



GR
2014
eu

EDITORIAL

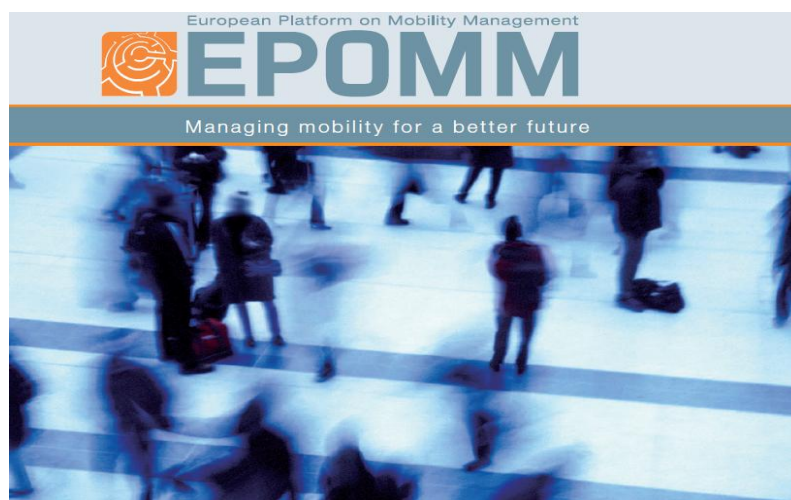
Greece assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU at a time of important developments in the EU regional policy. On the eve of the Greek Presidency the new rules and legislation governing the next round of EU Cohesion Policy investment for 2014–2020 – the financing pillar of the Europe 2020 Strategy – were published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'. Furthermore, the Greek Presidency coincides with the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy, when Europe is going through a crucial phase of transition, following years of economic and financial crisis, recession and unemployment. However, more than three years after its kick-off, the Europe 2020 strategy does not seem to have taken note of the territorial differentiations of the EU, which complicates the efforts that several regions and cities have been making to progress towards the Europe 2020 goals – with the help of the financing instruments of the cohesion policy. In this respect, the Partnership Agreements (PAs) being currently negotiated between the Member States and the European Commission, will be another crucial test for the governance of Europe 2020, which, so far, has not proved to be a driving force for structural reforms. In the coming months, the Greek Presidency will be invited to lead a wide reflection on the experience of the Europe 2020 strategy so far, considering potential adaptations to encourage the reforms needed to accelerate growth and create new jobs.

European Funding Programmes

Call for Proposals–Deadlines

1. EPOMM Awards 2014

EPOMM is the European Platform on Mobility Management, a network of governments in European countries that are engaged in Mobility Management (MM). They are represented by the Ministries that are responsible for MM in their countries. EPOMM is organised as an international non profit organisation with seat in Brussels. One of the central aims of EPOMM is to support exchange and learning on MM between European countries. For this reason, EPOMM has introduced the Best International Policy Transfer Award – that rewards the best policy transfer between different entities from different countries.



Contents

European Programmes and Calls for Proposals	1
Business and Development Planning	3
The Voice of the E.G.T.C.s	4
EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities	5
International and European Conferences	7
European Affairs	9
International Affairs	14
Consultations	15
The Seminars of EIPA	16
The Library of Local Government	17



Applicants for the award 2014 should have an exporting and an importing entity. The winners of the award (exporter and importer) will be invited to the European Conference on Mobility Management in Florence, 7–9 May 2014. The award will be handed over in a ceremony at the ECOMM, and this includes a short presentation on the actual transfer to the full ECOMM audience.

Deadline: 15 February

Additional Information:

<http://www.epomm.eu/index.php?id=2697>

2. European Natura 2000 Award

The European Commission is launching a new Award designed to celebrate and promote best practices for nature conservation in Europe. The European Natura 2000 Award aims to bring the success of the network to the public's attention and to demonstrate its importance for protecting biodiversity across Europe. The Natura 2000 network covers an enormous variety of different sites across the continent. It preserves and enhances Europe's biodiversity, safeguarding it for future generations, and it provi-

des a range of important benefits, helping nature to help us. But despite its size and its many successes, many people have never even heard of it. According to a recent survey, only 27% of respondents have heard of Natura 2000, and only 11% really know what it is. This is why the European Commission has launched the new annual Natura 2000 Award. The aim is to show people what the network is, how it works, and what it does to preserve Europe's biodiversity. The award recognises good practices at Natura 2000 sites in five different categories: communication, socio-economic added value, conservation, reconciling interests/perceptions, and networking and cross-border cooperation.

Anyone directly involved in Natura 2000 – businesses, authorities, NGOs, volunteers, land owners, educational institutions or individuals – can apply for the award. Applications will be assessed by a jury of independent experts, with this year's winners to be announced in May 2014. The winners will be invited to a high level ceremony in Brussels to receive their awards, and will get support to organise local events.

The winners from the five Natura 2000 Award categories will be invited to a high-level ceremony in Brussels, where they will receive a trophy, along with a small financial contribution to help support future conservation efforts. The Commission will also help in the organisation of local promotional events in the countries of each of the winners.

Deadline: 18 February

Additional Information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/awards/>



Business & Development Planning



Mobilizing Leadership in Cities and Regions

Increasingly, accounts of economic growth and its drivers at the local or regional scale have acknowledged leadership as a key determinant of growth (see OECD, 2009, 2010, 2012). Such accounts often treat leadership in a relatively unsophisticated fashion, accepting its importance but shedding little light on how it emerges to be a critical influence, the types of conditions needed to stimulate its development, or how to predict either positive or negative leadership environments. It is, however, possible to draw out a number of policy and practice implications from contemporary research on this subject (see A. Beer & T. Clower: 'Mobilizing Leadership in Cities and Regions', *Regional Science* (2013),

First, the available evidence can lead us to conclude that places with good leadership are likely to be more successful economically than those where leadership is not developed. We can also conclude that the importance of leadership is increasing over time as economic growth becomes less dependent upon natural resources or historic advantages, and more a function of the decisions made with respect to infrastructure, the development of the workforce, industry mix, investment in research and development, and effective marketing (OECD, 2010, 2012). Effective local leadership may also be more important in smaller communities than in large metropolitan areas as they are more likely to be overlooked by the processes and priorities of central governments.

Second, knowing the fundamentals of effective leadership at the local scale it is possible to create the conditions that foster its emergence. To be effective, local leadership needs to be based on collaboration, power sharing, a forward-looking approach and flexibility. Not all individuals or business leaders in a community will have the capacity to work effectively within this environment, but some will, and they can form the nucleus of leadership development.

Third, governments can promote the emergence of effective leadership by delegating powers to communities wherever possible. The European Union already recognizes this priority through its principle of subsidiarity.

Fourth, communities can and should recognize leadership deficits and take action to redress this problem.

Fifth, communities cannot, and should not, assume that adverse events will necessarily result in effective leadership emerging to drive recovery. We often underestimate the risks associated with poor leadership or the absence of leadership. Cities, towns and communities therefore need to plan to develop leadership, and this need is more acute in periods of economic crisis.

Sixth, communities can, and should, undertake an audit of the institutions and agencies responsible for their development. Steps need to be taken to create and sustain new organizations if gaps are identified, while agencies could be wound up or merged if local conditions are too 'thick' with participants.



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



EGTC AMPHICTYONY

Sustainable Urban Development and Echo Management

The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation EGTC AMPHICTYONY, in the framework of the International Conference “ECHOPOLIS Days of Sound 2013” which was held in Athens and, towards an innovative approach to urban development, co-organised with the «SD-MED Observation, Planning & Eco-Innovation» Organisation and the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences the forum “ECHOPOLIS European CLUB”.

Through the presentation of good practices in Europe, the conference aimed at presenting the priorities in city sustainability application and preservation.



More specifically, it focused on the need for the provision of know-how to cities with respect to the quality of urban environment, the creation of eco-neighbourhoods, the quality of the noise environment in cities, the certification of environmental quality on buildings, the supportive innovative financing mechanisms, issues related to public health, etc.

During the meeting, the Director of the Department of Environment of New York City, Mr. Charles Samoon, presented over video the Noise Code of NY, while the President of EGTC AMPHICTYONY Mr. Dimitris Argianas, as well as the Director Mr. Vassilis Xenos-Gavrielis and the Mayors, underlined the importance of noise management in an urban environment, which derives from the ascertainment that urban and citizen prosperity is connected with the wise and sustainable urban development.

The proceedings for the launch of the Forum in the beginning of 2014 have started and the founding members can be both the local and regional authorities from Greece and abroad and private enterprises acting as providers of sustainability and development solutions and eco-innovation. The «ECHOPOLIS Soundscape Award» competition will also be launched in 2014.

Additional Information:

EGTC AMPHICTYONY

29 Vyronos Str. Plaka

10558 Athens, Greece

Web: <http://www.amphictyony.gr>

E-mail: amfiktio@otenet.gr

EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

1. Municipality of Pilea Hortiatis: Social entrepreneurship as a women way to the active citizenship (Life Long Learning, 2007–2013)

The Centre of Social Protection, Solidarity and Education of the Hellenic Municipality of Pilea Hortiati (Panorama–Thessaloniki) is an active partner of the consortium of the project titled ‘Social Entrepreneurship as a Women Way to the Active Citizenship’ within the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme. The main aim of this project is to show women the active approach towards life through involvement in social entrepreneurship.

The partnership’s objectives have been defined as such:

- To know and explore the meaning of social entrepreneurship, its roles and models in each partner country. To find and share good practices in involving women in creating the social enterprises.
- To promote the social entrepreneurship as an innovation way, resourcefulness and opportunity to address social and environmental challenges of women. To involve disadvantaged groups of women to the active citizenship.



These objectives will be fulfilled through the following activities:

- Exchange of the knowledge about meaning of social entrepreneurship, its roles and models in the partner countries.
- Identifying and sharing of good practices in involving women in creating the social enterprises.
- Identifying women who are working in the area of the social entrepreneurship and encourage them to write blogs concerning this idea and its important role in active citizenship and active women’s lives.
- Organizing the Local Support Groups (L.S.G.) to connect women who are involved in social entrepreneurship with women who would like to do it.
- Organizing the local seminars (promotional events): “Social entrepreneurship as an innovation way, resourcefulness and opportunity to address social and environmental challenges” in each partner country in connection with the partners meetings (if possible).
- Developing and organizing the motivation trainings, including coaching, for the target group in each partner country.

The project’s website, the local supporting groups, promotional events/seminars, the database of good practices, newsletters and coaching seminars are some of the results of the project.

Additional Information:

Municipality of Pilea Hortiati

Centre of Social Protection, Solidarity and Education

Web:<http://www.pilea-hortiatis.gr/web/guest/home>



2. Region of Epirus

VERSO

(INTERREG IVC, 2007–2013)

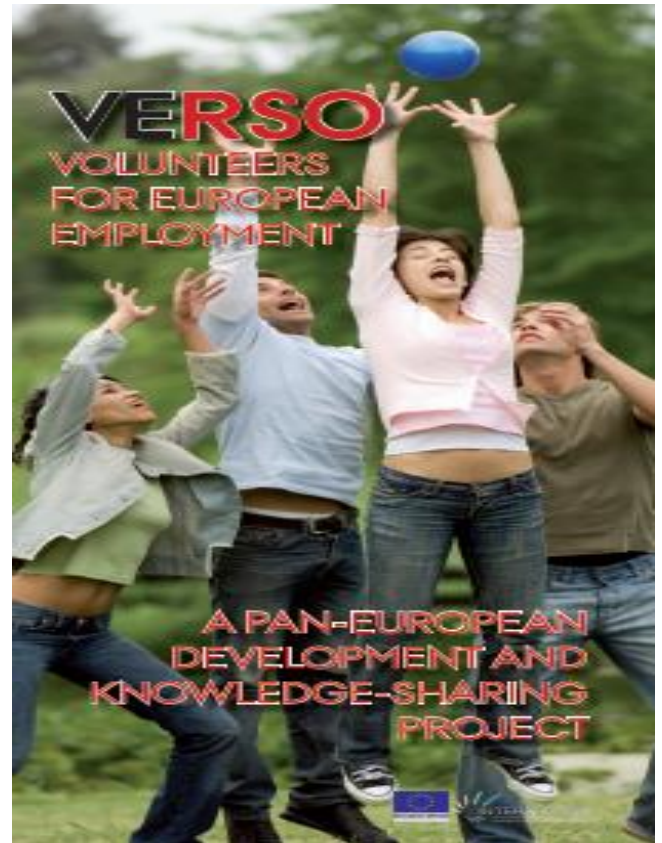
VERSO (Volunteers for European Employment) is a new pan-European development and knowledge-sharing project funded by the European Regional Development Fund, INTERREG IVC.

VERSO seeks to improve the quality of life for people across Europe by means of learning and sharing the best practice of voluntary work to improve European employment as well as social capital, social cohesion and the quality of life.

Unemployment is increasing all over Europe. The problems cannot be solved within the frameworks provided by the traditional systems – neither the welfare state, the family nor the market offer adequate solutions for unemployed citizens who turn to them for assistance. New and innovative approaches are needed all over Europe.

Volunteering can provide a pathway to new skills and eventually a paid job; civic society and volunteerism can also be instrumental in creating new types of social spaces capable of including or connecting with marginalized groups whose employment needs are not currently met by the established employment systems.

All over Europe, there are valuable good practice experiences in creating fruitful collaboration between regional political authorities and volunteers of civil society in the fight against unemployment.



But a cooperation between regional political authorities and research institutions is essential in order to identify the good practice experiences that works and identify how it is possible to transfer them from one particular national, social and cultural context to another.

As a matter of fact, the VERSO partnership is comprised of 8 public authorities and 4 knowledge partners working together in order to produce a Best Practice Catalogue and practical guidelines to all European regional or local authorities interested in developing policies that will support the inclusion of civic society resources in the development of local employment services. Good practice examples from all over Europe is analyzed in order to extract policy recommendations and policy assessment tools.

Additional Information:

Region of Epirus

(Project Manager: Eleni Kalamboka, tel: (0030) 26510 34054)

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



International and European Conferences

11th Symposium on the Urban Environment (Atlanta, 2–6 February)

The theme for the 2014 AMS Annual Meeting is “Extreme Weather—Climate and the Built Environment: New perspectives, opportunities, and tools”. Under the auspices of the proposed theme, traditional topics



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

related to advances in observations, modeling, and applications will be explored at the 11th Symposium on the Urban Environment dealing with urban environment issues, including in-situ and remote-sensing observations, modeling, theoretical, forecasting, and applied studies such as societal and economic impacts of urbanization.

Additional Information:

<http://annual.ametsoc.org/2014/index.cfm/programs-and-events/conferences-and-symposia/11th-symposium-on-the-urban-environment/>

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Mayors Summit (Johannesburg, 4–6 February)

The theme of the 2014 C40 Cities Mayors Summit is: “Towards resilient and liveable Megacities—demonstrating action, impact and opportunity”.



C40 CITIES
MAYORS
SUMMIT | JOHANNESBURG
2014

Plenary sessions will focus on key issues such as Adaptable and Resilient Cities; Building Liveable Cities; and Socio-Economic Development of emerging megacities.

Additional Information:

<http://c40summitjohannesburg.org/>

Stakeholder Conference on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (Athens, 6–7 February)

The Conference, jointly organised by the European Commission and the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union, will present the findings of an extensive stakeholder consultation on the upcoming Strategy that is taking place in the Region from September 2013 to January 2014.



Building on the experience gained in the macro-regional strategies for the Baltic Sea Region and the Danube Region, and following a request from the European Council, the European Commission and the participating countries are now proceeding to draw up an EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (as the Maritime Strategy) will cover eight countries: four EU Member States (Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia) and four non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia). It focuses on areas of regional mutual interest; these are based around four main "pillars": 1) "Driving innovative maritime and marine growth", 2) "Connecting the Region", 3) "Preserving, protecting, and improving the quality of the environment", and 4) "Increasing regional attractiveness".

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/adriatic_ionian/index.en.cfm

Multilevel governance in promoting the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (Brussels, 13 February)

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is drafting an outlook opinion, requested by the European Commission, on "Multilevel governance in promoting



the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and implementing the international Aichi targets" and the representatives of local and regional associations and other stakeholders are invited for a consultation and an exchange of views on the relevant topic of this opinion.

Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/Stakeholder-consultation---Ms-Kadri-Tillemann---biodiversity.aspx>

Cities of Tomorrow: Investing in Europe (Brussels, 17-18 February)

The forum will contribute to a strengthened profile of the urban dimension within EU Policies and wants to emphasize the importance of investments in urban areas and cities as agents for delivering EU policy objectives.



The forum will consult key urban stakeholders across Europe on the need for an EU Urban Agenda, what it should contain and how it should be implemented. The forum will also discuss Europe's role in global urban development as well as the role of business in the development of our cities.

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/urban2014/index_en.cfm

Annual meeting of the EGTC Platform (Brussels, 18 February)

The Committee of the Regions will host the annual meeting of the EGTC Platform that will deal on the



European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation and the Strategy Europe 2020.

Additional Information:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/news/Pages/Save-the-date-18-February-annual-meeting-of-the-EGTC-Platform.aspx>

World Sustainable Energy Days (Wels, 26-28 February)

The World Sustainable Energy Days are one of the largest annual conferences in this field in Europe,



offering a unique combination of events on sustainable energy. The conference makes an important contribution to awareness raising for green energy and energy efficiency.

Additional Information:

<http://www.wsed.at/en/world-sustainable-energy-days/>

European Affairs

The Priorities of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU

Greece assumed the Presidency of the Council of the EU at a time that Europe is going through a crucial transitional phase. The financial crisis imposed the implementation of restrictive fiscal policies in order to overcome initial deficiencies in the architecture of the EMU, safeguard financial stability and gradually return to sustainable public finances. However, the extent and intensity of the crisis, as well as the level of recession and unemployment that have ensued, have shaken the confidence of an important segment of European citizens in EU institutions and their ability to design and implement reliable, sound and growth-enhancing economic policies aiming at recovery, prosperity and high levels of employment. At the same time, austere fiscal policies had a great effect on social cohesion, particularly in countries directly affected by the crisis.

Briefly, the promotion of policies and actions for achieving growth, combating unemployment, promoting economic and social cohesion and structural reforms, deepening integration and completion of EMU, as well as addressing external challenges, including EU enlargement, formulate the priority framework of Hellenic Presidency.

The main principles which will guide the work of the Presidency can be summarized as follows:

- Enhancing civic and society engagement in the EU, through policies and initiatives in response to citizens' everyday problems, concerns and insecurities. Our effort will focus on the areas of economic recovery, employment, cohesion, mobility of EU citizens and European security, both internal and external. The ultimate goal is the evolution of the EU into a community of shared values and "common destiny" for all its citizens, while preserving and strengthening the European social and economic model.



- Deepening the Union, especially the EMU, by promoting policies and actions to remedy and restore initial deficiencies in the Euro area architecture, which have been unveiled by the recent crisis. In this context, the aim remains to preserve the integrity of the common currency, on a solid and sustainable basis, and to ensure financial stability. EMU deepening will take place fully respecting the Single Market, through a procedure open to non-Eurozone member-states.
- Reinforcing EU democratic legitimacy and accountability along with building up the collectivity and solidarity links among Member States, as well as incrementally constructing European democracy and expanding civil rights.

Additional Information:

<http://gr2014.eu/>

Thessaloniki: European Youth Capital 2014

Thessaloniki as a European Youth Capital for 2014 has the ambition to become the European center of innovation, culture, youth tourism, participation and development of youth policies and initiatives. 2014's European Youth Capital features 11 thematic units:

- COLOURFUL CITY

Actions changing the landscape and colouring the



urban scenery. The aim is to change the look of the city by the end of 2014 and create a basis for future landscape planning. With this young citizens will be provided with the opportunity to shape the urban environment that they want to live in. Hence, social and political participation of young people will be fostered, utilising existing open spaces for cultural purposes and promoting environmental issues.

➤ VOLUNTEERS CITY

The European Youth Capital is all about Volunteerism. Therefore there is a pronounced focus on volunteerism in all project themes covered in 2014. Hence, the “Thessaloniki Time Bank” will deposit time (volunteer work) and volunteers can exchange this “currency” with free access to events or other activities also elsewhere in Europe.

➤ URBAN SPORT STORIES

There can be no Youth Capital without sports. Numerous activities are set to happen in urban places. Thessaloniki is graced with hills and sea. Actions have been designed to expose young citizens and visitors to a variety of sports, both extreme and mainstream.

➤ CULTURE IN THE CITY

“Culture in the city” aims to promote general cultural activities and to create culture dynamics. The project will provide opportunities to experience culture in conventional and unconventional venues in the city. Young people will discover the rich and varied cultural heritage of Thessaloniki, experiment with current trends and expose themselves to other European cultures. Festivals, competitions, games and happenings are part of the actions.

➤ THE SOCIAL CITY

The aim of this project theme is to create as many actions as possible to strengthen social links, inform against prejudice, social exclusion etc. Several actions use new and traditional methods to pinpoint differences and highlight similarities among the inhabitants of Thessaloniki. As stated previously, Thessaloniki has a rich cultural tapestry since for many centuries Greeks, Muslims, Jews, Armenians, Roma and others have lived in peace, and this should be celebrated.

➤ HERE WE ARE

These actions aim to present our Greek identity and history as well as our identity as part of the greater idea called “Europe”, by offering opportunities for multiculturalism, integration and youth cooperation.

➤ THE NGO TABLE

This list of actions is a cornerstone of a year-long programme. Each month, NGOs from Greece and abroad (through existing and new networks) will work on fields relevant to the monthly keywords (see above), invite partners from other EU and Balkan countries, exchange knowledge and draw up policies. The fact that Greece will hold the Presidency of the EU during the 1st half of 2014 offers a great opportunity to the youth of the city to promote their policies for a better future in Greece and the Balkans.

➤ EXPERIMENTING THE FUTURE

The specific goal of this category of actions is that young participants will familiarise themselves with future trends through workshops, seminars and actions promoting new technologies and new ideas.



➤ URBAN GREEN STORIES

Quality of life in cities is a very important issue and therefore actions to discuss, experiment with and recommend improvements to the urban environment are among the list of actions set to shape a better future for the city and share good practices with other cities.

➤ WORLD STORIES

Special actions have been planned for each month to celebrate specific International Days. Within this context young people will be encouraged to think globally and act locally and vice versa.

➤ CONNECTING YOUTHS

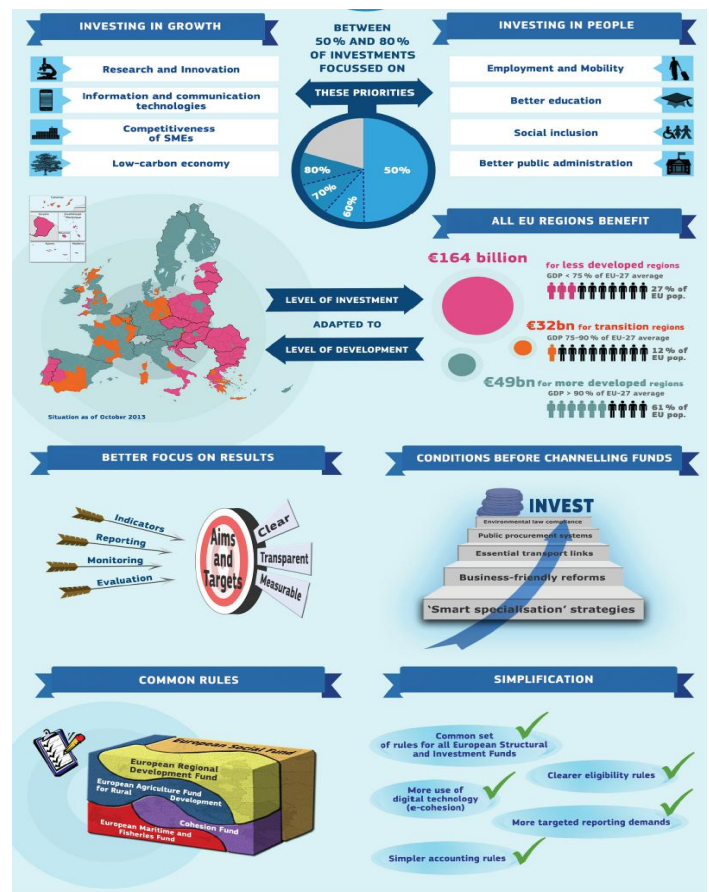
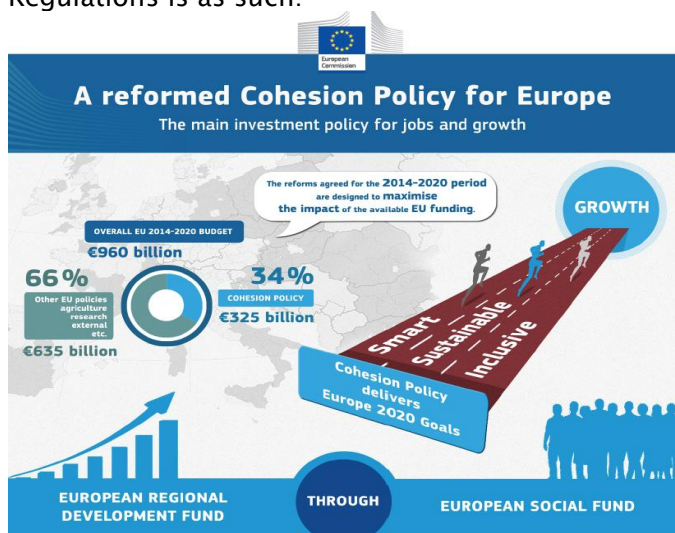
This set of actions will assist youths to interact. A multilingual website and a youth card will be created in order to inform and motivate youths to participate. In addition, a summer boat from the Greek islands and a 7-day camping event will trigger an exchange of ideas with people from other countries.

Additional Information:

<http://www.thessaloniki2014.gr/>

Programming 2014–2020 : The Timetable

After the publication of the new rules and legislation governing the next round of EU cohesion policy investment for 2014–2020, Member States now move to finalising their strategic plans with investment priorities for regional development, following months of preparation. The timetable set by the new Regulations is as such:



(a) The Partnership Agreements

The Regulation establishes that each Member State shall submit its Partnership Agreement (PA) to the Commission within 4 months from the entry into force of the Regulation.

The Commission shall in turn make observations within 3 months of the date of submission of the PA by the Member State and shall adopt the Agreement no later than 4 months from its submission, provided that the Member State has adequately taken into account the observations made by the Commission. This means that as a general rule, PAs should be adopted by end of August 2014 at the latest.

(b) Operational Programmes

The Regulation establishes that Operational Programmes (OPs) shall be submitted by Member States at the latest 3 months following the submission of the PA. The Commission shall make observations within 3 months of the date of submission of the OP and adopt the OP no later than 6 months from the date of its submission, provided that the Member State has adequately taken into account the Commission observations. As a general rule, therefore, OPs should be adopted by end of January 2015 at the latest.

Going Local:**The communication potential of local and regional authorities**

The study on the communication potential of local and regional authorities (LRA) that the Committee of the Regions recently published focuses on the willingness, ability, resources, and potential need



for support of LRAs in the context of communicating the EU and more specifically the 2014 European elections. As such, the study looks back into previous efforts of LRAs to communicate the EU; it observes the current communication channels and their effectiveness, and it also reports on the willingness of LRA to support an EU information campaign in the context of the 2014 European elections.

Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/2013-Going-Local/2013-Going-Local.pdf>

Copenhagen:**European Green Capital 2014**

Copenhagen has placed public-private partnerships at the core of its approach to eco-innovation and sustainable employment. The city works with companies, universities and organisations in dedicated forums to develop and implement green growth. Its North Harbour project, for example, will include a “Green laboratory” that will focus on eco-technologies, a model that can be transferred to other towns and cities. This example of green economic development tackling environmental, economic and social concerns has high potential for replication in the region around the city and beyond. The jury singled out Copenhagen as a good model in terms of urban planning and design. It is also something of a transport pioneer, aiming to become the world’s most practicable city for cyclists. Its goal is to have 50 % of people cycling to their place of work or education by 2015 (35 % cycled to their workplace or school in 2010), helping the city reach an ambitious goal of being CO2 neutral by 2025. The Jury concluded that Copenhagen is a highly successful role model for the green economy, with an efficient communication strategy and the commitment required to develop its role as a model for Europe and beyond.

**Additional Information:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/winning-cities/2014-copenhagen/index.html>

A Study over the Success Strategies and the Long-Term Effects of the European Capitals of Culture

This study, conducted over a period of seven months in 2013, is a response to the European Parliament 2012 call for a comprehensive assessment of the long-term effects of hosting the European Capital of Culture (ECoC) Programme, and the potential organisational and policy implications of these findings.

The Programme has proven capable of generating noticeable impacts in respective host cities; however, with the broadening of objectives and expectations, the breadth and ambition of related claims has also grown and these are not always supported by evidence. Some of the areas of positive impact for which evidence is stronger include the following:

(a) Cultural impacts

- The Programme can have a significant effect on the city's cultural vibrancy. Its contribution to strengthening networks, opening up possibilities for new collaborations, encouraging new work to continue, and raising the capacity and ambition of the cultural sector is commonly acknowledged. Examples of cities that provide good evidence of emphasis on new work, or approaches that added capacity to the sector, are Glasgow 1990, Cork 2005, Stavanger 2008, Essen for the Ruhr 2010, Turku 2011, Tallinn 2011 and Guimarães 2012.



(b) Image impacts

- Many cities with a previously low (and, at times, even negative) profile have experienced an image renaissance, attracting considerable media attention and enhancing local, national and international perceptions.
- Beyond discussion of the city, media interest in the ECoC and what it stands for in respective host countries has grown over time and covers a broader time spectrum than was originally the case.

(c) Social impacts

- The most positive dimension of social impact can be understood in terms of effects on local perceptions and fostering a sense of pride, which partly relates to image impacts and is closely influenced by local and national media attitudes.

(d) Economic impacts

While claims of economic impact have been at times over-inflated or lacking in robust evidence (particularly in terms of job creation), it is apparent that the ECoC can have a considerable effect on immediate to medium-term tourism trends, which, in turn, can have a significant impact on the city's economy.

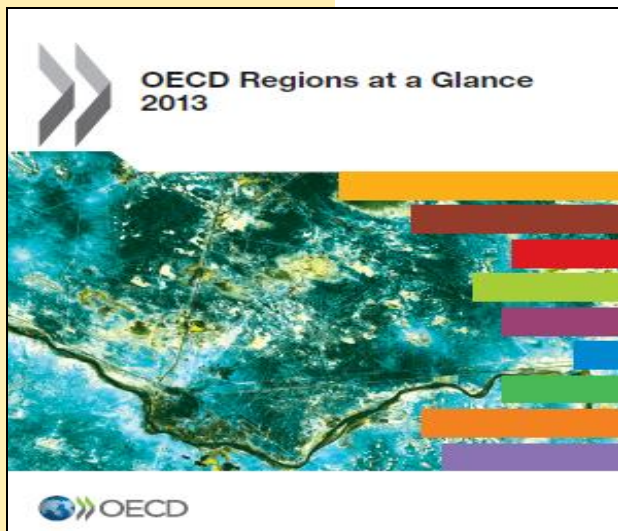
Additional Information:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/513985/IPOL-CULT_ET\(2013\)513985_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/513985/IPOL-CULT_ET(2013)513985_EN.pdf)

International Affairs

Regions at a Glance

The economic crisis has been both deep and wide. More than five years since the implosion of the global financial system, the economic recovery remains fragile and the effects of the crisis continue to be felt across virtually all OECD countries, especially when it comes to employment, and in particular, the increasingly high levels of youth unemployment. Much has been said about the ripple effects of economic hardship across national borders, and the urgency of a co-ordinated global response.



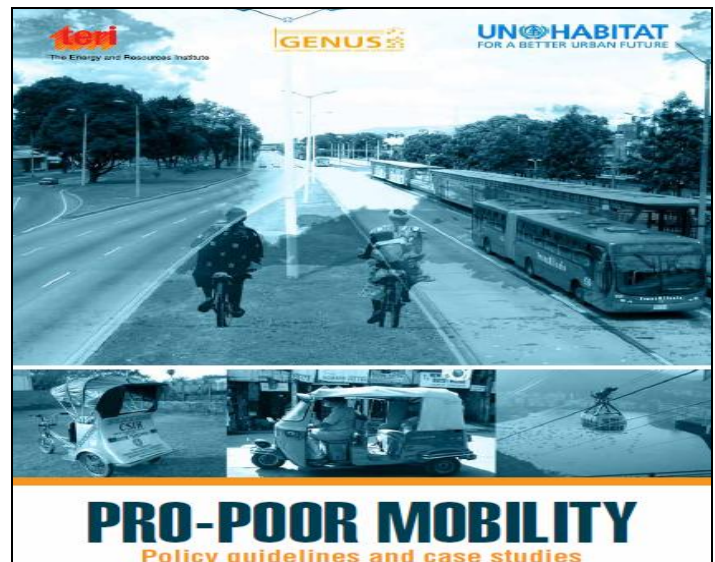
This fifth edition of OECD Regions at a Glance shows how regions and cities contribute to national growth and the well-being of societies. It updates its regular set of region-by-region indicators, examining a wide range of policies and trends and identifying those regions that are outperforming or lagging behind in their country. The report covers all 34 OECD member countries, and, where data are available, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

Additional Information:

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/urban-rural-and-regional-development/oecd-regions-at-a-glance-2013_reg_glance-2013-en

Pro-Poor Mobility

Mobility has a critical role to play in the socio-economic development of the population. Provision of adequate and quality mobility choices for all sections of the society is being widely recognized as a mainstream challenge for the cities in the developing countries where demand – supply mismatch is com-



monplace and cities encounter high levels of spatial and temporal imbalances in transport supply. The low income population and the urban poor are the most affected because of the inadequate mobility options in the cities and are also most vulnerable to the negative externalities on account of transportation such as, high levels of emissions, traffic congestion, unsafe pedestrian and cyclist environment, poor road safety, etc. Therefore, the cities in developing countries face a twin challenge of augmenting the transport supply, especially to meet the mobility demand of low income groups and at the same time to limit the negative impacts of transportation to the minimum. The report 'Pro-poor mobility – Policy guidelines and case studies' has been prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) under the pro-poor mobility component of the Global Energy Network for Urban Settlements (GENUS) and brings together a compilation of nearly fifty best practices on pro-poor mobility solutions from across the developing regions of the world.

Additional Information:

http://www.teriin.org/div/pro-poor-mobility_policy-guidelines-case-studies.pdf

Consultations



Marine Biotechnology

Marine biotechnology has the potential to help in addressing some of today's greatest challenges, including those relating to health, food supply, environmental sustainability, energy security and others. At the same time the introduction of new high value added products and processes into the market can stimulate economic growth, leading to the creation of new high-quality jobs. This is why this nascent industry has been highlighted as one of the five blue growth focus areas in the Communication on "Blue Growth: opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth", adopted on 13 September 2012. For this purpose the Commission is now launching a public consultation. Its aim is to gather information about the sector as whole and individual stakeholders, and establish a robust understanding of its strengths and weaknesses and also of the risks and opportunities that further development of the industry could involve. The results of this public consultation can possibly serve as a basis for a future initiative in support of the sector.

Submission deadline: 10 February

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/marine-biotechnology/index_en.htm

Commission services first draft of the new *de minimis* Regulation replacing Regulation No 875/2007

The purpose of this consultation is to collect the views of citizens and stakeholders on the Commission services' draft of the Commission Regulation on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) to *de minimis* aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector.

Submission deadline: 21 February

Additional Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/de-minimis-egulation/index_en.htm

The implementation of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community – INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC)

The public consultation is to seek the views of the general public and all stakeholders in order to help assess whether the actions already underway to establish an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community according to the INSPIRE directive 2007/2/EC are still on course to meet the objectives pursued. The results of this public consultation will contribute to the INSPIRE interim-policy evaluation which according to the directive needs to be carried out 7 years after its entry into force. The outcome of the policy evaluation will be reported to the European Parliament and Council in 2014 and may lead to remedial policy action necessary to adapt current approaches so that they align better – in the light of a changing environment – with the achievement of the original objectives of INSPIRE.

Submission deadline: 24 February

Additional Information:

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

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



State Aid in the European Union: Latest Developments on Policy and Practice

Date: 10–11 February

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5441

Fashion or Necessity? EU Agencies in between EU Institutions and Member States

Date: 13–14 February

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5461>

Public Administration Quality Improvement

Date: 20–21 February

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/order_activity/one/&tid=5463

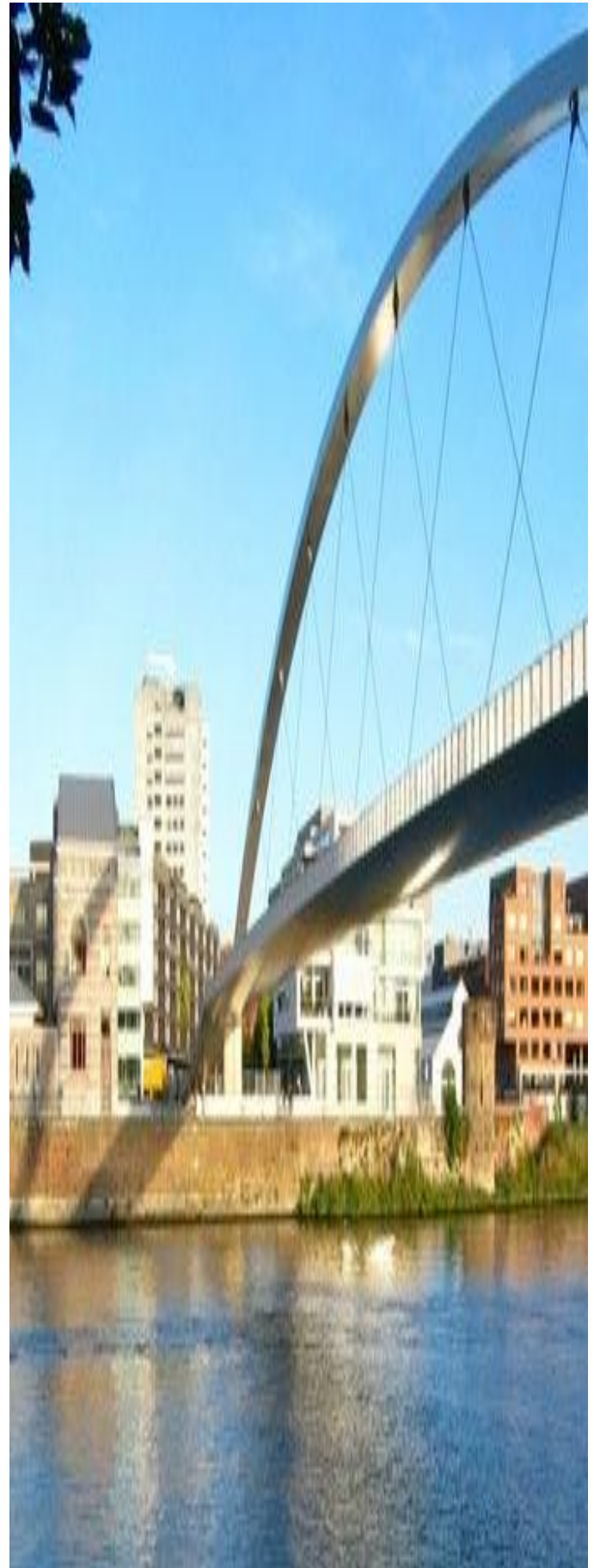
Public Sector Innovation Lab: Innovation Update, Practices and Tools to define an Innovation Agenda in Public Organisations

Date: 20–21 February

Location: Barcelona

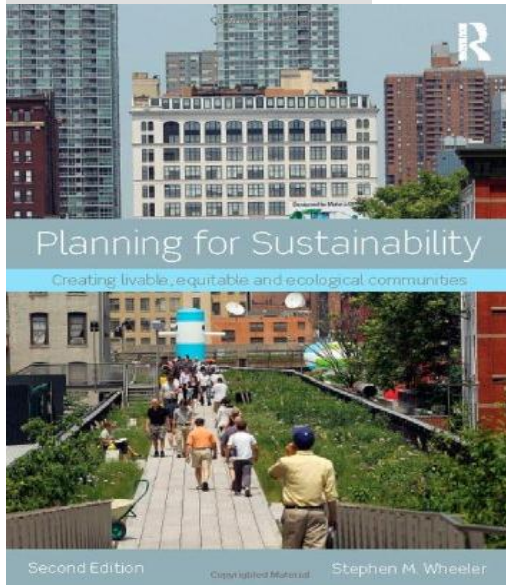
Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5476>



The Library of Local Government

Planning for Sustainability: Creating Livable, Equitable and Ecological Communities



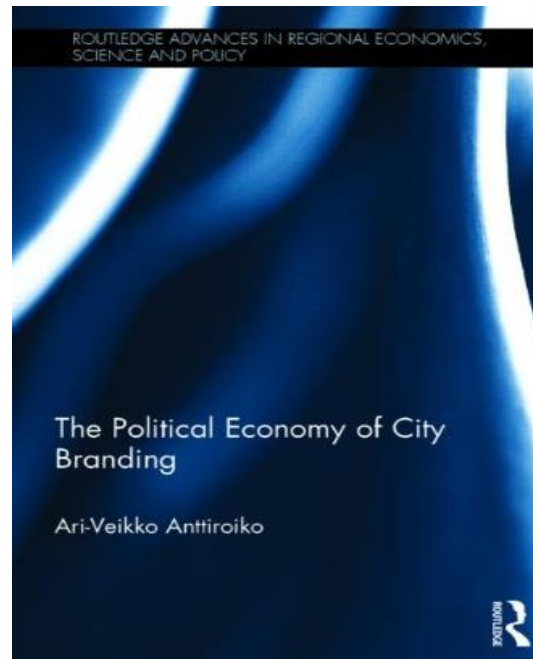
Pages: 424

S.M.Wheeler

Publisher: Routledge 2013

Planning for Sustainability presents a wide-ranging, intellectually well-grounded and accessible introduction to the concept of planning for more sustainable and livable communities. The text explores topics such as how more compact and walkable cities and towns might be created, how local ecosystems can be restored, how social inequalities might be reduced, how greenhouse gas emissions might be lowered, and how more sustainable forms of economic development can be brought about. The second edition has been extensively revised and updated throughout, including an improved structure with chapters now organized under three sections: the nature of sustainable planning, issues central to sustainable planning, and scales of sustainable planning. New material includes greater discussion of climate change, urban food systems, the relationships between public health and the urban environment, and international development.

The Political Economy of City Branding



Pages: 216

A.-V. Anttiroiko

Publisher: Routledge, February 2014

Globalization affects urban communities in many ways. One of its manifestations is increased intercity competition, which compels cities to increase their attractiveness in terms of capital, entrepreneurship, information, expertise and consumption. This competition takes place in an asymmetric field, with cities trying to find the best possible ways of using their natural and created assets, the latter including a naturally evolving reputation or consciously developed competitive identity or brand. The Political Economy of City Branding discusses this phenomenon from the perspective of numerous post-industrial cities in North America, Europe, East Asia and Australasia. Special attention is given to local economic development policy and industrial profiling, and global city rankings are used to provide empirical evidence for cities' characteristics and positions in the global urban hierarchy. On top of this, social and urban challenges such as creative class struggle are also discussed.

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

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