EDITORIAL

Local and regional governments in Europe are the models to follow when it comes to climate protection. This was made clear with the climate change resolution adopted at the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 23 October 2013. The plenary session provided the occasion for Members of European Parliament to discuss the 19th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With this in mind, a resolution was adopted, underlining "*the success of the Covenant of Mayors, which currently consists of nearly 5.000 local authorities, to exceed the targets set by the European Union regarding energy and climate change from now until 2020. (…) The enthusiasm and involvement of local European authorities should serve as a model of how to implement ambitious energy and climate policies on the international scale.*" Yet, this resolution underlines the crucial role played by city networks as agents of Europeanisation at national and local levels. Transnational networking here becomes an important tool for policy learning, with local government using networks to access examples of innovation which can be applied at home. This can contribute to our understanding of the EU as a 'networked' and 'multilevel' polity. True, transnational networks are now held in high regard by European institutions as they are seen to be more responsive to set EU goals and policy.

European Funding Programmes

Call for Proposals-Deadlines

1. European Capital of Innovation

The European Commission has recently started the search for the first European Capital of Innovation, or iCapital. The prize will reward the city which is building the best "innovation ecosystem", connecting citizens, public organisations, academia, and business. Given that 68% of the EU population now lives in urban areas, it is these areas that will contribute the most to making Europe more innovative. Cities foster innovation in their own provision of services, but the key is to create the right environment for others to innovate and to allow the public and private spheres to connect. An independent panel of experts will select the winner in spring 2014, with the city chosen receiving €500.000 towards scaling up its efforts.

Contents

Cities will be judged both on initiatives and achievemnts until now, as well as their future ideas to enhance innovative capacity. They will have to demonstrate that they are following a comprehensive strategy that is:

- *Innovative* – in terms of concepts, processes and tools.
- *Inspiring* – with the aim of attracting talent, funding, investment and citizens' involvement and engagement.
- *Integrated* – demonstrating links with the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, namely smart, sustainable and inclusive growth across Europe.
- *Interactive* – building a community for innovation within the city and with other cities.

The contest is open to cities in any EU Member State or country associated to the EU's research framework programme. The award is for cities with over 100.000 inhabitants and for initiatives that have been running since at least 1 January 2010. In countries where there is no city with more than 100.000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply. For the purpose of this Award, 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.

With the European Capital of Innovation Award the Commission wants to acknowledge an outstanding achievement of a city in building up an innovation

ecosystem, thus providing recognition for those cities which are making major efforts to promote innovation and improving the quality of their citizens' lives. The winning city will contribute developing a broad-based innovative culture in Europe, based on a broad approach to innovation, i.e. involving technological and nontechnological innovation, design, social and public administration innovation to support the smart, sustainable and inclusive development of the European Union and the objectives of the Innovation Union initiative.

Innovation is central to economic growth and business competitiveness, and is at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy. The European Union has set itself the goal of becoming an 'Innovation Union'. Through its research and innovation and regional policies, the EU has been promoting smart and sustainable urban development. The next EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, will run from 2014 to 2020. It will concentrate more than ever on funding the whole 'innovation chain', from scientific breakthrough to close-to-market development. Future EU regional funding will also focus more on research and innovation, for instance building research infrastructure.
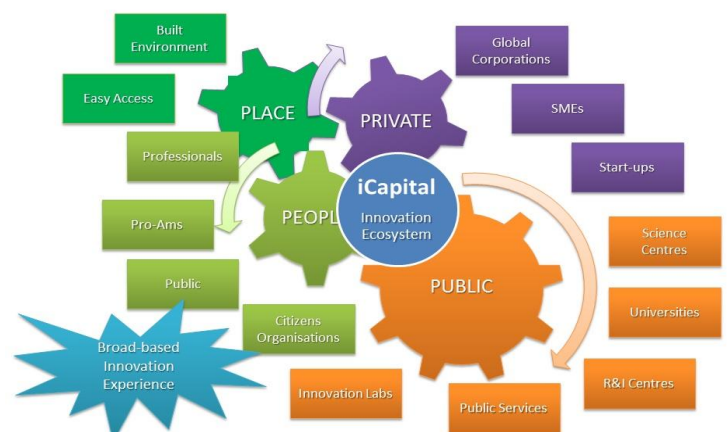
Deadline: 3 December
Additional Information:
iCapital
E-mail: rtd-i-capital@ec.europa.eu
Web: www.ec.europa.eu/icapital & http://ec.euro-pa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=ica pital

Sustainable Innovation Ecosystem

2. European Programme PROGRESS 2007– 2013: For Social Policy Experimentations supporting Social Investments

PROGRESS is the EU employment and social solidarity programme, set up for the period 2007–2013 to provide financial support for the attainment of the European Union's objectives in employment, social affairs and equal opportunities and of the Europe 2020 Strategy. This new strategy, which has a strong social dimension, aims at turning the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The European Union needs coherent and complementary contributions from different policy strands, methods and instruments, including the PROGRESS programme, to support the Member States in delivering on the Europe 2020's goals.

The PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU's contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To this effect, PROGRESS is instrumental in:

➢ Providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas.
➢ Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas.
➢ Promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities.
➢ Relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

Social innovations give new or/and better answers to social problems that are often more efficient and sustainable than present solutions. These solutions (products, services or new process) bring more than just jobs, growth and competitiveness – they contri-

bute with something to the society as a whole. Social innovation is about developing solutions to tackle social demands (e.g. eldercare, childcare, job opportunities and training) and societal challenges (e.g. ageing society, climate change, poverty and exclusion). Social innovations are not only answers to specific necessities, but they also aim towards the empowering of people, especially those who are deprived, through their active involvement in the innovative process. Social innovations are also about creating and improving social relations and models of governance by developing new forms of organization and interactions between public sector, civil society organizations, private enterprises and citizens to respond to social issues.

The present call focuses on the methodological aspects of the different phases of social policy innovations, policy reforms or policy adaptations. Consequently, particular attention should be given to the evaluation and dissemination. This approach is consistent with the emphasis on good governance of the European Union, the increased need to ensure quality of public spending while responding to citizens' needs and expectations. This is reflected by the principle – from both a social and budgetary perspective – that the impact, adequacy and effectiveness of social reforms should be tested before their generalisation.

The social policy experimentation project has to be submitted by a consortium of stakeholders involved in the process of social policy innovation. The lead applicant must be a public authority at central, regional or local level, or bodies governed by public law The role of the lead applicant consists not only in holding the consortium's legal responsibility but also in getting actively committed into the project.

The evaluation committee will assess the project proposals according to the criteria listed below:

- ➢ Relevance of the policy intervention.
- ➢ Design of the social policy experimentation.
- ➢ The operational, strategic and financial capacity of the consortium partners.
- ➢ The quality of the communication and dissemination plan.
- ➢ The quality of the set-up.
- ➢ Adequacy of the human and financial resources to the planned activities.
- ➢ Overall quality, clarity and completeness of the budget.

The maximum rating for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. The maximum total points that a proposal may obtain is 100. Proposals that do not receive 70 points will not be considered for funding. Proposals that do not receive at least 50% of the maximum score under each of the three areas below will not be considered for funding.

The overall indicative amount made available for this call is 3.500.000€. The grant requested must be 700.000€ minimum and 1.000.000€ maximum. 1.000.000€ will be allocated to projects focusing on youth opportunities measures in relation to the objectives of this call. If the quality of the applications dedicated to this theme is not judged sufficient by the Evaluation Committee, the Commission reserves the right to reallocate this budget to the applications addressing other themes. The European Union financial aid granted will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The consortium members must guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%.

Contributions in kind are not accepted as co-financing. The projects should start after signature of grant agreements, expected within six months of the date of submission. The planned duration of the project may not be less than 24 months nor exceed 36 months.

The social policy experimentation project has to be submitted by a consortium of stakeholders involved in the process of social policy innovation. The lead applicant must be a public authority at central, regional or local level, or bodies governed by public law. The role of the lead applicant consists not only in holding the consortium's legal responsibility but also in getting actively committed into the project. The lead applicant has to involve in the consortium at least one co-applicant. Co-applicants must be public authorities at central, regional or local level, or bodies governed by public law, and/or civil society organisations, and/or private sector organisations. Including academic structures is strongly encouraged. Broadening cooperation between the public sector, the private sector and the third sector could ease the way to innovation in reorienting social policies. Lead applicant and co-applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal persons, established in one of the PROGRESS participating countries.

Applicants are invited to fill in the application form online, on the SWIM secure website. Annexes, which are compulsory, must also be filled in and uploaded online. Before starting, please read carefully the "User's guide" that can be found at the top of the page ("Help on SWIM").

Deadline: 16 December

Additional Information:

Web: http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=327&langId=en&furtherCalls=yes&callType=2

3. Europe for Citizens, 2014-2020: Structural support for European public policy research organisations (think tanks) and for civil society organisations at European level

The aim of the present call is to select organisations with European outreach which, through their permanent, usual and regular activities, make a tangible contribution to the objectives of the 'Europe for Citizens' programme. The call for proposals concerns structural support, referred to as operating grants, to bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest, to raise awareness on European remembrance (strand 1) or to encourage democratic and civic participation (strand 2). It is intended to co-finance the operating expenses that enable a body to have an independent existence and to implement a range of activities envisaged in its annual work programme. These activities should correspond to the pursuit of the organisation's statutory objectives and must contribute to the development and implementation of one or several of the objectives pursued by the programme.

To be eligible for a framework-partnership, the organisations must belong to one of the following categories:

A. Civil society organisations for European remembrance (strand 1):

> Organisations carrying activities reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (specially but not exclusively Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes) and commemorating the victims of their crimes.

> Organisations implementing activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history.

> Organisations focusing on the common values of the EU: raising citizens' awareness on the importance of maintaining and promoting democratic values in Europe i.e. through the memory of European personalities such as the founding fathers of the European project or others who have made a significant contribution to later stages of European construction.

B. Civil society organisations working at European level (strand 2):

> Umbrella organisations, networks and other CSOs aiming to encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for civic engagement at Union level.

C. European public policy research organisations (think tanks) (strand 1 and 2):

> These organisations provide a link between research and policy-making at European level. They help to find solutions to problems and facilitate interaction between scientists, intellectuals and decision-makers. The call targets think tanks that essentially

focus on the objectives and priorities of the Europe for Citizens programme, performing activities that go beyond mere research and are not aimed exclusively at specialist groups. Both strands are concerned.

D. Platforms of pan-European organisations (strand 2):

- The specificity of such platforms is that their members are themselves umbrella organisations (platforms) on a European level. These pan-European platforms represent a very large number of European citizens and cover a wide range of policy domains.

To be eligible for an operating grant, organisations pursuing an aim of general European interest must:

a) Be a non-profit organisation.

b) Play an active role in the field of European citizenship (European remembrance and democratic engagement and civic participation) as defined in their articles of association or mission statement and correspond to one of the categories mentioned above.

c) Have been established legally and have had a legal personality for at least four years (on the date of submission of their application) in an eligible country.

d) Perform their activities in eligible countries.

e) To have the following geographical coverage:

- Civil society organisations at European level (Category B) and Civil society organisations for European remembrance (Category A) must have members or activities in at least 12 eligible countries.
- Platforms of pan-European organisations (D) must have at least 20 umbrella member organisations, who must each have members in at least 15 Member States, and which, taken as a whole, cover the 28 Member States.
- European public policy research organisations (think tanks) do not need to have any specific geographical coverage in order to be eligible.

Private individuals and public bodies are not eligible to apply within this call for proposals.

The Framework Partnership has a duration of 4 years. For its specific annual grants, the period of eligibility must correspond to the applicants' budget year, as evidenced by the organisation's certified accounts. The total budget available for Framework Partnerships of four years (2014-2017) will be of 27.04 million euro. Approximately one third will be dedicated to European public policy research organisations (think tanks). The total budget available for specific annual grants to be concluded for 2014 will be of 6.76 million euro for 2014. The European Commission intends to finance around 34 organisations under this call.

Deadline: 20 December
Additional Information:
Website: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news-events/news/06112013_callforproposals_en.htm

Business & Development Planning

Strategic Planning and Place Marketing

In a globalized world where places compete with each other, the image of the city plays a crucial role to attract tourists and investors and to make citizens stay with satisfaction and avoid their moving away. In order to deal this competition, which puts under pressure not only enterprises but also territorial areas, they use different tools, strategic plan adoption, place marketing strategies and city branding actions, as well as event hosting. Where all these elements are well managed and governed, the potentials to obtain good results are definitely higher.

Strategic planning has substituted the traditional government approach with governance, an instrument to improve competitiveness by building a shared perspective among the local stakeholders on economic and social levels. Strategic plans, characterized by medium and long term visions and grounded on a voluntary basis, have taken various forms according to the different situations where they were produced.

When it was first adopted– San Francisco was one of the very first American cities to carry it on between 1982–1984– strategic planning belonged almost exclusively to big metropolitan areas facing a need for international repositioning and improving performances. A couple of decades after, it has been applied in other European cities (Barcelona, Lille, Bilbao, Lyon) and it has taken into consideration not only large but also middle size cities.

Place marketing turn out to be more successful when it is carried on within the frame work of strategic planning; all procedures concern a multidimensional combination of activities, negotiations, decisions and efforts that take place under the wider umbrella of the strategic planning process. With the idea of strategic planning comes along the concept governance, which encompasses horizontal cooperation, bottom up management and coordination of all local powers, energies and actors and goes against the hierarchical, top down governing styles and finally an analysis of the internal and external environmental factors performed as part of developing the organizational strategy.

Places can be easily assumed to possess the above characteristics of identiy, differentiation and personality and can thus be managed to maximize equity, value and awareness. However, places are just too complex to be treated like products. Place marketing in general, is impossible because places are not products, governments are not producers and users are not consumers.

Place marketing should recognize that place products remain places with the distinct attributes that accrue to places, such as spatial scale, spatial hierarchies, resulting scale shadowing, the inherent multiplicity and vagueness of goals, product–user combinations and consumer utilities. All these and more make places distinctive form of product marketing. If these distinctions can be recognized and incorporated into the process then it becomes valid and effective form of management: if not, it is an irrelevant distraction.

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

EGTC EFXINI POLI:
Regions for Recycling (R4R)

Regions for Recycling (R4R) is a 3-year European project (2012-2014) aiming to enable its partners to improve their recycling performance through consistent comparisons and an exchange of good practices. The R4R project brings together 13 partners wishing to share and discuss their experience about municipal waste recycling. European local and regional territories share the same framework and objectives, yet they have designed different waste management systems leading to different performances, which makes comparisons very useful. However this diversity of approach has led to heterogeneous monitoring systems, making most comparisons inconsistent. Waste management systems are also dependent on local and regional specificities as well as national framework. With these elements in mind, the R4R project aims at identifying the most efficient local and regional instruments allowing to optimize municipal waste recycling. It also aims at developing an online tool that will help cities and regions to compare their recycling performances following a common methodology.

One main outcome of the R4R project will be an online waste management tool for local and regional authorities to input data, calculate indicators, identify transferable good practices relevant to their context and to monitor their progress towards achieving EU targets. A user manual will provide concise explanations and support. The project partners will also identify and describe 39 good practices in a synthesis report.

Furthermore, each partner will choose at least one good practice they will transfer to their territory. For this, they will develop an implementation plan explaining how they intend to integrate the outcomes of R4R into their local or regional policies.

Efxini Poli works towards greener, more dynamic and inclusive cities. Central to Efxini Poli's work is the concept of sustainability. The network aims to propose and implement a comprehensive policy for sustainable development with a special focus on enhanced waste management. For example, Efxini Poli is currently the leading partner of the project "Low Cost - Zero Waste Municipality" (ZERO WASTE) which aims at developing an integrated zero-waste management system for municipalities. Efxini Poli plans on sharing the results of its ZERO WASTE project with the other R4R partners. As the network is managed by mayors who have direct influence on regional/ local waste management and environmental policies, the results of R4R will find immediate application in the Efxini Poli member territories.

Additional Information:

EGTC Efxini Poli

Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development

Email: epolis@efxini.gr, Website: www.efxini.gr

EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

1. Municipality of Trikala: INDEPENDENT Coordinated E-Care (CIP, 2007-2013)

When it comes to supporting older people living in the community, today's reality is characterised by fragmentation of service provision resulting in disjointed and patchy care and support. The quest for more integrated care is anything but new. Only recently, however, policy and practice are beginning to fully recognise that fragmentation of care can threaten its quality and cost effectiveness. In particular, the potential of ICT-enabled support such as telecare and telehealth could be exploited in a more effective way if they were not, as today, embedded in healthcare and social care services delivered in "silos". Against this background, INDEPENDENT develops and pilots an integrated set of ICT-enabled services dealing with a range of threats to independent living common to older people. Through innovative usage of ICT, current "silos" in service delivery are broken up to allow for cooperation across relevant care sectors and participation of family members.

INDEPENDENT is a European pilot project that brings together twenty partner organisations across six European Member States. Jointly, they have set up an ambitious work programme which aims at better capitalising on information and communications technology (ICT) when it comes to supporting older people in their communities. The ultimate goal is to empower older people to maintain their independence.

There is also emphasis on strengthening the participation of the so called "third sector," family carers and voluntary community workers who would otherwise not be in the usual information sharing loop. A particular focus is on enabling, with help of technology, a better joining-up of social and health care services as they currently exist. This pilot project started in January 2010 and will end in December 2012. It is part-funded by the European Union's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

The INDEPENDENT pilot in Trikala responds to the need for closer collaboration of the municipality's care delivery organisations DEKA and KAPI in supporting informal carers and those for whom they care.

In particular, the digital infrastructure is utilised for supporting formalised cooperation of community services and family carers of older people with mild cognitive impairment or mild depression. Joint access to extended electronic care records supports easier coordination of service delivery rendering them more integrated, productive and cost-effective.

In addition, the digital infrastructure enables specialist psychological counselling to be remotely delivered to informal carers, helping them to better care for their relatives and cope with any problems that may occur in this context. Prior to INDEPENDENT no formal interfacing existed between community care services and informal carers.

Additional Information:
Municipality of Trikala
Operational Control Center (O.C.C.)
Attn: Mrs M. Oikonomou
E-mail: moikonomou@e-trikala.gr
Web: http://independent-project.eu/ home/

2. Region of Western Macedonia
LIFE ARCTOS/KASTORIA
(Life+, 2007-2013)

The implementation of the project titled "Improving conditions of bear-human coexistence in Kastoria Prefecture, Greece - Transfer of best practices" is taking place in Kastoria with emphasis on areas of permanent or seasonal presence of brown bears (Ursus arctos). The lifetime of the project is from October 1, 2010 to 30 June 2014.

The project will implement a series of actions and apply specific measures aimed primarily at:

➢ Reduce - eliminate the phenomenon of road accidents involving bears in the road network of Kastoria and, of course, increase road safety for drivers.

➢ Addressing incidents of bears approaching populated areas.

➢ Dissemination of implementing measures to prevent damage to the rural environment by bears and improve the conditions of human coexistence with wildlife in the prefecture of Kastoria.

➢ Increasing/enhancing public awareness on these issues.

The Coordinating Beneficiary of the LIFE Arctos Kastoria project is the Region of Western Macedonia (RWM), one of the 13 regions of Greece. RWM constitutes the second level of local government and is financially and administrative autonomous. The Regional Unit of Kastoria that is actually the LIFE Arctos Kastoria project area constitutes an administ-

rative division of the region of Western Macedonia and coincides with the administrative district of the prefecture.

A basic set of actions will be implemented in the present project in order to evaluate and map the 'high-risk' areas in bear mortality from road traffic injuries along the highway and road network of Kastoria (using radiolabel-telemetry). The outcome of this activity will be the installation of wildlife warning signs and labels increasing the safety standards for both people/motorists and wildlife. In addition a special brochure presenting useful information to the drivers will be designed and produced while special seminars on "Dealing with traffic accidents where bears and other wild animals are involved" will be carried out targeting personnel from the Siatista-Kristallopigi road maintenance, the Traffic police as well as personnel from the Border Police Department and of the Forestry Service of Kastoria.

A second set of actions is connected with the purchase of the necessary equipment and the operation of a "Bear Emergency Team" with main responsibilities to intervene in crisis situations and emergencies taking measures in order to prevent bears from approaching human settlements (e.g. modifying garbage bins, installation of electric fences).

Another set of actions will be taken to analyze the damages caused by bears in the rural economy of the region. Finally a special environmental education program will be developed, public information meetings organised etc.

Additional Information:

Region of Western Macedonia
Regional Unit of Kastoria
Attn: G. Psomadakis
Tel: 2467350294
Website: http://arctoslife.gr/

International and European Conferences

Lifelong Learning Week 2013
(Brussels, 2-6 December)

The European Civil Society Platform was born in 2005 as a response from civil society organisations to the defining and implementation of a European education and training policy in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination. Today funded by the Lifelong

EUCIS-LLL – "LIFELONG LEARNING WEEK 2013"

"The future of learning – Preparing 2014 European elections"
European Parliament, Brussels, 2-6 December 2013

Learning Programme, EUCIS-LLL was acknowledged by the European Commission in 2009 as a "unique representation" of lifelong learning of the various education and training actors organised at EU level. This year, the Week will have a particular focus on the upcoming European Elections of Spring 2014. At this occasion EUCIS-LLL will launch its Manifesto for the European elections and many events will take place in order to provide ideas on how to modernise education and training systems in Europe.

Additional Information:
http://www.eucis-lll.eu/news/eucis-lll-news/lifelong-learning-week-2013/

Anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures in relation to the use of European Structural and Investment Funds
(Brussels, 3 December)

The European Commission in co-operation with Transparency International is organising in Brussels a Conference on anti-fraud and anti-corruption measu-

res in relation to the use of European Structural and Investment Funds. The Conference will not only analyse fraud and corruption issues, but will go one step further: which measures can we take to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption in relation to the management of these funds?
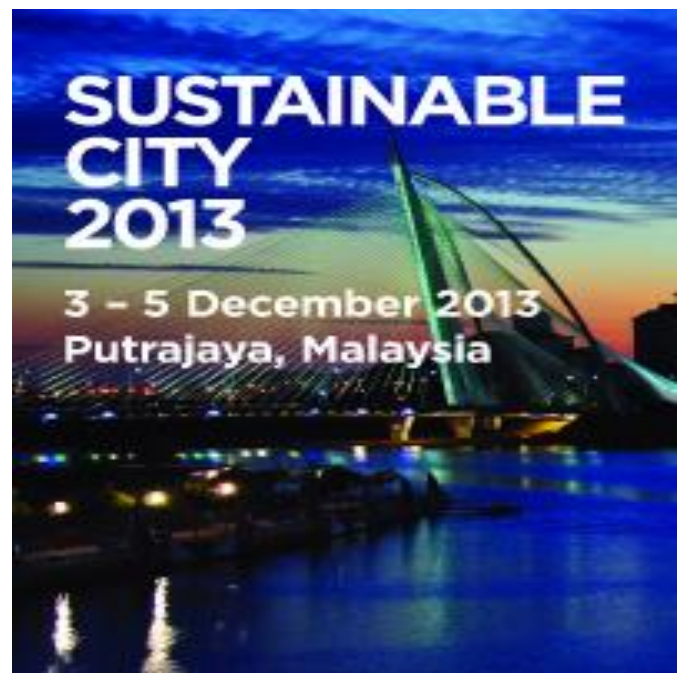
Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/anti_corruption/index_en.cfm

Additional Information:
http://www.internationalwaterweek.com/

8th International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability
(Putrajaya, Malaysia, 3 - 5 December)

The Conference aims to address the many inter-related aspects of the urban environment from transport and mobility to social exclusion and crime prevention. The meeting will build on the
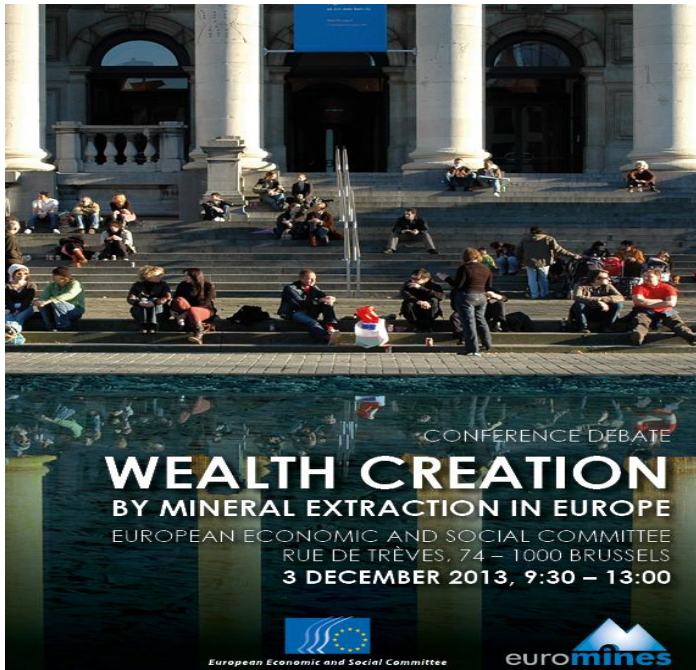
contributions made in previous conferences, which successfully managed to provide an international view of the problems facing modern cities and their solutions.

Additional Information:
http://www.wessex.ac.uk/13-conferences/sustainable-city-2013.html

Wealth creation by mineral extraction in Europe
(Brussels, 3 December)

The opportunities offered by the non-energy mineral resource industry and the challenges it faces have been widely debated over the last few years. The event about "Wealth creation by mineral extraction in Europe" aims at having an open debate about both the socio-economic benefits of sustainable mining in Europe as well as the current challenges. It will discuss a variety of topics, such as: Europe's raw ma-

terials potential and its contribution the EU's reindustrialisation; the creation of wealth for national budgets and local communities; the role of modern mining to foster regional development etc.

Additional Information:
http://www.euromines.org/event/wealth-creation-mineral-extraction-europe

2013 Annual Polis Conference
(Brussels, 4-5 December)

This year's Annual Polis Conferences provides an excellent opportunity for cities and regions to

showcase transport achievements to a large audience. For the wider transport community, the conference allows to engage with representatives of city and regional authorities on innovative transport solutions.

Additional Information:
http://www.polisnetwork.eu/2013conference

2nd Annual
Middle East Smart Cities Summit
(Doha, 9-10 December)

The 2nd Middle East Smart Cities Summit this year, will be focusing its efforts in getting the attention of Municipalities and Government Authorities, public services and sectorial authorities, urban planners, architects and consulting firms, universities and research institutes, banks and in-

vestment hubs, system integrators network infrastructure and technology providers who are involved in the master planning and development of Smart and Intelligent infrastructure projects in the region.

Additional Information:
http://infra.fleminggulf.com/middle-east-smart-cities-2013

Communicating European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 (Brussels, 10 December)

The conference will be a unique gathering of communication professionals from the European, national and regional levels. It will bring together, for the first time, communication officers responsible for the EU's five Structural and Investment Funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural

Fund for Rural Development, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund). Together, these funds represent more than a third of the EU's total budget and a key component of the EU's efforts to promote growth and jobs. In addition to communication officers from national and regional authorities, participants will include Heads of Managing Authorities, journalists, representatives of stakeholder organisations, EU networks like Europe Direct, communication officers working for the European Commission in Brussels and in the Commission's Representations, and representatives of other EU institutions.

Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/telling-the-story/index_en.cfm

The Changing Italian Cities: Emerging Imbalances and Conflicts (L'Aquila,, 10-11 December)

Under the pressure of economic, demographic, institutional and cultural changes Italian cities are experiencing profound structural changes. The heterogeneity of the Italian urban system – highly polycentric and characterized by a very large number of small- and medium-sized cities – makes the 'process of structural change' highly place-specific.
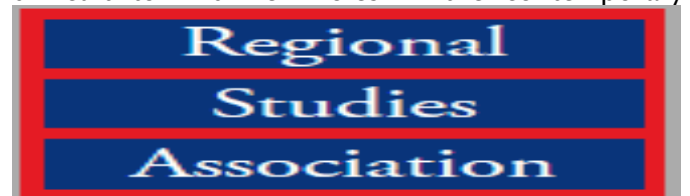

The seminar – which will be the first of a series on this theme planned at the Gran Sasso Science Institute – will contribute to a better understanding of the state of the Italian cities. It will explore the recent evolution of Italian urban system from an interdisciplinary perspective with the aim of discovering the emerging imbalances and conflicts associated to the current structural changes. In this first workshop the focus will be on empirical investigations and field studies in an attempt to highlight the emerging imbalances and the ensuing conflicts that characterize Italian cities in this historical phase.

Additional Information:
http://www.gssi.infn.it/index.php/en/the-resilience-of-european-city-structural-changes-and-economic-development-2

Global Urbanisation: Challenges and Prospects (Los Angeles, 18-19 December)

The processes of rapid urbanisation are bringing prosperity to many urban regions, but such prosperity is selective, with other areas finding it difficult to find new roles in the contemporary

economy and hence suffering from outmigration and lower incomes. The Regional Studies Association International Conference 2013 on Global Urbanisation: Challenges and Prospects presents a timely opportunity to discuss these important issues.

Additional Information:
http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-international-conference-2013

European Affairs

EU Cohesion Policy for Maximum Impact on Growth and Jobs

Key rules and regulations for implementing EU cohesion policy in 2014-2020 were recently endorsed by Parliament. In a compromise deal struck with the Council after more than a year of tough negotiations, MEPs secured substantial funding for EU regions to invest in their development projects, on terms fairer to them. They also pruned back the bureaucracy needed to apply for this funding, which is sorely needed in this time of economic crisis.

Under the EU's 2014-2020 budget, Cohesion Policy will invest €325 billion in Europe's Member States, their regions and cities to deliver the EU-wide goals of growth and jobs, as well as tackling climate change, energy dependence and social exclusion. Taking into account the national contribution of member states, and the leverage effect of financial instruments, the overall impact is likely to be more than €500 billion. The reform of Cohesion Policy will ensure maximum impact for these investments, adapted to the individual needs of regions and cities. Key elements of the reform are:
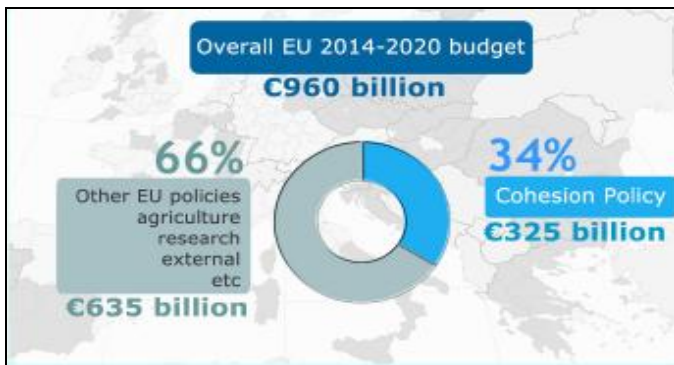
1. Investing in all EU regions and adapting the level of support and the national contribution (co-financing rate) to their levels of development:

➢ Less Developed regions (GDP < 75% of EU-27 average).

➢ Transition regions (GDP 75% to 90% of EU-27 average).
➢ More Developed regions (GDP > 90% of EU-27 average).

2. Targeting resources at key growth sectors: Investments under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will be concentrated on 4 key priorities: innovation and research, the digital agenda, support for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and the low-carbon economy, depending on the category of region (Less Developed: 50%, Transition: 60%, and More Developed: 80%). Around €100 billion will be dedicated to these sectors, of which at least €23 billion will support the shift to a low-carbon economy (energy efficiency and renewable energies). On this, there are separate obligations to dedicate ERDF resources (Less Developed: 12%, Transition: 15% and More Developed: 20%). Around €66 billion will be focused on priority Trans-European transport links and key environmental infrastructure projects through the Cohesion Fund. Through the European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Policy will provide a significant contribution to EU priorities in the field of employment, for example through training and life-long learning, education and social inclusion (at least 20% of the ESF in each Member State will have to be used to support this objective). The ESF allocation will be established according to the needs of each Member State, subject to a pre-defined minimum, resulting in a total of at least €70 billion. The new Youth Employment Initiative linked to the ESF and worth at least 6 billion € will support the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.

3. Fixing clear, transparent, measurable aims and targets for accountability and results: Countries and regions will have to announce upfront what objectives they intend to achieve with the available resources and identify precisely how they will measure progress towards those goals. This will allow regular monitoring and debate on how financial resources are used. It will mean additional funds can be made available to better performing programmes (through a so called "performance reserve") towards the end of the period.

4. Introducing conditions before funds can be channelled to ensure more effective investments. For example, "smart specialisation" strategies to identify particular strengths and potential, business-friendly reforms, transport strategies, measures to improve public procurement systems, compliance with environmental laws, strategies to fight youth employment, early school leaving or to promote gender equality and non-discrimination are all necessary preconditions.

5. Establishing a common strategy for more coordination and less overlap: A Common Strategic Framework provides the basis for better coordination between the European Structural and Investment Funds (ERDF, Cohesion Fund and ESF as the three funds under Cohesion Policy as well as the Rural Development and Fisheries funds). This also links better to other EU instruments like Horizon 2020, the Connecting Europe Facility or the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation.

6. Cutting red tape and simplifying the use of EU investments through a common set of rules for all European Structural and Investment Funds as well as simpler accounting rules, more targeted reporting demands and more use of digital technology ("e-cohesion").

7. Enhancing the urban dimension of the policy by earmarking a minimum amount of resources under the ERDF to be spent for integrated projects in cities – on top of other spending in urban areas.

8. Reinforcing cooperation across borders and making the setting up of more cross-border projects easier. Also ensuring macro-regional strategies like the Danube and the Baltic Sea are supported by national and regional programmes.

9. Ensuring that Cohesion Policy is better linked to wider EU economic governance: Programmes will have to be consistent with National Reform Programmes and should address the relevant reforms identified through country-specific recommendations in the European Semester. If necessary, the Commission can ask Member States – under the so-called "macro-economic conditionality" clause - to modify programmes to support key structural reforms. As a last resort, it can suspend funds if economic recommendations are repeatedly and seriously breached.

10. Encouraging the increased use of financial instruments to give SMEs more support and access to credit: Loans, guarantees and equity/venture capital will be supported by EU funds through common rules, a broadening of the scope of their use and providing incentives (e.g. higher co-financing rates). The emphasis on loans rather than grants should improve project quality and discourage subsidy dependence.

Additional Information:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bPV%2b20131120%2bTOC%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN

Commission Work Programme 2014

Promoting growth and jobs will remain at the heart of the European Commission's work programme for 2014. These priorities will drive both the Commission's analysis of the reforms required at
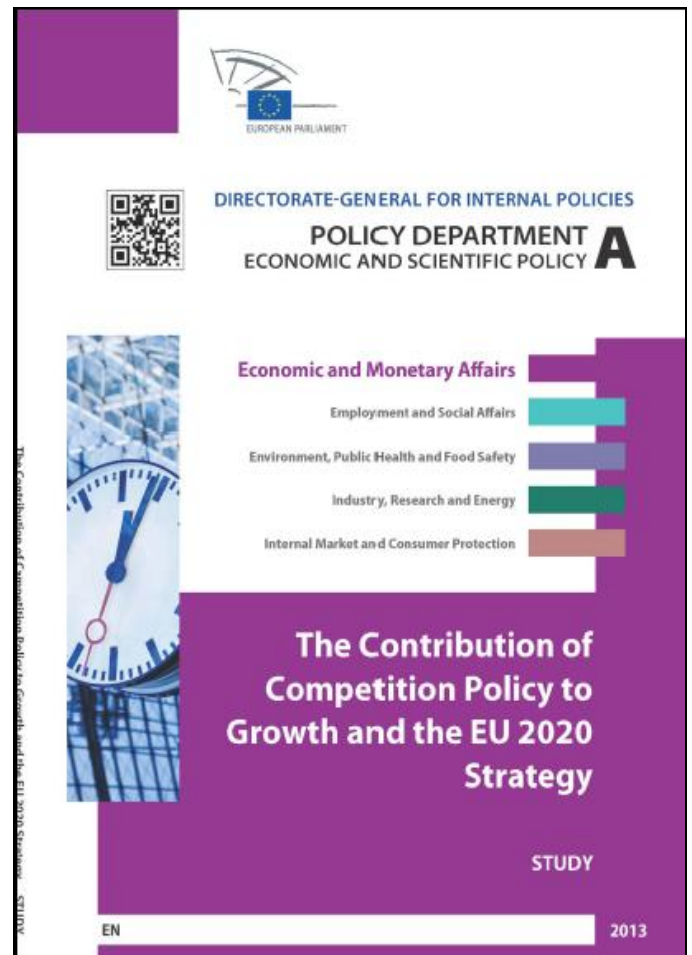
national level - where efforts to repair public finances, to reform the structure of the economy and to release growth-enhancing investment should continue unabated - and the initiatives proposed at European level to support economic recovery and job creation and tackle the social consequences of the crisis.

Additional Information:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/ docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/139110.pdf

EU Competition Policy contributes to the Economic Growth

A recent study of European Parliament researches the link between competition policy and economic growth. In particular, the authors investigate the contribution from the competition instruments antitrust, merger control, sector specific measures, liberalisation and State aid to achieve the goals of the EU 2020 Strategy. The analysis is based on ten case studies of practical application of competition instruments in various sectors, such as energy, postal, telecommunication, transport, manufactu-

ring and financial services. The authors conclude that competition policy contributes significantly to the EU 2020 Strategy and to economic growth, and the authors make recommendations for improvements of competition policy to further strengthen that contribution.

Additional Information:
http://regioeuropa.net/files/EST97390_1.pdf

New European Programme for the Environment

Environment Action Programmes (EAP) have guided the development of EU environment policy since the early 1970s. On 24 October 2013, the EP adopted the 7th EAP which aims to step up the contribution of environment policy to the transition towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy in which natural capital is protected and enhanced, and the health and well-being of citizens is safeguarded.

Living well, within the limits of our planet

Proposal for a general Union Environment Action Programme

Even if the economic crisis has undoubtedly played a role, making the achievement of the strategy's goals an even tougher challenge, the monitoring results presented in this Report lead to the conclusions that Europe 2020 has not proved to be a driving force for structural reforms, and needs profound rethinking, because of its lack of a territorial dimension, and consideration of the European Union's territorial diversity, which requires a flexible declination of its goals and targets. So far, the overall picture is one in which the National Reform Programs have been drafted by the national governments, setting targets whose low ambition was the inevitable outcome of a lack of coordination and integration of the policies carried out at different levels of government. Instead, Europe 2020 targets need to be differentiated at the regional (and not only at the country) level. On that basis, the CoR is concerned that, due to a lack of data, it is close to impossible right now to even monitor current progress towards the Europe 2020 targets at the regional level. EU regions and cities need the available set of regional statistics urgently to be broadened and updated.
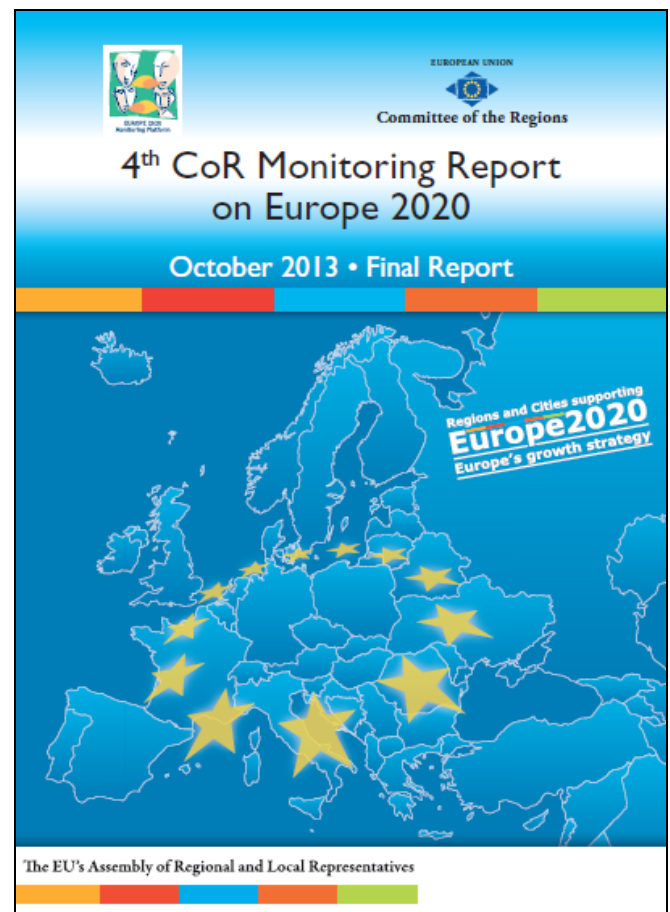
The programme provides an overarching framework for environment policy to 2020, identifying nine priority objectives for the EU and its Member States to attain.

Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/pdf/7EAP _Proposal/en.pdf

Lack of a Territorial Dimension hinders Europe 2020's success

The empirical evidence gained during the preparation of the 4th CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020 seems to show that Europe 2020 is not delivering up to its promises. In particular, it is not providing the EU local and regional authorities with the support they need to face the economic crisis while ensuring smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the longer term, and is not promoting multi-level governance as a tool to effectively carry out and manage structural reforms.

4th CoR Monitoring Report on Europe 2020

October 2013 • Final Report

The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives

At the country level, 27 out of 28 National Reform Programs (NRPs) for 2013 acknowledge the role of the LRAs, but more so in the contribution they give to implementation than in the design and monitoring of policies aimed at pursuing the Europe 2020 goals and targets. And only 11 NRPs state whether the input received from the LRAs has been taken into account. This state of affairs is reflected in the most frequent statement given by respondents on this point, according to which they have been at most consulted. Moreover, only from one third to two thirds of respondents declares satisfaction with how their points have been taken in the final version of the NRP. In regard to MLG, only nine NRPs mentioned some examples (less than in 2012), one of which is a Territorial Pact. However, short of formal MLG agreements, reference to partnerships between different levels of government can be found in some policy fields. In particular, 21 of the 2013 NRPs contain references to partnerships aimed at fighting unemployment and promoting job-creation, entrepreneurism, continuing education and re-training.

The Partnership Agreements (PAs) being currently negotiated between the Member States and the European Commission are another relevant test for the governance of Europe 2020. On these bases, the CoR has insisted on the need that the preparation of the PAs be taken as an opportunity for multi-level coordination on all Europe 2020-related policies.

Additional Information:
https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/4th-CoR-Monitoring-Report.aspx

New programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

The European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) with a proposed budget of €815 million for the 2014-20 period. EaSI will support Member States efforts in the design and implementation of employment and social reforms at European, national as well as regional and local levels by means of policy coordination, the identification, analysis and sharing of best practices.

EaSI integrates and extends the coverage of three existing programmes:
- ➢ Progress (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity),
- ➢ EURES (European Employment Services)
- ➢ and the European Progress Microfinance Facility,

which will be allocated respectively 61%, 18% and 21% of the budget.

Together with the European Social Fund, the Fund for the European Aid for the most Deprived and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, EaSI forms the fourth pillar of the EU Initiative for Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020.

The political agreement will follow the ordinary procedure and should be endorsed by the European Parliament and Council before the end of 2013 to allow the launching of EaSI in January 2014.

Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1093

Malaga charges electric buses on the move

The city of Malaga is running a pilot programme that charges electric buses while they are on the move. The scheme uses electrical induction technology at charging stations, but also utilises wireless inductive lane charging system. Malaga will become the first city in the world to use this system of charging electric buses. Using Line 16 of the city's bus network, the buses will be charged in three different ways. Firstly, they will be charged overnight in garages through the use of charging points. The more unconventional methods will see buses being charged on a static inductive charging station, and also through a dynamic lane inductive charging system. These two methods will take effect while the buses are in motion, and are completely wireless.

This system will allow electric buses to run according to usual operating times while decreasing the amount of time required to charge them. Using inductive technology also reduces the need for larger batteries, reducing cost and weight. Entitled the Victoria Project, the scheme will run for 21 months with a budget of €3.7 million. The consortium consists of five partners including Endesa which developed the charging technology being used for the buses, as well as collaboration with two SMEs and three local research organisations.

Additional Information:
http://www.energetica21.com/noticia/se-presenta-en-mlaga-un-sistema-para-cargar-un-autobs-elctrico-en-movimiento-y-sin-cables

Europe's first carbon neutral neighbourhood

The expansion of the Western Harbour has since its beginning attracted considerable attention, and it has become an international model for sustainable urban development. Its location on the waterfront, closeness to the city and the its fine urban environments make the Western Harbour one of Malmö's most attractive areas to live, work and visit.

In the Western Harbour, Malmö City uses a value-based model for urban development and together with property developers they work with various sustainability models – from dialogue and knowledge-building, to common environmental goals and certification systems where all aspects of sustainability characterise the process from start to finish.

With a smart heating and cooling system and renewable energy, the city district of Västra Hamnen (Western Harbor) has established itself as the first carbon-neutral neighbourhood in Europe, says Mayor of Malmö Ilmar Reepalu. Västra Hamnen, also known as "the City of Tomorrow", was transformed from a former shipyard in 2001 and is now home to 4,000 people.

The district uses an aquifer thermal energy storage system to store water collected during the summer 70 meters (230 feet) underground and pump it up with wind energy to heat the homes during the winter. The chilled water is then reused to cool buildings in the summer.
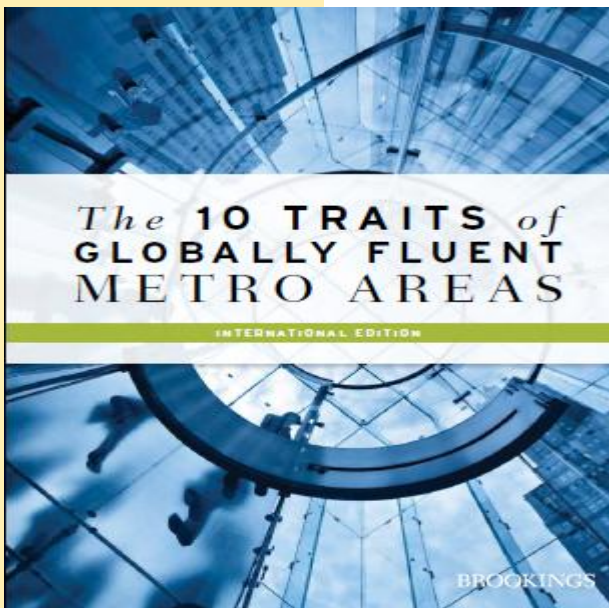
Additional Information:
http://www.energy-cities.eu/Europe-s-first-carbon-neutral?pmv_nid=2

International Affairs

10 Traits of 'Globally Fluent' Cities

We hear a lot that technology is making the world smaller, so cities must compete on a world stage. How can cities make that happen?

The Brookings Institution and the think tank Centre for London recently published the 58-page international version of the report "The Ten

Traits of Globally Fluent Metro Areas." This builds on a US-focused version published in June and is part of the five-year Global Cities Initiative between the Brookings Institution and JP Morgan Chase. The initiative launched in March 2012 to help US cities compete globally.

The latest report lists 10 traits that the authors say will enable cities to succeed in global markets, manage the negative impacts of globalization, and build a strong economic future. The new version, edited by Greg Clark and Tim Moonen, includes more case studies from around the world, and it makes interesting reading for cities with global ambitions.

The report defines global fluency as "the level of global understanding, competence, practice, and reach a metropolitan area exhibits in an increasingly interconnected world economy," and
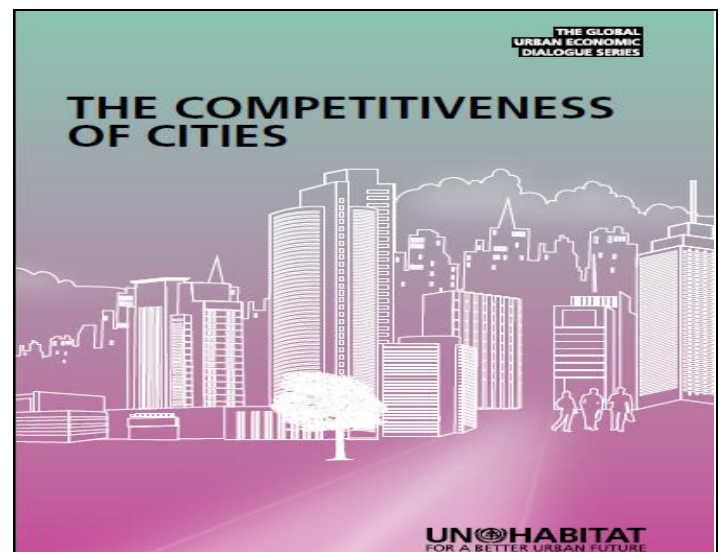
it sets out three steps to get there. First, a city must be aware of what is happening in the world. Second, it must become more global by embracing diversity, global trade, and tourism. Third, it must have a culture where businesses, citizens, and government are all helping the city compete and engage internationally. "Global fluency is not only an imperative for traditional 'global cities,' but is now essential for all places," the report says.

Additional Information:
http://www.ubmfuturecities.com/author.asp?section_id=242&doc_id=526049

The Competitiveness of Cities

Urban competitiveness has become one of the central issues in public policy today. This has long been the case for cities (taken to refer both to cities and urban regions) in the industrialized countries, especially during the past three decades.

The study of urban competitiveness is central to the achievement of the development goals each population sets for itself. This report concludes with a set of policy suggestions to guide local leaders who choose to take up the challenge of enhancement of the competitiveness of their city.

Additional Information:
http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3514

Consultations

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)

The European Council of 13/14 December 2012 has formally asked the European Commission to present an EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region before the end of 2014"(…) subject to the evaluation of the concept of macro-regional strategies (…)" due in June 2013.The public consultation on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) aims to reach relevant stakeholders and to gather their ideas in order to make sure that the Strategy is realistic in its starting point, appropriate in its objectives and responsive to the real needs of inhabitants of the Region. The overall objective of the EUSAIR is to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Region through growth and jobs creation, by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity while at the same time preserving the environment and ensuring healthy and balanced marine and coastal ecosystems.

The results of this consultation will be published in the form of a summary report early in 2014. The contributions will be further discussed in the frame

of the stakeholders conference organised in Athens, on 6-7 February 2014, and will support the preparation of the EUSAIR. A Communication concerning the Strategy will be adopted by the Commission during 2014.

Submission deadline: 13 December
Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/eusair/index_en.cfmc

Establishment of a quantitative reduction headline target for marine litter

Approximately 10 million tonnes of litter end up in the world's oceans and seas each year. This waste takes the form of a range of persistent, manufactured or processed solid materials (e.g. plastic, glass, wood, metals etc.) which are discarded, disposed of or lost into the sea and on beaches. In addition, experience from the fishery sector shows that a significant amount of fishing gear (damaged nets, ropes) is discarded, while sanitary waste (sanitary towels, tampons, cotton bud sticks, condoms) and smoking-related materials (cigarette butts, disposable lighters) are also prevalent. The problem is exacerbated by the extremely long lifetime of discarded plastic in the marine environment, which can degrade into tiny particles and may enter the food chain if ingested by marine organisms.

The European Commission is preparing to set an EU-wide quantitative reduction headline target for marine litter, as called for in the recently-agreed 7th Environment Action Programme. To this end, the Commission wishes to consult European citizens and stakeholders in order to get additional input.

Submission deadline: 18 December
Additional Information:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/marine_litter_en.htm

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

Public Sector Budgeting: Introduction and Advanced Modules
Date: 2–4 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5315

The New Regulations for Financial Management and Audit of EU Structural Funds – Comparing 2014–2020 with 2007–2013
Date: 3–4 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5302

Understanding the EU Budget: Less of the Same Until 2020?
Date: 5–6 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5169

Evaluation and Monitoring of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
Date: 10–11 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5337

Managing Cutbacks in the National Public Services: What Priorities to Maintain Organisational Capacity?
Date: 16–17 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5188

e-Government: The X-factor for Government
Date: 16–17 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
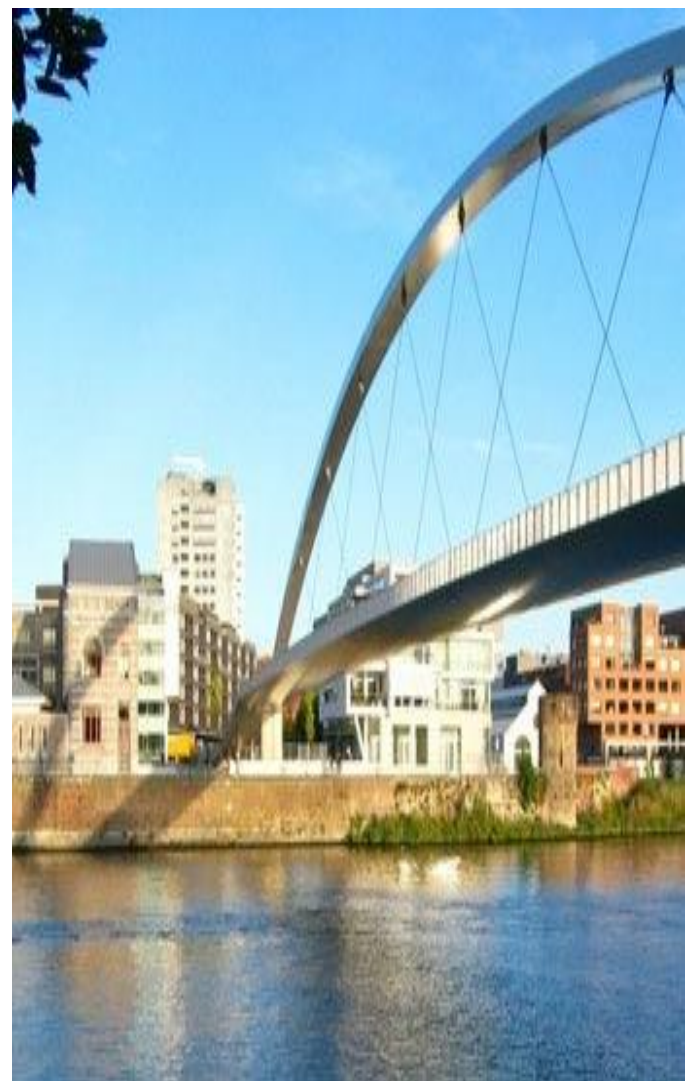http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5388

Mastering Evaluation Skills: Strategies, Methods and Tools
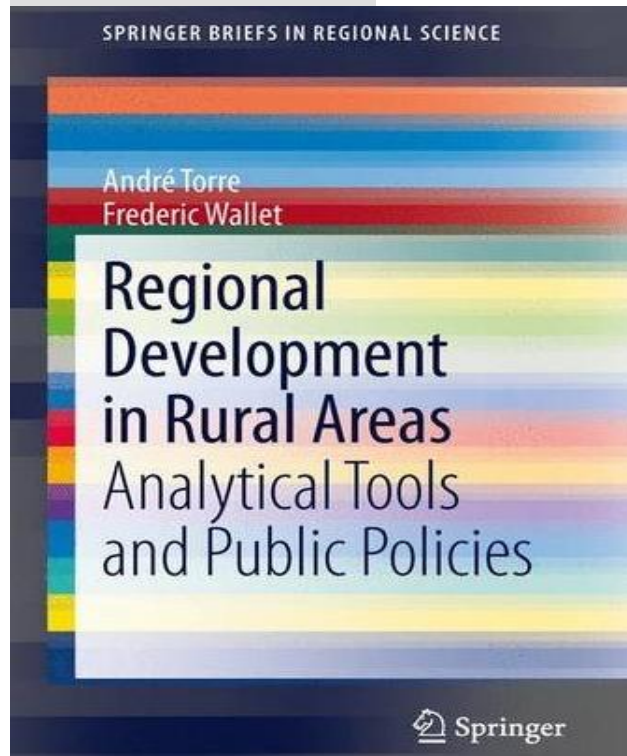Date: 16–18 December
Location: Maastricht
Additional Information:
http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5393

The Library of Local Government

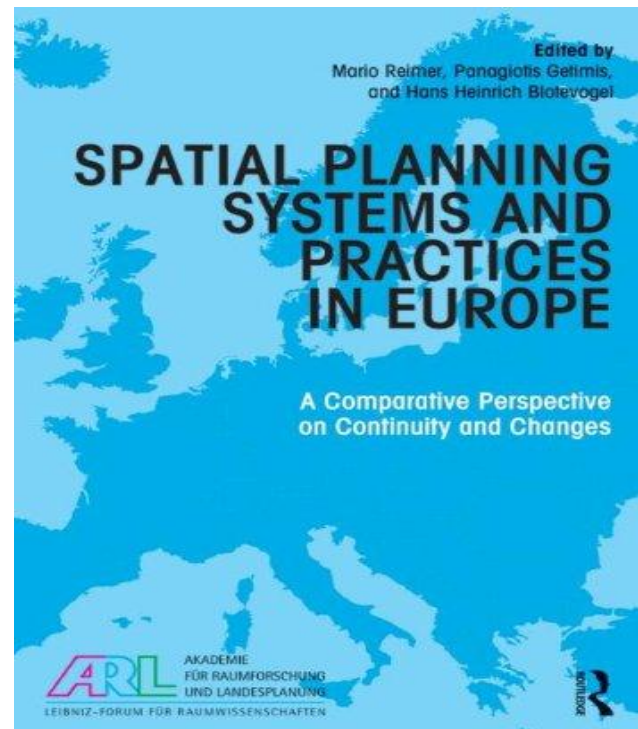### Regional Development in Rural Areas: Analytical Tools and Public Policies

Pages: 110
A. Torre & F. Wallet (edit.)
Publisher: Springer, April 2014

This book intends to provide analytical and policy tools for investigating the question of the development of rural and peri-urban areas. The aim is to shed some light on this topic and in particular to contribute to a better understanding of the link between issues of regional or territorial development and issues of rural development. The text addresses the question of the disputed notions and definitions of rural development in rural and regional studies, examines the literature of regional and territorial development and the policies of regional development and planning. It also presents scenarios for the future of rural areas, with a focus on European territories.

Spatial Planning Systems and Practices in Europe: A Comparative Perspective on Continuity and Changes

Pages: 336
M. Reimer, P. Getimis, H. Blotevogel (edit.)
Publisher: Routledge, February 2014

Ideal for students and practitioners working in spatial planning, the Europeanization of planning agendas and regional policy in general Spatial Planning Systems and Practices in Europe develops a systematic methodological framework to analyze changes in planning systems throughout Europe. The main aim of the book is to delineate the coexistence of continuity and change and of convergence and divergence with regard to planning practices across Europe. Based on the work of experts on spatial planning from twelve European countries the authors underline the specific and context-dependent variety and disparateness of planning transformation, focusing on the main objectives of the changes, the driving forces behind them and the main phases and turning points, the main agenda setting actors, and the different planning modes and tools reflected in the different "policy and planning styles".

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC SERVICES

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Stadiou 27, P.C.10183 Athens