



## EDITORIAL

The release of the Third Report of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD III) highlights the issue of basic services as a priority by the UCLG World Organization. After all, local governments are ultimately judged on their ability to provide their citizens with quality basic services such as water, sanitation, health, basic education, waste management, transport and energy. Improving and extending the delivery of basic services was a key component of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There is now growing international recognition of the importance of sub-national governments in ensuring the universal provision of basic services, and of the role of basic services in poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Rapid urbanization and demographic and environmental changes are posing radical new challenges to sustainable development, and a failure to address the urban access issue will have serious repercussions for human wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Local governments are often at the forefront of collaborating with other levels of government, civil society, and the private sector to provide innovative solutions to pressing citizen needs. Local governments are willing and able to rise to the challenge of providing basic services, but they need the human, technical and, above all, the financial resources to do so.

## Energy efficiency, employment and SMEs are core focus of EU 2014–2020 Cohesion Policy



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# European and International Funding Programmes

## Call for Proposals–Deadlines



### 1. COSME, 2014–2020:

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

#### *(a) Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs*

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. Intermediary Organisations (IOs) will be selected to implement the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme at local level.

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 from the programme. This call will therefore support actions of organisations enhancing and facilitating the mobility of new entrepreneurs, and is not intended for entrepreneurs willing to participate in the programme. 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.

#### *(b) Entrepreneurship education (Pan-European entrepreneurial learning initiative)*

The objective of this call for proposals is to develop a pan-European entrepreneurial learning initiative bringing together existing European and national expertise, in line with proposals included in the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan. This action encourages and supports networking of policy makers and experts across Europe with a strong interest in the development of entrepreneurship education and in deepening of cooperation at EU level in this area. The main goal of this call is that of supporting a network and virtual hub on entrepreneurial learning at European level, driven by policy makers and experts with a strong knowledge of the topic and who commit themselves to facilitate progress and increase coordination of the efforts made by Member States and ... More regions, thus supporting the European Commission in the implementation of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan. The maximum EU financing rate of eligible costs is 90% and the maximum EU financing amount per project is €350,000 .



(c) *Maximising synergies between tourism, high-end and creative industries – Cooperation project to develop and/or promote a European cultural route around luxury goods (pilot phase)*

The theme of this call falls under "transnational cultural or industrial heritage related tourism products". The priority is on "product development" and "promotional phases". For this test phase, the call is open to three high-end products which have been selected on the basis of their economic potential and capacity to diversify European offer during the low/medium season in a wide range of Member States: perfume, chocolate, jewellery. The maximum grant per project will be €400,000. The EU grant is limited to a maximum co-funding rate of 75% of eligible costs.

#### Deadlines:

**19 August** (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs)

**20 August** (Entrepreneurship education)

**16 September** (Maximising synergies between tourism, high-end and creative industries)

#### Additional Information

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/index\\_en.htm?tpa=1029](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/index_en.htm?tpa=1029)

## 2. EU PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (EaSI)

The main objectives of EaSI are the following:

- Strengthen ownership of EU objectives and coordination of action at EU and national level in the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion.
- Support the development of adequate social protection systems and labour market policies.



- Modernise EU legislation and ensure its effective application.
- Promote geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing an open labour market.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, and increase access to finance for social enterprises.

Call title: *Social policy innovations supporting reforms in social services*

The overall purpose of this call for proposals is to foster innovation and reforms in the social services to tackle the main challenges identified and to develop innovative responses corresponding to national, regional and local realities and in line with the social investment approach. This call foreseen under EaSI Progress axis promotes the social policy experimentation as a method for testing and evaluating innovative solutions with a view to up-scaling them. The call has two objectives:

1) using social policy innovations for undertaking structural reforms in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular the Country Specific Recommendations received by the Member States as part of the European Semester; and  
2) strengthening partnerships between public, private and civil society sector to involve in awareness raising activities about the use and benefits of social policy innovation. The grant requested must be 750 000 € minimum and 2.000.000 € maximum. The European Union financial aid granted will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

**Deadline: 28 August**

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&langId=en&callId=408&furtherCalls=yes>

### 3. HORIZON 2020

The general objective of Horizon 2020 is to build a society and a world-leading economy based on knowledge and innovation across the whole Union, while contributing to sustainable development. It will support the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area (ERA).



Horizon 2020 is an integrated Programme covering all research and innovation funding that was provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) during the previous Programming Period 2007–2013. The different types of funding provided by the previous Programmes has been brought together into a single coherent, flexible framework and is intended to provide funding for every stage of the innovation process from basic research to market uptake.

#### *(a) MOBILITY FOR GROWTH 2014–2015*

The current call concerns the field of mobility for growth and addresses three themes of the relevant work programme: (a) Road transport, (b) Infrastructure and (c) Socioeconomic and Behavioural research and forward looking activities for policy-making.

#### *(b) GREEN VEHICLES 2014*

This call of the Transport Challenge represents an essential component of road transport research and innovation. It includes research, technological developments, innovation and demonstration in support of improvements in energy efficiency of road transport vehicles and the use of new types of non-conventional energies into road transport such as electricity, CNG and LNG, renewable and tailored fuels.

#### *(c) E-INFRASTRUCTURES*

This call addresses the development of e-infrastructures. Proposals shall address one of the following issues: Managing, preserving and computing with big research data; pan-European High Performance Computing infrastructure and services; Provision of core services across e-infrastructures; Research and Education Networking – GÉANT; Towards global data e-infrastructures – Research Data Alliance; Network of HPC Competence Centres for SMEs;

#### *(d) Border and External Security*

Topics under this call include the following: Technologies for inspections of large volume freight; Conflict prevention and peace building: Enhancing the civilian conflict prevention and peace building capabilities of the EU; Ethical Societal Dimension: Human factors in border control

#### *(e) REFLECTIVE SOCIETIES: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND EUROPEAN IDENTITIES*

This call will explore the European diversities and the opportunities they bring, enhancing the under-



standing of Europe's intellectual and creative basis and paving the way for the European society to critically reflect upon itself, including its historical, cultural and normative roots and the historical trajectories of Europe's democratic institutions. By addressing the key issues of cultural heritage, identity formation as well as intellectual, artistic, creative and historical legacy of the European Union, this research will contribute to a more resilient, innovative and creative European society pursuing the goal of 'Unity in diversity' whose importance and relevance has been highlighted by the recent financial and economic crisis. It will also foster the potential of digital technologies for facilitating the modelling, analysis, understanding and preservation of European cultural heritage, thus allowing richer interpretations and user experiences, as well as creative re-use.

**Deadlines:**

**28 August** (Mobility for Growth)

**28 August** (Green Vehicles)

**28 August** (Border and External Security)

**2 September** (E-Infrastructures)

**30 September** (Cultural Heritage)

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

## 4. EUROPE FOR CITIZENS, 2014-2020

The aim of this programme is

- To contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity
- To foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.



- To raise awareness of remembrance, common history and values.
- To encourage democratic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing citizens' understanding of the EU policy making-process and, by promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.

The current call covers the following measures:

Town twinning - supporting projects bringing together citizens from twinned towns. By mobilising citizens at local and EU levels to debate on concrete issues from the European political agenda, this measure will seek to promote civic participation in the EU policy making process and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level. The maximum eligible grant for a project is 25.000 EUR. The maximum project duration is 21 days.

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





- ❖ **Civil Society Projects** – This measure aims at supporting projects promoted by transnational partnerships and networks directly involving citizens. Those projects gather citizens from different horizons, in activities directly linked to Union policies, with a view to give them an opportunity to concretely participate in the Union policy-making process in areas related to the objectives of the Programme. Maximum eligible grant for a project: 150.000 EUR.

**Deadline: 1 September**

**Additional Information:**

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

## 5. ERASMUS+, 2014-2020

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

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

Call title: *Key Action 2-Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices*

Capacity Building projects are transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth in Programme and Partner Countries. They can also involve organisations from the fields of education and training, as well as from other socio-economic sectors. Capacity building in the field of youth supports projects aiming to:

- foster cooperation and exchanges in the field of youth between Programme Countries and Partner Countries from different regions of the world;
  - improve the quality and recognition of youth work, non-formal learning and ... More volunteering in Partner Countries and enhance their synergies and complementarities with other education systems, the labour market and society;
  - foster the development, testing and launching of schemes and programmes of non-formal learning mobility at regional level;
  - promote transnational non-formal learning mobility between Programme and Partner Countries.
- Maximum eligible grant for a project: 150.000 EUR



**Deadline: 2 September**

**Additional Information:**

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

## 6. ACCESS CITY AWARD 2015

EU cities are invited to participate in the fifth edition of the Access City Award – The European Prize for making cities more accessible to people with disabilities and older people. The European Commission continues to encourage cities with over 50 000 inhabitants from all Member States to present their activities and strategies designed to make cities barrier-free, better places to live for everyone. It is an opportunity for EU cities to showcase and share their work and plans on accessibility.



The annual prize recognises and celebrates cities for their efforts to make it easier for disabled and older people to gain access to public areas such as housing, children's play areas, public transport or communication technologies. 171 cities have participated so far in the 4 previous editions of the Access City Award since 2010. The Award is part of the EU's wider efforts to create a barrier-free Europe: improved accessibility brings lasting economic and social benefits to cities, especially in the context of demographic ageing.

**Deadline: 10 September**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/access-city-award-2015/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/events/access-city-award-2015/index_en.htm)

## 7. THE LIFE PROGRAMME 2014–2020

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. The LIFE 2014–2020 Regulation (EC) No 1293/2013 establishes the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes of the LIFE Programme for the next funding period, 2014–2020. The budget for the period is set at €3.4 billion in current prices.

The Commission invites legal persons (entities) registered in the European Union (EU) to present proposals for the 2014 Call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants. The call covers proposals for both LIFE sub-programmes. For the sub-programme for Environment, this call will cover action grants "Traditional" projects, Preparatory projects, Integrated projects, Technical Assistance projects and Capacity Building projects. For the sub-programme for Climate Action, this call will cover action grants only for "Traditional" projects and Capacity Building projects (the other types will be covered from 2015 onwards).



Proposals may be submitted by legal persons (entities) registered in the EU. Applicants may fall into three types of beneficiaries: (1) public bodies, (2) private commercial organisations and (3) private non-commercial organisations (including NGOs). The total budget for project action grants for this call is EUR 283 122 966. Of this, EUR 238.862.966 is foreseen for the sub-programme for Environment and EUR 44.260.000 for the sub-programme for Climate Action.



At least 55% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by way of action grants under the sub-programme for Environment shall be dedicated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

**Deadline: 15 September**

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>

## 8. HEALTH FOR GROWTH PROGRAMME

The Health for Growth Programme is the third action of the Union supporting the objectives of the EU's Health Strategy. The general objectives of the Health for Growth Programme is to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States aiming at promoting health of the citizens of the Union and reducing health inequalities, while promoting good health and encouraging innovation in healthcare, increasing the sustainability of healthcare systems and protecting the citizens of the union from serious cross border health threats to health.

The main objectives of the programme "Health for Growth" are:

- ❖ Improve health, prevent diseases and encourage supportive environment for healthy living.
- ❖ Protect citizens from serious cross-border threats to health.
- ❖ Contribute to innovation, efficiency and sustainability of healthcare systems.
- ❖ Enable access of the European citizens to better and safer healthcare services.

This call is constituted of 7 individual topics in the areas of chronic diseases, ageing, medicinal product pricing, health monitoring and healthcare associated infections:

- ❖ Innovation to prevent and manage chronic diseases.
- ❖ Early diagnosis and screening of chronic diseases.
- ❖ Professional reintegration of people with chronic disease.
- ❖ Adherence, frailty, integrated care and multi-chronic conditions.
- ❖ Statistical data for medicinal product pricing.
- ❖ Health monitoring and reporting system.
- ❖ Healthcare associated infection in long-term care.



The maximum rate for EU co-financing is 60%. However this may be up to 80% if a proposal meets the criteria for exceptional utility set out in Annex VII of the Work Plan 2014.

Member States may, on a voluntary basis, provide support to applicants and therefore invite applicants to let them see their draft proposals before a certain date which will be earlier than the formal deadline. Applicants must use the LIFE 2014 application packages (in English only) for the preparation of their proposals. Each application package contains full and detailed explanations with regard to eligibility, procedures, co-financing rates and all other relevant details.

**Deadline: 25 September**

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/calls/hp-pj-2014.html>



## Business & Development Planning



### How to launch CLLD in eight basic steps

The current model of the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) has been practiced for over 20 years by LEADER in rural areas and 3-5 years by Axis 4 of the EFF in coastal and fisheries areas. Launching a process of CLLD can be broken down into a series of iterative steps. These are sometimes referred to as the “trinity” of CLLD and can be portrayed as a spiral, as shown in the following Figure 1 Spiral diagram of the area partnership and strategy trinity of CLLD over time.

#### 1. Decide what you want to change (Strategy)

CLLD turns conventional top-down development approaches on their head by starting with the vision of where local actors would like to be in the future and what they think should be changed in order to get there. Responding to local needs comes first and funding is seen as a means to an end.

#### 2. Build trust and alliances with the people that can help to make the change (Partnership)

This step normally takes place in parallel with the decision on what the community wants to change. It requires face to face contact and sufficient time to uncover the main concerns, hidden agendas and historical resentments that lie deep in most communities.

#### 3. Define the boundaries of your area (Area)

Here, once again, CLLD differs from traditional top down approaches, in the sense that the areas targeted do not have to follow predefined administrative boundaries.

#### 4. Prepare a local strategy for change based on the involvement and needs of local people (Strategy)

Once there is broad agreement on what the community wants to change, who can help to achieve this, and the broad area of intervention, it is then possible to go further into the details of how this can be achieved by preparing the local strategy.

#### 5. Agree on a partnership structure and clarify who does what (Partnership)

Local communities have different levels of capacity, histories of working together and/or conflict, and very diverse institutional cultures. Because of this, experience has shown that it is vital to design the partnership to fit the realities of the local context.

#### 6. Adjust boundaries (Area)

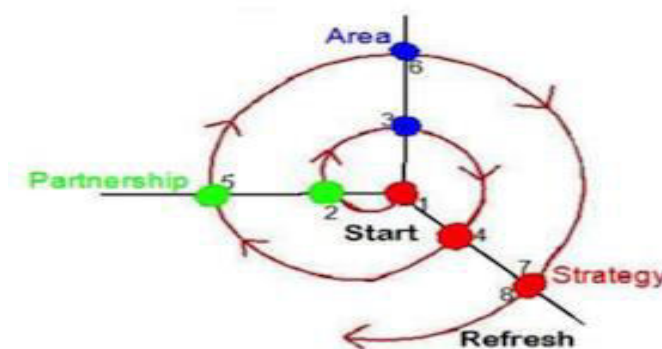
In the process of preparing the local development strategy and building the partnership it will become clear that certain issues can be better tackled by including other parts of the territory.

#### 7. Prepare an action plan and funding application (Strategy)

Once the partnership has agreed what it wants to change and established a clear “intervention logic” showing how this change can be measured and what kinds of action might lead to success, it needs to translate these broad intentions into a realistic action plan and funding application.

#### 8. Establish a system for periodically reviewing, evaluating and refreshing the strategy

Since the preparation of the last round of local development strategies began in 2007, the situation facing local partnerships in many countries has been severely affected by the economic crisis.



#### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance\\_clld\\_local\\_actors.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance_clld_local_actors.pdf)

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



### Implementing the new legislation on EGTC – Dialogue with the national authorities

On the 26th of June 2014, the Committee of the Regions and the Greek Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers co-organised a workshop to promote a dialogue on a harmonized implementation of the revised EGTC Regulation, gathering representatives of the competent National Authorities, the EGTCs, the European Commission, the CoR Members and the stakeholders.

The first keynote speaker, Mr. Antonios Karvounis, EGTC National Authority Contact Point, Ministry of Interior of the Hellenic Republic. Presidency of the Council of the EU, noted that “for many regions and cities around Europe, this period is crucial to overcome the economic crisis and to settle the basis for a real recovery. Within this framework, under the legal architecture of the new cohesion policy, EGTCs, as a legal as well as a political instrument of multilevel governance with the potential of horizontal, vertical and even crossing cooperation of competent actors beyond borders, are called upon to play a more active role in the new programming period: implementing programmes and new instruments like Joint Action Plans and Integrated Territorial Investments, acting in different fields of policy, providing their knowledge and orientation to combine cross-border cooperation, local action and macro-regions, during the development of macro-regional strategies, and consolidating cooperation with non-EU countries”.



Mr. Karvounis pointed out that “what is at stake right now with the new legislation at hand, apart from any technical interpretations, is the ability of the already established EGTCs to convince their members and partners at national and European levels about the necessity to assume the role and tasks provided by the aforementioned Regulations”. In his concluding remarks Mr. Karvounis stressed that “so far, the potentials provided by the previous legal framework on EGTCs have been strongly underestimated and derecognised whereas the political attractiveness of this legal instrument has been also very low. Indeed, it appears that there is a lack of awareness of the added value (legally binding effect, new problem solving capacity, pooling of competences and resources etc.) at the political level whereas it seems to be fully recognised at the technical level”.





Mr. Joachim Zeller, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the revision of the EGTC Regulation, argued that many politicians invoke EU but when it comes to national issues then reactions follow. In this respect, Mr. Zeller said that the revision of the EGTC was not an easy task because national representatives have not realised that EGTCs have not been in competition with their authorities in respect of the programming, the partnerships and the networkings. He concluded saying that the surplus of suspicion and the lack of information should be dealt and that the European Parliament would be an ally to this mission.

On his part, Mr. Vassilis Xenos, director of the EGTC 'Amphyctiony', wondered whether the provisions of the revised EGTC Regulation would be put into practice now that Europe expects from EGTCs to function as an instrument for development at cross-border level. Mr. Xenos mentioned that much remained to be done concerning the aware-raising campaign for local



and regional authorities, the EGTC personnel, proposing, at the end, that the dialogue with national authorities should take place in all the countries which host EGTCs seats under the aegis of the EGTC Platform.

In this context, Mr. Dirk Peters, European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, team leader - legal officer, opened the two roundtables which were devoted to the technicalities of the revised EGTC Regulation. Mr. Peters set out the member states obligations and the new provisions concerning membership, approval procedure, the applicable law as well as the new EGTC operations provided by other Regulations of the new EU cohesion policy.



Representatives of other EGTC such as Mr. N. Krimnianiotis (EGTC Efxini Poli) raised the issue of the bureaucratic procedures for hiring EGTC personnel in Greece, the partnership issue in EU programmes, and the lack of information concerning consultations over a series of territorial cooperation issues. Mr. E. Stavropoulos, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU, suggested that all these issues can be tackled through the exchange of practices between regions and member states.

In the closing of the meeting, Alfonso Alcolea Martinez, representative of the CoR EGTC Platform, commented that the dialogue would continue in view of the new Interreg Europe programme in order to highlight the main priorities of the interregional cooperation.

## EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

### Municipality of Kastoria: Little Big Things in Europe (Europe for Citizens 2007–2013)

Municipality of Kastoria recently hosted a meeting with the participation of the representatives from the municipalities of Viroinval (Belgium), Santa Venera (Malta), Lousã (Portugal), Siderno (Italy) and the League of Municipalities of the district Locride (Italy) in the framework of the project titles *Little Big Things in Europe and in Our Local Communities* funded by the Europe for Citizens 2007–2013 Programme.

«LBTINEU» is a thematic network project, developed among various European municipalities based in 6 countries (Greece, Belgium, Italy, France, Malta and Portugal) which are willing to confront themselves with the issue of social-economic development and the creation of new tools for participation, for their respective citizens through valorisation and exchange of their local best practices. The partner municipalities wish to share and valorize as reference models little big stories in the social, cultural and economic development, promoted by visionary and enterprising citizens living in the partners communities. Little big examples that represent the values and the objectives of the European Union such as the solidarity, combating of social exclusion and discrimination, the sustainable development, the promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion.



Through a close agreement the promoters intend to perform a two-year pilot project, characterised by the realisation of five international events targeted at the key actors in local development and useful to raise awareness amongst the general public, about the best practices of local and social development promoted by their citizens.

Five international events facilitated with the use of advanced methodologies of group work to promote an intensive exchange of experiences and knowledge among the participating citizens. Moreover in the frame of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Union citizenship and the designating 2013 as the European Year of Citizens, the first three events of the project will aim also to raise citizens' awareness of how they can benefit from EU rights and policies and to stimulate their active participation in Union policy-making.

Furthermore the project provides for the involvement of all the key actors in local development of the municipalities and their social context areas. During the initiative there will be the official signing of twinning agreements among the partners.

The idea of the project aims at offering a unique opportunity to learn about the daily lives of citizens of other European countries, to talk and work with them by establishing stable relations of friendship. Relationships that actually promote a sense of European identity and a sense of belonging to the European Union process. A union based on shared values and common stories fostering a process of mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue.



## International and European Conferences

### 5th International Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture (Brisbane, 17-24 August)

The Symposium theme is "Horticulture, Landscape and Green Architecture". It addresses topics that include innovative approaches in landscape and urban horticulture, especially in transitional economies, the management of urban horticulture landscapes and issues of contemporary urbanism.



Academics, scholars, scientists, researchers, executives, consultants, government officers, graduate students and industry leaders are invited to participate in the sharing of research-based information within the field of landscape and urban horticulture.

#### Additional Information:

[http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium\\_28.html](http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium_28.html)

### 5th International Conference Well-being in the Information Society (WIS 2014) (Turku, 18-20 August)

The core topic of WIS 2014 is livability and quality of (urban) living with safety and security strongly in the foreground. Among other issues secure and equal use of information resources, safe and secure work places and education institutions, cyberaggression and cybersecurity as well as impact of culture on urban safety and security will be discussed.



WIS 2014 will review academic contributions on the topics of intersection of health, ICT and urban way of living, all manifested in the information society context. Also industry and third-sector will be represented in the programme.

#### Additional Information:

[http://www.marebalticum.org/brehca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=131](http://www.marebalticum.org/brehca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116&Itemid=131)

### 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2014 (Davos, 24-28 August)

IDRC Davos 2014 attempts to find solutions to today's challenges by managing risks, reducing disasters and adapting to climate change. Focussing on a multi-sectors, multi-stakeholders and multi-disciplines approach IDRC helps to build stronger ties with adequate public-private partnership models among risk management communities and sectors, enabling a move towards a truly integrative way of thinking about disasters and risks.



The outcomes will be presented at the UN World Conference WCDRR in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 and aim to influence the post 2015 agenda such as the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the successor of the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol.

**Additional Information:**

<http://idrc.info/index.php?id=274>

### World Water Week 2014

(Stockholm, 31 August–5 September)

World Water Week, organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), is a platform for over 200 collaborating organisations to convene events about water and development issues. Individuals from around the globe also present their findings at the scientific workshops.



Over the next 30 years, food and energy demands are expected to increase dramatically. We will however, depend on the same finite and vulnerable water resources for sustaining life, economic growth and our environment as we do today.

When addressing the “energy and water” theme during 2014 World Water Week in Stockholm the participants will take an overall “systems view” of how we develop and manage energy and water for the good of society and ecosystems – at local, national, regional and global levels – and avoid unintended consequences of narrow sectoral approaches

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/programme/>

### 14th World Conference of Historical Cities (Yangzhou, 2–4 September)

The 14th World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in the City of Yangzhou, China, under the theme “Historical Cities: Ancient Culture Integrated in Modern Civilization”. Historical cities are the common fortunes of the human kind. It is our



common responsibility to promote sustainable development of historical cities and to create a brighter future of the historical cities. As an international organization aiming at joint efforts of historical cities all over the world, the League of Historical Cities has achieved effectively in enhancing the communication and cooperation among historical cities and promoting the innovation and development of historical cities. This is the very reason why Yangzhou is proactive in the participation of the league to share its experience and efforts.

**Additional Information:**

<http://14lhc.yangzhou.gov.cn/engshijie/>

### Decision Models for Smarter Cities (Como, 2–5 September)

The conference will take place at Como campus of Politecnico di Milano. The conference will address all areas of Operational Research, with special emphasis on models and methods for decision problems in Smart Cities.



## DECISION MODELS for SMARTER CITIES

**AIRO 2014** – The annual Conference of the Italian  
Operational Research Society  
**COMO** | 2-5 September 2014

### Additional Information:

<https://www.airo2014.it/index.php/airo2014/airo2014>

### Sixth Cohesion Forum (Brussels, 8–9 September)

The Cohesion Forum is a large scale political event bringing together more than 700 people including high level representatives from European institutions, Prime Ministers and ministers, regional and local representatives, economic and social partners, NGOs and academics.



The main goal is to discuss how the next generation of Cohesion Policy programmes which will be launched in 2014 can contribute to the recovery of the European economy. With a budget of more than EUR 350 billion, Cohesion Policy can play a key role in supporting growth-enhancing and job-creating investments in 2014–20.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/6th\\_cohesion\\_forum/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/6th_cohesion_forum/index_en.cfm)

## "Local-based National Development: Pathway toward Empowerment and Prosperity"

(Palembang, Indonesia, 17–19 September)

An International Conference on Local Government (ICLG) has been annually held since 2010. Based on this tradition, the International Association for Local Governments (IALG) was established at the 4th ICLG in Surabaya, Indonesia with its core mission to promote local governance and mutual learning among local government scholars and



practitioners. For the past several decades, discussions about development have centered around governance, administrative reform, citizen participation, and empowerment. From all around the world, experiences with development and reform reveal to us a variety of challenges and opportunities for more active roles played by local governments.

### Additional Information:

<http://5th.iclg.in.th/>

### Future Cities (Dubai, 21–23 September)

Cities are competing globally for residents, business, and tourists. As individuals consider how to overcome environmental, economic and community challenges, Future Cities inspires holistic action in pursuit of a more functional and sustainable world



Future Cities Conference is the ultimate learning platform for you to examine the current issues that policy makers and city leaders face in terms of creating and implementing innovative strategies for social, economic, environmental and urban sustainability.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.cityscapeglobal.com/en/futurecitiesevent/Home-new/>

**Urban mobility and social inclusion –  
Planning accessibility for more sustainable  
cities**

**(Casablanca, 23–26 September)**

Following the experience of Casablanca as well as of many European cities, the leading theme of the CIVITAS Forum 2014 will be the accessibility and social inclusion a key factor in urban mobility and city planning. From a spatial and mobility standpoint, accessibility can be considered a pertinent concept while analysing the problem of socio-spatial inequalities and also while investigating how the coordination of urban mobility, spatial planning and institutional governance can play a relevant role in making cities more accessible for all.



**CiViTAS FORUM 2014**  
CIVITAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE | 23-26 SEPTEMBER 2014 | CASABLANCA

Casablanca will host the CIVITAS Forum, an annual event organised as part of the EU CIVITAS 2020 Initiative to bring together the representatives of the CIVITAS Forum Network's member cities and of the EuroMed region: policy makers, urban planners, mobility experts and politicians to present and discuss transport measures and policies towards sustainable urban mobility, accessibility and socio-spatial inequalities.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.civitas.eu/content/civitas-forum-conference-2014>

**Child in the City conference  
(Odense, 29 September–1 October)**

A big theme of the 2014 conference will be the participation of children and young people, which ENCFC identifies as “one of the big challenges of the child-friendly city movement”. Another theme will be children’s right to play, leisure and the arts highlighted by this years General Comment of the United Nations Committee, on Article 31 of its Convention on the Rights of the Child.



The host city, Odense is a strong supporter of the Child Friendly City movement having adopted in 2009 its own vision for a city where “to play is to live”. The city council has a programme of policies with a strong focus on creating urban environments that invite and support children to use public space to play and learn within inclusive and welcoming settings.

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.childinthecity.com/page/9713>



## European Affairs

### The Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Growth and employment, a space for freedom and security, full exercise of citizenship rights and a stronger role of Europe in the world: such are the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



#### *Europe for employment and economic growth*

Improving economic growth and employment prospects mostly depends on the future of the European integration process. The Italian Presidency will endeavour to place growth and employment at the centre of European policies and to define an economic framework capable of encouraging structural reforms within member states. Real economy, “industrial renaissance”, with a particular focus on SMEs as well as energy and climate policies for 2030 will be at the heart of growth initiatives.

#### *Europe will be closer to citizens: a space for democracy, rights and freedom*

Being European citizens today means removing obstacles and procedures which make active citizenship senseless and generate frustration. Accountability, digitalisation, transparency and less red tape are the answers to those who wish Europe to be closer to its citizens.

#### *A new impetus to the European Union’s foreign policy*

The Arab springs and the Ukrainian crisis show that Europe cannot ignore historic events happening at

its borders. Italy will strive for EU external action to be credible, consistent and equipped with the necessary tools to address global and regional challenges. The Mediterranean is a vital space for Europe. The migration emergency forces Europe to adopt instruments and common policies to tackle this major phenomenon of our time.

#### **Additional Information:**

<http://italia2014.eu/en/presidency-and-eu/programme-and-priorities/>

### EU Finance for Innovators

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) launched a new generation of EU financial instruments and advisory services to help innovative firms access finance more easily. Over the next seven years, it is expected that the “InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators” products will make available more than €24 billion of financing for research and innovation (R&I) by small, medium and large companies and the promoters of research infrastructures. This finance is expected to support up to €48 billion of final R&I investments.



“InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators” will consist of a range of tailored products – from guarantees for financial intermediaries to direct loans to enterprises as well as advisory services – to support the smallest to the largest R&I projects in the EU and countries associated to Horizon 2020, the new EU research programme for 2014–20.

#### **Additional Information:**

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-134-eu-and-eib-group-join-forces-to-support-up-to-eur48-billion-in-r-i-investment.htm?lang=en>

## Investment for jobs and growth: Promoting development and good governance in EU regions and cities

The European Commission's 6th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion shows that EU Cohesion Policy is delivering on the growth goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy by creating jobs and reducing disparities across Europe. Looking ahead to 2014–2020, the report outlines how investments will be focused on key areas like energy efficiency, employment, social inclusion and SMEs to get the most of the investments to the benefit of citizens.



The Report analyses the state of cohesion of the Union and highlights the challenges faced by national, regional and local authorities in overcoming the impact of the financial and economic crisis. In particular it finds that Cohesion Policy has cushioned the dramatic decline of public investment, injecting much needed investment resources in many Member States and creating vital financial stability which serves to attract private investment.

EU Cohesion Policy investments from 2014–2020 will make more than €38 billion available to support the shift to a more environmentally–friendly economy, through investments for energy efficiency and renewables, while up to €33 billion will support Europe's SMEs to become more competitive.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion6/6cr\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion6/6cr_en.pdf)

## Cohesion Policy open data platform launched

The European Commission has launched a new open data platform offering an invaluable window onto the performance of EU Cohesion Policy.

### Outputs



The platform provides information about the results achieved in each Member State, based on the reports submitted to the Commission by national authorities. It shows how the funding is distributed between countries, categories of regions, the different funds and the breakdown by thematic objective. The platform includes a series of interactive maps with data on the socio–economic context and the specific challenges faced by European regions, based on the figures from the Commission's Sixth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion.

### Additional Information:

<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>

## Building Partnerships

The Summer edition of Panorama magazine offers an update on the progress of adoption of Partnership Agreements, and goes into detail on the first agreement adopted – Denmark's – with an interview with the heads of the Danish Managing Authorities. The magazine also looks back at ten years of enlargement with an overview of the progress made by the ten Member States who joined the Union in 2004 and how they have benefitted from Cohesion Policy.



Elsewhere, this issue describes the important new governance guidelines and tools designed to combat fraud; go behind the scenes at the Committee of the Regions as they celebrate their 20th anniversary and there is a report from this year's World Urban Forum in Medellín, attended by Commissioner Hahn.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docger/panorama/pdf/mag49/mag49\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docger/panorama/pdf/mag49/mag49_en.pdf)

## Adriatic–Ionian Macro–region: regions mobilise to ensure shared governance and plan effective investment

The European Committee of the Regions is fully committed to supporting the implementation of the Adriatic–Ionian macro–regional strategy (EUSAIR). At the high level conference held in Fabriano (Marche region, Italy) on 11 July, representatives from all involved institutions discussed the implementing steps that will follow the Council's green light expected by October. The Committee wants local and regional authorities to play a key role in governing the strategy as well as in planning consistent interventions using 2014–2020 structural funds. Adequate EU financial support should also be ensured for technical assistance.

With the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU determined to green light the EUSAIR by October, the actual implementation is now at the top of the agendas of all participating partners. In the four involved EU countries (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia), central governments and regions are finalising the operational programmes for the 2014–2020 structural funds that will be among the main tools to fund shared projects linked to EUSAIR's top priorities: blue growth, connecting the region, environmental quality, sustainable tourism.





Nonetheless, the four Non-EU partners (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) will count on the support of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2014–2020. Moreover, international banking institutions such as the European Investment Bank are expected to intensify the current credit opportunities available for the area, also including specific loan facilities as proposed by the CoR.

"The development of an 'Adriatic-Ionian Cloud' and the connection of existing platforms of energy, transport and ICT infrastructures should be among the key investment priorities of the first phase of implementation, together with disaster recovery and risk assessment initiatives, as well as administrative capacity-building projects such as the creation of an Adriatic-Ionian Higher School of Administration", said the Committee's rapporteur on the EUSAIR and President of the Marche Region, Gian Mario Spacca (IT/ALDE). He added that: "Social cohesion, health, organised crime and illegal migration should also be included among the strategy's fields of intervention, as proposed in the Committee's opinion adopted in June".

An "implementers meeting" organised for November by the European Commission will help clarify the actual functioning of the EUSAIR governance structure as well as the coming milestones for the implementations.

#### Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Adriatic-Ionian-Macro-region.aspx>

## Connected Communities

The European Commission launched "Connected Communities" initiative – an umbrella for several systems designed to connect towns, cities, local broadband partnerships and operators to the advice they need to access finance and develop tailored business models for bringing fast broadband to their community.

All parties working at a local, regional and national level are invited to submit their concepts and plans for broadband deployment projects to the European Commission. Requests must be received before 15 October 2014, and the best concepts will receive the Commission's "seal of approval", and access to more in-depth support.



Connected Communities is a European Commission initiative to support regions and cities in their broadband networks development. The aim is to identify and support a number of innovative pilot projects for deploying high speed broadband which can be replicated across the European Union. The initiative will map potential European broadband projects, and identify the most mature ones, which will be prioritized for "technical assistance" services under the Connected Europe Facility (CEF), in partnership between the European Commission and the World Bank. The initiative will also create a community of stakeholders which will work towards closing the high speed broadband gap.

#### Additional Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/node/70389>

## The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Social Cohesion

The impact of the economic and financial crisis, which started in 2008, is still being felt and is affecting various European Member States and regions to a different extent. In order to avoid a downward spiral, central banks have resorted to a major monetary policy stimulus and national governments have put in place a string of fiscal 'packages' which amounted altogether, including the effects of automatic stabilisers, to some 5% of GDP.

As a result of these efforts, financial markets were stabilised and the real economy was set back on a moderate growth path. However, the adverse impact of the crisis is expected to unfold over several years. For one thing, the labour market, which typically lags behind developments in the real economy, is still showing considerable signs of weakness. Unemployment remains high, with the youth having been hit particularly severely. Long-term unemployment is likely to rise, exacerbating existing problems of poverty and social exclusion.



To limit the effects of the crisis, the European Commission launched a European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) in 2008 to coordinate member states' responses. Among other things, the Plan stressed the importance of the role of cohesion policy in mitigating the effects of the crisis.

The objective of the project is to provide an overview of the various consequences that the economic and financial crisis has had and is having on the economic social and territorial cohesion of the European Union. In this context, the project uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods (including statistical analysis and case studies) necessary to determine what are the main factors influencing the impact of the crisis, as well as how different regions have adapted their strategies for the use of the EU structural funds. It includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of the cohesion policy before and after the crisis, as well as the main constraints for its implementation.

### Additional Information:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/529066/IPOL-REGI\\_ET\(2014\)529066\(ANN01\)\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/529066/IPOL-REGI_ET(2014)529066(ANN01)_EN.pdf)



## International Affairs

### Project AL–LAS: One year of international cooperation

On the occasion of the one year anniversary of the foundation of Project AL–LAS, a Euro–Latin American inter–city cooperation network, a Seminar was held in Montevideo, Uruguay to discuss the topic "Exterior actions of local governments". This seminar, which reunited 34 participants among which mayors, officials, technical staff and experts from 19 local governments in Latin America and Spain, not only



demonstrated the ways in which internationalization can improve populations' quality of life, but also provided examples of themes, modalities and tools for international cooperation that local governments already possess. Methodological coordinator of Project AL–LAS, Jordy Meléndez Yúdice, highlighted the advances and challenges that have come out of this past year of cooperation in the Project during this contribution at the seminar. It could be agreed that the project has taken on three dimensions since its beginning in 2013:

As a meeting space between officials and international cooperation experts from Latin America and Europe; as a knowledge hub that collects good practices and submits them to constant debate; and as a loudspeaker for cities and mayors of Latin America when dealing with areas of local reach.

#### Additional Information:

<https://www.proyectoallas.net/about/es>

### Cities are key to international migration policy

The Barcelona Declaration, signed by representatives from cities and international organisations gathered in the Catalan capital, underlines the importance of local authorities in terms of integration for migrants, and calls for further recognition of this role. The Forum on Migration, Mobility and Development, which was held in Barcelona, ended with all the attendees accepting the 'Barcelona Declaration'. The document states that, "faced with the challenge of governing migration, mobility and development, cities are responsible for the processes of integration and social cohesion. These processes are started in neighbourhoods, districts and cities, in public spaces, schools and workplaces". The text states that cities, "fight against segregation and inequality, and it is frequently cities that have to deal with the challenges of living, housing, irregularity and uncertainty, among other things". The document continues, stating that, "the organisations that are responsible for migrant flow make decisions without considering the local impact".



The conference was organised by Barcelona City Council, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, the World Bank, the International Organisation for Migration, and with the participation of the European Commission. The Forum will be held next year in Quito (Ecuador).

#### Additional Information:

<http://eldigital.bcn.cat/?p=61634&lang=en&lang=en>

## Consultations



### The urban dimension of EU policies – key features of an EU Urban Agenda

Europe continues to be faced with challenges related to the economy, the climate, the environment, and society at large. Most of these challenges have a strong urban dimension. But although cities' role for economic, social and cultural development, and their potential for a more resource efficient habitat, have long been recognised, the policy response at European and national level has been slow and piecemeal, with many but poorly integrated sectoral initiatives. The purpose of this consultation is to widen debate to all stakeholders and to reach relevant stakeholders and to gather their ideas and further clarifying the need for an EU urban agenda, what its objectives should be and how it could function.

**Submission deadline: 26 September**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/consultation/urban\\_agenda/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/urban_agenda/index_en.cfm)

### The revision of the Commission's Impact Assessment guidelines

The Commission's Impact Assessment system has undergone continuous strengthening and improvement since it was set up in 2002, with the publication of guidelines in 2009 and complementary guidance on various categories of impacts (e.g. competitiveness and micro-enterprises, fundamental rights, social and territorial impacts) since then. Building on experience gained, the Commission has committed to revise its Impact Assessment guidelines in 2014.

**Submission deadline: 30 September**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/consultation\\_2014/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/consultation_2014/index_en.htm)

### Fishing opportunities for 2015 under the Common Fisheries Policy

The aim of the consultation is to allow all European citizens to express an opinion on the way in which levels of fishing effort and fishing quotas are set according to the new Common Fisheries Policy and in relation to scientific advice about sustainable fishing.

**Submission deadline: 30 September**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2015/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2015/index_en.htm)

### The Commission's Stakeholder Consultation guidelines

The guidelines focus on consultations carried out in policy preparation (of new policies, (spending) programmes, legislative proposals, delegated and implementing acts – with or without impact assessment). They also apply to consultations in the context of evaluations. They provide advice and support on all aspects of carrying out consultations from the definition of the consultation's objectives to the evaluation of the consultation exercise.

**Submission deadline: 30 September**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/planned\\_ia/consultation\\_2014/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/impact/planned_ia/consultation_2014/index_en.htm)

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



### Understanding Current Challenges to EU Trade Policy

Date: 11–12 September

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5472>

### Strengthening the Performance of Your Organisation with the Renewed Common Assessment Framework: the CAF 2013

Date: 17–19 September

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5453>

### To Cooperate or to Merge Municipalities? That is the Question

Date: 18–19 September

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5466>

### Practical Tools for Implementation of EU Policies at the National Level: Modules 1 and 2

Date: 22–25 September

Location: Luxembourg

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5494>

### Introductory and Practitioners Seminar: European Public Procurement Rules, Policy and Practice

Date: 23–26 September

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5390>

### Performance Assessment: Skills for Leadership

Date: 25–26 September

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5465>

### Financial Management of the New ESIF Programmes and Closure of current EU Structural Funds Programmes: Moving from 2007–2013 to 2014– 2020

Date: 29–30 September

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

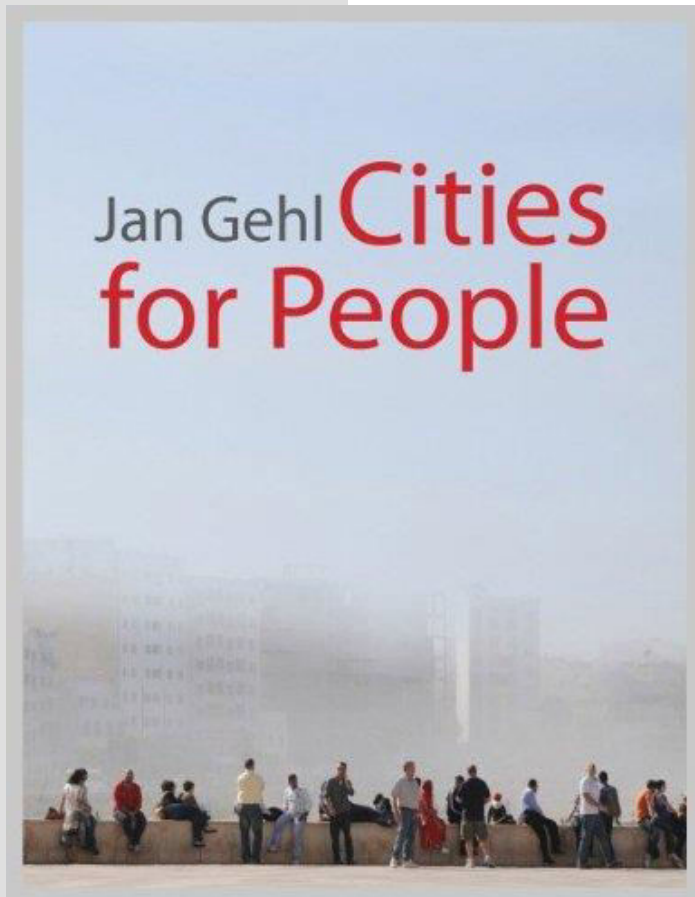
<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5556>





## The Library of Local Government

## Cities for People



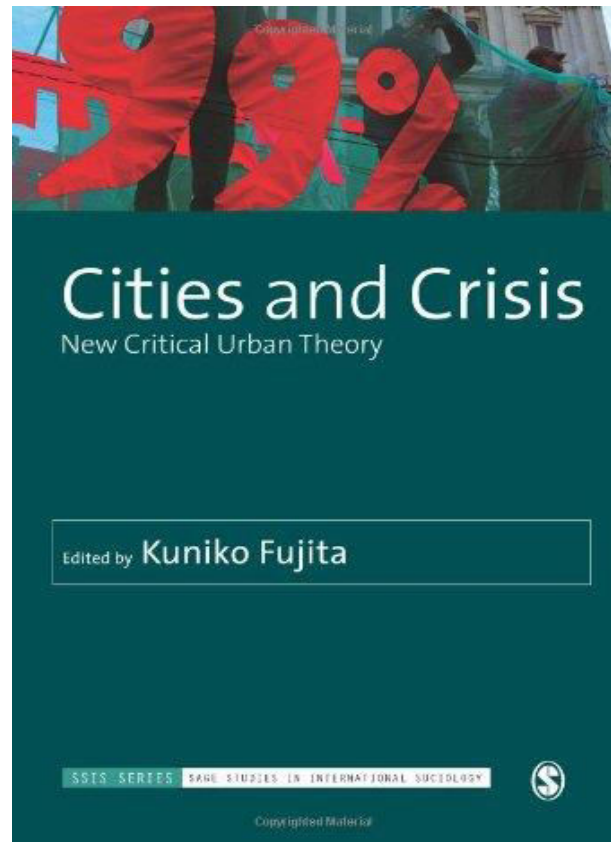
Pages: 260

J. Gehl

Publisher: Island Press, 2010

For more than forty years Jan Gehl has helped to transform urban environments around the world based on his research into the ways people actually use—or could use—the spaces where they live and work. In this revolutionary book, Gehl presents his latest work creating (or recreating) cityscapes on a human scale. He clearly explains the methods and tools he uses to reconfigure unworkable cityscapes into the landscapes he believes they should be: cities for people.

## Cities and Crisis: New Critical Urban Theory



Pages: 344

K. Fujita (ed.)

Publisher: Sage Publications Ltd, 2013

Recognizing the deep relations between politics, finance, cities and citizens, this book argues for a rejuvenated account of urban theory. The book emphasises the need to understand the importance of the 2008 global financial crisis and how the crisis affects cities nested in a variety of political economies. Situating urban theory in the current economic climate, it powerfully illuminates the dynamic between history, theory, and practice. Stressing how catastrophic social and economic calamities under the crisis lead to reorganised city structures, city life and city policies and hence new urban experience, it calls for theoretical perspectives that can speak to these challenging changes.

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