



EDITORIAL

The European Commission officially launched a new EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region in the form of a Communication and an Action Plan, to help its 70 million residents to reap the benefit of closer cooperation in areas like promoting the maritime economy, preserving the marine environment, completing transport and energy links and boosting sustainable tourism.

The Strategy will also provide a valuable opportunity for would-be members and candidates of the EU to work alongside EU members, in particular contributing to the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union.

This is the first EU 'macro-regional strategy' with such a large proportion of non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) cooperating with EU members (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia). The Strategy mainly revolves around the opportunities of the maritime economy - 'blue growth', land-sea transport, energy connectivity, protecting the environment and sustainable tourism - sectors that are bound to play a crucial role in creating jobs and boosting economic growth in the region. The starting point for this is the Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, adopted by the Commission on 30 November 2012 and now incorporated into the Strategy. The EUSAIR Strategy will not come with extra EU funding, but it should mobilise and align existing EU and national financing as well as attracting private investments.

All aboard for a new Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region



Contents

European and International Funding Programmes	2
Business and Development Planning	6
The Voice of the E.G.T.C.s	7
EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities	8
International and European Conferences	9
European Affairs	11
International Affairs	17
Consultations	18
The Library of Local Government	19

European and International Funding Programmes

Call for Proposals–Deadlines

1. Creative Europe, 2014–2020

The Creative Europe programme aims to support the European audiovisual, cultural and creative sector. The different funding schemes encourage the audiovisual, cultural and creative players to operate across Europe, to reach new audiences and to develop the skills needed in the digital age. By helping European cultural and audiovisual works to reach audiences in other countries, the programme will also contribute to safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity. The programme will build on and bring together the former Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus Programmes (2007–2013).

Within the field of reinforcing the audiovisual sector's capacity, one of the priorities of the MEDIA Sub-programme shall be to:

- support audience development as a means of stimulating interest in and improving access to European audiovisual works in particular through promotion, events, film literacy and festivals.



The MEDIA Sub-programme shall provide support for:

- initiatives presenting and promoting a diversity of European audiovisual works, including short films, such as festivals and other promotional events;
- activities aimed at promoting film literacy and at increasing audience's knowledge of, and interest in, European audiovisual works, including the audiovisual and cinematographic film heritage, in particular among young audiences.

Applicants must be European entities (private companies, non-profit organisations, associations, charities, foundations, municipalities/Town Councils, etc.), established in one of the countries participating in the MEDIA Sub-programme, and owned directly or by majority participation, by nationals from such countries. Applicant organisations must implement audiovisual festivals which contribute to the aforementioned objectives.

The total budget available for the co-financing of actions under this scheme is estimated at EUR 3.25M. The EU financial contribution will take the form of a lump sum according to the number of European films in the programming between EUR 19.000 and EUR 75.000.

Deadline: 4 July

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls/media/2013-s32-film-festivals_en.htm

2. CIVITAS AWARDS 2014

The CIVITAS Awards are an opportunity to highlight the most ambitious, innovative and successful efforts in the field of sustainable urban mobility. Winners are showcased as examples of excellence before the press with the hope that they can guide and stimulate cities throughout Europe in the pursuit of sustainable mobility.



Every year, applications of the CIVITAS Forum member cities are being invited in the following three categories:

- Technical Innovation;
- Public Participation; and
- The CIVITAS City of the Year.

Award-winning activities are showcased as examples of excellence and promoted to the press, inspiring other cities for the further development of sustainable mobility initiatives in Europe.

In addition, the winning cities of each category benefit from the following:

- Formal acknowledgement letter signed by the European Commission, recognising the city's commitment to the objective of a cleaner and more sustainable public transport in Europe;
- Visibility on the CIVITAS website and promotional material;
- Pan-European media coverage;
- Invitation to conferences and workshops organised by DG MOVE on sustainable mobility.

The CIVITAS Award is open to all cities that have signed the CIVITAS declaration and are a member of the CIVITAS Forum Network. If your city is not a Forum member yet, please complete and sign the CIVITAS Forum Declaration.

The CIVITAS Awards ceremony 2014 will be held during the official closing session of the CIVITAS Forum Conference 2014 in Casablanca, on the 26th of September 2014. Winners (and jury members when available) may be requested for interviews after the ceremony.

Deadline: 14 July

Additional Information:

<http://www.civitas.eu/page-awards-main>

3. COSME, 2014–2020: ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) running from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3bn. COSME will support SMEs in four areas:

- Improving access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt
- Improving access to markets
- Improving framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises
- Promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture





Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a mobility scheme that allows potential or newly established entrepreneurs to spend a period of time collaborating with an experienced entrepreneur in another participating country. These mobility actions aim to help the entrepreneurs enrich their experiences as well as learn and network with entrepreneurs in other participating countries.

The aim of this call is to expand and strengthen the existing network of Intermediary Organisations which act as local contact points for newly established entrepreneurs as well as experienced entrepreneurs in the participating countries.

The purpose of the call is to select bodies which will act as Intermediary Organisations (IOs) to implement the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme at local level. They will, in particular, recruit and assist the entrepreneurs who will benefit the programme. This call will therefore support actions for organisations enhancing and facilitating the mobility of new entrepreneurs, and is not intended for entrepreneurs willing to participate in the programme. Proposals need to be submitted by public or private entities, in partnerships composed of at least 5 entities from at least 4 different Participating Countries.

The Intermediary Organisations (IOs) will be required to cooperate with all other organisations and authorities involved in the mobility programme. They will receive support from the existing Support Office (SO), which helps with the coordination and management of the programme across Participating Countries.

The initiative expects to have achieved the following results by January 2017:

- Circa 650 exchanges matched.
- Circa 2000 entrepreneurs registered.
- Circa 100 Intermediary Organisations involved in the implementation of the programme.
- At least 25 countries covered.
- Rate of successful exchanges above 90%.

The indicative budget available for EU financing under this call is 4.120.000 euro. The maximum amount of the grant that can be awarded to a project is 500.000 euro. It is expected that 8 to 10 projects can be funded under this call.

Deadline: 17 July

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/easme/eye_en.htm

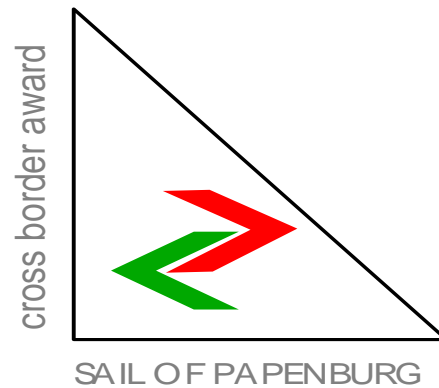
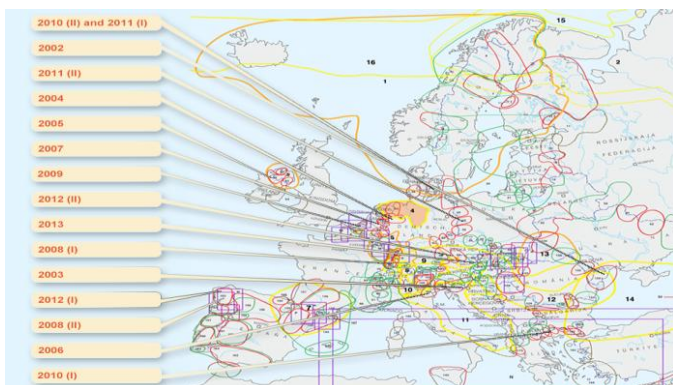
4. Cross-Border AEBR Award 2014

The topic of the AEBR Award 2014 is "Innovation and Research – Cross-Border Regional Development through Public-Private Partnership". Awarded shall be one or more outstanding activities in/of a border or cross-border region.



The award ceremony will take place in the framework of the AEBR Annual Conference that will take place in Rzeszów, Poland, on 11–12 September 2014, on the invitation of the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland. The award honours and motivates: it honours outstanding programmes / strategies, projects and actions within the scope of cross-border co-operation that preferably can be seen as exemplary. At the same time it should motivate border and cross-border regions to actively contribute to a better understanding and better relations at the borders between the nations throughout Europe. Thereby European integration at the borders will be directly promoted. Although the Sail of Papenburg is above all a prestige award, in exceptional circumstances prize money may be granted to financially support efforts made by a particular region.

The achievement winning the award should be so convincing that others are induced to imitate it. The practical feasibility and application of model solutions should therefore be paramount. Individual or joint achievements that are innovative in their approach and exceptionally effective are given particular consideration. When evaluating achievements (in accordance to the respective guidelines), the quality of the individual measures implemented as well as some projects and / or a programme / a strategy are taken into account. At the same time, cross-border cooperation in particular contexts (specific difficulties, etc.) and supraregional / European significance is also taken into account. What will be decisive is also the added value (e.g. cross-border, European etc.).



Honoured are outstanding achievements in and / or by a border and cross-border region (subnational entities). In principle only organisations aiming to boost direct neighbourly cooperation along a national border are eligible for the award. They include in particular institutionalised cross-border associations (eg. Euroregions and similar structures). Membership in the European Union or AEBR is not required. Applicants may submit cross-border projects (individual and packages), measures and / or also overall achievements / efforts (programmes / strategies) in a border or cross-border region.

The measures entering into consideration for the Award should have been carried out to a large extent and their impacts should be effective or at least clearly recognisable in the year of the award. Any project, which has already received an award, will not be considered again.

The winner of the AEBR Cross-Border Award is decided by majority decision on the part of the members of the AEBR Executive Committee. An independent panel appointed by the Executive Committee for a three-year period assesses the submitted proposals (evaluation sheet is enclosed in the annex). The panel should consist of at least five members and presents the assessed proposals to the Executive Committee for final decision.

Deadline: 31 July

Additional Information:

http://www.aebr.eu/en/news/news_detail.php?news_id=353

Business & Development Planning



The Design of a Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3)

In the context of Europe 2020, smart specialisation emerges as a key element for place-based innovation policies. The flagship initiative 'Innovation Union' sets out a comprehensive innovation strategy to enhance Europe's capacity to deliver smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and highlights the concept of smart specialisation as a way to achieve these goals. The 'Digital Agenda for Europe' flagship initiative is also part of Europe 2020 and aims to deliver sustainable economic growth and social benefits from Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The Digital Agenda for Europe initiative is therefore relevant to all regions and cities, as it focuses on a key element for the design of smart specialisation strategies. The concept of smart specialisation has also been promoted by the Communication 'Regional Policy contributing to smart growth in Europe 2020'. In this document the Commission encourages the design of national/regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation as a means to deliver a more targeted Structural Fund support and a strategic and integrated approach to harness the potential for smart growth and the knowledge economy in all Regions.

The underlying rationale behind the Smart Specialisation concept is that by concentrating knowledge resources and linking them to a limited number of priority economic activities, countries and regions can become –and remain –competitive

in the global economy. This type of specialisation allows regions to take advantage of scale, scope and spillovers in knowledge production and use, which are important drivers of productivity.

A national/regional research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation can be seen as an economic transformation agenda based on four general principles summarised in four 'Cs' (Tough Coices and Critical Mass; competitive advantage; connectivity and clusters; collaborative leadership).

These four 'Cs' are the leading elements of a RIS3 process that incorporate its main novelties when compared to past experiences and inspire the strategy design and are recomposed around a logical design structure for a RIS3. The six steps are defined as follows:

- Analysis of the regional context and potential for innovation,
- Set up of a sound and inclusive governance structure,
- Production of a shared vision about the future of the region,
- Selection of a limited number of priorities for regional development,
- Establishment of suitable policy mixes,
- Integration of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

These six steps can be implemented in sequence, following the order in which they are presented above. However, it is important to point out that they are likely to overlap in time as new actors enter the process, new analysis uncovers unrealised potential, or ongoing projects deliver results that can modify the fundamental context during the process.



Additional Information:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3pguide>

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



3rd meeting of the Approving Authorities of the European Groupings for Territorial Cohesion

On the 7th of March 2014, the Hungarian Ministry of Public Administration and Justice organised the meeting of Approving Authorities of the European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation for the third time at the House of Hungarians. The event drew huge international interest. The conference was centred on the challenges of the 2014–2020 budget period. The meeting was opened by Bence Rétvári, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. In his welcome speech he stressed that key factors to successful founding of EGTC's are the will of near-border municipalities to cooperate; the intention of Approving Authorities to communicate between each other; and a legal environment supportive of cooperation. He expressed his hopes that the conference held annually by the Ministry will contribute to the successful founding of EGTC's all around Europe.



According to the Minister of State, the exchange of experiences and showing of good practices will inspire and give ideas to participants regarding their own operating territory, thereby advancing the potentials of the EGTC institutions. Specialists of Approval Authorities of the European Commission and the Committee of Regions, as well as of six countries including Spain, Slovakia and Slovenia presented the new challenges and opportunities that will open up regarding regional cooperation by the start of this financial period and modifications of EGTC legislation.

Representatives of successful EGTC's including EUKN EGTC; Duero – Douro EGTC; EGTC CETC; Gate of Europe and Hollister Granum EGTC provided information on the role of EGTC's in the cohesion policy after 2014. They pointed out that with the financial resources of the EU and the States concerned, development near the border area could be propelled and that project developments and their implementations serve regional development goals and objectives.

2014 is the opening year of the new financial period. For the future of EGTC's a major milestone was that the review process of EGTC's came to a successful conclusion as the amended EGTC Regulation of 2013 was published on December 20 of last year, which recently became mandatory on in the EU Member States.

Additional Information:

<http://egtc.kormany.hu/the-3rd-meeting-of-egtc-approval-authorities>

EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

Municipality of Piraeus: Interreg IVC– Cycle Cities Project

On the 3th–4th of June 2014, with the participation of the Municipality of Piraeus (Greece), the 1st International Conference of the CycleCities Project took place in Ljubljana. «HOW TO BUILD AN OPTIMUM CYCLING CITY ENVIRONMENT? CONNECTIVITY AND ROAD SAFETY” was the key question and objectives of the Conference.

Local and International experts contributed in this study area with their interventions emphasizing on crucial issues related to connectivity and road safety for cycling. Policies and actual cases from Slovenia and other EU countries were presented, as well as EC guidelines for promoting sustainable mobility in Europe. Following this, the 6th International forum was conducted in the same study area that included a vivid discussion and exchange of views on how we can activate and even motivate public authorities and private stakeholders in favor of introducing cycling policies and building cycling infrastructure in EU cities.

On the 2nd day, in the framework of the 6th interregional workshop, a targeted cycling tour took place in the city of Ljubljana. During this, participants had the chance to see and analyze the planning procedure of cycling infrastructure in the city and to focus on crucial cases that needed to be noticed in terms of connectivity in the city, safety for cyclists, integrated planning of cycling infrastructure, in order cycling to become a direct and functional mobility mean in the city.



In the end of the same day, good practices on cycling infrastructure from EU countries were analysed while extensive technical discussion was done on existing or proposed planned cycling networks in CycleCities partner's cities.

CYCLECITIES is a Project in the framework of the INTERREG IVC Programme – a European Interregional Territorial Cooperation Programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). CYCLECITIES aims to carry out transfer of experiences and exchanges of good practice among European cities, as well as to build up a knowledge capital supporting the integration of cycling into urban mobility management schemes for improving traffic conditions and city environments.

Eight partners from seven European regions joined together and cooperate with a common initiative to promote and increase cycling in urban mobility management schemes. Partners are: Municipality of Piraeus (Lead Partner – Greece), London Borough of Merton (England), Municipality of Genoa (Italy), Lisbon Municipality (Portugal), Regional Development Agency for the Region of Leipzig (Germany), City of Gdansk (Poland), Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska, BSC Business Support Centre Kranj (Slovenia) and Sustainable Mobility Unit in NTUA (Greece).

Additional Information:

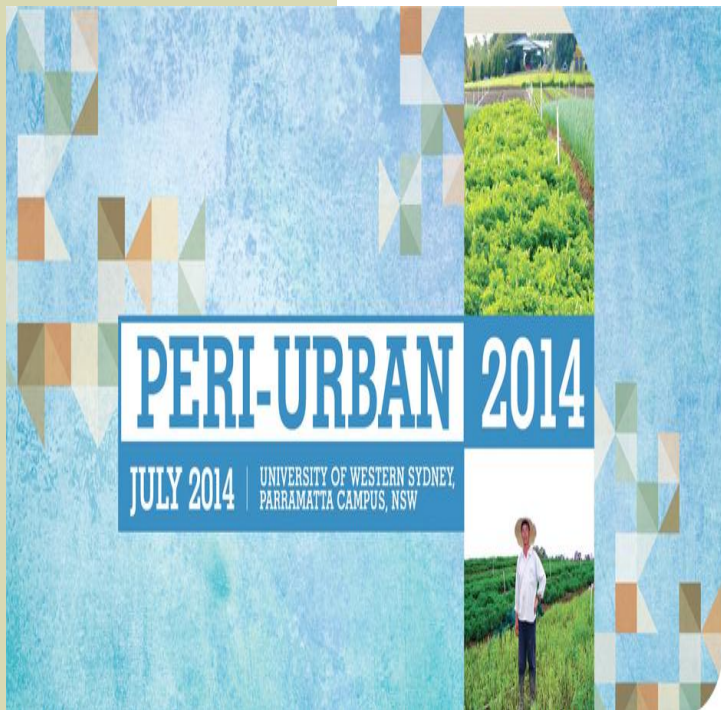
www.cyclecities.eu



International and European Conferences

Peri-Urban Landscapes: water, food and environmental security (Sydney, 8–10 July)

Peri-urban areas are zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban and regional centres and the rural environment. The boundaries of peri-urban areas are porous and transitory as urban development extends into rural and industrial land. Irrespective of how the boundaries move there will always be peri-urban zones.



The themes of the conference are selected to focus on critical natural resource, socio-economic, legal, policy and institutional issues that are impacted by the inevitable drift of cities into peri-urban areas. Peri-urban'14 is the first of its kind; an international, transdisciplinary conference which provides a valuable opportunity to explore these issues.

Additional Information:

<http://periurban14.org/>

Smart Cities, Smart Europe: Putting Our Energy into Innovation and Sustainability (Brussels, 9 July)

According to a recent European Parliament policy study "*Mapping Smart Cities in the EU*" (January 2014), the core idea of *Smart Cities* is to better connect human capital, social capital and ICT infrastructures in order to generate greater and more sustainable economic development and a better quality of life for citizens. The concept of *Smart Cities* calls for intelligent approaches to local economy, mobility and environment by focusing on people's needs and interests.



The Partnership consists of the High Level Group and the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform, which aim to implement a Strategic Action Plan and to promote SmartCity concepts on a wider scale. This special international symposium will assess the challenges that lie ahead in creating smarter cities and moving towards improved and sustainable public services for citizens. The symposium will explore the need for flexible partnerships between public and private sectors as well as diverse industries such as telecommunication, energy providers, manufacturers, and suppliers to ensure improvements in mobility, energy consumption, governance and social cohesion in European cities.

Additional information:

<http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/EG09-PPE2>

23rd meeting of the COTER Commission and Conference on EUSAIR– The Adriatic–Ionian Macro–Region (Fabriano, 10–11 July)

After the publication of the Communication and the Action Plan on Adriatic–Ionian macro–region, the Council is due to adopt the Strategy before the end of 2014 (under the Italian Presidency), to make it the third macro–regional strategies running after the Baltic Sea and the Danube Region.



Local and regional authorities aim to structure their contribution to the strategy's development and implementation. The debate will offer an opportunity to discuss projects, tools and means to finance the Strategy, governance and implementing issues. The conference will also aim at identifying possible ways to promote and to exchange practices between the different Strategies.

Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/23rd-meeting-coter-commission-and-conference.aspx>

IWA Science Summit on Urban Water (Harbin–China, 13–17 July)

Recently, the urban water environment problems in world became extremely complicated due to the rapid urbanization and large population, which has become one of the critical bottle–necks restricting the sustainable development of cities. In the past, cities were designed by scraping off the local ecologic systems and replacing them with mostly hardscape and some green space occupied by non–native species.



This summit, organized jointly by the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) and the International Water Association (IWA) will develop a practice and research agenda to advance water management in China. With regard to practice, it will define practices and technologies which are ready for more widespread application throughout China, along with the benefits that they will provide. The objective is to encourage their more rapid adoption and, consequently, to significantly advance water management in China.

Additional Information:

<http://summit2014.hit.edu.cn/>

HERITAGE 2014 – 4th International Conference on Heritage and Sustainable Development (Guimarães, 22–25 July)

The conference aims at establishing a state of the art event regarding the relationships between forms and kinds of heritage and the framework of sustainable development concepts.



Once again the four dimensions of sustainable development (environment, economics, society and culture) are the pillars of this event, defining a singular approach on how to deal with the specific subject of heritage sustainability.

Additional Information:

http://heritage2014.greenlines-institute.org/h2014website/conference_scope.html

European Affairs

All aboard for a new Adriatic and Ionian Macro-Region: The Commission brings countries closer together

The recently published Communication on Adriatic and Ionian Macro-region set outs the needs and potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Adriatic and Ionian Region. It provides a framework for a coherent macro-regional strategy and Action Plan, to address those challenges and opportunities, through cooperation between the participating countries. The Region is a functional area primarily defined by the Adriatic and Ionian Seas basin. Covering also an important terrestrial surface area, it treats the marine, coastal and terrestrial areas as interconnected systems. With intensified movements of goods, services and peoples owing to Croatia's accession to the EU and with the prospect of EU accession for other countries in the Region, port hinterlands play a prominent role. Attention to land-sea linkages also highlights impacts of unsustainable land-based activities on coastal areas and marine ecosystems. Home to more than 70 million people, the Region plays a key role in strengthening geographical continuity in Europe. The Strategy builds on the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, which concern eight countries. A map is enclosed. The Strategy remains open to other partners in the Region.



The general objective of the Strategy is to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity in the Region through growth and jobs creation, and by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity, while preserving the environment and ensuring healthy and balanced marine and coastal ecosystems. By reinforcing implementation of existing EU policies in the Region, the Strategy brings a clear EU added value, while offering a golden opportunity for all participating countries to align their policies with the EU-2020 overall vision.

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/adriatic_ionian/pdf/com_357_en.pdf

Amending the Budget to cover research, education, support to businesses and Cohesion Policy

The Commission proposed to increase the 2014 level of payment appropriations by EUR 4.738 billion to cover legal obligations in research and innovation, education and support for small and medium-sized enterprises.



Higher reimbursement claims from Member States in cohesion policy have to be addressed as well as the difficult situation in the Ukraine. The Commission proposed to use unallocated margins under the payment ceiling and recourse to the special instrument, the Contingency Margin.



However, the net cost to the Member States will be significantly lower, EUR 2.165 billion, as the Commission will cash in more than EUR 1.5 billion in additional revenue, mainly from competition fines as well as more than EUR 1 billion resulting from the implementation of the 2013 budget. Draft amending budget 3 addresses the need for additional payments for EU programmes that have been beefed up to support Europe's economic recovery, growth and jobs: Horizon 2020 (research), the Youth Employment Initiative, Erasmus+ (education), COSME (support to businesses). Furthermore, several legislative acts have been concluded after the adoption of the 2014 budget and require more payment appropriations. Finally, some other programmes require a top-up to cover the requirements of the past year.

Additional Information:

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-612_en.htm

European Networks of Local and Regional Authorities pledge support to local action for energy security

“Local actions are key to European energy security” is the title of a joint declaration we co-signed with 5 other major EU networks of local and regional authorities – Climate Alliance, Energy Cities, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE and ICLEI – through which we have pledged to undertake five strategic sets of actions to support our member cities and regions in contributing to energy security in the EU.

The joint declaration welcomes the European Commission's Energy Security Strategy issued in May 2014, since it recognises the Covenant of Mayors as a “key action” of its strategy and recommends that Member States support an “accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans submitted by municipalities participating to the Covenant of Mayors”. In light of this, Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, EUROCITIES, FEDARENE, ICLEI and CEMR have jointly pledged to:

- Launch a campaign of information towards cities, towns and regions to take immediate action on energy savings;
- Empower local communities through examples and solutions for sustainable energy actions;
- Disseminate the results of short, medium and long-term actions implemented in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors in order to boost their replication;
- Reinforce relationships with the European institutions and national governments in order to accelerate the implementation of the action plans, particularly of short-term actions;
- Support initiatives and policies that further enhance local and regional capacities for action, including the EU 2030 framework for climate and energy policies or the international negotiations on climate change.

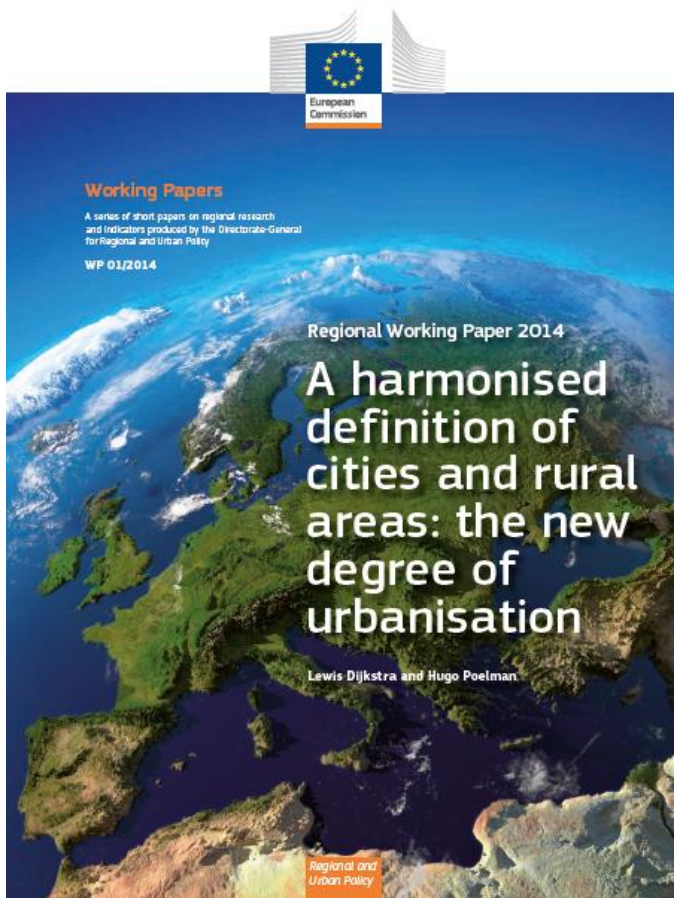


Additional Information:

<http://www.ccre.org/en/actualites/view/2887>

The New classification of Local Government

The European Commission published a “Harmonised definition of cities and rural areas”, based on precise population density rates. One of the purposes of this classification will be to have a precise overview of the funding distribution in the framework of the 2014–2020 period of cohesion policy, for instance in domains like employment or education.



This paper describes the new degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA) classification. This classification distinguishes three types of areas: densely, intermediate and thinly populated areas. This paper shows the benefits of this approach in terms of greater comparability and data availability. It describes the method and how it was developed. The annex contains the original and the new guidance notes on the degree of urbanisation and a section on how to update the degree of urbanisation.

It also contains the United Nations (UN) recommendations on localities and urban/rural areas and the definitions of urban areas used in Europe in a recent United Nations Population Division (UNPD) report.

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgen/er/work/2014_01_new_urban.pdf

AFE-INNOVNET Thematic Network for Age-Friendly Environments

Europe is ageing. People aged 50+ represent already 37% of the population, i.e. 190 million citizens. Eurostat population projections foresee that the number of people aged over 60 will increase by about two million persons per annum in the coming decades, while the working age population, as a result of lower fertility rates among post baby boom generations, will start to shrink. Thereby the number of very old persons, 80 years and older, who are most likely in need of care, will increase. At the same time fewer young people will be available to provide informal and formal support and care.

The overarching goal of AFE-INNOVNET is to set up a large EU wide community of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders across the EU who want to work together to find smart and innovative evidence based solutions to support active and healthy ageing and develop age-friendly environments across the EU.



The consortium is composed of 29 stakeholders from 16 countries: 13 cities, 6 regions, 5 large EU networks active in the field of ageing or representing large numbers of local authorities or seniors' organisations, 4 research centres specialised in ICT and ageing policies, a communication agency with vast EU experience. Most of the consortium partners are actively involved in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing D4 action group on age-friendly environments.

The 24 other partners are also key players for the Thematic Network since they concentrate cities and regions from all over the EU or are key stakeholders in the field of age-friendly environments. All of them demonstrate strong partnerships that will support the multiplying effect of the Thematic Network. Many innovative solutions supporting active and healthy ageing have been developed as pilots across the EU, but they often remain isolated and do not get scaled up, not even in their own country. This means that their impact on addressing challenges of demographic change in Europe is limited.



There is at present no open EU network which enables local and regional authorities and other stakeholders to join, link up, benefit from each other's experience and work together on shaping the EU agenda on active and healthy ageing.

Additional Information:

<http://www.afeinnovnet.eu/>

Ljubljana wins European Green Capital Award 2016

The capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, has won the European Green Capital Award for 2016. Ljubljana received recognition for raising environmental awareness amongst its citizens, for its sustainability strategy 'Vision 2025', its implementation of a range of urban green measures over the past decade and its impressive transportation network.



The Jury was very impressed with Ljubljana's implementation of the city's sustainability strategy ('Vision 2025') which follows an integrated approach to environmental management. The Environmental Protection Programme, the Sustainable Mobility Plan, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan and the Electromobility Strategy all work together towards an integrated vision for the city. Ljubljana has made significant progress in the area of green procurement which has been implemented for 70% of all city purchases. Transportation in Ljubljana has changed dramatically over the past decade. From a city which was rapidly becoming dominated by the car, the focus has now shifted to eco-friendly alternatives. In 2013, Ljubljana modified the traffic flow within the city to limit motorised traffic and give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Cycling is also increasing, with over 1.6 million journeys using the 'BicikeLJ' bike-sharing system since 2011. Future transportation plans are promising in Ljubljana. In 2012 the city adopted goals that will see public transport, non-motorised traffic and private vehicles account for equal one-third shares of all transport by 2020.

Additional Information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/ljubljana-wins-european-green-capital-award-2016/index.html>

"European Entrepreneurial Region of the Year 2015"

Portugal's capital city, Lisbon, UK's Northern Ireland and the Spanish Region of Valencia have been selected as the winners of the European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) for 2015. Their strategies to promote entrepreneurship and spread innovation among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were selected by a jury which included representatives of EU institutions as well as business associations.



The EER Jury has specifically acknowledge the impact of Lisbon's efforts in positioning itself as an Atlantic business hub and Atlantic startup city, exploiting its geographic location as a gateway to the Americas, Africa and the EU. The points of N. Ireland's strengths identified by the EER jury – made of representatives of EU institutions and business associations – include the attention to the region's natural resources; the partnership with EER 2013 region Nord Pas de Calais to exchange best practices on social entrepreneurship; the Food Network initiative, which brings together commercial and public sector funders with renowned culinary restaurateurs to create work opportunities for socially excluded citizens; as well as the Aspire Programme, developed and run by local authorities, which addresses graduate unemployment.

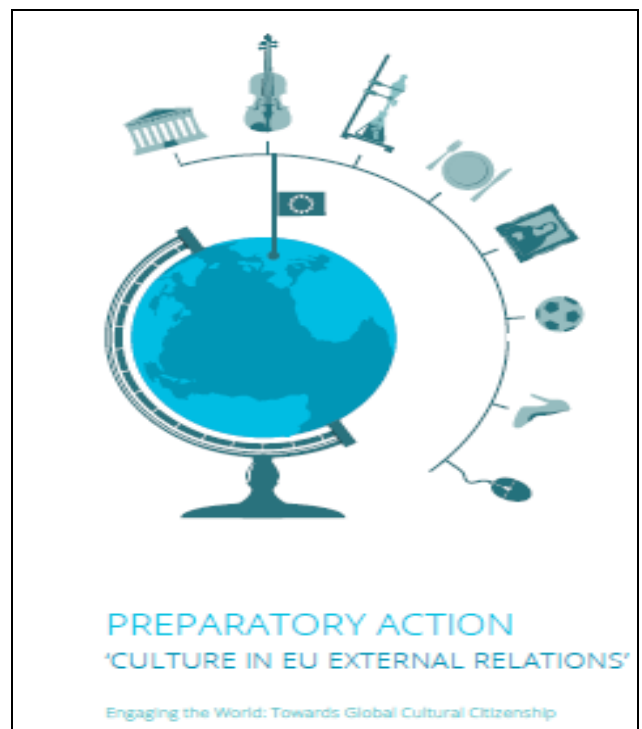
Finally, the Valencian Region focused on increasing the innovation potential of small enterprises by assisting them through the region's four Business Innovation Centers (BICs), in coordination with the region's universities, scientific parks and technological institutes. In the past years, the BICs have helped more than 800 business creation with innovative content, supported the development of 1.600 companies' business plans and generated 2.000 qualified jobs.

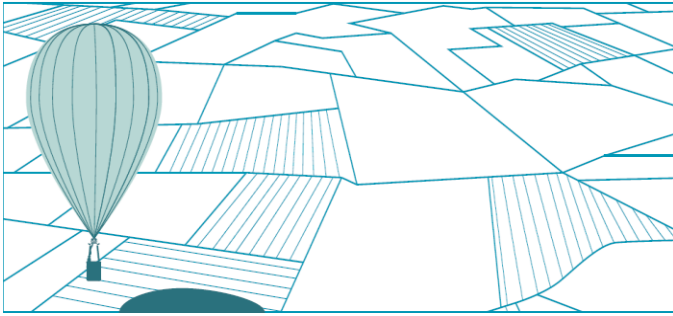
Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/takepart/eer/Pages/eer.aspx>

EU's Cultural Diplomacy

Motivated by the fact that “the European Union has no cultural relations strategy”, the European Commission mandated in 2011 a consortium of eight cultural organisations, institutes, and a consultancy to propose such a strategy. The report published recently and made for fascinating reading and brings together concrete proposals as to how to move forward in the coming months and years.





The report presents the first ever overview of the cultural relations strategies pursued by governmental and civil society actors in 26 of the EU's strategic partners and Neighbours, plus detailed reports on each of these countries have also been produced. It also gives constructive, ethical and practical recommendations as to how Europe can do better and be more effective in the field of international cultural relations. Finally, the report evidences the considerable added value a European strategic approach can offer to all stakeholders including the EU institutions, Member States, European cities and regions, civil society actors, artists and cultural operators, cultural organisations and networks, as well as their counterparts elsewhere.

The report gives a better understanding of the potential in the many ways, in which culture offers pathways for meaningful engagement between countries and peoples in and outside the EU. This potential has not been sufficiently exploited, despite the many cultural relations activities that exist already.

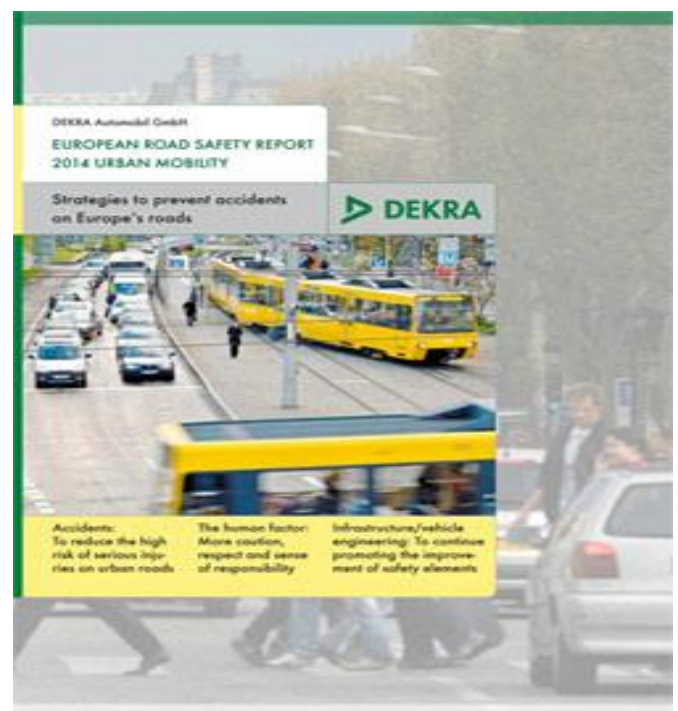
The consortium, that carried out and implemented the Preparatory Action – Culture in External Relations, is convinced that this report will make policy-makers and cultural actors at all levels recognize the multiple benefits – such as increased creativity and innovation, increased trade in cultural goods and services, a more competitive EU, far greater understanding beyond Europe of the European Union, etc. – of a European strategic approach for culture in external relations and that they will act effectively on that recognition and in a concerted joined-up way.

Additional Information:

<http://cultureinexternalrelations.eu/report-publication/>

Urban Mobility: Making "Vision Zero" happen

"Vision Zero" is no utopia. A new online tool presented by the expert organisation DEKRA at the International Transport Forum (ITF) in Leipzig shows which cities in Europe have been working successfully at improving road safety. DEKRA's 2014 Road Safety Report "Urban Mobility" suggests several fields of action. An assessment of the accident statistics for 17 European countries from 2009 to 2012 by DEKRA Accident Research shows that a total of 462 towns and cities with over 50,000 inhabitants achieved a total of zero at least once in this period.



Like the preceding reports since 2008, the report is intended to provide food for thought for politicians, traffic experts, manufacturers, scientific institutions and associations. It is also meant to act as an essential companion for all road users. The expert organisation was one of the first signatories of the EU Road Safety Charter and is just as unwavering in its support of the EU's action programme to once more halve the number of traffic deaths by 2020.

Additional Information:

<http://www.dekra.de/en/verkehrssicherheitsreport-2014>

International Affairs

Metropolis and the Municipality of Tehran engage into a dialogue on City Diplomacy and Global City

The Municipality of Tehran has hosted the National Conference on "Global City: The Role of Strategic Communication and City Diplomacy in Social Development", in Tehran, 17-18 May 2014. The Municipality of Tehran, the Chief of Center for Public and International Relations Mr. Shahram Gilabadi together with the Tehran Urban Planning and Research Center (TUPRC) and its Deputy Head of Science and Technology Department, Mr. Ali Farhadi, invited METROPOLIS to take an active role in the conference.



During the debates, METROPOLIS engaged into a dialogue on Global City and City Diplomacy with academics and experts from the University of Tehran and Media University of Tehran around 4 major areas and topics: Strategic Communication and Social Development, City Culture and Communication, Local Governance Urban Management and Global City and The Role of Culture and Art in Urban Diplomacy. Communication experts and urban managers engaged into thorough discussion towards designing the ideal roadmap to make Tehran a Global and World Class city and capitalize on the many assets the city offers.

Additional Information:

<http://www.metropolis.org/fr/actualite/metro-polis-and-municipality-te>

100 Innovative Sustainability solutions from Cities across the Globe

Sustainia is an innovation platform where companies, NGOs, foundations and thought leaders come together to support and work with a tangible approach to sustainability. With a focus on readily available solutions, Sustainia's mission is to mature markets and sectors for sustainable products and services. The work of Sustainia equips decision makers, CEOs and citizens with the solutions, arguments, visions, facts and network needed to accelerate sustainable transformation in sectors, industries and our everyday life.



This year's SUSTAINIA100 was launched in Oslo, Norway, for more than a 1000 guests. This guide to 100 innovative solutions from around the world presents readily available projects at the forefront of sustainable transformation. These solutions will inspire investors, business leaders, policy makers and consumers all over the world to shape the future into a sustainable future.

Additional Information:

<http://www.sustainia.me/solutions/>

Consultations



EU guidance on integrated Child Protection Systems

The public consultation is targeted primarily at those who have a role in the protection of children, including: child protection workers, social workers, guardians or guardians, police, prison staff, border guards, judges, prosecutors, children's lawyers, children's ombudspersons, academics, journalists and reporters, health practitioners, education professionals, Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, Health, Education, Finance, Interior, Agencies and departments responsible for child protection, NGOs actively involved in protecting children or advocating for the rights of the child, international organisations, EU institutions and agencies, family organisations, media, etc.

Submission deadline: 3 July

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/opinion/140402_en.htm

The Implementation of the EU Ecolabel Regulation

The consultation is intended to inform the evaluation of the implementation of the EU Ecolabel Regulation (EC) 66/2010. The purpose of the consultation is to collect views from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Ecolabel Scheme. The EU Ecolabel Scheme is a voluntary environmental labelling scheme designed to promote products with reduced environmental impact and through this contribute to a more efficient use of resources and a higher level of environmental protection. The EU Ecolabel Scheme is part of the wider policy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) linking it with other instruments such as Green Public Procurement and the Ecodesign Directive.

Submission deadline: 18 July

Additional Information:

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

Emission Trading System (ETS) post-2020 Carbon leakage provisions

The aim of the consultation is to canvass opinions on different options for a system to avoid carbon leakage after 2020. Based on a questionnaire, the online consultation complements three stakeholder meetings to be held in the coming months. The consultation will run until 31 July 2014 but earlier replies are encouraged. The results of the consultation will feed into further work on the 2030 climate and energy policy framework regarding the determination of post-2020 rules on free allocation and carbon leakage provisions in the EU ETS. Responses to the questionnaire will also serve to stimulate more focused discussions during the stakeholder meetings.

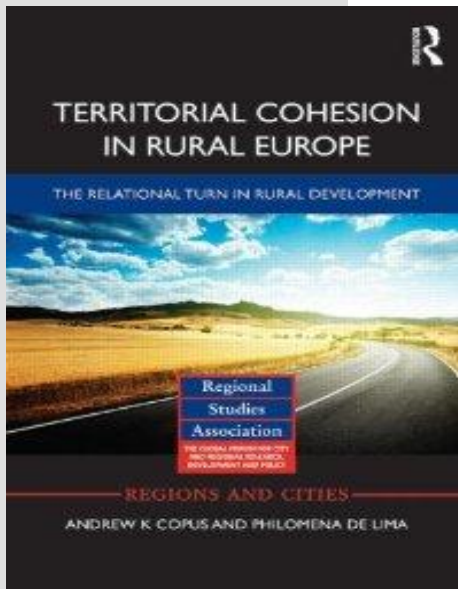
Submission deadline: 31 July

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/articles/0023_en.htm

The Library of Local Government

Territorial Cohesion in Rural Europe: The Relational Turn in Rural Development



Pages: 278

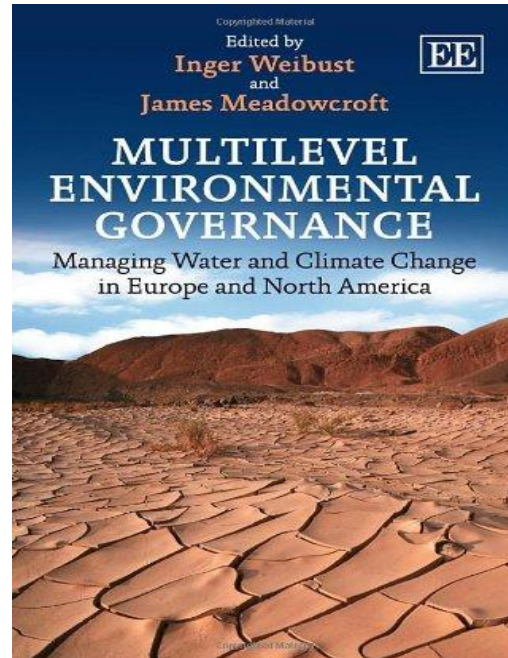
A. Copus, P. de Lima

Publisher: Routledge, 2014 (forthcoming)

This book reflects on how the economies, social characteristics, ways of life and global relationships of rural areas of Europe have changed in recent years. This reveals a need to refresh the concepts we use to understand, measure and describe rural communities and their development potential. This book argues that Europe has 'outgrown' many of the stereotypes usually associated with it, with substantial implications for European Rural Policy.

Rural structural change and its evolving geography are portrayed through regional typologies and the concept of the New Rural Economy. Despite being a subject of active debate, interventions in the fields of rural and regional development have failed to adapt to changing realities and have become increasingly polarized. This book argues that rural/regional policy needs to evolve in order to address the current complex reality, partially reformulating territorial or place-based approaches, and the New Rural Paradigm, following a set of principles termed 'Rural Cohesion Policy'.

Multilevel Environmental Governance: Managing Water and Climate Change in Europe and North America



Pages: 296

I. Weibust, J. Meadowcroft (eds.)

Publisher: Edward Elgar Pub, 2014

The literature on multi-level governance (MLG), an approach that explicitly looks at the system of the many interacting authority structures at work in the global political economy, has grown significantly over the last decade. The authors in this volume examine how multilevel governance (MLG) systems address climate change and water policy. By taking a comparative perspective, the contributors seek to examine the impact of multilevel governance on the environment. They show how the interplay between autonomous governments at the sub-national, federal or supranational and international levels in MLG systems create unique challenges and opportunities. Both cutting greenhouse gas emissions and allocating river flows require tough political or legal decisions that create winners and losers. This book offers a cogent examination of the successes and failures of the United States, European Union, Canada and Australia in grappling with these policy problems.

The Bulletin of International and European Affairs & Development Planning of Local Government of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior is published and distributed on a monthly basis – except for the double summer issue – only in digital form. If you wish to subscribe to our bulletin, you can send us your contact details to the following e-mail address:

a.karvounis@ypes.gr



**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

Editor-in-chief: Antonios Karvounis, Ph.D., PMP©

E-mail: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Website: http://www.ypes.gr/el/Ministry/Actions/deltio_diethnon_kai_europaikon_thematon/