



Joint Conference EUKN and Polish EU Presidency 2011:

“The Urban Dimension of Cohesion Policy: lessons learned from integrated urban projects”

Warsaw, 8-9 December 2011

Introduction and objective of the conference

The 4th annual conference of the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN), will take place in Warsaw under the Polish EU Presidency, on 8 and 9 December 2011. The conference will be organised in close cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Regional Development, the City of Warsaw and the Dutch Ministry of the Interior.

The conference brings together stakeholders for an interactive exchange of strategies, experiences and hands-on knowledge on practical aspects of the urban dimension of Cohesion Policy. Cohesion Policy is the major instrument of the European Union to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion. It is also one of the instruments to achieve the Europe 2020 Strategy, aimed at sustainable, smart and inclusive growth. But what does this mean in practice? How are cities involved in this European wide strategy? What programmes and instruments are aimed at supporting cities to contribute to the realisation of EU2020? How can Europe assist cities in better addressing local challenges? With the new EU programming period (2014-2020) in sight, EUKN and the Polish Presidency would like to stimulate a dialogue on the role of cities.

But even more than looking towards future urban policies, this joint conference will focus on what can be learnt from current integral urban projects. All over Europe, cities have gained experience with integrated urban development. The following topics play a prominent role in the conference:

- How to construct a successful integrated urban approach at local level?
- What financial mechanisms are available to cities and are new innovative financial instruments needed?
- What lessons can be drawn for future European programmes?



Other related topics such as “lessons to be learnt from urban regeneration” and “how multi-level governance arrangements can stimulate sustainable, smart and inclusive growth” will be addressed by means of tangible projects. By focusing on concrete local practices, the added value of a strong urban dimension of Cohesion Policy will be discussed.

This two-day conference brings together policy, practice and research. The relation between strategic EU objectives and daily urban practice will be the core focus of this conference. Experts from European, national and local level will share their views on how Cohesion Policy programmes touch upon urban policies and what a possible future might look like. Practical knowledge will be shared at five interactive workshops. On-site visits to projects in Warsaw and presentations of good practices from all over Europe will give you a deeper insight in concrete instruments which might further strengthen the effectiveness of your own policy initiatives. The conference will also offer many informal opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking.

Keynote speeches

During the first morning session of the conference, there will be keynote speeches by representatives from different levels of governance and from academia. Speakers include the following:

- Mr. Michał Olszewski - Deputy Mayor of Warsaw
- Mr Piotr Żuber - Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland
- Prof.Dr. Michael Parkinson (Conference chair) - Director of the European Institute for Urban Affairs
- Marjorie Jouen - Special Adviser at Notre Europe and Deputy-Head of the President's cabinet of the EU Committee of the Regions
- Mr Martin zur Nedden, Deputy Mayor of Leipzig
- Mr Jan Maarten de Vet, Managing Director of ECORYS Brussels office

Interactive panel discussion

After their brief presentations, the key note speakers will take part in an interactive panel discussion, where conference participants will have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the key note speakers. The debate will be moderated by the conference chair Michael Parkinson.



Workshops

1. Outlook: the urban dimension of the new EU programming period

Moderator: Mart Grisel, Director of EUKN

Cities play a vital role in the development of the European Union. They are the focal point of innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth, areas in which the Europe 2020 strategy has set ambitious goals. In this light, Cohesion Policy plays, and will continue to play, an important role in the process of supporting the development of Europe's towns and cities. Based on the work done by the Polish EU Presidency, an overview will be provided in this workshop of possible new instruments which could be implemented in the new programming period of the structural funds. Furthermore, the effectiveness of current instruments will be described and possible ways to further strengthen these existing instruments.

2. Identification of key instruments for a successful integrated urban development

Moderator: Romain Briot, Programme Manager of the French network for European Urban mission

Integrated urban development has been described as a 'holistic' approach to urban development. It includes not only the physical environment but also the local economy and social circumstances. Incorporation of a wide range of actors and the concept of sustainability are key. The theory behind the integrated approach is clear, but how does one implement it in daily urban practice? What instruments are available to make it a success?

3. Lessons learnt from urban regeneration

Moderator: Laura Colini, URBACT thematic expert on Urban Social Research

For the past 20 years the EU has supported urban regeneration projects. In this period, a wealth of experience with many different approaches, scopes and practices was gained. It was gathered in the so-called *Urban Acquis*: a set of common principles that underpin successful policies. However, coherence in urban practice is still narrow. Some interventions have even worsened the conditions of disadvantaged population, for example through displacement. Considering the current economic and social crisis, which lessons can be drawn from past experiences? And how can they be used in light of future regeneration policies?



4. Optimization of multilevel governance arrangements within the context of Cohesion Policy and integrated development

Moderator: Rik Baeten, representative of the Belgian EU Presidency, Federal Urban Policy Department.

"European, national, regional and local levels all need to play their part to reduce unemployment and poverty, while switching to a low carbon economy". This is the opening statement of the conclusion of the fifth Cohesion Report. To reach this goal, can a common framework be developed that contains the key elements and essential steps for a coordinated multilevel urban development? And can the bottom-up character of a participatory multilevel governance approach overcome the boundaries between public sector and civil society? From the scope of an effective implementation of Europe 2020, the workshop will investigate how a participatory multilevel governance system has to be designed to strengthen the role of cities to address urban challenges.

5. Exploration of innovative financial mechanisms to finance integrated urban development

Moderator: by Ádám Radvánszki, head of department of Spatial Policy, International and Urban Affairs at VATI Nonprofit Ltd. Hungary

The plans are there, but the money is not. Especially in large scale integrated urban developments it is crucial to have a long-term financial strategy. Familiar financial instruments, such as Jessica, Structural Funds, neighbourhood budgets, economic opportunity zones, public-private partnerships and revolving funds are discussed. However, this workshop not only looks at the technical side of financing tools. It also considers the options to widen the impact of these tools on local economic development and public space.



Onsite visits and debates

During the onsite debates, a variety of tangible projects will be showcased within the city of Warsaw. These projects give a concrete illustration of the topics discussed during the first day. Local projects and mirror projects from different European countries will be presented in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience. Participants gain insight in different solutions to a problem within a city and its benefits and pitfalls. All projects presented are funded by EU programmes and contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy.

The following projects in Warsaw will be visited:

1. Water Supply and Wastewater treatment in Warsaw

Improving water supply systems and wastewater management are key elements of the development strategy of Warsaw. The Water supply and wastewater treatment programme in Warsaw includes a comprehensive set of investments concerning the development of agglomeration and infrastructure. The implementation of the programme will enhance the quality of water supply and sewerage and aims to meet the expectations of capital city citizens. A significant and noticeable improvement in the quality of water supplied to homes will go hand in hand with improving the functioning of the sewerage system at the macro level. This is essential for a dynamic development in Warsaw and needs to respond to the progressive increase of Warsaw's population.

Matching mirror project: Extension of the sewerage system in Pécs and protection of the vulnerable water resource areas

Pécs is the fifth largest city in Hungary with a population of approximately 160 thousand located in the South West of the country in the South Transdanubia region, at the foot of the Mecsek hills. The EU-funded ISPA/Cohesion Fund project improves the living conditions of about 32 thousand inhabitants of the city. The main objective of the project was to provide long-term protection of vulnerable drinking water resources and to attain good groundwater quality in the city of Pécs. The project included the construction of a sewerage system of about 182 km in the non-canalised districts of Pécs, the extension of the drinking water supply system of 72 km and the establishment of 22 monitoring wells. The constructions of the project started in May 2004 and ended in September 2010.



2. Construction of the I metro Line in Warsaw: section from the B20 route to the A23 Młociny station and Młociny junction

This project completed the implementation of the first underground line in Warsaw and contributed to a wider spectrum of activities. It improved the efficiency of the public transport system in the capital city of Poland. In addition, the project completed the first integrated passenger transport node in Warsaw, taking into account the transfer convenience between several transport connections: underground, trams and buses. Another innovative element of the project was the introduction of a new parking construction which discourages transportation by car in Warsaw. The system provides free parking on the basis of public transport tickets.

Matching mirror project: Extension of the Metro do Porto connecting Porto with the City of Gondomar

The extension of the Metro do Porto line in Portugal improves public transportation to the city center of Porto and to the City of Gondomar (the third largest city of the Metropolitan Area of Porto). It offers more comfort, safety, speed, a frequent service and an enhanced travel information service. Additionally, it includes ten new stations and serves 125 000 additional residents. The new metro line the so called "Orange line", also known as line F opened in January 2011 and connects the Senhora da Hora Station to the Fânzeres Station. Furthermore, the new Orange line provides free parking spaces and it stimulates employment as 65 permanent jobs have been developed.

3. Upgrading the Krakowskie Przedmieście Street

The City of Warsaw decided to reconstruct the Krakowskie Przedmieście Street and parts of the Nowy Świat and Miodowa Street. The Krakowskie Przedmieście Street fulfills an important function, it is part of the Royal Route which links the Old Town to the most distinguished institutions of Warsaw such as the Presidential Palace. After years of stagnation, the city authorities decided to revitalize this part of the city, seeking to significantly enhance the attractiveness of the center for aesthetic reasons and to strengthen the capital city's cultural and tourist potential.

Matching mirror project: Rehabilitation of the Rasnov Historic Center: revamping the city

The historical center of Rasnov in Romania was in great need of urban rehabilitation and thus developed an integrated urban development strategy supported by the JESSICA-initiative. The overall approach of the project is to modernise urban infrastructure by at the same time stimulating community revitalisation, tourism development and sustainable economic development. The project is



part of the Integrated Development Plan of the Brasov Growth Pole and aims to increase the number of tourists visiting the city with 30% annually.

4. The Construction of the Copernicus Science Centre

The Copernicus Science Centre is a unique tourist attraction in the heart of Warsaw of national and international significance. In recent years, the Centre became one of the largest investments in cultural infrastructure of Poland and Central Europe. Through an innovative approach, the Centre offers an attractive cultural environment for tourists and combines leisure activities with education and science for children and youngsters. The Centre is located on the west bank of the Vistula River.

Matching mirror project: Le Rocher de P@lmer

A new-multi functional entertainment center in the commune of Cenon opened its doors for business in September 2010. This cultural hub situated in the outskirts of Bordeaux is part of an overall strategy on integrated urban development, the Grand Projet de Ville (GPV) programme of the Haute-Garonne department. The Rocher de Palmer is located in the Palmer Park in Cenon and includes two theatres, an exhibition hall, a resource center, restaurant, bar and music rooms. It also gathers several education and community programmes based on world music.