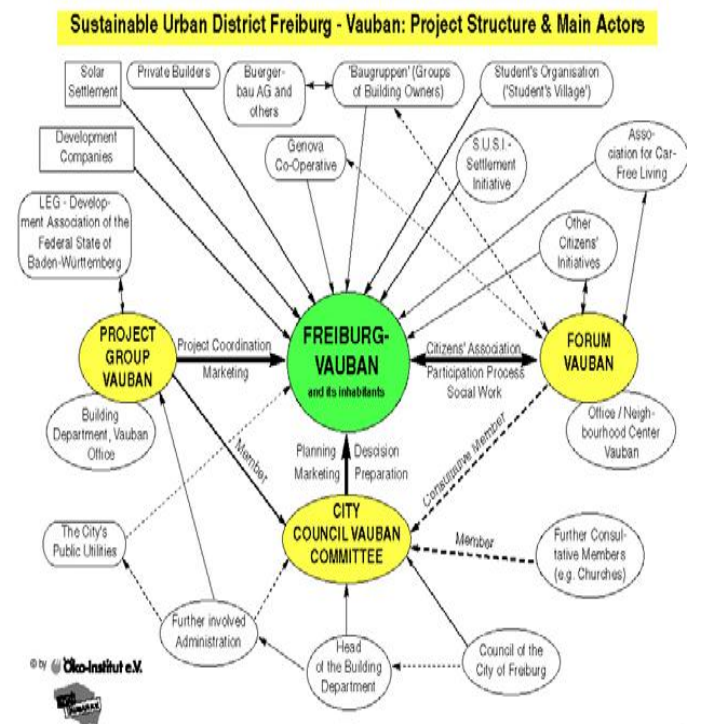
Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2013/pdf/indicator_of_innovation_output.pdf

The Vauban eco-project in Freiburg

The Vauban Sustainable Urban District process took place in the German city of Freiburg between 1993 and 2006. It is based on the city government's aim of restoring an old military barracks based on ecological and social cohesion criteria, and creating a participatory process that would generate the NGO Forum Vauban and would have inter- and intra-administrative coordination structures to enable proposals emerging from the process to be implemented and permit a high degree of coordination between the public participation process and the local government.

The year 1995 saw the beginning of the participation process involving the future residents of the sustainable urban district, who formed cooperative groups that decided on the design of their homes. These groups, in turn, created forums of interaction between themselves and with Forum Vauban in order to begin debates on the urban fabric, mobility models, and facilities in the area. The first residents started to move into Vauban in 1998-1999 and the participatory process shifted towards community work (as well as continuing its participatory work with cooperative housing groups).



After 13 years of this process, the most important results are: the creation of more than 40 cooperative housing groups, which include energy efficiency and bioclimatic architecture criteria, have common services managed by the users and, in many cases, have significant levels of social inclusion of people on low incomes. Important community facilities have been created (some of which are managed by the inhabitants of the sustainable urban district, such as the Haus 37 centre) and impetus has been provided for numerous ongoing participation initiatives (consumer groups, cultural production groups, women's groups, etc.).

The sustainable urban district has a high level of energy efficiency (using renewable energy-generation plants) and has implemented a successful model for alternative mobility. Vauban is a car-free neighborhood, where traffic is prohibited in most streets and where about half the population does not own a car (those who do have a car must park it in a car park located on the edge of the neighborhood). This means that the urban planning of the neighborhood prioritised green areas and public spaces, which has become an essential factor in the community's social cohesion. There are many similar experiences in Europe which show that many of the criteria used in the Vauban Sustainable Urban District have a very high level of replicability.



Additional Information:

http://www.uclg-cisd.org/sites/default/files/Freiburg_2010_en_final.pdf

World's largest bicycle parking space in Utrecht

Utrecht Central Station is due to get the world's largest bike shed housing some 12,500 bicycles. Utrecht is building a new Station Area. This was much needed; ever since the Hoog Catharijne shopping mall was built in the 1970s, there had been overdue maintenance, neglect, a growing number of passengers, a growing city and the desire to get water back in the old canal. With the construction of a new and renewed area all these issues are being tackled at once.



The historic inner city and the Station Area were two separated parts of Utrecht; these parts will be connected again to form one coherent centre. Liveliness and safety will be improved. There will be space for culture and leisure, the area will be more accessible and last but not least: water will flow once again in the canal that was filled in during the 1970's.

They are building a future that's sustainable: low emission buildings, plenty of pleasant space for bikes, public transport and pedestrians, and solar cells on top of platforms. The building of the Utrecht Station Area is being done with close co-operation between the City of Utrecht, Corio (owner of Hoog Catharijne mall), Dutch Rail, ProRail and the Jaarbeurs (tradefair).

The upcoming mega bike storage will be below an elevated station on the city side of Utrecht Central Station. In addition to the Station Square East there will be a futuristic hood. The first part will be ready in 2016 and, in 2018, the entire parking facility and the square on top of it will be complete.

Additional Information:

<http://www.utrecht.nl/smartsite.dws?id=12564&persberichtID=389276&type=pers>

Promoting the European Cultural and Creative Sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs

European Parliament's recent report titled 'Promoting the European cultural and creative sectors as sources of economic growth and jobs' stresses the importance of the cultural and creative sectors in Europe's economic and social development, and renews the European Parliament's call on EU Member States and the European Commission to help these sectors grow.



Both the intrinsic cultural value and the economic and social benefits of these sectors are recognised. The sectors simultaneously contribute to social cohesion, creativity, cultural and linguistic diversity, and account for a significant proportion of the economy (up to 4.5% of EU GDP and 8.5 million jobs). Cultural and creative sectors have shown themselves to be resilient to the economic downturn, continually demonstrating above-average rates of growth, while offering much higher levels of youth employment than other sectors.

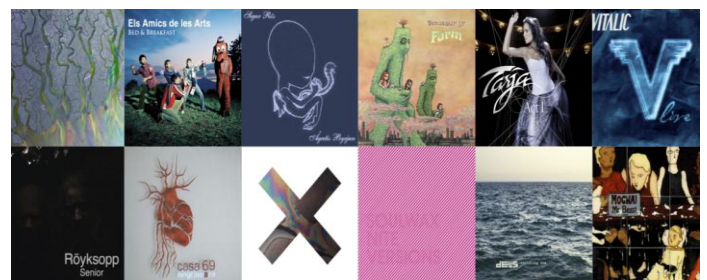
This timely report reminds us of the essential role played by the European cultural and creative sectors, which, are mainly made up of thousands of SMEs and individual entrepreneurs. Through well-documented 'spillover' effects, the cultural and creative sectors promote the spread of innovation, and hence growth and jobs, in other sectors.

The challenges faced by these sectors are numerous: cultural and linguistic market fragmentation, the digital transition, and the great difficulties in accessing funding.

In a time of economic recovery, it is essential for the EU to support and capitalise on its successful and promising sectors. The cultural and creative sectors are one of Europe's main assets. Their untapped potential is huge. This report should encourage the EU to do more to champion them and follows previous recommendations from the EU institutions suggesting various measures to unlock the potential of cultural and creative industries.

One of the main challenges identified in the report is the lack of funding. The European Commission has previously estimated the funding gap in Europe for the cultural and creative sectors in terms of bank loans alone to be between €2.8 and €4.8 billion. Today's report correctly identifies several possible levers for improved funding: loan guarantee systems for small organisations, an improved regulatory framework, reduced administrative burden, ending divergences between member states in the taxation of cultural products, establishing a tax system tailored to the sectors' SMEs, setting up a cultural investment bank, increased use of structural funds, as well as investigating alternative means of financing such as crowd-funding.

This report is definitely considered to be a critical reminder of the strategic role of the cultural and creative sectors and of the urgent need to take appropriate action to help unlock their potential. This issue should be high on the agenda



for the 2014 European elections. The cultural and creative sectors are among Europe's most promising strengths –the EU should strive to harness, develop and cherish them.

Additional Information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pub>

Ref=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A7-2013-0248+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN

A Handbook for Urban Innovation

Over half of the world's population now lives in cities. Urban areas are constantly growing. They account for 75% of global energy use and 60% of demand for drinking water. They also produce 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Immense challenges lie ahead, but there are many solutions within our reach. Cities are a fertile environment in which to test new ideas and are the perfect forum in which to tackle environmental, social and economic issues with the backing of local mayors. With a more participatory approach, major changes in urban lifestyles and the emergence of a host of new clean technologies, there is now a real opportunity for cities and regions to create additional revenue streams, strengthen social ties and offer a better standard of living. Innovation is a real source of progress and appeal.



Founded at the dawn of the industrial era and the start of urban development, Veolia Environnement has continually adapted to political, social and cultural changes over the past 160 years by finding answers to the questions of the future: namely, which technologies, organizational and partnership models, human and technical resources will be needed 10 years from now to meet the challenges of a planet occupied by 8 billion people, half of them living in urban environments.

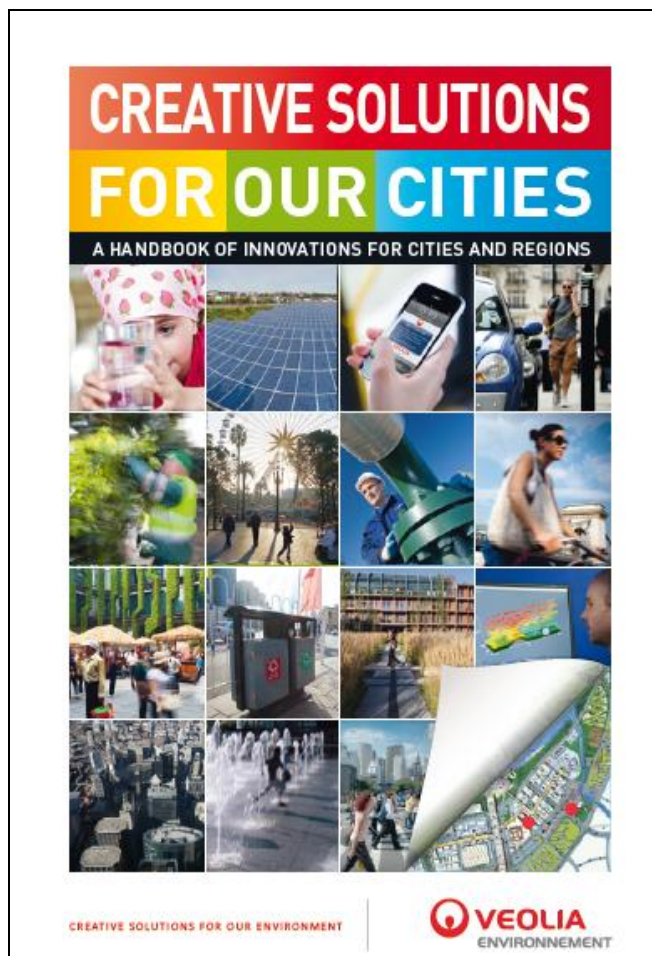
This booklet gives an overview of tangible, innovative solutions that promote the balanced development and transformation of our cities, covering everything from water, waste, energy and mobility to information, integration, training and new services for citizens. These achievements would not be possible without the efforts of our R&D teams, our teams in the field and our special relationship with city stakeholders.

Additional Information:

<http://www.thecitiesoftomorrow.com/veolia-smart-city-creative-solutions/innovation-sustainable-cities>

A Report on European Territorial Cooperation

Territorial Cooperation Programmes play an important role for the development of Europe. Programme investments enable the mobilization of under-used territorial potentials, contributing to the competitiveness of Europe and to the necessary economic growth and job creation.



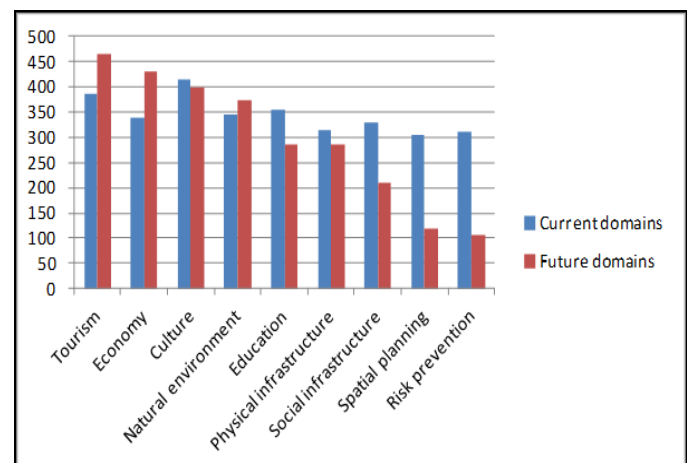


Territorial Cooperation projects promote growth, job-creation and life quality through new innovative ideas and strategies as well as education, institutional capacity-building and staff professionalization. In particular, they facilitate flows of people, goods and capital, which otherwise would not cross the borders. These are findings of several ESPON projects, among others the recently concluded TERCO project (European Territorial Cooperation as a Factor of Growth, Jobs and Quality of Life).

Some key findings are the following:

- In general, the current situation shows that slight preference exists for projects dealing with culture, tourism and education.
- Closest to the general picture is cross-border cooperation, with tourism and cultural events being the favoured themes.
- Transnational and interregional cooperation give a clear preference for projects on natural environment, followed by tourism and cultural events.
- Economy and tourism are the preferred themes in transcontinental cooperation, followed by educational exchange.
- In twinning cities arrangements, the preferred themes for cooperation are cultural events, followed by tourism and educational exchange.
- Actors in 'newer' EU member states have a different approach, emphasizing physical and social infrastructure as well as joint spatial planning as the most important themes for future transnational and interregional cooperation, while tourism is clearly still the most preferred theme in future cross-border cooperation.

- Actors in the 'older' EU member states, involved in transnational and interregional cooperation, consider natural environment as the most important theme for future cooperation, closely followed by economy. In cross-border cooperation, economy is the preferred theme for future cooperation.
- The absolute number of cooperating partners is very high in regions in north-west Europe, southern France, Italy, Greece and the coastal regions of the Iberian Peninsula.
- In relative terms (the number of ETC project partners related to the population) particularly regions in Scandinavia, the Baltic States and Scotland show a high intensity of territorial cooperation.
- The influence on economic growth and job creation occurs mostly through the facilitation of knowledge exchange used to solve common problems vital for the development of the cooperating regions.
- Territorial cooperation is considered to have a particular positive influence on quality of life followed by quality of natural environment and service provision.
- Starting with simple forms of cooperation gives the highest probability for territorial cooperation to develop into a fruitful and long-term relationship. This involves exchanging experiences, sharing tools exploring economies of scale, and advising each other on how to tackle a common problem or solve similar problems.



- More advanced forms of cooperation, such as joint strategies, actions or investments, require more experience to bring the desired effects in terms of growth and jobs.
- Other success factors which may determine the success of territorial cooperation are: The linkage with cultural events, tourism, economy, natural environment or physical infrastructure and the involvement at early stage of NGOs and local or regional public authorities.
- Projects in which the cooperating regions jointly work on solving cross-border problems and developing existing opportunities, i.e. project with a high degree of territorial integration, appear to have a particular positive impact on socio-economic development.

A move from the present focus on thematic objectives towards a more place-based approach could encourage the cooperating regions to act stronger together on common challenges and opportunities.

In this way territorial cooperation can play an even more important role in strengthening the competitiveness of the European economy and contribute to growth, creation of jobs and quality of life.

Additional Information:

http://www.espon.eu/export/sites/default/Documents/Publications/EvidenceBriefs/EEB1_ETC/ESPON-Evidence-Brief-1_A4.pdf

Guide to Multi-Benefit Cohesion Policy Investments in Nature and Green Infrastructure

Cohesion policy has been an active partner in helping regions to preserve and ensure the sustainable management of their natural assets. All over the EU,



projects in Natura 2000 areas, the restoration of wetlands and floodplains, the development of green corridors and support to information systems for the monitoring of biodiversity were co-funded. Similar investments will be carried out between 2014 and 2020. In this framework this guide underlines the crucial interconnections which exist between nature, society and the economy. In particular it shows that investments in nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure are relevant for cohesion policy. Further, it emphasises how investments of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund in nature and green infrastructure can actually contribute to several policy objectives and deliver multiple benefits, in particular socio-economic development. And eventually it assists authorities and stakeholders with practical recommendations to improve the delivery of the co-funded programmes and projects.

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgenerr/studies/pdf/guide_multi_benefit_nature.pdf

International Affairs

State of the Urban Youth

Youth are society's most important and dynamic human resource. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totaling nearly three billion – or half of humankind – of which 1.3 billion are between ages 12 and 24. Most live in urban areas. Yet, nearly 45 per cent of young people around the world—almost 515 million—live on less than two US dollars a day.



STATE OF THE URBAN YOUTH 2012/2013

Youth in the Prosperity of Cities
Overview and Summary of Findings

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

The State of the Urban Youth Report 2012/2013 builds on the 2010/11 edition, “Levelling the Playing Field –Inequality of Youth Opportunity” and it’s insights into the state of urban youth. Much like the findings of the last report, this one continues to demonstrate the fundamental importance of education to the development of urban youth. Among the findings of the report is The Youth Bulge: The Demographic Dynamics.

Additional Information:

http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/PR_State-of-UrbanYouthReport.pdf

Climate-friendly Urban Regeneration: Lessons from Japan

Japan has been depopulating since 2005 and, according to projections by Tetsuo Kidokoro, the population of cities of all sizes will start to decrease after 2015. Due to this demographic change, the focus of urban planning and development in Japan has shifted from growth to reorganization. More attention is now paid to turning cities into more compact and sustainable places with a high quality of life. Much can be expected from urban regeneration in transforming Japanese cities into more sustainable and low-carbon urban environments in the era of depopulation. We looked at two urban regeneration initiatives in Japan, representing two major approaches of regeneration practices in Japanese cities, namely “project-based” and “plan-based” approaches.



The first case was the Minato Mirai 21 project (MM21) located in the central quarter of Yokohama City in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area. The second case was Kanazawa City in Ishikawa prefecture in eastern Japan — a mid-sized historical town with a population of 462,361 people. both cases presented a series of lessons on transforming urban regeneration projects into opportunities to reorganize cities in climate-friendly manners:

- (a) Flexibility in the design of regeneration projects.
- (b) Participation and political commitment.
- (c) Coordination between city divisions and policies.
- (d) Binding and structural measures.

Additional Information:

<http://www.resilience.org/stories/2013-09-02/climate-friendly-urban-regeneration-lessons-from-japan>

Consultations



Sustainable Buildings

The European Commission wants to gather views and additional information on the possible introduction of EU wide measures to achieve better environmental performance of buildings. Resource use and related environmental impacts all along the life-cycle of buildings are in the scope. The consultation puts forward questions related to the problem definition as well as to possible policy options. It looks at both demand and supply side measures. The consultation offers an opportunity to all interested parties to express their views and to provide additional information to the European Commission.

Submission deadline: 1 October 2013

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/buildings_en.htm

The role of Family Farming

2014 was designated the International Year of Family Farming at the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization, it has the objective of raising the profile of family farming by focusing world attention on its role in alleviating hunger and poverty, providing food security and improving livelihoods, while protecting the environment and biodiversity. This consultation seeks contributions towards the European conference "Family farming: A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world" scheduled for 29 November 2013. This conference will look at the role of family farming, some of their key challenges, as well as priorities for the future. This is being held in the context of the UN's declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

Submission deadline: 11 October 2013

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/family-farming/2013_el.htm

Access to multimodal traffic and travel data in the European Union

Citizens, local or regional public authorities, national public authorities, associations, non-Government organisations, civil society organisations, companies, academia, who have an interest in the issue of access to multimodal traffic and travel data. The Commission is seeking views in particular on:

- extent of the problem;
- assessment of existing measures;
- relevance and impacts of proposed options.

This will feed in into an on-going impact assessment procedure, with a view of a possible proposal of the Commission which would address the issue of access to multimodal traffic and travel data.

Submission deadline: 25 October 2013

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/media/consultations/2013-accesstraveldata_en.htm

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



Understanding EU Decision-Making: Principles, Procedures, Practice

Date: 3–4 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5155

Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of EU-Financed Projects – Advanced Course

Date: 3–4 October 2013

Location: **Barcelona**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5313

Evaluation and Monitoring of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

Date: 3–4 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5337

Europe on the Internet: Finding your Way through the European Information Jungle

Date: 10–11 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5160

Main Principles of EU Environmental Law

Date: 10–11 October 2013

Location: **Luxembourg**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5182

Local and Regional Authorities for International Development: Funding Opportunities for Decentralised Cooperation

Date: 14–15 October 2013

Location: **Barcelona**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5311

CAF 2013 Training Event: The Common Assessment Framework in Action

Date: 16–17 October 2013

Location: **Barcelona**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5316

To Cooperate or to Merge Municipalities? That is the Question

Date: 17–18 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5300

European Public Procurement, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Concessions

Date: 22–23 October 2013

Location: **Dubrovnik**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5306

Working with Impact Assessment in the European Union

Date: 24–25 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5166

Evaluation and Monitoring of EU Structural Funds Programmes, 2014–2020

Date: 24–25 October 2013

Location: **Maastricht**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5240

Evaluation of Public Policies

Date: 24–25 October 2013

Location: **Barcelona**

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5348

The Library of Local Government

European Spatial Planning and Territorial Cooperation



EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING AND TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

STEFANIE DÜHR, CLAIRE COLOMB AND VINCENT NADIN



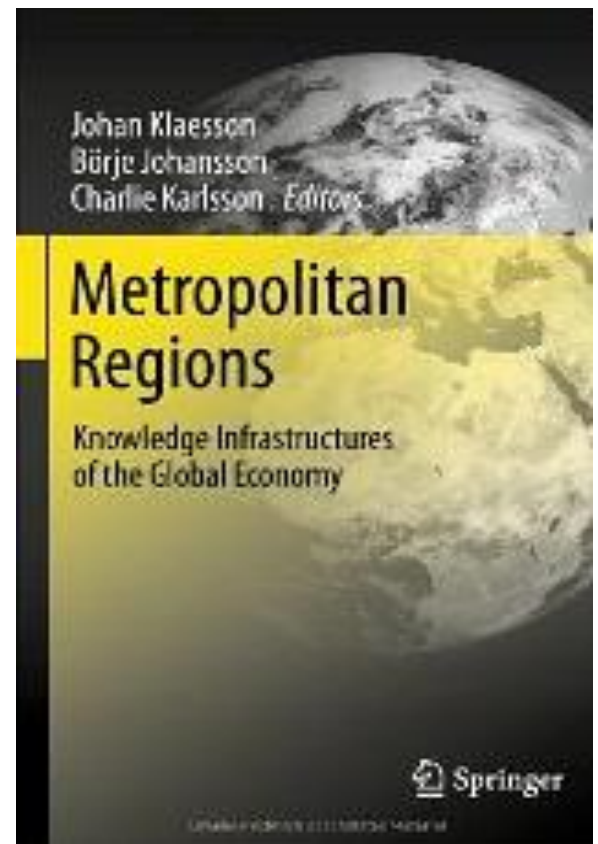
Pages: 460

Authors: Stefanie Dühr, Claire Colomb, Vincent Nadin

Publisher: Routledge, 2010

There is a strong international dimension to spatial planning. European integration strengthens interconnections, development and decision-making across national and regional borders. EU policies in areas such as environment, transport, agriculture or regional policy have far-reaching effects on spatial development patterns and planning procedures. Written for students, academics, practitioners and researchers of spatial planning and related disciplines, this book is essential reading for everybody interested in engaging with the European dimension of spatial planning and territorial governance. Perspective.

Metropolitan Regions: Knowledge Infrastructures of the Global Economy



Pages: 490

Editors: Johan Klaesson, Börje Johansson, Charlie Karlsson

Publisher: Springer, 2013

Metropolitan growth has been dramatic in the past several decades, and today metropolitan regions are recognized as the main driving forces in national growth and development as well as in national and global innovation processes. The purpose of this book is to contribute to a better understanding of how metropolitan regions and their subsystems interact and compete, why they differ in their capacity to nurture innovation and growth, and how metropolitan policies must be designed to secure the region's long-term vitality. To that end, it presents new contributions on theories of urban growth, institutions and policies of urban change, and case studies of urban growth prepared by international experts.

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