



GR  
2014  
EU

### EDITORIAL

2014 is the year of anniversaries for organisations representing the interests of the European local and regional authorities. As a matter of fact, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRA) are reflecting on their past achievements and future challenges after 20 years of institutional life. On the one hand, the powers conferred on the CoR under the Lisbon Treaty must be accompanied by an interinstitutional strategy enabling the CoR to strengthen its input at all stages of the legislative process so that, where necessary, it can use its right of appeal to the Court of Justice. The CoR should also be able to assume its responsibilities in the new debate on revision of powers in the EU and measures to adapt European regulations. On the other hand, the Congress has solid accomplishments to show, beginning with the legal basis: The European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Protocol on citizen participation, the Madrid Convention on cross-border co-operation between territorial communities and its three Protocols, the Reference Framework for Regional Democracy, the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages and the European Charter on youth participation in municipal and regional life, the Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level. Common future challenge for both organisations is the management of a diversive in institutional and financial terms of the subnational level of governance at the European level.

## Athens Declaration A Territorial Vision for Growth and Jobs



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# European and International Funding Programmes

## Call for Proposals–Deadlines

### 1. European Youth Foundation

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

- educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character;
- activities aiming at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe;



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

Currently, the EYF supports the following operations:

- International activity – including meetings of young people or youth leaders in Europe in order to promote participation and intercultural learning. The EYF will cover up two-thirds of the total cost. Maximum grant: 20,000 euros.
- Annual work plan – including a series of activities for the following year(s), international activities, pilot activities and also publication (including web development). These activities would be part of and support your NGO's strategy or action plan for the coming years. Maximum grant: 50,000 euros.



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

**Deadline: 1 April**

**Additional Information:**

<http://www.coe.int/web/european-youth-foundation/home>

## 2. International youth activities held in co-operation with the European Youth Centres

The European Youth Centres (EYC) in Strasbourg and Budapest provide instruments for the participation of European youth in the building of Europe. The EYCs carry out a yearly programme of study sessions and other activities held in co-operation with non-governmental and governmental youth partners. The study sessions, symposia and other similar activities reflect the principles of co-management and partnership with young people and their organisations that are at the heart of the youth policy of the Council of Europe.

*Eligible activities:*

### 1. Study sessions

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

### 2. Symposia

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

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

All activities should:

- show a commitment to a European society respectful of its citizens' rights and freedoms and tolerant of their diversity;



- aim to reach synergies (multiplying effect) on local, regional, national and/or European level;
- relate to youth problems and concerns;
- be an experience in participation and planned intercultural learning;
- be part of the overall strategy of the applicant organisation, and the results of the activity should be followed up in the organisation's long-term planning;
- be prepared, run and evaluated by the same multicultural planning team, with a geographical and gender balance, and in co-operation with the Centre's educational staff;
- be documented and its results made available to a wider public;
- make good use of the Centre from an institutional and educational point of view;
- be non-profit making.

*Eligible applicants:*

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

**Deadline: 1 April**

**Additional Information:**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/European\\_Youth\\_Centres\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/EYC/European_Youth_Centres_en.asp)



### 3. 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.

The Erasmus+ Programme shall contribute to the achievement of:

- ❖ the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the headline education target;
- ❖ the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), including the corresponding benchmarks;
- ❖ the sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education;
- ❖ the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010–2018);



- ❖ the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU work plan for sport;
- ❖ the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

This call for proposals covers the following actions of the Erasmus+ programme of highly relevance and interest for local/regional authorities:

- ❖ Key Action 1 (KA1) — Learning mobility of individuals.
  - Mobility of individuals in the field of youth.
  - Large-scale European voluntary service events.
- ❖ Key Action 2 (KA2) — Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.
  - Strategic partnerships in the field of education, training and youth.
  - Knowledge alliances.
  - Sector skills alliances.
  - Capacity building in the field of youth.
- ❖ Key Action 3 (KA3) — Support for policy reform.
  - Meeting between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

**Deadlines: 3 & 30 April**

**Additional Information:**

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

#### 4. European Enterprise Promotion Awards

Since 2006, the European Enterprise Promotion Awards have rewarded excellence in promoting entrepreneurship and small business at a national, regional and local level. Over 2 500 projects have entered since the awards were launched and together they have supported the creation of well over 10 000 new companies.

The winners of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards are announced at an Awards ceremony at the SME Assembly, which is part of European SME Week. The objectives of the Awards are to:

- identify and recognise successful activities and initiatives undertaken to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship;
- showcase and share examples of best entrepreneurship policies and practices;
- create a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurs play in society;
- encourage and inspire potential entrepreneurs.



The six award categories are:

1. Promoting the entrepreneurial spirit – Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level that promote an entrepreneurial mindset especially among young people and women
2. Investing in entrepreneurial skills – Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level to improve entrepreneurial and managerial skills
3. Improving the business environment – Recognises innovative policies at national, regional or local level which promote enterprise start-up and growth, simplify legislative and administrative procedures for businesses and implement the “Think Small First” principle in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises
4. Supporting the internationalisation of business – Recognises policies and initiatives that encourage at national, regional or local level enterprise and particularly small and medium-sized businesses to benefit more from the opportunities offered by markets both inside and outside the European Union
5. Supporting the development of green markets and resource efficiency – Recognises policies and initiatives at national, regional or local level that support SME access to green markets and help to improve their resource efficiency through, for example, green skills development and matchmaking as well as funding.



6. Responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship – Recognises national, regional or local initiatives by authorities or public/private partnerships that promote corporate social responsibility among small and medium sized enterprises. This category will also recognise efforts to promote entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed, especially long term unemployed, legal migrants, disabled or people from ethnic minorities.

National, regional or local authorities or public-private partnerships from all EU Member States including Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are invited to participate. Eligible entities can be national organisations, towns, cities, regions and communities as well as public-private partnerships between public authorities and entrepreneurs, educational programmes and business organisations. Cross-border initiatives will be accepted as long as they are nominated jointly by all countries involved. The competition has two stages; applicants must first compete at the national level and will then be eligible to compete at the European level. For the national competition, each country will select two entries to be nominated for the European competition.

Closing date for entries to the national selection is set by each country.

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/european-enterprise-awards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/best-practices/european-enterprise-awards/index_en.htm)



## Business & Development Planning



### Local Action Plans as Tools for attracting Funding & supporting local initiatives

URBACT Local Support Groups are a fundamental building block of the URBACT programme. Every city partner in an URBACT network is required to set up a ULSG to bring together all relevant local stakeholders related to the chosen policy challenge the city wants to tackle (such as youth unemployment or regeneration of a deprived area). By bringing together partners to collaborate on a specific issue, and to exchange their experiences at transnational level, the Local Support Group guarantees a more rigorous and innovative result, leading to the co-production of a Local Action Plan. A Local Action Plan (LAP) is a strategic document that addresses identified needs, analyses problems and opportunities and puts forward sustainable, feasible solutions. All URBACT project partner cities have to produce a LAP but we do not impose the use of a specific template. The Local Action Plan is first and foremost conceived as a concrete and useful tool for the city to solve a local problem and/or improve a local situation. In URBACT, the Local Action Plan is the output of the URBACT Local Support Group participative process. It contains a roadmap and detailed plan (including timeframe and funding information) for the city to deliver solutions to the urban challenge addressed in each URBACT network.

The main key components in an URBACT Local Action Plan are set out below.

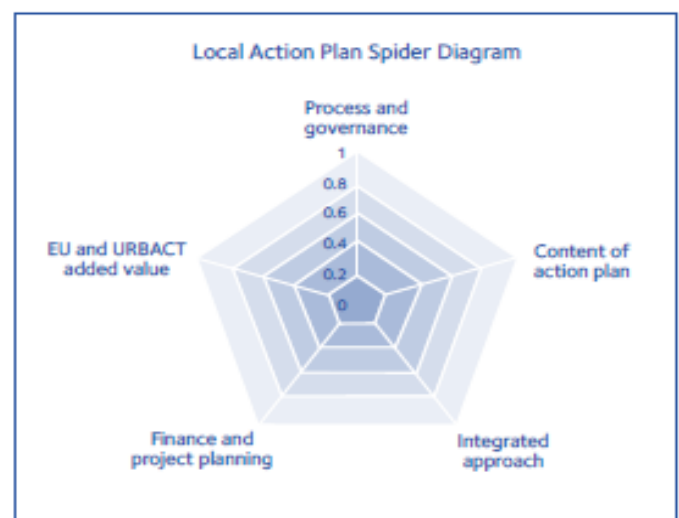
This is not an exhaustive list, but an indication of what should be included:

- a) City context and definition of the initial problem/ policy challenge
- b) Setting of focus and objectives
- c) Actions / schedule
- d) Funding scheme
- e) Framework for delivery
- f) Description of the process
- g) Risk analysis

The main added-value of developing an action plan within the framework of an URBACT transnational network is that you can easily benefit from the support provided by the programme on the one hand, and by peers involved in your network on the other hand.

URBACT has a set of tools which can be used to help with the development of the Local Action Plan including:

- A problem tree that can enable stakeholders to work together on defining and agreeing problems, their causes and effects.
- An action table that can be used to develop an overview of expected results, actions, outputs, indicators and resources.
- A problems and solutions table that can be used to analyse and brainstorm issues and possible solutions.



Additional Information:

<http://urbact.eu/en/news-and-events/view-one/urbact-news/?entryId=5288>

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



### The 4th Annual Meeting of the Platform

The 4th Annual Meeting of the EGTC held at the Committee of the Regions on 18 February focused on the role the EGTCs play in implementing the Europe 2020 strategy. The meeting was chaired by the Political Coordinator of the EGTC Platform, Mr Herwig Van Staa (AT/EPP), who gave an overview of the current state of play in the field of the EGTC and emphasized the importance of the new EGTC Regulation, 'a success story for the Committee of the Regions and for the EGTC' as he said. Mr Van Staa called National authorities to involve the people on the ground: 'When structures are created, but not taken into account, this leads to frustration. We have a few good examples of participation, but we have also received complaints'.

The keynote speech of the meeting was delivered by Mr Normund Popens, Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission, who highligh-



4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the EGTC Platform  
of the Committee of the Regions

ted challenges and opportunities for the EGTCs in the new programming period and gave an overview of the new ETC investment programmes.

In the first round-table discussion, the EGTCs Pyrenées Méditerranée, ZASNET and Galicia-Norte de Portugal presented their efforts to implement the Europe 2020 strategy in their territories, demonstrating that some EGTCs are already taking the Europe 2020 objectives into account in their own strategic planning. Other groupings also intervened, like Gate to Europe, Europaregion Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino, and the European Urban Knowledge Network.



The second round-table discussion provided useful information to the EGTCs about the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy: Ms Anna Repulló i Grau (DG REGIO) addressed the role of macroregional strategies. The integration of Europe 2020 in programmes and project was presented by Ms Aleksandra Rapp (INTERACT). Mr Emmanuel Moulin (URBACT) spoke about the role of the urban dimension and the URBACT programme in the new programming period.

The meeting was concluded by a special highlight. The first edition of the Award 'Building Europe across Borders' for EGTCs was presented to the EGTC 'Pyrenées Méditerranée' for its project Créamed by Mr Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (ES/EPP), President of the Committee of the Regions. Honourable mentions were awarded to the EGTC 'Gate to Europe' for its project 'Together without borders' and to the 'Europaregion Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino' for its Euregio Youth Festival.

#### Additional Information:

<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/news/Pages/EGTCs-contributing-to-the-Europe-2020-growth-objectives.aspx>



## EU funded Projects of Greek Local Authorities

### Municipality of Trikala: SABER: Satellite Broadband for European Regions (CIP, 2007–2013)

An overview of current EU policies concerning sustainable development in European Countries result to the following conclusions:

- As regards the implementation of EPBD in public buildings a concrete regulatory framework exists that provides calculation methodologies of energy indicators, technical requirements to achieve energy goals, and in some cases calculation softwares of building energy performance.
- As regards the implementation of UHI-mitigation works in open spaces, other than some empirical rules, there is no concrete policy framework that provides extensive guidance to calculate microclimate indicators (such as perceived thermal comfort and air quality of- and wind effects on- pedestrians) and to recommend retrofit measures in the study stage.

Besides, it is observed that over the last decade, heat waves have occurred across Europe, particularly in southern Europe. High densely built-up areas trap the heat, especially at night, causing the UHI effect in which city centers can be up to 10° C warmer than surrounding rural areas . A significant consequence of UHI is that energy consumption rises with the increased use of air conditioners and refrigeration appliances.



The REPUBLIC-MED project aims to confront the aforementioned barriers through overcoming the technical drawbacks of common studies. Specifically, the main objectives of the project are:

- Development of a holistic technical-study methodology.
- Experimentation of the methodology through pilot applications in the partner Countries, i.e. Greece, France, Spain, Italy and Croatia.
- Get the stakeholders familiarized with the concept of the methodology
- Development of strategic plans in both national and transnational levels to introduce the methodology as a successful story in future policies concerning energy upgrading of public buildings and UHI mitigation of open spaces.
- Dissemination and capitalization of project results through national and transnational events (workshops and one conference) and through creating synergies with other similar projects.

The Municipality of Piraeus, main partner of the project consortium, organised recently a workshop focused on the presentation of the role of innovative design methods, and exploring financing mechanisms and best practices in energy projects to upgrade buildings and mitigate the phenomenon of urban heat island in open public spaces.

#### Additional Information:

Municipality of Piraeus

Website: <http://www.pireasnet.g>

E-mail: [programan@pireasnet.gr](mailto:programan@pireasnet.gr)



## International and European Conferences

### Smart Green Cities (Bristol, 1–3 April)

URBAN-NEXUS is a coordination and support action funded by the European union under the 7th Framework Programme.



## URBAN-NEXUS

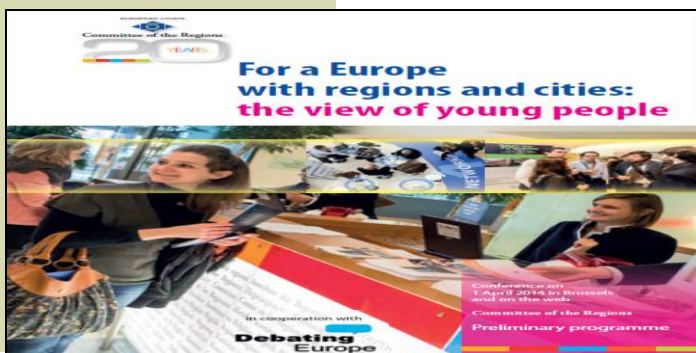
URBAN-NEXUS will develop a Strategic Dialogue & Partnership Framework to organise a long-term collaboration with stakeholders in relation to the key dimensions of sustainable urban development.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.urban-nexus.eu/www.urban-nexus.eu/>

### For a Europe with regions and cities: the view of young people (Brussels, 1 April)

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will be inviting some 150 young people from a variety of youth organisations and European political parties, including students and interns from the EU institutions, the regional representation offices and Brussels-based think-tanks.



They will discuss the future of a multi-level Europe and of the CoR itself, the only EU institution that truly represents the views of Europe's cities and regions. In tandem with the CoR's internal reflection process, the event aims to elicit some feedback from the younger generation about what form they expect the CoR to take in the next 20 years.

#### Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/forums/Pages/cor-at-20-conference.aspx>

### World Urban Forum (Medellín, 5–11 April)

The City of Medellin, host of the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum, endorses the idea that the notion "Equity in Development" can be operationalized at an urban level by the "Cities for



Life" concept. The Seventh Session of the World Urban Forum will bring together some of the most committed "City Changers" from the South and from the North. It will be a platform to create new networks and partnerships and strengthen existing ones, with a meaningful impact on equity and development. Participants will gain new awareness about the role that cities, countries, international agencies and development partners can play in advancing an equity agenda, sharing knowledge and best practices.

#### Additional Information:

<http://wuf7.unhabitat.org/>

## 16th European Forum on Eco-innovation (Hannover, 7–8 April)

The Forum will examine enabling factors and challenges of transitioning to a circular economy model in an urban context. These will be presented



through the lens of the stakeholders: city authorities, citizens and businesses. The event will also identify and showcase eco-innovations that can facilitate the shift to a circular economy and support cities in meeting the new targets for municipal waste treatment. It will take place during the world's leading trade fair for industrial technology.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2014/1st\\_forum/](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2014/1st_forum/)

## Arab Future Cities Summit (Doha, 7–8 April)

With a focus on knowledge sharing and networking Arab Future Cities Summit 2014 will showcase city development best practice strategies through pre-



sentations from some of the world's leading experts and the innovative solutions that will integrate citizens, systems and services.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.arabfuturecities.com/>

## Smart Cities Summit (Toronto, 9–10 April)

Securing long-term economic and ecological sustainability has become a constant challenge facing urban planners. *Smart Cities Summit* offers a



unique opportunity to understand how the latest technologies could be harnessed to create economic clusters, foster entrepreneurship and develop new industries in cities and urban centres.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.smartcitiescanada.com/>

## European conference on "The integrated economic development of cross-border territories" (Paris, 15 April)

The goal of the conference is to analyse the framework and the obstacles to cross-border economic development, to identify the political



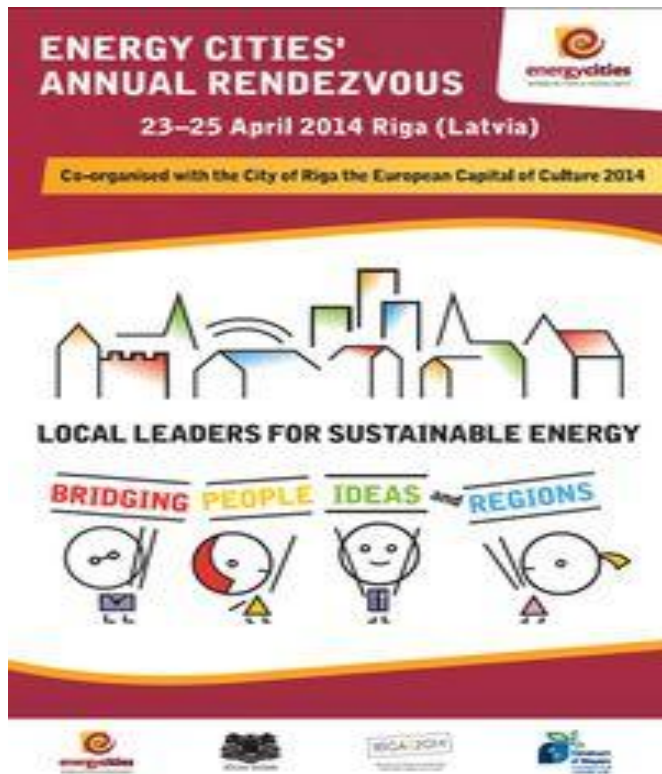
evolutions on this matter, and ultimately present good practices aimed at the different partners on the territories. Discussions will be held around the potential for the economic development of the territories, the practices of cooperation, some European perspectives, and the public action for the cross-border economic development.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/>

## Energy Cities Annual Conference (Riga, 23–25 April)

The true challenge of cities worldwide is to find the right ways to quickly shift and efficiently use decentralised and sustainable energies. Co-organised



sed and hosted by the City of Riga, European Capital of Culture 2014 and gateway to the East, Energy Cities' next Annual Rendezvous will explore the successful strategies of local leaders, building bridges between the pieces of the energy transition puzzle. The 2 days are a unique opportunity for professionals of various fields and political levels to network internationally and share insights on building, decentralised energy, transport, cultural and financial issues.

### Additional Information:

<http://riga2014.energy-cities.eu/>

## Transforming Local Government Conference (Denver, 23–25 April)

While much has changed over the last twenty years the need for organizations to experiment, learn, share and adapt remains as important as ever.



In Denver, attendees will dive into organizational transformation from the Inside Out. Who are you as an organization? Where are you going? What frameworks are in place to get you there? And what is your impact? As Ghandi stated, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” For local governments that starts in your own organizations and communities.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.tlgconference.org/index.aspx?page=1>

## Digital Innovation for Regional Growth (Thessaloniki, 29 April)

The one-day event will consist of presentations and interactive workshops to discuss with the European Commission, the S3 Platform, European regions and local stakeholders, on Innovation Procurement and Innovation Vouchers and their application in boosting regional digital growth. Innovation procurement holds an enormous — so far largely underexploited



— potential to improve the quality and efficiency of public services and create market opportunities for innovative firms. Meanwhile, schemes for ICT Innovation Vouchers implemented by EU regions can improve the competitiveness of microenterprises and SMEs by stimulating the demand for a large range of innovative ICT-related services and development of new products, services and processes.

### Additional Information:

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-workshop>

## European Affairs

### The Athens Declaration

During a European Summit in Athens, the Committee of the Regions was resolute when it warned that delivering the EU's economic growth strategy - "Europe 2020" - was being undermined by a clear lack of involvement of local government. Dismissing the current approach as "territorially blind", the Committee - which represents local and regional authorities in the EU - adopted its so called "Athens Declaration" setting out a seven-point plan for reform. The political declaration argues that the EU must rethink its approach and alter its direction if it is to keep its promise of creating a "smart, sustainable and inclusive economy" by 2020. The Declaration was approved by the Committee's members during the 6th European Summit of Regions and Cities and argues that the future success of the EU's growth strategy hinges on better engagement of local and regional authorities. The political document is based on the findings of a mid-term review of Europe 2020, also published by the Committee, which is based on extensive consultation of Europe's regional and local governments.

The Committee of the Regions' Seven-point plan for Europe 2020:

1. *Give the strategy a territorial dimension:* Though the strategy has provided a framework for action, it ignores the strengths, weaknesses and development opportunities of European regions. There is a need to set territorially differentiated objectives and targets with updated and extended EU-wide regional data to measure progress locally.



2. *National Reform Programmes in partnership:* There is limited involvement of local and regional authorities in preparing National Reform Programmes: they are consulted but not viewed as partners in setting goals and targets.

3. *Making multi-level governance the standard approach:* Multi-level governance allows for coordination between different levels of government and is a precondition for the Europe 2020 Strategy to bring added value in terms of growth, jobs and cohesion.

4. *Aligning the European Semester with genuine long-term investment*

5. *Using the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives for enhanced policy coordination:* The seven Flagship Initiatives should become a lever to enhance policy coordination at all levels in view of achieving the Europe 2020 targets.

6. *Mobilising funding for long-term investment, ensuring better spending*

7. *Strengthening administrative capacity for more effective implementation:* Benchmarking, exchange of experiences and peer learning between regions and cities should be supported by the EU and Member States, also by using EU instruments such as the European Territorial Cooperation programmes. A Public Sector Innovation Platform, aiming at supporting and coordinating public sector innovation, should be established.

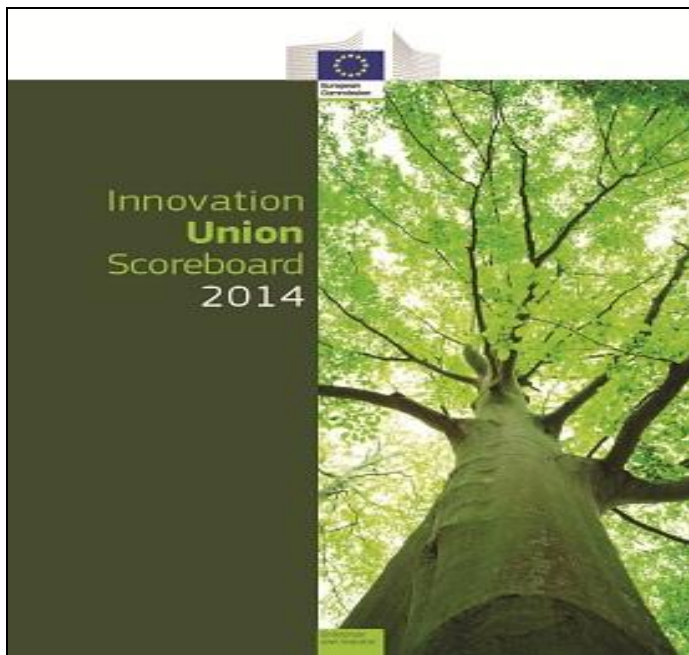
#### Additional Information:

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/regions-cities-athens-declaration.aspx>



## Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014

Europe is closing its innovation gap with the United States and Japan but differences in performance between EU Member States are still high and diminishing only slowly. At a regional level, the innovation gap is widening, with the innovation performance having worsened in almost one fifth of EU regions. These are the main results of the European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014 and the Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2014.



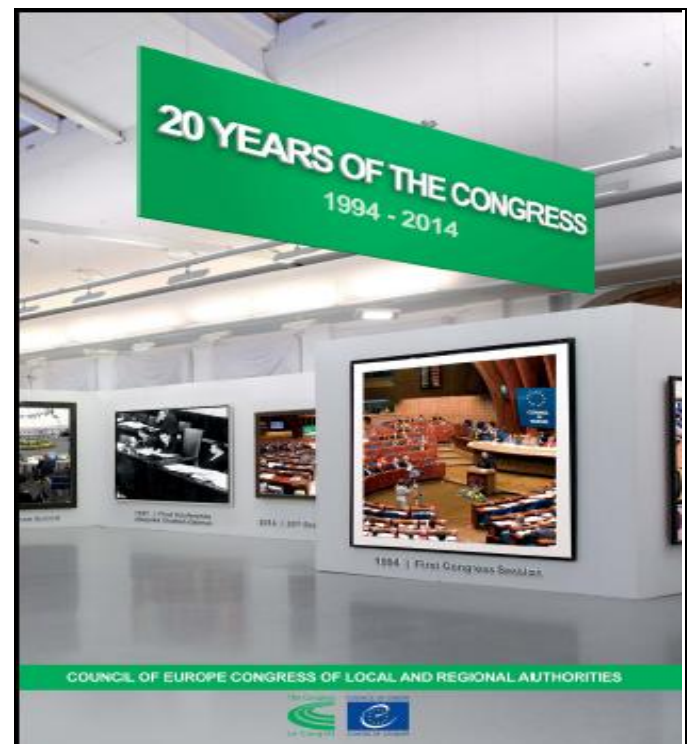
The overall ranking within the EU remains relatively stable, with Sweden at the top, followed by Denmark, Germany and Finland – the four countries that invest most in research and innovation. The countries whose position has improved the most are Portugal, Estonia and Latvia. Overall progress has been driven by the openness and attractiveness of the EU research system as well as business innovation collaboration and the commercialisation of knowledge as measured by licence and patent revenues from abroad. However, growth in public R&D expenditure was offset by a decline in venture capital investment and non-R&D innovation investment in companies.

### Additional Information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index_en.htm)

## Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, 1994–2014

20 years of the Congress is the appropriate milestone to take stock of the achievements of its political and operational work, and to pay tribute to the pioneers of the first years as well as to the former presidents of the Congress since 1994. It is also the opportunity to hear from the most important institutional partners of the Congress in the Council



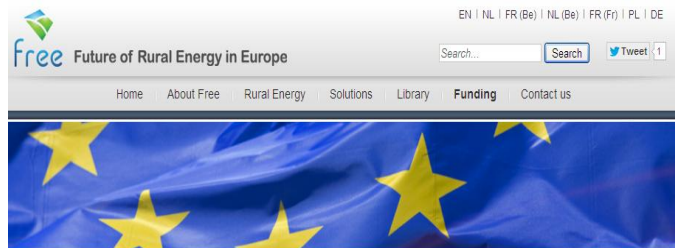
of Europe how they see the future for co-operation and interaction aiming at promoting and implementing the values of the Council of Europe at local and regional level. This publication highlights the history of the Congress (since 1994) and its predecessors (since 1953) and presents an imaginary interview that Jacques Chaban-Delmas could have given on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Congress. The President of the Congress and the Presidents of the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions outline their views on achievements and perspectives for local and regional democracy.

### Additional Information:

<https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2487661&SecMode=1&DocId=2123170&Usage=2>

## The Online Funding Tool for Local Energy Projects

The online Funding Tool to financing sustainable energy projects in rural areas. This tool helps you to get acquainted with the variety of European funds that will be available for cleaner and energy efficient technologies during the financing period 2014– 2020. This tool will help you understand which funding schemes would be most appropriate for your project and where to go for more information about the application process.



### Funding

Welcome to our online Funding Tool to financing sustainable energy projects in rural areas. This tool helps you to get acquainted with the variety of European funds that will be available for cleaner and energy efficient technologies during the financing period 2014– 2020. This tool will help you understand which funding schemes would be most appropriate for your project and where to go for more information about the application process.

All information included in this tool comes from publicly available sources and will be updated on an on-going basis to accommodate changes within the funding schemes. However, as every project is different and as funding schemes contain a multitude of different requirements, the FREE initiative recommends to contact relevant bodies for any additional information about project applications. This FREE tool is merely designed to make rural beneficiaries aware of the potential that EU funds offer and to demonstrate the relevance of EU policy to local energy projects.

Who can apply?  Areas  Countries

#### European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)

ELENA is a European technical assistance facility providing grants to regions and local authorities in order to accelerate their investment programmes in the fields of energy and climate change.

[READ MORE](#) | DURATION: UNTIL EXHAUSTION OF FUNDS | AMOUNT: €30 BILLION

#### COHESION FUND

Financial arm of the EU Cohesion Policy aiming to reduce economic and social disparities amongst Member States of the European Union



#### FREE SOLUTIONS

BIOGAS | BIOFUELS | BIOMASS

LNG, LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

LPG, LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS

CONDENSING BOILERS FOR HOME HEATING

MICRO-COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (MICRO-CHP)

HEAT PUMP, GAS OR LPG

GROUND-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

ATTIC AND WALL INSULATION

INSULATION, WINDOWS

PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) POWER

SOLAR THERMAL (HYBRID) WATER HEATING

## Final "simplification scoreboard": 120 measures to cut red tape on EU funding

The Commission has adopted its Final Simplification Scoreboard: over 120 measures to simplify the EU funding rules for Europe's businesses, towns, regions, scientists and NGOs. Together with the adoption of the 2014–2020 multi-annual financial



framework (MFF) and of the sectoral funding programmes, much has been achieved in terms of making access to EU funds simpler for would-be beneficiaries. However, the EU institutions and Member States must continue to deliver on simplification through the adoption of the necessary implementing and technical measures.

Examples of simplification:

- Simplified procedure to get reimbursement in research: single reimbursement rate for all participants to a project ("one project-one funding rate") and a flat rate for indirect costs;
- Shorter deadline for payments to beneficiaries (90 days) in cohesion policy;
- E-cohesion: electronic systems for beneficiaries to submit data, to use existing databases and to store documents in cohesion policy;
- Shorter duration to keep documents: beneficiaries would need to keep documents related to EU funded projects for maximum three years.

Additional Information:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-209\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-209_en.htm)

All information included in this tool comes from publicly available sources and will be updated on an on-going basis to accommodate changes within the funding schemes. However, as every project is different and as funding schemes contain a multitude of different requirements, the FREE initiative recommends to contact relevant bodies for any additional information about project applications. This FREE tool is merely designed to make rural beneficiaries aware of the potential that EU funds offer and to demonstrate the relevance of EU policy to local energy projects.

Additional Information:

<http://www.rural-energy.eu/funding#.UnoEoxY-bSw>

## Ljubljana winner of the European Mobility Week Award 2014

The Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, was awarded the prestigious European Mobility Week Award for 2013 at a ceremony in Brussels (Belgium) on 24 March 2014. Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik presented the award to Jelka Žekar, the city's Vice Mayor. Taking the stand to address the audience in a short acceptance speech, Ms Žekar commented that Ljubljana "believes that by including the public [in sustainable mobility] we contribute to a better future for all."



Mr Potočnik celebrated all the finalists, including Budapest (Hungary) and Östersund (Sweden), saying that they were "some of the best examples of change" and that they should be used as examples and inspiration for cities across Europe. Turning to this year's EMW theme of urban quality of life, Mr Potočnik said that "we need to make sure that the environments where Europeans live are places where life can be lived to the fullest. This year's EMW will focus on turning our cities into liveable spaces."

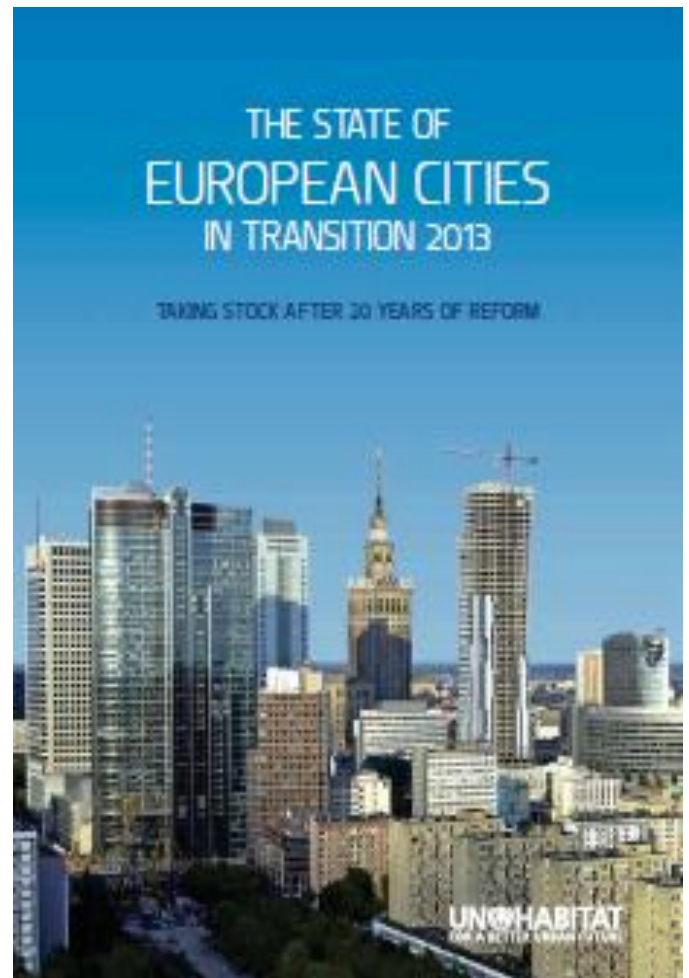
In addition, the Spanish city of Rivas Vaciamadrid was awarded the SUMP 2013 Award by Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Mobility and Transport.

### Additional Information:

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

## The State of European Cities in Transition 2013

The first issue of *The State of European Cities in Transition*, the latest addition to UN-Habitat's rapidly-expanding series of regional reports on the state of cities, was recently released. The current report is very timely, indeed. It gives an in-depth overview of twenty years' transformation efforts by



the 23 countries and territories in northeast, central, east and southeast Europe that, in the early-1990s, embarked on a monumental transition from socialist centrally-planned economies to democratic and market-based systems. As this report shows, the transition has been a long and winding road with these countries now in various phases of completing their reforms.

### Additional Information:

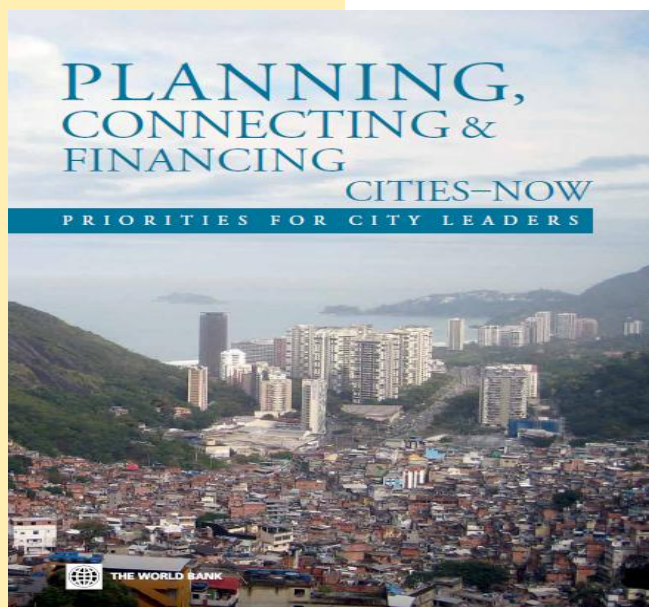
<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3504>



## International Affairs

### Planning, Connecting & Financing

To help mayors and other policy makers identify the bottlenecks they face as urbanization accelerates and to propose policy options to tackle such challenges, the World Bank— with support from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Cities Alliance— has carried out diagnostics called “Urbanization Reviews” in 12 countries across 4 continents.



This program has created a bedrock of credible facts and a set of solutions that are tailored to the fiscal, political, and administrative realities of cities. This book distills the lessons learned from these diagnostics into a practical framework for sustainable urbanization, which is organized around the three policy pillars of the title. This framework has already helped to reshape core urbanization policy debates and to integrate action across the urban space in countries such as Colombia, India, Uganda and Vietnam.

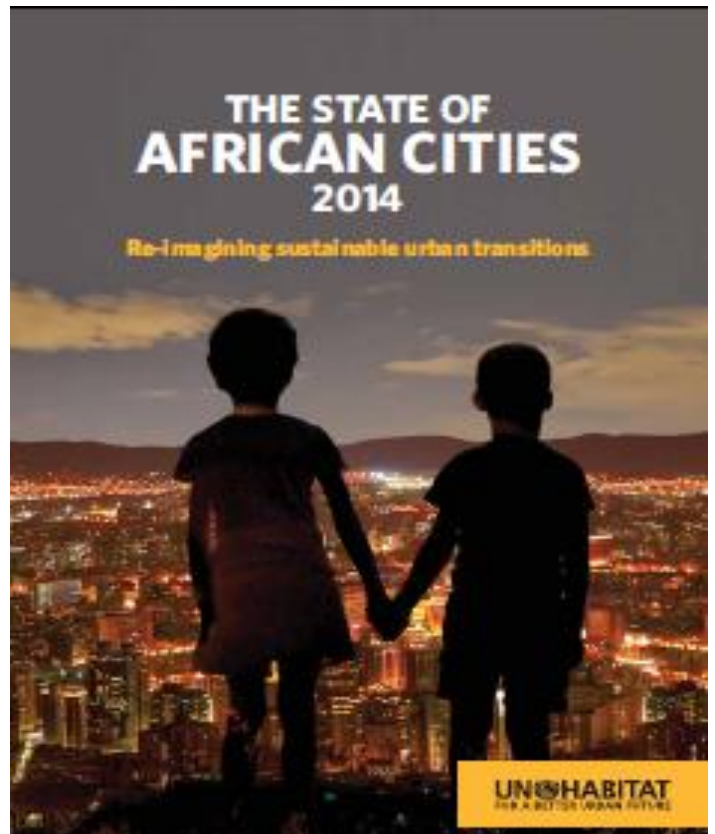
#### Additional Information:

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037\\_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/01/24/000333037_20130124112533/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf)

### The State of African Cities 2014

The African continent is currently in the midst of simultaneously unfolding and highly significant demographic, economic, technological, environmental, urban and socio-political transitions. Africa’s economic performance is promising, with booming cities supporting growing middle classes and creating sizable consumer markets. But despite significant



overall growth, not all of Africa performs well. The continent continues to suffer under very rapid urban growth accompanied by massive urban poverty and many other social problems. These seem to indicate that the development trajectories followed by African nations since post-independence may not be able to deliver on the aspirations of broad based human development and prosperity for all. This report, therefore, argues for a bold re-imagining of prevailing models in order to steer the ongoing transitions towards greater sustainability based on a thorough review of all available options.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pms/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3528>

## Consultations



### Development of a new technical measures framework in the context of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)

The main policy objective of this initiative is to support the objectives of the reformed CFP. Technical measures are a key tool to achieve these objectives.

The new framework will also contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy by simplifying the fisheries policy, which has been criticised as being overly complex and difficult to enforce.

This overarching policy objective will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- Creation of a simplified regulatory framework that allows for regionalisation of technical measures.
- Reduction and avoidance of unwanted catches through improvements to fishing gears and effective spatial and temporal measures.
- Minimisation of the ecosystem impact of fishing gears through the mitigation of incidental bycatch of endangered, threatened or protected species and reduction of fishing pressure on sensitive habitats.

This consultation should ascertain the views of the main stakeholders on how to achieve these objectives considering both the measures themselves and the governance structure within which they operate.

**Submission deadline: 25 April**

**Additional Information:**

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

### Progress towards the 2020 energy efficiency objective and a 2030 energy efficiency policy framework

The aim of this public consultation is to seek the opinions of the general public and all stakeholders on the issues related to energy efficiency policies and measures for 2020 and 2030. Particularly, the replies submitted to this consultation will provide an important input to the review of progress towards the 2020 energy efficiency target under Article 3(2) of the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. They will also be taken into consideration for the follow-up of the Communication "A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030" to establish the exact ambition of future energy savings policy and the measures necessary to deliver it.

**Submission deadline: 28 April**

**Additional Information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/20140428\\_eed\\_2020\\_2030\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/consultations/20140428_eed_2020_2030_en.htm)

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



### Tutorial: Project Cycle Management: A Technical Guide

Date: 9–11 April

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5416>

### European Public Procurement Reform: The New Directives

Date: 9–11 April

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5402>

### National and Regional Parliaments in the European Union: Post-Lisbon Practices and Upcoming Challenges

Date: 10–11 April

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=547>

### Change in Public Administration? Yes We Can!

Date: 14–15 April

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5462>

### Successful Preparation and Implementation of Projects under EU External Financial Assistance (IPA & ENI)

Date: 14–15 April

Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5471>

### EU Economic Governance and the European Semester – How Does It Work And How Does It Impact National Policies?

Date: 23 April

Location: Brussels

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5554>

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

Date: 24–25 April

Location: Dubrovnik

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5408>

### Delegated and Implementing Acts: Practical Challenges and Legal/Institutional insights

Date: 28 April

Location: Brussels

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5511>

### Internal and External Audit of the EU Funded Programmes and Projects

Date: 28–30 April

Location: Barcelona

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5460>

### Evaluating EU Structural Funds support for Business growth and innovation: moving from 2007–2013 to 2014–2020

Date: 28–29 April

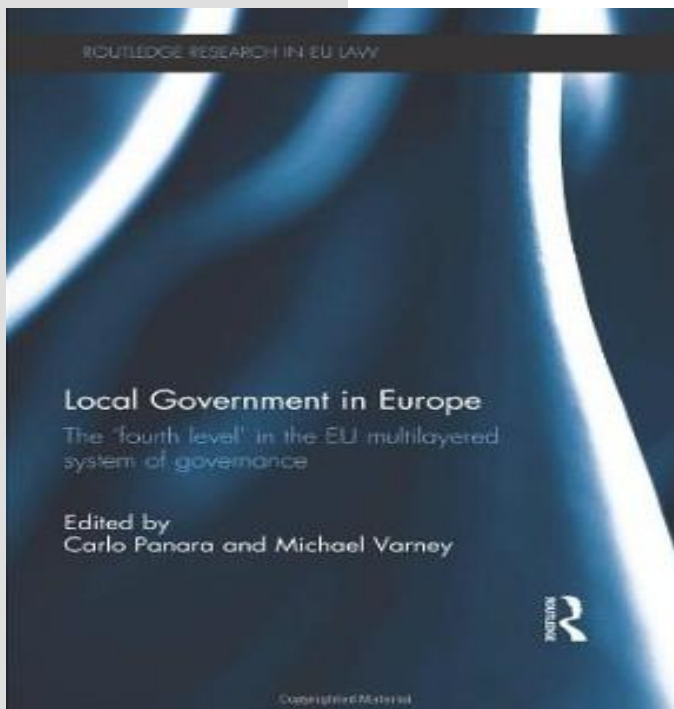
Location: Maastricht

Additional Information:

<http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5517>

## The Library of Local Government

### Local Government in Europe. The 'Fourth Level in the EU Multilayered System of Governance



Pages: 448  
C.Panara, M.R.Varney (ed.)  
Publisher: Routledge, 2013

This work considers the role of local government in 13 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). The book aims to provide an account of the system of local government in each of the countries studied along with a critical and contextual approach to the level of autonomy that local government enjoys. The approach is comparative, based on a questionnaire which all of the authors considered. There is then a detailed conclusion to the book which offers a detailed summary and comparative analysis of the responses in order to better consider the role of local authorities as the 'fourth level' of governance in the EU.

## The Migrant Integration Councils in Greece



Pages: 106  
Editorial Board: N.Maravegias, A. Moschonas & Th. Sakelaropoulos  
Publisher: Dionikos, 2014

The Greek state is still faced with the challenge of elaborating a long-term migration policy. Issues related to the acquisition of citizenship, political participation and social inclusion are still part of the political agenda, while they also attract the interest of the scientific community. The present special issue of the *Social Cohesion and Development* Journal examines two of these aspects: the operation of Migrant Integration Councils (MICs) as a tool for strengthening political participation and acknowledging the importance of the local level in the integration process and migrant participation in the (Greek) labour market. The issue also examines the potential contribution of MICs in interfaith dialogue.

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**HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
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OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

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